

DUNTON GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Dunton Green Village Hall on Tuesday 29th April 2014 at 7.30pm

1. Present:

Mr. Brian Tingley (Chairman), Inspector Ian Jones, PCSO Jane Wright, Kent County Cllr. Richard Parry (Member for Sevenoaks West), Ms. Tracy Godden (Clerk to the Parish Council) and 10 members of the Public (including four Parish Councillors).

2. Apologies for Absence

Sevenoaks District Councillors Mr. Cameron Brown and Mrs. Kim Bayley (Members for Dunton Green and Riverhead), Ms Laura Masson (Acting Headteacher Dunton Green Primary School)

3. Minutes of 2013 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the April 2013 Annual Parish Meeting were approved. Proposed - Mr. Lapham, Seconded - Mrs .England 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 reminded attendees that the Annual Parish Meeting is not a Parish Council meeting but is rather a Parish Assembly which provides an opportunity for the parish electorate to hear reports from village organisations and as such is not a forum at which any Parish Council matters can be agreed.

The Parish Council's Annual Report for 2013/2014 was provided to attendees and the Clerk and the Chairman commented on its contents. A copy of the report is attached.

6. County Councillor, Richard Parry

Cllr. Parry made a verbal report to the meeting.

Cllr. Parry thanked the village for support following his re-election as County Councillor representing Sevenoaks West.

Cllr. Parry reported that KCC remained under pressure to reduce expenditure further, having to save in the region of £90 million over the next 4 years. It was estimated that some £75 million could be saved by 2015 but this would require KCC having to 'transform'. KCC would be re-organising with fewer senior management positions and adaptations to the procurement procedures involving partnerships with other authorities (this was likely to impact Human Resources, ICT, Libraries and Social Services particularly but not exclusively). Cllr. Parry reassured attendees that there were no plans to close libraries but he indicated that there was a need to make the service much more economical. Riverhead

Library was housed in a leased building which had recently been damaged following a water tank leak. Riverhead Parish Council had provided its Committee Room at the Village Hall to house a library until such time as repairs at the library building had been completed.

Cllr. Parry noted that whilst Dunton Green had not been especially adversely affected by the recent flooding other areas in the District had been badly affected. A number of agencies had worked together and dealt with the situation which had led to a proposal that these agencies meet on a quarterly basis to ensure that next time there was an incident everyone would be better prepared to deal with the situation and that the infrastructure would be in place.

Cllr. Parry advised that KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils) had, under pressure, recognised road congestion in Sevenoaks and were looking at slips for the M25 at a place most effective and least disruptive. KALC would be working in partnership with other bodies having agreed to raise half the costs of an economic survey (the balance of the costs to be paid by KCC). The aim is to create a business case for the introduction of a new junction.

In relation to the closed Children's Centre on the primary school's site Cllr. Parry confirmed that a contract for its use had been allocated but that he could not yet confirm with whom.

Mr Lapham asked Cllr. Parry about progress with regard to 20MB Broadband in Sevenoaks West (as reported at the 2013 meeting). Cllr. Parry advised that the contract with BT has confidentiality clauses and that he was not at liberty to divulge details. Although BT would not allow publication of some information Cllr. Parry was able to confirm that the programme was months ahead of schedule. Cllr. Parry added that there would almost certainly always be some differences in the speeds possible between different areas.

7. District Councillors, Cameron Brown & Kim Bayley

Cllrs. Brown and Bayley were unable to attend but had provided a joint report. A copy of the report is attached.

8. Kent Police - PCSO Jane Wright & Inspector Ian Jones

PCSO Wright read from a report, a copy of which is attached.

Inspector Jones introduced himself as the new Neighbourhood Policing Inspector. He advised that the Kent force had to save £20 million from its budget and that the first tranche of cuts were being made. A new neighbourhood policing model (to be renamed as 'Local Policing') would be introduced from the end of June which would result in another round of restructuring. The Central Response Team currently operates out of Tonbridge but this would be replaced with a response team for Sevenoaks being based in Swanley, supported by Local Policing. This restructuring would mean that the number of officers under the Inspector's authority would increase from around 30 to 65. The Inspector confirmed that this should improve the visibility of police across the District.

9. Dunton Green Primary School

Ms Laura Masson, Acting Head Teacher, was unable to attend but had provided an update of the school's activities over the last. A copy of the report is attached.

10. The Sir Thomas Smythe Charity

It was confirmed that one elderly resident was provided for in Dunton Green.

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

None

12. Any Other Business

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council for the additional work she had undertaken in relation to the new community building. Cllr. Tingley also extended thanks to the small band of Parish Councillors who worked very hard for the village and took the opportunity to introduce those present to residents in attendance and urged them to come along to Parish Council meetings to keep up to date.

Finally the Chairman thanked residents for attending the Annual Parish Meeting and invited them to stay on for refreshments & to take the opportunity to talk to councillors and raise any concerns.

The meeting closed at 7.43pm

Dunton Green Parish Council Annual Report 2013/2014

COUNCIL

The Council met 14 times between April 2013 and March 2014 inclusive of which 11 meetings were scheduled meetings and 3 were additional 'extraordinary' meetings. There was an average attendance of 84% of Council members at these meetings. Of the eleven meetings that Kent County and Sevenoaks District Councillors were expected to attend Cllr. Richard Parry (KCC) attended 2 meetings (18%), Cllrs Mrs Kim Bayley and Cameron Brown attending 7 between them (64%) - Cllr Mrs Bayley 3 (27%) and Cllr Brown 4 (36%).

The members of the Parish Council are currently Mr Brian Tingley (Chairman), Mr Ian Bayley (Vice Chairman), Mr Graham Hersey, Mr Andy Lapham, Mr Fred Faircloth and Mrs Freda England.

Over the last year two members stood down: Mrs Lesley Edmeads and Miss Kate Hersey. Both have or will be moving out of the area and the Parish Council thanks them both for their contributions. There are still a number of vacancies on the Parish Council which provide excellent opportunities for residents to make a very real contribution to village life. Further information can be obtained from the Clerk or from any of your local Parish Councillors.

Appointments made in 2013 included:

- Mr Graham Hersey as the councillor responsible for the allotments
- Miss Kate Hersey representing the Parish Council on the Village Hall Management Committee
- Mr Fred Faircloth representing the Parish Council on the Donnington Hall Management Committee
- Mr Graham Hersey & Mrs Freda England representing the Parish Council on the Fort Halstead Working Group
- Mr Graham Hersey & Mr Brian Tingley representing the Parish Council on the Kent Association of Local Councils
- Mrs Lesley Edmeads remains the Council's appointed representative on the Sir Thomas Smythe charity

CONTACTING THE PARISH COUNCIL

There is currently no Parish Council office while the new community building is being constructed. Enquiries can be made by post, telephone, email or via the Parish Council's website at www.duntongreenpc.org.uk.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Parish Council is consulted on planning applications in the village and has reviewed 29 applications over the last 12 months (April 2013 and March 2014 inclusive).

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

PCSO Jane Wright continues to look after the parish. Inspector Ian Jones attended the March Parish Council meeting to introduce himself as the new Neighbourhood Policing Inspector and talked about the budgetary constraints that the Kent Force had to deal with going forward (in the order of £20 million). He did advise, however, that as a result of redistribution of various teams across the County Sevenoaks as a District would be better served with more officers at Inspector Jones' disposal following the reorganisation than here had been previously.

POLICE MEETINGS

Police Surgeries continue to be held in local venues (predominantly Tesco at Riverhead and Bojangles Coffee House on London Road) together with Police Contact Point meetings being held on a regular basis in Otford. The Parish Council urges all residents to report crime, however apparently insignificant, to Kent Police and to bring matters of local concern to their attention by attending the Police Surgeries and Police Contact Point meetings where possible. For the most up to date information regarding dates and venues for these meetings near Dunton Green please use Kent Police's website (www.kent.police.uk); key in your postcode in the 'Your Neighbourhood' section and then click on the drop down menu for 'Meetings'. At the time of going to press the next Surgery and PCP dates were not confirmed.

YOUNG PEOPLE - COMMUNITY BUS

The Parish Council helps to fund the youth club which now runs from the 'Community Bus' which can be found next to Longford Meadow (at the end of Mill Road) on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm. The bus is kitted out with a PlayStation 3, a Wii, a large selection of games and arts & crafts and there are opportunities for cooking, music production, educational sessions and sports activities. Along with the activities that are on offer to the young people each session, Play Place also works with the young people to produce a plan of different focused activities that the young people can engage in each week. The service is aimed at 11 - 19 year olds and if you haven't already been along to take a look then please do so. The Parish Council has recently sought feedback (via the newsletter) from young people in the village about the service and what it is that they like / do not like so that it can use this information to help deliver the kind of youth services that young people would like to see in the village.

YOUNG PEOPLE - KICK KENT

The Parish Council is extremely pleased that these football/sports courses are so well supported by the young people of Dunton Green. Having successfully run a ten week course before the summer last year, Kick Kent have since run two further courses with another due to commence on 22nd April. The courses are generally aimed at 10 to 16 year olds and are free to attend as they are funded predominantly by the Parish Council with some small contributions via alternative funding sources. The courses continue to run in the recreation ground which remains open for use during the construction of the new community building.

HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

The Parish Council keeps a watch on local highways and footpaths. Highway maintenance requirements are passed to Kent County Council's Highway Services division or the Public Rights of Way Office. 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.

PARKING RESTRICTIONS REVIEW

Following the completion of an informal consultation in the summer of 2013 Sevenoaks District Council then ran a public consultation in December. Residents received a letter direct from SDC advising them of the consultation and the 19 alleged issues.

The Parish Council also ran three drop in sessions where residents had an opportunity to familiarise themselves with all of the proposals in hard copy format following concerns that residents were being encouraged to comment only on the proposals in their immediate vicinity. Whilst the Parish Council supported some of the proposals it was apprehensive about the amount of parking restrictions that were being proposed and the impact they may have on residents. Following completion of the consultation and analysis of the responses by SDC the proposals were taken to the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board in March 2014. The Parish Council has been informed that all of the proposals are to be implemented in the summer of 2014 with the significant exception of the pay for parking scheme which was proposed for Station Approach but which the Parish Council and numerous residents had serious concerns about.

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, Station Road and the Ryewood Meadows estate.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES FUND & RECREATION GROUND PROJECT

In relation to this exciting community project, there was a considerable amount of detail to be considered, agreed and approved during 2013 and the Parish Council was extremely busy developing the scheme. Members of the public had the opportunity to view the plans for the building and the aspirations for the outside space and comments received by those who viewed these were overwhelmingly positive. A contractor for the construction of the new community building was eventually appointed in late autumn 2013 after an extensive tendering process and the site was taken over finally on 6th January 2014. Storms from the middle of December, January proving to be the wettest month since records began and winds gusting through February all conspired to make the start of the construction project in the recreation ground a very difficult one. That being said, tangible progress has now been made (albeit a little behind schedule) and the old pavilion which was built in 1970 has been demolished to make way for the village's new facility. The footings have been dug, the concrete has finally been poured and steelwork & block work are taking shape.

Even though the construction site has been cordoned off and there is no car parking available the recreation ground is still accessible to pedestrians and the football pitch and play facilities can still be used. The Parish Council will look more formally at the element of the project that will involve the rejuvenation of the play areas.

The smaller Riverhead project that was awarded funding has been completed and the environmental improvements to The Heights area of Riverhead and street lighting around St Mary's church are being enjoyed. Meanwhile, the other recipient of a capital grant from the Community Facilities Fund, Dunton Green Village Hall, has also completed its small extension to provide a disabled toilet at the venue. Following some severe criminal damage to the village hall in January 2014 the venue has undergone complete repairs and has been totally revitalised!

SUMMER FAMILY FUN DAY

A day of children's activities in Dunton Green was held in August last year sponsored by Dunton Green Parish Council in association with PlayPlace Innov8, Sevenoaks District Council and VAWK (Voluntary Action Within Kent). This was part of a series of local Family Fun Days throughout the District. It was very well received but due to the construction of the building in the recreation ground and the lack of welfare facilities over the summer it has been decided that the Parish Council will not sponsor an event for 2014. However, it is highly probable that there will be events in 2015 to mark the first summer of the new facility.

ANNUAL FAMILY FUN DAY

Despite a few clouds the sixth annual Family Fun Day took place on Sunday 23rd June at the Recreation Ground. Yet again Dunton Green was provided with a fantastic free family event attended by over 800 people. Many organisations took part - Dunton Green Parish Council, Kick Kent, Play Place Innov8, the Duke's Head, the Social Club and many others. The entertainment ended with the release of hundreds of balloons for a charity balloon race. Thanks must once again go to the Local Churches who put so much effort into organising this event for everyone's enjoyment. The organisers have decided to take a break for 2014 but it is hoped that they will reconsider arranging another event for the summer of 2015.

VILLAGE PICNIC & ENTERTAINMENT

Back in the summer on Sunday 28th July the Parish Council held a Summer Afternoon Picnic & Entertainment event, with sponsorship from Caremark Sevenoaks. The Second Wind Concert Band was on hand once again to provide a fantastic musical backdrop to a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon! It was a very relaxing occasion with people getting together to catch up, enjoy a picnic and while away a lazy Sunday afternoon. The Parish Council is planning to hold another Village Picnic & Music event this summer on Sunday July 27th. More details will be available nearer the time.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY & WW1 COMMEMORATIONS

In villages, towns & cities across the length & breadth of the country Remembrance Sunday (or Armistice Day) services are held and Dunton Green is no exception. The Parish Council extends its thanks to all those residents who attended and particularly to Rev Martin Booth for officiating at the service on behalf of St Mary's Riverhead. The Parish Council is also very appreciative of the involvement of the Riverhead & Dunton Green Scouts. Thanks are extended to all of the young people, their Scout leaders and their families for attending and helping to mark this as a very special occasion.

2014 sees the 100th Anniversary of the start of the First World War. There will be numerous commemorative events up & down the country and Dunton Green Parish Council would like to mark this momentous milestone. To this end, the Parish Council has already embarked on a project to find out as much as possible about the twenty seven men who are listed on the War Memorial as having fallen in The Great War. A professional researcher has been engaged to assist us with this project and the aim will be to create a permanent record for the village. It may be that you can help us create a more complete record of these men and their families. If anyone has any letters, photographs or any other information about any of the 27 men the Parish Council would be extremely pleased to hear from you.

CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Once again this annual event was well supported by the village and there was a lot of carol singing around the brightly lit tree. To those who helped to put up the tree at the beginning of December (and to take it down in January) the Parish Council extends its thanks. Appreciation also to Rev Martin Booth for officiating and to Faithworks and Bessels Green Baptist Church for the musical accompaniment & support provided. A final note of thanks must also go to Jason of Bojangles Coffee House who supplied the marvellous refreshments. The Parish Council will be looking at holding a similar event this year but would certainly appreciate any feedback from those who attended as to what we might do to improve things or ring the changes.

COUNTRY MARKET

Following consultation with the Parish Council last year an enterprising local businessman will be launching a new Country Market in Dunton Green to be held on the Village Green on alternate Sundays through the summer of 2014. More details will be made available from Jason Botting of Bojangles Coffee House. The Parish Council is enthusiastic that such an initiative is being planned for Dunton Green and hopes very much that residents will come along and see what there is on offer.

VILLAGE ENHANCEMENTS

The Parish Council will continue to look at ways of enriching the open spaces in Dunton Green moving forward but it is pleased that the enhancements introduced to date (hanging baskets, raised flower beds & flowering trees on the northern section of the village green and bulb planting in some of the verges & green spaces) have been so well received.

COMMUNITY LITTER PICKS

The Parish Council has continued to organise its quarterly community litter picks. Support for these events has grown slowly but the Parish Council remains optimistic that residents will support the effort to keep Dunton Green clean and tidy. Spring and summer sessions seem more popular unsurprisingly and it is particularly encouraging that the Parish Council is seeing more young people attending the sessions. It is an opportunity for everyone to help give the village a little TLC and make a tangible difference.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Dunton Green Parish Council continues to fund three Saturday Freighter Refuse Collections during the year (February, June & September). Refuse can be taken along to Lusted Road & Mill Road. The next collection date is confirmed as Saturday 21st June 2014. Future dates can be found on the DGPC website and on noticeboards

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 2012/2013 Financial Year Annual Return signed off by the Audit Commission:

	£	£
Balances brought forward		87,468.68
ADD		
Annual Precept		57,255.00
Total Other receipts		17847.08
SUBTRACT		
Staff Costs	20,037.97	
Total other costs	77,608.02	
Balances carried forward		64,924.77

Cllr Brian Tingley, Chairman Dunton Green Parish Council

29th April 2014

Report of District Councillors Cameron Brown and Kim Bayley April 2014

General Matters

Funding at SDC

One of the biggest challenges at SDC has been dealing with the ever reducing grant coming from central government. SDC is looking at new and innovative ways to increase its revenue and reduce its costs, while attempting to mitigate the effects on residents. This includes joint working with other District Councils and changing SDC's governance structure. Notwithstanding these cuts your local Councillors are committed to ensuring that things that matter to local residents remain in place, including weekly bin collections.

Highways and Parking

We have been involved in discussions with SDC on new parking schemes for Riverhead and Dunton Green. Given the financial pressures on Kent County Council SDC have considered a number of options and a proposals for the area have been tabled by SDC. The reality is that due to severe cuts in funding at KCC at this stage only those parking restrictions which have a safety aspect are likely to be implemented.

Consultation has taken place with residents on the changes proposed and we will continue to support the parishes in relation to parking restrictions and other highways measures needed.

On the Riverhead and Dunton Green borders it has been challenging to acquire an additional crossing for the children of Trinity School but we both have met with the school to try to ensure the safety of the children. This has resulted in the implementation of a walking bus scheme, deployment of teachers outside the school during morning arrival and pick up by parents of children directly at the school if children have been attending after school clubs.

We also continue to talk to KCC about what can be done to alleviate some of the issues in Chipstead Lane although a satisfactory solution has yet to be found.

West Kent Cold Store

The Cold Store Development is continuing and the improvements to the district funded by the section 106 grants have begun. Both Parish Councils deserve to be congratulated for their hard work in relation to the bids for funding and we know Dunton Green are working extremely hard on the new recreational and hall facilities.

Planning

There have been a relatively limited number of planning applications referred in the district but recently application numbers have started to pick up so this may be different going forwards. Cameron sits on the planning committee and has actively sort to protect the interests of residents.

Big Community Fund

The parishes have also had a number of successful applications to the Big Community Fund during the year on which they deserve to be congratulated. Most recently Riverhead have received some extra funding for the lighting in the area

Kim's Committees

In my third year as District Councillor I continued to sit on the two financial committees within Sevenoaks District Council, with a particular focus on ensuring that the District Council can continue to deliver the current levels of services with a vastly reduced budget. I also attended the Full Council meetings during the year as well as a number of informal meetings with Council departments and constituents. It has been challenging to attend as many Parish Council meetings as I would have liked due to a large number of timing clashes but I hope I have been available to you via email and phone as needed. I have also acted as a Governor of Dunton Green Primary School during the year.

Audit Committee and Financial Committees SDC

In my role on the audit committee we look primarily at the performance of SDC. In the financial committee we focus more on setting the budgets and how money is spent.

During the year Council budgets continued to be under pressure due to significant funding cuts by Government at a local level but the current performance indicators of SDC are positive and departments are performing well and budgets are being met.

SDC reluctantly felt it needed to increase its part of the Council tax by 1.99% this year as well as putting in place inflation based rises in parking. This was done in order to safeguard front line services to the best of SDC's ability whilst SDC continues to look at ways to reduce costs. The senior management position restructure has delivered cost savings but more savings are needed over the coming years.

Cameron's Committees

I sit on two committees – as Vice Chair of the Scrutiny Committee and on Planning and Development Control (DCC). I have attempted to attend Parish Council Meetings when possible, in addition to other formal SDC meetings and meetings with residents.

Scrutiny

As part of the new Governance arrangements agreed by Council in April 2013 the Council has moved to a system of one Scrutiny Committee and five Advisory Committees. The Scrutiny Committee has focused on some key areas: -

- We have invited two Cabinet Portfolio holders to each meeting of the Committee to discuss performance and areas of focus. This has included hearing about the Corporate plan and the need to become more financially self-sufficient, Welfare reform and Internet Safety.
- Inviting external representatives to attend Committee meetings. This has included hearing from Jayne Black, Director of Operations at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (who dealt with performance at A and E in particular); David Brazier (KCC Cabinet Member for Highways) and Julian Cook (KCC Highways), who explained their find and fix programme re pot holes and approach to fly tipping; Chief Inspector Cook, who revealed the Chief Constable's greater focus on local policing and local presence.
- Setting up in depth scrutiny groups to investigate particular areas in details, and reporting back so that recommendations can be agreed and submitted to Cabinet. This has included a review of parking within the district, the budget and leisure.

DCC

As a member I have attended a large number of meetings, dealing with a number of contentious planning applications across the district, including the new Sainsbury's in Edenbridge (where 3 coach loads of residents came to the meeting). As indicated above I have vigorously defended the interests of residents in Dunton Green and Riverhead where sufficient objection can be made out on planning grounds, including the recent application for a new children's nursery in Dunton Green.

And finally...

We remain available to discuss any local issues and would like to thank both parishes for all their hard work during 2013 - 2014.

**Cameron Brown
Kim Bayley**

1st April 2014

Good evening my name is PCSO Jane Wright; I have been the PCSO for Otford /Shoreham for the last 5, 1/2 years. I took over Riverhead and Denton green as two years ago and I am still starting to get to know a lot of you so apologies if I don't know you...

The beginning of the year was very challenging with the storm and the floods so I would like to thank everyone who helped.

From my over view of the district I can let you know that Dunton Green is a very safe place to live with a low crime rate compared to other areas of Kent however, there have been incidents of incursions onto residents property by opportunist thieves. This has tended to be through insecurities to homes, garages and sheds that offenders have taken advantage of. Police are aware of these few incidents and have increased time spent in the area in order to deter and combat the potential for further offences to take place.,

Over the past year there have been 118 reports for the area 69 are for crime

Burglary 11

Burglary other than dwelling 11

Attempt burglary 1

Attempt Burglary other than dwelling 3

Attempt robbery 1

Theft from motor vehicle 9

Theft of motor vehicle 2

Attempt theft from motor vehicle 1

Possession of controlled drugs 7

Criminal damage 11

Vehicle interference 3

Take a motor vehicle with no consent 2

During the past year I have patrolled the Recreation ground car park after receiving calls re drugs , although I did not see anything I know colleagues stopped a vehicle which was searched and were caught a fine was issued .Whilst I was there any vehicles that where there checks done on them and intelligence reports put in . . the recreation ground was also patrolled frequently and still is today along with the Building site to prevent any theft occurring .other area's patrolled hill field place ,mill lane and I have met with the youth group ,

I assisted when the call came out re male under a train and did seen preservation so BTP and other emergency services could do their investigations,

Dealt with parking issues down London road which seems to have stopped.

Whilst doing proactive work with a special we stopped a vehicle that had no insurance Surgeries have been held in different places, Bo Jangles and I would like to thank Jason for letting me use his café, Dunton green children's centre.

Recently we have started emailing parish clerks with the work we have been doing in the area weekly any details of any upcoming surgeries, Pcp locations .These are held two weekly at Tesco's from 16:30-17:30

Regular patrols are conducted around the whole of the area, at all times of day and night in order to deter any potential offender.

Regular letter drops are conducted by myself and my colleagues to remind residents of the need to secure not only their properties but also items of value in and on those properties. These would include items stored in sheds garages and storage oil for heating.

Simple security checks would include padlock and alarm out buildings, close your garage door so no persons can come down you drive and use the excuse that they were "just looking". Take your car / house keys upstairs each night and under no circumstances leave anything such as keys / wallets within reach or view of a letter box, during the day or night.

Local police patrols are boosted by the MOD police at Fort Halsted who we liaise with on a regular basis and who you will see in the area most days. They provide an extra visible deterrent and have a close working agreement with ourselves that involves all information sharing on in regular contact with the British Transport police who, in conjunction with Kent police, conduct inter force operations on the rail networks that feed into and from the Sevenoaks district to disrupt those persons that use the rail network to travel from place to place to commit crime.

Finally may I please remind everyone that if they see any one acting suspiciously please dial 101 which is the new non emergency line for the police. This number will get you straight through to the control room at Maidstone where you can report an incident or leave a message for a particular officer or team. What may seem trivial to you could well be important to us. Should you think that there is a crime in progress then does not hesitate to use the 999 system?

To find out more about your neighbourhood team or more safety advice visit
www.kent.police.uk
Your neighbourhood email address is
Sevenoaks.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk

If you are a part of NHW You can purchase a gel kit to security mark your property please email the below address
www.kent.police.uk/neighbourhoodwatchhttp://www.wknwa.org/index.php?page=selectaDNA

Thank you for all your support that you have given me

Jane

APRIL 2014

Dunton Green Annual Parish Meeting

Headteacher's report to the parish - April 2014

The year at Dunton Green Primary School is racing by very quickly. As we approach the Summer Term, (hoping the summer uniform will be needed), our thoughts turn to the next class to begin their school journey. The parents of the new Reception intake will shortly be notified of their child's school place and here at Dunton Green we are over-subscribed this academic year.

This year has undoubtedly brought its challenges with a disappointing OFSTED result in December and the retirement of our longstanding Headteacher, Miss Barton, at the beginning of this month. Christine had served Dunton Green Primary School for 21 years taking it from 4 classes to 7 and overseeing the building of a whole new "wing" to the school. So the governors have begun the unenviable task of finding a new Headteacher who will lead Dunton Green towards become an outstanding school.

Over the past year we have continued to enhance the children's classroom learning with a wide range of clubs, trips, visitors and experiences which have added breadth and excitement to our curriculum.

Our wonderful choir have sung at the O2 arena with 8000 other children, entertained the Christmas visitors at Ightham Mote and much more importantly have entertained our local Senior Citizens with Christmas Carols at the Social Club and in school. The school has continued its sporting successes with teams competing in rugby, mini-sports, swimming, football and netball. We have a strong tradition of dance here at Dunton Green and this year our dance group and our break dance group have participated in performances with "Chance to Dance" and "Strictly Dancing" at the Stag Theatre.

There have been visits to the seaside, Sevenoaks wildlife reserve, Harry Potter World, Horton Kirby (to experience a day as Victorian children), Stonepitts Strawberry picking and much more. We have dressed up for book day, raced with water in buckets to support the Philippines, waved frantically at Lizzy Yarnold and even had owls flying in the school hall. So all in all a very busy year.

*Now as we enter an exciting period of change there is much to look forward to in the immediate future and a renewed determination to put Dunton Green at the very heart of the community in which it belongs, by both reaching **out** to groups within the village AND to inviting you (the community) **in** to see the school and how we work. We shall be holding an art exhibition on Friday 13th June to which the whole community are warmly welcome and in the final two weeks of term shall be undertaking a whole school project on the History and Geography of Dunton Green which will culminate in a cream tea for everyone associated with Dunton Green so that they are able to share in our discoveries about the place in which we live.*

So with the summer approaching, sports days, fetes and end of year reports looming large on the horizon I am sure the school year will finish as it started – busy, but all the better for it!

*Laura Masson
Acting Headteacher, Dunton Green Primary School*

29th April 2014