



Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting for Detling held on Wednesday 6 May 2025 in the Meeting Room, Detling Village Hall

Present: Cllr Clive English (Chairman), Cllr Steve Jubb, Cllr Laura McLaren and Cllr Stephen Thompson
Clerk: Mrs Wendy Licence
Also present were twenty-three members of the public.

Cllr English welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Chris Houlihan

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 15 May 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2024 were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Report of the Chairman of Detling Parish Council

Cllr English reported that it had been an interesting year and very productive. The Parish Council has gone through some difficult times and there is still some work to do, the Council has come a long way. It has carried out a huge amount of work including the consultation of the Conservation Area, a lot of planning matters, highways and the Highways Improvement Plan, over the next year we should see the result of the hard work coming to fruition.

Thanks go to the members of the public who have served on the Highways and Transportation Working Group and the Open Space Working Group. Over a number of years, residents have helped the Council and this is appreciated.

The Council's role is to support organisations in their activities and also to look for sources of income to support the groups. The Clerk is thanked for the grants awarded over the past year. The Parish Council is about Members as a whole; some Councillors have served for a short time but contributed a lot to the Council. It is a team effort, we have the support of a competent group of Councillors and we hope to fill the vacancies to help the Council going forward.

4. Reports from parish organisations

Detling Store

The store is supported by three directors of the Community Interest Company and is 5 ½ years old. It is mainly based on volunteers with one paid member of staff and paid paper deliverers. It was agreed to use local suppliers as far as possible and this has been achieved, this is good. We have sixteen active volunteers. The average visitor rate is 1500 per month from

Detling and surrounding villages, the footfall has increased. As the store is on the Pilgrims Way, there are a significant number of walkers and cyclists. The average spend has increased slightly to £7, 2/3 of payments are by card 1/3 by cash. The store has a healthy bank balance and there is a reserves policy. Volunteers are welcomed.

Village Hall

Since last year, solar panels have been installed which has lowered electric bills surplus energy will be exported from September. Lettings levels recovered after Covid but have plateaued; the usage of the Meeting Room has increased but it is less for the main hall. With increased car sharing, people will travel and as the hall only has fifteen parking spaces and there is little or no on-street parking this has an effect. The play area also impacts on the available parking. Can the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee look together to see if parking can be improved, possible a joint committee?

The Village Hall is based on a Management Committee with a lease. It was set up fifty years ago and the lease will expire in June 2025. The Parish Council has agreed to extend the lease for another twenty-five years and we are waiting for the legal documents to be prepared.

Cllr English said the Council is pressing the solicitors to resolve the matter.

Detling Short Mat Bowls Club

The Parish Council was thanked for its grant towards a new bowls mat. The club has been able to secure a good mat from another club.

Monks Meadow and Horish Woods Volunteers

The area in the middle was wet and will be cut when it dries. There has been a delivery of wood chippings for the footpaths. A management plan will be drawn up for the areas. There has been an influx of outside visitors who have not been responsible dog owners who has not cleared up the fouling in either area.

The idea for Horish Woods was to restore it to how it was. The benches are maintained and the vegetation around them will be cut back. Monks Meadow is growing well with some specialist flowers coming up this year, the area has greened up in the past couple of weeks. The Horish Woods footpaths need cutting back and re-shaping. Volunteers are welcome.

Cllr English thanked the volunteers at Monks Meadow and Horish Woods for their hard work over the past year.

Detling Strollers

Monthly walks are organised with the programme being drawn up at the end of the year for the next and responsibility is shared out regarding where the walks are. The group meets outside the church to share transport, this month it will be to Knole Park, Sevenoaks.

U3A

The U3A is based in Detling Village Hall and has just over three hundred members and fifty-seven interest groups. It is open to everyone who is not in full-time employment of looking after children full-time. Members of each group decide how often they will meet. There is a monthly meeting with an outside speaker and also outside visits. At a time when much is spoken about mental health and loneliness, the U3A is very beneficial.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast is held monthly in The Cock Horse and is a good social get together for men. The aim is for twenty attendees and it lasts for just over an hour.

Detling Crib Night

This meets on the first Wednesday of the month in The Cock Horse and is open to men and women. It is going well and enjoyed by everyone.

Detling Players

Two productions per annum are planned with regular meetings, it is based in the Village Hall. The group has a container to store equipment and costumes and has invested heavily in lighting, sound desks and equipment, and LED lights. There is sometimes a difficulty in casting significant parts and one performance had to be cancelled. The group endeavours to have a serious production and a panto style performance per annum. The group holds social events in the hall. The Detling Players is in good shape.

Detling Cricket Club

The club has been in existence for 135 years and was successful last year. There will be an open day on the August Bank Holiday and all are welcome to attend.

Speed Watch

A Speed Watch Scheme is run in the village once a week in Hockers Lane, there is a screen which displays the speed of vehicles. Details of vehicles travelling over 35mph are submitted to the Police. There are four people on the team at present and more are needed and this will help to have more sessions.

Cllr English thanked all the representatives for attending and for their reports.

5. Any Other Business

No other matter was raised.

6. Villager of the Year Award

Cllr English said the Villager of the Year Award had been a difficult decision as they were many excellent candidates. The Parish Council agreed to give the award to Heather Baker-Anderson for her outstanding contribution to the village, she has carried out a tremendous amount of work in the community.

Cllr English thanked the ladies who provided refreshments prior to the meeting; and thanked everyone for attending.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50pm.