

Westerham Town Council
 Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held
 on Wednesday 10th May 2017 at 7.30pm
 at Churchill School, Rysted Lane, Westerham

Present: Councillors: Alan Wesley (Chairman) Helen Ogden (Vice-Chairman),
 Philip Ashley, Alex Bates, Loretta Bird, Eddie Boyle, Michael Craig, Anthony Holman,
 David Le Breton, Neil Proudfoot, Sharon Sheen

In Attendance: Town Clerk: Angela Howells
 Deputy Clerk: Debbie Marshall
 Assistant Clerk: Deborah Rogers

Cllr N Chard: Kent County Councillor
 Cllr D Esler: Sevenoaks District Councillor
 Steve Grange: KCC Community Warden
 PCSO Tim Darling
 Cllr M Wilson – Chairman Limpsfield Parish Council
 45 members of the public

1.	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u> Mr M Fallon MP, SDC Cllr Maskell and WTC Cllrs Jowett and Marsh.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2016</u> These were signed as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p>Cllr Alan Wesley welcomed everyone to the 5th Annual Meeting of Westerham Town council and its important Ward of Crockham Hill. A specific welcome to Mr Matthew Scott, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner. Also welcome to SDC Cllr Diana Esler and the newly elected KCC Cllr Nick Chard.</p> <p>This meeting is a repeat of last year's community engagement format, welcome to all the organisations and societies who have put out their stalls.</p> <p><u>Mr Matthew Scott, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner</u> Mr Scott spoke regarding his relatively new role which was developing and changing. He will be setting the priorities for Kent Police over the next four years and will hold the Chief Constable to account. He was not a police officer and had no warrant card and was not able to make arrests. The new Police and Crime Plan commenced in April and came about following consultation with residents. He was aware of the recent issues and wanted to hear from residents and would continue to listen to residents.</p>	

	Mr Scott was asked a question on ASB in Westerham and having a CCTV. He suggested applying for the Safer in Kent fund for funding.	
4.	<p><u>Chairman's report – Cllr Alan Wesley</u></p> <p>Cllr Wesley reported that his full report was available in the leaflet provided together with details of Councillors and a list of responsibilities. The Committee reports were available on the WTC website.</p> <p>Cllr Wesley emphasised a number of points from his report:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moorhouse – This time last year we had seen off one application to build an enormous parcel distribution depot and anticipated that another would follow. The second application duly arrived and after another effective campaign, the developer withdrew in the knowledge a second refusal would happen. Persuading Kent and Surrey Highways authorities to refuse permission is the key and Westerham led the way with factual demolition of the developer's traffic predictions. The overall campaign needed to be substantial and the 884 individual objections were more than the first application. We await a further application. 2. Youth antisocial behaviour and vandalism – This has risen to an all-time high. WTC has been meeting with the Police and the Sevenoaks Community Safety Unit and has achieved some reduction in the number of incidents and the severity of antisocial behaviour. Drug taking is certainly involved; as a result we have funded the Kenward Trust to be locally active in respect of alcohol and substance misuse on an outreach basis where young people are concerned. Since closing the Youth Club on KGF sue to ASB we now fund a Youth Club for years five and six with encouraging attendance levels. <p>Please report all your concerns, non-urgent to 101 and crime happening and personal danger to 999. All other ASB to SDC's CSU on 01732 227000.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Housebuilding, Relief Road or bypass, Which Way Westerham, Covers Farm sandpit – As there would not enough time to cover all these topics tonight WTC has arranged a Public Meeting on 24th May at Westerham Hall. <p>The bypass initiative has yet to produce a planning application for the first stage which is the restoration of the Covers Farm sandpit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Town projects – WTC plans to use the Community Infrastructure Levy CIL to spend on projects. The priorities which you identified through consultation were:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic – speed and pollution • Keeping Westerham attractive – public toilets, lighting litter, High street and The Green • Events for all – young people, cycle path, more to do on KGPF 	

- Parking
- Antisocial Behaviour
- Heritage

Parking in Westerham and Crockham Hill is a problem, we are currently investigating creating more spaces in Madan and Hartley Road, extending and resurfacing Costells Meadow car park and building a carp park on Crockham Hill Playing Field.

The public toilets at Fullers Hill are beyond economic repair, to rebuild is costly so will be CIL dependant however we will consult before proceeding.

The pedestrian bridge joining the Darent car park and KGF needs to be replaced at a cost of £20,000. No other party has an interest so WTC will need to foot the cost. Access is vital so this is not optional. WTC has obtained a grant from the KCC Members Fund of £10,800 to replace the bollards around The Green.

WTC, professionally aided but community led, has re-written the now obsolete Design Statement that covered both Westerham and Crockham Hill. The new version when approved will form supplementary guidance within Sevenoaks District new Local Development Plan and be acceptable to any planning inspector. The benefit is that an adopted Design Statement will be helpful in protecting aspects of the Parish character and setting not otherwise covered by National or District planning policies.

WTC is committed to protecting our green spaces and enhancing outdoor facilities. WTC has made financial contributions to the creation of a Darent Valley footpath and cycleway project which will start from KGPF and a Greensands project to bring life and open up our three commons.

Outdoor gym equipment is in place on KGF; WTC raised and led the £10,000 funding.

There are plans to refurbish the pavilion on KGF and to replace the skatepark and install a Multi-Use Games Area.

5. Finance – In the financial year just finished the Council Tax raised was £187,175 and we spent £246,300, the extra amount coming from rents received and grants obtained, making WTC good value for money.

6. Awards – It is important to benchmark our standards as a Quality under external examination. As a result we have been accredited as a Quality Council, which is a reflection of the professionalism of our Councillors and staff.

Cllr Helen Ogden was noted National Councillor of the year for 2016, an award well deserved.

One of our community projects, the Forget-me-not Cafe won Community Project of the year at the Kent Dementia Awards.

I would like to thank the Chairs of Committees for their sterling work.

5.	<p>We have representatives from 16 organisations who are keen to interact with the community. The idea behind a community engagement event is to find out who does what to support the community, how we gain benefit from finding out exactly what they do and how better they might help us and in many cases what we might do to help them, our food bank for example.</p> <p>The organisations and societies are:-</p> <p>Sevenoaks District Council Kent Police and PCSO Kent Speed Watch Independent Police Advisory Group Kent County Council Community Warden Westerham Library Citizens Advice, Edenbridge and Westerham Westerham Town Partnership Westerham Society TN16 Westerham Food Bank Transport 4U Sea Cadets Edenbridge and Westerham Rotary Age UK Westerham Town Council</p>	
6.	<p><u>Open Session</u></p> <p>Q - There were a number of questions regarding antisocial behaviour around Rysted Lane, South Bank and Quebec Avenue and a discussion followed.</p> <p>WTC would explore the use of temporary CCTV in the area.</p> <p>Q – The Sea Cadets asked if WTC had engaged with the community regarding young people joining groups such as the Sea Cadets.</p> <p>WTC did encourage young people to engage with youth groups but would facilitate meetings with the new Youth Club and the School for the sea Cadets.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed as a correct record

Chairman