

**Minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting held on
Thursday 20th May 2021 at 6.00 pm at Hersden Community Centre**

Present: Cllrs Chandler (in the Chair), Wilkinson, Brant, Huckstep, Prosser & Warnock

In attendance: Mr G Eaton, Clerk to the Council, KCC Cllr Marsh & CCC Cllr Carnac

Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Fee, Higglesden & Hawkins

Introduction and welcome

Cllr Chandler opened the Meeting by thanking everyone for attending

Minutes of the Annual Parishioners Meeting held on 18th April 2019

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th April 2019 were read approved and signed

Chairman's Report

Cllr Fee's written report was read -

It is very difficult to write a report over such a long period of time particularly from a hospital bed so on this occasion it will be very much an overview.

In the past two years we have seen the resignation due to personal reasons caused by COVID of Dr Steve Brant and Mrs Sue Huckstep, both long serving members of CPC.

Sue you will instantly recognise from around the villages as our Parish Litter picker, a role you will be pleased to hear she will continue to fulfil and Steve was involved in many parish projects including the installation and training for the Upstreet defibrillator, various working parties to upkeep the churchyard and the repairs to the ancient bridge over the North Stream behind the Gate Inn.

It is also with deep regret I mark the passing of two past Parish Councillors and ex- Chairman June Hodges and Audrey Turff, June was born in Upstreet in 1930 where her father Mr Vassey was already a Parish Councillor.

Audrey moved to Upstreet in the 1980s and served as chairman for several years until 2000 which is when I got the call "I'm resigning so it's now your turn m' dear", I am sure those of you who knew her well will be able to imagine her "crystal cut accent" giving me my instructions.

Joking apart I offer great thanks for the wealth of knowledge and guidance both ladies gave me in my early days as Chairman.

We have also moved permanently from our traditional base at the Chislet Centre to the Neighbourhood Centre in Hersden, this first came about as a temporary measure when the church was closed for health and safety reasons because of concerns over the electrical wiring.

The pandemic struck and we then found ourselves remotely meeting via Zoom, although restrictions on face-to-face meetings have been lifted as an exemption for local councils our insurers no longer feel that the Chislet Centre is fit for purpose under our public liability insurance.

In the winter when it is cold and icy the weather conditions in Chislet are dangerous in the dark, with parking, footpaths, minimum working temperature for our Clerk and visibility (as there is no street lighting) being of particular concern, It has therefore been decided that we must stay at Hersden rather than causing confusion by going back to the centre for three of four months each summer.

We have set up the Parish website under the guidance of Cllr William Hawkins which became fully functional a few months ago and we thank William very much for his input into that project.

Public discussion/Q&A session

There were no public present

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the Meeting at 6.30 pm