



The Hartley Herald

The Parish Council Office, Hartley Library, Ash Road, Hartley, Longfield, Kent DA3 8EL
Tel: 01474 709441 Email: mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk, www.hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk

June 2021

HARTLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Council took place remotely, via "Zoom" on
Wednesday 5th May 2021,

At the meeting, Cllr Mrs Anne Oxtoby was re-elected as Chairman of the Council and
Cllr Mr Larry Abraham was re-elected as Vice Chairman.

Membership of the Committees is as follows:

Amenities and Open Spaces Committee

Cllrs; *Abraham, Mrs Driscoll, Mrs Hughes,
Graeme, Malham, *Mrs Oxtoby & Sewell.

Burial Grounds and Gardens of Remembrance Committee

Cllrs; *Abraham, Mrs Cole, Cole, *Mrs Oxtoby
& Ross

Finance Committee

Cllrs; *Abraham, Alford, *Mrs Oxtoby &
Sewell.

General Purposes Committee

Cllrs; *Abraham, Alford, Mrs Cole, Cole, Mrs
Driscoll, Graeme, *Mrs Oxtoby & Sewell

Personnel Committee

Chairman of the Council, Vice - Chairman of the
Council & Mrs Driscoll.

Planning Committee

Cllrs; *Abraham, Alford, *Mrs Oxtoby, Ross &
Sewell.

(Chairman & Vice - Chairman are ex officio
members on all committees - Current Chairman
& Vice - Chairman marked with * & shown in
italics)

Standing Orders Advisory Committee

Cllrs; Abraham, Alford & Mrs Oxtoby

Northfield Management Committee

Cllrs; Mrs Brammer, Brown, Glover, Graeme,
Mrs Oxtoby & Sewell

*Northfield Management Committee was set up
to manage the public open space at Northfield,
in partnership with Ash-cum-Ridley Parish
Council. Membership consists of 3 members
from each Parish Council.*

CASUAL VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

- Are you concerned about your local area?
- Do you want to represent the views of local people?
- Do you want to contribute your business or personal skills?

BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Parish Council currently has vacancies for 2 Parish Councillors.

If you are interested in applying, please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office for more
information.

Your Parish Councillors are: Larry Abraham, Chris Alford, Penny Cole, Perry Cole, Lesley Driscoll,
Fiona Hughes, David Graeme, Mally Malham, Anne Oxtoby, Ian Ross & Vince Sewell.

They can be contacted via the Clerk, Helen Boden at the Parish Office, Hartley Library,
Ash Road, Hartley, Longfield, Kent, DA3 8EL, by
email: mail@hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk or by telephone: 01474 709441

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

The Parish Council is in the early stages of planning a celebration in the village to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

This will be held on Saturday 4th June 2022.

More details will be announced on the website and in our newsletters over the coming months.

KENT COMMUNITY WARDEN SERVICE: ANNUAL REPORT 2021

The over-riding objective of the Kent Community Warden Service is 'to create safer and stronger communities'. The role of the Community Warden is ever evolving, prompted by the changing needs of our communities and other strategic requirements placed upon our Service.

Naturally, during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, our duties were re-aligned to best serve our communities during that unchartered period. We have since transitioned to a recovery/ 'business as usual' footing, where it is envisaged we will remain. Current priorities are defined by our Community Safety Business Plan 2020-21:

Delivery of core Community Warden Service Priorities - Providing a reassuring presence/support for our residents; responding to community needs; facilitating solutions to local concerns; and addressing issues of loneliness & social isolation.

Undertake CSU tasks with/on behalf of partners to address local issues and concerns (inc. supporting community hubs during the Covid-19 response and recovery period).

Deliver the Trading Standards scams project through support of individual scam victims and strengthening communities' resilience to scams.

Working with partners, inc. Adult Social Care, to safeguard and support vulnerable individuals, enabling them to live safely and independently in their own homes.

Provide an operational and welfare response for communities in the event of an emergency e.g. surge testing in response to a variant detected in the ME15 area in February.

Notable Community-Based Activities

I have continued to support my communities in a visible and proactive fashion this past year. The focus of my work has inevitably involved extending support to those most in need. This has been a challenging time as residents have required a greater degree of specialized support, compassion and sensitivity. For example:

Working with SDC's Private Sector Housing Officer to arrange assessments of vulnerable persons' mobility needs which informed what adaptations were needed in their home to enable them to remain living there safely and independently.

Whilst we look forward to community-based groups returning, I have stayed in touch with residents through socially-distanced home visits. Apart from checking on welfare, this helps offer companionship, reducing the sense of social isolation and loneliness.

Supporting vulnerable residents in accessing services is a major part of my working day e.g., liaising with the GP and Mental Health Crisis Team on behalf of a gentleman living with deteriorating mental health; and signposting family members to ADSS for carer support on behalf of a loved one living with dementia.

Assisted families newly facing financial hardship e.g., signposting to Porchlight's 'Live Well Kent' programme, West Kingsdown's Community Cupboard and SDC's HERO Team.

On a positive note, it has been very rewarding to see residents working together to support others. I hope this element of community spirit is a lasting legacy of these difficult times.

Jackie West | Kent Community Warden Service | Sevenoaks - Tunbridge Wells Team |
Mobile: 07811 271259 | jackie.west@kent.gov.uk | www.kent.gov.uk/communitywardens

PROPOSED NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN FOR HARTLEY

You will recall a consultation letter delivered to you at the beginning of March, outlining the Council's proposal to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Hartley. This will allow everyone to have a say in the future of the Village.

The consultation exercise produced 220 households in favour of a plan with just 3 against. Not only was the result convincing but the Council was greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm of offers to help shown by many of the responders.

In the circumstances, the Council has agreed to prepare a formal Plan and has applied to Sevenoaks District Council for the whole Parish to be so designated.

In the meantime, the Council has agreed to set up a Steering Group, which will undertake the necessary work of producing a draft Plan, in consultation with the whole Community.

The Steering Group will consist of 12 Members, 3 Parish Councillors and 9 volunteers from the Community.

The Council wishes to express its grateful thanks for the support shown for the proposed Neighbourhood Plan and to those volunteers who have offered to help. In fact, the Council has been touched by the enthusiasm shown by residents, which has resulted in many more volunteers than it will be able to use in the short term. However, the development of the Plan is expected to take some 2/3 years and the Council would hope that if it does not call on the services of all the volunteers at the start, they would be prepared to remain on the list as a reserve.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Hartley Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic but a copy of the Annual Report has been produced and delivered to every household.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the report, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk at the Parish Office.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Do you know who your local District and County Councillors are and how to contact them?
Their contact details can be found below:

Sevenoaks District Councillors:

- Cllr Larry Abraham - 01474 706690 cllr.abraham@sevenoaks.gov.uk
- Cllr Penny Cole - 0754 066 8751 cllr.penny.cole@sevenoaks.gov.uk
- Cllr Perry Cole - 0783 476 8315 cllr.perry.cole@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Kent County Councillor:

- Cllr David Brazier - 01474 873857 david.brazier@kent.gov.uk (Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport)

LITTER/DOG BINS - NOW COMBINED

Following advice from Kent County Council, Sevenoaks District Council will now be combining dog waste with litter to enable it to be disposed of at their facilities.

Therefore, dog waste should be bagged and can be placed in ANY litter bin in the village.

UPDATE FROM THE JUBILEE MEDICAL GROUP

"Everyone at Jubilee Medical Group is trying their best to deal with your query or request and provide the best possible service to all of our patients.

PRACTICES

We are not closed, but are working in a different way due to Covid restrictions/social distancing. We are restricting the number of patients we have in the practices at any one time in order to protect you, our patients and our staff. New Ash Green Surgery is open for queries by using the intercom facility and Kent House Surgery is open for appointments only, due to the size of the waiting area/reception.



TELEPHONES

We are aware that there are sometimes problems in getting through on the telephone with the phone lines being extremely busy and we are not unique in this, many GP surgeries are in the same position.

*We encourage our patients to use **eConsult** as an alternative way to receive advice. **eConsult** is a way to contact your own NHS GP practice online, for free, anywhere and anytime you have access to the internet, quickly and safely. It is easy to use and will give your doctors all the information they need to triage and make sure every patient gets the care they need in priority of their need.*

We will be looking to get a queue system on our telephones so that you know whereabouts you are in the queue and can decide whether to wait or try again at another time.

APPOINTMENTS

Our GP's and nurses are currently contributing to the team providing Covid vaccinations at either Kent House Surgery or New Ash Green Surgery, so this will have an impact on appointment capacity on some days. Our staff also provide clinics at Meopham Medical Centre along with their team.

We are sorry for any inconvenience that this will cause, but the vaccination campaign has been deemed a national priority by NHS England, so thank you for your support with this.

Our Practice Nurses are still seeing patients for essential services such as child immunisations, smears, blood tests, dressings etc. and some of their work is being completed over the telephone.

If a clinician feels that you need to be seen face to face, they will book this appointment for you to see a GP in person.

We would all like to thank you for your patience".



HARTLEY WALKS

In the March edition of the Hartley Herald, the link to a list of walks in Hartley (kindly provided by Jackie Rye), was included.

The walks cover virtually every footpath in Hartley and the link to the walks can now also be found on the Parish Council's website www.hartleyparishcouncil.org.uk, under "Local Information" then "Hartley

Health Walks".

A number of additional walks have since been added, so even if you have previously accessed the link, it is worth checking regularly for updates. The walks are in the form of PDF files, which you have the option to print off.

The Parish Council will also be publishing a footpath guide in the coming months, which will be available both as a hard copy and online. This will detail all of the footpaths in Hartley (stopping at the Hartley boundaries) and will provide information and photographs to guide you.

We have some beautiful walks in Hartley, so now that the weather is set to improve, it might be the time to get out and explore!

The Hartley Herald is printed and published by Hartley Parish Council