



# **Minutes of the ASH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012, at 7.30pm In the Ash Village Hall, Queen's Road, Ash**

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Chairman: Mr G Foat – Chairman of Ash Parish Council  
Present: 41 parishioners, plus nine Ash Parish Councillors, County Councillor Ridings, Dover District Councillors Bartlett, Chandler & Conolly, AwCiRK Mr K Fletcher, Sgt Gurney (Kent Police), Mr Crick (Headteacher Cartwright & Kelsey School)  
Apologies: None

## **12.01 Minutes**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> April 2011 were available before the meeting. The minutes were proposed by Mr Busby, seconded by Mr Whitburn, agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

## **12.02 Digital Switchover Project Officer, Mr K Fletcher from Action with Communities in Rural Kent on the Digital Switchover and How it Effects You**

Mr Fletcher gave a very interesting talk about the Digital Switchover which was starting on 13<sup>th</sup> June and would be complete by the 27<sup>th</sup> June in the Dover area. Volunteers were asked to help with the distribution of leaflets and giving one-to-one advice. There was a BBC Help Scheme for those who may have difficulty in re-tuning or installing the Digiboxes. There were telephone help lines (local code) 505 050 where people could speak to advisors who would talk them through the re-tuning or answer any questions on the switch-over.

Support was also needed for the Kent County Council project 'Make Kent Quicker' to obtain the DEFRA grant to support faster broadband provision. People could register their support on the website and KCC would be able to use this information to support their application. KCC Cllr Ridings explained that there was £9.8 million being invested by central government and that if successful, KCC and the contractors would also invest to provide faster broadband across the County.

## **12.03 To receive reports and take questions**

### **i) Parish Council Chairman, Mr G Foat**

Mr Foat opened his report explaining that the double yellow lines that had been requested for the corner of Sandwich Road and Cherry Garden Lane still had not been completed. There were three 'blots on the landscape of Ash' – St Nicholas House which was boarded up, sold and a planning application had been submitted; Lagaans which was still derelict after the fire and 26 New Street which continued to deteriorate. Parking on double yellow line in the centre of the village was obstructing the traffic and buses and in the car park often badly parked vehicles made it difficult to turn and exit safely.

There had been no progress on the purchase of Saunders Wood; volunteers continued to carry out work and had cleared saplings on this small woodland of about an acre. The EE465 public footpath at the top of Queen's Road along to the by-pass was still blocked for about 60 yards by brambles despite requests to have it cleared.

Richborough Tip was due to be closed by Kent County Council in August 2013 with the Deal site being proposed as the alternative. Mr Foat was going to a meeting in Sandwich to hear what could be done by local residents to stop this closure.

The actions from the Parish Plan were being taken up albeit slowly. A group of volunteers had started 'Speed Watch' and were being trained to use the Speed Indication Devices (SID). Finally, the Ash Parish Council had made a small number of grants this year including a contribution to support the Ash Diamond Jubilee Bash.

**Q:** Is there any information on Lagaans. **A:** The owner and his agent were to submit a planning application although to date this had not arrived at DDC.

**Q:** The management of Saunders Wood is very good but there is concern that horses would be stopped from using the route through the wood which leads to the local safe crossing over the A257. **A:** At the present there is no bridleway through the wood only a footpath.

A councillor added to the discussion that as there was a public right of way, it should not matter if horse riders also used the route.

**Q:** Can a footpath be upgraded to a bridle path. **A:** That is possible but at present as the footpath is narrow; it is thought to be unsafe to have walkers and horses using the same path.

ii) Finance Report on the Parish Council Accounts, Mrs Haggart

The audited statement of the accounts for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 is available to the public and is on the parish council web-site. The un-audited summary of the accounts for the current financial year end were in the annual newsletter distributed to every household in the parish.

The 2011 receipts were £75,996 and there was a balance carried over of £30,587 from the prior year. Payments of £70,195 included the contribution to Dover District Council of £9,234 for The Street Public Conveniences. Donations were lower in 2011 with revenue grants to the Ash and Westmarsh Village Halls, the St Nicholas Parochial Church Council for the Burial Ground and for the recently opened Heritage Centre. The only additional grant was £300 to the Ash Jubilee Bash. The contested May election cost £2,218 and the increase in the training budget was for new councillors. There was also expenditure of £3,950 on items that had been budgeted for, ordered but not yet paid or completed. The closing balances show £11,555 for ring fenced expenditure on the Police Community Support Officer, Youth, the slide for toddlers and the completion of Road Safety measurers, and £23,419 remained in general reserves.

The current budget set the precept at £72,065 which was the same as last year. This level of precept costs each household in Ash on average £59 a year. The projected expenditure for the financial year will be £73,361. £9,374 goes to pay DDC to cover the costs of keeping The Street Public Conveniences open. The PCSO costs will be £15,000 for the coming year. Grants are at £4,100 with a contingency of £700 for the Ash Jubilee Bash.

Salary costs show a small increase. Administration and over-all maintenance costs have been held at the same levels as last year. There is a projected £1,300 expenditure deficit over income which will be covered by the general reserves. The earmarked reserves include £13,500 allocated for the Saunders Wood project. Discussions are continuing with KCC over their valuation of the wood and their requirement that the parish council cover all the legal and administrative costs of the purchase. It is hoped that a more realistic figure will be arrived at so that the project can go ahead.

#### 12.04 Police Report from Sgt Gurney

Sgt Gurney reported items of note raised by PCSO Pollard who had been transferred to Deal. These including the on-going speed checks during which one driver was offered a driver awareness course. The Speed Watch project would train four volunteers to use the Speed Indication Device (SID). It was important that witnesses of incidents came forward, as if they provided a statement a S59 could be issued or in some cases a prosecution could follow. The ongoing CUBIT programme had removed more unlicensed vehicles from the roads. The Sgt acknowledged the problem with parking on double yellow lines and explained that DDC Parking Services would enforce parking restrictions and that the police would take action if the vehicles were causing an obstruction. There had been 73 reports to Kent Police for Ash of which 34 were about rowdy youth, 14 neighbourhood disputes and 8 arising from drunken behaviour. The main issue had been young people gathering at The Street Bus Shelter but this was not unique to Ash. This area had been a focus for the PCSO. There had been many positive outcomes over the year with the Kent Police Dog Team visiting the local schools and a successful order being made to stop harassment. Regarding the complaints of anti-social behaviours in relation to the buses, evidence had been gathered and three fixed penalty notices had been issued which had resolved the problem. The traditional fixed date surgeries had been replaced by the PCSO attending local events such as the coffee mornings, the school, the youth club and meetings of local organisations. The new PCSO is Gary Painter from Canterbury who is currently on paternity leave.

**Q:** Do the crime reports show a pattern for the area. **A:** The Recreation Ground is a location that comes up for graffiti and some damage.

**Q:** There has been noise from vehicles on the Recreation Ground at 4am. What can be done? **A:** The police will be asked to patrol and will try to attend if it is reported at the time. The PCSO hours of work do not go past 11pm.

A parishioner noted that anti-social behaviour at The Street Bus Stop and the dropping of litter had been worse since Christmas.

Mr O'Connell reported on Community Speed Watch which is a project organised through KCC and Kent Police for community volunteers to take responsibility for local actions to deal with traffic concerns. Training is provided and there is an educational focus and approach to schools. Training is still to be arranged on the equipment which will be provided on loan by the DDC Community Safety Unit which is waiting for protocols for the transport of the equipment. If there are issues with road safety please contact the local Speed Watch Group.

**Q:** Does Speed Watch work in the dark and between 7.30pm and 1.30am especially on Fridays and Saturdays. **A:** Speed Watch only does checks during daylight. Specific problems are followed up by the police.

**Q:** Could there be a 20mph speed limit in Ash. **A:** This has been raised by the Council but KCC said that there was no evidence of need ie there had been no speed related accidents on The Street, New Street or Sandwich Road.

#### 12.05 Reports from the Parochial Charities and Trusts

##### i) Ash United Charities Benevolent Fund

The accounts have been completed and are available to the public. The year had gone smoothly. There is a vacancy for a new trustee and any enquires can be made to Mrs Johnson or the Clerk to the Ash Parish Council.

- ii) Resthaven Almshouses  
The trustees of the Ash United Charities are also trustees of this charity. These four dwellings are occupied by couples over 60 or resident spinsters or widows and are situated at Queen's Road.
- iii) Frank Kingsland's Trust  
The trustees of the Ash United Charities are also trustees of this charity. This Trust was established from a bequest in 1994 for such charitable purposes for the benefit of the parish and had provided the new hall in Westmarsh. The Trust owns two bungalows in Ash, one at Chilton Field and one at Chequer Lane.
- iv) Jack Foat Trust  
Mrs Vallack opened her report noting that the accounts for last year are available for inspection. The accounts show that the Trust had distributed just over £300,000 during its lifetime since 1990. The total value of the Trust was just over £1¼ million. During the past 12 months, the Trust has made payments towards the facilities at the Ash Rugby Club's new ground; the establishment of the Ash Heritage Centre at the Ash Village Hall and two events had been provided for children, the annual Christmas Party and the May Tea Party to celebrate the Hall's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Two new trustees, Mr Gary Laslett and Mr Andrew Wilkinson had been appointed to the team. All are looking forward to working together for the benefit of the Trust and the Parish.
- v) Ash Educational Charities – Cartwright, Kelsey & Godfrey Charities.  
The Charity was established in 1992 and the Cartwright and Kelsey School is the property of the Charity. Mr Pratt reported that the charities had continued to be able to support the Ash Primary School with funding those events and items that would not otherwise attract support from other sources. During the past year, the trustees have been happy to help financially with summer educational trips for the pupils and finance the outdoor education learning area at the school. The Trust regularly helps financially those young people of the parish who apply for support, to embark on educational projects both here and abroad. There is also an annual award of book grants to those who apply. These are usually to assist young people who are starting on their higher education at college or university. The Trust has funds of £93,000 in various safe, though sadly low yielding accounts. The main income had come from the rental of the old school buildings in The Street, Ash to FH Browne & Sons, the organ builders. On behalf of the trustees, Mr Pratt extended a thank you to Mr Ian Chandler, for many years as a trustee and Chairman who has now retired. Ian also took on the task of sorting and understanding the large amount of papers held on behalf of the Trust by the late, Mr David Downes who had been clerk to the trustees. Mr Pratt finished by thanking Mr Chandler for all his work.

## **12.06 Reports from the Trustees of the Village Halls**

- i) Ash Village Hall  
Mrs Ryan reported that the financial year ended with a surplus of £779, with the biggest expense having been the gas which had almost doubled. The wages bill had increased. Enquiries via the web-site had increased. Fund raising continued with the annual Big Hall Quiz being well supported. Liz Rath put a great deal of time and effort into the Centenary calendar which came out of the photographic competition. The 300 copies sold out with the help from Ash retailers and supporters. The annual village panto 'Dick Whittington' by the New Ash Plays was well attended and greatly enjoyed. In March, the theatre company Chalkfoot gave an excellent and again well attended performance of 'Running for Glory'.

The final stage of the re-pointing with lime mortar to the original brickwork was completed in October. The gas heater in the Library was replaced and the emergency lighting was extended to the toilet block. The stage lighting and PA system controls were up-rated and the Hearing Loop repaired. The Hallmark Scheme, Levels 1 and 2, was obtained.

In September 2011, the Ash Heritage Archive was opened. This is generating a great deal of interest which is good for both the Village Hall and Heritage Group. The Management Committee biggest concern is the threat of KCC Library Closures and how this might affect the income to the Hall and service to the community. It is up to residents to use the Library on a regular basis to show how important this facility is to the community.

The Hall's Centenary All Day Celebration is on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 100 years to the day that the then Lady Northbourne laid the Foundation Stone to commemorate the coronation of George V. This has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of the Jack Foat Trust. Mrs Ryan finished by thanking on behalf of the Management Committee, the Parish Council for its continuing financial support of the hall's fabric.

ii) Westmarsh Village Hall

Mr Barnes, the Chairman, reported that the Westmarsh Village Hall had done well considering the current economic situation, due in large part to all the voluntary work done by the committee. It would be helpful to have more committee members. The existing members have come through a difficult time, with all the financial matters now resolved and the new bank mandate in place. The Annual General Meeting will be on 24<sup>th</sup> April and all are welcome and you may be co-opted. The income for the year including grants was £3,595 with hirings up and the outgoings were £1,460. The total funds held by the Committee at the year ended 31 March 2012 were £14,288.

### **12.07 Cartwright and Kelsey School Report – Mr Crick, Headteacher**

Mr Crick reported that the school has continued to provide a range of opportunities and services for the families of children aged 0-12. While a good education for children aged 5 to 11 represents the majority of what the school offers, it also provides excellent nursery and childcare provision for children aged 2-4. The successful breakfast and after-school childcare has been extended to children who attend the nursery. This has been taken up by parents who wish to be able to work more hours, while knowing their children will be in a safe, stimulating and caring environment. Working in partnership with Aylesham Community Project, weekly sessions are being offered for children aged 0-2 and their parents. The health visitor now holds two sessions a week at the school.

The school's performance continues to improve. Last year the children improved on their overall attainment in the national tests for 11 year olds for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row. In the Kent Test, 71% of those who took the test are going to grammar school in September. This represents a third of the year group and a level of success above the average for East Kent. The school is also required to produce information about performance for children aged 5 and 7. When compared with schools in the Dover District, the school made marked improvements for 5 years olds; while at the age of 7 the favourable performance has been maintained.

This level of performance stood the school in very good stead when OFSTED visited in November 2011 and judged it to be good overall, with some outstanding features. This represented a marked improvement on the last inspection in 2009 given that the criteria used to judge the school had been toughened. As a church school, it has to undergo a separate inspection on the school's church status and teaching of RE. The school was judged to be outstanding; again this was an improvement on 2009. The nursery was also visited to be re-assessed for the Kent Quality Mark and the outcome was that Fledglings was judged to meet all the criteria.

You will have seen in the press just how many different things happen at the school. These are intended to enrich the educational experience and well-being of the children. Just before Easter there was a prayer day in St Nicholas Church. This was open to members of the community, parents and family. The response was excellent. Members of the congregation acted as stewards; casual visitors found themselves taking part in an unexpected event; and all had the chance to reflect on matters that took them beyond every-day cares. The children have made visits to Deal, Canterbury, Dover and Margate as part of their work on history, geography, Religious Education, citizenship and music. On the music front brass lessons have started with the help of the Richard Farbrace Trust. The Education Charities of Ash have enabled the school to enhance its courtyard. New gardens in the shape of the Olympic rings have been created and these will be dedicated by the Bishop of Dover when he visits the school in July.

Schools are facing profound changes due to government policy. Ash Cartwright & Kelsey is one of ten local schools who are working together to maintain the independent characteristics that have served children in the Sandwich area so well. 14 years ago Mr Crick came for one term to cover the head teacher's secondment. He stayed longer than he expected. Throughout that time he has become even more convinced that a school must play a pivotal part in the life of the community it serves. By working even more closely the primary schools in the area can meet the needs of the children with whom they are privileged to work.

One of the key developments has been the way in which members of the community have supported the school. This has included the church congregations, village societies like the Heritage Centre, WI and Horticultural Society and numerous other individuals. As more people are involved in the life of the school it is hoped that understanding grows so that it becomes clearer just how well our children do.

## **12.08 There were no resolutions for which written notice had been given.**

### **12.09 Report from Kent County Councillor Mr L Ridings**

Mr Ridings reported that Kent County Council continued to have to make savings in an economic climate that was expected to continue to flat line and that the further savings would be needed through the next two parliaments. The KCC's draft budget for 2013-14 would be set in July.

KCC is expected to recover more than £50 million from the Icelandic Banks; £30 million has been returned and the remainder is due over the next year. It is likely that £52 million will be recovered from the £50 million invested.

Education: 76% of students achieved Level 4 at Key Stage 2 and Ofsted had given Sandwich Technical College an outstanding report; Sir Roger Manwood School had been given a good report.

Highways: the painting of the double yellow lines due for Ash at Pudding Lane, Sandwich Road and Cherry Garden Lane had been held up by parked cars. KCC has agreed to do the work for the replacement light near 8 Chequer Lane but there are issues still to be resolved. Mr Ridings will be pleased to try and help.

A257: road signs are in place and re-positioned and vegetation will be cut back.

Mobile SID: the speed indication device for the area has been approved and so should be available.

Ash Library: this is a less expensive facility to run than many others in the County at £1.54 per item taken out. A meeting will be organised between the Head of Libraries and local organisations will be invited to discuss ways to make sure that the library continues to serve Ash. KCC is committed to paying for books and IT needs and will need some contribution towards staffing and premise hire. It may be possible to provide some support through the Members' Grant in the short term.

Wayfarers: the decision to sell has been rescinded and it will not be sold.

Richborough Waste Disposal Site: Mr Ridings has spoken against the closure of this site and has offered Members' Fund financial support to the Richborough Action Group to support the campaign. KCC members challenged the estimated savings to be made from the closure and that the members who took the decision had not visited the sites. Local MP, Rt Hon Mrs Sandys had been asked to help stop the closure.

A parishioner explained that they had attended the Richborough Action Group meeting headed up by a local resident. The Group was in its early stages and welcomed support to build local awareness of the campaign.

**Q:** With regard to the KCC bus pass scheme – is KCC going to improve the scheme for disabled users so that they can use the bus pass before 9.30am and between 4-7pm. **A:** This is dealt with by other councillors and Mr Ridings will ask about this.

**Q:** Why is the Richborough Waste Site being closed. **A:** Mr Ridings said he did not agree with the decision as this site is efficient and on a major road network however the decision has been based on a proposed saving of £250,000. Once the breakdown of these savings had been received, it will be possible to make more of an assessment.

**Q:** A parishioner had spoken three times about the need for double yellow lines on the corner of Cherry Garden Lane and Sandwich Road – is it time to ask Radio Kent to look into this to see if this would make the lines appear more quickly. **A:** Mr Ridings had checked and a Line Marking Team from the KCC Ashford Highways Depot will arrive Tuesday morning to do this work.

A parishioner commented that if it is known when the team is coming, surely they could put out cones before they come to stop cars parking on the area.

#### **12.10 Report from District Councillors Mr Bartlett, Mrs Chandler, Mr Conolly**

Mr Conolly reported that in the 2011 May Dover District Council elections the Conservatives were returned to power & that Finance and Regeneration are still the major themes of this report.

DDC is the lowest council taxing authority in East Kent which meant it is more dependent on the Central Government Support Grant than neighbouring districts. In preparation for the significant reductions in the level of CGS grant, in the two previous years the Council had carried out a process under the Delivering Effective Services programme which resulted in the loss of 23 full time equivalent staff positions and an annualised saving of £822,000. In 2011, the Cabinet was reduced from nine to seven, and councillors of all parties voted unanimously for a 10% reduction in their allowances.

The 14% reduction in the Central Government Support Grant represented a big reduction in overall terms. However, the Council had protected core front line services. There will be a further 12% reduction in the year ahead and DDC will have to continue to remain extremely prudent in the management of the finances. This is why the decision was taken to raise council tax by 3.45% for 2012/13.

One year on from the decision by Pfizer to close their Sandwich plant with a loss of 4,000 jobs the situation, while still very concerning, is more encouraging. The site, now known as the Discovery Park, has been granted Enterprise Zone status and is now being marketed by London & Metropolitan, a big player in Property and Development. There are currently 800 jobs on the site and there is significant interest on the part of another major Pharma company and educational/research institutions. Getting the High Speed train for Sandwich and Deal has been a big boost.

Great strides in the redevelopment of Dover Town Centre, and specifically the St James area on the right hand side of the A20, have been taken. The first stage of an attractive scheme

incorporating a hotel, shops, bars, restaurants and some housing has been through Planning and the second stage is due to be considered in May.

Planning permission has been given for the expansion of Whitfield, a key element within the Local Development Framework, which is the plan for the regeneration of the District through to 2026. The Aylesham development is expected to move forward and there are exciting plans for the regeneration of the Western Heights.

A Government decision is due on the future of the Port of Dover and whether it is to be privatised or become what is being called a 'People's Port.' Plans for regeneration of the Western Docks and Waterfront Area have to wait until this decision is made, though some administrative hurdles have been cleared in preparation.

The localism agenda has moved forward swiftly. A Locality Board has been formed in partnership with KCC. This will become a decision making forum which will make choices on how funding from KCC in areas such as Youth Services and Libraries will be prioritised and spent. This will tie in with the now well-established neighbourhood forums.

DDC has also taken a leading role as an early implementer in the creation of a Health and Well Being Board. This is part of the Government's reforms of the NHS and the Board, currently in shadow form for another year, will see elected members working with health professionals and the newly formed Clinical Commissioning Group to decide on health priorities for Dover District

There has been further expansion in the development of shared services with neighbouring authorities. In the spring of 2011 East Kent Housing was launched. This is an ALMO, an Arms Length Management Organisation, which has now taken over the management of the 17,000 council properties owned by Dover, Thanet, Shepway and Canterbury.

The new Waste Service, shared with Shepway, which was launched in the autumn of 2011 and finished its roll-out in the New Year is another example of joint working. There were numerous problems in the early stages and the Call Centre handling of customer enquiries about the new service was initially insufficiently resourced. Nevertheless, given that the overall objective of the scheme was to increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, the scheme has been a success. From a base of circa 30%, recycling rates are over 50%. In the fourth quarter of 2011, when the scheme was still not fully rolled out, 844 tonnes of food waste were collected and there are signs that seeing the quantity of food going to waste because it is in a separate container has actually changed some people's habits.

In conclusion, your DDC councillors will continue to do their best to work with parish councils and with individual residents where our input can solve some problems, (though we can't solve them all!), or at least tackle blockages and improve communications. We share the frustration felt by parish councils at the slowness of some enforcement actions but can report that a new Principal Enforcement Officer is now in post following a reorganisation of the Planning Department and two of your councillors have met him to emphasise the importance of tackling what is a substantial backlog of work. The financial stresses are not going to get any easier in the near future and we will not be able to do everything we would like to.

**Q:** Is DDC able to compulsory purchase the Snowdown colliery site for regeneration **A:** While there has been regeneration in some of the coalfield areas there are limited resources. There are some projects for the area planned however powers of compulsory purchase are limited.

**Q:** Why has the £40 charge for collection of garden waste been introduced. **A:** Before the new charge only 70% of the District was covered by the service so the remaining 30% were



subsidising a service that they could not use. It was decided that it was fairer for those who used the service to pay for it.

**Q:** What is done with the Green Waste. **A:** It goes for energy creation at the Allington Quarry Waste Management Facility. The financial arrangements are complex as it includes taking into consideration money saved by KCC as less waste is going into landfill. The authorities do not directly make money from the recycling of the green waste.

**Q:** Why is so much of the new development at Whitfield rather than spreading it throughout the District as many areas need smaller developments for local people. **A:** While the scale of the development at Whitfield is large, the planning behind this is that Whitfield should not be seen in isolation from helping regeneration in Dover. Development is being spread throughout the District, as the Core Strategy identifies additional sites to help maintain the working population to secure the financial future of the District. The Land Allocation Documents still to come will identify a number of smaller developments around the whole District.

### **12.12 Any other business concerned with parish affairs**

- i) Ash Diamond Jubilee Bash: Mrs Bilham introduced the Ash Community Events (ACE) Committee which was organising the Diamond Jubilee Event this year on 4<sup>th</sup> June. Over 30 local stalls had been booked; there would be music and events to mark this event which would be part of the national heritage. Raffle tickets are being sold in the village to help cover the costs of the event and there would be more publicity with details of what will be on offer.
- ii) Westmarsh: Mr Barnes raised the possibility of another public meeting to keep the pressure on local authorities to carry out the enforcement action at Westmarsh that had been discussed at the last meeting. The local MP and DDC councillors were supporting the local community and the new DDC Enforcement Officer could also be invited.
- iii) Ash Heritage Centre: Mrs Foat explained that there would be a Jubilee Exhibition this year and if anyone had pictures of the Coronation and material from the 50's, 60's and 70's to loan to the Centre that would be most helpful.
- iv) Ash Youth Club: Mr O'Connell spoke about the success of the Youth Club which was open on Friday evenings from 8pm-10pm at the Ash Village Hall for young people between the ages of 11-16 at secondary school. The Club has 35 members and on average 22 a week are attending. Mr Greg Davis is the new Chairman. All the committee and volunteers are CRB checked and all policies are in place. Annual membership is £5, with siblings £3, and the weekly entrance fee is £2, siblings £1. It has a bank balance of £1,500 and is affiliated to Kent Youth. The aims are to have sound finances, increasing membership and possibly extending the age groups and opening times. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Ash Parish Council and members of the community for their support, to volunteers and the young people and to Mr Chris Burnside the previous Chairman for all his work in helping to establish the Club.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Pollard, Mr Wilkinson and Mrs Haggart for their work and all those present for coming to the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.