



Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish Meeting for Detling held on Wednesday 15 May 2024 in Detling Village Hall

Present: Cllr Clive English (Chairman), Cllr Chris Evernden, Cllr Grahame Godding, Cllr Steve Jubb and Cllr Laura McLaren

Clerk: Mrs Wendy Licence

Also present were Ward Member Vanessa Jones and twenty-six members of the public.

Cllr English welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Stephen Thompson and County Councillor Shellina Prendergast.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 2 May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 May 2023 were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Report of the Chairman of Detling Parish Council

Cllr English reported that the situation of the Council has changed out of all recognition since the 2023 annual meeting when the Council was short of Members, this year there were more nominations than seats on the Council. The Council now qualifies for the General Power of Competence.

Cllr English thanked Cllr Val Springett for her sterling work helping the Council get back on its feet. The Parish Council, members of the public and organisations have all worked commendably over the past year. The newly elected Councillors will be finding their feet and gaining confidence so the Parish Council will go from strength to strength.

4. Reports from parish organisations

St Martin of Tours church

There is a of interlinking and support between the church and village organisations and this is very good. Christmas, Easter and Remembrance are important for the village and help the community get together. The church is a place of tranquillity for weddings and funerals; it is also a place of familiarity as the church yard is open to the village. The services and pastoral support are important.

The church was involved in the Jubilee celebration, the quiz night, the Christmas Fair and the Men's Breakfasts. An event for women is being planned.

The church needs help to enable it to continue to offer these events.

Thank you to everyone for their support by coming to church events.

Detling Village Hall

The Village Hall is run under the terms of a lease with the Parish Council. It is a registered charity and run by a committee. The hall relies on income from its lettings and bookings are nearing pre-Covid levels. Assets are currently being audited. Some bookings are now just using the meeting room. The hire fees were last adjusted in 2022 and although running costs have increased, we are trying to increase lettings rather than fees.

A brochure has been produced to promote the hall which is a perfect venue for weddings, parties, club meetings, concerts, and conferences.

Detling Players

Detling Players has been going for a long time and is still flourishing, membership is sixty-five individuals and families, many of who do not perform or help back stage but just attend performances. Productions include April 2023-*Talking Heads* by Alan Bennett; November 2023- *'Allo 'Allo*; and April 2024 *Travels with an Old Bag*. All performances have been successful. Performances are in the village hall and rehearsals take place in the church. The committee meets regularly to plan productions; the Players finances are sound and a donation was made to Demelza House from the proceeds of the latest performance.

Detling Players continues to be part of community life in the village and we will continue to bring this to Detling.

Community Shop

Detling Community Shop is a Community Interest Company and has a management committee which meets every six weeks. The shop is run by volunteers with very little paid staff; our manager left in December and has not been replaced. Volunteers are being given the opportunity to have more responsibility.

We took the shop to the County Show, Tractor Fest and Paws in the Park; we will go to the Keny Show again this year. We have been successful in providing food parcels. We support the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme and have youngsters helping in the shop; we also offer work experience.

The finances have been steady, we have approximately six hundred people per week in to shop and a lot of people are coming for the Post Office since Bearsted's Post Office closed. We now have a new till which makes transactions easier. The shop continues to work with local suppliers. The shop provides a place for the community to meet.

Thank you to all who support the shop and to the volunteers. Thanks also go to the Parish Council and the Village Hall for supporting the shop.

Detling Short Mat Bowls

The club lost a few members recently so we put up posters and did a leaflet drop in the village; as a result, we have six new members from the village. We now offer sessions on Tuesday afternoons as well as Monday evenings and this gives those who do not want to go out in the evening an opportunity to play. In the past, Detling Short Mat Bowls has done well in the league, we now have a national trainer. Club fees are £15 per annum and £3 per session which includes tea and biscuits. New members are welcome.

Detling Cricket Club

Cricket Club members have been very busy; we had a successful open day at the club last season and welcomed the community, this exceeded all expectations. Thank you to members and organisations in the village for attending, another open day will be held in August. The open day showcased the inclusivity and diversity in the club and great camaraderie on the day. We hope to build a pavilion.

Thanks go to the Parish Council for its unwavering support over the years. The Cricket Club is a pride to the community and has been in existence for over one hundred years.

Bearsted & District U3A

The group has two hundred and eighty members with 70-90 people attending the monthly

meetings. Car parking is a problem. The monthly meetings have a speaker and refreshments and gives an opportunity for members to socialise. There are fifty-two subgroups where members with a specific hobby or interest runs a group; these mostly meet in members' homes

Detling Strollers

We meet on the third Thursday of each month opposite the church where we car share to the location and have a circular walk which have included Pluckley, Sutton Valence, Loose, Challock, Igtham Mote, Loose and Leeds. The walks are timed to be with season to enjoy the countryside and are approximately four miles long. We have approximately thirty-five members and usually 16-18 walkers go out each month. Recently, there has been an optional lunch after the stroll.

Making Miracles

Making Miracles is a Detling Charity which was set up ten years ago. We look after families suffering miscarriages or baby deaths up to 12 months old, offering counselling and support groups. There is a baby memorial garden in Borstal Road, Rochester where pebbles or slates with the baby's details on can be put into stars; there is a building with a book of remembrance; and a picnic area for families.

The charity receives no statutory funding. There is a knitting group which offered to make things to sell at the hospital and this has grown into knit and natter groups. We have a shop in the Mall run by volunteers so that every penny made goes to the charity. We are in partnership with Maidstone Prison which makes wooden items.

Last year, the charity counselled over 315 people six – eight sessions each; supported 1500 people; we have twenty-six counsellors across Maidstone and Medway; we have forty-five volunteers in the garden and shop and 150 knitters.

Detling WI

Detling WI is celebrating its 75th anniversary and we meet last Friday of the month in the Committee Room. We have fourteen members who enjoy a varied programme of activities and talks; we have had talks by an MP and Police & Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott. The WI provided refreshments at the Coronation lunch and the Christmas Fayre.

Cllr English thanked the representatives for their reports and said that they show the richness of organisations based in Detling. There are a huge number of activities going on in the village. Cllr English thanked John Monk, Daren and Donna Seal for their sterling work in Monks Meadow and Horish Woods.

5. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.

6. Villager of the Year Award

Cllr English said there were very worthwhile nominations and it was a difficult choice. The Parish Council agreed to present the Villager of the year Award to Mr Stephen James in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the village over the years.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.59pm