

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Doddinghurst held on Thursday, 16th April 2015, in the Parish Room, Church Lane, Doddinghurst, CM150NJ.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Present: Clr Dicker (Chairman) Roger Blake (Clerk), Clarrie Tremain (Deputy Clerk) and 7 members of the public including those presenting reports as below.

Apologies from: Borough Councillor Keith Parker and County and Borough Councillor Ann Naylor; Ingrid Nicholson, Head of the Infants School; Gary Waplington, Deputy Chair of the Village Hall and Chairman of the Doddinghurst Olympics Football Club and Karen Powell representing the uniformed groups. Where provided written reports were read and are attached to the minutes.

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10th April 2014

Approved and signed

2. Matters arising from the Minutes.

None

3. Reviews of 2013/14 from:

(a) **Chairman of the Parish Council - Clr Mrs Debbie Dicker** – please see the attached report given in person.

(b) **Village Hall - Vice Chairman, Mr Gary Waplington.** – written report submitted.

(c) **Brentwood Borough Council - Clr Roger McCheyne** – Report presented in person as follows:

The Neighbourhood Action Teams continued to work well and Essex County Council were now doing work to improve the local roads. The Parish Council had completed the replacement of the playground equipment and both the County and Borough Council had contributed to it financially. The current delays to re-opening Doddinghurst Road was due to interworking requirements between Affinity water, who were replacing water mains and gas monitoring as the water mains were close to major gas pipes. Ringway Jacobs were scheduled to surface dress the roads later in the summer. Some issues were dragging along, in particular issues at Water Works Spring, where the Essex environmental agency were reluctant to take action. On the Brentwood Borough Local Development Plan it was a plain fact that the Borough had to plan for the construction of houses over the next 15 years but Doddinghurst had infrastructure limitations in the scale of the main access roads, the schools, the drainage, and power supplies. On the whole the village remained a most pleasant place to be despite occasional unwelcome visitors such as the Travellers who occupied Peartree Field in the summer. They departed following an eviction order after 5 days but left piles of rubbish for the villagers to clear away.

(d) **Essex County Council - Clr Ann Naylor** - no report given (due to purdah).

(e) **All Saints Church** - Rev Ann Coleman as given in person, please see attached report.

(f) **Doddinghurst Infants School** – Ingrid Nicholson, written report presented by Mrs Margaret Cooper - see attached.

(g) **Doddinghurst C of E (VC) Junior School** – Mrs Margaret Cooper given in person, see attached.

(h) **Dagwood Trust - Mr Tony Woodford** – presented in person as below.

Once again this has been a quiet year. We have at last now got a new vicar in the church who will be our president, and have appointed a new treasurer and secretary so we can now function properly.

As usual we will contribute to the bibles presented to the school leavers but this year we propose to contribute the full cost instead of only half. At the last full meeting we agreed that the money returned to us from the war memorial fund (they had a surplus donated) plus an additional amount, would be donated to the church balls fund. We also agreed to make a donation to the Parish Council towards the completion of the children's play area in the park.

(i) **Doddinghurst Olympic Football Club** – written report by Gary Waplington, see attached

(j) **Scouting/Uniformed Groups.** – **Karen Powell** – Written report for the uniform group, see attached.

(k) **Neighbourhood Watch – Peter Fisk and Peter Salmon** – presented the Neighbourhood Watch report in person, see attached.

4. Matters raised by electors at the meeting.

A resident raised concerns at changes made to the school bus transport arrangements whereby bus transport to only the nearest school to a pupil's home will be funded by Essex County Council. Parents were not aware of the changes in funding when making school choices and a small additional distance between schools would mean that the entire cost of the journey would have to be funded by parents. Brentwood County High, deemed to be the closest school to Doddinghurst, would be fully funded for transport but parents would receive no help for transport to any of: Shenfield Technical, St Martins or The Ursuline.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.00.

Signed:

Dated 14th April 2016

Written reports follow:

Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report for 2014/15

Dear Resident,

Once again I am writing to you with an update of the Parish Council's activities over the past year and about other matters that are in the immediate future.

After saving for at least four years the work to refurbish the Children's Playground was finally completed with new and exciting equipment installed. The playground was opened by the children of the Infant and Junior schools last autumn and we were very lucky on the day with the weather. Brentwood Gazette featured the opening event and gave a super write-up with lovely pictures of the children enjoying their first use of the new equipment. The next round of work on the playground is to replace the wooden playchips with modern "safer surfacing" and we are planning to include some seats, which we hope will survive longer than their predecessors! We have had very good responses to the new play area but would like to know if there is yet more equipment the children would welcome?

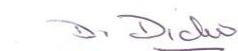
As you should all be aware Brentwood Borough Council is preparing a new Local Development Plan for an additional 6000 houses to be built in the Borough over the next 15 years. Hopefully you filled in and returned the questionnaire on the proposals circulated for comment in January. The Parish Council is monitoring progress and attending any meetings about the plan and will keep you informed on progress. If you want us to email you about key events relating to the village let us know your email address and home address by contacting clerk@doddinghurst-pc.gov.uk. At the moment the only site planned for development is the old doctor's surgery on Outing Lane. All the other proposed sites are on Green Belt. Doddinghurst started a Neighbourhood Plan to assess the village needs 3 years ago but this has been held in abeyance by the slow progress of the Brentwood Local Development Plan since a Neighbourhood Plan cannot succeed in contradicting the Borough Council Local Plan.

Our yearly May Fair on the 4th May 2015 will once again take place, with the Infant's School children dancing around the Maypole; village clubs and charities in the Village Hall; together with tea, coffee and cakes made and served by the wonderful ladies who always give up their time for all the Parish Council events in the village. We hope to see you all on that day.

Next year, in May 2016, the four year term of the existing Parish Councillors comes to an end with a full election of new councillors being held. This is still a year away but time will quickly pass and whilst we will be keeping residents informed of the May 2016 election please get in touch if you are interested in becoming a Councillor and want to know more. There will be a Parish Council stall at the May Fair answering questions about the role of the Councillors and again, later in the year, outside Budgens Supermarket. It is vital that we have an active and effective Parish Council. It exists to represent and support residents on a whole raft of issues, for example: Planning development, Waste Management, Aircraft movement, Street Scene; Bus, Police and NHS services - as well as managing almost all the recreational land in the Village. All the Councillors are unpaid volunteers who bring their individual experience to a table that totals eleven people and who form the ground roots of local government.

I look forward to speaking with you in village and hope you will come to some of our Council meetings held in the Parish Room adjacent the Village Hall.

With every good wish to you all,



Deborah Dicker, Chairman Doddinghurst Parish Council

16th March 2015

Doddinghurst Village Hall - 2014-2015 report

A familiar paragraph of the last few years yet again the economic climate has taken its toll, although we seem to be on a road to recovery, allowing the hall to survive.

We have managed to maintain the regular hirers but again the much needed lucrative events have been few and far between, but are on the up. These events are crucial to allow us to move on and update the hall and carry out essential repairs.

The local groups continue to support the Hall including Pre-school, Doddinghurst Olympics Football Club, Tuesday Bowls Club, Sparkles, Tea Dances as well as Line Dancing and Ballroom Dancing.

The May Fair was once again supported demonstrating exactly how versatile and functional the Village Hall is and can be.

The bar continues to be the main profit making enterprise allowing us to re-invest in the halls upkeep, albeit as I said earlier functions are down.

On the function side we have staged two weddings in the last year and they have been excellent functions the hirers making full use of all the hall facilities and fully decorating with drapes and lighting it made the hall a very proud sight.

On the maintenance front, with the aid of a £3500 community grant from Brentwood Borough Council Community Support fund we were able to purchase new outside fencing at a cost of £6500. Once we have re planted further shrubbery this fence will blend in (It had to be functional and sturdy - to cope with everyday use)

We are currently in the process of updating our electrical systems some work is complete and further works will be conducted during half terms. Other works are required but these will happen once funds are available.

We continued to maintain our legal requirements.

Talking of frugal budgets, it must be remembered that the committee all work on a voluntary basis and we always welcome prospective members, it would be fair to say at the moment committee members are extremely thin on the ground and it is becoming very important that new persons are recruited to maintain the status of the hall, without additional members it is very difficult to run and items get overlooked owing to other commitments so if you or anyone you know of is willing to offer a few hours a week then please contact us we are only too willing for them to join us.

I thank the committee for their work in managing and maintaining the hall and of course our 'Village Supporters' who hire and use the hall.

The hall continues to support the community well albeit I have to say often taken for granted, people often use its facilities without thinking of costs involved and are quick to moan when a problem occurs (i.e. use of car park) so as I mentioned last year to sit back and hope that it will last a further 60 years would be foolhardy.

This is a precious village resource and we look forward to continued support from the village and local community, both now and in the future.

Yours,

Gary Waplinton

Annual report to the Parish Council from

All Saints Church, Doddinghurst

Under the 'Transforming Presence' initiative in the Chelmsford Diocese, parishes are being grouped together to foster more focused work in mission and ministry. In February the Revd Mark James, already incumbent of Kelvedon Hatch, Bentley Common and Navestock, was licensed as Priest in Charge of Doddinghurst. I was licensed as Associate Priest, on a House for Duty basis, at all four churches but with special responsibility for Doddinghurst. The covenant between the Roman Catholic, Methodist and Anglican Churches still stands and indeed grows stronger as we move forward together. The Church of England is committed to having a Christian presence in every local community in the country. Here in Doddinghurst, the Church of All Saints offers a warm welcome to everyone at its services and other community events. It also keeps the church building open during the week for prayer and quiet reflection.

It has been a delight to move into Doddinghurst and to find such a lively and active community both at All Saints and also in the village. During the interregnum the congregation at All Saints pulled together, supported by the other covenant churches within the village and local clergy.

Many members are involved in ministry within the church and wider community. Some with the running of uniformed organisations, others in local clubs and committees and some in planning fund raising events and activities. I have also been impressed by the pastoral care that goes on, often quietly and unobtrusively, but so important to the building up of community.

The Church has continued to foster its links with both infant and junior schools. Members of the congregations from the Anglican, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches have presented 'Open the Book' assemblies in the Junior School and Messy Church sessions twice termly in the Infant School.

During the next few months all Anglican churches in the Diocese has been asked to report of how they are developing in worship, spirituality, nurture, evangelism, vocation, service, hospitality, interdependence and generosity. This is a major piece of work for our PCC and congregation and we will, I am sure, have more to say about that in the future.

Last year's report looked forward to the completion and dedication of the War Memorial. It is good to report that the Memorial is in place and the work completed. The Archdeacon of Chelmsford, the Ven. David Lowman conducted the service of dedication on Saturday 6th September to a packed church, even spilling out into the grounds. This was truly a wonderful celebration of the financial and moral commitment of the community to those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice in the two great wars.

The clearing of the Church grounds in which the memorial stands has been a major piece of work over the past year. The transformation has been amazing and thanks to the work of Caroline Seville and her team we now have a place of beauty and peace which people can enjoy.

Members of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies have been making a record of the contents of All Saints highlighting particular interesting features.

We have just begun a process to have the ancient bells restored so they can be rung for weddings and special occasions.

It has been a busy and fruitful year and there are lots of things to think about and plan for the future.

The Revd Ann Coleman

DODDINGHURST INFANT SCHOOL -

REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL 2014/15

It was an exciting start to the academic year when I was proud to be appointed as the new Head Teacher of the infant school.

It has been an exciting and challenging start, but with the support of my talented and committed staff, and our new governing body. We gave a special welcome to our new members of staff Mrs Piper and Mrs Childs who have fitted into our staff team and continue to help us all provide an exciting learning environment for our children.

September also saw the introduction of free school meals for all infant School children, challenging when you have limited space. We were fortunate in having the Junior School come to our rescue and undertake a refurbishment of their kitchen to provide health nutritious meals for our children. We now have a new Hi Tec dishwasher to help cope with the circa 120 plates that need to be washed!

We are passionate in wanting to support local charities and those close to our school families. In September we supported the Jeans for Genes and McMillian charities. Our school families provided lots of dried food supplies for the Brentwood Food Bank and we all enjoyed dressing in our Onesies for Diabetes. The children enjoyed filling shoe boxes for the Shoe Box appeal and were very generous in their giving.

Our school Council encouraged our families to help us clean up the school grounds and continue to refurbish our school pond area under the expert guidance of Mrs Simmonds.

Congratulations to all our super footballers who played at the District Football Tournament at Shenfield School, with their enthusiasm, determination and skill they qualified for the finals and although they didn't win, it was a tremendous achievement for those so young.

We have introduced Coffee and Chat sessions for our parents to discuss how we can strengthen our school community. Our fund raising continues with the support of our long standing members and our newly adopted parents, they have continued to help us raise funds for the school.

December proved to be a very busy month with the children sing to the shoppers in Lakeside to help raise funds for the school. The opening of the new park Playground where the school council and some of the Junior children had a wonderful surprise when they were taken to the grand opening. They were thrilled when told they could be the first to try the new equipment. The zip wire proved to be the most popular choice! The children would like to say a **BIG** thank you to the Parish Council for raising the funds for this. The year ended with the wonderful performance of 'Midwife Crisis', the children performed fantastically and we hope to see some in years to come on the West end stage.

The New Year started with a big birthday celebration on Wednesday 7th January when our school turned 45, another excuse for cake! The Year 1 and 2 children's historical learning was enhanced with the visit of 'History of the Page', when they had first-hand experience of a Victorian Christmas and the experience of The Great Fire of London.

We continue to welcome new families into our school not only those who have moved into the village but also those who find our community so welcoming they travel in, to be part of this wonderful learning experience.

The year 1 children are starting on their journey to learn the skills of Maypole dancing and we all look forward to sharing with the parish council and the local community the wonderful opportunities we have had and will have in the following months ahead.

Doddinghurst Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Junior School

Headteacher: Mrs. M. Cooper B.Ed. (Hons) M.A in Ed NPQH

Report to the community of Doddinghurst April 2015



What an exciting year Doddinghurst C. of E. Junior School has experienced so far. Each year the curriculum gets more and more enjoyable and our dedicated team have a wonderful time teaching our young learners. This year we were able to introduce the new creative curriculum with wonderful skills being taught to all age groups, such as coding in computing.

Our relationship with the Infants has continued to grow strong and with the appointment of the new head in September, Mrs. Nicholson, we have strengthened the links between Key Stage One and Key Stage two even further. Our parents understand the importance of both schools offering the Primary Package and we work hard together to show what that means and how transition from one to the other is smooth and natural. Our Guardian Angel system where Year 5 pupils are linked to Year 2 pupils helps nurture a great respect for all ages and assists the year 2's when they join us in September.

Our kitchen went live in September with the two schools winning a grant to set up a working kitchen in the Junior School. This has been a difficult task due to the tight time scale depicted by the government, however, it is looking successful and many pupils in the infants who are entitled to a free school dinner are taking up the offer. With delicious food being cooked on site many more juniors are also experimenting with the menu system and enjoying fresh, nutritious meals at lunchtime. We invited parents to come along to a special meal with their child just before Easter and that was a huge success. I am pleased to announce the successful building project of a link corridor conservatory on to the Year 6 block of the school. This is the oldest part of the school and we felt by adding this useful and attractive conservatory it has enhanced the original building and will benefit our pupils immensely. I am very pleased with the outcome and it should be completed in the next month.

We have continued to celebrate events and successes of the school in the local newspaper. These articles are important for the community as well as our pupils as they can see what we are doing and the enjoyment that it brings to our pupils and their families. We recently had a carnival day with the pupils using the two languages that we teach and researching in to carnivals around the world. It was an excellent day, captured by the press, and will be memorable for all involved.

Our wonderful Neighbourhood Watch team at Doddinghurst have continued to come in to school and spread the word. Every Spring the team delivers five workshops to our pupils in Year 5 and the focus is always on Safety awareness and what it means to be a good citizen. Our Year 5 children enjoy every minute and Peter Fisk, Peter Salmon and their team make a great difference to the knowledge and understanding surrounding this subject, not just for our local community but also beyond the areas of Doddinghurst.

The opening of the new playground was a great event for the schools. Children attended with Mrs. Debbie Dicker and showed their appreciation with great comments and a poem to remember the day. Now it is so lovely to hear our children talking about visiting the park on their way home with their families and making full use of the equipment.

The school continues to blossom and grow. We had a successful OFSTEd in 2013 and came out with a Good grading overall with Outstanding in behaviour. We have established a successful approach to learning and our pupils and staff follow the two R's - Respect and Responsibility. We love visiting our beautiful church and working alongside the community. This will continue over the coming year and I would like to thank you all for your wonderful contributions towards our school and its successes. We are here to work with you and continue the good work that goes in to making Doddinghurst that special place.

Margaret Cooper (Headteacher)



Doddinghurst Olympics Football Club

CHAIRMANS REPORT 2014 - 2015

Season 2014 – 2015 again a reasonable season, although not finished as yet, not too many problems to speak off.

As a club we supported 12 junior teams, a soccer school and one adult team competing in the Chelmsford Youth League, Brentwood Alliance and the Essex Veterans League. That totals over 150 children and 30 senior players.

I thank the respective leagues for their help throughout the season.

The season is nearly complete and honours being chased are as follows:

U18 Div 1 League Winners - Currently 1st

U18 Cup Finalists

U17 Div 1 League Winners - Currently 1st

U16 Div League Winners - Currently 1st

U15 League Div 3 Winners - Currently 2nd

U14 League Div 4 Currently 3rd

U11 league Div 1 Currently 3rd

Remaining Teams not within leagues (FA Rules)

I have not mentioned any of the other teams individually but needless to say as the Chairman I am extremely proud all our players.

Most importantly most teams currently hold their status in their respective divisions.

We have once again proved that football continues to thrive within Doddinghurst.

I would like this opportunity to thank all our sponsors who I will thank personally; I only hope you are as proud of us as we are of you.

This season we have again continued with the programme of pitch maintenance albeit we have suffered again with the weather.

Fund raising this year has not been of the same standard as previous years and this is one of the areas we need to improve, albeit we did hold a fantastic winter Golf Day.

The presentation day was held in May and yet again a fantastic day, I hope this continues to be a great success.

Probably the biggest thank you is to the managers and committee of the club who work tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of what I think is the most successful organisation within the village, not only supporting the football club itself but other activities within the community, this is not often mentioned but should be recognised this is a community football club and will strive to maintain that status.

On the whole as far as the club goes a good year but maintaining such a high standard is not easy so let's push on for next year. I have to say I have been writing this report for over fifteen years and all those associated with this football club should be extremely proud. We have maintained our standards, always helped others and not suffered many problems.

Once again a big thank you to all the managers, committee members and all those who have helped Doddinghurst Olympic throughout the season 2014– 2015

I wish you all well for the forthcoming season 2015 - 2016.

Gary Waplinton
Chairman

1st Doddinghurst Scout Group 2014-2015 Report

I am pleased to report that our Beaver Colony has had 24 members throughout the year and our Cub Pack 25 members, sadly the Scout Section which takes children from the age of 10½ to 14 had a sharp decline in numbers and we currently only have 5 Scouts in the Troop. We took the decision to temporarily move the five scouts over to join Blackmore Scouts and this has been well received by both the scouts and their parents and has also become a first step in the two Scout Groups, Blackmore and Doddinghurst working together. We look forward to our Troop returning to Doddinghurst in the Autumn Term when between 8 and 13 of our existing Cubs will become old enough to move up to the Scout Section and another 3 Scouts will join from our waiting list. An Explorer unit which takes children from the age of 14-18 re-started in Doddinghurst at the start of the Spring Term and they have had a consistent number attend each week mainly from the Navestock area.

We have a total leadership of eight leaders, a reduction of two since last year, across the sections in addition to our Group Scout Leader.

Our garden area continues to be well maintained and we made use of the trees that were cut down last year to make some seating around our campfire circle, Beavers and Cubs make good use of the grounds during the winter months even if it is only just for a short game and during the summer as much of the meeting as possible is spent outdoors. Our facilities are still benefitting the wider community with a Brownie Pack, Guide Unit, Pilates Class and Dance Class held weekly during term time.

Karen Powell
Beaver and Cub Scout Leader
1st Doddinghurst Scout Group

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Doddinghurst Neighbourhood Watch Annual Report 2014-15

Neighbourhood Watch has been much less active in Doddinghurst this year. Our email list has crept up to about 240 addresses now, so we have some presence in approaching 20% of local houses. We have stopped holding monthly meetings due to poor attendance at what was an inconvenient time for working members, so will move our AGM to an evening (Wednesday 20th May at 7:30 pm).

Crime and antisocial behaviour has been low for most of the year with few burglaries or thefts from/of cars in the Parish and little more antisocial behaviour than the travellers fouling the playing field and a bit of graffiti around All Saints Close in the last month or so. Other parishes nearby have not been so lucky.

Police presence continues to dwindle as do their budgets. However, they have found time and money to launch their new Essex Community Messaging system which everyone hopes will enable them and Neighbourhood Watch to send carefully targeted messages by email, text or telephone to subscribers across the county. Members were involved in monitoring the original design and several attended a training session one Saturday at Brentwood Community High School. Sadly the system still needs further corrections and police officer training before it can reach its design aims. In the interim, the police have an excellent website and helpful presence on Twitter.

Another failure to reach its design aims is the flashing "Twenty Is Plenty" sign. The sign was delivered and checked but mounting it required a few substantial brackets and extension pole. We were grateful that Councillor Keith Parker took the job of creating these off our hands and we delivered the sign to his workshop in the summer. However although he reported that the work was approaching completion, we still do not have the sign back ready to install two years after starting research for this initiative.

We have continued to do as much as we can to remind everyone of the need to be aware of common scams, frauds and rogue traders, plus as usual the need to secure ones property. We continued issue email messages, Scary Be Wary posters and articles for The Link magazine. Thanks to help from members we also did a leaflet drop to almost all houses in the Parish and a few properties around Hook End. Thanks also to Roger and Clarrie for help with this, to The Link team for welcoming our regular articles, and to various local businesses for displaying the Scary be Wary posters

This year there were some changes to the work with the school in our contribution to the Year 5 PHSE curriculum. PCSO Kevin Sanderson led the first two sessions but then unexpectedly dropped the remaining booked sessions to go on holiday. The team managed to run the remaining two sessions with the help of teacher Lucy Merchant, exploring different and hopefully better ways of presenting the material as we went along. Lucy seemed to feel that the children found the sessions informative and enjoyable, and if she is still looking after year 5 next year we will be keen to work with her again. We all feel, however that the presence of a uniformed officer is vital to achieve our objective of getting the children to form a constructive relationship with the police and will be pressing the Police loan us an officer for at least one three hour session.

As last year, Peter Salmon has been active in many district-wide Neighbourhood Watch activities as part of a wider initiative called the Community Safety Partnership; the team has again visited various events such as the May Fair and the Friday Coffee mornings.

As folk continue to get caught by frauds and rogue traders, we hope that our AGM will bring new blood into the team with new ideas to push our community safety messages further and make Doddinghurst as crime free as possible.

Peter Fisk 13th Apr 2015

End of Reports