

DUNTON GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Dunton Green Village Hall on Tuesday 24th April 2012 at 7.30pm

1. **Present:**

Mr. Brian Tingley (Chairman), Insp. Simon Wilshaw (Neighbourhood Policing Inspector, Kent Police), Kent County Cllr. Richard Parry (Member for Sevenoaks West), Ms. Tracy Godden (Clerk to the Parish Council), Mrs. Lesley Edmeads (Trustee, The Sir Thomas Smythe Charity), Edwin Thompson, Fergus Anckorn and thirty members of the Public (including six Parish Councillors).

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Sevenoaks District Councillors Mr. Cameron Brown and Mrs. Kim Bayley (Members for Dunton Green and Riverhead)

3. **Minutes of 2011 Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the April 2011 Annual Parish Meeting were approved. Proposed - Mr. Parry, Seconded - Mr. Thake and Agreed.

4. **Matters Arising**

None.

5. **Annual Report of the Parish Council**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged their attendance. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Mrs Freda England who had stood down as a member of the Parish Council and to welcome Mr Robin Martin as a new member of the Parish Council.

The Chairman read the Parish Council's attached Annual Report for 2011/2012.

6. **County Councillor, Richard Parry**

Cllr. Parry made a verbal report to the meeting.

KCC's Children's Services had received a bad Ofsted report last year but the situation had moved on and Ofsted has indicated that things had improved which was good news youth of Kent (and the London Boroughs).

KCC's element of the Council Tax had not risen. Government required a 10% saving but KCC was working hard to ensure that it would retain a 0% increase in the Council Tax for the next year.

Cllr. Parry advised that over the last three years about 11% of the discretionary grant that he is able to allocate had come to Dunton Green.

7. **District Councillor, Cameron Brown**

Cllr. Brown was unable to attend but had provided a report which the Chairman read. A copy of the report is attached

8. District Councillor, Kim Bayley

Cllr Mrs. Bayley was unable to attend but had provided a report which the Chairman read. A copy of the report is attached

9. Kent Police - Inspector Simon Wilshaw

Inspector Wilshaw advised that he is the new Neighbourhood Policing Inspector for Sevenoaks. Kent Police had also faced cuts but these were being managed and changes were on schedule. There was no reduction in front line policing and PCSO Trante would remain the first port of call for Dunton Green.

Insp. Wilshaw advised that Dunton Green was a particularly low crime area but acknowledged that there were still issues about preventing crime and anti-social behaviour.

The local team was based with the Community Safety Unit at Sevenoaks District Council. Multi-agency teams working together and under one roof were anticipated to provide significant benefits.

Members of the public submitted questions for which Insp. Wilshaw provided responses. He confirmed that there was a funding agreement between Kent and Essex Police to share a helicopter. This was a more cost effective for both Forces and resulted in Kent Police having access to a resource which had not had previously. Insp. Wilshaw also confirmed that the old police station in Sevenoaks had been sold for residential development and that it would be demolished to make way for 21 units to be built.

10. Dunton Green Primary School

Miss Christine Barton, Head Teacher, provided an update of the school's activities over the last year.

11. The Sir Thomas Smythe Charity

Mrs. Lesley Edmeads advised that the charity had been founded in 1625. It was a provider of financial and pastoral support to those in need.

One elderly resident was provided for in Dunton Green. Mrs. Edmeads advised that if anyone knew of a resident who might wish to apply for a pension that they should contact her in the first instance.

12. Consideration of any resolutions for which notice has been given

None

13. Any Other Business

Parish Cllr. Ian Bayley advised the attendees that there was a PACT panel meeting at the Pavilion on April 25th at 6.30pm. Residents were very welcome to attend. Cllr. Bayley also confirmed that the Parish Council was busy organising a Diamond Jubilee event. There would be many activities and he urged people to get involved.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm

Dunton Green Parish Council

Annual Report 2011/2012

COUNCIL

The members of the Parish Council are Mr Brian Tingley (Chairman), Mr Ian Bayley (Vice Chairman), Mr Graham Hersey, Mr Trevor Thake, Mrs Lesley Edmeads, Mr Andy Lapham, Mr Fred Faircloth and Mr Robin Martin. Mrs Lesley Edmeads remains the Council's appointed representative on the Sir Thomas Smythe charity and Mr Pat Eckersley continues to represent the Council on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Other appointments made in 2011 included:

- Mr Graham Hersey as the councillor responsible for the allotments
- Mr Ian Bayley representing the Parish Council on the Donnington Hall Management Committee
- Mr Ian Bayley representing the Parish Council on the pre-school committee
- Mr Graham Hersey & Mr Brian Tingley representing the Parish Council on the Kent Association of Local Councils

The Council has continued to try to co-opt members to fill its current vacancies, which are currently three. The Parish Council has made concerted efforts to try to raise the profile of the Council and encourage members of the parish community to come forward and join the Council.

CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council office in the pavilion continues to be open for queries on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 am until 12 noon. The clerk has been instructed only to admit visitors by appointment unless she knows them personally. Enquiries can also be made by post, telephone, email or via the Parish Council's website at www.dgpc.org.uk.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council is consulted on planning applications in the village. In previous years the report listed the developments that, in the Council's view, were the most important current planning issues; the 2012 list is very similar.

- **West Kent Cold Store**
A detailed planning application for redevelopment of site so as to accommodate a mixed-use development comprising 500 one, two, three, four and five bedroom residential units; 2,300sqm of commercial floor space (use class B1) and 460sqm medical facility together with associated access roads, car parking, landscaping and open space was approved in March 2010. This superseded an earlier outline planning application that had been passed at appeal.

In last year's Annual Report it was noted that the Section 278 Highway Works (which in part involved the installation of a roundabout at the junction of London Road and Station Road) had begun, the Parish Council was extremely dismayed that the original stated completion date of July was missed not by weeks but by seven months. Despite repeated efforts to obtain assurances that the works were in hand, the Parish Council was unable to effect a prompt remedy to the problem either from KCC Highways or from Berkeley Homes and its contractors.

Consultations have been conducted by Sevenoaks District Council with regard to the Section 106 Legal Agreement Community Facilities Contribution Fund and its allocation and a Steering Group was set up to look at how best this fund could be used. Dunton Green Parish Council is very excited that its Recreation Ground Project has been approved by Sevenoaks District Council's Cabinet to be progressed. The Council is currently in the process of getting its scheme to the sketch plan and costings stage. A presentation has to be made to Berkeley Homes in September and to Cabinet in November in order for the project to be signed off as fully approved and for the £1 million award to be finalised. The Project encompasses provision of a new sports pavilion/community building, new play equipment (to include a Multi-Use Games Area and an upgrade of the current facilities) and new outdoor facilities in the extension land to the east of the recreation ground which the Parish Council owns.

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER

PCSO (Amy Hardy) returned to Dunton Green for a short period at the end of 2011 but was assigned to a new area in February. PCSO Chantelle Trante has now returned to look after the parish on a permanent basis. There is currently no PC assigned to Dunton Green. The Parish Council urges all residents to report crime, however apparently insignificant, to Kent Police.

PACT

The Partners and Community Together (PACT) Panel which was set up in Dunton Green after the public consultation in March 2008 to look into ways of reducing crime and disorder in Dunton Green continues to meet on a regular basis but it is reassuring that crime levels are reducing in Dunton Green. All members of the parish are welcome to attend the meetings which are now held on a quarterly basis. Dates and times can be found via www.kent.police.uk/YourNeighbourhood.

YOUNG PEOPLE

The youth club for 11-19 year olds run by Play Place Innov8 continues to run each Thursday between 7pm and 9pm in the Pavilion in the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council has provided a grant (instalments having started in January 2012) which has enabled the youth club to continue to run since January 2012 and is anticipated to assist with school summer holidays provision. However, Play Place Innov8 continues to submit applications for funding for on-going activities in 2012 to ensure that this very valuable and worthwhile provision is made available to the young people of Dunton Green.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

The Parish Council keeps a watch on local highways and footpaths. Highway maintenance requirements are passed to Kent County Council's Kent Highway Services division. The Parish Council does not cut footpaths with the exception of the path from the recreation ground to the station, which is cut for the benefit of commuters and the footway between Lennard Road and Station Approach.

LIGHTING

The Parish Council continues to be responsible for most of the street lights in Dunton Green that are not on the main road with the principal exception of the Mill Road estate and latterly the new lighting scheme in Station Road.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & EVENTS

For the fourth year in a row there was another hugely successful Family Fun Day in July at the Recreation Ground. Each year this event grows, with more and more organisations getting involved and, somehow, each year the day is even more successful than the last! This year the Parish Council's stall included a Treasure Map game which proved very popular. Thanks must go to the hard work of Faithworks and everyone else who is involved in the organisation of this much welcomed event. The team are already planning for a repeat event this summer.

The Recreation Ground was the venue for a very successful Holiday Fun Day in August. This event was run by Kent County Council, Faithworks, Kick Kent and Play Place Innov8 but a significant contribution towards the costs was made by Dunton Green Parish Council. The young people took part in graffiti workshops, team challenges and football as well as general games and arts & crafts.

On a lovely Sunday in August many people brought along a picnic and enjoyed a relaxing afternoon with musical entertainment by the fabulous Hannah Northedge Jazz & Blues Duo. There was a guest appearance from comedian & entertainer 'Viv the Spiv' and activities for youngsters were organized and run by DG Faithworks. Plans are already being made for a further 'Picnic & Entertainment' event on the village green in August.

This year the Remembrance Day service was conducted by Martyn Berry from St. Marys Riverhead. The Parish Council was delighted that Riverhead & Dunton Green Scouts accepted its invitation to attend the service and that they have indicated that they would like to be involved in the service each year.

In December the Parish Council once again provided a Christmas tree on the green in London Road, furnished with new LED lights. For the eleventh year running people from Dunton Green participated in this relaxed event by singing many of the festive favourites (albeit not at the Christmas tree site due to inclement weather) with music being provided by Bessels Green Baptist Church. It is hoped that whatever the weather next year, the event will be able to be held by the Christmas tree, the Parish Council having invested in a marquee for use at its events throughout the year.

The Parish Council is also very pleased that its bid for a share of the West Kent Cold Store Section 106 Legal Agreement Community Facilities Contribution Fund has been successful. As the Parish Council has reported via its newsletters, the bid was based around improvements to the recreation ground, including the provision of new play equipment, exercise facilities and a new community building. The Parish Council is in the process of putting together more detailed plans for final approval by Sevenoaks District Council's Cabinet in autumn this year.

VILLAGE ENHANCEMENTS

The introduction of hanging baskets along the shopping parade and hanging basket trees at either end of the timber bus shelter on London Road has helped to improve the look of the centre of the village. Small tree have been planted in the Recreation Ground, Longford Meadow and the Crescent. The Parish Council is now working on plans for bulb planting schemes on some of the verges and green spaces.

ALLOTMENTS

The Parish Council allotments on Dunton Green Social Club land remain fully let and currently there is nobody on the waiting list.

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCES

Summary 2010/2011 Financial Year Annual Return signed off by the Audit Commission:

	£	£
Balances brought forward		114,144.11
ADD		
Annual Precept		48,000.00
Total Other receipts		10,431.15
SUBTRACT		
Staff Costs	17,537.48	
Total other costs	51,474.88	
Balances carried forward		103,562.90

Cllr Brian Tingley, Chairman Dunton Green Parish Council

24th April 2012

Report of District Councillor Cameron Brown April 2012

Having been re-elected in May 2011 I am delighted that I can continue to represent the residents of Dunton Green and Riverhead. There are many new elected members at District Council and I was delighted to welcome Kim Bayley, a long term resident of Riverhead, into the fold. I know that she has already made an extremely positive contribution. I was however sad to see John Lankester leave, who as a former Chairman was well respected at SDC. He was a measured advocate on behalf of both Dunton Green and Riverhead at Council meetings.

Following John's departure I now sit on Development Control at District. I consider this a very good opportunity to protect the interests of Dunton Green and Riverhead. This is particularly relevant with the Government's new planning legislation very much on the agenda. I have attended a number of meetings to date and have voted on a wide range of applications. I have made a number of suggestions to the Chairman, including:

- a. The use of google maps to provide a clear view of the site in question. Frequently we rely on plans drawn up by the parties or a poor map provided by the Council. Google maps, both satellite and map view, in addition to street view are invaluable tools that we should be making use of.
- b. Being more consistent in relation to decisions. This in turn requires members being provided with information about planning decisions made in the locality. Sometime we are not provided with as much background information as we could be.

I also sit as the Vice Chairman of Services Select Committee. The committee has a wide ranging remit over the services provided by the Council and I have ensured that the Committee has undertaken two in depth scrutiny exercises of key issues affecting the Council, namely the under occupation of housing across the District and the introduction of the Unified Benefits system. Both have significant implications for residents in our districts and I am keen to ensure that they are properly addressed.

The Big Community Fund (a £120,000 annual fund) has in my view being an unqualified success, allowing parishes and local community organisations an opportunity to apply for funding for projects across the district. I am delighted that Riverhead has successfully made an application, with further applications from both Riverhead and Dunton Green in the pipeline.

Following the survey of local residents the Section 106 monies I have worked along with Council Bayley and Sevenoaks District Council to assess the bids that were received. A substantial part of the funds were recommended for Dunton Green Parish Council to develop a new community facility and outdoor recreation area. A smaller portion of the funds were recommended for Riverhead to develop the Heights area. I look forward to working further with those involved to bring these projects to fruition.

Other matters I have addressed over the year are the Lidl development, the roadworks in Dunton Green and cycle safety on Poll Hill, among other matters.

Finally I am delighted that Riverhead will be part of the Olympic procession and I will available to ensure that SDC provides the necessary assistance to ensure the event is both fun and safe!

**Report of District Councillor Kim Bayley
April 2012**

Firstly apologies for my absence but I am at the Music Week Awards for my day job.

I was delighted to be elected for the first time in May to represent the residents of Dunton Green and Riverhead. I hope that during my first year I have forged a strong working relationship with my co-Councillor Cameron Brown and have been able to represent the interests of everyone in Dunton Green.

Since joining Sevenoaks District Council I have joined 3 committees

Firstly, the Environment Committee where one of the primary aims in 2011 was to produce the Sevenoaks Residential Character Assessment. This may seem rather arduous taking photographs of the area but it is an important document underpinning the individual characters of all the Sevenoaks villages including Dunton Green. We also debated the much publicized parking charges for Sevenoaks and looked at some of the local transport issues

Secondly I sit on the Performance and Governance committee which ensures that the Council is meeting its targets and accountable for expenditure. It is pleasing to report that budgets and cost cutting targets are being met (despite the economic environment we are in) and the Council has also recovered all monies invested with the Icelandic banks

Thirdly on the Electoral Reforms Committee I am pleased to report that the ill conceived attempt by Sevenoaks Town to incorporate Dunton Green and other parishes into a Greater Sevenoaks was soundly rejected.

One of the biggest successes this year has been the Big Community Fund, a £120,000 annual fund, which allows parishes and local community groups the ability to apply for grants of up to £10,000 per month. There are applications from both Riverhead and Dunton Green in the pipeline and I would encourage local groups to consider making applications to the BCF.

The West Kent Cold Store Development has been a large aspect of work in the last year. I spent a considerable amount of time alongside Councillor Brown and Sevenoaks District Council assessing the bids that were received for the section 106 developer funds. As you may know a substantial part of the funds were recommended for Dunton Green Parish Council to develop a new community facility and outdoor recreation area, which will include both indoor and outdoor facilities.

Early this year Councillor Brown and I both received a flurry of communications regarding the proposed Lidl development, which has yet to apply for planning permission.

We also had a flurry of communication in relation to the West Kent Cold Store roadworks and more recently have started to receive complaints regarding primary school allocations for 2012.