



Minutes of the ASH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Held on Monday 27th April 2015, at 7.30pm
In the Ash Village Hall, Queen's Road, Ash**

Chairman: Mr G Foat – Chairman of Ash Parish Council
Present: 56 parishioners, plus 7 Ash Parish Councillors, Dover District Councillors Bartlett, Chandler & Conolly, PCSO Lee, KCC Warden Priestley, Mr Crick (Headteacher Cartwright & Kelsey School), Ms Jones (Minute Taker)
Apologies: The District Councillors will arrive later as they are also attending Wingham's annual parish meeting tonight.

15.01 Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held 14th April 2014 were available before the meeting but were not taken as an agenda item.

15.02 To receive reports and take questions:

1) Ash Parish Council Chairman Mr Graham Foat

Mr Foat opened his report noting it was an election year and the parish council was to lose the services of Nigel Whitburn who had not stood for re-election. Mr Whitburn had been on the parish council for 24 years, 5 of which he was Chairman, with 4 years as Vice Chairman. Mr Foat extended his appreciation to Mr Whitburn on behalf of the parish council and offered thanks from the community which was followed by a round of applause.

Mr Foat explained as 8 nominations only for Ash Parish Council's 11 councillor positions had been received (and recently published), this meant there would be no election on May 7th. Those 8 nominated were automatically elected. Mr Foat introduced those elected councillors who were present and indicated the 3 vacancies would be filled in due course. This was an opportunity for those potentially interested to contribute to the parish as a councillor.

Mr Foat outlined the parish council's responsibilities for various property including Pound Corner, 5 bus shelters and the War Memorials which had been renovated to mark the 100 years centenary. As trustee of the Recreation Ground tree management was a key activity. Sadly a mature beech in the Recreation Ground would not survive its fungal infection; the tall grey poplar was due to be pollarded; 3 Field Maples, prizes from the Kent Men Of Trees village competition, had recently been planted and also a young Holm Oak, in memory of parishioner Peggy Smalley. The outdoor gym at the Recreation Ground had been installed earlier than expected and was already drawing interest.

The former Weddington Lane footpath EE465 remains in dispute with Kent County Council Public Rights of Way. Though there were footpath signs up it isn't recognised officially which makes its maintenance problematic. Parking in the village on double yellow lines is on the increase. Be aware Wardens are policing this and it is an offence to park on junctions.

Speed checks at Guilton had discovered only 2 cars doing more than 30 mph. The allotments are fully allocated and there is a new contract for the maintenance of the public toilets in the village centre. The litter collection day in the summer had been well attended and thanks were due to the Heritage group for their commemoration of WW1. The Youth Club needed

someone to come forward and take it on. New housing was expected in the parish with the Land Allocations Plan determining where houses would be sited.

2015 was the year for Beating the Bounds, a walk of about 17 miles but 7 could be done on a boat. Saturday 3rd October is the date, all are welcome.

Q: What is the new local health commissioning group about? District Councillor Sue Chandler is a representative.

A: This should be referred to Cllr Chandler to respond when she arrives.

Q: The outdoor gym is really good but why has the rubbish bin gone that was nearby?

A: The rubbish bin was removed during the installation but will be replaced

2) Finance Report on the Parish Council Accounts - Ms Jones

The audited statement of the accounts for 31st March 2014 was displayed along with the Auditor's Certificate. The un-audited summary of the accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2015 was displayed and on the Parish council website.

Receipts for year ended 31/3/15 were £77,122, and with the balance of £82,676 carried over from the previous year produced a total of £159,798. Keeping the council tax contribution per Band D property the same as the previous year had delivered a precept of £64,639 and central government gave a revenue support grant of £3,694. This grant was half the previous year's level.

Payments for the year were £61,670. The purchase of new accounting software and extra security software for the council's computer totalled £986, training support for the new clerk was £1,145 and equipping a new office, purchasing resource books increased some administration costs. Repairs and maintenance costs of £1,832 included a virtual rebuild to parts of the aerial slide in the Rec Ground and patching of various play area safety surfaces. £2,426 was spent on tree maintenance, some of it postponed from the previous year due to bad weather. Refurbishing Ash and Westmarsh War Memorials cost £1,891, and the internal painting of the toilet block at the Rec Ground came in at £1,560. Costs that reduced included Ash's contribution to DDC for The Street Public Conveniences, being almost £2000 down on last year's spend to £8,268. Costs for new play equipment were lower than in the last year, and work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan used £913.

The current budget, available on the Ash PC website, projects expenditure for the year from this April of just over £72,550. Grants of £5000 have been allocated including £800 for PACE to continue providing activities for young people. A sum of £5800 has been retained to progress the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Rising costs are expected for professional services, subscriptions, utilities. £8,500 has been budgeted for upkeep of the Public Conveniences, £1000 provision has been made for a replacement barrier at the Queens Road entrance to the Rec Ground. Salaries and pension costs will rise with the 2.2% wages settlement for local government employees. 2015 specific events mean close to £4,400 has been budgeted for election costs and related activities such as councillor training, along with £600 for Beating The Bounds later in the year.

The projected expenditure produced a deficit budget. The parish council decided to fund this by increasing the precept income. Raising a precept of £65,932 (compared with £64,639 last year) added £1.25 to a Band D property charge, a 2.1% increase on the parish component of council tax, due to the tax base reducing from last year.

£37,137 of Reserves is ring fenced to cover items including the deficit, road safety, security, completing payment on the outdoor gym, contingencies, safety resurfacing and tree surgery. General reserves are just under £61,000. The reserves are being kept high in the face of uncertainties over future income and costs. The external auditor accepts as prudent having up to twice the level of the precept in reserves.

The Parish Council recently opened bank accounts with Unity Trust Bank with the intention of utilising this Bank for its day to day operations, switching to online payments, and for holding a portion of the Reserves. The Nat West account will be retained to spread the Reserves between the two banks, thus limiting the council's exposure in the event of a bank becoming insolvent.

Q: Why had the precept reduced by about £8000?

A: What was the precept is now expressed as two separate elements, the precept and a Revenue Support Grant which comes from central government. The Grant has been reducing each year and is expected to disappear entirely by the end of the decade.

15.03 Police & Community Safety Reports

1) PCSO Doreen Lee

The PCSO covers Little Stour and Ashstone including Ash, Staple, Goodneston, Preston and Stour.

There had been 110 crimes reported in the parish of Ash over the last year. There were

- 5 burglaries in Ash during the year, 3 at dwellings and 2 non dwelling related
- 13 thefts, 3 from motor vehicles, 2 from dwellings and 8 other thefts
- 20 criminal damage reports
- 1 owner/person in charge of a dog dangerously out of control causing injury
- 2 cases of possession of cannabis, a controlled drug of class B
- other crimes not disclosed due to being violent, sexual or financial offences which could not be disclosed to the public.

It was noted the number of crimes remains consistently lower than most areas in the district.

There had been 342 calls made to Kent Police from Ash for a variety of reasons; of those relating to anti-social behaviour, 6 concerned nuisance youths, 9 nuisance vehicles, and 7 nuisance calls, mainly telephone.

Two men purporting to be from the Water Board had targeted elderly people in the hope of distraction burglaries but had been caught. Unfortunately the water board story was plausible for older folk. PCSO Lee cautioned that people should always get IDs from callers. "No cold caller" stickers are available from the PCSO.

Q: An incident reported in Sidcup involved two uniformed callers with fake IDs approaching sheltered accommodation. What can be done to protect people from plausible people like this?

A: Call the company to confirm the callers' IDs. Call the police for advice.

Q: What is the success rate for solving burglaries?

A: PCSO Lee will check.

Q: Were the figures reported for Ash or for the Ward?

A: For Ash

2) Kent County Council Warden, Mr Priestley

Mr Priestley reported various incidents of fly tipping, one of which included a suicide note which had been very worrying. Dog fouling had taken up time but once people are spoken to they usually pick up the waste. Of concern was the increase in the use of "hippy crack", a legal high involving laughing gas. It gives a 30 second high then the user is plunged into a down. This can lead to it being taken again and deaths have resulted. It was noted, though a legal high, hippy crack was very dangerous. It kills brain cells and can cause heart failure. He cautioned the community to be alert to this youth culture phenomenon.

Mr Priestley announced he was taking voluntary redundancy offered by KCC as part of the revision of Warden services. His last day of work in Ash would be Friday this week.

Q: What is the situation about a replacement Warden?

A: 2 community Wardens would in future cover the whole of the Dover area.

The Chairman acknowledged Mr Priestley's long association with the Ash community and expressed both his appreciation and sadness that the parish was to lose his services. He thanked both PCSO Lee and KCC Warden Priestley for their reports and they left the meeting.

15.04 2015 in the Parish

- 1) The Chequer Inn: The Chairman noted that in January the parish council had been successful obtaining Asset of Community Value status for the Chequer Inn, then in March it was de-listed as a community asset following the owner's appeal. There was no consultation on the appeal which had not been known about. Further, the ruling had stated the decision was final with no further appeal possible.
- 2) The Outdoor Gym: the Chairman had covered this in his initial report.
- 3) Beating the Bounds: The Chairman indicated specific information on this event, to be held on Saturday October 3rd, would be forthcoming later in the summer. There would be notices on village notice boards. Once these appeared, to help with ordering boats, he asked that parishioners please register their names so numbers could be known. Walkers needed to bring their own food. Whilst the Dog and Duck was en route and served food, the opening time of their lunch service might not coincide with the timing of walkers.
- 4) Resilience Plan for Ash: Mr Whitburn outlined efforts in parts of Kent to prepare Resilience Plans, originally stimulated by the flooding experienced in villages such as Yalding. It wasn't however applicable only to flooding. Staplehurst for example had had a serious fire in the village centre. A Plan could bring together a network of people who knew where vulnerable people in the community were, information that would enable emergency services to attend more quickly to those in need.
Mr Foat told how the government had asked for two names as emergency contacts back in the 1970s, one of whom was himself, the other now deceased. It was time for younger people to take this up if the community was interested in developing a Plan to help in times of community need.
- 5) Neighbourhood Development Plan: Mr Turner, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee, reported the Plan allowed parishioners to put forward their ideas of how the community should develop. After the initial impetus, progress on the Plan had slowed. It needed people from the community to help complete it. The target was to finish it within the next couple of years.

Q: Does the Plan take in sites already decided?

A: The DDC plans are decided for 7 years.

Q: Where are houses to be developed in Ash?

A: At the top of Chequer Lane from the current houses as far as the bypass, and, the land in New St where the electrical goods shop is, back to the Ash side of Agrii.

Two parishioners commented that the Plan seemed to be taking a long time and there was a need to pick up the speed. Sites had already been allocated and without a Plan Ash wasn't able to influence where these were. A third parishioner commented it was not too late to make a difference, for example, near Gloucester the late acceptance of a parish plan led to a proposed development of 5000 houses becoming 100.

15.05 Report from local charities and trusts:

- 1) Ash United Charities – Mrs Smith

Mrs Smith reported that since the original 1642 bequest from Richard Camden, 373 years of prudent budgeting had put the Ash United Charities into a very healthy financial position. She outlined changes to the Committee and thanked the retiring clerk, Tony Stickells who over the years had given so much help to the Charities.

The Resthaven Charity founded in June 1973 provides four bungalows at 11-17 Queens Road for occupation by needy married couples or a surviving spouse, not less than 60 years old, or needy widows or spinsters, with preference given to residents of Ash. The 4 bungalows have been occupied all year. Residents at present make weekly maintenance contributions, plus a weekly charge for heating and lighting. Having new boilers installed in each property had resulted in less maintenance expenditure than in recent years. The roof will need an extensive overhaul soon but the trustees are confident funds are in hand to meet this substantial expense. The income for the year to 31st December 2014 was £23,433 and the expenditure was £8,741, giving a surplus of £14,692. After £9,272 was set aside for repairs and maintenance, the net surplus was £5,420. Current reserves are valued at £127,879.

The Frank Kingsland Trust

The trustees of Ash United Charities are ex-officio trustees of the Frank Kingsland's Trust for the Elderly since the aims of the trust are similar to those relating to the Resthaven Almshouses. The Trust owns two bungalows in Ash, 48 Chilton Field and 43 Chequer Lane for occupation by needy people who are elderly or physically disabled. Preference is given to married couples who are currently resident or have in the past been resident in Ash parish, particularly Westmarsh. Both bungalows have been fully occupied during the year and the occupants have not changed.

The Trustees set the weekly maintenance contributions from residents at a level to cover costs and build up reserves to meet future repair costs. This year a small increase to the weekly maintenance contributions was again made. A surplus was achieved for the year and the Trust's reserves continue to improve, currently at £69,246.

The Ash Benevolent Fund exists as the result of a number of small endowments made in the 19th century to help the poor of the parish with purchases such as coal. Amalgamated into a single fund around 1970, the fund now stands at £12,000. Income generated supports specific endowments including the upkeep of a family memorial, and the north transept stained glass window of St Nicholas Church. Other income is used to meet cases of need brought to the attention of trustees.

A summary of the accounts of all the above charities was available at the meeting.

2) Jack Foat Trust – Mrs Vallack

Mrs Vallack advised that the audited accounts available to inspect were to 31 March 2014 with the total assets valued at £1,379,490.

During the 2014/15 financial year, several projects had received financial help from the Trust totalling £41,600, the most ever distributed in one year aside from the school rebuilding project in 2005/06. These were

- £25,000 to the Cartwright and Kelsey school for the Nursery play area;
- £8,000 to the Parish Council towards the cost of the outdoor gym;
- £6,650 to the Cricket Club for new nets;
- £800 to the Village Hall towards improving the curtain track mechanism, and
- £1,150 to the Parochial Church Council to convert the church clock to automatic working. As the only public clock in the village, this is regarded as the parish clock.

These projects were in keeping with the Trust's objects, being appropriate charitable purposes for the benefit of the Parish of Ash.

3) Ash Educational Charities – Mr Pratt

Mr Pratt reported that the charity's assets of £173,000 were invested safely but weren't producing much income. The old school in The Street remained the principal source of income. The charity helped young people in the village including support for school

educational outings for those who might otherwise not go. Book and other grants had totalled £2,375, leaver bibles £119 and £1800 was still to go to the school towards last year's annual trip.

15.06. Ash and Westmarsh Village Halls' Reports

1) Ash Village Hall – Mr Tony Jones

The AVH Management Committee had almost a full complement of members and Mr Jones had completed his first full year as Chairman. Annie Hunt had retired as Treasurer, and thanks were given for her many years of hard work. She was being replaced by Lorraine Layton. Sadly the Hall Committee had lost Evelyn Rumley who'd given over 30 years of service, some as Vice-Chairman.

Hirings remained buoyant though lettings were slightly down on last year due to a number of groups like the Youth Club disbanding. However there were new groups like Baby Ballet for pre-schoolers starting up.

The annual Panto had been a great success, entertaining over 500 people allowing the Hall to contribute over £500 to the MS Therapy Centre in Canterbury

The accounts for 2014 showed a net loss of £3,508. Expense on outside repairs and decoration grew with repairs to the Turret adding £1900 and the cast iron guttering, believed to be original, required Blacksmith made replacement brackets and nails. Internally, all the woodwork in the main hall was repaired and repainted and the folding stage doors were removed for safety reasons. A new stage curtain rail had been installed with financial help from NAP and the Jack Foat Trust and two new ovens were installed in the kitchen. There'd been problems with subsidence of the carpark wall and anyone who could offer advice on this repair work was invited to make contact.

Mr Jones extended thanks to the Parish Council for its continuous financial support of the Hall and for a generous donation from the Bryan Roots Estate.

2) Westmarsh Village Hall

There was no representative or report from Westmarsh Village Hall.

15.07. Cartwright & Kelsey School Report – Mr Mathew Crick, Headmaster

The school continues 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 is offered, the school also provides excellent nursery and childcare provision for children aged 2-4. The successful breakfast and after-school childcare offers places to children aged 2-12 providing a safe, stimulating and caring environment. Following the decision by Aylesham Community Project to shift the focus of their activities the school is now working with the Dover Children's Centre to offer weekly sessions for children aged 0-2 and their parents. The health visitor holds two sessions a week at the school.

The nursery continues to provide high quality provision. The extension of session times to 3 hours has made it easier for parents to take full advantage of their 15 hours per week entitlement.

At a time when a drop in the number of children in the Sandwich area saw admission numbers in some schools fall well below their planned admission numbers, the school reception class was full last September. The performance tables show the phonics scores broadly in line with national and local results. For 7 year olds there were improvements in reading and writing and performance in reading, writing and maths was above the national and local averages.

For 11 year olds the number of children achieving above floor targets for reading writing and maths combined rose markedly due to improvements in writing and maths.

Mr Crick was pleased to report the school is frequently in the press for the right reasons giving the public an insight into some of the things happening in school that enrich the

learning experience enjoyed by the children. Mr Crick expressed his gratitude for the time Jenny Taylor puts in making sure the school's profile remains high in this regard.

Last year a successful prayer day was held in St Nicholas Church. A similar event would be held in the summer, once again to be open to all members of the community to share.

The children had made educational visits to Canterbury, Deal, Dover Kent and Margate as part of their learning. These visits have been supported by the Trustees of the Education Charities and the hard-working PTFA. The first ever Ash Bake Off was a great success, especially because it involved so many people not directly linked to the school.

Schools continue to face profound changes due to government policy. Last year the government published a new primary curriculum. With the other local schools, Ash Cartwright & Kelsey has worked hard to maintain the cohesiveness that has served children in the Sandwich area so well. A school must play a pivotal part in the life of the community it serves.

Q: Can you explain the use of teaching assistants who are not qualified?

A: The requirement is to employ qualified teachers or if unqualified must be working towards a qualification. The school's policy is to use qualified staff where possible. There are very few occasions when teaching assistants would take a class.

Q: With 200 houses coming to Ash, is there room for more children at the school?

A: The number of houses doesn't tend to generate the number of children expected. Having personal transport means children can stay in their existing schools and there is a general social shift where the number of children in houses is reducing. The current roll at the school is 188, leaving 22 places across the school.

15.08. There were no resolutions for which written notice had been given

15.09 The future for Kent libraries

Mr Loffman reported from the Sandwich Library Guild meeting which Kent County Councillor Mike Hill had attended. The future of libraries lay with Cllr Hill; it was his decision and need not go any further than him to a council meeting. Cllr Hill had agreed the details in the consultation paper were limited, making a considered response difficult.

It was clear the consultation options were about KCC reducing its budgets with the preference for a charitable Trust to run libraries. A Trust was not subject to rates which would reduce running costs. The Guild saw a problem combining libraries with Registry and Archives. Income was possible only from Registry services which would need a separate process to go into a charitable Trust. Other concerns were the lack of detail about trustees. Cllr Hill had said there was a partially completed business plan which Mr Loffman wanted to see when finished. The legislative framework requires local authorities to be responsible for certain things, so it appeared trustees would be limited in the decisions they could make. The only way to make money would be with Registry services and through assets such as buildings whether through rents or the spectre of sale.

There remained concerns about going down the charitable route rather than professional management. Mr Loffman felt there was significantly more information needed to properly appraise the merits or otherwise of Cllr Hill's proposal. Sadly it appeared the Charity structure was going ahead without regard to submissions from the public.

Mr Loffman concluded by saying the community could be proud of what Sally the librarian did with the Ash library. It was part of a connected network important to library management.

Q: What was happening with Sandwich Library?

A: It will be shut for roof repairs from 2nd May to the end of July

A parishioner commented on a Somerset village with a Neighbourhood Development Plan and Resilience Plan. The local library had been identified as a key focal point for getting together and sharing information especially for people who didn't use the internet. It was key

to the village as a community hub and they had secured grant funding to keep the library going.

15.10 Kent County Councillor Mr Leyland Ridings – report and question time

Mr Ridings was unexpectedly absent from the meeting. His report was provided as an item on the display boards, as follows:

KCC is rapidly transforming into a Commissioning Authority, a process which should be completed by 2017/18. The Authority has had to make savings of £350m over the four years 2011/12 – 2014/15 and it anticipates having to make further savings over the next three years of £206m, a combined total of well over £550,000,000.

Council Tax will increase by 1.99% in 2015/16 and probably at much the same rate until 2017/18.

KCC non-schools STE head count has declined from 9,944 in April 2011 to 7,939 in October 2014 – a drop of approximately 2000.

Over the next few years KCC is looking at significant capital expenditure on broadband (£10m) matched by Central Government grant of £10m giving 91% superfast broadband across the County (universal coverage of 2MB or better).

Installation of LED street lighting across the county, continuance of Community Wardens, further improvements in Social Care for adults and children.

Finally, KCC have come in under budget for the last 10 years, including this year, on a total annual spend of just under £1bn

15.11 Dover District Councillors Mr Trevor Bartlett, Mrs Sue Chandler and Mr Mike Conolly – report and question time

On behalf of the District Councillors, Mrs Chandler expressed thanks to KCC Warden Priestley, whose departure from the meeting was accompanied by a round of applause.

Mrs Chandler reported the 2014-15 regeneration agenda was bearing fruit and the new centre in Dover should be open by the end of 2016. There was good progress on The Western Heights project, the Hadlow College site in Betteshanger and the Hammill site development. Discovery Park had attracted new business tenants and now had 2200 jobs on site.

Kearsney Abbey was the most visited attraction in the district and the renovation project once completed would enhance its appeal as a destination still further.

Overall financially the Council was in good health. Parking charges throughout the district remained unchanged. Due to surpluses in the Housing Revenue Account, DDC would be able to deliver 500 affordable homes in the district.

The finalizing of the Land Allocations Plan had brought with it security in knowing where housing development would occur. The Salvatori site would deliver 73 houses in Preston with Salvatori's relocation to Aylesham, reducing lorry movements to and from Preston and its surrounding roads. The traffic benefits would reach far wider than Preston.

Clinical Commissioning Groups, groups of GPs who planned local health services including emergency and urgent care services, were working with KCC and DDC to enhance care support in the district.

Mrs Chandler extended the district councillors' thanks to the retiring parish councilors, in particular Nigel Whitburn whose knowledge had been of great personal assistance during her time on the parish council.

Q: What are the Health and Wellbeing Boards doing? What are the prospects for GP practices offering Saturday services given reports there are difficulties recruiting new GPs?

A: A Health and Wellbeing Board brings together clinical commissioning groups, district and county councils, and the voluntary and community sector, including HealthWatch, to improve the health and wellbeing of their specific population. Local HWBs focus on neighbourhood-level health needs, priorities and gaps in service

provision. There are 2 local HWBs in Dover District, the South Kent Coast HWB and Canterbury and Coast HWB. Cllr Chandler sits on both Boards. Ash and Sandwich surgeries elected to be covered by the Canterbury and Coastal Board.

Surgeries are encouraged to extend their hours to allow better access for people who work during the surgery's standard working hours. But recruiting GPs to East Kent is difficult. The HWB is working with medical schools to establish greater links with East Kent but it will take time for improvements to flow through. The Canterbury & Coastal HWB made an effort to impact on A & E admissions by extending its hours and it wasn't overwhelmed over the winter such as was reported for other areas.

Q: How will more housing be handled by the surgery?

A: Housing sites in the Land Allocations Plan still require detailed planning permission including assessment of local facilities such as school placements, doctors surgeries, drainage, water supply considerations. A formula is used in the assessment.

Q: We hear about 90 new houses in Chequer Lane. Where is this information for the ordinary person? How does the ordinary person understand what is happening? What will happen to the Scout Hut? We want to see it saved.

A: All policy documentation is on the Dover District Council website. There are guidelines and conditions to be applied to the Chequer Lane development site. One condition of development is replacing the Scout Hut.

Q: What about the moral conscience of developers! Is it in writing?

A: It is more substantial than relying on moral conscience. Yes it is in writing. There is a condition in the policy document that the Scout Hut must be part of the application the developers put in. Planners will ensure conversations about the Scout Hut will take place early on.

Q: Who do the planners go to for information?

A: Be assured your district councillors will ensure the requirements on the developers are kept.

Q: What can the Neighbourhood Development Plan do when there is this Land Allocations Plan already?

A: It sits alongside the Land Allocations Plan. Worth already have a Neighbourhood Development Plan. It can be read online on the website which will show how it works at the local level with the LAP at the district level.

Mr Foat stated that the parish council would strongly advocate on the matter of the Scout Hut and thanked the District Councillors for their efforts on behalf of the parish during the year.

15.12 Any Other Business Concerned with Parish Affairs

A spokesman for The Friends of St Nicholas Church asked if he could remind the meeting of the annual Art Exhibition in May, reportedly one of the "biggest and best in Kent" with over 800 people in attendance previously. There would be a café in the church, 450 exhibits, and the tower would be open. He explained the Friends aim to provide funds to support the fabric of the church, raising money from events like Race Night and Shuffleboard Night. Anyone who wanted to join the Friends, to get involved, was most welcome to do so.

There being no other business, the Chairman, thanked all those attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.03pm.