**Draft Minutes of the Hever Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly**

**Thursday 23rd May 2019 Four Elms Parish Rooms**

**The Chairman, John Hodson** opening the Assembly at 7.30pm, welcoming the ~20 members of the public and speakers. Fire regulations considered and apologies received and accepted from Joanna Wade (funeral to attend) and Tom Tugendhat MP (working). The Chairman gave a summary of his annual printed report, congratulated 9/10 Cllrs. who were re-elected (uncontested) and advertised the vacancy on the Council. A reminder that minutes and information available on hever.org, Facebook and noticeboards. Thanks to the speakers for attending, the Councillors for their unpaid time and significant efforts over the year, colleagues in other Councils and to the Clerk.

**PCSO Joe Cain, Kent Police** (Telephone 101, 60538@kent.pnn.police.uk) updated on local and District wide initiatives e.g. speed checks, off road bikes. Note contact details on <http://hever.org/kent-police>

To report crime phone 101 or online <https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-online/kent-police-online-reporting/>

**Alison Thompson, English Rural Housing Association** summarised the process of considering affordable housing (shared ownership and rental) schemes, for locals. ERHA are rural specialists in this in Kent (already working with 31 villages e.g. Leigh, Aynsford, Chiddingstone). The aim is to provide up to 12 affordable homes (realistically ~8 homes on one site – mixture of flats / houses), for those with a strong local connection, homes can’t be sold on the open market and would be offered at 65% of market price to those requiring social housing and <80% for those looking for affordable housing. Any sites considered would need to be sustainable and are currently being studied by SDC initially. There will then be full further consultation with the Community and a parish wide second stage housing needs survey.

**Peter Lake, Kent County Councillor.** Notes were printed out and distributed. Council tax increase 5% this year, in addition to last year’s 5%. Traffic speeds – pilot scheme in Penshurst for 20mph but can’t have 20mph limit on A or B roads. Drainage – A &B roads to be cleared in Nov, other requests via <https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> Road surface – he would prefer tarmac replaced rather than surface dressing. Discussed fly tipping and changes to charging at dumps. Stroke services – concerns regarding closure of services, nearest now Maidstone. School buses – continues to lobby against standing on 404. Some funds allocated for further work on the Four Elms crossroads.

**Matthew Dickins, Sevenoaks District Council.** Noted role of District Councils, working with changes to legislation and National guidance on recycling, affordable housing and animal welfare. Please contact him directly with any queries or comments.

**Mike Fellows, Chair of Trustees, Four Elms Village hall.** Reported on progress; simplifying the competitive charging rates, increased usage and a significant grant from the Masonic Lodge for improvements. Now offering an Ofsted approved childcare facility. Projects are garden clearance, ramp for disabled access to garden and kitchen refit. Future projects will need to include replacement of heating and hot water systems – which will require fundraising. 2 new local Trustees appointed.

**Dr. Simon Morrison, Partner, Edenbridge Medical Centre.** Summarised the progress with moving GP and hospital services (day beds) to the site on KCC land, next to the Eden Centre. There would be no inpatient beds, however beds could be used in new nursing home development. Co-ordination between NHS and Councils slow and complicated. Detailed planning proposal to go to SDC imminently. Hope to open in 12 – 18 months. His replacement has been appointed (Dr. Trice from Bexley) who will start in June and Dr. Harris (also has Psychology degree) will join in August. Funding of new site in region of £9m and will be some Private Finance Initiative role and the Health Trust purchasing the KCC land.

Questions were taken and the Assembly closed at 8.55pm.