

BARHAM PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING - HELD THURSDAY 03 NOVEMBER 2016

Present:

Parish Councillors David Wood (Chairman), David Tamsitt, Sarah Goulden, Stephanie Hollowday, Ernie Mullett, Lily Matthews, and John Brooks. 1 resident, Kent County Cllr Michael Northey, Canterbury City Cllr Simon Cook (for part of the meeting), and Clerk to the Council, Amanda Sparkes.

1. The Chairman's opening remarks and apologies for absence.
Cllr welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Parish Cllr Liz Minter (family commitment). Cllr Wood advised that the council is in a position to co-opt to the vacancy on the council, and he would put up notices in the village to try and attract a candidate.
2. Declarations of Interests – None.
3. Minutes of the last meeting - The Minutes of the last meeting held on 06 October 2016 were approved and accepted as a true record of the meeting, and the Chairman duly signed them. RECEIVED also the brief notes of the meeting of the finance subcommittee meeting held on 17 October 2016 - actions arising are dealt with below by Full Council.
A possible date and guest speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting 2017 for the Electors (it must be between 1 March and 30 June 2017) was deferred.
4. Adjournment for parishioners' questions and comments. There were no questions. The meeting continued.
5. KCC Cllr Michael Northey report - Cllr Northey was pleased to read the report in the local paper about the award for the best community shop for Barham and congratulated those concerned. He explained that for schools in Kent standards have improved generally and they outrank in most indicators above the national figures. For example, attaining 5 GCSEs at Grade C to A*, the national average is 57% with Kent achieving 58.7%. 90% of Kent schools are rated as good or above by OFSTED.
Cllr Northey advised that 21% of Kent adults smoke and to reduce the number of children smoking there are now the first sightings in Kent of the new national initiative of plain packaging for cigarettes. Cllr Northey advised that this initiative was trialled in Australia and has shown a proven reduction in the number of young people smoking. In response to a question from her, Cllr Goulden agreed to email Cllr Northey for information around smokers and cannabis smoking.
6. City Cllr report – City Cllr Simon Cook talked about the potential merger of five East Kent councils (Canterbury, Dover, Shepway, Ashford and Thanet). They have commissioned a feasibility study of what the costs would be to implement this and what the cost savings would be, and what the cost dis-benefits might be. This report has cost Canterbury City Council only £5,000 with The Treasury paying £120k for the report. Cllr Cook advised that the key issue is that there would be just one council for East Kent –this would not be a shared services arrangement. The population of this area is 700,000, which would make it the 2nd or 3rd biggest council after Manchester and Birmingham. Cllr Cook commented that there are some positives and some negatives for example there would be just one Local Plan for the area so looking at the housing requirement could be done more strategically across East Kent. It would also be an opportunity to empower parish councils and create new Town Councils, and pass roles to parish councils that are willing and able to take these on. For example, parish councils could make small scale planning decisions themselves, such as for small extensions. Devolution of other facilities, such as public conveniences, and parks in urban areas could also be considered. Cllr Cook confirmed that a unitary council with merging with the county council is not achievable at this time.
The timescale of the merger is that the commissioned report is expected in January to all the five local authorities for each to make a decision in March; followed by a six week consultation, and resolved perhaps in May 2017. The aim is to take effect for the next elections in 2019. The Secretary of State has to finalise any request for all or any of the five authorities to merge – there are lots of possibilities on which might or might not – and the Secretary of State also has the power to defer the elections if necessary.

Only Canterbury local authority has concurrent functions. The current four-year contract agreements/awards would be honoured to 2020-2021. Cllr Cook confirmed that if the merger goes ahead there will be detailing and information provided in good time of future changes. For concurrent function awards for 2017-2018 and beyond a report and options is going to RAMP on 10 November 2016. The Clerk will look out the report and attend the meeting and report back.

Cllr Cook advised that the Canterbury District Local Plan is closer to adoption, and they may get the Inspector's report by Christmas. Then another round of consultation would occur with a further three months to final adoption.

Cllr Cook explained that the city parking consultation responses are being collated with reports due in January or February 2017. He also advised of a current consultation around proposed improvement works to St George's Street where £600k is to be spent.

Cllr Cook concluded his report by explaining that for making things better for children walking to the primary school he has got the street cleaning and gulley clearance sorted and leaves swept at the bottom of Greenhills.

7. Finance – The cheques were authorised and signed.

RECEIVED the bank statements to 31 October 2016 and RESOLVED the signature of a councillor other than the Chairman thereon.

RECEIVED Kevin Funnell, the internal auditor's report, of the internal audit held on 10 October 2016. There are no areas of concern. The Chairman congratulated the Clerk. There is a need to appoint a new internal auditor as Kevin Funnell is retiring. Cllr Tamsitt proposed and Cllr Goulden seconded and all Cllrs RESOLVED to appoint Lionel Robbins as the parish council's new Internal Auditor from 31 December 2016 to undertake six-monthly internal audit checks for the next year.

Cllr Mullett proposed, Cllr Brooks seconded and Cllrs RATIFIED that the application for a potential CCC capital grant for 2017-2018 should be for further street lighting improvements and column and lantern upgrades (with a 51% match-funding requirement)

Draft precept budget for 2017-2018

A meeting of the finance subcommittee meeting was held on 17 October 2016 to draft 2017-2018 precept budget. NOTED that the provision of a pension for the Clerk in 2017 is a statutory requirement in 2017 and as such new budget provision is required for it. The following options for a draft 2017-2018 precept budget were offered by the finance subcommittee, however, as the Concurrent Grant awards (and the resulting shortfall to be made up on the precept) will not be known until later in November, it was resolved that the final ratified precept be deferred and resolved at the December 2016's Full parish council meeting therefore.

Option 1 – To raise the precept by 5.9% from last year's budget – from £34,312 to £36,312 which meets the new statutory pension requirement and allows £1,815 of budget provision to be allocated to the ZipWire or other village survey action project

Option 2 - To follow the city and county council's approach to restrict their increase to 1.9% from last year's budget – and seek a 1.9% increase from £34,312 to £34,963 which meets the statutory pension requirement and allows £466 of budget provision to be allocated to the ZipWire or other village survey action project

8. Publicity – Facebook Page

Cllr Hollowday advised that there had been 21 "Likes" for the Facebook page since the last meeting. She has posted information about the parish council meeting dates. She is also posting to the separately run Barham Community Page on Facebook not run by the parish council to expand coverage. This has now been renamed Barham and Kingston Community group which causes less confusion between their page and the parish council one.

9. A Village Survey

The survey has been sent on 2 November 2016, with a Public Rights of Way map to all households via Canterbury City Council who printed both and arranged return envelopes.

Residents may also return by hand to collection boxes in the shop, church and Duke of Cumberland pub. Cllr Wood explained the Clerk negotiated good rates for printing, collation and posting. The return date is by 31 December 2016. Each councillor has a couple of spare surveys, and the Clerk will upload one to the parish council website.

10. Saturday surgeries

Cllrs discussed the suggestion of introducing occasional Saturday morning Councillor surgeries. Overall they felt that this needs to have a city councillor to attend as generally Barham Parish Council can only signpost people or onwardly report problems rather than resolve them directly, so the surgeries would be information gathering mainly, which can be done directly via the Clerk at any time. Cllr Northey commented that the concept is a little old fashioned now with the internet as it is, and better ways of communicating nowadays – and if he were to attend for one of his parish councils then he would have to attend for them all, which would be too big a commitment – this might also be the thought of the city councillor for the ward. The final decision was deferred to the next meeting until the city councillor and Cllr Minter could contribute to the discussion.

11. Litter pick

This is now confirmed as Saturday 12 November 2016 starting at 10.30am from the village hall. Cllr Hollowday will upload information to the Facebook page and other social media channels. She will prepare posters and Cllr Wood will put them up. Soup and bread will be provided for volunteers taking part. The Clerk has arranged to get the equipment from CCC and a Serco collection on the Saturday afternoon after the event. She will also publish the event on the parish council's website.

12. Streetlighting

Cllr Wood and the Clerk are going to revisit the whole inventory list as they think some included are actually lights like the KCC belisha beacons on the pedestrian crossing for example. An updated inventory will assist with the re-negotiation of the unmetered supply contract.

13. Highways

The Clerk attended the Kent highways seminar on 21 October 2016. Her report has been circulated to all councillors and is held as appendix to these Minutes. As an action arising from this report, the Clerk will ask KCC to quote for converting streetlights to LEDS – they may be able to achieve economies of scale savings for the next upgrade programme. They will also devise the next selection of columns for upgrade quotes.

Cllr Tamsitt commented that there are several dirty highways signs – these are not routinely cleaned. On their round the village visit, the Clerk and Chairman will make a note on any of these, for the Clerk to individually report to highways for attention.

Bus shelter for Derringstone Hill

This was discussed at the finance meeting but deferred for a year as a possible budget item. Cllr Brooks questioned the need for another one here as there is one by The Causeway at the bottom of the hill. Cllr Hollowday commented that it is difficult for less able-bodied to travel further. Cllr Tamsitt and the Clerk will meet to look at possible location(s) for a bus shelter on Derringstone Hill - to progress this suggestion from a resident further, subject to highways permission to site one there. They will look at options and report back.

Provision of flower tubs along Valley Road – The permission from cultivation licences submitted to KCC Highways has been chased again by the Clerk who will monitor. The plans are for two tubs at the entrance markers to village at Derringstone Hill; two tubs opposite each other at the entrance to Crookenden Place/Fox Way; and two opposite each other halfway along The Shrubbery, Valley Road by the old speed limit marker lights.

Flashing MPH signs Valley Road Barham

After the April 2016 meeting the Clerk made enquiries about flashing signs to slow traffic to the ITS team manager to see if these may be considered if the parish council pay for them. These

signs should only be installed where there is an on-going safety issue. The signs will only activate for vehicles exceeding 35mph as the threshold is set according to the Police criteria. The officer asked if the parish council has any data to demonstrate the speeding issue. At the October 2016 parish council meeting, Cllr Goulden reminded cllrs that the Lower Hardres speedwatch team would lend their speedwatch equipment. But this needs volunteers to action some checks and the volunteers need online training to be covered by Kent Police insurances. This training could take place in the village hall if it were easier for volunteers to undertake.

Cllr Hollowday explained she had contacted the Kent Police speedwatch officer for more details – he would like to talk to the council. The Chairman and Clerk will talk to him to set up a meeting. The approximate cost of a 30mph solar VAS is £6,200 including supply, installation and maintenance. This will need to be a budget consideration if the item is to be progressed. The Clerk will reply to the ITS officer and ask for a definitive map of the possible Out Elmstead location he has mentioned. The Clerk will also ask if it can be installed on the 'other' side of the road due to the curvature of the road.

14.

Open Spaces

Dog poo bag dispensers

After the June 2016 parish council meeting the Clerk investigated dog poo bag dispensers – a dispenser with a one-pull only mechanism to avoid waste was favoured. For ongoing costs, price is dependent on bag thickness, ranging from 12 microns thick £13.26 per 1,000 bags, to 22 microns thick at £26 per 1,000 bags. The Clerk and Cllr Hollowday did a site walk and asked councillors for a location at South Barham Road (on the National speed limit repeater pole alongside Ford Lodge/Heaselands Barn to CONSIDER both the provision of a dog bag dispenser and the provision of a dog poo 'wormery' at this location. Information leaflets about the wormery bins were circulated. A wormery bin literally has worms that eat the dog waste and produce compost from it. This is an ideal location as when the river runs Serco cannot get to empty the dog bin. For the wormery to work, it is important that the dog walkers are 'onboard' the project as the right type of bag is needed – it must be completely compostable too. Another concern is a locking mechanism to ensure that members of the public only use it for dog waste and not any other rubbish. The supplier is talking with the manufacturer to try and overcome this concern with a lockable mechanism. Information signs to educate people and the right type of bags and anchoring of the wormery bin is also to be considered and finalised. The Clerk has asked the supplier for updates on the concerns before both the dog bag dispenser and the wormery is considered and finalised. She will chase again for updates.

Christmas Trees

Cllr Matthews is holding 11 sets of lights and will let the Clerk know battery details for more to be bought. Cllrs resolved to go ahead again this year with a Christmas tree at the Valley Road/Derringstone Green play area, outside the shop at the Village Hall, and on the village green opposite the school. Cllr Mullett will speak to Mr Clough to provide the trees. Cllr Matthews kindly offered to install the lights on all three trees again this year and she will also add lights to the 'wheel' at Derringstone hill this year – the Clerk will order two more sets of lights for this.

Arboriculture survey of all trees on parish council land

Cllrs commissioned an arboriculture survey of trees on parish council owned land. The dead trees/trees needing attention have conservation area permission. Trees removed from the old cricket field or the village green will need to be replaced with the same / similar species in roughly the same location. Cllr Mullett explained he has spoken to Mr Gower a contractor for works for those on the old cricket ground. Cllrs Wood, Goulden and Mullett will meet again.

Replacement trees and new trees for 'gaps'

Cllr Goulden and the Clerk had a site meeting with a Kent Highways officer regarding the tree gaps in the village and other tree concerns on 15 September 2016. KHS are to remove a Cherry tree at Fox Way and a Rowan has just been planted at the corner. Cllr Goulden led a discussion and it was resolved that Barham Parish Council should ask for a cherry tree as a replacement for the lost Cherry and that the parish council then pay for three extra Cherry trees to fill the gaps along Fox Way at this location. The parish council's tree surveyor advised that the birch tree at the village green opposite the primary school should be removed, but the KHS officer felt it

should not be removed yet. Cllr Goulden felt that the parish council should ask KHS to reconsider this and ask for a Beech as a replacement – it is a very conspicuous corner and its loss would be felt. Cllr Goulden proposed, Cllr Brooks seconded and all councillors were in favour of the above actions and requests for tree works/replacements. The Clerk will speak to KHS.

Nailbourne flows

The Clerk forwarded statistics about river flow from the River Group secretary to all councillors; this appears promising for a safe winter this year. Sandbag storage has not progressed further – the Clerk and Chairman will speak about this and a way to progress.

New Allotment provision at Brickfield Recreation Ground

Planning Application CA/16/01292/FUL has been granted permission by Canterbury City Council on 21 October 2016 – for change of use of part of the recreation ground to an allotment site, with new fencing, gate access and a communal shed.

Cllr Tamsitt, Cllr Goulden and the Clerk are to meet with Barham Allotment Association representatives on 8 November 2016. Cllr Mullett advised he has the water supply and ploughing in hand. Cllr Goulden proposed and Cllr Tamsitt seconded that Barham Parish Council formally offer Barham Allotment Association a Tenancy Agreement for seven years from 8 November 2016. The Clerk will speak to Cllr Mullett about awarding the fencing contract after the BAA meeting.

17. External organisations

Barham with Kingston WI, celebrating its centenary in 2019, would like to raise funds for worthwhile project(s) in the village. Cllrs felt that Memorial trees to mark their centenary should be requested – the Clerk will advise the WI contact.

The Fifth Trust - Cllr Wood commented that The Fifth Trust are raising money in the region of £250k for a new building at Greenbanks.

Changes to PCSO role and cover - There have been recent changes to the PCSO role performed within the Canterbury district, primarily due to a decrease in numbers, as PCSO's become Police Constables. To accommodate this, there has been a restructure on how the PCSO's work to meet the demands of the business. Lisa Williams is still the named officer for rural wards and a point of contact. But Lisa now covers a larger geographical area, and can be resourced to attend any police related incident within Canterbury and other area in East Kent. So time and availability spent on rural is less frequent. She will attend community related events when duties and availability permit. For PCSO assistance outside schools, she may be emailed with parking issues and location so she can either nominate the school for OP SAFETY NET or attend in person when availability permits.

Barham Parish Council felt that the reduction in coverage is a concern and it is significant enough to make a difference. Cllr Northey suggested a comment could be made through the Kent Police Crime Commissioner's consultation currently.

Kent Police - Halloween and bonfire night - Kent Police has seasonal safety-related posters and flyers to support local policing and community activities. Materials and advice are at www.kent.police.uk/advice/halloween-and-bonfire-night-advice. Kent Police will also be issuing materials for the Op Castle (burglary) campaign launched on 31 October 2016.

KALC meeting - Cllr Wood attended the KALC meeting on 18 October 2016. A highways officer attended and spoke about KCC offering to devolve hedge cutting and grass cutting of highways verges to parishes, which would come with a small devolved financial sum to parishes to undertake this. There is no commitment to go ahead nor to keep the responsibility for ever. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries with KCC for financial figures and areas of responsibility.

Cllr Wood is also to attend the KALC AGM at Ditton in November 2016 and will report back.

18. Revised Parish Charter consultation
Cllr Wood explained that the Parish Charter was also discussed at the KALC meeting. The Clerk has circulated information to all councillors. The charter is a document describing the relationship between Canterbury City Council and Parish Councils and encourages better working relationships, by clearly defining the expectations that both may have of each other. It identifies what contributes to creating these good relationships and states what both parties can contribute to developing and maintaining these. CCC is seeking feedback on the charter and its implementation from Parish Councils, councillors and officers to explore any issues with the way the charter operates. Recommendations for any revisions of the charter would be considered at RAMP in January 2017 with any recommendations presented to the Policy and Resources committee in February 2017. Comments about how it is currently working and suggestions for improvements are due by 9 December 2016. Cllr Wood asked all councillors to let him or the Clerk have any comments on it.

19. Planning applications

New planning applications: none this month

Notifications –

CA/16/01292/FUL – Brickfield Recreation Road, Brickfield Road
Change of use of part of the recreation ground to an allotment site, with new fencing, gate access and a communal shed - GRANTED by CCC

CA/16/01120/FUL - Derringstone Hill Farm, Derringstone Hill
Demolition of farm outbuilding and erection of two-storey dwelling - WITHDRAWN

CA/16/01974/FUL – Sunny Downs, Out Elmstead Lane - Replacement roof incorporating first floor alterations and sun lounge with single-storey side extension GRANTED

Other Planning matters

Withdrawal of paper plans

CCC have advised they intend to cease sending hard copies of all planning applications in the parish to all parish councils by the end of December 2016. The Clerk had put together a paper which was circulated to all councillors about implications of doing this for both the council and members of the public. Cllr Wood advised that KALC are objecting to this proposal. Cllr Tamsitt commented that Barham Parish Council needs to think about how to manage this change if it goes ahead. He felt that the planning sub group councillors would need to look at the portal, have meetings to look at applications together, and that they could meet prior to each parish council meeting with a lap top and projector now that the hall offered wifi. Cllr Wood commented that he has an A3 printer he could donate although even printing at A3 is still not the same size as actual plans as now. Cllrs RESOLVED that the Clerk should write a letter of objection to the proposal to CCC and ask that despite the majority of applicants applying for permission on line there should still be an onus on applicants to supply a hard copy for parish councils and the CCC divisional offices for people who are unable to access details of applications online.

Clerk attending Coffee Stop - A reminder that the Clerk attends some Coffee Stop sessions to provide a surgery between 10.30 and 11.30. In between weeks, Cllr Lily Matthews has kindly offered to 'stand in' as a contact and take messages or reports as appropriate.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Future meetings of the Full Council: 03 November, 01 December 2016, in the village hall. For 2017: No meeting in January, 2 February, 2 March, 6 April, 4 May (in Grabham Room due to Elections), 1 June, 6 July, No meeting in August, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November and 7 December 2017. (and F&GP or Planning sub-committee dates: if a meeting should be required: in the committee room of the village hall - 19 December 2016. And for 2017: 16 January, 20 February, 20 March, an April one to be scheduled if required around Easter dates, 15 May, 19 June, 17 July, 21 August, 18 September, 16 October, 20 November and 18 December 2017)

Signed..... Chairman, Barham Parish Council

Date

Please note these Minutes remain as draft Minutes until they are approved by the parish council at their next parish council meeting

Appendix – report of the Kent Highways annual forum – held 21 October 2016

Introduction – KCC Cllr and Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport Matthew Balfour:

- KHS would like better interaction with parishes
- Budgets are being cut again, and KHS is not able to maintain everywhere to the previous standard
- KHS had the pothole blitz – and will try and run this again in Spring 2017
- There has been a policy change, that if there is a mild winter, the finance set aside for snow to be carried forward to the following Autumn for a clean up
- Capital spend has reduced – central government has changed the finance and the capital loan payment support, so KHS need to work in partnership for future schemes (the KCC Member highways grants is still available)

Highways update, Andrew Loosemore

- There has been a team restructure and consolidation (and a reduction in the number of senior posts) – this has led to better internal communication
- They spent £3m extra on the pothole blitz through the summer and did over 1,200 potholes covering over 50,000m² (and had over 12,000 customer enquiries about potholes).

Ray Evison, Chairman KALC (Kent Association of Local Councils)

- Ray explained he went to the NALC AGM this week and a parish in Kent (Westerham) won Cllr of the Year Award (from a total of over 90,000 cllrs) – and Sevenoaks won 2nd Best Council of the Year; Plus KALC through the County Secretary Terry Martin was also highlighted for the work with highways on where all the hydrants in Kent parishes are placed.
- There have been financial pressures on local authorities for the last three years
- The Concurrent Function agreement is in place for the next four years – will income from CCC stop after that?
- Ray mentioned 'double devolution- where a service is devolved from central government to a local authority and then further devolved to Town and Parish Councils – this is a concept from the Rt Hon. Greg Clark MP.
- There are discussions currently in East Kent for different tiers to work together – and there are future opportunities for different schemes.
- Ray suggested that parish councillors should sit in other parish council meetings, particularly those adjacent to their own and / or with similar problems – this could be a way of modestly evolving together or on their own?

KCC finance, Dave Shipton

Of KCC's total budget, 40% goes to Social Care and 16% to Education. The current Highways budget is £30m a year (which is only £37.40 from each Band D property's total £1,100 annual payment). This £30m covers adverse weather actions; drainage; street lights and energy costs; and soft landscapes, etc

Central Government in 2016-2017 gave £8.6m in 2017-2018 this is going down to £7.1m.

KCC is capped at a 1.9% increase on their overall budget (or be subject to a Referendum which across Kent would cost £2m).

The budget is also affected by increased spending demands with oil and energy and street light costs increasing.

KHS is looking to reduce staffing contracts and do better work programmes to balance the accounts and infact make net savings (to potentially go to other KCC services).

Roundtable discussion – re next year budgets. Comments included that Highways is a 'visible' service – and seen by people every day – this effects people's views on budget and whether savings should fund other more 'unseen' services. KCC/KHS could look for more income generation opportunities, such as lorry tolls.

There is a recognised difficulty in communication between KHS and Highways England.

Litter cleanup costs Kent £12m a year!

Soft landscaping, Richard Diplock

£3.70 per Band D household is levied. This covers amongst other things:

Urban grass verges 8 x cuts per year (reducing to 5/6 cuts in 2017-2018)

Shrubs 1 x visit

Urban hedge cutting 1 per year

Rural hedge cutting 1-3 per year

Rural grass verge 1 per year

Hard surfaces/weed spraying 1 x visit per year

There is opportunity to devolve ground maintenance to parishes.

KHS pay currently between 1p and 3 pence per square metre.

KHS would pay parishes the same amount as they pay for their current provision (and KHS achieve economies of scale, so this payment would not cover the full costs – parishes would pay at a higher amount). BUT to do so would

- give localised control and approach
- ability to top up the maintenance from the KCC minimum
- a possibility to link/cluster with other parish councils?
- KCC/KHS have spoken to KALC

To get involved:

- debate local requirement
- be mindful of wider discussions in the district
- be mindful of minimum specification reducing to 5/6 cuts next year
- consider link with other parishes?
- KHS would give details of asset quantity/maps/financial figures – extracted on a parish level
- Enter open dialogue with KHS – consider H&S, PLI cover, litter picking of verges
- Formal arrangements would be put in place to finalise
- The minimum specification of work would be required/expected/checked – and wrapped into a Service Level Agreement – and this must be adhered to as a minimum
- Parishes taking part would get an annual agreement, renewable annually.
- There would be opportunity to go back to the work being put back on to the KHS contract in the future if need be.

(Other actions if interested in taking this idea further: - speak to KALC; ask KHS for examples of who and where has already taken over the soft landscaping and ask for their feedback on their experiences; does this help KCC; fault reporting where an area has been devolved to parishes? Officer time and Clerk/Cllr time on administration?)

Street lighting, Sue Kinsella and Richard Emmett

At last year's Forum the procurement and LED changeover contract was mentioned. Since then, on 14 March 2016 the new contract started (with Moyes?)

LEDs will give longer lantern life so less replacements needed, lower energy costs and a central management system with a self-fault diagnosis system too.

Conversion to LEDs is a three-year project, with 70,000 lanterns (of KCC owned lights on minor roads) to be converted in the first 14 months – 26,500 have been converted so far – and the rest should complete by May 2017. (Gravesham, Sevenoaks and Shepway are nearing completion, Dover and Tunbridge Wells have started and Canterbury will start in January with completion by May). More info on www.kent.gov.uk on districts' updates.

The 'all night/part night' consultation undertaken gave 65% of respondents in favour of reverting back to all night lighting and Cabinet met and agreed that when all the lanterns are LEDs that they will revert back to all night lighting again.

Parishes with their own street lights

KCC is to write to parishes with their own street lights and ask if they would like to use KCC to upgrade their stock. They will ask when the last inspections were done. A company called Salex do offer 0% interest loans to upgrade stock.

Winter work, Carol Valentine, winter service manager

- o The last few years have been milder and wetter
- o KHS salt the primary routes on average 6 times per year – as precautionary salting prior to a frost
- o This year KHS have got 22 new large gritters, and 7 mini-gritters (for narrow roads / those with parked cars.)
- o Some local farmers are contracted and paid to clear snow (there are 117 farmers on KHS books)
- o If snow comes, KHS can call on Highways England who have a supply of salt to bid for and KHS also have discussions with neighbouring councils too.
- o A 'winter' article is to go into the KALC newsletter.

Parish third-party funding highways works, Kirstie Williams

This concerns schemes that are wholly funded outside of KCC (and not with KCC Highways Member grants either)

Parish Councils are the scheme promoter and developer.

If the parish has an idea in the first instance they should speak to the district KHS manager.

Then the process depends on size/cost:

- i) For small works, under £5k and a simple scheme, eg bollards, drop crossing:
 - speak to the district KHS manager ; Consult locally; district manager to advise costs; parish to make payment in advance in full; district manager to order works; parish to deal with enquiries from customers/residents
- ii) For larger works, over £5k:
 - Several examples given, eg "Unsuitable for HGV" sign on a post costs approx. £350
 - Footway resurfacing at £569 per 10 metre squared.
 - speak to the district KHS manager; consultation; health and safety issues; any traffic regulations orders, eg parking, commission own traffic consultant to design the scheme (KCC can provide a list); Parish may have to fund traffic or pedestrian counts; KCC/KHS technical approval – then build scheme; parish appoints own contractor, let residents know and deal with customer enquiries themselves at parish level