

Minutes of the (Virtual) **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING** of the **TOWN & PARISH OF LYDD**
held on Monday 19th April 2021 at 7pm.

Present: Town Mayor, Councillor G.F.A. Snell
Deputy Mayor, Councillor M. Sweeney (Chairman)
Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor, Councillor Clive Goddard
Town Councillors, Mrs A.Duncan, Mrs K. Gandy, D. Chapman, Mrs J.E. Jones, R.S
Jones, L.Laws, Mrs D. McKenna and P. Rye
Revd. C. Maclean, Town Mayor's Chaplain.
Inspector Andy Brittenden.
Town Clerk, Mrs. A. Alexander, Administration Assistant , Mrs D. Cavey
16 members of the public.

The Town Deputy Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Town Mayor's Chaplain, Rev'd Chris Maclean, led the meeting in prayer.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-
Councillors A.R.J. Hills and Mrs J. Wainwright
Erica Evans Community Officer

2. REPORT FROM THE TOWN MAYOR OF LYDD, COUNCILLOR GRAHAM SNELL

The Town Mayor said he will hand over the Chair for the Town Meeting to Deputy Mayor, Councillor Martin Sweeney after his report.

The Town Mayor, Cllr.Graham Snell, reported as follows:

I would like to thank the Council, Deputy Town Mayor, Councillor Martin Sweeney and the members of the public for attending the town meeting.

To all my Councillors thank you for the last two years while being the Mayor of Lydd. I took over for a second year by default due to COVID-19 restrictions. You are very very good Councillors and have worked hard in the last two years and I believe you should be considered and looked after. I would like to thank the Town Clerk for all her hard work, she has helped me an awful lot along the way in the last two years.

I would like to thank Diane, the handyman Gary and the Town Sergeant, Jim Hughes who have done a wonderful job. I am sorry but it is now time for me to go as I did not intend to do an extra year, we have done our best.

I would like everyone to know the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Martin Sweeney and the Chairman of Personnel, Councillor Darren Chapman, have done a wonderful job and we should applaud them for everything they have done. I would like my Councillors to think very hard now as Councillor Sweeney is Mayor elect.

Councillor Sweeney said thank you lets move on have you any Mayors Charity cheques.

Coyuncillor Graham Snell said yes I would like to present a £100.00 cheque from the Mayors fund to the following organisations,

1st Lydd Scouts

Lydd Youth Set

Lydd Ex-Servicemens Club

Thank you all

3. FINANCIAL REPORT BY THE TOWN CLERK ANGELA ALEXANDER

The Town Clerk Angela Alexander reported as follows:

The receipts received during the financial period from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 were from the Precept, rent from the Allotment Plots, use of the Guild Hall by the Ambulance Service which continued during the pandemic, a donation of £5,000 from the

Lydd Municipal and other Charities. The Town Council also received a grant of £10,000. We have not yet received the Allotment mast rent.

In terms of day-to-day expenditure for running costs there has been a reduction due to the closure of the Guild Hall during the pandemic.

1. The Guildhall running costs were £9308 in the financial year 2019 to 2020 and £5697 in 2020 -21 which is a saving of £3,611
2. The cost of office equipment and printing in 2019- 20 was £2,284 and £590 in 2020 -21 which is a saving of £1,694
3. The cost of office consumables in 2019 -20 was £1,386 and £943 in 2020-21 which is a saving of £443

This is a saving on office costs of £5,748 whilst the staff have been working from home.

4. During the time of the pandemic the Manor Road Pavilion has been used as welfare facilities for the handy person – this is to reduce risk because the Ambulance service share the Guild Hall kitchen and a toilet with the Town Council staff members. However, with the Manor Road Pavilion being used on working days by the handy person but not for football matches there has been a reduction in costs. In 2019-20 the running costs were £1811 and in 2020-21 they were £682 which is a saving of £1,129.
5. The annual Mayoral Allowance is £3,000 which pays for the Town Mayor to attend social functions and events to represent Lydd. During the pandemic these events were of course cancelled. In 2019-20 there was £1215 of expenditure from this budget head and in 2020-21 there was no expenditure.

I am pleased to say that an area of the budget where there has been an increase in expenditure is training rising from £60 in 2019-20 to £710 in 2020-21. Training for Councillors has been more accessible due to being held by zoom during the pandemic.

Bespoke training delivered by an independent organisation was arranged to address specific issues raised in the 2019-20 internal audit which was attended by 12 councillors. The training slides have been issued to all councillors for guidance.

At the meeting of Lydd Town Council held in January 2021 Councillors set the precept and resolved to reduce the request for the financial year 2021-22 by using some money from reserves and councillors felt it was important to reduce costs this year for our households because of everything that had happened over the last 12 months. The precept was set at £125,000 which is a reduction of £9,000 on the precept of £134,000 for 2019-20.

Due to the resignation of a councillor and 10 members of the public signing a petition for a by election, if the election is contested there is a projected cost of £10-£11,000 which will be charged to Lydd Town Council.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 29th April 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman, Councillor Martin Sweeney.

5. REPORT FROM INSPECTOR ANDY BRITTENDEN, KENT POLICE

Inspector Brittenden said before I get into my report I am on call as the Tactical Firearms Commander for the county and if my phone goes I may need to leave.

Inspector Andy Brittenden reported as follows:

Update on how policing looks in Lydd

The Kent police are committed to the policing team in Lydd and the new Chief inspector has arranged a double crew for the entire summer to support Lydd, PCSO Ferenc Zsinko, PCSO John Gorham and PCSO Gur Morgan. The three officers will be working from Lydd early, lates and nights to support the Town of Lydd.

Myself and the three officers will be working from Lydd.

Issues that have arisen are criminal damage to toilets, youths knocking on windows upsetting residents and issues with young people around the play park areas.

The officers are here to tackle the issues and the Town officers will work from the local police office and the only caveat to this is Threat/Harm/Risk where they may need to respond in the Kent area.

This happened over the weekend when Officers were called to a fatal car crash in Lydd yesterday. PC John Gorham was at the scene and he administered first aid to one of the victims, who survived.

STORM – Records the calls

ATHENA – Crime Reports- 250 recorded incidents in the last six months which is down by 50 reported incidents in the previous year, the incidents consist of criminal damage, domestic violence and theft. Some of you have been looking at the UK statistics and the types of crime reported and anti social behaviour is not reported as a crime.

Burglary has statistically fallen due to COVID as people are in their homes, so this has fallen by 35% and commercial crime has fallen by 40% in these areas.

Shoplifting/theft – arrested and charged – 12% reduction in crime

Graffiti – Tagging – The district has been hit hard and 1 individual has been charged with 25 attempts of damage. We are also working with British Transport Police and we have a database of tags so are able to match tags to names. This is positive news.

Anti Social Behaviour- 200 calls per year 16 calls per month. Calls at present in single figures but as we open from lockdown the figures are going up. Lydd is a little higher than New Romney who have had 130 calls and they have an extra officer to look at this. In all 1500 calls again not an increase but has stayed the same.

I have had questions from members of the public regarding the number of migrants coming in, I can not answer this as this will be dealt with by Border Force.

Migrant Landings – 1500 calls in 12 months – 11 of the calls relate to migrant landings which is for Border Force to deal with and process the individuals, this is not an increase.

However, 10 years in Special Branch I can say with some confidence they will look to make themselves known to the authorities ie Border Force and emergency services.

This is for UK Border Force to deal with.

Dog theft – Is this a cause of concern for Lydd? as we have had 4 reports this year 3 resulted in a lost dog and 1 theft not to say dog owners should not be vigilant as dogs are very expensive. I have dogs myself and this is an opportunistic crime, dog owners need to be vigilant.

CCTV – I am a policeman and CCTV is a useful tool in the right place.

The Council will need to discuss as CCTV is a handy tool but there are other ways around it as budgets are tight. Hythe have Ring doorbells which have proved effective and some local shops and services have been given grants to achieve this.

Moving forward and planning for the summer holidays.

Staycation – We have operation NEST which have extra patrols to cover coastal areas. Lots of people will want to discover our wonderful coastline so joint patrols with Folkestone and Hythe District Council and the Coast Guards/RNLI will be joint patrolling. We are also working with the Civil Nuclear Constabulary.

There is lots and lots planned for the summer ahead.

Kent Community Safety have a facebook page and will respond online live to any questions.

District Councillors will have drop in sessions for concerns to be aired.

Finally I would like to say that the Neighbourhood Watch has had fantastic results across the County and is a great scheme to support.

Speedwatch initiatives can impact areas with speeding problems. Residents can have support to set up speedwatch and it is a great way to see what is happening in the town considering the concerns raised by the residents association.

If you have any other questions then Email the Town Clerk Angela Alexander.

townclerk@lyddtowncouncil.gov.uk

Finally having worked in the area Lydd is a fantastic and safe place to live but there is always More we can do and working in partnership will make it even safer.

6. **QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES PUT TO INSPECTOR ANDY BRITTENDEN, KENT POLICE.**

1. Speeding vehicles around town late at night?
Speeding vehicles – The Road Policing Unit have issued 40 tickets for no insurance or tax and to reassure you that there does not appear to be a speeding issue. Residents have not reported their concerns. Reports are not on the system.
'CAN'T SEE IT CAN'T FIGHT IT'
2. Persons on the Rype Play Park at 01:00-02:00hrs in the morning – Anti Social Behaviour?
Anti Social Behaviour – PC Morgan has been on the Rype up to midnight and has nothing to report.
3. Suspect drug taking in the town?
We have done some superb work on drug supply and use. 1 million pounds of substances taken off the streets. I am very proud of the work in the county and community regarding drug dealing. Lydd had a factory which has been shut down and the person is currently in prison.
Again incidents need to be phoned through or reported online, the officers will work proactively.
'CAN'T SEE IT CAN'T FIGHT IT'
4. Councillor Mrs Kim Gandy asked about the broken windows in the town.
Further work has been carried out with the parents of the youths.
I am aware of the issue and PC Gorham and PC Morgan are involved and addressing the issue.

7. **REPORT FROM REV'D CHRIS MACLEAN**

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Martin Sweeney, invited Rev'd Chris Maclean to present his annual report.

Rev'd Chris Maclean reported as follows:

All Saints Lydd w/St Peter's, Greatstone

Like most organisations, this year has been difficult one for the church. Our buildings have been unable to open for prayer or worship for much of the time and a great many significant events have had to be postponed. The limits of people meeting has meant funerals, weddings, baptisms and other significant services have not taken place as we might have wished them.

We have been able to continue to provide daily and weekly worship throughout the pandemic by producing regular services online.

A major building project at St Peters has been completed resulting in a wonderful new parish hall to serve the community.

In All Saints there have been major works including the restoration of the west window, our organ, the installation of window guards and the re-ordering of the chancel. We are grateful for the support we have received for this.

The church continues to work within the community and our Foodbank has been actively meeting people at their point of need. Throughout Lockdown there has been considerable hardship in our town and the surrounding villages. Between January and December 2020, we provided 5,193 meals for 577 people who would otherwise go hungry. We have also been encouraged by the number of generous donations for which we are grateful.

We have worked with the local schools and were proud to host an exhibition of depictions of 'Mother and Child' by Lydd School children over Christmas.

As Christians we continue to seek new ways of supporting and helping those on the margins of our community.

For more information contact Rev'd Chris Maclean (vicar) 01797 320345

8. REPORT FROM FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Martin Sweeney, invited Folkestone and Hythe District Councillor Clive Goddard to present his annual report.

Councillor Clive Goddard reported as follows:

F&HDC. Report for Lydd Town 2021

It has been another challenging year in fact a terrible year for us all with the Covid pandemic but the District Council with careful financial planning and management of the budget means that we are still able to deliver all services to the community, and more including support for the community hub in New Romney. And financial assistance to businesses due to the pandemic. I remain Chairman of the Development Control and Licencing Committee for a record 6th year and I am monitoring local development with interest and the Otterpool Park development closely.

More locally, I am appointed as a representative on the Lydd Airport Consultative Committee (it's great to see a Covid vaccination centre there to) and I am delighted that the Bristow Search and Rescue Helicopters still operates from Lydd Airport and have contributed so positively to the airport revenue. We are fortunate to have them close at hand operating on behalf of Her Majesty's Coastguard because they are a service that people rely on in a time of need.

Hopefully the airport will be up and running soon to bring more jobs to the Romney Marsh.

I will continue to lobby for Dungeness C as this is also key for the future of our local economy across the Marsh.

I am also appointed as a District Council representative on the Romney Marsh Internal Drainage Board an organisation that is essential to The Parish and the whole of the Romney Marsh.

I remain chairman of the Romney Marsh Forum. Since my involvement, the Romney Marsh Forum has adopted a new constitution, and our meetings are well attended by representatives from 11 Town and Parish Councils across the Marsh. At the meetings members can communicate and engage with other agencies. The Forum members are sharing information and are working together for the benefit of their communities.

The Forum is working on several key issues which include Speed Watch, policing, border control and Health Provision on the Marsh and Recently the forum received funds from County Cllr Tony Hills to purchase speed watch equipment as soon as it's safe members will be trained in using the said equipment

Each year district Cllr's receive funds to distribute for local causes I was pleased to give £1000 to the Methodist church towards a re wire also £500 to the Romney Marsh litter pick watch to help buying new equipment and a £1000 for the organisation Jam on the Marsh

I work closely with the Police and would like to thank them for their support, and work they have carried out in the Parish also thanks for all the work done by my F&HDC colleague Cllr Tony Hills and also as our County Councillor

I will 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 the Town Clerk, Angela, and office staff for their continued hard work assistance and support not only to myself but to the whole of the Parish
Many thanks. Take care stay safe

9. REPORT FROM ERICA EVANS, COMMUNITY WARDEN

The Town Clerk Angela Alexander read the report from Erica Evans, Community Warden.



Lydd Town Council Annual Report 2020-2021

As I did similarly this time last year, I would firstly like to thank not only all key workers and volunteers but also partner organisations, local charities, businesses, Lydd Town council and Councillors and to all residents for your patience and continued commitment. We have seen a year that is wildly different from what we were used to and seeing first-hand so many of you volunteering at the vaccination centres and out in the wider community, witnessing the resilience and sheer determination as a community has been so very inspiring.

2020/21 has and continues to be a real rollercoaster, we have all had to adapt to a new way of conduct, whether that is being more mindful when visiting the local shops and the wearing of masks, through to how we communicate with loved ones and friends, or even if you step out of your homes. The very fabric of everyday life has changed and for many it has been incredibly difficult to adjust. As we move forward through the next twelve months and as the weather begins to warm, it is just as important now as it has ever been that we do not relax our ways too much, we must continue to stand firm, side by side, being mindful of our neighbours and wider community and continuing to protect through the constant reminder of the importance of hygiene and social distancing. We must continue to abide by the rules set out and look after each other.

Over the past twelve months I have carried out hundreds of visual presence patrols and I have seen and spoken to so many wonderful people, as well being a point of contact for residents. I have also reported any issues witnessed to the relevant authorities for action along the way, such as fly-tipping, the need for new or refreshed road markings, potholes, abandoned and untaxed vehicles, nuisance bonfires, illegal parking, anti-social behaviour etc.

I have and will continue to support and reassure many in the community through varying and vastly different issues raised with me. By far the largest issue linked to the pandemic has been the presence of growing anxieties and domestic incidents, as well as the sad fact of the increase in ever-changing scams and rogue traders that have evolved to incorporate the changing times. This is not to say that I have not been met with other challenges such as anti-social behaviour or parking issues, I most certainly have, however they have been met with positive advice, action, and solutions, working collaboratively with partner organisations to provide better support where required.

As always, I would like to repeat my advice from previous reports, to all residents and visitors (as the rules begin to allow) and that would be to only purchase goods and services that you require from trusted sources. Please do not purchase from or use traders that knock at the door. If you require any works undertaken in, on or around your home, please do not accept cold caller traders to undertake the work. Please source trusted local trades people to carry out the works for you. Do not be pressured in to buying any products or services. If you ask someone to leave your property and they refuse, please contact Kent Police on 999.

Please may I also take this opportunity to remind everyone to report all crimes and antisocial behaviour to Kent Police before reporting to The Community Warden service, either by telephoning 101, via their reporting tool on their website, or in the event of an emergency dial 999 in the first instance.

As businesses, churches and local groups and drop in`s begin to open-up (circumstances allowing of course) I will continue to attend as many as I possibly can, where I will be a welcoming and smiling face, to give out up to date information regarding the latest scams, local issues and advice. For those who cannot, I will do my utmost to communicate using our evolved methods.

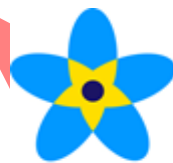
As we continue to navigate these new waters together, please refer to Government guidance on the website Gov.uk to stay as up to date with the latest news and advice. Please continue to stay safe and heed the guidance given and wherever possible and safe to do so, look out for your immediate neighbours without putting yourself or others at risk.

The year ahead will no doubt be different, however, with the resilience we have all shown, we will continue to create fruitful memories. I am confident that as a community, if we all take the time to be considerate and thoughtful in our actions, we can all work together in continuing to make the community a safe place to live, work and play.

If you or anyone you know would benefit from speaking with me, please do not hesitate to contact me, I will do my very best to help in any way that I can.

Take care and stay safe.

Erica Evans Kent Community Warden | Kent Community Warden Service | Public Protection Service | Environment, Planning And Enforcement | Growth, Environment & Transport | Kent County Council | Telephone 07969 583917 | www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens



Dementia Friends

An Alzheimer's Society initiative



FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT
COMMUNITY SAFETY
PARTNERSHIP

The meeting closed at 7.54pm

Chairman of the Parish Meeting _____

Date _____