

1211/April/2016

**MINUTES OF ST. MARY IN THE MARSH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH APRIL, 2016 AT 7PM
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, JEFFERSTONE LANE, ST. MARY'S BAY.**

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Graham Allison, Chairman
Cllr. David Evans
Cllr. Roger Moore
Cllr. Michael Wilson
Parish Clerk

Apologies:

Cllr. Terry Wilson – prior engagement
Cllr. Pamela Millen – away
Cllr. Andrew Sinden – poorly

The chairman opened the meeting.

Approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd April, 2015.

Proposed by Cllr. Wilson, seconded by Gillian Smith, that the Minutes of the meeting be approved. All agreed.

Chairman's Report:

The Parish of St. Mary in the Marsh consists of the Villages of St. Mary's Bay, St. Mary in the Marsh and Hope All Saints, and the Annual Parish Meeting gives an opportunity to look around.

Firstly, a new council was formed following the elections last May. Long standing Councillor Graham Comber decided not to stand. The St. Mary in the Marsh ward was an uncontested giving Andrew Sinden the seat. Seven candidates for six seats fought it out at St. Mary's Bay. We welcomed David Evans and Roger Moore to the council which saw the defeat of Russell Tillson. Both Graham and Russell's contribution to the parish were recorded with thanks.

St. Mary in the Marsh. The purchase of the Glebe land next to the Church has been completed. Future discussion on its use and demolition of the hut, have still to be finalized. A bus shelter in the vicinity of the church should be in place soon and to meet the statutory requirements, which made the project over budget, the Parish Council agreed to contribute £1200 towards the overall cost to Shepway District Council.

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The English part of Twinning with St. Andre took place in October at St. Mary the Virgin Church, a real country setting for the signing, with local residents, and of course members of the St. Andre community present. It took two years to formulate the twinning agreement. Nigel Ward has taken over the Twinning Chairmanship and is currently arranging several fund raising events. After the formal arrangements, refreshments were available at the Star Inn, in good old English style. Both our Clerk Gill Smith and Andrew Sinden were thanked for making the event so successful. Two weeks earlier we travelled to St. Andre, near Lille, for the French part of the signing, and were made very welcome.

The next part of the lottery application for the Village Hall at St. Mary in the Marsh is about to be submitted and we wish the project committee well.

The Jefferstone Lane playing field: Regretfully no sporting activities are taking place at the ground. Work should commence during April to improve the entrance to the car park.

The November 11th service at the commemorative stone was very well attended, last year and a bugler played the last post. This service will now become an annual event.

Poor weather, lack of trade from the knock-on effect of operation stack, our kiosk holder had a very poor season, and council agreed a concession on the licence fee.

The precept for the forthcoming year is £25000, like everywhere, running costs increase and the Parish Council is no different.

Shingle on the foreshore, which is a sea-defence, has seen high tides and strong winds carry the shingle further than usual. We are aware of the lack of access to the sands and I am sure we will be talking further with the Environment Agency.

We have met with Kent County Councillor Carole Waters and are in regular contact with her on many outstanding highway matters.

Our Clerk has worked very hard on the Neighbourhood plan and as we approach the final consultation which is to provide evidence from the farmsteads. Our thanks go to Gill, and hope that we are not too far out on the timetable.

Closing, I would like to also thank Councillors for their work during the past year.

Any Other Business:

There were no parishioners present.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm.

Signed..... Date.....