

The November meeting of the Parish Council was attended by all except one councillors. Four members of the public were also present, including District Councillor Gary Williamson. The hedge of the corner of Main Road and Shelleys Lane has at long last been cut after an enforcement order was served on the owner. Our village lamp posts are going to be painted in 2008 according to EDF. This will be the first time in 10 years so this should brighten things up considerably! The quarterly financial accounts were approved. The hiring of the recreation ground was discussed again and a Use of the Ground Agreement has been drawn up, a copy of which will be sent to the Carnival Committee.

The ongoing problems of heavy lorries and skip traffic using DeerLeap Lane was discussed and a letter has been sent to Sevenoaks District Council from VOSPA. There has been no application for a licence from the Lavender Cottage site so Vospa are to investigate. Cllr Bob Martin attended a transportation meeting with a presentation by JMP Consulting. There were representatives from many different parish councils. Although the presentation in itself was poor, it was a useful meeting in that many attending had used public transport and it was evident that the bus services are not sufficiently synchronised or organised as they should be. Cllr Martin requested contributions for the KPC newsletter again and urged people to supply articles, however short.

Cllr Tim Broadhurst reported for the Sports and Leisure Committee about the possible drainage of the football pitch and the possibility of acquiring the freehold of the recreation ground from Cluttons, which would be sensible bearing in mind the long-term plans for the possible rebuilding of the village centre, changing facilities, etc. Cllr Broadhurst had attended an open spaces meeting. A survey has been carried out on open spaces in the district with 5000 questionnaires sent out. There are only 3 villages without allotment facilities, including Knockholt. Those with them, have waiting lists. They are very much back in fashion now. A questionnaire will be sent out to ascertain whether or not there is a need for allotment facilities in Knockholt.

Cllr Malzer read out the police report; it had been a relatively good month with only the theft from 2 vehicles in Blueberry Lane, a shed burglary in Burlings Lane and criminal damage to property in Burlings Lane. The figures throughout the year were available: 29 recorded crimes, 13 burglaries, 9 theft of vehicles or from vehicles, 4 criminal damages and 3 thefts. The main areas of crime continue to be Main road, Burlings Lane and Old London Road. The clear up rates for Kent are as follows: 18% robberies, 49% violent crimes, 30% fraud and forgery offences, 20% theft and handling offences. It is one of the best records in the south east, apart from robberies and violent offences. Apparently only one-fifth of all robberies are detected.

The council voted to continue our partnership with Halstead sharing the PCSO, the benefits to the village being enormous. The council also voted to share the SID, the speed watch scheme, with Halstead. Terms and conditions will be drawn up for consideration. Lastly the Fort Halstead working group meeting was discussed. Cllr Bob Martin and Michael Stevens attended. It is important to note that we are not responding to a planning application as yet. Hines will not put forward an application before having discussions on transportation and infrastructure with KCC. Gary Williamson noted that we would be very likely to see an application in by early spring next year. Simon O'Donnell of Hines will hold meetings with parish councils in November, after which consultation will be widened out to the community.

The roadworks were briefly discussed and the meeting closed at 9.35 pm. The next meeting will be on Monday 3 December at 7.45 pm. You are warmly invited to attend.