

MINUTES OF THE CHESTFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, HELD 27 APRIL 2015 AT THE WI HALL, CHESTFIELD ROAD

Present: Parish Cllr Steve Bailey (Chairman), Parish Cllr Chris Brealy (Vice Chairman), Parish Cllr Chris Ellis, Parish Cllr Joe Hunter, Parish Cllr Adrian Young and Parish Cllr Len Claisse.

Kent County Councillors Mike Harrison and Mark Dance.

Canterbury City Councillors Jenny Samper and Pat Todd.

PCSO Jade Hoyle, Kent Police

Father Kevin St Aubyn, St Joseph's Church.

12 x residents

Welcome

Cllr Steve Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting. He commented that it did not seem a year since the last one, and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend. He explained Cllr Watkins has just had a hip operation following a fall and had dearly wanted to attend this evening.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Cllrs Eileen Watkins and Tricia Chapman, City Councillor Ian Thomas, Rev. David Vannerley from St John the Baptist Church, John and Linda Wickings of the Chestfield Warriors Table Tennis Club and residents Mike and Pam Battson, and Jean and Colin Major.

Minutes of the last meeting held 28 April 2014

Cllr Claisse proposed and Cllr Bailey seconded and the Minutes were accepted as a true record of the previous year's annual parish meeting.

Cllr Bailey commented that it was fitting that Cllr Claisse had proposed the Minutes as this was his last meeting after 16 years as a parish councillor. There was a round of applause given.

Whitstable Rugby Football Club "Fun Day"

City Cllr Pat Todd was invited by the Chairman to explain that the WRFC are planning a summer fair that they are calling "Chestfield Fun Day", to be held on 30 August 2015. WRFC have kindly offered their facility and are essentially planning to run the day as a joint venture. Cllr Todd explained the Club is keen to integrate with the local community more. Amanda Flynn at the Club will be the best contact. The committee has met and it has got the makings of being a very good day. The format will be like a fete on a larger scale. The Club members are keen to see a venture like this. Cllr Todd also explained that there is a residents' membership giving discount behind the bar. Cllr Bailey commented that he had been co-opted to the committee and that Sainsbury is on board offering overflow car parking.

Chairman's report

Cllr Steve Bailey gave his report on the preceding year as follows:

This time last year, we began to hear of an emerging proposed development on the edge of our village at Bodkin Farm. We resolved at our May parish council meeting that, so as not to totally detract from 'normal' parish council business, we would form a separate sub-committee to concentrate efforts towards what was ultimately to prove a positive contribution towards the proposed scheme being unanimously voted against by the City Planners. This decision ultimately proved very prudent, in as much that these sub-meetings were not within the public eye, and therefore any decisions or plans agreed at them were not divulged in such a way that they could be pre-judged or challenged by potential developers, planners and nor the local press.

We know now (and incidentally as expected) that the applicants would appeal against this decision, and indeed a public appeal will now be in August at the Guildhall.

Although 'Bodkin-gate' as it became known, was effectively side-lined, there was an enormous effort put in by many parish councillors, independent consultants, and the residents of Maydowns Road. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone involved, whether it be as a member of the sub-committee or those who took the time to write their own letters of objections to Canterbury City Council.

But onto the day job, and a brief synopsis of how the parish council year unfolded.

In May, we received an application from Chestfield Cricket Club for us to consider making a grant towards the purchase of a new mower to replace the existing which was sadly reaching the end of its particular innings. Councillor Mark Dance had previously agreed to match fund any donation from the parish council up to £1,000. Cllr Harrison also gave £1,000.

As part of our continued commitment towards youth and the community, we duly agreed at council to award £2,000 towards this, and we are pleased to report that the new mower is now proving a welcome asset to the cricketers of the village.

June saw the first of our village planters erected, and I am sure that you will all agree that they really do enhance the play park. Thanks to the Green Leas residents association for taking care of these.

Following several requests from residents, July saw us hold our inaugural community quiz night at the Rugby Club. We are pleased to report that this proved a great success, with the profits being jointly split between the youth club and the table tennis club. However, life in a parish council is not always a success, and in August we were informed that our request for the speed limit in Molehill Road to be reinforced by additional road markings had been refused by Kent Highways. An application for us to extend our Speedwatch activities within Molehill road was also refused by Kent Police.

August saw the completion of the improvements to the ball court at the Rugby Club. This area also now includes a basketball hoop, and the multi-use area will also be used for organised netball and 5-a-side football, however, there are no plans at present for the parish council to form a team !!

We see this is as yet another statement of our commitment towards the youth and community of Chestfield.

September saw our first engagement with the community payback scheme, a scheme that sees minor offenders give something back to the community by carrying out small tasks at no cost to the taxpayer. Despite a few minor hiccups along the way, by and large this initiative proved successful, and may be something that we may well engage in again.

On the evening of 11th November, several of us attended the aforementioned Canterbury City Council planning committee meeting. At this meeting three residents from Maydowns Road and I were allotted a very strict three minute slot each to state our grounds for refusal of the Bodkin farm application. May I both thank and applaud those speakers for their efforts – believe me – it's not easy to speak with ease when you have a man poised with his finger over a buzzer whilst keeping a beady eye on a clock !!

I also represented the Parish Council at the investiture of the new vicar of St. John's, the Reverend David Vannerley. David is very interested in the community, and hopes to involve himself as much as possible.

November also saw a second community quiz night, and again this proved an extremely fun and successful evening. It is planned to hold more in 2015. Organising these quizzes is quite a military organisation, so thanks to Amanda, Trisha, Eileen and Karen for their efforts. However, there's always room for extra helpers, so please feel free to put your name forward!

The annual Carol concert in December was very well attended – in excess of 50 people gathering for the service, and for once it was quite good weather !

The Parish Council would like to record our sincere great appreciation to both Father Kevin and the Reverend David for a very enjoyable service.

We again held our Christmas Lights competition, and again the judges were very impressed by the standard of many of the displays on show. The winners were awarded a hamper, and there was also an additional prize awarded this year for a very inventive nativity scene!

Thus far, 2015 has been largely uneventful, except for several complaints surrounding illegal parking. We are doing everything within our powers to help combat this, although our pleas to have some of the yellow lines extended have been rejected by the Highways Department.

We have received many favourable comments regarding our magazine – we try to vary the content each time, but we couldn't maintain this without the help of our advertisers – this continued support is greatly appreciated, as are the letters that we now receive. We are always looking for additional content, so please feel free to contact me or Amanda should you have anything that you feel you would like to share.

Don't forget our website – whilst it is updated regularly, if you spot any errors or broken links please let Amanda know. Or if something could be added, just ask. Whilst we cannot accept any advertising for the website, please feel free to contact Amanda or me should you wish to advertise in the magazine.

This year has seen the birth of the Chestfield History Society, and I would like to thank Cllrs. Ellis and Brealy for their efforts and initiatives in making this such a fascinating success. There is even talk of a calendar being produced for next year – but before you ask, the answer is 'NO' !

Highways and speeding traffic, and planning developments are of particular interest to your council. We have had 42 planning applications this year, and your council is unique in the way Councillors always undertake site visits and ensure the views of affected neighbours are sought. I commend Cllrs Claisse, Candy and Watkins for their efforts.

Sadly, Alex Candy has now vacated his position on the parish council due to his moving from the area, but I would like to thank him for his general contribution throughout the year. Unfortunately, it has to be said that the City Planners do not always necessarily listen to our comments and views – suffice to say that we have let our feelings be felt on this as well !

Thursday 7 May 2015 sees the parish council elections – as well as city and national elections. We know we have an uncontested election, with eight of our nine possible councillor slots filled. At the time of this meeting it is too late for anyone new to put themselves forward to stand, but after the May meeting we would be able to co-opt someone to the vacancy. I would urge anybody with a passion for this community to join our hard working team. It is very important that we maintain our committee numbers to nine. If anybody wants to find out more about the role they can speak to me or my Clerk.

From time to time, we do have vacancies on the parish council, and we do advertise these when they come up – I would urge anybody with a passion for this community to join our hard working team. Please feel free to join us through the co-option process (don't worry - it's not as painful as it sounds!). It is very important that we maintain our committee numbers to nine.

Our parish council meetings are held at the Women's Institute Hall, usually on the second Monday of every month. We try to make our meetings interesting, with guest speakers attending from time to time. Look at our noticeboards for the Agendas and meeting dates.

Our Speedwatch initiative remains very strong and vibrant, and I thank all those hardy volunteers for their hard work and diligence in helping to keep our village a safer place.

Much has been written and said about the contribution that Len Claisse has made to the parish council and the community, and it is hard to accept that this meeting will be Len's final

one as a parish councillor. On behalf of every resident of Chestfield, both past and present, I thank you for all of your hard work, and wish you all the very best for the future.

Could I also take this opportunity to finally thank our clerk Amanda for her hard work throughout the past year, and for keeping us all in check !

I remain proud to be your elected Chairman, and proud of the efforts of our committee, and please rest assured that we will continue to serve the village in the best capacity possible.

Cllr Steve Bailey
Chairman, Chestfield Parish Council 2014-2015

Kent County Councillor Mark Dance

Kent County Cllr Mark Dance explained that he and Cllr Mike Harrison happily worked with the Whitstable Rugby Football Club and Chestfield Cricket Club and were always happy to help. As the former Cabinet Member for education he had signed off the rebuild of the Community College Whitstable. He explained he was now Cabinet Member for Economic Development.

The Boundary Commission have made their recommendations and decisions on new warding arrangements are awaited.

Cllr Dance commented that he gets the full Minutes of the Chestfield Parish Council meetings and that it is a very well run parish council and chaired with humility.

Kent County Cllr Mike Harrison

Kent County Cllr Mike Harrison explained that May 2015 is not for county elections. He commented that the Grasmere Road saga was now complete after 25 years, with the Grasmere Village Residents Association up and running and all residents contributing financially to the upkeep of the road surface. The road is now of a much better standard. Cllr Harrison commented that 2015 was a big year for him – from 21 May he becomes the Chairman of the Council and will also become an Ambassador for a year. He suggested that the parish council may like an ambassador to be one of their future guest speakers.

Cllr Harrison commented that Chestfield is not going to be part of Whitstable from the 2017 elections.

He concluded that he was looking forward to the next two years of his term of office and would be happy to continue to help and support Chestfield Parish Council.

City Councillor Jenny Samper

City Cllr Samper explained she is the Chair of Canterbury City Council's Planning Committee. She commented that she has to be quite strict otherwise the system would be unfair and unworkable. The planning committee does not always agree with parish council's comments. The Bodkin Farm application however goes against all the city council's policies, both emerging and fading out.

Cllr Samper advised they refer broken pavements to Kent County Council, and deal with bin enquiries. Cllr Samper advised she deals with a large portfolio of housing across East Kent. The housing meetings clash with Chestfield Parish Councils one hence she is not able to often attend. Cllr Bailey commented that he has on occasion rung Cllr Samper and she has always provided support.

City Councillor Pat Todd

Cllr Todd explained he tended to be the voice for planning for residents. Chestfield ward is moving from a three member ward to a two member ward and also a committee system of governance from May, and this will be more work.

Cllr Todd explained that with his policing background he had dealt with antisocial behaviour, mainly in Swalecliffe. He has also been elected to the board to hear complaints against the Police Commissioner. He has seen the benefit if the funding she has put in to the

Community Safety Unit. He urged residents to ring 101 and report incident to get 'hot spots' identified and targeted.

Cllr Todd concluded that the village is very lucky to have strong clubs in Chestfield for young people, such as the Cricket Club and the Chestfield Warriors Table Tennis.

St Joseph's Church, Chestfield

Father Kevin St Aubyn read his report to the meeting as follows:

The fiftieth anniversary of the opening of St Joseph's Church occurred in November last year. It was rather overlooked at the time. Since then there have been suggestions regarding a formal celebration which still have to be finalised for some time this year.

The congregation is indebted to an anonymous donor for the funding of a new heating system. Most of the electric fires had been in place since the Church opened. The requisite number of thermostatically controlled electric fires have been wired in and the church now enjoys a consistent suitably warm atmosphere.

The congregation has in recent years developed its own devotional life at various times of the year, these events taking place on a Wednesday at 10am. On Sundays according to the season there are flowers and on major feast days truly lovely flowers.

One important development in recent years has been the use of the church by the Syro-Malabar community. This is a distinct Church within the Catholic Church in India and has its own liturgy and devotional life. The Syro-Malabar community is very devout and for some time their own Priest comes down from London on the third Sunday of each month to carry out instruction and say Mass for the community. To mark the patronal feast of St Joseph on the Sunday near his feast day in March they conducted a procession around the outside of the church on the Sunday of their monthly mass. They also gave a colourful statue of St Joseph to the church, it residing on one of the window sills.

At Christmas the Christmas tree provided by the Parish Council is now an artificial one with attractive lighting. It was rather battered by the wind this time and had to be repaired. The customary Carol Service was held outside the church in the week before Christmas, the new vicar of St John's Church, the Revd David Vannerley, sharing the service with me for the first time.

Rev. Father Kevin St. Aubyn, Parish Priest

Maydowns Road Residents Association report

Chairman of the residents association, Mick Clarke, read his report to the meeting as follows:

Quite a lot of our year was taken up in conjunction very kindly with the Parish Council, regarding the Bodkin Farm (Eton College) development. After many hours by the parish council and as many hours as we could muster from the road association, the result was a failure on Eton College's part to get their plans passed. They are now appealing in August. We hope to have success in getting the appeal thrown out also. A big thank you to everyone for all the help and advice that got us to this stage.

Our road has just had the repairs done, and we are about to start collecting for the current year, and hope we can keep Maydowns one of the best maintained roads around here. Our social scene is very active; two quizzes, a day trip to Holland, Sunday lunch at the Walpole Bay Hotel, and in August, courtesy of our very good neighbours at No 63, we have a wonderful garden party, usually on a Sunday – it gives everyone a chance to meet up and catch up. We feel very fortunate to have this facility.

We also produce a newsletter which is posted through every door in the road, keeping all residents up to date with relevant happenings in Maydowns.

We are, of course, having our Scarecrow and Sunflower competition again and are hoping to persuade our most esteemed judge Amanda Sparkes to put herself in the firing line and pick the best of the bunch again this year (some skill doggery, but she seems to have us all under control).

I think you will all agree in all a fairly busy time for all of us.

CHESTFIELD ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENTS REPORT 2014-2015

President Paul Hooke-Overy and secretary David Mann were in attendance. The president explained that the Club meets every Thursday for breakfast and they have a membership of 36. He read his report to the meeting as follows:

A very challenging year for us, although our membership has remained strong despite losing 2 members due to work commitments.

We have made more contacts with local organisations this year and our donation summary to date shows we have donated nearly £2700 locally plus £1750 to SNAPP in Herne Bay, and £2461 to the Kent MS Society in Canterbury.

Whilst not forgetting our International duties this years Walk for Water is on Target to raise £4000 plus with over 900 school children of year 6 taking part locally. Our own Charity Rotary Foundation Polo Plus received £600 as well as over £660 to Shelter Boxes.

On top of this one of our members Hilary Bryan has served time in Tanzania and India with Rotary International and has just finished her training to be a first responder for Shelter Boxes that are delivered to disaster areas throughout the world.

It has of course not been all about raising funds as Rotary is about Fellowship and we enjoyed our local Charity Golf Day, Presidents Dinner and Quiz Night, as well as going to France for lunch, and an evening to remember the start of the 1st World War at a "lights out supper" evening.

We are also looking forward to welcoming our partner club Apledoorn et Loo from Holland in June this year when we have a full program of events to share with them finishing with breakfast at Quex Park on Sunday morning.

My year is now coming to an end and having enjoyed my term as President , I hope that my Vice President Wendy Tetley will have a great year starting on 1st July when she takes over as President for 2015/16.

Paul Hooke-Overy, President

Chestfield Rotary Club. www.chestfieldrotaryclub.org.uk

We meet every Thursday at 7.15am for 7.30am and conclude around 8.30am at Chestfield Golf Club, Chestfield Road, Chestfield, Kent. CT5 3LU.

The donation summary for the year 2014-2015 was as follows:

UK Based:

British Heat Foundation £50

Foundation (web site RIBI) £50

Chestfield Parish Council Quiz Night £23.85

Whitstable Junior School (parking) £447.92

SNAAP £800

2nd Whitstable Girl Guides £150

Tankerton Football Club £550

Royal British Legion (Whitstable) £150.41

Kent MS Therapy Centre £2461.67

Kent Association for Blind (Fracking Speaker) £50

GLW Girlguiding (Connaught Bingo) £50

Dictionary for Life £420

Haemophilia Society (Conference Sportive) £50
Kent Ass for the Blind £50
Age UK Whitstable £50
SNAAP £950
Rett Syndrome £50

Overseas:

Polio Plus (Foundation) £600
Shelterbox £663.27
Mercy Ships (Cleft Pallet) £50

Grand Total: £7667.12

Chestfield History Society

Resident Mrs Pat Simpson read her report to the meeting, as follows:

The Society first met on 21 September 2014 in this hall. We have since met every month, on the third or fourth Wednesday of the month in members' homes. Our aim is to promote an interest in the history of Chestfield.

Our first project is to produce a calendar for 2016 featuring photographs of local properties of interest. This calendar will be offered to other local societies and groups at cost price for them to sell on, possibly at additional cost to raise funds for their own societies. We are very grateful to the parish council for supporting this endeavour.

We have other subjects in mind for future research; these may include researching the origins of the village featuring the known oldest properties and farm land, the growth of the village from the 1920's with the development of the Golf Club and the properties by local developer George Reeves when he purchased the land materials from the demolition of the Abbey at Hales Place in Canterbury, materials which were incorporated into several local houses.

We are also interested in the history of the demolished Abbey as several houses have doors, windows, staircases and timber built in as architectural features.

We would be pleased to welcome new members and would like to appeal to anyone possessing interesting photos, artefacts or souvenirs of local connection to donate or lend to us to copy and register in our growing archive of material.

We are grateful to the Council for their active support and for giving us the opportunity to publish regularly in the magazine and information on how to contact us can be found there.

CANTERBURY & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

Canterbury District Vice Chairman, Neal Fowler, read his report to the meeting as follows:

It has been yet another busy year for Neighbourhood Watch both at a local and district level. During the winter months the Canterbury & District NHW Association completed its third major survey of membership, the last of which was conducted two years ago. Whilst this is an invaluable consultation exercise it inevitably identifies coordinators that have moved away or, for some other reason, have decided that they can no longer manage to undertake their role in service of their community. As a result it was no great surprise to learn that our membership had fallen a little this year. That said it was not as bad as it might have been, with just 14 closures (none of which were in Chestfield) from a total of 180 schemes across the district. And to offset the loss there were 7 new schemes commenced during the year, 2 of which were in Chestfield. In addition a further 15 schemes were saved through identification of replacement coordinators, 2 of which again were in our village. So at a local level we have in fact seen a net growth of schemes, with an additional 56 homes in the village covered compared to this time last year.

The enthusiasm evident within our community is, in no small measure, assisted by the direct action and support of the Parish Council, both through the pages of its magazine and the specific initiatives designed to encourage uptake of membership in roads that have not previously benefitted from NHW – the latest of which involves commitment for circulation of a letter to each residence urging consideration of the issue. This, to my knowledge, is another valuable first within the village's group of peers.

It would be remiss, of course, not to include, within recount of these successes, the considerable effort and determination provided by Len Claisse, whose chairmanship of the local NHW group has continued to afford cohesion and support to our 18 village coordinators. Despite concerted attempts to get other local groups going across the Canterbury district we have not achieved the success that has been evident here. It is, therefore, sad that Len now finds it necessary to stand down as chairman of the local group, albeit he leaves in the knowledge that it is in fine fettle and has a successor lined-up to continue his good work.

It is also rewarding to be able to inform the meeting that Len's achievements were recognised by the Canterbury & District NHW Association at its conference and AGM, held at the Canterbury Academy on 28 March. There Len was presented with the David Turner Award for services rendered to NHW. This is an annual award, in honour and memory of a former Association Chairman, which recognises the long term commitment and achievement of a NHW volunteer. It is very fitting that, this year, Len was chosen as the worthy recipient of that award. Well done Len, congratulations and thank you once again.

(There was a round of applause for Len).

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

Neal Fowler,
Vice Chairman of C&DNHWA
01227 639257 or neal.fowler@talktalk.net

Swalecliffe with Chestfield WI Report 2014 – 2015

President, Pauline Joseph explained the Chestfield WI is now 81 years old. She read her report to the meeting, as follows:

Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen

I'd like to begin by thanking you for your kind invitation to participate in this annual meeting. I am Pauline Joseph, President of Swalecliffe with Chestfield WI whose membership totals 64. Our Committee consists of ten fellow members and myself who are elected to run the monthly business of the WI as well as tending to the maintenance of our hall ensuring it is safe and fit for use by both ourselves and those who hire it.

This entails a lot of time, effort and fundraising by both the Committee and our members in general. Besides the cost of heating, lighting, insurance costs, general repairs and maintenance for the hall, we have to ensure all the necessary certificates covering health, safety and legal aspects are in place whilst working within the parameters set by the Charities Commission.

In order to maintain our hall, letting it for various events including small children's birthday parties, anniversary parties, a dance group etc raises revenues.

To further supplement these monies we stage various social gatherings, which our members pay to attend. Over the past year, we have had a Day at the Races, a 12 by 12 Challenge, a Mad Hatters Tea Party, a Beetle Drive, and a lunch. Future events include a VE day celebration, a Strawberry Tea and various events to celebrate the WI Centenary in September. We also stage an Autumn Fair, which is open to the general public.

The format of our monthly meetings generally consists of an hour for reporting and discussion of WI business, then a break for refreshments and socialising followed by an hour's presentation by a Speaker with the opportunity for members to put forward any questions they may have. In the past Speakers have included various authors, historians, a butler, a retired police detective, Ann Widdecombe and so on. Talks are generally informative, amusing or interesting, and sometimes all three of these criteria are met!

Meetings are well attended and in addition we have various active groups within our members. These groups generally meet once a week and include a Slimming Group, Scrabble, Dressmaking, Keep Fit, Craft, Table Tennis, an Art Group and, more recently formed, a Walking Group. At present some of our members are exploring the possibilities of forming a Darts Team.

Until their recent demise we supported the village Youth Club by donating the use of our hall twice a month. Last year we allowed use of our hall to Kent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre for a coffee morning to raise much needed funds for the Centre. It was very successful and they look forward to repeating the exercise this year. Also, our Craft Group are kept busy knitting items for the British Humanitarian Society, the premature baby unit, and those recovering from breast cancer operations to name but a few. Each of our members receives a monthly copy of East Kent News. This informs us of what's going on in the other WI branches in East Kent and all events organised by East Kent Federation which covers our area. We support these events as much as we can and also support Denman College which is the Women's Institute's own college. Set in Oxfordshire, it offers a range of day and residential courses in cookery, various crafts and lifestyle whilst promoting friendship. It is well attended by both members and non-members from around the country. Our members also receive a copy of WI Life, the official monthly magazine of the National Federation of Women's institutes. This keeps us abreast of what is happening within the WI nationally and of the various campaigns and resolutions we are involved with. Recent campaigns we have supported include saving honeybees, training of more midwives, and organ donation. At our Centenary Annual Meeting at the Albert Hall in June this year, the Resolution being considered as the subject for a campaign is entitled "Failing to Care" and concerns standing up for those in need of long-term care. Indeed, whilst many perceive us as being the 'jam and Jerusalem' brigade and nothing more than this, the WI is very proud of its long established and successful role of lobbying Parliament. Our WI meets here from 2.00 until 4.00pm on the second Wednesday of each month except August. New members are always made very welcome so if you are interested please come along. If you would like further information you may contact our Secretary Joan Saunders on 01227 793210.

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for your time and consideration.

Chestfield Cricket Club report 2015

The Club Chairman, Paul Jordan, read his report to the meeting as follows:

The start to 2014 proved quite a devastating one for the club with another break in, with significant damage to the club house which took some time to resolve. We were fortunate to get the repairs concluded before the season's start thanks to our insurers and the help of one or two friends of the club.

High winds and storms in the winter demolished our two timber sight screens. These were beyond economical repair and proved to be the icing on the cake likely to eat into precious club funds. However we were pleasantly surprised and extremely pleased to receive an offer to replace these from one generous family with a long standing connection to Chestfield Cricket Club.

History was made with the appointment and return of Swapneel Hazare, but this year as the club's captain. Expectations were high with the club aiming once more for promotion to the Kent League Division 2.

Sadly as the season progressed it became apparent that this opportunity had passed us by, largely due to our failure to beat the teams we were in contention with and achieve the results we needed. Yet again we had to settle for 3rd place with 224 points, some 21 points behind the second placed team.

The Second team exceeded expectations finishing 3rd in Division 3, guided by Paul Gibson who proved to be in fine form, scoring 1139 runs in total - the 3rd highest total in the entire league and easily topping the run scoring in his league - outstanding performance.

On the bowling front it was the club's veterans that hit the heights with Trolley amassing a total of 39 wickets at an average of 14.18, superbly supported by Brian Moody-Smith with a very respectable 33 wickets at an average of 17.09.

Our first season back in the Lord's East Kent League proved more fruitful with promotion to the top division at our first attempt largely down to a number of our younger stars, initially under the Captaincy of Josh Lock and then with some help from Tim Collins.

Once more all the hard work and investment in the Junior Section continues to pay off with some great performances from a new crop of up and coming future stars that featured in both the senior teams in the Kent League, Jamie Dowkes, Taylor Chandler, Tom Barton, Joey Young and Matty Nordin to name a few.

The Junior section continues to flourish, well drilled and organized, with successes this year including a highly successful visit by a Dutch Junior team resulting in a reciprocal invitation for a junior team to visit Holland next year.

It has always been the clubs desire to continue with investment in new equipment and this year we knew we were going to need to look at replacing/finding a new wicket mower and we had scheduled this to happen towards the end of the season. Unfortunately the mowers had other ideas and decided to leave us a one point without an operational machine to prepare the wickets with. Numerous phone calls were made to beg borrow and nearly steal a machine to get us through until we were in a position to secure funding for a new machine. Discussions took place between the committee and the grounds staff and we decided to aim high going for a Dennis top quality machine fit for purpose. We set about an internal funding request and soon had a fund up and running thanks to many donations from members, families and friends of the clubs, some donations were sizeable and it was pleasing to know that when the chips were down we have some fantastic people involved with the club who were willing and able to help - thank you for your support. Chestfield Parish Council were extremely supportive and impressed with the work the club does for the wider community and they were also happy to help, this then lead to us receiving match funding from our KCC Councillor.

With two generous donations from these organisations we were able to take delivery of the Club's first brand new wicket mower which has made a significant difference to wicket preparation.

Moving forward we now are looking to set our sights on replacing our ancient roller with a bespoke machine and will embark on fund raising shortly. Other projects being considered are a new or extended mower shed, and a large grant application for two new purpose built changing rooms. It would be nice to have the peace of mind that we can work with new machinery which will result in us spending less trying to keep old plant operational at significant cost and to have facilities for players that will last us for generations to come.

I sincerely hope the club continues to thrive in the forthcoming years and look forward to a successful season in 2015.

Paul Jordan, Club Chairman

Chestfield Warriors Table Tennis Club

The Clerk, Amanda Sparkes, read the Club's report to the meeting as follows:

Firstly, we would like to apologise for not being able to attend the meeting, We are both playing league matches - Linda in Folkestone and John playing his last league match in the Canterbury league.

From moving into our new premises our club membership has grown, we now have over 120 members.

Our Junior sessions on Saturdays are very popular and attracting juniors from as far away as Deal, Faversham, Canterbury and Thanet. We are averaging 18 -24 each week, both boys and girls ages 7 -16, with our senior juniors assisting with the sessions. We carry on in the afternoon with an open session for league players where we have an average of 18+ seniors attending.

Our teams in the league have had a good season with our Warriors 2 gaining promotion to the Premier league which will give us 2 teams in the premier next season. Our Warriors 4 team also gaining promotion to Division 1 this season. We had 9 Warriors teams playing in the league.

The summer league will start at the end of April and our club has entered 15 teams.

We have 3 other clubs using our venue as their home venue so we have had, this year 16 teams playing at our club.

From opening in September we have had a total of 3500 people playing Table tennis. We are just about to start a 20 session coaching schedule as a Satellite Club at CCW and hopefully this will encourage more juniors into the sport and feed into our club. Our work (which is external) with the South East Stroke Association is going extremely well with great progress being made by all who attend, we provide 2 sessions a month with between 10 – 20 stroke members attending.

We also provide sessions with young and the not so young with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Our next project will be to organize a Junior Table Tennis after school league, which will be run at our club.

We have several Chestfield residents enjoying playing social TT at our club and would hope to see more come along to enjoy the activity. We have plenty of room for more players during the day, or even just to pop in for a coffee.

Our Lottery fund has already this year Paid out £1100- 00 in prize money, so if you would like to support us and be in with a chance of winning £150-00 a month contact John or Linda.

We recently hosted a Quiz Night which was very well-attended with 11 tables of eight. Helped along with us having our own Bar we managed to raise over £500 for the Club. As a club we are still looking for funding and sponsorship to help us with our projects and keep the club growing and providing this sport to the community. Our opening hours: We are open 7 days a week from 10-00am through to the end of play in the evenings.

If you would like follow us you can log onto our web page or Facebook.

www.chestfieldwarriorstt.net or Facebook.com/ Chestfield.warriors

Finally, just a huge thank you to the Parish Council for all their help and support, as without that we wouldn't have got this far, thank you

John and Linda Wickings

Whitstable Rugby Football Club

City Cllr Pat Todd advised that the Club had struggled and come down three leagues but the new Chairman is finishing his second year and his robust style and a shared coach has meant the playing standard has gone up – this season the Club finished 5th in Kent Two. There are 250 youngsters attending Sunday morning sessions, some under 8s are very successful at County level and the 16 year olds are very engaged as well. He said that he was looking forward to a great season next year.

Cllr Bailey commented that he highly commends the Club's work and efforts. He also commented that from the previous three reports the youth of Chestfield are given plenty to do and it is interesting that all three clubs attract young people from other villages.

PCSO Jade Hoyle, Kent Police

The PCSO explained that in the last year her role had changed about six times. She is now not doing the crime reports but dealing with crime and attending community events like coffee mornings, and events in schools. She covers Chestfield, Swalecliffe and Tankerton. She has advertised her details and put up posters. She encouraged people to ring in so that she is made aware of all reports and incidents.

Swalecliffe library report

Cllr Bailey read the Reading Groups report to the meeting as follows:

Swalecliffe Library now has five Reading Groups in the area of Swalecliffe/Chestfield and details of when and where they meet are available at the Library. We support these Groups by attending some of the meetings and ordering the requested books that the members choose, which are then picked up from the Library.

Most of the Groups meet in members' own homes although one meets at the Longfield Close Community Room. As you can imagine there are a large variety of books chosen - some more challenging than others.

We would all recommend joining a Group as you may well read and enjoy a book which otherwise you wouldn't have chosen! If anyone wants to start a new Group we would be delighted to support you - again come down to Swalecliffe Library and we can give you all the details.

**Helen Blake, Customer Support Assistant
Swalecliffe Library**

Close

Cllr Bailey commented that the residents were very lucky to have such a diverse community in Chestfield and recorded thanks to everyone for all that they do.

Cllr Hunter asked for a vote of thanks to Cllr Bailey for all his hard work throughout the year. There was a round of applause.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm for light refreshments.