



# From The Chair

## Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April in Ash Village Hall at 7.30pm In this newsletter there is an agenda for the meeting and a summary of the Parish Council accounts. There will be an opportunity to question your County Councillor, your District Councillors and Parish Councillors as well as the Police.

Ash Parish Council is responsible for the recreation ground including the toilets but not the sports pavilion, the war memorials at Ash and Westmarsh, 4 bus shelters at Guilton, Sandwich Road, car park in centre of the village and the new one near street end, various seats and litter bins. The litter bin in Pound Corner is due to be renewed in the near future. The Council have received a grant to enable them to plant bulbs at various places on the outskirts of the village in autumn 2009. The allotments are all being used and there is a waiting list.

The Parish Council has continued to improve the facilities on the recreation ground. Most of the safety surfacing under the play equipment has been renewed and an area in front of the Kickwall has also been surfaced. The aerial slide which is very popular has again been repaired. Four trees have been planted near where others have died. Unfortunately the Council is still employing the dog warden as the dog owners behaviour has not improved and dog mess is not being cleared. This problem also applies to the pavements in the street especially early morning.

The Parish Council, with the agreement of the Jack Foat Trust have asked Sanctuary Housing Association to prepare a plan to build 20+ houses on the remaining part of Millfield. If there is land remaining after the houses are built it may be able to use it for much needed allotments. This is positive. Now for the negative. St Nicholas House is nearly empty of residents and will be demolished along with other buildings of similar use in the district. The question is where will the old people live in the future? Is there to be a building programme to satisfy this need? Ask our District Councillors.

The Public toilets in the centre of the village have now been reopened after repairs and painting. These were closed for several months and the District Council appeared to make no effort to reopen them after the repair work was completed and only did so in January following huge pressure from the Parish Council. During this time the council received a letter from the district council demanding a contribution towards the upkeep of the toilets otherwise they would be closed for ever on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009. The Parish Council have very reluctantly agreed to pay £50 a week towards the costs for each week that the toilets are open.

Another area of discontent is the lighting on the footpath from Chequer Lane to Molland Lea. One light was vandalised in December and has still not been repaired. The other problem is that one light which works is completely blotted out by overhanging trees from a private garden. So far the Parish Council has been unable to make any progress in solving the problem. The light and footway are the responsibility of Kent County Council but even though this is a safety issue no action has been taken.

The priorities of the Council, in partnership with Kent Police remain;

- 1: To prevent speeding and inconsiderate parking,
- 2: To prevent anti social behaviour,
- 3: To stop nuisance by dogs fouling

The Parish Plan which was originally sanctioned by the Parish Council is now nearing completion. The results of the survey are known and the report is now being written

Graham Foat

Chairman, Ash Parish Council.

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 20 April 2009 7.30pm Ash Village Hall, Queen's Road Ash

The Hall will be open from 6.45pm with tea and coffee provided.

Parishioners will be able to meet County, District & Parish Councillors, the Police and the Police Community Support Officer and representatives of the parochial charities and trusts. The reports will be on display boards in the Hall so that they can be read prior to the meeting. All local government electors of the Parish of Ash are entitled to attend, speak and vote.

#### AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last annual meeting 21 April 2008 to be signed (available at the meeting)
2. To receive reports and take questions:
  - i) from the Parish Council Chairman
  - ii) from the Recreation Ground Committee and to nominate a member of the committee for the year ending 31/3/2010
  - iii) from the Footpaths Committee
  - iv) on the audited the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31/3/2008 on the un-audited Parish Council Receipts & Payments for the year ended 31/3/2009 (see over)
3. Reports from the parochial charities and trusts:
  - Ash United Charities – Benevolent Fund and Resthaven
  - The Jack Foat Trust & The Frank Kingsland Bequests
  - Ash Educational Charities
4. To receive the accounts of the Village Halls with the comments of the trustees:
  - Ash Village Hall
  - Westmarsh Village Hall
5. Police & Community Safety Reports from:
  - PC Wright
  - Police Community Support Officer White
6. Parish Action Plan Update – Mr Nigel Whitburn
7. Report from and to take questions for the Cartwright and Kelsey School, Mrs Sue Chandler
8. Any resolution for which written notice has been given.
9. To receive the report from and to take questions for County Councillor, Mr Leyland Ridings, on Education, Social Services, Fire, Highways and Footpaths
10. To receive the reports from and to take questions for District Councillors, Mrs Sue Chandler, Mr Trevor Bartlett and Mr Mike Conolly, on Planning, Environmental Health, Housing and Refuse Collection.
11. Any other business concerned with parish affairs.

### Summary of Ash Parish Council Receipts & Payment 2008 / 2009

Estimated March 2008		Estimated March 2009
	<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
32,356	Balance in hand	41,763
177	Allotment rents	212
1,280	Investment income	728
4	Insurance / rents	511
56,000	Precept	58,800
135	Sale of books & walk cards	229
3,567	VAT refund	2,986
0	Refund of bank charges	280
400	Inland Revenue on-line rebate	100
2,000	PMC towards pavillion extension	0
0	Kent County Council grants	5,000
0	KCC contribution to bus shelter	2,000
2,450	Parish Plan grant	0
<b>98,368</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>112,609</b>
	<b>PAYMENTS</b>	
	Administration:	
120	Advertising/ general admin	84
570	Audit fees / election expense	400
293	Employee expenses	184
21,531	Employment	21,476
2,651	Insurance	3,045
0	Office equipment	0
103	Postage / stationery	194
415	Rent paid	561
827	Subscriptions	1,114
162	Telephone	153
104	Training / Chairman's Allowance	394
215	Bank charges	144
0	Dog Warden	278
610	Newsletter	650
466	Directory	0
6,004	PCSO ( to Dec 08)	12,645
4,080	Donations / Grants	5,972
0	Re-imburse Parish Plan grant	1,464
	Maintenance:	
336	Consumables / protective equipment	151
704	Repairs / renewals of bins, seats etc	487
361	The Street bus shelter	7,318
	Recreation Ground:	
4,557	Mowing, etc	3,331
6,145	Play equipment	19,833
1,454	Repairs / renewals	1,289
1,950	Tree surgery	40
196	Toilet block	239
2,931	VAT on purchases	5,343
<b>56,788</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86,789</b>
41,580	Balance	25,820
183	Adjustment	371
<b>41,763</b>	<b>TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>26,191</b>
22,708	Ring Fenced Balances	12,992
	of PCSO £6,000, Youth £3,000, KCC Grant £2,000, Other £1,992	



April 2009

## Ash Youngsters Need Your Help

The Parish Council has been keen to see new facilities for young people provided in Ash. This could be a formal Youth Club or a secure indoor meeting place where teenagers can meet and socialise. The responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire have backed this up with residents saying that such provision is one of the top priorities for action.

The Council is currently working on a project that will be shared with Wingham and Preston villages. With the support of Dover District Council and Kent County Council Youth Services, funding bids are being submitted to employ several part-time youth workers for three years. The Youth Workers would lead the establishment of new facilities for young people in each of the three parishes.

The Parish Councils would contribute funding, but the schemes will also need local volunteers to help with the organising and running of a new Youth Club/meeting place. If you would like to get involved and want to know more about what is proposed, please contact the Parish Clerk.

## Finding Funding

Regular use of the "kickwall" on the Recreation Ground has led to the grass in front of the wall being worn away and a depression forming in the soil.

To overcome this the Parish Council has installed new surfacing which will protect the ground and prevent it being worn away.

This surfacing isn't cheap, but the Council was fortunate to obtain a grant of £3,000 to pay for the work. The Council is keen to seek out grant funding at every opportunity and reduce the calls on local Council Tax payers.

## New Website

The Parish Council has a new website. The address is shown at the bottom of the page. The site is now hosted by Kent County Council who provide this service free to Parish Councils. Comments on the content of the website are welcome as the Council is keen to see it develop and provide a better source of information for residents.

## "Street End" Traffic Chaos Avoided



Fears that vehicles accessing "The Bunker" - formerly RAF Ash could cause traffic chaos in the village have been eased. The Council did not object to proposals to develop the site, just outside the parish, but there were grave concerns over the proposed level of construction traffic and the route suggested by KCC Highways.

Hundreds of lorries attempting to negotiate the tight corner at the junction of Sandwich Road and New Street could have caused traffic jams in the village and the narrow "S" bends at the bottom end of New Street would also have caused problems.

Many parishioners also objected to this route as did Stagecoach buses. The Council requested that KCC Highways and other interested parties come out and see the proposed route. This was done and as a result KCC amended their advice to the developers and instead suggested that traffic be routed via Cherry Garden Lane.

The Parish Council consider this route to be the least worst option and are also aware that planners were unlikely to turn down an application because of construction traffic issues.

In fact the proposal has been accepted by the DDC Planning Committee, but with many conditions relating to the management of construction traffic.

## Contact The Council

### Chairman

Councillor Graham Foat  
Upper Goldstone Farm  
Cop Street  
Ash  
CT3 2DN  
Tel: 01304 812121

### Clerk

Mrs Christine Haggart  
5 Fairview Road  
Elvington  
Kent  
CT15 4EP  
Tel: 01304 832909