

Westerham Town Council
 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held
 on Wednesday 13th April 2016 at 7.30pm
 at Westerham Hall, Quebec Avenue, Westerham

Present: Councillors: Alan Wesley (Chairman) Helen Ogden (Vice-Chairman), Philip Ashley, Alex Bates, Loretta Bird, Eddie Boyle, Anthony Holman, David Le Breton, Nick Moore, Neil Proudfoot, Linda Rodgers and Stuart Wilkie.

In Attendance: Town Clerk: Angela Howells
 Deputy Clerk: Debbie Marshall
 Assistant Clerk: Deborah Rogers
 Steve Grange: KCC Community Warden
 PCSO Anne KingScott
 Cllr R Parry: Kent County Councillor
 Cllr D Esler: Sevenoaks District Councillor
 Cllr S McGregor: Chairman Edenbridge Town Council
 68 members of the public

1.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> Mr M Fallon MP and WTC Cllr H Marsh.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2015</u> These were signed as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p>Cllr Alan Wesley welcomed everyone to the trial format of the Westerham Annual Meeting Community Engagement Event and thanked them for attending. Cllr Wesley encouraged everyone to talk, mingle, enquire and volunteer with the stall holders :-</p> <p>Kent County Council Environment Agency Kent Police Kent County Council Community Wardens Kent Fire & Rescue Service Sevenoaks Libraries Kent Search & Rescue Citizens Advice, Edenbridge and Westerham Westerham Town Partnership Westerham Society Sevenoaks Dementia Forum Playplace TN16 Blood Runners</p>	

	<p>Food Bank Age UK Buses 4U Community Responders Friends of the Long Pond</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Chairman's report – Cllr Alan Wesley</u></p> <p>Cllr Wesley reported that his full report and those from the Committees were available in the pack provided together with details of Councillors and a list of responsibilities for WTC, KCC and SDC.</p> <p>Cllr Wesley emphasised a number of points from his report:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth vandalism - Westerham was suffering youth vandalism and he emphasised the importance of reporting all incidents of vandalism as no report meant no crime as far as the police were concerned. 2. Moorhouse Tile Works planning application – Whilst this application was refused it was inevitable that further applications would be put forward or an appeal against the refusal. WTC took a lot of credit for influencing the Tandridge District Council refusal but it was likely that there will be the need to repeat the concerted action in the near future. 3. Bypass and housebuilding – Neither of these developments were WTC proposals or WTC sponsored. The current situation was that Squerryes Estate had recently submitted land for housebuilding to SDC as part of SDC's call for sites. In June SDC will publish a list of all the sites offered to them and in spring 2017 there will be the first public consultation on these sites. There was no bypass news as Squerryes were still talking about it to the sandpit operators Monier Redland who currently were liable for the restoration. 4. Gatwick – Another runway would not be good for Westerham. The purpose of a second runway was to double the traffic movements to 560,000 per annum and noise would affect three times as many people. The key decision will be taken this summer, thereafter any debate was only about detail. WTC subscribes to the Gatwick Area Conservation Campaign which continues its opposition via factual research. 5. Finance – The precept for the financial year 2015/16 was £182,600 but WTC spent £250,000. The extra revenue was from rents and grants, therefore Cllr Wesley stated that WTC was good value for money. <p>Cllr Wesley thanked the Councillors and staff for their professional contributions during the year.</p> <p>Cllr Linda Rodgers would be resigning from WTC shortly and Cllr</p>	

	Wesley thanked her for her trenchant service over the past 9 years; she would be missed.	
5.	<p><u>WTC priorities 2016 – 2109</u></p> <p>Cllr Ogden reported that WTC had recently consulted those who lived, worked and visited Westerham regarding what was important to them so WTC could put together a strategy for 2016 – 2019. The first priority was traffic which included traffic calming, bypass, width restrictions, pedestrian crossing, 20mph speed limit, reducing pollution and a footpath along the ring road.</p> <p>The second priority was keeping Westerham attractive and included the appearance of the High street, clearing dog poo, developing the economy, better public loos, improving the lighting, looking after the footpaths and picking up litter.</p> <p>The third priority was supporting community activities including activities for young people, a supermarket, cycle paths, a community centre, a sports centre/swimming pool and events for all Westerham.</p> <p>The fourth priority was transport, more buses to more places and more often.</p> <p>Suggestions were also received to increase parking; more affordable housing; to preserve Westerham's heritage; and to reduce crime and disorder.</p> <p>Cllr Ogden stated that some of these items were already on WTC agenda. Others we will work on and some need us to lobby and influence others. All need us to work with Town organisations and residents, we will keep you updated.</p> <p>The draw was then made for the award winning Squerryes sparkling wine and this was won by Mr I Sheffield.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Open Session</u></p> <p>Q – Mrs Oram asked WTC to remember that not all residents were on the internet and would like to receive printed information.</p> <p>A – Cllr Wesley replied that WTC were now placing articles in the TN16 which was currently delivered to 1700 addresses in Westerham.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

Chairman