

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR EAST PECKHAM HELD IN THE EAST PECKHAM SPORTS HALL ON MONDAY 29 MARCH 2010 AT 19.30 HOURS

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs. L. Baseden, P. Crawford (Chairman), J. Crowley, Mrs. B. Curry, A. Gardner, B. Gress, Mrs. J. Macdonald, Mrs. L. Picknett, D. Poole (Vice-Chairman), T. Shead & P. Street, Mrs. K Bell (Parish Clerk)

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. G. Newton (Burlite War Memorial Ltd), County Cllr. R. Long, Borough Cllrs. Mrs. E. Holland & H. Rogers, Ms. S. MacKay, (Community Warden), PC. A. Sergeant & approximately 40 residents

APOLOGIES: There were none

Cllr. P. Crawford opened the meeting; he began by welcoming all present and by introducing the Parish Councillors and guest speaker. He then took the opportunity to publicly congratulate Cllr. T. Shead on his MBE which had been awarded to him in the 2010 New Years honours list.

1. MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Copies of the Minutes of the APM held on 30 March 2009 had been included in the 2009/10 Annual Report. They were agreed and signed.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr. Crawford presented the Annual Report, which had been distributed to all households. He advised that the Annual Report contained a great deal of information and it was commended to the village and residents present. Attention was drawn to following:

- The Hop Farm's recently submitted License application to TMBC had been approved subject to conditions. Whilst the Parish Council had welcomed the more stringent license application representations had been put to the TMBC hearing and letters had been sent to both TMBC and The Hop Farm asking for details on how the conditions would be implemented.
- The Parish Council Precept which for 2010/2011 had increased by approximately 2½% but this was considered both prudent and reasonable considering that the average increase amongst other T & M parishes was about 5%.
- Cllr. Crawford thanked those who had and continued to make East Peckham a pleasant place in which to live including, PC. Andy Sergeant, PCSO Simon Liston, Peter Hartley (Litter Warden), the voluntary litter wardens including Brian Lloyd, Lorraine Baseden (Dog Warden), Siobhan Mackay (Community Warden), County Councillor Richard Long, Borough Councillors Howard Rogers and Elizabeth Holland, John Crowley and Bill Gress (EPPFC), the Parish Councillors, the Clerk, Karen Bell and Mr and Mrs. Buckland for coordinating the village poppy appeal
- Winter flooding had been avoided. It was noted that the sandbag containers had been fitted with digital combination locks.
- Questions on the Annual Report were invited.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE BILLY CAN AWARDS

Mrs. Joan Boyle was invited to present the 2010 Billy Can Awards. These were presented to Reverend Susan Morrell and Miss Jasmine Boyle. Both recipients were delighted to receive their awards. Being Jasmine Boyles 18th Birthday the audience sang 'Happy Birthday to her. Both award winners were presented with a bouquet of flowers.

5. GUEST SPEAKER

Cllr. Crawford welcomed the guest speaker, Mr. Gordon Newton from Burlite War Memorial. Mr. Newton thanked the Parish Council for inviting him and proceeded to give a slide show talk on his interesting work on local, national and international memorials. Mr. Newton also

explained in detail the planned work to restore and renovate the East Peckham War Memorial/

Cllr. Crawford thanked Mr. Newton for attending the meeting and for providing a stimulating and entertaining talk. Cllr. Crawford presented Mr. Newton with a bottle of wine.

6. PRESENTATIONS FROM VILLAGE GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

Cllr. Crawford informed those present that no village groups had requested to make a presentation but that there were representatives present from outside organizations who wished to speak. In this respect, Cllr. Crawford first introduced County Councillor Richard Long and invited him to address the audience.

County Cllr. Long began by stating that his role as County Councilor was to represent the people and report his constituent's views to County. He drew attention to the following:

- Kent Highways Services. He was working with the Parish Council and Kent Highways Services to bring about improvements.
- His County. Cllr. funding for 2009/10 had contributed towards the fitness equipment.
- Cllr. Long explained that whilst the Icelandic deposits had not been lost it could not be accessed and that as a preferred creditor, it was hoped that eventually all the money would be returned.

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

Mr. Rogers drew attention to the following:

- He advised that the Hop Farm had occupied his time recently and that he was heavily involved in ensuring that TMBC took the correct action with regard to unauthorized development and would ensure as far as he could that the Hop Farm adhered to the conditions which had been appended to the License Application. He further advised that The Hop Farm were in the process of seeking planning permission in respect of the construction of a 60 bed hotel which would be in addition to the 20 chalet lodges which already had planning approval.
- He acknowledged the concern of some residents who had received letters from TMBC regarding possible changes to postal addresses. The residents were advised that TMBC had been instructed by Central Government to ensure that addresses used by the borough matched the National Property Gazetteer. Mr. Rogers offered to take up the residents' concerns with TMBC.
- TMBC had £1million tied up in Icelandic deposits and had signed up with other councils to force the return of the money.

Cllr. Crawford thanked Mr. Rogers for being supportive of the Parish Council and invited Borough Councilor Elizabeth Holland to address the audience. Mrs. Holland stated that there was nothing she wished to add to that already covered by Mr. Rogers but did take the opportunity to thank the Parish Council for producing an excellent and informative Annual Report.

Cllr. Crawford then introduced PC Andy Sergeant. PC. Sergeant provided an overview of police activity within the village over the past year with the welcome news that statistically there had been very few criminal incidents in East Peckham. Cllr. Crawford thanked PC. Sergeant for everything he was doing to keep East Peckham a safe place to live.

Cllr. Crawford then welcomed Community Warden Ms. S MacKay to the meeting and invited her to address the audience. Ms. MacKay proceeded to provide an overview of her role as Community Warden, the role of the response team and how to contact her. Cllr. Crawford

thanked Ms. MacKay for helping to make East Peckham a safe and pleasant place to live and work.

6. RESIDENTS QUESTIONS

- a. The Parish Council received praise for the following:
 - For keeping the Parish Precept low
 - For producing an excellent 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.
- c. A resident praised the work of Bill Gress and John Crowley in making the Sports Hall and Playing Fields fine facilities.
- d. A resident expressed his concern regarding the forthcoming 2010 Hop Far Music Festival when the headline act would be Bob Dylan.

7. Close of meeting

Before closing the meeting Cllr. Crawford thanked everyone for attending and hoped that everyone would stay for tea and coffee.

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