

DETLING PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



2012/2013

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS
May 2012 to May 2013

Irene Bowie	Co-Opted	2011
John Clayton	Co-Opted	2013
Michael Denny	Co-Opted	2008
Chris Evernden	Co-Opted	2011
Steve Griffiths	Co-Opted	2013
Mark Housden - Chairman	Elected	2003
Janice Kennard - Vice Chairman	Elected	2003

CLERK TO THE PARISH COUNCIL Mrs Sherrie Babington 01634 - 867173
www.detlingparish.co.uk

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT Hugh Robertson MP

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL COUNCILLOR Cllr Jenny Whittle

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCILLOR Cllr Nick de Wiggondene

COMMUNITY POLICE PSCO Quentin Moss

LOCAL PRESS REPRESENTATIVE Miss Jenny Cosgrove

SOLICITORS Gulland & Gulland, Maidstone

BANKERS Co-Operative

AUDITORS Audit Commission

INSURANCE Allianz Cornhill Insurance

Photographs: Lydia Sait

Front cover: Detling Church

Back cover: Services Box near Old School Playing Field

FOREWORD

This is our twelfth publication and it is hoped that this Annual Report helps the village keep in touch with all that goes on throughout the year. As we come under continuing financial pressure the report is again being published on our website with only limited printed copies available on request.

We had a few changes on the Parish Council last year. Geoff Cosgrove unfortunately had to resign as Chairman, after sterling service over 12 years as Chairman, and Mark Housden took his place, with Jan Kennard stepping up as Vice-Chairman. Geoff's place on the council, and that of Simon Norcott, were taken by John Clayton, whose work commitments allowed him to rejoin the council, and Steve Griffiths.

Chris Evernden took Mark Housden's place as Chairman of the Planning Committee.

We were very pleased to be able to honour John Faller with the Villager of the Year Award for his work in the community, particularly his excellent editorship of the Detling News, which goes from strength to strength under John's stewardship.

The council continues to safeguard open spaces in the village. The school playing field is proving a valuable asset for villagers with young families, Monk's Meadow and Horish Wood provide superb dog walking areas and the Scragged Oak Viewpoint is a popular resting point for those travelling over the hill.

Last year the council held its first Open Day. This was a great success, with displays ranging from Short Mat Bowls to Dog Training and local businesses taking the opportunity to advertise their products. This year's event promises to be even better with a high number of village organisations and businesses committed to attend.

Perhaps the biggest issue in the village this year has been the 'rat running' and A249 queue jumping which has caused great distress and anxiety to many villagers. The village hall committee room was packed in December for a meeting supported by the council to explore ways forward in alleviating the traffic problems. The general feeling of the meeting was to support a villagers' petition advocating the closure of the A249 southbound exit into the village (except for buses and emergency vehicles) and a 20mph speed limit throughout the village. The council is still working with KCC to establish the best way forward and our local county councillor, Jenny Whittle, is giving her support, for which we are most grateful.

Issues which we continue to monitor are the future of the old school building and the borough's Local Plan for Maidstone. Rest assured the council wish to see the former developed to the benefit of the village and the latter settled without Detling's green areas becoming the focus of excessive development.

THE PARISH COUNCIL

Established: 1884

The Detling Parish Council represents an electorate of 610 people on the electoral roll living in 310 houses. This is a drop of 45 people over an 8 year period.

The Parish is 6.16km long and varies between 250m to 1.42km wide, extending from the M20 through the village over the North Downs Scarp, roughly centring on Scragged Oak Road and extending towards the M2 in the north.

Detling is bordered to the South and West by Boxley Parish, to the East by Thurnham and the North by Stockbury and Bredhurst Parishes.

The Parish Council is composed of seven councillors. Elections are held every four years with the next election being held in May 2015. We meet in the Committee Room of the Detling Village Hall at 7.00pm on the first Tuesday of each month except January and August. Additionally, our AGM and Annual meeting with the Parish are held around the third week in May.

All meetings are open to the public and press. The council have benefited from a good level of support and attendance over the year.

The Parish has a permanent Planning Committee, which meets prior to each main Council meeting.

The Council is an equal opportunities employer with one part-time employee, our Parish Clerk, Sherrie Babington. Sherrie has now been in the post since June 1998, working from home on behalf of the Parish.

The Parish also benefits from the regular reporting of one of Kent Messenger's local correspondents; Jenny Cosgrove, who keeps the village in the news on a weekly basis.

The Council has in place the following Policies and Procedures, in accordance with its Standing Orders, which are revised on a regular basis.

Equal Opportunities

Code of Conduct

Disability Policy

Complaints Procedure

Financial Risk Assessment

Parish Elections

Engagement Strategy

Population of Detling

Year	Population	Male	Female
1801	253	126	127
1811	281	136	145
1821	321	166	155
1831	372	204	168
1841	318	179	139
1851	353	185	168
1861	344	162	182
1871	319	156	163
1881	336	161	175
1891	331	161	170
1901	289	136	153
1911	270	129	141
1921	281	132	149
1931	252	116	136
1941	No Census owing to World War II		
1951	596	289	307
1961	748	373	375
1971	712	367	345
1981	792	405	387
1991	781	399	382
2001	777	380	397
2011			

With thanks to ONS
Geography, National Statistics

VILLAGER OF THE YEAR

Established: 2005

The Parish Council presented the community award for a person from Detling, who has made a significant contribution towards the life of the village.

We were pleased that Mr John Faller was nominated and the Parish Council was extremely pleased to recommend this award in recognition of his work within the community.

David Humphrey volunteered to create the superb illuminated presentation certificate and the presentation was made by Parish Councillor Irene Bowie at the village's annual Christmas Fayre.

Past recipients of this award have been:

Mr John Faller	2012	Presented by: Mrs Irene Bowie
Mrs Gill Humfrey	2011	Presented by: Sir Richard Alexander Bt
Mrs Tikki Gulland	2010	Presented by: Mr John Clayton
Mr John Monk	2009	Presented by: Mr Geoff Cosgrove TD
Mrs Margaret Cooke	2008	Presented by: Mike Tamsett MBE
Mrs Leslie Savage	2007	Presented by: Reverend Elizabeth Attawell
Mrs Thelma Ford	2006	Presented by: Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart CBE
Mrs Pat Follett	2005	Presented by: Mr Geoff Cosgrove TD

Parish Chairmen

Term of Office	Years in Office	Chairman
1884 - 1899	15	W F Mercer
1899 - 1904	5	J N Badcock
1904 - 1913	9	R Cooke
1913 - 1927	14	W J Naylor
1927 - 1931	4	Charles Brown
1931 - 1946	15	F Croft
1946 - 1968	22	A Hooker
1968 - 1973	5	Stanley E Rowe
1973 - 1988	15	Norman Bingham
1988 - 1992	4	Alan G Cooke
1992 - 2001	9	Gavin McLaggan
2001 - 2012	11	Geoff Cosgrove
2012		Mark Housden

PARTNERSHIPS

During the course of the year the Parish Council has been very pro-active in its liaison with external authorities and bodies.

Kent County Council
Kent County Showground
Maidstone Borough Council
English Nature
Kent Association of Local Councils
British Trust of Conservation Volunteers

The Maidstone Police
Kent Wildlife Trust
Maidstone Area Mobile Library
Action Communities in Rural Kent
Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
Kent Men of Trees

Of our more regular contacts and partnerships we maintain close working relationships with our Member of Parliament Hugh Robertson MP, KCC Councillor Jenny Whittle and our Maidstone Borough Councillor Nick de Wiggondene.

PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Planning

Cllr. Evernden (Chairman)

Cllr. Kennard

Cllr. Clayton

Horish Wood Management

Cllr. Griffiths (Chairman)

Cllr. Kennard

Cllr. Clayton

Cllr. Bowie

Cllr. Evernden

Finance

Cllr. Housden

Representatives for Outside Bodies

Village Hall

Cllr. Denny

Police Liaison

Cllr. Griffiths

A249 Action Group

Cllr. Housden

Highways

Cllr. Housden

KALC

Cllr. Bowie

Kent Downs

Cllr. Kennard

JPG

Cllr. Housden

Other Liaison

Village Youth

Cllr. Housden

Grants

Cllr. Kennard

Environment

Cllr. Evernden

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr. Denny

Parish Open Day

Cllr. Bowie

Village Planting

Cllr. Kennard

PARISH OPEN SPACES

The Parish is dissected by a network of 24 separate footpaths, bridleways and byways totalling 10.7km in length.

There are an extensive network of footpaths, bridleways and byways in the Parish, in varying condition and with good and poor way markings. A survey of all paths is still to be conducted in conjunction with KCC's Parish Paths Partnership, as the starting point of a proper maintenance plan.

Horish Wood

Horish Wood was purchased by the Parish Council in 2005. The wood and grassland are now becoming established and this will be an excellent area for parishioners to use for years to come.

Local resident, John Monk, as usual has been busy working in the woods to maintain access and keep the woods and grassland tidy. All the fencing has now been completed to the A249 and we have added some rabbit mesh alongside the fence to the motorway, but everyone must still be careful if they let their dogs run free.

This year a Management Plan for Horish Wood has been adopted by the Parish Council. This was written by the Kent Downs Group and outlines a maintenance and coppicing plan for the woodland for future years. In order to oversee this the Parish Council has set up a small committee of councillors who are currently liaising with possible contractors.

In the future months Souther Water will be undertaking essential pipe replacement work in the woodland and this may cause some inconvenience and upheaval, however Southern Water do have to reinstate the woodland to its original condition when the work has been completed.

Just a note for all village areas and that is a plea to keep things tidy, pick up dog mess and put it in the litter bins provided around the village. We understand that if dog mess is bagged it can go into the ordinary litter bins.

Monk's Meadow

This field behind Hockers Lane was purchased at auction in 2010, it was named Monk's Meadow in a competition run by the Parish.

Local resident, John Monk has put in a huge effort in creating paths and tidying up the whole area. We have been pleased with our purchase and the masses of wild flowers and the views have certainly made this a place to walk and enjoy. John has also made and installed some benches so that the views and tranquillity of the area can be enjoyed by all.

Scragged Oak Viewpoint

Scragged Oak Viewpoint is the triangle of land between Scragged Oak Road and the A249 containing beech woodland and chalk grassland known for its biodiversity and glorious views over the Kent countryside. In the 1990s the area became an eyesore and a place for fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.

Kent Wildlife Trust now maintains this viewpoint and it is now one of Kent Wildlife Trusts roadside nature reserves.

The Old School Playing Field

This field is located next to the Village Hall and was the former playing field for the Village School.

This is an amenity for all residents to enjoy.

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL OPEN DAY

The Parish Council held its first Open Day in September 2012 and this was a success. The purpose of the Parish Open Day is to bring all Village Organisations together to promote their activities and organisations at an event that can be enjoyed by the whole parish.

The next Parish Open Day will be held on 21st September 2013 and it is our intention to have this Annual report published for this event.

VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS & ANNUAL REPORTS

In the past the Parish Council has published a fuller Annual Report that included reports from all village organisations, however over the years the number of reports being submitted has declined. This coupled with the rising costs of publishing a large annual report and delivering it to all households has led to the Parish Council rethinking the ways it can engage with village organisations and reduce the costs to the Parish Council. We feel that holding an annual Parish Open Day with Village Organisations will allow more residents to meet the people concerned and give all the chance to promote their wares on a personal level.

The Parish Council Annual report will still be published on an annual basis, All be it a shortened version!

FINANCIAL MATTERS

The parish council is able to raise money directly from the public in its rates in order to carry out its functions. Its powers to do this are found in Section 150 of the Local Government Act 1972. This is called a Parish Precept.

In 2012/2013 our precept amounted to £19074, this equates to approximately £56.60 per Detling household per annum, or £1.09 per week!

Our other main source of income comes from the Borough Council's Parish Services grant,, this is a fund awarded to the more rural parishes of the Borough to finance local activities and projects.

PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2013

BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2013

	<u>Year</u> <u>Ended</u> <u>31st March 2013</u>		<u>Year</u> <u>Ended</u> <u>31st March 2012</u>	
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>				
		0		0
<u>LONG TERM ASSETS</u>				
<i>Investments</i>	0.00		0.00	
<i>Long term Debts</i>	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
		0.00		0.00
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>				
<i>Stocks & Shares</i>	0.00		0.00	
<i>Re-imbursable VAT</i>	0.00		0.00	
<i>Debtors</i>	470.99		227.71	
<i>Temporary Lendings</i>	0.00		0.00	
<i>Payments in Advance</i>	0.00		0.00	
<i>Cash in Hand</i>	<u>35432.53</u>		<u>26560.96</u>	
	35903.52		26788.67	
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>				
<i>Creditors</i>	500.00		500.00	
<i>Temporary Loans</i>	0.00		0.00	
<i>Bank Overdraft</i>	<u>0.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>	
	500.00		500.00	
<u>Current Assets less Liabilities</u>		<u>35403.52</u>		<u>26288.67</u>
		<u>35403.52</u>		<u>26288.67</u>
<u>REPRESENTED BY:</u>				
<i>General Fund Brought Forward</i>	24756.67		18915.67	
<i>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</i>	9114.85		5845.56	
<i>Transfer from Earmarked Reserves</i>	0.00		0.00	
<i>Transfer to Earmarked Reserves</i>	0.00		-4.56	
		33871.52		24756.67
<i>Earmarked Reserves</i>	1532.00		1527.44	
<i>Interest on Reserves in Year</i>	0.00		4.56	
		<u>1532.00</u>		<u>1532.00</u>
		<u>35403.52</u>		<u>26288.67</u>

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31st March 2013 and reflects its income and expenditure during the year.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2013

	<u>Year ended</u> <u>31st March 2013</u>		<u>Year</u> <u>ended</u> <u>31st March 2012</u>	
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>INCOME</u>				
<i>Precept</i>		19,074.00		18,519.00
<i>Interest</i>		71.52		51.30
<i>Service Income</i>		4,150.00		4,260.00
<i>VAT</i>		470.99		227.71
<i>Rents/Hire Fees</i>		2.00		0.00
<i>Other Income</i>		0.00		0.00
<i>Grants</i>		3,167.04		0.00
<u>Total Income</u>		<u>26,935.55</u>		<u>23,058.01</u>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
<i>General Administration</i>	14,796.08		14,769.61	
<i>Service Expenditure</i>	1,475.06		1,494.00	
<i>VAT</i>	470.99		227.71	
<i>Open Spaces</i>	983.19		441.00	
<i>Other</i>	95.38		280.13	
<i>W/off unrecoverable debtors</i>	0.00		0.00	
<u>Total Expenditure</u>		<u>17,820.70</u>		<u>17,212.45</u>
SURPLUS/-DEFICIT		<u>9,114.85</u>		<u>5,845.56</u>

Supporting Notes to Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2013

Assets - Value over £1000.00 only.

Village Hall;
Horish Wood;
Bus Shelter;
Monks Meadow;
The Old School Playing Field;
The Village Sign.

Leases.

Detling Village Hall is leased to the Detling Village Hall Committee from 1975 until 2025. Rent is one pound per annum.

Seaboard Wayleave. £8.19 payable every four years.

Debtors.

VAT £470.99

Creditors

Audit Fees £500.00

Earmarked reserves.

The Cooperative Account is an earmarked reserve for a recreation field for the Village. This fund having previously been known as the Playing Field Fund.

