

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Draft Minutes

The Annual Parish Assembly was held on Tuesday 20th May 2025, commenced at 7.00 pm and was held in Hever Village Hall

Present: 18 members of the public attended in addition to Councillor Angela Haydon who chaired the meeting, Rachael Turner Clerk & RFO as minute taker and PC Donegan, Annie Chamberlain and Emily Jenner who were presenting.

1. Councillor Angela Haydon, Chair of HPC read out her report. The full report can be found on the website.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Tom Tugendhat, MP, District Cllr Barnett, Cllr Leslie and Cllr Lindsay. The attendance register was completed.
3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 20th May 2024 were duly approved and signed.
4. PC Donegan reported a reduction in reported crime in the parish over the last year and confirmed this did not include fly-tipping numbers as they were reported elsewhere. 108 calls to the police were made from the area, 14 of which were from the same address and 24 were non-crime related. Issues in the Edenbridge area are mainly anti-social behaviour.

PC Donegan urged people to be vigilant and to report suspicious vehicles that are loitering, particularly 4x4's and vans, online or via 101.

Everyone was encouraged to sign up to My Community Voice

<https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/Content/Pages/Register>

to receive local updates and also use as a tool to contact PC Donegan to report any relevant issues.

Questions from those present:

Question 1 - Could drop-in surgeries be held locally? PC Donegan confirmed that surgeries are held regularly in Edenbridge at Bridges and Stones but could consider holding one in the parish if requested.

Question 2 – What was being done about the Four Elms Crossroads road safety issues? Cllr Haydon confirmed that KCC and Police were aware of the safety issues and were reviewing as to how else to make it safer. It is believed that not much else can be done in addition to the array of stop and warning signs that are already there. It was not something the Beat Officer would generally be involved with.

Question 3 – on rural crime. PC Donegan reported that a group had been caught that were acting across counties and rural crime had decreased locally since then.

Question 4 – Are Police now based at Edenbridge Fire Station? PC Donegan confirmed they were not. Unfortunately, the site was not suitable for the kit and equipment to be stored there. The Police are based out of Sevenoaks but have regular presence in Edenbridge and surrounding areas.

Question 5 – Four Elms Pond – concerns over some visitors there breaking the rules. PC Donegan confirmed he had patrolled past the pond on several occasions and had in fact moved on a group of teens who had set up camp there. He had carried out fishing licence checks a few times and those fishing had valid licences.

5. The report from Tom Tugendhat was read out. The full report is available on the hever.org website and included a reminder for residents to respond to Tom's survey on where mobile phone signal is poor to support his campaign to improve mobile phone signal in the area and to contact him to raise any other issues or areas of concern.

Clerk will circulate the link to the phone signal survey again.

6. Report from Kent County Councillor Robert Mayall. No report submitted at the time of the meeting. Apologies were received post meeting.
7. Report was read out from District Councillor James Barnett in his absence. Cllr Barnett sent his apologies as, due to circumstances beyond his control, was attending a SDC council meeting tonight. Cllr Barnett would like to congratulate new Kent County Councillor Robert Mayall and noted that some potholes in How Green Lane have been marked up and some filled and conveyed his thanks for this.

Cllr Barnett was going to talk about local government reorganisation and take questions, so invited people to email him any questions they have instead.

8. Short presentations from:
 - 8.1. Annie Chamberlain - Edenbridge Voluntary Transport Service

Edenbridge Voluntary Transport Service (EVTS) is located within the Health Centre and provides transport for people who live within TN8 to get to medical appointments. Patient Transport is extremely difficult to get now and taxi costs are out of budget for many. EVTS is dependent upon, and run by, volunteers and is a fraction of the cost of a taxi and is charged on a mileage only basis. EVTS has 20 drivers and did 850+ drives last year alone. They are looking for volunteers; both drivers (with a full clean licence) all drivers are required to be DBS (Police checked) this is done via the office at no cost to the volunteer. Additional volunteers are also needed to cover the office. The office is manned 2.5 hours a day (week days only) and volunteers are asked to do minimum of 2 mornings per month. Drivers are reimbursed for their mileage. EVTS have also provided a good system of work experience to local people looking to get back into the workplace.

Around £9K is needed to run the charity each year. EVTS previously received a grant annually from KCC but this has now been stopped so funding is currently being sought. A JustGiving page has been set up. Please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/evts> to donate. Other events, such as a raffle and applying for other small grants will also help to fund running costs. So, if you have some spare time, a car and a full licence and would like to volunteer as a driver, or perhaps help out in the office, please contact EVTS by emailing Annie at manager@evts.org.uk

8.2. Emily Jenner – Fraud Prevention Kent Police

Fraud makes up 42% of reported crime. With smishing, phishing and vishing with the use of technology scammers are becoming increasingly convincing. Please take time to read the information on: <http://hever.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/2025-Little-book-of-big-scams.pdf> .

If you are a victim of fraud, please report it to Action Fraud on line or call 101 to talk to someone. Information is available via <https://www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk/> on current scams. If you receive a scam text you can forward it to 7726 to report it. If you receive a message from your bank please do verify it by contacting 159 which will connect you to the fraud department at your bank.

9. To hear questions from members of the public and any matters for reporting

Question 1: On the Land West of Hever Road, do the new buildings by the road have planning permission?

Response: There was planning permission granted for the isolation units. The SDC Planning Team are keeping a close eye to ensure development is in line with the plans



that were approved. The new access ways on How Green Lane that have appeared are being looked into by KCC as there are safety concerns due to access on the narrow road close to a bend.

Comment: A member of the public thanked HPC for all the effort and work with regards to the Land West of Hever Road site.

Question 2: How Green Road works. The recent works were a mess and have left the lane narrower than it was previously, causing cars having to reverse back to pass each other. There are safety concerns over this.

Response: The Clerk confirmed this had been raised with KCC. They confirmed it was not down to the Highways team but was done by the drainage team. The earth had been piled up along the edge of the ditch to reduce the risk of flooding onto the lane. The Clerk had raised concern that as it was mud it was likely to wash back over the road and cause a further hazard due to creating a slippery surface.

Question 3: Were HPC aware of the proposed bridge works on How Green Lane that would lead to require road works for 9 months?

Response: No HPC have not been made aware but would look into it.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm and refreshments were served and the speakers and Councillors remained to chat informally with those attending.