

TO ALL ELECTORS OF THE PARISH OF BROOKLAND

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 2024

14th May 2024 @ 7.15pm in the Village Hall

Minutes

1. Introductions

Cllr Gillies introduced the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

F&HDC Cllr Goddard, PC Putland, KCC Cllr Hills

3. Acceptance of Minutes of 2023 Meeting

Cllr Gillies proposed accepting the minutes from the 2023 meeting minutes, seconded by Cllr Bicknell and unanimously agreed by those present as a true record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Cllr Gillies gave a summary of the work undertaken by the Parish Council in the last year- See Appendix A

6. Parish Council Financial Statement

The Clerk Outlined the Parish Council Financial Statements – See Appendix B

7. County Council's Report

Cllr Hills was unable to attend the meeting.

8. District Council's Report

Cllr Martin outlined his annual report – See Appendix C

The Clerk read out Cllr Goddard's report – See Appendix D

9. Questions and Comments from the Floor

Those present discussed anti-social behaviour in the village including damage caused in the church, to items in the foodbank, access to the building site and other areas around the village. Solutions being looked at for the church and the PC may be approached for a request towards funding.

Brookland Grove residents advised the meeting that the land at the front of the development is being transferred to the residents who will become responsible for it's upkeep and insurance.

The possibility of setting up a youth club in the village was discussed and the feasibility will be looked into further by the Parish Council.

Chairman's Report

The past year has been a busy one for the Parish Council. We have seen changes in personnel with new councilors joining and a new Chair and vice Chair. The Council would like to thank all former councilors for the contributions they made.

The council has continued to support the village hall committee by covering costs of grounds maintenance. We have also donated money to the church to assist with projects and funded the hall hire costs to allow the village playgroup to continue running.

May 2023 the council organised a street party to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, this event also saw the unveiling of the new Brookland village sign outside the church. The council would like to thank Kev Roper for carving the post and John Bogoyne for his assistance with erecting the sign.

Following concerns raised by residents over the speed of the A259 through the village and the risk of accidents the council engaged a highways consultant to carry out a speed survey and explore potential options. Whilst the results didn't support immediate action with the road the council continues to monitor the situation and will revisit it if required.

An area of the village that has declined over the years with little upkeep is the children's play area within Salters close. The council has identified this and is currently in discussions with Folkestone and Hythe District Council to take over responsibility for the play area and equipment. Once this acquisition is finalised the Parish Council will look to replace the current play equipment and carry out general repairs to the play park itself. This will be part funded using CIL money the council has received from local developments and subsidised from reserves.

The wet weather over the Winter months caused one of the vaults in the cemetery to collapse which the Parish Council had to react to, first by making the area safe and then arranging for it to be filled in.

The council has responded to local residents when issues have been raised and endeavored to support residents as necessary.

A problem that has been prevalent in recent months is the rise in anti social behavior in the village, sadly this has resulted in vandalism to the church and other buildings within the village. The council continues to work with the police and other agencies to find the best solutions to this problem caused by a minority.

Any residents who have suggestions for the council to improve the village are encouraged to email them to us. We are constantly looking for new projects to benefit the residents of Brookland.

Mike Gillies
Chairman
Brookland Parish Council

Appendix B – Financial information

BROOKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Income & Expenditure 2023/24- Actual & Budget

as at

31/03/2024

ACT 2022/2023		BUDGET 2023/2024	ACT TO DATE 2023/2024	ACT v BUD 2023/2024	Forecast 2023/2024
RECEIPTS					
12,870.00	Precept	12,870.00	12,870.00	-	12,870.00
19,220.74	Other			-	
75.00	Cemetery		5,550.00	5,550.00	5,550.00
500.00	Grant			-	
1,590.62	VAT Recovered		3,017.77	3,017.77	3,017.77
34,256.36	TOTAL	12,870.00	21,437.77	8,567.77	21,437.77

ACT 2022/2023		BUDGET 2023/2024	ACTUAL 2023/2024	ACT v BUD 2023/2024	Forecast 2023/2024
EXPENDITURE					
4,321.72	Clerk's Salary & HMRC	4,000.00	4,873.71	873.71	4,873.71
180.00	Clerk's Expenses	180.00	180.00	-	180.00
72.00	Bank Service Fee	72.00	72.00	-	72.00
47.75	General Admin		24.38	24.38	24.38
90.00	Internal Audit	100.00	90.00	-	90.00
	External Audit		210.00		210.00
35.00	ICO	40.00	35.00	-	35.00
164.29	Computer Maintenance	180.00	173.64	-	173.64
	Training	250.00		250.00	-
4,650.00	Legal Fees	-		-	
85.99	Website	120.00	175.93	55.93	175.93
112.00	Village Hall Rent/Heat	150.00	96.00	-	96.00
193.70	KALC Subscription	200.00	199.33	-	199.33
87.50	SLCC Subscription	90.00	88.50	-	88.50
923.35	Insurance	975.00	402.00	-	573.00
1,565.00	Cemetery Grass Cutting	1,750.00	1,560.00	-	1,560.00
	Cemetery Repairs		1,113.32	1,113.32	1,113.32
	Cemetery Fencing		125.00	125.00	125.00
	Election Recharge		60.13	60.13	60.13
300.00	Clearance of Rubbish from Cemetery	150.00	300.00	150.00	300.00
	Election Recharge	1,000.00		1,000.00	-
	Removal/Maintenance of Trees	1,000.00		1,000.00	-
1,042.25	Youth Area		72.50	72.50	72.50
100.00	Youth Area Rent	100.00	100.00	-	100.00
40.00	Wreath for Remembrance	50.00	40.00	-	40.00
	Contingency Fund	500.00		500.00	-
500.00	Contribution to Marsh Harrier	200.00		200.00	-
	Village Hall Grass Cutting		375.00	375.00	375.00
151.20	Clock Maintenance	175.00	159.00	-	159.00
	Telephone Kiosk Maintenance			-	
1,034.00	Defib Maintenance	200.00	189.00	-	189.00
5,219.32	Village Sign & Posts & Chain		2,520.96	2,520.96	2,520.96
258.78	Platinum Jubilee			-	
533.93	Pop Up Events		591.89	591.89	591.89
290.00	Waste Bin			-	
412.00	Contributions to Good Causes	1,000.00	576.00	-	424.00
3,017.77	VAT on Expenses		1,355.95	1,355.95	1,355.95
25,427.55	TOTAL	12,482.00	15,759.24	- 3,277.24	15,759.24

Bank Reconciliation 31/03/24

Unity Bank	£
Opening Balance - 01/04/23	61,749.79
Add	
Income	21,437.77
	83,187.56
Less	
Expenses	15,759.24
Balance at 31/03/24	67,428.32

Appendix C - Alan Martin: Annual Report for Brookland Council - May 2024

Roads and Highways Improvement

One of my big focus areas across the ward in the last year has been traffic and highways. There are significant issues raised by residents across the area relating to speed and volume of traffic as well as various localised issues such as parking enforcement, road markings, potholes, etc.

We have had a great success supporting Ivychurch with their highway's improvement plan. We managed to implement speed reductions on the Ashford Road between New Romney and the A2070 through the village.

Most councils in our area actively manage a highways plan, and my experience is that they can make a real difference addressing residents' concerns.

Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

Another significant area of concern for residents in the area is crime and anti-social behaviour. I have dedicated a lot of time to working with the community safety partnership on specific localised issues, as well as helping to arrange the recent community meeting with the Police and Community Safety Unit held in the Lydd Civic Hall on the 28th of February. This was very well attended, with some excellent engagement and discussion. I am hopeful this will lead to a stronger relationship between the residents, residents' groups and the police.

It would be remiss of me to not mention PC Steve Putland. In his new role as our local beat officer, he has made a significant difference and created a real presence. We are lucky to have such a great policeman working on our patch.

Fly-Tipping

I have raised in District Council meetings my concern about the increase in fly tipping in the area. I have raised the issue that the council applies in my mind too strict an interpretation of the rule that only rubbish left on public land is collected by the council. My concern is that people will not report fly tipping if the council makes no effort to clear up the mess. It is not the fault of the landowner, and the council cannot engage enforcement officers if the case is not reported. I arranged a meeting with Tony Hills. Paul Alford and I to discuss with the cabinet member responsible and we are actively considering ways in which this can be addressed.

Litter Picking Watch – Romney Marsh

Like many others, I am a huge supporter of The Romney Marsh Litter Picking Watch team.

I am always pleased to support Paul and his team whenever I can. Unfortunately, this year I was unable to contribute financially. I did, however, manage to connect Paul and the team to the district officers who now have a greater understanding of the excellent work that is done locally. Paul continues to engage very closely with them, and I'm pleased to say is now receiving better support, in particular with regards to the supply of free bin bags.

I have used my £3000 ward budget as follows in 2023 / 2024

Supporting the Romney Marsh Community Hub who provide a truly impactful set of support services across the Marsh. Snargate church now has a defibrillator installed. Cinque Ports Radio was able to invest in new equipment and continues to play an important role for the community across the Marsh. Ivychurch was able to complete its funding for road signs as part of the implementation of their highway's improvement plan. Lydd school benefitted alongside Brenzett and Brookland from some excellent music workshops.

I will happily consider supporting your cause when the budgets reopen later this year.

Date	£ Spent	Description
18/08/23	185	Romney Marsh Community Hub
21/09/23	£500	Brenzett & Snargate PCC
31/10/23	£500	Retrocadia/Cinque Ports Radio CIC
15/11/23	£1,000	Ivychurch Parish Council
19/11/23	300	The Real Power OF Music CIC
11/01/24	£515	Romney Marsh Community Hub

Appendix D

COUNCILLOR CLIVE GODDARD FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCIL

As I start my 18th year on F&HDC It has been all change as now it's a coalition of the greens and Lib Dem's with a hint of red.

I remain on the planning and licensing committee and I monitor local development with interest keeping an eye on any developments within the Parish.

Locally, the airport remains a priority of mine and hopefully bigger plans are just around the corner? This I hope will bring more jobs for the whole of the marsh. Talking of jobs and the local economy I continue to lobby all levels of government for Dungeness C, but a more realistic proposal would be SNR's small nuclear reactors as any nuclear source here is key to the area.

I remain chairman of the Romney marsh forum and we continue to pick up on key issues affecting the parish including speeding vehicles, policing, border control and health provision. In fact a recent attendant was PCC Matthew Scott.

I work closely with the police and welcome PC Putland to the patch and thank all for their work and support within Brookland.

I continue to work for the good of all local people young and old and help to provide a safer, greener, cleaner and thriving place for all to live in.

Finally, I would like to thank Adrian the Clerk, for his continued hard work, assistance, and support not only to myself but to the whole of the Parish

CLlr Clive Goddard