

**Minutes of the Littlebourne Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on  
Wednesday 16 MARCH 2016, at Littlebourne War Memorial Hall at 7.30pm**

**Present**

- Parish Councillors; Cllr Mike Gallagher, Cllr Mick Giles, Cllr Cate Reid, Cllr Ken Shaw, Cllr Pamela Evans, Cllr Sylvia Wilson and Cllr Melanie Moore.
- County Cllr Michael Northey
- Community Warden Gary Moore
- Guest Speakers Dr Mark Jones from Canterbury Medical Practice and Stuart Gremo of Cardy Construction
- Stella Byrne Littlebourne CEP Head teacher
- Approx. 42 residents

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman, Cllr Gallagher welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. A round of applause was given to Wendy Giles and Nancy White for doing the refreshments this evening. Gary Moore and Evelyn Clayson were also thanked for their contributions. Cllr Gallagher then thanked all of the councillors for their work and the clerk Gail who works hard for Littlebourne. Thanks to our KCC Cllr Michael Northey and our City Cllr Stuart Walker, who cannot be here this evening.

Apologies for absence were received from City Cllr Stuart Walker, Rev Chris Wilkinson, PCSO Kerry Anne Pearce, Paul Spratt, Roz Arman and Geoffrey Barrett.

**2. Minutes approval from 2015 APM**

The minutes from last year were proposed by Bob Anderson and seconded by Nick Franklin. The minutes were duly signed.

**3. Report on the past year by Littlebourne Parish Council Chairman,**

**Cllr Mike Gallagher** - Councillor Gallagher read his Chairman's report below to the meeting.

At this Meeting last year our then Chairman, Cllr Vivienne Spratt, MBE finished her report with a retrospective look over her ten years as the Leader of our Parish Council and she completed her term of office on 13 May 2015 when she presided over the first meeting of the new Parish Council for the election of a new Chairman. I feel deeply honoured to be standing here in her place tonight. I said in the June edition of LPC News that she was a hard act to follow – and I've spent my first year finding out just how hard! I'm very pleased to say that she is still helping me get things right and our new Councillors in some of the tasks they've been given. Thank you Viv for your continued support.

You will hear of some achievements in the Village this evening: particularly about our New Surgery from our two Guests and also about the great successes at our School now under the lead of Mrs Stella Byrne. For the Parish Council we would also count the terrific resolution in the Village in dealing with the two Planning Applications in respect of The List. The great support shown in submitting written objections and then filling The Guildhall on the evenings that the applications were considered by the Canterbury City Council Planning Committee demonstrated the determination of our Villagers to fight our corner and show that Littlebourne is concerned for its identity, heritage and future. Thank you all very much.

The major task in 2015 was indeed responding to the Planning Applications in respect of The List and also following (and pushing) that of the New Surgery in Court Hill. This process started just before Christmas 2014 and was mentioned by Viv Spratt in her report at last year's Annual Parish Meeting. Some of you may remember that we had, at an exhibition by Rydon Homes of their plans for The List site in 2012, conducted a

survey of Villagers to find out their opinion of the proposals. There was an overwhelming rejection of their ideas and, at a series of meetings the Parish Council was asked to oppose them to the utmost of their ability. We made contact with the former leader of Canterbury City Council, Cllr John Gilbey, and he came and spoke to a Village meeting at which again there was an overwhelming rejection expressed by Villagers present. Following this the City Council reviewed all potential development sites across the District as part of the preparation of the new Local Plan and as result The List was excluded as a development site. We were surprised, therefore, just before Christmas 2015 to find out about the Rydon application. We opposed the application as did a very large number of our Villagers and based our rejection on both the fact that the site was supposed to be excluded from the Local Plan and also all of the issues that we knew existed in the Village; traffic, drainage and flooding experience, the size of the development and other concerns. All then went quiet until after the local elections in May of last year. We were then astonished to find that the application was due to be heard by the Planning Committee on June 23 and that the Planning Department had recommended that the plan be accepted.

You, our Villagers responded magnificently to the challenge and quickly rallied others to raise objections through the Planning Consultation process. It would be invidious to name all the names (I'd be bound to leave some out) but Ron Lindsay of St Vincent's Close and his little Team stand out as people who put themselves out to spread the word. We had used a Consultant to help us prepare our objection before Christmas 2014 and her assistant Emily Shirley came to join our Team as did Duncan Milne a resident and solicitor used to dealing with Planning matters. On 23 June we went to present our case in the Canterbury Guildhall and over 200 of you came with us – a truly humbling experience for me. That night went our way. I was grabbed by the Kentish Gazette and my only reaction was to say that 'this will be a long fight'.

In the event we only had to wait a couple of weeks before a second application was made and the whole process had to start again.

This time we had the same level of support from the Village, together with many organisations, sister Parish Councils especially Wickhambreaux, the CPRE and especially the Little Stour & Nailbourne River Management Group who reinforced their previous objection to the first application. This time the Team was joined by Dr Alan Legge, a resident and expert on the drainage problems shown in Pine Wood. On 13 October almost the same number of Villagers crammed into The Guildhall to hear that, sadly for us, the application was to be accepted.

At this point, I'd like to pay an especial tribute to our City Councillor Stuart Walker, elected in May of last year and plunged into the deep end in a big way virtually immediately. None of us knew the intricacies of the Planning system in detail before then, but we all learnt very quickly. He fought our corner from the inside all the way down the line and stepped forward to do so from day one. I think that between the Village and Stuart we made the best showing possible and gained some admiration from other local Villages and organisations.

Our little Team then set about examining every option and specifically the costs and chances of a Judicial Review. Again we had some splendid help from Emily and Duncan who were able to come up with expert legal opinion from London Chambers on our chances of success. Sadly, the advice we got said that we would be wasting our money to try.

We called a meeting of Villagers on Monday November 30 and asked for their views. The decision was that we should meet with Rydon and discuss how we could help implement the development, put across our legitimate concerns and highlight the pitfalls in the project and also discuss the offers that they had made as part of their application. We began this process at our Council meeting of 9 December.

Alongside dealing with The List we spent a considerable amount of time chasing up the application for the New Surgery on Court Hill. Again, as you may remember, a new Surgery was promised as part of The List development. Although the Surgery plan was submitted a few weeks after the Rydon one in January 2015, it was only finally approved days before the Rydon one in October 2015. Again Stuart Walker's help was invaluable.

We had an exhibition and a Survey of Villagers in early January 2016 to determine what you felt should be done with the areas of land not required for development on The List and are currently in negotiation with Rydon to bring this about together with your ideas for a community building on the War Memorial Hall site. You will find out more from LPC News as the next few months go by. In the meantime, we have set up a number of focus groups to take issues and concerns raised by Villagers and to present these to Rydon for our joint solution. Contact details for these Groups have been published in the last LPC News, on the website and on our Facebook page.

We have dealt with many other Planning matters as the Consultee for this Parish some of which have been contentious and some not and this has included some further appearances at The Guildhall.

### **Council Funding**

The Parish Council is recompensed by Canterbury City Council with money to pay for completing some tasks that it performs in the urban areas. This covers litter picking, grounds maintenance, grass cutting, tree maintenance, a small amount of fence repairs, repair of play equipment and Council insurance. The amount paid is supposed to reimburse Littlebourne and represents a bit of the Community charge that we pay to the City that they would otherwise pay to a contractor to do the work. For a number of years now our annual budget for this work has stood at around £19,000. The actual amount paid is now below this – this year we were awarded £15,000 and next year it will be £12,000. Last year there were a number of Parishes that protested to the City, so it was agreed that the City Council would carry out a review of the system. From 2017 a sum will be allocated to each Parish to cover a four year period and the rules will be changed so that we will be allowed to hold over unspent sums from year to year so that we will be able to plan over the longer term. This new process will help, but is no guarantee that the overall sum will keep pace with costs. It doesn't at the moment, so rural areas are subject to 'double taxation'.

The balance of our funding comes in the form of a payment through the Community Charge bill that we set and comes directly to Littlebourne. The Band D charge per property is still £1.50 per week, has been for the last three years and will be next year as well.

### **Housing in List and Court Meadows**

We continue to be vigilant to ensure that Littlebourne eligibility now appears as a regular part of the Canterbury City bidding process, and recently asked all those in housing need now or in the near future to register that interest.

### **Defibrillator**

This project was mentioned at the last Annual Parish Meeting and I am pleased to report that a defibrillator was purchased and fitted following a funding drive in the Village and donations and grants from organisations. Another example of Littlebourne enterprise.

### **Citizens Advice Bureau**

As part of a joint initiative between City Councillors Stuart Walker and Simon Cook of Bridge, we had a morning visit from a representative of the Canterbury Citizens Advice Bureau. The session was held in a

room in the Hall so that necessary privacy could be observed. The aim was to find out if the added convenience of an 'on the spot' location could help any Villagers and the Parish Council was pleased to be able to facilitate the visit. Take up was low however, and the experiment has been shelved.

### **Solar Farm Grant from Vogt**

Following the commissioning of the Solar Farm in our Parish, the constructors Vogt Ltd offered small grants for any projects of community benefit in our area. The Parish Council applied for a grant to help towards the purchase of a new roundabout for our Play Area. They were moved to do this after one of our Parishioners asked if we could consider an item of equipment that would be suitable for both disabled and able-bodied children. Such special equipment can be expensive and an approach was made to Vogt who have now awarded a sum to the Village. This will cover approximately half of the cost and the balance is being sought so that the item can be purchased and installed soon.

### **Canterbury District Local Plan**

Under Government legislation from 2011, every district has to create a new Local Plan covering the twenty years until 2031 and indicate both the amount of new housing and industrial growth it is planning during that period. Having created the Plan each District had then to exhibit it and allow time for a Consultation with its Residents before passing the final version to a Government Inspector who would hold a Public Hearing before subsequently recommending its acceptance (or otherwise) by the Government. We checked the issued document in 2014 and it appeared to indicate that only minor development was specified for Littlebourne – as we had been led to believe.

We learnt, after the period for objections had passed, that Rydon had lodged an objection with the Inspector and their objection would be heard at the Public Hearing when the residential section of the Plan was examined. We protested to the Inspector that we wished to be heard at the same time to present our view. He ruled that since we hadn't objected originally we would not be allowed to speak. After our continued protests he said that if he were to agree with the Rydon objection and recommend the insertion of The List in the Plan we could then object when his Report was published.

Your Councillors then spent half of July and most of August 2015 attending the Public Hearing in relays to listen to the discussion and get a sense of the points being raised by the Public and answered by the City Council's experts. I am personally very grateful to each of them and the willingness with which they rose to the challenge.

In fact, having completed much investigation into the way in which the Plan was assembled and specifically how the total future requirement for housing had been calculated, the Inspector then suspended proceedings in early September until that requirement had been re-calculated. The Hearing has yet to resume. In the meantime, we and the City have dealt with the actual planning application for The List and that is now settled. We will continue to follow the Plan's progress in the future.

### **Twinning**

Our Twinning with Wimille has been less in focus this year primarily because of the change in Council personnel on both sides of the Channel and other pressing issues, although we were very pleased to support the very successful School Trip in October. A small group of councillors were invited to a meeting and the Wimille Christmas Market at the end of November and ambitious plans are being devised for this year.

## **The Future**

At a recent Conference staged by the Kent Association of Local Councils (of which we are a member) we were addressed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on Devolution, or as he put it 'Double Devolution'. With nothing precise on the table we were tempted to think about areas of Council work that we could undertake ourselves from the District Council or even the County Council – Localism writ large. The instant reaction (as you may well imagine) was 'is the current funding coming to us with the jobs as well'. The Minister was non-committal, but judging from articles appearing in the Kentish Gazette the demise of KCC might not be long coming as we move towards 'unitary authorities'.

We live, as they say, in interesting times.

## **Finally...**

I must thank all my colleagues on the Parish Council and especially our Clerk, Gail, for their unfailing help and guidance and their willingness to turn their hand to any area or task quickly. The new ones last May came very rapidly up to speed and they took their new responsibilities very conscientiously. Littlebourne is fortunate to have such people to serve them.

Watch for our next major Village event as Littlebourne celebrates the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of HM Queen together with the 95<sup>th</sup> birthday of HRH Prince Philip on Sunday 12 June on the Recreation Ground.

### **4. GUEST SPEAKERS – Dr Mark Jones Senior Partner of Canterbury Medical Practice and Stuart Gremo from Cardy Construction**

Cllr Gallagher gave a welcome to Dr Mark Jones and Stuart Gremo

Stuart Gremo began by saying the first presentations on the new surgery on Court Hill were made to the village in April 2009, at which time National Health England funding was available, it is since not.

LPC have supported the doctor's scheme throughout and it now has the support of CCC. The nine houses fund the design and construction of the doctors surgery, permission for this scheme was finally granted in October 2015. There are 19 conditions to the permission, most of these need to be complied with prior to starting onsite. Hopefully they will be able to start onsite sometime this summer, but the conditions all must be met first. Hope to be completed for autumn 2017.

The final house cannot be sold until the doctors move into and occupy the surgery. Increased parking and larger gardens were incorporated into the scheme after feedback from LPC.

Dr Mark Jones said he remembered 25 years ago when the Corn Stores were renovated, the building had served them well over the years but they had now outgrown the building. The access is not great, with stairs inside and no parking provided for patients.

A resident asked if there will be a dispensary onsite, Dr Jones confirmed that there would be one and it would be larger than at present. Unfortunately this could not be opened up to the public due to licensing regulations.

There will be two doctors present most of the time but they will be open for vacancies. The surgery will not be as large as the Bridge surgery, but bigger than The Corn Stores. There will be more parking than at Bridge (more than CCC planning require) to ensure parking is kept within the site and not on Court Hill.

It is most unlikely that the surgery will be open at weekends as it is not realistic to have every surgery operating 7 days a week.  
There will be planting and landscaping around the surgery, to make it desirable. This is part of the planning conditions anyway.  
The old building will be sold off for housing.

Dr Jones departed at 8.15pm.

## **5. Reports from local organisations:**

### **Sloyden and Durrant Charities Report – Cllr Mick Giles**

A report by Cllr M Giles at the Annual Parish Meeting held in the War Memorial Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to which all residents were invited.

**John Durrant** in his will of 9-JAN 1560 left a bequest of the ground rent on the Malthouse Cottages (now the Maltings) to be distributed to the poor of Littlebourne  
Ground rent sold out to Bridge Blean Rural District Council in 1969  
for £20 and the money invested and held in Charity no 206253.

**Harry Sloyden** in his will dated 5-JAN 1568 left 7 acres of land which was let and the money used for the poor of Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux.  
This continued until about 1965 when the land was sold to J Mount & Sons for £450.  
This was split in to two accounts, one for Littlebourne and one for Wickhambreaux.  
Littlebourne`s share of £225 invested and held in Charity no 206645.

This combined sum of £245 purchased 255 shares which are held in the Charities Investment Fund and in Dec 2015 they were worth £3145.35, in the same period the income from these shares was £120. 14.

In 1995 to cut down on excess form filling and Charity returns we managed to merge the two Charities into one and is now known as the Combined Charities of Sloyden & Durrant.

I have no records regarding payments prior to 1970 since when until 1986 £403 was paid out, mainly in very small amounts especially at Christmas. Nowadays the definition of need and hardship has changed and the trend has been to make fewer but much larger payments, on average one every two years, which has been of more benefit to those residents that we have been able to help. I have been involved with the Charity since 1988 along with other Cllr`s in particular Cllr Ken Shaw who has been a trustee from 2002 and during this period payments of £1965 have been made.

The Charity exists to help residents in need or hardship and I am pleased to report that last year we were able to help a family with a payment of £200. We are of course reliant on such cases being brought to our attention and can assure you than any help given is strictly confidential

The financial balance as at the 29<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016 was **£1263.63**  
The account book is available tonight to anyone wishing to see it, or at any other reasonable by written application to the Parish Council Clerk

### **Littlebourne Primary School – Head Teacher Stella Byrne**

It has been a successful year for the school, with an increase in pupil numbers, a positive Ofsted report and increased links with the community which have brought benefits to the children.

After a period of unrest and staff changes the school is now settled in an on-going partnership arrangement with Bridge Primary school. Governing bodies from both schools have negotiated an agreement which offers mutual support and an opportunity to share expertise, practical resources, as well as joint staff development and training. This is a model promoted by the government where schools should be working in collaboration for the mutual benefit of pupils in the linked schools. We have also become part of the Canterbury Teaching Alliance, a larger group of village primary schools led by Simon Langton Girls School. Through links with Canterbury Academy, we have increased the sporting opportunities for the children with professional coaches running football, gymnastics, basketball and martial arts clubs for the children to attend after school.

We were inspected by Ofsted in September 2015, and achieved a grading of 'good' in all five areas. This has led to increased parent satisfaction and confidence in the school. In our written report, Ofsted recognised the sustained improvements made within the school; particularly the quality of teaching and learning provided for the pupils, the standards of behaviour and the welcoming Christian ethos that has been established.

Curriculum provision has been enhanced by additional activities taking place within the school; the children have put on their own drama performances for parents; Alice in Wonderland last July, and a Christmas Nativity in December. There have been trips to Dover Castle (generously funded by the Parish Council), the Beaney Museum and a memorable day in Wimille. Tomorrow we are visiting Chiddingstone Castle in West Kent (again supported by funding from the Parish Council) and we will be taking year 5 and 6 on a three day residential in June. We have also invited experts in to school to lead drama workshops, to promote healthy eating and healthy lifestyles and to provide quality music teaching – which resulted in the re-forming of the school choir.

The PTA has become active again and held many successful events; including a wonderful Summer Fair – this year's is to be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, a Christmas Bazaar, several cake sales and an Easter Egg Hunt in the school grounds – to be held on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> March this year. Funds raised by the PTA have paid for; a performance of *The Wizard of Oz* which the children enjoyed yesterday, additional activities at Chiddingstone Castle and on the residential trip, transport costs for children to attend sporting competitions and bought additional learning resources to support the curriculum.

We are keen to develop links with the community. Our older children have sung with the local choir on several occasions and there are further dates booked. Members of our School Council delivered Harvest boxes to village residents and children and parents took part in enthusiastic Carol Singing on the roads close to the school in December. This week we benefitted from visiting the Easter Experience at St Vincent's. As the weather warms up, we will be using more of the local facilities such as the orchard, Littlebourne Barn and the nature reserve.

Looking forward; we are waiting to hear how many children will be joining our Reception class in September, but are hoping to fill all 15 places. Our longer term aims are; to increase the number of pupils closer to our full capacity of 105, continue to improve the quality and diversity of the educational experiences offered to all pupils and to build further mutually beneficial links with the community.

A resident asked if we would need to extend the school when the Rydens development was built, Stella responded by saying that the first plan is to fill what is there, currently there are two empty classrooms at present.

The Chairman thanked Stella for speaking this evening.

### **Littlebourne Community Fund Report – Cllr Mick Giles**

A report by Cllr M Giles at the Annual Parish Meeting held in the War Memorial Hall on the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to which all residents were invited.

#### ***Purpose:***

To facilitate the distribution of the rent received from the Parish Council funded extension to the 4 Villages Store, by providing finance for community events and projects in the Parish of Littlebourne through the village organizations and / or others and where funding from any other source is not available or is incomplete.

**Consideration** to make up any shortfall in the Parish Council budget would only be given in **extreme and exceptional** circumstances.

All information relating to this fund will be circulated to the community by the Parish Council

The Committee consists of 3 Parish Councilors. Accounts and minutes of all meetings and decisions are recorded and the Parish Council is kept informed of all decisions made by the Committee.

The rent from the 4 Villages Store is paid into a bank account set up by the Parish Council to which all 3 Committee members are signatories, any two of which are required to sign all cheques.

A majority agreement by the Committee is required to authorize any payment, if not it will be referred to the Parish Council, otherwise the decision of the Committee shall be final.

A meeting to be held soon after the annual rent from the 4 Villages Store is received to determine any known funding requests for the year, other meetings as required subject to applications for funding etc.

All applications for funding to the chairman Cllr Mick Giles Tel 728228 or email mickandwendy1@btinternet.com.

Full details including written estimates and quotations are required as is the production of final invoices and detailed expenditure on completion of the event or project.

Since the fund was set up in March 2013 we have been able to fund projects and events by grants totaling £5169.56. The current financial balance is £6101.44, at the moment we are not in receipt of any requests for funding.

It was mentioned that it would be a good idea to explain the different sources of funding within the village in an edition of the LPC News, residents and organisations were confused between some of the sources.

### **The Afternoon Club – Cllr Melanie Moore**

Cllr Moore read out thanks from Roz Arman for LPC's support since they began in 2009. Roz also thanked Cllr Moore for attending one of their meetings.

### **Littlebourne War Memorial Hall – Cllr Cate Reid (Hall Chairman)**

We've had quite a lot of work carried out in the building, with more to follow. Soon we hope to re-decorate the Main Hall, the toilets and kitchen. However, the new lighting has been costly, as has reparation work on the roof. I think that you will agree that the lighting here in the Hall is much improved and will be much better for various types of events, some needing plenty of light and some preferring more subtle lighting.

Bookings are fairly vibrant, fortunately, and our Treasurer, Mike Gallagher, is vigilant on our running costs. You will have heard us say before that Grants from Canterbury City Council are reducing, and this will not improve, so we have to do the best that we can. Villagers benefit from paying a reduced rental, while non-villagers pay a slightly higher charge, which we feel is right. We have **not** increased the charges for a while, and indeed, have agreed to keep them at the present level for the moment.

I want to remind everyone that there is CCTV in operation around the Shop and Hall complex, but please contact me if you see anything untoward being carried out. As soon as possible!

Mick Lonergan has stood down as Chairman of Turner's Orchard Sub-Committee, but we are most fortunate that Anne and Geoff Rigden have taken on this role, and I certainly thank them. Mick had carried the responsibility for the Orchard for several years, so we are all very grateful to him. He will still be a volunteer, so that is wonderful. The Orchard Committee organise events in the Orchard for both children and adults, plus doing a lot of maintenance, with help from their team and I thank them all very much. Anyone who would like to Volunteer to give a little time to be involved with the Orchard would always be most welcome, so please ask Anne or Geoff.

Lastly, I would like to thank each Hall Trustee for all their support this year – I do appreciate it!

### **Twinning – Cllr Sylvia Wilson**

During the past year, the Primary school & pre-school have .....both visited Wimille.

- More recently, we have also been trying to arrange for local walkers here to visit in April, but unfortunately this has been postponed to later in the year – perhaps September. If anyone is interested in joining in, this is a day-trip, which means a walk in the morning, lunch in the locality, followed by another walk in the afternoon. Wimille then generally give us refreshments again, before returning home. Please let me (Sylvia Wilson) know if you would be interested in joining us.
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- The Scouts Group are hoping to take part in an exchange this Summer with equivalent age groups from Wimille. Chris Armstrong and Andrew Perkins will be negotiating dates with Wimille; so if you're interested, please contact either of them.
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- It is also hoped that East Bridge Chorale will be visiting France this Summer, with a return visit at some time from Wimille's 'Chanter Happy'. Wimille have a cultural event on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, which we wait to hear more about.
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- Moving on to Wimille's Christmas Fair, we have just been advised that the dates for this are Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 6pm and again on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December from 10am, where they have a variety of stalls and Christmas activities going on. Littlebourne residents who would like to travel over and take a stall are invited to let us know as soon as possible. It should be possible for those taking a stall to be invited to spend the night or the weekend - for free! And there is no charge for the stall!

From our experience in the past, this could be enormous fun. We must however hear if you are interested asap to reserve a stall; so please let Cate or me know. And please let anyone know who isn't here this evening.

- For those of you who have not been to Wimille, it is not too far to travel from the Tunnel, as it is located between Calais and Boulogne. We always receive a terrific welcome and MANY of them speak English, so don't let the language be a barrier.
- Twinning can be so beneficial to both villages.

### **Facebook and media – Cllr Melanie Moore**

Cllr Moore reported that since May she has set up and runs the Littlebourne PC Facebook page and also helps the clerk with the website. Facebook has proved very effective at getting the word out around the village, currently reaching out to over 1000 people. There is a link from the website page [www.littlebourne-parish-council.co.uk](http://www.littlebourne-parish-council.co.uk) Cllr Moore is also writing the column for the Gazette so please let her know of any upcoming events you would like mentioned.

### **Village Traffic & Safety sub-committee – Cllr Cate Reid**

This Subcommittee works hard to try to improve safety in Littlebourne, much of which centres on speeding traffic, improving road markings and pavements, safe parking and a raft of associated matters. We have to talk with Kent County Council Highways Department regularly on many matters, all of which takes a frustratingly long time. Staff changes, always being told 'No – we can't do this' or 'No - there's not enough in the budget' – and it all takes so long!

We work closely with Cllr Michael Northey, our KCC Member, as well as with the A257 Group, which comprises Cllrs and villagers from villages between Canterbury and Wingham, and more recently, Ash. Having eventually got the 50mph speed limit between the villages, we in Littlebourne feel it is essential to strive to get 'buffer zones' on either side of our village i.e. take the speed from 50 to 40mph before reaching the 30mph, thereby slowing people down before the village gateways.

Turning to the HGV 7 ½ ton Ban in Nargate Street, which is another thing that has taken an inordinate length of time to reach agreement for. We have to thank Cllr Northey for his support and also for funding this from his Member's Fund. Work was started on the signage for the ban in November, but was not completed due to a problem in KCC acquiring signs of the right size. We have chased and finally we are told that the work is scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> March. We wait to see! We ask that residents report sightings of over-sized vehicles, including registration nos. and any signage on them, to me, Cate Reid (email address on our website or on the Council Notice Board) and it's always good if you have the chance to take a photo. Mind you, beware, truck drivers don't like pics being snapped!

Unfortunately, we have to remind everyone to park CONSIDERATELY, particularly as our streets are pretty narrow. Bear in mind that Emergency Vehicles and Waste Trucks HAVE to be able to easily access other parts of your street - and other parts of the village. Canterbury City Council have proposed some double yellow lines in much of The Maltings, which is partly as a result of Serco Waste Trucks having difficulty collecting the rubbish on Thursdays. We have been talking to residents who got in touch with us, to try and get the best reasonable result. Double yellow lines are also proposed in Jubilee and Church Roads, although we now understand that CCC would consider single yellow lines instead. If you have any views on any of these plans, please let us know, so that we can take this further with the City Council.

As you all know, Rydons obtained Outline Planning consent for 87 houses on The List. We have involved villagers by asking for suggestions for safe access onto The Hill from the new development and vice versa. We are minded to ask Rydons to install a re-active Traffic Light on the access – in other words, when a vehicle comes along the road from the site, it will activate the Traffic Light, turning it green to come onto The Hill. So this would mean the light on The Hill would only go red when someone needs to come out of the new development, thereby only interfering with the flow of traffic on the main road WHEN NECESSARY. Along with this, we feel that a Pelican Crossing by the bus stop opposite the Evenhill Pub would help

pedestrians to cross in greater safety than at present. It might also slow traffic coming into the village from Canterbury ! There will be many more people taking the bus, once the new houses arrive.

If anyone has some other ideas, other than a roundabout (which the road is not wide enough for) or of Rydon acquiring a strip of land on the other side of The Hill, to widen the road (too expensive and tried previously to no effect), please get in touch with me. Of course, whatever we come up with, it's not a done deal. We will have to persuade Highways AND Rydon, and it is Rydon who would have to foot the bill !

You will know that we run Speed Watch on various occasions, which DOES seem to affect the speed of traffic afterwards for a couple of weeks or so. However, we need Volunteers to help us, as we do not have enough people to run these sessions. We ideally need three people in one team, to get all the details of the speeding cars or vans. Trying to catch the registration number, the make and model of a vehicle and the colour, plus write down the speed recorded, as well as the time, is no mean feat if that vehicle is travelling at 45mph! So if you are nimble and have fairly decent eyesight, and would like to help, please get in touch with me.

This is a relatively short report, but rest assured, this Subcommittee is constantly working on your behalf to make Littlebourne a safer and nicer place to live.

One resident suggested parking bays for Jubilee Road.

Cllr Reid said that LPC will respond to CCC and individuals can also make their own comments. LPC have spoken already to several Maltings residents but we have not had any approaches from Jubilee residents, but LPC would want to pursue single yellow lines rather than double in this road.

Another resident mentioned the poor parking by parents in Elmleigh Road, where driveways are used as turning bays. Stella Byrne reported that they are trying to develop a walking bus to alleviate parking issues, she also agreed to put a piece in the School Newsletter reminding parents to park respectfully in Elmleigh Rd and other residential roads.

## **6. County and City Cllr reports:**

### **i) Cllr Michael Northey - Kent County Council**

Cllr Northey's report was as follows:

When you ask what makes a village community vibrant, full of interest and a good place to live, you could mention certain things – for example Littlebourne has a strong church, a good school, two pubs, a village hall, a shop, a post office, a surgery, great recreation green, good bus connections, a strong parish council, lots of societies and clubs. These it has and more – but also a special spirit of its own. For example I have not forgotten the time when I was invited with my wife to judge the village dog competition in 2013 – I can't remember seeing so many beautiful dogs in one place, all lovingly cared for and a credit to the canine breed. Not to mention their owners.

So here we are at the annual meeting again. It is an honour to be your County representative. Here I want to mention the fabulous work of your parish council, Mike and his merry gang, supported so well by Gail. Many thanks, you bring things to my attention, you do a lot yourself and make the village run more smoothly.

This year I finally managed to get the 7.5 tonne weight restriction placed on the relevant section of Nargate Street. This was funded directly from my Member's Fund. It came into operation a few months ago, but we still await the final set of signs to make it quite clear to all drivers what the restriction is now. Work to finalise

this work takes place on March 30. In 2010, I paid from my Member's Fund for the interactive signs to be placed at Bramling, near the Haywain. Last year I was informed that one had been removed as its lighting no longer worked. I kicked up a fuss, and spoke to the Cabinet Member, and the upshot is that I have agreed to pay a further £1,500 from my Member's Fund to have it re-instated and working. I haven't a date for this yet, but it should be late spring/early summer.

Three years ago, I had £45,000 in various grants available for local schemes, highways and community. This current year ending soon, 2015/16, it went down to £25,000 and for next year, 2016/2017, it will be only £20,000. This follows the trend of the fierce restrictions in the money available to Kent County Council. The government cut the grant to KCC by £42.9 million, and we had to make savings of £75 million for extra demand and costs – so the budget for the coming year had to make savings of £118 million. Five year ago the turnover was £1,100,000 million: now it is down to £900,000 million.

None the less KCC still does a huge amount and I recommend the KCC website to see the wealth of activities, including education, roads, lighting, libraries, social services, consumer protection, looking after vulnerable children, fostering and adoption services and many more.

I particularly commend the new initiative – “Release the Pressure – don't suffer in silence”. It encourages men in particular to seek help when life gets really hard. Traditionally men are less likely than women to talk about problems and seek help. In Kent (2102-14) the suicide rate for males was 16.5 deaths per 100,000 population, for females it was 4.1. In Kent, suicide is the largest killer of men under 45. The new 24/7 all year round helpline is tel: 0800 107 0160. See also the website: [www.releasethepressure.uk](http://www.releasethepressure.uk)

KCC works hard to help everyone and this is one example of targeted help. Another initiative is the free Citizens Advice Consumer Service. This helps anyone in dispute with a trader or anyone wanting to report any consumer issue they are worried about. Over 25,000 reports are received from consumers. There is now an Alternative Dispute Resolution help desk. The email address for this is [tsalets@kent.gov.uk](mailto:tsalets@kent.gov.uk). See the KCC website for further details.

In all, KCC is in good heart, serving all the people of Kent and it is a pleasure to work with them and yourselves. Michael Northey

**ii) Cllr Stuart Walker – Canterbury City Council (read by Clerk)**

Please accept my apologies for not being with you tonight but if there has been one overriding feature of the council it has been the amount of meetings that you are invited to attend. It's a briefing on immigration at the guild hall followed by the community committee tonight discussing social care in east Kent and housing.

Locally the main topic of discussion and action was the list development which although was agreed at planning, with the continued hard work of the parish council and residents there should still be some real benefit for the village and the rest of the ward. I am sure that Councillor Gallagher will update you on this if he hasn't already!! Planning has featured quite predominantly and I am slowly becoming an expert on extensions, new windows and loft conversions. Roads have received their fair share of correspondence, the Queen's birthday celebration is now coming 'on line' and also the new possible configuration of the A2 during the building of Mountfield Park.

District wide, as nationally, balancing the books and ensuring that the budget was set for the new financial year was of utmost importance. There are some challenges still to be faced in the next 3 years but we shall face them head on and look to any new revenue streams that we can. Housing, social care, flood prevention, car parks and of course planning and the local plan have all received 'air time' as have just as important other issues and will continue to do so for the life of this current council.

Finally I would like to thank everyone in and associated with the parish council for their support and to all the local residents for making me welcome in the first 10 months in post. This is only a flavor of the last 10 months and I am sorry I'm not there to take any questions. I am happy to correspond with any residents on these or any other subjects so please get in contact if this is the case.

Again please accept my apologies and thank you for listening.

**7. Presentation of Millennium Award 2016**

There had been 7 individuals nominated this year, under 4 categories. The Chairman advised he was very pleased to present the award this year to Paul Spratt for his efforts and achievements in the furtherance to cricket, for both adult and youth sections which are extraordinary. It is a time consuming role and he dedicates a great deal of time and enthusiasm to provide the children with an outlet for their energy, promoting social skills and team spirit. He also applies for many grants to ensure the club has the necessary equipment. Paul is not present this evening so we will present the cheque at a later date.

The Chairman then thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....