

# CLIFFE AND CLIFFE WOODS PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at  
Small Memorial Hall, Church Street, Cliffe  
Thursday 9th April 2015

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Councillor Sue McDermid, took the Chair

NB: In the interests of space and in view of the large number of delegates present at the meeting, the various reports have been summarised below in "bullet point" form. If more detail is required, please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance:

✉ [clerk@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk)

Or ☎ 01634 566166

## PARISH COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Councillors - S McDermid (Chair), L Bush (Vice Chair), J Doyle, S Fenney, D Graves, F Harper, G Moore, R Naughton-Dean, V Walton.

The meeting opened at 7.30 pm.

NO	ITEM
1.0	<b>NOTIFICATION</b> The notification of the meeting was read by the Parish Clerk, Mr C Fribbins.
2.0	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from MP Kelly Tolhurst, Cllr Gary Etheridge, Cllr John Williams, Cllr Peter Clements, Dawn Hance (Cliffe Pre-School), Diane Foreman (Cliffe Woods Academy and Cliffe Woods Girl Guides and Brownies), Gary Cordier (Cliffe Village Club), Lindsay Hartney (Medway Youth Service), Ray Swatton (Cliffe Woods Colts)., Paul Kingman (Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Community Trust).
3.0	<b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b> (Presented by Cllr. S McDermid) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Welcome to all present</li><li>◆ Many changes have taken place in the local community in the past year. Thus being - Rev Edward Wright has moved onto a new post. Two new Head teachers have joined the local schools. A new MP Mrs. Kelly Tolhurst, following May 2015 elections, as well as two new ward Councillors Mr Gary Etheridge and Mr John Williams.</li><li>◆ There have been changes within the Parish Council too. A new election saw three Councillors stand down. Mrs Alex Jack, one of the joint clerks decided to hand in her resignation after five years' service as Proper Officer. This position was taken on by Chris Fribbins who relinquished his role as Chairman of the PC, at which time Cllr Sue McDermid was elected as Chair and Cllr. Lynne Bush as Vice-Chair, his position as councillor was filled..</li><li>◆ A brief summary of Parish committees and meetings attended was given.</li><li>◆ CCTV, signage and speeding issues have been raised and discussed by the Parish Council. These issues are continually passed onto the relevant bodies such as Medway Council and the Police.</li><li>◆ The Parish Council run youth clubs in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. Additional adult help is always needed.</li><li>◆ The Parish Council is providing support toward the Neighbourhood Plan</li><li>◆ The Parish Council has been allocated S106 funds to go towards changing rooms. This project now has enough funds to move forward.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ A local Rugby Club has expressed an interest in using the recreation ground which will help aid grants and match funding to secure the changing facilities. It will also encourage youths to follow another sporting activity.</li> <li>◆ Regular donations are given to both village halls, and the church as well as other community groups.</li> <li>◆ Thanks were given to all Parish Councillors for their dedicated voluntary service.</li> </ul>
4.0	<p><b>PARISH FINANCE REPORT</b> (Presented by RFO Laura Farrelly and Cllr.C Fribbins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Brief outline given of income and expenditure for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016, highlighting various items of income and expenditure. Accounts now subject to audit (both internal and external) and will be available for inspection in May. Parish finance report showing current income, expenditure and balances available on request.</li> </ul>
5.0	<p><b>PLANNING REPORT</b> (Presented by Cllr. F Harper)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The planning committee meet on a monthly basis to consider planning applications and associated consultations.</li> <li>◆ A prime concern to residents is the traffic and speeding within the village but in particular the B2000. The Parish Council are in contact with all major parties in trying to alleviate the problems.</li> <li>◆ Another concern is the land west of Town Road in Cliffe Woods. There is a desire from the owners to include the site in the Medway Local Plan, but it is currently rejected. There are no active plans for its development at this time.</li> <li>◆ There will be a wide consultation on all sites proposed in early 2017</li> <li>◆ The National Planning Framework does give developers an opportunity to submit planning applications which are open to residents for comments and view.</li> <li>◆ Planning Enforcement - Thameside Terminal in Salt Lane has been a long term concern. Many of the users have now left and restoration work has started. Panther Platforms have continued and still generate some very large vehicle movements along B2000. Medway's Planning Manager has reported that there has been a delay to reinstating the land that has been vacated. The Environment Agency have request the import of some chalk/soil to improve the land before planting.</li> <li>◆ There are other infrastructure schemes that will indirectly affect the Parish – these being the Lower Thames Crossing (option C) and proposed modifications to the main roundabouts on the A289.</li> <li>◆ Another application which is outside the Parish but could affect everyone is a cold storage building sited in the field opposite Mockbeggar Farm. The Parish Council have responded to Gravesham Council, raising concerns over the traffic movement of large refrigerated lorries blocking the B2000.</li> <li>◆ The Parish Council are in the processing of developing a Neighbourhood Plan.</li> </ul>
6.0	<p><b>Kent Police</b> (Presented by PCSO Sean Brooks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ PCSO Brooks has been in the role for 9 years and has covered all of the peninsula</li> <li>◆ The Parish is in a low crime area</li> <li>◆ Main problems seem to be anti-social behaviour</li> <li>◆ Nuisance off road bikes are being addressed with police on bikes</li> <li>◆ Mobile speed camera will be deployed to areas of concern</li> <li>◆ Always call 101 when reported a low incident level crime</li> <li>◆ There is also an app called Country Eye which is available for smart phones</li> </ul>

		which can be used to report crimes like fly tipping. This app notifies the correct bodies to address the matter.
7.0		<p><b>Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Community Trust</b> (Report provided by Mr P Kingman, read by Mr Fribbins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The twin purposes of the Trust are to provide financial help in the relief of the poor and needy and support educational needs.</li> <li>◆ Cliffe Woods School and Cliffe Historical Society have benefitted from grants this year</li> <li>◆ The Trust was also able to give grants of £60 each to over 50 elderly residents to help with their heating bills.</li> <li>◆ The Trustees also gave help to a local family with shopping vouchers and funding school trips for their children</li> <li>◆ A sub-committee has been formed to explore how the Trust could support local needs and is working with the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. A grant of over £1,000 has been awarded to help identify local needs.</li> <li>◆ The Trustees are always keen to identify who would benefit from a grant. All requests should be sent to – The Clerk to the Trustees, 52 Reed Street, Cliffe ME3 7UL. All requests are considered in confidence.</li> </ul>
8.0		<p><b>Friends of Chernobyl Children (Medway)</b> (Presented by Tony and Linda Baldwin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Friends of Chernobyl's Children (FOCC) Medway are an independent charity supporting children in Belarus who are affected by the Chernobyl disaster.</li> <li>◆ They do this by providing respite and care for a small group of children from areas in Belarus which are most affected.</li> <li>◆ Children are welcomed into the homes of host families for 4 weeks each year, for a maximum period of 5 years.</li> <li>◆ Volunteers, donations of clothes and toys are always sought</li> <li>◆ Regular fundraising events occur – the next being a Barn Dance on the 14/5</li> <li>◆ Further information can be found on their Facebook page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/foccmeyway">https://www.facebook.com/foccmeyway</a></li> <li>◆ The Chair of the Parish Council presented Tony and Linda Baldwin with a framed certificate, nominated by the parish council - the KALC Community Champions Award, for their long time work both nationally and internationally, in support the Children of Chernobyl.</li> </ul>
9.0		<p><b>NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</b> (Presented by Nigel Moore and Chris Fribbins (Clerk PO))</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Presentation was given, explaining how the neighbourhood plan has moved forward</li> <li>◆ The plan is to have what local people want and don't want.</li> <li>◆ It needs to be evidence based.</li> <li>◆ It has to be compatible with Medway Local Plan/National Planning Policy Framework.</li> <li>◆ The Medway Local Plan includes significant Medway development pressures (25,000 houses to be built) and there will be pressures to build some of those homes in our parish area (although it covers much more than housing). This Neighbourhood Plan is being organised by a steering group of local people.</li> <li>◆ It will cover environment/housing/amenities/transport/jobs/future growth/history</li> <li>◆ It has involvement from Medway Council/MHS homes/residents/local businesses/consultant resources</li> </ul>

11.0	<p><b>FRIENDS OF NORTH KENT MARSHES</b> (Presented by Cllr G Moore)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ A short summary report was given describing the work carried out by Friends of North Kent Marshes</li> <li>◆ They have lobbied our MP Kelly Tolhurst in Parliament about Hoo Peninsula's wildlife, habitats and the effects that climate change could have on them</li> <li>◆ Also lobbied her on fracking but were saddened to note that she voted in favour of the Government's proposal.</li> <li>◆ Lobbied Kelly and the environment Minister Rory Stewart about the review of the Birds and Habitats Directives, Laws which she was keen to see maintained.</li> <li>◆ Join the RSPB in their Defend Nature Campaign</li> <li>◆ Objected to the siting of wind turbines on the Isle of Grain because of the danger they pose to our birds- which was refused.</li> <li>◆ Responded to the Medway Council Local Plan issues and options consultation</li> <li>◆ Objected to the "Lower Thames Crossing Option C" on many grounds including possible damage to protected sites</li> <li>◆ Attended Gift-T project in Brussels. The Hoo Peninsula was one of the places chosen for this project and some valuable green infrastructure mapping has been created which can be used in the Neighbourhood plan.</li> <li>◆ Last year's historic Cliffe Village Fayre was a great success; around £3,000 was raised for the upkeep of the St Helen's Church. Thank you to everyone that helped.</li> <li>◆ Saw the passing of a friend and wildlife expert Owen Sweeney. Owen was also a member of the Medway Countryside Forum. He was a font of knowledge and support during the No Airport at Cliffe Campaign. A true champion for the Lodge Hill nightingales.</li> <li>◆ Further information can be found on their website <a href="http://www.northkentmarshes.org.uk">www.northkentmarshes.org.uk</a></li> </ul>
11.0	<p><b>REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES (GIVEN BY REPRESENTATIVES)</b></p>
	<p><b>CLIFARA (Ian Downes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Clifara is affiliated to Kentara, most towns and villages have set up their own ARA'(Active Retirement Association)</li> <li>◆ We currently have 200 members and a waiting list; unfortunately we had to close this several years ago.</li> <li>◆ Clifara have 13 separate groups, bowls, keep fit, line dancing, computers, art, books, garden to name a few. The 10 pin bowlers are always winning cups at the annual Kentara championships, the photo group are off to Vienna this month and the singing group entertain local nursing homes.</li> <li>◆ The club organises walks, dances, cabaret nights, days out, UK and European holidays.</li> <li>◆ But as the club is almost 15 years old many members are now in their 80's and not so active, this is a problem with a lot of ARA's some even closing.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Cliffe Wood Community Association (Ian Downes)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Run the community centre subletting part of the building to Cliffe Woods Social Club.</li> <li>◆ 2015 has been another very active year.</li> <li>◆ They have changed their charity status to a CIO type (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). They had to do this as the old one was "not fit for purpose". They also made a long outstanding change to their postal address from Tennyson Ave to Parkside.</li> <li>◆ They had a major undetected burst water pipe under the rear service road.</li> <li>◆ Have a programme of maintenance, including replacing all external doors,</li> </ul>

gutter repairs, tree pruning, just to mention a few items.

- ◆ Have a forward plan, which includes a much-needed extension to the hall for storage etc. To raise this and try to promote a community spirit they hold many events to fund raise, these include popular monthly Quiz nights, an annual summer fair and various cabaret nights.
- ◆ In the present financial climate evening hall bookings continual to be a struggle, but a bar operated by the social club at club prices does help.
- ◆ Daytime group usage continues to be strong (helped by the ARA), but the most popular casual bookings are Sunday afternoon children's parties.
- ◆ All of the board of trustees put a lot of time in to ensure the centre has a bright and expanding future.

### **St Helen's Church**

- ◆ St. Helen's church has continued to be very active in serving the community in many ways over the last year despite the resignation of the Rev. Edward Wright last August.
- ◆ He is sorely missed after 22 years of faithful service to this parish in which he became a much loved and respected member of the community.
- ◆ A farewell service to Edward was held at the end of July when the church was filled with many people from the village and further afield showing the esteem in which he was held.
- ◆ The church was beautifully decorated to celebrate Harvest in the beginning October and we were visited on that Sunday by a very informative speaker from the International Christian Charity Tear fund which the church has supported for many years.
- ◆ In November the church led the village and its organizations in the Remembrance Day service starting at the War Memorial and continuing in the church. In the evening a thanksgiving and memorial service was held for those recently bereaved to remember their loved ones.
- ◆ Christmas was a very busy time for the church with a traditional Carol Service by Candlelight, two Christingle Services, Midnight Holy Communion and Christmas Day celebration.
- ◆ During the months of December and January the church joined with Churches Together in Medway in supporting financially and with one volunteer the setting up of a Night Shelter for the homeless in Medway.
- ◆ In February and March one of our fellowship, who is involved with the local Friends of Chernobyl Children group has been informing us of the work of the charity and on Maundy Thursday we were able to join with the other Christian Fellowships in the parish to raise some money at a supper.
- ◆ Easter saw the church marking Good Friday with a service of meditation on Christ's words from the Cross and a joyful celebration service on Sunday ending in an Easter egg hunt for the children.
- ◆ The church has continued to have a close relationship with the school, with the ministers and others, being foundation governors, taking assemblies, running of a lunch time club and holding whole school services in the church.
- ◆ The church continues to put on its regular weekly Sunday services
- ◆ For young families the Church puts on a bi-monthly Messy Church service, where families share the Christian faith through songs, bible stories and lots of messy craft before a meal together.
- ◆ Every Tuesday morning there is a Cafe style service around tables in the back of the church. It starts at 11.00 am and gives a good opportunity for discussion about faith. It is followed by a light lunch.
- ◆ The church has seen many children's blessings/baptisms, weddings and

	<p>funerals during the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ St. Helen's house continues to host a monthly tea for the elderly on the second Thursday of the month as well as other activities, such as scrabble and craft groups, a baby clinic, and fellowship evening groups. It is also open for the use by the village for meetings.</li> <li>◆ The church is actively advertising for a new Rector and hoping to have this post filled in the near future.</li> <li>◆ The church continues to be anxious about the continued overnight parking on the Buttway car park which makes availability for parking for both Sunday services and weddings and funerals an increasing problem.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Cliffe Memorial Hall (Lynne Bush)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The Hall has continued maintenance and this past year has seen a much needed new roof</li> <li>◆ The hall bookings are doing well</li> <li>◆ Have a new booking secretary</li> <li>◆ Details of fundraising events can be found on the website <a href="http://www.cliffememorialhall.org.uk">www.cliffememorialhall.org.uk</a></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Cliffe Woods Colts Football Club</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ This season has seen another increase in participation and teams</li> <li>◆ This increase brings a need to find more playing and training facilities</li> <li>◆ Had the opportunity to share Cliffe Recreation ground with Black Lion FC which has proved very successful and enabled the club to build a good rapport and support</li> <li>◆ Continue to run a Club Soccer School on Saturday mornings at Cliffe Woods School - this is 4-6 years old. This has proved a real benefit to the club as it attracts new players and parents to the club</li> <li>◆ The Club is very grateful for the continued support and facilities available to them through the Parish Council and hope to continue to work together in the future</li> </ul>
12.0	<b>PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - None</b>

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

**Diary date for next meeting – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at Cliffe Woods Community Centre, Parkside, Cliffe Woods**

*cf/lmf 06/05/2016*