

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes

The Annual Parish Assembly was held on Monday 20th May 2024 at 7.00 pm in Four Elms Village Hall. Thirty six members of the public were present.

*please see separate report

1. *Chair's Report for 2023-2024
2. Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Duncan Leslie and Councillor Hilary Jones. PC Kemp sent his apologies as he was delayed. The attendance register was completed.
3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 25th May 2023 were approved.
4. Police report from PC Harry Kemp who joined the meeting at 7.20 pm.

PC Kemp reported that another Beat Officer will be joining in June, so there will be more presence to deal with ASB. They will both work closely with the Child Centred Policing Team. PC Kemp reminded those present about utilising My Community Voice Kent (www.mycommunityvoicekent.co.uk) to keep up to date with happenings in the area and to report any issues.

Crime within the local area related mainly to agricultural and vehicle thefts. A good deterrent was ring doorbells, sensor floodlights, trackers on vehicles, for example, Apple Air Tag and a Faraday box to keep car keys in.

5. Report from Conor Dobbs - Tom Tugendhat's Office
Apologies were sent from Tom Tugendhat as MP and local resident for not being able to attend. News was that Network Rail have agreed to do a study into a direct rail link from Tonbridge to Gatwick and would like to encourage residents to comment on this via the website. CD confirmed that TT still opposes the Gatwick expansion.

The Sevenoaks 2040 Plan shows lots of houses planned to be built in Edenbridge. TT was delighted the Memorial Health Centre had opened and was asking for views from residents regarding the procedure for booking appointments.

TT would like to invite views from residents regarding the Four Elms Crossroads.

6. Report from Cllr. Margot McArthur – Kent County Council

Councillor McArthur reported there were approximately 2,200 unaccompanied asylum-seeking children into Kent which clearly put a strain on services. Three new reception centres have been created to help with these children until they are transferred out to other authorities. Good news is that KCC is now compensated for these services from Central Government.

Secondary School Admissions saw 96% of children receiving an offer from their top four choice of schools

The new European exit and entry systems are coming into place this October. The process is yet to be confirmed but it is believed it will impact on the roads in Kent.

Given the frequency and impact of utility companies doing roadworks, better planning is being looked into as a change of process and co-ordination would be beneficial to all

7. Report from Cllr. James Barnett – Sevenoaks District Council who confirmed he was now Chair of the CIL Spending Board.

He was aware there were issues with making appointments at the new Medical Centre and requested that TT picked that up.

The potential community transport scheme was still being explored and the next step was to find a volunteer to help set up and run it. A volunteer from the audience made themselves known and Cllr Barnett will contact them.

8. Short presentations from:

- 8.1. Poppy Walsh representing Edenbridge Community First Responders explained that when a relevant 999 call comes through in the local area a member of Edenbridge CFR would be contacted to respond. Being local they often able to get to the patient before the ambulance service saving valuable time. They are a team of four, are trained and carry medical emergency kits and there is a CFR car. Edenbridge CFR is a charity and some kit is provided but they fundraise for the rest. They can provide life support training.

Poppy pointed out the defibrillators around the parish and confirmed the process if a person was found unconscious was to call 999 immediately. They will confirm the nearest defibrillator and access code and would give details of action to take whilst waiting for medical assistance. The use of a defibrillator increases the chances of survival by up to 54%.

If anyone is keen to learn more about becoming a Community First Responder, or would like to fundraise, please visit the Edenbridge Community First Responder Facebook page or contact Councillor Roberts for more details.

8.2. Councillor Nick Roberts – Four Elms Pond. Councillor Roberts confirmed the pond was purchased with donations from the community. It is a lovely focal point of the village, however, in school holidays there are often unsupervised children, which can cause issues. There has also been fishing at the back of the pond. That land is not owned by HPC and fishing is not allowed there. Recently HPC had tree surgeons prune the overhanging canopy back at the rear of the pond, which unfortunately, opened up the area for people to fish, which is not permitted, as it is private land. A barrier has now been installed created from the tree cuttings to prevent this.

There are times when people do not adhere to the pond rules, which are clearly displayed. There is currently no formal pond warden so if anyone would like to take on this role please contact Nick Roberts. Any anti-social behaviour should be reported to the Police.

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

Q1 – for PC Kemp – What are shoplifting statistics like in Edenbridge?

A – They are quite high. Shops are being encouraged to report incidents.

Q2 – for PC Kemp – How should we contact him?

A – Not directly. Everything must be done centrally. Urgent calls should be made to 999 and they would allocate an officer, use 101 or online if non-urgent or comment on My Community Voice or via Kent Police Website.

Q3 – for PC Kemp – with the additional Beat Officer will there be more Police presence in the area?

A – Yes. Two Officers working opposite shifts so there will be more Police presence.

Q4 – for C Dobbs – There used to be direct trains from London Victoria to Hever but these seem to have stopped.

A – CD will check and confirm

Q5 – for C Dobbs – There are issues with some things not working at the new Memorial Health Centre. The Minor Injuries Unit is not always open when they say it will be, causing delays to treatment and extra journeys to different MIUs. Would be beneficial to have prior notification if the MIU is not opened as planned.

A – CD will look into and feedback to TT.

Q6 – For C Dobbs – AS there is already a rail link in place for people to get from Tonbridge to Gatwick, should the focus of TT be elsewhere, such as getting lifts at stations to assist accessibility?

A – The station provider would be responsible for installing lifts. CD will pick up on it.

Q7 – for P Walsh- Do the defibrillators have stab kits in?

A – Not within the Parish, although there is one in Edenbridge.

Q8 – for Cllr Barnett – What help is needed for the community transport to be set up?

A – An individual to set up, to formally register it and to manage and sign off the accounts, to organise taxi/minibus to pick up and drop off within local community.

Q9– For Cllr. Roberts- why is fishing allowed at the pond? It is a village pond and there are other places to fish.

A – There has always been fishing allowed at the pond. When the pond was given to the village it was stipulated the pond was for use by local people. If we were to change the rules of the pond and stop fishing it is a lengthy legal process.