

Minutes of the Hadlow Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 April 2013 at Hadlow Old School Hall.

Present:- Cllrs Hammond (Chairman), Mrs Massy, Carey, Terry, Mrs Bright, E Bright, Mrs Hyams, TMBC Cllrs Howard Roger, Jill Anderson, Janet Sergison, PCSO Toni Matthew, PCSO Kim Hockey, Deborah Hockey (Head Teacher – Hadlow CE Primary School), Paul Hannan and Mark Lumsdon-Taylor (Hadlow College), Steve Carley (CEO- The Beat Project), Reverend Paul White (St Mary’s Church), Caroline Elcombe (SHTAG & WI), Caroline & Dave Wetton (Ramblers Association), Anne Hughes, Bill Hughes, Jean Isted (Short Mat Bowls), Stephanie Ingham (HadLOW Carbon Group), Carol Richards, J Swain, M Goodwin, M Goodwin, D Beak, J Beak, D Waller, M Gollop, R Gollop, J Wilczen, M Balfour, J Broughton, M Broughton, B Sinden, J Hopkinson, R Hopkinson, D Foad, J Foad, C Marvell, B Haligan, C Haligan.

Also in Attendance:- Melanie Stepkowski (Parish Clerk)

1/ Cllr Hammond welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2/ Apologies For Absence – These were received from Parish Cllrs Mr & Mrs Shaw, C Vernon.

3/ Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday 25 April 2012 – Proposed E Bright, seconded K Terry and carried unanimously, the minutes were signed by the Chair.

4/ Matters Arising - There were no further matters arising.

[The Chair proposed that Mr Carley be allowed to address the meeting before Mr Hannan as he had another meeting to attend, this was approved.]

5/ Talk by Mr Carley - CEO of The Beat Project

“The Beat Project is an award winning registered charity formed in 2002. We provide creative and inclusive initiatives, projects and courses within music, arts, film and enterprise working with people of all abilities, from all backgrounds and all nations. In particular we aim to work with the most vulnerable or in need young people, families and disadvantaged communities.

We are based in Kent but work on a local, national and international basis currently branching out into Surrey. Kent County Council recently changed their funding for youth services and we were fortunate enough to win the bid for Hadlow and are now providing youth services once a week. With Carol Tanners extensive knowledge of the local needs we were pleased to welcome her aboard our team.

The project in Hadlow is based on four week cycles with varying topics which are chosen and led by the young people. There is a wide selection of genre including: drama, Jamaican beat, performing arts, arts and design, film and media to name a few. The Beat Project embeds basic skills in virtually all of its courses whilst keeping them engaging, fun and informative. A majority of the courses are accredited either to Arts Award or ‘AQA’ as well as our own in house certificates.

Our aim is to provide the youth with improved qualifications and skills were necessary, giving opportunity and aspiration, well-being, self-esteem and confidence. In addition we are promoting and celebrating world music and cultural diversity. Our future goals

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for Hadlow are to increase youth services on a weekly basis and assist the voluntary youth club in its funding applications to secure a long term and sustainable youth provision.”

6/ Talk by Mr Hannan – Hadlow College Principal

The Chair introduced the Principal, explaining that he has been at the college for 12 years and lives within the community.

Mr Hannan started by congratulating Mr Carley on the success of his programme and was enthused by the passion shown; he expressed an interest in the college being involved in some way with future projects.

The speaker explained his purpose was, as has been for the last 10 years, to provide residents with a general update of college performance throughout 2012/13 and on its future plans.

- Further Education: There are 1200 students between the ages of 16-19, a majority of whom are on land based courses
- Higher Education: 650 under graduate students completing various degrees including some specialist subjects
- Residential Students: There are 225 in total with around 180 being between the ages of 16-18 years. Having such young students living on campus means great responsibility and safeguarding is of the highest priority.
- Part Time Students: 1100 on various courses.
- School Children: The College provides a day release programme for 14-16 year olds which encompasses children of all abilities.
- Work Based Learning: 130 students are on this programme with apprentices in land based jobs such as grounds staff on golf courses.

Overall the college has 3450 students to look after and their care is paramount There are 400 staff members and an estate of 1000 acres.

The recent Ofsted reports including two for Care Standards in 2009/2012 were all Outstanding, with the Preschool being registered as good. Ofsted Curriculum Inspection 2010 outstanding in 24 out of 27 categories. The College is proud of its success which is only made possible by working in partnership with staff, students and community. The current turnover at the college is £18 million with capital investment at £21 million.

New developments between 2006-2013 are as follows:

- Pre-School (2006)
- Princess Christians Farm (2010)
- Hadlow College Farm
- Animal Management Centre (2010)
- Rural Regeneration Centre (2010)
- Learning Resource Centre (2013)
- Fisheries Complex (2009)
- Equine Facilities

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- Garrad House (2009)
- Greenwich Equestrian (2013)
- New Free School (2013)
- Medway Centre (2008)
- Tea Rooms
- Farm Shop

The College continues to work and support the community with the following details provided:

Hadlow Primary School, Hadlow Church – Flower Festivals, Summer Fayre, Hadlow Growers Group – use College land, Hadlow Cricket Club, Hadlow Football Team, Save Hadlow Tower Action Group, Footsteps Theatrical Group, Hadlow Cubs, Scouts and Guides, Hadlow OAP Dinner, Local Schools visits, Healthy Walks – use our parking, Kent Smallholders – hold monthly meetings at Hadlow

Support is also provided to local village businesses such as the bakery. Both the Hadlow butcher and greengrocer supply meats and vegetables to the college and Marpaul (a local building company) had won several building tenders at the college. Other support is given to Victoria Farm, South East Milk.

In conclusion Mr Hannan said that in 2010 there had been a consultation and Strategic Plan drawn up and the college was presently within the 2010-15 section with further plans for 2015-2020 to be considered presently which would ensure sustainability and the high standards already achieved. With regards to the proposed Free School a public consultation had been completed and a planning application would be entered with TMBC in the near future.

Members of the public were then invited to ask any questions and the college Finance Director Mr Mark Lumdson-Taylor assisted with responses: Concerns were raised by some as to whether the location of the intended Free School was the most appropriate site with student safety being the priority especially as the entrance to the school would be via Ashes Lane.

The principal explained the college has 27 years experience in educating children with safeguarding being a top priority. With 225 residential students currently they are constantly updating performance to ensure the welfare of students and to ensure safety remains at the highest levels. The same ethos and responsibility will be maintained for the Free School students and all efforts made to ensure safety on and off site, for example school buses may be considered. The college has hired planning consultants to draw up the plans in order that all aspects of planning are given proper consideration. The meeting was reminded that as these would be young children, the Free School cannot be situated in the midst of an adult based college facility.

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The Principal went on to confirm that this has been a two year process with all applicants for the Free School being provided with a brochure outlining the location in order that parents were aware and could assess the safety risks for themselves; so far applications have exceeded the initial proposed intake. The Principal also spoke of the amount of evening presentations that had been made at Kings Hill, Maidstone, Hadlow and Tonbridge over the last two years.

TMBC Cllr Mrs Anderson then confirmed to the meeting that she had spoken with the college and would only be supporting the planning application if safety matters relating to the students transport to and from the college were resolved. A footpath within college grounds in order that students did not have to walk from the bus stop up Ashes Lane was one proposal. Works to improve the bus stop opposite Ashes Lane with perhaps a bus shelter on the college field is another possible solution.

In conclusion to the questions and answers which mainly related to the Free School, it was agreed that once the planning application is completed the drawings will be placed on boards within the Atrium of the Old School Hall for public viewing. Mr Hannan reminded everyone that once the application has been made members of the public will have the opportunity to express their views in relation to planning law to the Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Planning Department. He thanked everyone for expressing their views and hoped that many of the issues could be resolved.

Cllr Terry thanked Mr Hannan.

Cllr Hammond thanked all the speakers and then continued with the Reports from Parish Council

7/ Reports from the Parish Council

Cllr Hammond took the opportunity to ensure everyone was in receipt of the Annual Parish Report Booklet in which both parish council committees and other parish bodies/groups had entered their reports. No one expressed a wish to read their report to the meeting.

8/ Reports from Village Organisations – No one made a verbal report.

9/ Any Questions - None

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.30pm.

Signed..... Date.....