

EAST PECKHAM PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Office, East Peckham Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 5BT

Clerk to the Council, Mrs M Piscina , Telephone 01622 871309

Website: www.eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk Email: councilmanager@eastpeckham-pc.gov.uk Twitter @East PeckhamPC

Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 20th May 2023, at the Jubilee Hall, Pippin Road, East Peckham

MINUTES

Attendees:

Parish Councillors: M. Williams, D. Seal, M. Barton, M. Joannes, T. Fryer, R. Mewett, D. Fairless,
Parish Clerk, Assistant Clerk, 18 residents

Apologies:

S. Hudson, M. Boughton, PCSO Houghton, Parish Councillors: L. Browning, T. Eastwood, S. North

1. Welcome and Introductions

Councillor M. Williams introduced himself as the chairman and welcomed all attendees. He reminded all that it is a meeting for residents to have their say and to let the council know what they want and their feedback on village matters. M. Williams continued, with an explanation of the various committees on the council and their functions, along with a reminder that in some cases, whilst EPPC have a say on plans, TMBC / Kent Highways have the final say. Residents were invited to join the committees and get involved. The committees are fairly new, only formed in the past 15 months, but have resulted in really good, cohesive working.

Each Committee gave a brief synopsis of their activities over the past year. These included the Planning and Transportation Committee along with the Local Development sub-committee, the Climate Change Committee, Allotments Committee, Council Assets Committee, Events Committee, Finance Committee and Youth and Community Committee.

2. Approval of the minutes from the previous Annual Parish Meeting on 14th May 2022

The Minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed: M. Joannes **Seconded:** J. Perretta

3. Presentation of the 2023 Awards

The council were delighted to award the following for their contribution to the community:

The Kent Area of Local Council's award to Rick Mewett

The EPPC Community Award to Katie White

4. Reports from Borough Councillors, PCSO, Community Groups

Reports received from the following were read out to the meeting. Full reports are in the appendices at the end.
Borough Councillors Sarah Hudson and Matt Boughton

PCSO – Naomi Houghton:

Paddock Wood Lions – the Lions thanked all of those who had supported them over the past year. This year's 10km run will take place again in July, and all offers of help with marshalling would be very much appreciated.

5. Diane Wakeling, Community Warden

Diane introduced herself as East Peckham's Community Warden and gave a presentation on who the Community Wardens are, the purpose of their role and their philosophy of care.

A full copy of the presentation is available upon request.

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6. Public Matter of Interest, to include:

EPPC Future Plans

M. Williams gave a brief outline on potential future the plans that the council will be looking over the next year, along with confirmed works. These include:

The viability of installing a perimeter footpath around the playing fields to increase access from all areas of the village.

Increasing the usage if the playing fields

The possibility of participating in a 'Dogs on leads' for a month

Looking into the making the current bike track into a more permanent and user-friendly pump-track / skate park.

There have been having ongoing issues with public toilets and members of the public defacing them, so restricted access may be needed.

The Jubilee Hall will have the kitchen replaced and redecorated.

The seating outside the shops on the Pound had to be removed as it became weathered and unsafe. A grant was received to refurbish them and put back in a suitable place once the works have been completed.

Currently looking into provision of public toilets at the playing fields and where they might be located and how it would work; open dawn to dusk etc,

Residents Open Forum

- Request from a resident for a dropped kerb outside / near Bardsley Close, as residents are unable to walk Hale Street to Brookside at this time. The council agreed to investigate and liaise with Kent Highways.
- Resident reported they are unable to get down some of the footpaths / pavements in a wheelchair due to parking on pavements – council to raise with Kent Highways.
- Resident raised the issue regarding lack of a barrier outside the Freehold alleyway – letter also received at this time regarding the issue, along with a map. The lack of a barrier means bikes, pedestrians, scooters etc exit the alleyway at speed without taking notice if cars are moving on / off drive ways – council to raise with Kent Highways.
- Another resident raised an issue with parking along the Freehold, is unable to access to their designated parking space outside the Salvation Army. Reported there has been lots of development long there over a short space of tie and suggested a one-way system may help and reduce risk of crashes as there have been numerous near-misses - – council to raise with Kent Highways, with the above points.
- General consensus of issues with parking across the entrance to the Freehold when people are collecting food from the takeaways, mainly in the evenings - – council to raise with Kent Highways with the above points.

M. Williams thanked all residents for attending, and again invited to join the committees if interested.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

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Appendix 1:

Borough Councillor Report

It's been a very busy year for Borough members with plenty of memorable events, the climax being the Jubilee celebrations in the summer that saw parishes all over the borough celebrate Her Majesty's reign. The sad passing of Her Majesty in the autumn was also commemorated with dignity and respect.

Last year saw significant changes to the governance of Tonbridge and Malling Council. Advisory boards were replaced by Select Scrutiny Committees. This has allowed for more effective, accountable decision making by the Council, enabling us to respond more quickly to events than has been the case in the past.

The Council launched a number of initiatives in 2022/23, including: 196 solar panels installed to heat the pool at Larkfield Leisure centre, 32 new electric car charging stations throughout the Borough and the opening of our cutting-edge Eco Café at Leybourne Lakes are just the highlights of the work being done by the Council as part of its green environmental strategy.

The reinstatement of the garden waste service and resolution of the waste collection issues. Recycling levels are now amongst the highest in the county of Kent. Fly tipping continues to be a nuisance though Initiatives such as Operation Assist where vehicles carrying waste are targeted and waste carrier licences checked have contributed to a fall in fly tipping incidents.

The TMBC app launched, allowing residents to check all manner of Council related matters, from paying Council Tax to checking waste collection days. The Council has secured £200,000 worth of funding to rejuvenate the shops on Station Approach, next to Tonbridge Station.

New council owned temporary accommodation property was opened in Tonbridge that allows the Council to house vulnerable residents in suitable accommodation, reducing the need for alternative less suitable and expensive solutions such as bed and breakfast accommodation.

The Community and Safety initiative has secured a number of mobile CCTV cameras to assist with preventing anti-social behaviour and reducing crime.

The Conservative group launched a high-profile campaign to bring the Beales building in Tonbridge back in to use. Supported by our MP, Tom Tugendhat, we are making progress with our negotiations with Sainsbury's to resolve the issue. The lorry park proposed for Wrotham was successfully opposed. Further plans have recently been put forward and we will continue to support residents in opposing any unsuitable development in this area.

In addition to all of this, we have the lowest crime rates and the lowest council tax in the county. Perhaps the biggest change was the decision of the Electoral Commission to redraw the ward boundaries in the Borough. East Peckham joins Mereworth, Wateringbury and West Peckham as a two-member ward. We would like to thank all of the Parish Councillors (and Clerks!) for the invaluable work they do for their communities.

Please do get in touch with us at

Matt.boughton@tmbc.gov.uk

Sarah.hudson@tmbc.gov.uk

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Appendix 2:

PCSO Report:

I would love to give you some big report however East Peckham has been lovely and quite and I have no ongoing issues in the area.

In the past month there have been 4x criminal damage reports, 4x nuisance vehicles, 2x shop liftings and 1x theft. I wont go into details about these as they are very much isolated incidents with a tiny chance of it affecting any other members of public except for the vehicles which may just be a bit it a noise nuisance.

As of the 7th June, you will no longer have me as a ward PCSO and instead you will be allocated a beat PC however it may take some time for them to get on their feet due to the amount of areas they will be taking on.

If you are having any ongoing issues such as ASB, nuisances vehicles, or spurts of criminal damage etc, then do feel free to contact me so I can assess it as a problem area in my new role and if deemed appropriate, then you may be able to get us as a large increased presence for a set period of time.