

Deal Town Council
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**The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held in the Town Hall
on 25th April 2013.**

Present:

Cllr. M Burnham (Chairman)	Cllr Dr D Murray
Cllr W Elliott	Cllr Mrs K Blackburn
Cllr C Tough	Cllr Mrs C Stickler
Cllr B Bano	Cllr B Hawkins
Cllr B Gardner	Cllr I Kilberry
Cllr E Rowbotham	Cllr B Frost
Cllr M Cosin	

Officer in attendance: Town Clerk, Linda Dykes

Others:

70 members of the public and representatives of local services, voluntary and community organisations.

1.	Chairman's opening remarks: Cllr M Burnham read out the emergency fire evacuation procedures and then opened the meeting at 7.15pm with a welcome to all present. Cllr Burnham reminded everyone that the closing date of 30 th April 2013 was fast approaching for grant applications to be considered by the Town Council, and that the second round was not until November 2013. Cllr Burnham also advised that Cllr Bano would be taking photographs during the evening unless there were any objections.
2.	Apologies for absence: Cllr J Cronk, Cllr D Cronk and Mr Alan Gleave.
3.	The minutes of the previous Annual Town Meeting held on 12th April 2012. The minutes were presented and it was agreed that they should be confirmed as an accurate record. (P) BB (S) CT. Agreed. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.
4.	The Chairman of the Council's Report. Cllr M Burnham summarised her year in office explaining the civic side of her role including representing the town and in fund raising for her chosen charities. Cllr Burnham advised that it had been a challenging but fulfilling year and thanked the staff and Councillors for their work. Cllr Burnham closed her report by confirming that the negotiations for the transfer of the Town Hall were nearing completion.
5.	Your town updates: (a). Kent Police. Sgt Carl Lidgley, Insp Ian Swallow and PC Sophie Bramble were all present throughout the evening. Sgt Lidgley delivered a report to the



	<p>meeting detailing the current position in Deal in relation to crime, anti-social behaviour and Police plans and operations. The overall message was that Deal remains a safe place to live with an overall reduction in crime – see attached for a full copy of the report.</p> <p>(b) Deal Area Emergency Foodbank. Mr Alan Thompson delivered a presentation on the Deal Area Emergency Foodbank (DAEF) which opened in December 2012. All food items are donated by local people and businesses. Food is then gifted to those in need on presentation of a voucher at the distribution points. Donation bins for items are currently situated in local Churches, the Deal Town Hall reception area, Sainsbury and the Golf Road Community Centre. 25 local organisations and agencies are currently signed up to give out vouchers to those in need of emergency food aid which can be collected from the distribution points in Deal, Sandwich and Aylesham. The operation is Christian led but community inclusive. It is non-judgemental and also aims to signpost callers to others who may be able to help with longer term solutions to the issues they are facing. Volunteers manage the operations for collection and delivery of food, management of the warehouse and fund raising to keep the service going. The DAEF expects to feed between 700 - 800 people this year and is currently seeking funds or sponsorship to obtain a van for food collections and deliveries to rural areas.</p> <p>Cllr Burnham thanked Sgt Lidgley and Mr Alan Thompson for their time in attending and addressing the meeting.</p>
6.	<p>Feedback from the representatives of local groups and organisations. Representatives of local organisations were then invited to present information about who they are, what they do and, if appropriate, how they had used any financial grant awarded by Deal Town Council – see list attached for participants.</p> <p>All speakers were limited to 2 minutes each for their presentations which were well received by all those present.</p>
7.	<p>Open session for questions or comments on any issues of interest:</p> <p>A member of the public asked why the Deal Town Council precept had been increased by 25% in comparison to the lesser increase imposed by Walmer Parish Council. Cllr Killbery explained the original intention of a zero % increase until the last minute changes to local government finance announced in December 2013. Deal remained the lowest taxed town in the District.</p> <p>Councillors noted the comments made by a member of the public regarding the financing of the Public Conveniences.</p> <p>A question was raised asking if 2013 would see the regeneration of a partnership with the Deal Town Team, the Chamber of Trade and Deal Town Council. Cllr Killbery advised that the Town Council had brought together the MP, the Chamber of Trade, the Deal Society and District and County Councillors to work together on the Portas bid which resulted in setting up the Town Team. Cllr</p>

MB

Killbery also confirmed that the door was open and Council would be delighted to talk again to all partners.

A member of the public raised a problem of speeding motorists at the bottom of Golf Road who use it like a race track. There was a fear of damage to vehicles and property and of serious injury to others. Sgt Lidgley emphasised the importance of reporting incidents and behaviour like this so that the Neighbourhood Team resources could be deployed where needed at hotspots. He acknowledged that their resources were stretched but advised that they welcomed information from the public on issues that they had not picked up on already. They would prefer calls from the public with good intent rather than no calls at all.

Another resident of Golf Road also complained of the problem with 'boy racer' drivers where the road narrows. Insp Swallow reiterated the point made by Sgt Lidgley. He advised the meeting that they would love to be in a position to reverse cuts and have more officers available. However the loss of staff simply meant that they have had to change the way they work and the Police welcomed reports from the public to alert them to problem areas.

Another member of the public raised a similar problem in Church Lane and told the meeting that lorries were frequently up and down the road – sometimes getting stuck and needing assistance to reverse out. The member of the public commented that Police Officers and PCSOs were not seen in the area. Sgt Lidgley advised that this should also be reported to the Police and expressed safety concerns if members of the public were trying to help a reversing HGV. If a call was made using the 101 telephone number Police Officers would respond.

A member of the public expressed her thanks to the local Police for their rapid response to a reported break in and the caring follow up service she received. The speaker commented that the Police should be congratulated for their hard work. This was well received in the room and by the Police Officers present.

Another question was posed to the Police asking the outcome of 2 high profile assault cases in Deal. Insp Swallow advised that there could be no discussion on specific cases. Details would be discussed with any victim of crime but it would be wrong to broadcast any opinions. Insp Swallow also reminded those present that the decision on whether to prosecute individuals remains with the Crown Prosecution Service and not the Police.

Deal Town Council was asked if it was aware of the role of Community Organisers. The Town Clerk confirmed that the role of Community Organisers was an agenda item for the next Council meeting on 30th April 2013.

A final question was asked regarding the ratio of Police Officers per head of population and how many were on duty in Deal. Insp Swallow advised that



	whilst the local Neighbourhood Team of Police Officers and PCSOs was small in number, response was drafted in from other areas such as Folkestone and Thanet when needed. For operational reasons exact numbers of Officers on duty in a given area at any time would not be broadcast.
8	As there were no further indications of anyone wishing to speak, Cllr Burnham thanked everyone for attending and participating in the meeting. With a final vote of thanks Cllr M Burnham closed the meeting at 9.30pm. Light refreshments were then served and the rest of the evening was an opportunity to chat informally with Councillors and to network with the representatives from the various organisations.
	Date of next Annual Town Meeting: 23rd April 2014
	Linda Dykes Town Clerk 29 th April 2013.

M Burnham