

The **Minutes** of the **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** held in Upchurch Village Hall on **Thursday 30th April 2015** commencing at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Sara Tucker (Chair), Cllr John Arnold (Vice-Chair), Cllr Gerry Lewin, Cllr Patricia New, Cllr Susan Rossiter, Cllr Peter Masson, Cllr Maria Rose, Cllr Pamela Denny, Mrs Julia Cura (Clerk), and 19 members of the public.

Apologies: None

- 1. Chairman's Introduction** – All present were warmly welcomed by the Chairman.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2014** – There were no amendments. In the absence of a public copy of the minutes it was proposed by Cllr Rose and seconded by Cllr Lewin, that they be accepted as a true record and all agreed.
- 3. Presentation of the accounts** – The unaudited accounts were presented by the Clerk, and a copy is filed with these minutes. Copies of the accounts had also been provided.

The Clerk thanked the Chair and all of the Councillors for their help and support during her first 3 months as Parish Clerk.

The Clerk referred to the accounts. She explained that the Council had received a KCC match funding grant of £750 to make improvements to the Recreation Ground in the form of a new fence and bench. The new fence was erected in March and the Council are currently looking into costings for the bench.

The Clerk explained that the Burial Ground income was £1000 less than last year and it is expected to decrease over the coming years due to the lack of space left in the Burial Ground.

The Clerk reported that the Precept was higher this year due to the rising cost in street lighting and the costs involved with the election. Street light repairs having been one of the biggest expenses this year totalling £2600 due to extensive repairs needed to several lights and faulty bulbs now being replaced with LED bulbs.

The Council's intention is to implement a three year budget plan in order to factor in the decrease in income from the Burial Ground and continuing increase in costs for street lighting and tree maintenance around the Village. All agreed that the accounts be accepted and approved.

- 4. Presentation from Scott Montgomery Community First Responder** – Cllr Tucker introduced Mr Montgomery.

Mr Montgomery thanked the Council for the opportunity to talk about the services of the Community First Responders. He explained that they offer essential lifesaving support to the public. The First Responders are volunteers who have attended training courses in first aid and are despatched when a 999 call is received the aim is that they arrive at the call destination before the ambulance crew. On arrival they will assess the situation and perform CPR if necessary therefore largely increasing the chances of survival. Mr Montgomery went on to explain that the main aim of a first responder is to preserve life and that as there are currently no first responders in Upchurch anyone making a 999 call

would wait longer for a first responder to arrive and therefore the chances of survival decrease. He highlighted the need for a resident First Responder and praised the work of the W.I in their fundraising for a defibrillator to be bought for Upchurch. Mr Montgomery reported that the life-saving equipment would be fundamental to the Village and that people should not be concerned when using defibrillators as when obtaining the code to unlock the defibrillator from its case the caller would receive qualified advice over the phone for the entire time until the ambulance or First Responder arrived. Mr Montgomery advised that the public should not have a fear of providing CPR as the law clearly states that if you are 'doing your best' you can do nothing more. He reported that there are currently 300 First Responders in Kent and that more are needed as in the UK the survival rate for cardiac arrest is still only 8.6% as opposed to Norway where it is 25% due to their high volume in First Responders.

Mr Montgomery had brought along three volunteers with him to demonstrate their equipment and asked that residents take some time after the meeting to speak with them.

Cllr Tucker thanked Mr Montgomery for his very informative speech which was most appreciated by those present and reiterated the importance of First Responders in the Community.

5. **W.I report on Defibrillator** – A representative from the W.I reported that as part of their 100 year anniversary celebrations they have decided to raise the money to purchase a defibrillator for Upchurch. Their fund raising is going very well with over £1000 raised so far and promises of more donations. Their aim is to order a defibrillator from KALC before June this year. The W.I are currently looking for an appropriate site for the defibrillator to be placed. As the Parish Council will be responsible for the maintenance and running costs of the defibrillator the W.I are keeping the Chair and the Clerk updated on their progress. Cllr New enquired who donations should be made out to and Mr Newbury recommended that the details be forwarded to Upchurch Matters for more publicity. Cheques should be made out to W.I.
6. **Chairman's Report** – A copy of the Chairman's report is filed with these minutes.
7. **Presentation of KALC Community Award** – Cllr Tucker thanked Jan Lacy for all of her voluntary work with various groups and organisations in the village, for example, the friendship lunch for elderly people, Church Youth Club, The Well and many more. She presented her with a certificate signed by the High Sheriff of Kent and a bouquet of flowers. Mrs Lacy thanked the Council and commented that she would continue to work with the groups in the Village as she gets so much enjoyment and pleasure from doing so.
8. **Matters arising and questions on the Chairman's report**

Presentation to Cllr New and Cllr Rossiter– Cllr Tucker thanked Cllr New and Cllr Rossiter for their work as Parish Councillors and presented them with a bottle of wine and basket of flowers each. Cllr New thanked the Council and said it had been a privilege and pleasure to be both a Clerk and Councillor for Upchurch Parish Council. Cllr Rossiter said she felt exactly the same and that she had enjoyed her time very much. Cllr Rossiter went on to say that she felt that the Parish had a strong Council now and that this is positive for the future.

