

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR EAST PECKHAM HELD IN THE CURRAN HALL ON MONDAY 30 MARCH 2009 AT 19.30 HOURS**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R. Bearman, P. Crawford (Chairman), J. Crowley, A. Gardner, B. Gress, D. Ireland, D. Poole (Vice-Chairman), T. Shead & P. Street, Mrs. K Bell (Parish Clerk) County Cllr. R. Long, Borough Cllrs. Mrs. E. Holland & H. Rogers, Mr. P. Beddoes (TMBC, Chief Environmental Health Officer), Ms. L. Baseden (TMBC's Dog Warden), Mr. M. Sherwood (Community Warden), Ms. S. West & Ms. S. Wheeler (KCC Libraries), PC. A. Sergeant, PCSO. S. Liston & 47 residents

**APOLOGIES:** Received and accepted from Cllr. Mrs. J. Macdonald

The Chairman of the PC, Councillor Peter Crawford opened the meeting. He welcomed all present and introduced the Parish Councillors and guest speakers.

**1. MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Copies of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 02 April 2008 were circulated within the 2008/09 Annual Report. They were agreed and signed by PC's Chairman.

**2. MATTERS ARISING: There were none**

**3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr. Crawford presented the Annual Report, which had been distributed to all households. Attention was drawn to following:

- Specific items within the report
- Those present were advised that the Hop Farm had revised its plans for the music event which would be held during July 2009.
- The Parish Council had done its utmost to keep the level of the 2009/10 parish precept low especially in the current economic situation
- Questions on the Annual Report were invited. There were no questions at this stage of the meeting.

Cllr. Crawford introduced Ms. S. West from KCC Libraries and invited her to address the audience. Ms. West presented the Annual Report for East Peckham Library. It was noted that the newly refurbished facilities had been well received, the launch event had been successful, the number of issues had increased substantially and many children had participated in the 2008 summer book reading challenge.

Cllr. Crawford thanked Ms. West and her colleague Ms. Wheeler for attending and stated how fortunate East Peckham was to have its own library. Cllr. Crawford then introduced PC. A. Sergeant and PCSO. S. Liston and invited them to address the audience.

PC. Sergeant provided an overview of police activity within the village over the past year with the welcome news that statistically there were very few criminal incidents in East Peckham. A question was put regarding the Harp PH; PC Sergeant responded by confirming that no offences were being committed and that the police were being proactive in ticketing illegally parked cars near the premises.

Cllr. Crawford thanked PC. Sergeant and PCSO. Liston for everything they were doing to keep East Peckham a safe place to live. Cllr. Crawford then introduced Ms. L. Baseden (TMBC's Dog Warden) and invited her to address the audience.

Ms. Baseden provided an overview on what was being done to combat dog fouling and confirmed that TMBC had adopted a zero tolerance approach to those caught allowing dogs to foul. Attention was drawn to the recently held Dog Awareness Day which received much

publicity. Ms. Baseden confirmed that it was hoped that another event would be held during the summer months.

Cllr. Crawford thanked Ms. Baseden for attending the meeting and for everything she was doing to combat dog fouling within the village. Cllr. Crawford then introduced County Cllr. R. Long and invited him to address the audience.

Cllr. Long drew attention to the following:

- Kent Highways Services. He was working with the PC and KHS to bring about service improvements.
- Funding. His County Cllr funding had contributed towards two local projects namely a disabled access at the Scout Hut and the new bus shelters in the village centre. County Cllr Long also emphasized that KCC had funded the refurbishment of the East Peckham library.
- The freedom bus passes for 11 – 16 year olds.
- Icelandic Deposits. Cllr Long explained that whilst the money had not been lost it could not be accessed and that KCC was a preferred creditor.

Cllr. Crawford thanked County Councillor Long not only for attending the meeting but for being very supportive of the Parish Council. Cllr. Crawford then introduced Borough Councillors Mrs. E Holland and Mr. H Rogers and invited them to address the audience.

Mr. Rogers advised that the Hop Farm had occupied his time recently and that he was heavily involved in making sure that TMBC were taking the correct action with regard to unauthorized development at the Hop Farm. Mr. Rogers also mentioned that he had coordinated the village representation against The Hop Farms recent License Application. Cllr Crawford thanked Mr. Rogers for being supportive of the Parish Council.

#### **4. PRESENTATION OF THE BILLY CAN AWARDS**

Mrs. Joan Boyle & David Boyle were invited to present the 2009 Billy Can Shields, which were awarded, to Mrs. Vivian Corke and Mr. Simon Grainger. Both recipients were delighted to receive their awards and made short acceptance speeches.

#### **5. GUEST SPEAKERS**

Cllr. Crawford welcomed the guest speakers who were Mr. P Beddoes (TMBCs Chief Environmental Health Officer) and Mr. M Sherwood (Community Warden)

Mr. Beddoes took the floor first and thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to be guest speaker. Mr. Beddoes presented a fascinating talk on recycling, waste and street litter and drew specific attention to the following issues:

- Excellent borough wide recycling statistics.
- Excellent recycling facilities with the T & M area
- Bulky refuse freighter service. Following TMBC consideration the fortnightly service would continue.
- Plastic Recycling. Only plastic bottles (of any shape) could be disposed of through TMBC plastic bottle recycling banks.
- It was noted that the income generated from plastic recycling did not cover the costs of providing plastic recycling facilities whereas the costs of recycling paper and cardboard were fully met from recycling.
- Countywide, TMBC had the second lowest refuse costs (£1.1M) but were the second highest recycler.
- The majority of residents were happy with the waste services provided by TMBC.
- East Peckham residents were thanked for the conscientious recycling efforts.
- TMBC had adopted a zero tolerance approach to anyone caught either littering or allowing their dog to foul public areas.

- Flytippers would be prosecuted if caught.
- Glass recycling facilities were at present aspirational.

Mr. Beddoes concluded his talk by taking questions. He then thanked the Parish Council for its positive working relationship with his department and stated that he and his colleagues had been pleased to assist in the Bash the Trash Event, the Dog Awareness Day and with Community Payback. Mr. Beddoes did however hope that some residents from East Peckham would consider becoming street monitors.

Cllr Crawford thanked Mr. Beddoes for attending the meeting and took the opportunity to congratulate TMBC for the service delivered to East Peckham. Cllr. Crawford then introduced Mr. M Sherwood (Community Warden).

Mr. Sherwood thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to be one of the guest speakers and proceeded to provide an overview of the role of the community warden within a village, the role of the response team and how to contact him. Mr. Sherwood advised that the new permanent warden would be taking over from him in May.

Cllr Crawford thanked Mr. Sherwood for helping to make East Peckham a safe and pleasant place to live and work.

## 6. RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

There were no questions, however:

- a. The Parish Council received praise for the following:
  - Sports Hall Car Park repairs
  - For keeping the Parish Precept low
  - For producing an excellent Annual Report
  - For including the minutes of the 2008 minutes in the 2008/09 Annual Report
- b. A resident stated that East Peckham was fortunate to have people in the village such as the Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk who worked hard to improve the quality of life for all residents.

## 7. Close of meeting

Before closing the meeting Cllr. Crawford hoped that everyone would stay for tea and coffee and proceeded to thank the following:

- Mr and Mrs. Buckland for coordinating the village poppy appeal
- The volunteer litter clearers, especially Mr B Lloyd
- The children who had participated in the annual Bash the Trash event
- The Clerk, Karen Bell
- The Parish Councillors
- The Guest Speakers
- County Councillor Richard Long
- Borough Councillors Elizabeth Holland and Howard Rogers
- Lorraine Baseden, TMBCs Dog Warden
- The 47 residents who had attended the meeting
- The Boys Brigade for assisting the Parish Council in providing teas and coffees

There being no additional business, the meeting concluded at 21.00 hours.