

# Ash News

April 2011



## Some highlights from the last year



New noticeboard at Ash Village Hall



Beating the Bounds



More bulb planting around the village including here at Gulton triangle

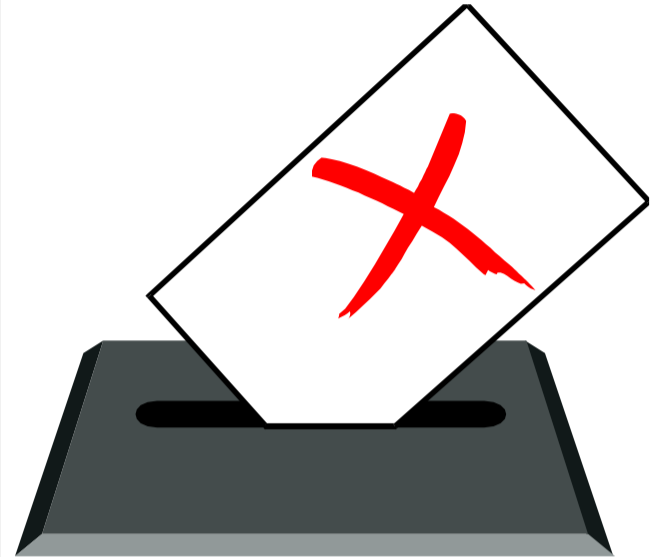


Working with Dog Action Group to reduce dog mess



Planting new trees on the "Rec"

## Want to be a Councillor?



May 5th will be a busy day at the Village Hall as there will be elections for Dover District Council, the referendum on voting reform as well as elections for the Parish Council.

There are 11 places on the Parish Council and several current Councillors will be standing down so new blood is needed.

It is an interesting time for Councils such as ours. Funding pressures on District and County Councils means that these larger Councils are asking Parish Councils to take over more and more services and of course raise the necessary funding. At the same time the Localism Bill being promoted by the Government is likely to give additional powers to Parish Councils. So being a Parish Councillor will enable you to make a real difference to the parish.

Nominations to stand in the election have to be lodged with the Democratic Services section at Dover District Council by midday on April 4th.. If you are thinking of standing you can contact the Parish Clerk or a Councillor to find out more. You can also contact the Democratic Services staff at DDC for information on the nomination and electoral processes.

Why not do something for the community and the future of Ash and stand for election.

## Grant to Youth Club

The Parish Council is delighted that a Youth Club is being established in the village again. We have been holding some money on account for use on projects that benefit young people of the parish so it was with great pleasure that we have made a grant of £2000 to cover the costs of setting up the club. Starting up a Youth Club is a key objective of the Parish Plan so it is good to see this being achieved.

**We wish the club every success.**

## 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  
clerk@ashparishcouncil.net



## From The Chair - Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL in Ash Village Hall at 7.30pm. There is an agenda below and a summary of the Parish Council accounts. There will be an opportunity to question our County Councillor, District Councillors and the Police. Mandy Pile of DDC will explain the new arrangements for WASTE Collection.

Ash Parish Council are responsible for the recreation ground including the toilets (but not the sports pavilion), the war memorials at Ash and Westmarsh, 4 bus shelters and several seats and litter bins. The allotments are all being used and there is a waiting list.

Dogs are still a problem - or is it some owners. A dog action group was formed last summer after a meeting of the Council and responsible dog owners. But still the problem persists especially on footpaths and footways. 26 New Street and the old Lion Hotel are still derelict and they have now been joined by St Nicholas House. Will DDC have solved any of these problems by next year? The plan to build more affordable houses on Millfield has moved a little nearer to completion. We have completed a further questionnaire on DDC's insistence and we need 22 houses to be built to satisfy demand.

During the last few weeks 3 speed checks have been carried out in 3 different locations. Only 3 vehicles were found to be over the limit. Last October 25 hardy people set off to beat the bounds. On a pleasant day for walking we reached Plucks Gutter in under 4 hours. This was followed by a very pleasant journey to Richborough Castle by boat and then the long slog back to the village. Total travel time 10 hours and 22 people completed the journey. Because of fences having been erected in the last few years it is becoming increasingly difficult to walk on the actual boundary.

In the autumn a special meeting was held in Westmarsh to discuss the proliferation of mobile homes for workers who have come to Kent to work on farms and elsewhere. Our MP, Laura Sandys attended and also Mr Tim Flisher a DDC planning officer. The meeting was very well attended and enforcement action is imminent.

The Parish Council are due to carry out a revue of all the yellow lines in the village to help improve parking arrangements.

2011 is ELECTION YEAR. Voting takes place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> MAY in the Ash village hall. The Parish Council will need new members. The Council meets twelve times a year plus six other meetings. Not too onerous. **ASH NEEDS YOU.**

Lastly I wish to thank Chris, Richard and Robin for writing such varied and interesting ONLOOKER articles for the Parish Magazine

The main priorities of the Council remain

- To prevent speeding and inconsiderate parking
- To prevent anti social behaviour
- To stop nuisance by dog fouling

*Graham Foat*

Chairman, Ash Parish Council.

### ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 18th April 2010 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

- Minutes of the last annual meeting 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010 to be signed (on the web-site)
- Presentation from DDC Officer, Mandy Pile, on what the new arrangements for the Dover District Council Waste Collection will mean for you
- To receive reports and take questions:
  - from the Parish Council Chairman
  - audited the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31/3/2010
  - un-audited Parish Council Receipts & Payments for the year ended 31/3/2011
- Police & Community Safety Reports from PC Wright and PCSO Pollard
- Reports from local charities and trusts:
  - Ash United Charities – Benevolent Fund and Resthaven
  - Jack Foat Trust and the Frank Kingsland Bequests
  - Ash Educational Charities
- Ash and Westmarsh Village Halls' Reports
- Cartwright and Kelsey School Report
- Ash Youth Club Report
- Any resolution for which written notice has been given
- Kent County Councillor, Mr Leyland Ridings - report and question time
- Dover District Councillors, Mrs Sue Chandler, Mr Trevor Bartlett and Mr Mike Conolly - report and question time.
- Any other business concerned with parish affairs.

### Summary of Ash Parish Council Receipts & Payment 2010 / 2011

Estimated		Estimated	
March 2010		March 2011	
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
26,192	Balance in hand	32,516	
197	Allotment rents	212	
22	Investment income	15	
532	Insurance / rents	532	
60,240	Precept	71,000	
26	Sale of books & walk cards	266	
5,343	VAT refund	1,441	
0	Insurance claim refund	193	
100	Inland Revenue on-line rebate	75	
0	Kent County Council grants	947	
92,651	<b>TOTAL</b>	107,197	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
Administration:			
669	General admin/audit fees	522	
22,859	Employment	23,179	
3,000	Insurance	6,521	
283	Postage / stationery/telephone	421	
519	Rent paid	552	
972	Subscriptions	993	
138	Training / Chairman's Allowance	56	
36	Bank charges	39	
115	Dog Warden	343	
565	Newsletter	577	
13,006	PCSO ( to Dec 09)	14,032	
0	Beating The Bounds	200	
5,134	Donations / Grants	9,254	
745	Re-imburse Parish Plan grant	0	
1,950	Contribution to DDC Public Conveniences	7,474	
1,950	KCC Funded Environment improvements	947	
Maintenance:			
526	Consumables / protective equipment	144	
241	Repairs / renewals of bins, seats etc	636	
0	Noticeboard	1,525	
Recreation Ground:			
2,513	Mowing, etc	3,038	
450	Play equipment	224	
1,238	Repairs / renewals	1,294	
1,170	Tree surgery	1,855	
204	Toilet block	237	
2,015	VAT on purchases	2,113	
60,296	<b>TOTAL</b>	76,174	
32,355	Balance	31,023	
161	Adjustment	-436	
<b>32,516</b>	<b>TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>30,587</b>	
12,544	Ring Fenced Balances	7,076	
of PCSO £6,000, Youth £835, Parish Plan Grant £241, Other £1,468,			