

Meopham Mercury

The Meopham Parish Council Newsletter No.12

Autumn 2016

Voluntary Litter Pick Schedule

We live in a beautiful village and keeping it tidy and litter free is not an easy task. The PC hold periodic litter picks on Saturday mornings, details are posted on the PC web site and Facebook page, We provide litter pick sticks, high viz jackets and a cuppa at the Windmill afterwards.

Litter Pick dates for 2017:

Saturday January 28th 2017
Saturday April 29th 2017
Saturday July 29th 2017
Saturday October 28th 2017

Please join us and help to keep Meopham clean and tidy. The more the merrier! Meet at the Windmill at 10am. If you are aware of any areas in the parish that could benefit from a litter pick, please notify the Parish Office in the week prior to the litter pick so we can target this area.

Is your group or organisation in need of a grant?

The Parish Council can award small grants at its discretion, to non-profit making or charitable organisations within the parish that benefit the local community. You would need to complete an application form available from the Parish Office or download it from the Parish website, along with further information on the council's small grant policy. All applications must be submitted to the Parish Clerk by midday on Friday 28th October 2016. Please contact the Clerk at the Parish Office if you wish to discuss your grant application.

Bus Shelters

Kent County Council provided Meopham Parish Council with a grant to repaint the 4 brick bus shelters and replace the missing glass panels in several of the metal shelters. KCC also paid for the 2 new shelters at the Meopham station end of the village and the new extra shelter outside The George Public House. Meopham Parish Council is responsible for the 12 bus shelters in the parish from Culverstone School to the Railway station. If you spot any damage to one of the shelters, please report this to the Parish Office.

Meopham Medical Centre Health and Well Being Walks

If you fancy getting fitter while enjoying the beautiful surrounding countryside, then why not join the local walks organised every Thursday from Meopham Medical Centre at 2pm. The local walks vary from 3 to 4 miles and finish back at the Centre at 4pm.

Please note that although the walk leader takes care with the planning and execution of the walks, anyone taking part does so at their own risk. For more information contact the Centre on: 01474 814811/814288.

Who should I contact?

For any of the following issues please contact the Parish Council:

- Bus shelters
- Judson's recreation ground and play equipment
- Judson's Pavilion
- Village Greens

For any of the following issues please contact KCC Highways:

- broken signs
- overgrown trees
- potholes
- street light faults
- traffic signal faults

KCC Highways on their online fault reporting – <http://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem> or tel: 03000 418181

For any of the following issues please contact Gravesham Borough Council:

- street cleaning
- parking
- litter
- fly tipping (if on the road, report to KCC Highways)

<http://www.gravesham.gov.uk/> or tel: 01474 56 44 22

For any of the following issues on the Public Rights of Way in the Parish:

- broken stiles
- overgrown vegetation or fallen trees
- damaged or dangerous path surfaces
- damaged or missing signposts

KCC Public Rights of Way on their online fault reporting at www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-on-a-right-of-way or tel: 03000 417171

Please keep a record of any fault reporting number that any of the above give you for future reference.

Alternatively you can contact the Parish Office on any of the above and we will happily pass on the information. Please provide us with exact location details and, if possible, a photograph of the problem would help.

With all the rain and sunshine over the summer, the vegetation in the parish has gone into overdrive! If you do have any vegetation that is overhanging a public footpath or road can we politely ask you to keep it cut back.

Meopham Sport

Table Tennis

The Parish Council would like to congratulate Pam Butcher, a Meopham resident who recently became the world over 85 ladies Table Tennis champion in a tournament held in Spain. In the finals Pam managed to beat her Japanese opponent in a hard fought match and was crowned champion. Pam is a member of the Meopham Table Tennis Club and plays in the local Gravesend league. She lives in Denesway with her husband Roy.

Since playing veterans Table Tennis Pam has travelled the world and has won many awards including the over 80's world championships which were held in China, since winning this latest award she has been much in demand for appearances on both national and local TV and radio and recently appeared on South East Today on BBC 1 and Women's Hour on BBC Radio 4.

Meopham Cricket Club

Congratulations to Meopham CC Saturday first X1 on their promotion to Division 1 and well done to the Seconds for finishing third in their league. New players of any standard are always welcome and nets will start again in January indoor with outdoor in April. The club also have a thriving colts set up; if you're interested please go to the clubs website for contact details.

Meopham Colts

Meopham Colts continue to thrive in the local youth football world and have their own web page if your children are interested in joining.

Meopham Ladies Hockey Club

Meopham Ladies Hockey Club has been successfully running two teams in the Kent Women's leagues for over 25 years and is always looking for new members. The club currently has members of different ages, abilities and fitness levels so there is something for everyone.

Held at Gravesend Rugby Football Club, Donald Biggs Drive, Milton Road,

Gravesend, Kent DA12 2TL.

Email:

MeophamLadiesHockeyClub@yahoo.com
If you require any further information or have any questions please visit www.meophamladieshc.co.uk

Parish Plan

A short while ago the Parish Council decided to go ahead with the development of a new Parish Plan to replace the one produced in 2008 which is now out of date. Before reaching this decision we organised a workshop to examine our options. We could develop a Neighbourhood Plan, revise our Parish Plan or do nothing, we soon decided that doing nothing was not an option and a Neighbourhood Plan would be a huge amount of work and would take several years. With the help of Jim Boot, an experienced Community Planner, we decided to go ahead with a Parish Plan. Developing a Plan will provide an opportunity for the community to give its views and give information about how they feel about the place where they live. We can then look at how Parishioners want to see Meopham in the future and draw our plan together. Through carrying out three or four small consultation exercises we have already identified that the main concern of many local people is the A227 and transport in general so this will clearly be an early focus for the Parish Action Team (PAT) which will be working on the Plan.

If you would like to be involved in the Parish Plan, then please contact Susan McNally on 01474 815971, mobile 07795958149 and email:

susan.mcnally@lineone.net

Information about PAT meetings and events will be published on the Parish Council notice boards and on social media.

Social Media

The Parish Council has its own Facebook page where local information is added and Parish issues can be addressed. There are also some other Facebook

groups that residents may be keen to join, 'Meopham Village Not Town' and 'Just for Meopham Villagers' are both run by local residents for local residents with services advertised and advice given. There is also a selling group, 'Meopham madness' where you can sell unwanted goods.

Harvel Pond

The Parish Council in conjunction with the Kent Wildlife Trust are looking at putting a management plan together for the pond to improve the condition of this asset. This will include an ecological survey which would detail any protected species on the pond and a tree safety survey. Full details are still to be agreed. Details will be published on the MPC web site and Facebook page.

Citizens Advice Bureau scam

We have received reports of scam phone calls from people claiming to work for a Citizens Advice Bureau. The caller attempts to discuss debt management with the resident and claims that their details had been passed to them from another company. Please be aware that these calls are NOT being made by Citizens Advice. Please do not disclose any personal information such as bank details, no matter who the person claims to be. We are aware of two numbers that are being used to make these calls; these are 07909 635 410 and 07456 144 596. If you want to contact Citizens Advice about debt you can telephone them on 03444 111 444 or find your local bureau at citizensadvice.org.uk. If you receive one of these scam telephone calls please report it.

Meopham Players

The Players next performance will be a production of Quartet on the 27th, 28th and 29th of October at Meopham village hall with the box office now open. Further information can be obtained from MeophamPlayers@gmail.com. Box office number is 0844 288 9708.

Picnic on The Green

The event held at the start of July on the Cricket green was a resounding success despite some early apprehension regarding the weather. We hope all that attended had a great time and we will be looking to hold a similar event next year. Any suggestions or ideas on what we could offer or do differently would be well received.

New Councillor

We would like to welcome Pat Luxford to the council as a new Councillor for the Culverstone and Harvel ward. We are sure Cllr Luxford will be an asset to the council with her knowledge of the area.

How to contact Meopham Parish Council

You can contact us in the following ways:

- Call into the Windmill - we are usually open 9am-12 noon Monday to Friday
- Telephone - 01474 813779
- E-mail at clerk@meopham.org
- www.meopham.org
- Twitter - @meophamPC
- Facebook-"Meopham Parish Council"

Your parish council members are:

Hook Green & Nurstead Ward

Sue Gofton
Rosalie Knott
Jo McTavish
John Ogden (Vice Chairman)

Camer & Meopham Green Ward

Sheila Buchanan (Chairman)
Peter Hasler
Douglas Powell
Barbara Wade

Culverstone & Harvel Ward

Max Bramer
Dawn Bramer
Pat Luxford
Peter Howard

Parish Council meeting dates

Parish Council meetings are due to take

place at 7.30pm in the Windmill unless otherwise stated:

18/10/16	Full Council Meeting (Meopham Village Hall) 7.30pm
01/11/16	Environment & Amenities
15/11/16	Planning & Projects
29/11/16	Administration & Resources
13/12/16	Full Council Meeting (Cricket Pavilion)

Other Diary Dates

25/10/16	Neighbourhood Watch Meeting (Cricket Pavilion) 6.45pm to 9.30pm – All welcome
13/11/16	Remembrance Service at the War Memorial – 3pm
19/11/16	Friends of Meopham Parish Church Xmas Fayre -11am to 4pm
21/12/16	Carols around the Green – 8pm

Other useful contacts:

Police:

EMERGENCY	Dial 999
Non-emergency	Dial 101
PCSO Jo Hartley	101

E-mail:
gravesham.neighbourhood@kent.pnn.police.uk

Community Warden:

Mandy Cason 07977 981931

Other numbers:

Crimestoppers anonymous	0800 555111
Victim Support	0300 303 0156
Antisocial behaviour	01474 337000
Community Safety Unit	01474 337528
Kent County Council (general)	03000 41 41 41
Kent Highway Services	03000 41 81 81
Gravesham Borough Council	01474 564422
Flytipping (24 Hours)	0800 80 70 60
Graffiti Hotline	01474 337000
Floodline	0345 988 1188