

**1331/April/2019**

**MINUTES OF ST. MARY IN THE MARSH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL, 2019 AT 7PM  
AT THE VILALGE HALL, JEFFERSTONE LANE, ST. MARY'S BAY**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr. Graham Allison, Chairman  
Cllr. Terry Wilson, Vice-Chairman  
Cllr. Tony Cooper  
Cllr. Russell Tillson  
Cllr. Mike Wilson  
Parish Clerk and 2 members of the public.

**Apologies:**

**Cllr. Pamela Millen – family commitment**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**Approve Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2018.**

Proposed by Cllr. T. Wilson, seconded by Cllr. Tillson, that the Minutes of the meeting be approved. Voting: Unanimous.

**Chairman's Report:**

The Annual Parish Meeting gives the usual opportunity to look back over the events of the past year.

Andrew Sinden, ward councillor from 2007 for St. Mary in the Marsh left us at the end of last year, and we thank him for his contribution over these 11 years.

Neighbourhood Plan, reached its conclusion going to referendum in November 2018. 547 parishioners voted, with 477 voting YES and 69 voting NO, with 1 rejected ballot paper. Turnout 23%. We were the first Parish Council in the Folkestone & Hythe District to achieve this, and only the second in Kent. It has taken well over five years, being an item on every agenda, endless meetings, changing regulations, not only a credit to the Parish, but a personal achievement for Gill, Clerk to the Council and thanks must be recorded. The views of the Parish have been recorded, we wait and see if benefits are forthcoming.

The Project Group of St. Mary in the Marsh surrendered the lease on the star field, which is now back under the control of the Parish Council, and we will honour the planned event

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arrangements for this year, and it will now be down to the Councillors to work with the group, who are planning a Village Hall on the glebe land.

April 2018 saw Jefferstone Lane closed by the Light Railway Station, while Southern Water re-routed the mains system and unlike the previous occasion, they gave us weekly updates and sent newsletters to residents. The work was completed in July 2018. Southern Water gave the Council some interesting photographs of the obstacles they faced while working, and I hope that sometime in the future they can be added to our web-site.

Two plaques have been added to the Commemorative Stone. These were supplied by Airfields UK Britain Conservation Trust acknowledging the airfield at Honeychild, St. Mary in the Marsh and the Littlestone Airfield in Jefferstone Lane, St. Mary's Bay, adjacent to the playing field.

We were pleased again to support the Kent & Sussex Air Ambulance with a donation of £250.00. All Saints Church, St. Mary's Bay Flower Festival £50.00 and £100 to the Kent Scouts, to send a St. Mary's Bay Scout to the World Scout Jamboree being held in Virginia USA. We also made a contribution of £250.00 to the tourism leaflet, promoting the Romney Marsh area.

We are also pleased to support the St. Mary in the Marsh/St. Mary's Bay Twinning Association by paying their liability insurance. Membership is nearing 100. Schoolchildren from St. Andre will be visiting St. Nicholas School in New Romney in July, with many other events being planned.

The Sands Motel development, whilst we appreciate that area needed a tidy-up, we watch with interest. The matter of the old toilet block has been of concern. Our concern has been expressed to the District Council who is not accepting responsibility for it, even though it was transferred from the old Romney Marsh Rural Council. The proposed play area/country park, I understand, is now in abeyance. Kent County Council was requested to resurface the footpath alongside the development, which has been agreed.

Inappropriate road side parking in Jefferstone Lane has been highlighted, especially on the corners and Parking Services has confirmed vertical yellow lines will be installed and the work is on the list to be carried out.

We have re-visited the condition of the road surface at the entrance of Teelin Close and Kent County Council has advised us they have written to Brazier & Co., asking for work to be carried out.

We added our voice to the resident's dissatisfaction, relating to the changes Stagecoach made to the routes and timetables.

The Jefferstone Lane recreation field play equipment is aged and needs more attention, which becomes very costly. This will be a future agenda item. The grass is cut on a regular basis, the safety of the trees is always foremost in our minds, and we thank those who keep the field in a tidy condition.

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The Commemorative Stone will be part of the service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November with Councillors and Twinning Members travelling to St. Andre on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November. There will also be a short memorial service on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> at the Commemorative Stone. The service last year was most successful with well over 150 people attending.

Like everyone, the Parish Council has to face rising costs and therefore the precept has increased from £36,000.00 to £38,000.00.

Councillors attend many meetings with outside bodies and volunteer their time, and together with Gill, our Clerk I would like to thank them for their work during the past year.

**Any Other Information Items:**

Chairman asked if members of the public would like to raise any issues.

Graham Comber congratulated the council on its successful delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Veronica Hampton thanked the council for doing well over the year and for their contribution to the village.

The meeting closed at 7.10pm

Signed:.....