

Newsletter

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Spring 2008

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Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 21 May 2008

Fenn Bell Function Room, 7pm

The Annual Parish Meeting is the statutory once-a-year meeting for the people of the parish. It is arranged by the Parish Council, whose Chairman chairs the meeting and whose Clerk drafts the agenda and takes the minutes. However, it is not the Parish Council's meeting; it is YOUR meeting. Please come and raise any matter you like.

Below you will find the Agenda, Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2007 and the Parish Council's Audited Accounts for the year to 31 March 2007.

The meeting will be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting. Yes, we know it's confusing! This is the annual meeting where the Chairman is elected for the following year and where councillors' memberships of committees and representations on outside bodies are sorted out. Once this has been done, normal business resumes. Members of the public are entitled to attend any meeting of the Parish Council as observers, but they may not take part in discussions. With this caveat, please do stay for this meeting too.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14 May 2007
3. To receive the Financial Statement of the Parish Council's Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2007
4. Chairman's Annual Report
5. Other business at the Chairman's discretion

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 MAY 2007 AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, THE STREET, HIGH HALSTOW AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Mrs M Stanney, Chairman; Cllrs Bill Budd, Bob Beckey, Mrs Kit Johnson, Bill Khatkar; Mrs Roxana Brammer, Parish Clerk; one member of the

public

Mrs Stanney welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES.** An apology for absence was received from Cllr Phil Filmer, Medway Council.

2. **MINUTES.** The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2006 having been

circulated, it was proposed by Cllr Budd seconded by Cllr Hickey and agreed they were a true account of that meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. **ACCOUNTS.** The Financial Statement of the Parish Council's Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006 were received. No

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questions were asked.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Mrs Stanney read her report:

"The past year has seen a change of Clerk. We said good-bye to Eric Woodards through ill-health and after 51 years a well-deserved retirement. We welcome Roxana Brammer who will no doubt be a big asset to the Parish Council and will hopefully stay and be happy here.

Biffa's Shakespeare Farm landfill site re-opened in January and we have our first liaison meeting at the end of the month.

There were no major decisions to make this past year but we still do not get any co-operation from Medway Council about Fenn Croft and we must keep alert for any changes or developments we have not been consulted on, especially the industrial estate.

As you know I did not stand for re-election and feel that after 50 years of being with parish councils it was time to stand down. Thanks to all the people I have worked with. I have thoroughly enjoyed it and I wish you all well."

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. No matters were raised.

Cllr Bill Budd made a presentation to Mrs Stanney on behalf of his fellow councillors in recognition of her years with the Parish Council and all she had done. A vote of thanks was proposed by Cllr Beckey.

The Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.20 pm

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2007

	2007/8	2006/7
RECEIPTS		
Precept	3,000.00	1,500.00
Bank interest	58.39	43.43
Rural Liaison Grant	500.00	250.00
Magazine income	750.25	
Other income	0.00	0.00
VAT reclaimed	66.06	350.12
	<u>4,374.70</u>	<u>2,143.55</u>
PAYMENTS		
Clerk's salary	1,355.44	680.02
Clerk's reimbursable expenses	283.60	233.26
Section 137	125.00	350.00
Rural Liaison Grant	175.00	250.00
Other expenses	2,087.51	1,348.64
Magazine Expenses	1,061.25	
VAT paid	33.69	81.90
	<u>5,121.49</u>	<u>2,943.82</u>
Excess income over expenditure	-746.79	-800.27
BANK BALANCES		
Current Account	214.48	601.58
Business Premium Account	<u>2,906.57</u>	<u>3,848.18</u>
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	<u>3,121.05</u>	<u>4,449.76</u>

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the Council as at 31 March 2007 and reflects its receipts and payments throughout the year.

Approved by the Council

14 May 2007

Village Pond

As many of you will have seen, work continues on the village pond. This is being organised by the Parish Council's Amenity Committee. Volunteers spent most of the May Day Bank Holiday weekend working on the roadside fence. Work on the rest of the fence will be carried out during the summer and the pond will be dredged in the autumn. Most of the cost of this work will be recovered through monies reserved from Medway's Rural Liaison Grant and as the labour is free, there will be little cost to residents. The pond, green and conservation area (at Fenn Corner) are however the responsibility of the Parish Council and grants will not always be there to pay for routine maintenance. Future budgetary provision will have to be made.

The Parish Council would like to thank all volunteers, amongst whom were: Andrew, Erna, Marika & Ilse Lapthorn; Tim & Carol Weedon; Alan & Brenda Clarke; James & Charlotte George; Paul Hassell; Sarah; Cathy; Nick.

On the next page you will find "Pond Life" written by our Pond Wardens and before and after photos, taken by James George. More photos can be viewed on the Parish Council's website www.stmaryhoo-pc.gov.uk



