

Westerham Town Council
 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held
 on Tuesday 14th April 2015 at 7.30pm
 at Council offices, Russell House, Westerham

Present: Councillors: Alan Wesley (Chairman) Helen Ogden (Vice-Chairman), Philip Ashley, Eddie Boyle, Reg Buckley, Chris Hanson, David Le Breton, Andy McCormick, Hannah Marsh, 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 Simon Humphreys
 Mr R Parry: Kent County Councillor
 Mrs J Davidson: Chairman Sevenoaks District Council
 Mr B Harvey: Chairman Limpsfield Parish Council
 18 members of the public

1.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> Mr M Fallon MP, SDC Cllr K Maskell, Mr and Mrs Edwards</p>	
2.	<p><u>Minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2014</u> These were signed as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p><u>PCSO Simon Humphreys report</u> PCSO Humphreys reported that he had been a PCSO for ten years and had remained in the same ward. Crime statistics were available on the Kent Police website however there has been reduction on the number of crimes in the last twelve months. PCDO Humphreys had:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • started a street briefing in the summer months and it had proved very valuable, 30 people were spoken to in London Road. • Followed up shed break ins by leafleting nearby residents. • attended safer plate crime reduction initiatives held at the Wolfe Garage providing anti tamper screws for number plates. • held weekly surgeries in the Wolfe Garage. • Worked closely with the KCC Community Warden Steve Grange and they had a good working 	

	<p>relationship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carried out property marking at Primary Schools • Marked bikes at Churchill School • Spoken to parents and pupils at Crockham Hill School on e-safety • Worked with Age UK • Worked closely with the SDC Community Safety Unit (CSU) • Worked closely with Housing Officers <p>PCSO Humphreys was asked if PCSO's can ticket people parking illegally on junctions. He responded that he hoped to leaflet residents and would follow this up.</p>	
4.	<p><u>“improving NHS Services in Westerham and Crockham Hill”</u> <u>Dr Nick Cheales and Mr Ian Ayres from the NHS West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)</u></p> <p>Mr Ayres stated that he was the Chief Accountable Officer and was employed by the CCG.</p> <p>Every year Parliament puts aside £110B for NHS England, £80B is passed down to the 200 CCG's. The CCG's do not look after people directly they hold all the contracts.</p> <p>There are 62 practices in the West Kent area; it is a big area with 460-470,000 residents and 25p GP's.</p> <p>The average age of the population was rising; there were now more older people and fewer younger people.</p> <p>Therefore the need for health care increases, 60% of what we spend is spent on people with long term conditions.</p> <p>Q - Why is not more work done in the community? A – There is focus on preventative measures but it has to be a combination.</p> <p>Q – Is there an issue with confidentiality when trying to improve communication? A – Yes, there were laws and regulations that protect people.</p> <p>Q – There should be more access to minor injury clinics i.e. Edenbridge, they should be promoted in a better way. A – They do try to, he will consider this further.</p> <p>Q – Are the staff at minor injuries clinics monitored? A – We indirectly monitor them as we hold the contracts.</p> <p>Comments are welcomed from the public and he will monitor Edenbridge.</p> <p>Q – How far down the road are the CCG on integrating systems? A – It was early days and was quite fragmented, changes were needed but it would be difficult.</p> <p>Q – Will the CCG's be better than the PCT's?</p>	

	<p>A – We were all doing the same job, re-organisations were deeply disruptive. Mr Wesley thanked Dr Cheales and Mr Ayres for a very interesting and informative talk.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Chairman’s report – Cllr Alan Wesley</u> Cllr Wesley reported that in the year 2012/13 WTC had received a Council Tax Support Grant of £11,000. In the year 2013/14 SDC had not passed this grant on, WTC had challenged this through a Judicial Review process; however the outcome remained the same. In 2015/16 no grant will be passed on from SDC. You will find reports from Committees in your pack and they were available on the WTC website. There had been a massive increase in consultations and WTC endeavoured to reply in good detail to each one, WTC received on average one a week. This year consultations had been received regarding the Children’s Centres, Libraries, Community Wardens and KCC budgets to name a few. We were sceptical of the value of all these consultations. Westerham relied on a shift rostered PCSO, however diligent he was it was a poor offering. WTC were not asking for a police patrol but the police rates were in excess of £300,000 so Westerham was not getting value for money. WTC would try and improve this position with the new District Commander. Visible community policing policy remains a priority. Dog mess was an increasing problem particularly on KGF and there had been mindless vandalism to the dog waste bins. The bins have been replaced and WTC were running an awareness initiative. A contract had been awarded to clean the Churchill memorial and the surrounding path. WTC were in a good financial state, the precept will rise by 1.98% from 1st April. WTC will operate within its budgets and remains good value for money. The allotments were 20% empty and WTC needed to improve occupation. Cllr Wesley commended the Annual report to the meeting.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Open Session</u> Mr P Talbot wished the meeting to thank Mr John Bryant for all his hard work as a Councillor; he had stood down in October 2014. Cllr Wesley stated that John had worked very</p>	

	<p>hard on behalf of Westerham residents.</p> <p>Q – Mr Planche asked what were WTC's other sources of income.</p> <p>A – Rent from Russell House and grants.</p> <p>Q – KCC Cllr Parry stated that consultations were very important and this was evidenced by KCC listening regarding the Warden consultation and reversing their decision.</p> <p>Q – Ms Day from Delagarde Road handed over a petition regarding the proposed double yellow lines in the road, there were 19 signatories.</p> <p>A- Cllr Rodgers reported that she had attended the Joint Transport Board where the parking proposals had been discussed however in Delagarde and Bartlett Road five people had responded and four of those had been in favour of the proposals. Cllr Rodgers would talk to SDC Cllr Maskell and report back.</p> <p>KCC Cllr Parry reported that the JTB would look at parking in Westerham holistically.</p> <p>Q – Ms T Issac reported that people were parking illegally in Farley Nursery.</p> <p>A – This would be discussed with the PCSO.</p>	
	<p><u>Close</u></p> <p>The Chairman brought the meeting to a close by thanking all those who had attended the meeting and inviting them to join the Councillors for refreshments.</p>	

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

Chairman