

MINUTES

Annual Parish Meeting of the COLLIER STREET PARISH COUNCIL

on Monday 9 May 2016

Orchard Room

St Margaret's School, Collier Street

In attendance: Cllr Grandi (Chair) Cllr Goff (Vice Chair) Cllr Barham, Cllr Fisher, Cllr Hill, Cllr Sandys, Alan Crocker, Parish Clerk, PCSO. Nicola Morris, 7 members of the public/representatives of the invited organisations.

05.16. 1. Apologies	James Guillum Scott;																																																																							
05.16. 2. Declarations of Interest	None declared																																																																							
05.16.3. Police Report	PCSO Nicola Morris's report is recorded below.	PCSO Nicola Morris																																																																						
05.16. 4. Minutes of Previously held Meetings	05.15.04.01 Full Meeting Monday 11 April 2016	The Clerk																																																																						
05.16.5. Election of Officers	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>POSITION</th> <th>NOMINEE</th> <th>PROPOSER</th> <th>SECONDER</th> <th>ELECTED</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="5">Lead Cllr</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chairman</td> <td>Cllr B Grandi</td> <td>Cllr Barham</td> <td>Cllr Hill</td> <td>√</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vice Chair</td> <td>Cllr D Goff</td> <td>Cllr Sandys</td> <td>Cllr Hill</td> <td>√</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chair F&DCC</td> <td>Cllr B Grandi</td> <td>Cllr Hill</td> <td>Cllr Barham</td> <td>√</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F@DC Committee</td> <td colspan="4">All Cllrs Serve on this Committee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>KALC Parish Representatives (2)</td> <td>1. Cllr Barham</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2. Cllr Goff</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community Safety Rep</td> <td>Cllr B Grandi</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recreation Field Rep</td> <td>Cllr D Goff</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Village Hall Committee</td> <td>Cllr D Goff</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highways</td> <td>Cllr Grandi</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Police & Police Forum Rep</td> <td>Cllr Hill</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flood Committee Rep</td> <td>Cllr D Goff</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> <td>X</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	POSITION	NOMINEE	PROPOSER	SECONDER	ELECTED	Lead Cllr					Chairman	Cllr B Grandi	Cllr Barham	Cllr Hill	√	Vice Chair	Cllr D Goff	Cllr Sandys	Cllr Hill	√	Chair F&DCC	Cllr B Grandi	Cllr Hill	Cllr Barham	√	F@DC Committee	All Cllrs Serve on this Committee				KALC Parish Representatives (2)	1. Cllr Barham	X	X	X		2. Cllr Goff	X	X	X	Community Safety Rep	Cllr B Grandi	X	X	X	Recreation Field Rep	Cllr D Goff	X	X	X	Village Hall Committee	Cllr D Goff	X	X	X	Highways	Cllr Grandi	X	X	X	Police & Police Forum Rep	Cllr Hill	X	X	X	Flood Committee Rep	Cllr D Goff	X	X	X	The Clerk
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05.16.6.1 Corporate Governance	<p>Annual Governance Statement 2015/2106</p> <p>The Clerk read the factors included within the governance statement and these were approved by the full Council.</p> <p>Corporate Governance Questionnaire to be signed by The Chairman</p> <p><i>The Chairman agreed the completed and signed the Governance Questionnaire.</i></p>																																																																							
05.16.6.2	The unaudited Annual Return to be approved by full Council (subject to change following internal audit)																																																																							

05.16.6.2.1.	<i>The full Council approved the unaudited accounts, as already stated these could be the subject of minor changes following the internal audit on 19 May 2016.</i>	
05.16.6.3	Collier Street Funding Agreement to be signed by The Chairman <i>The Chairman signed the funding agreement for the upcoming financial year</i>	
05.16.6.3.1	Collier Street Funding Agreement - Confirmation of Usage - Tax Year 2015/2016 <i>The Chairman signed the confirmation of usage form as required by the Borough Council</i>	
05.16.6.6	Financial Risk Assessment to be re-adopted <i>The full Council approved the risk assessment</i>	
05.16.6.7	Approval of spend for the works to the Kissing Gate/Recreation Field <i>The Clerk is to seek a further quotation for the above works</i>	
05.16. 7. PLANNING		
05.16. 7.1. 15/505992/Full SCRAP YARD CLAYGATE ROAD YALDING Demolition of existing buildings and hardstanding. Erection of 2 detached dwellings with associated garaging, parking and turning area. Submission of planting and landscaping scheme	The application details form submitted by the architect Simon Mackay of SJM Planning is still incorrect, for the following reasons: 1. Section 11 states that the foul sewage will be removed by Mains sewer and there is no mains drainage in this area, there will have to be a treatment plant or cesspit of some kind. 2. Section 12 flood risk. They have ticked the site is not within 20 metres of a watercourse but there is a drainage ditch running along the entire boundary of the site. 3. Section 14 Existing Use. They have ticked that the site is not currently vacant, there has been nobody at the site for several months. Where they have to tick if the land is contaminated they have ticked No, but it was a scrapyard so must be contaminated. They have also ticked No for 'land which is suspected to be contaminated on all or part of the site'. We also have concerns that they have a large cellar for laundry, wine, plant and storage under the properties. This is very unwise in a location surrounded by a flood zone where there is weald clay in the entire water table preventing water from soaking away. When deep holes are dug around this location for footings etc., they fill with water.	
05.16.7.2 16/503631 LITTLE BROOK FARM GREEN LANE YALDING KENT TN12 9RB Construction of an all-weather manege and erection of two stables.	1. Would question the existing arrangements for disposal of manure. Confirmation required that this is in place and who is the local farmer. 2. It is stated this is an established small equestrian establishment. We believe that there was only one horse kept here for many years and that horse belonged to the homeowner who sold the property only a few months ago. 3. It should be noted that some extension work has already taken place to extend the stables. 4. In the application it states the site benefits from being located to the local bridleways network. There are no local bridleways in the area. The only way out for horses not in the appropriate vehicles is by riding out onto an increasing busy road. Should an application for change of use be appropriate? 5. We would wish you to revisit the statement that the site line are good, we would refute this statement. The location is situated on a bend in the road and we would have concerns with larger vehicular access and the general perceived increase in traffic movements. 6. We are concerned that a future installation of lighting for the manege and stables will introduce floodlighting to a naturally dark sky location. If the Planning Department grants planning permission we request conditions to be applied to restrict future lighting on the site. 7. The application and declaration states agricultural use, we perceive this use to be leisure. Having studied the flood risk assessment we would wish to make the following points: <u>Flooding Issues.</u> It is noted that the historic flooding information does not mention the floods of 2013/2014 which were more severe than 2000. The unnamed drainage ditch mentioned on page vi is a poorly maintained ditch and is in need of cleaning and maintenance if it is to be used for drainage of the manege. This should be a condition of approval. The ditch links to a drain under the road that joins a ditch maintained by the UMIDB. The unnamed ditch is not maintained by the UMIDB as stated in the report. The ditch is linked to farm land at the rear of the property.	

	<p>It is noted that the report says safe access and egress routes in an emergency by vehicles and or foot can be maintained. In both the 2000 and 2013/14 floods the road outside the property was closed for long periods of time due to the depth of the water in Green Lane. In both floods the depth of water was in excess of 2 feet. Pedestrian access was not possible without the correct equipment being available. The emergency services were required to evacuate an adjacent property using an inflatable boat. Access to and from the property was very difficult.</p> <p>The report also states the unnamed ditch is a tributary of the Lesser Teise. This statement is in correct. It does carry out this function. It has no direct link as the ditch is linked to farm land at the rear of the property and over the years has been blocked off from the flow of water from the river.</p> <p>On page 7 it states that flood risk to the site from the Lesser Teise can be considered to be limited and the risk is minor. In both 2000 and 2013/14 floods the river came out of bank at Brook Farm and the water ended up coming down Green Lane at a vast speed and depth. As a result of these events the risk cannot be considered to be minor.</p> <p>On Page 9 it states that the nearest flooding was 250 metres to the north in 2000. There was another property 100 metres away that was also flooded. Both of the adjacent properties were flooded in 2013/14.</p> <p>It is correct that according to the flood maps that this property is in Flood Zone 2 but given the two most recent floods the property is more at risk than the maps show due to its position. The flood waters may not have entered the house but the drive and surrounding land were under water.</p>	
<p>Planning Workshop Cllr David Goff</p>	<p>Bullet points on the workshop are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Changes in Enforcement ✚ Changes of persons in post ✚ 460 complaints in 2015 ✚ 92% in time frame ✚ Structure charts to be sent to all Clerks <p>ENFORCEMENT ISSUES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Will include reporting lines ✚ No out of hours contracts for enforcements ✚ Will be difficult with job descriptions ✚ Problem with no Courts in session ✚ Enforcement notices are difficult and time consuming to issue ✚ Correct procedures must be followed or else it may fall down at a later stages <p>TRAINING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Training requirements on planning will be delivered at some stage ✚ Provide some basic events on all aspects ✚ How planning committee work ✚ On permitted development rights <p>GENERAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Need to communicate with Planning Officer ✚ New Traveller guidance has been published ✚ Parish Councils views are always listened to about planning applications ✚ Government keep changing the rules on planning applications ✚ Local plans have to be in place by early 2017 if not then the Government will take charge ✚ 21 days problems with site notices going up and as and when it appears in the paper or on the website ✚ Residents only become active when they see the notice ✚ Sometimes decision has already been made by the PC ✚ Concern over developments in the villages will impact on villages that are not being developed – facilities required i.e. schools, doctors etc. 	
<p>ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE</p>	<p>At this juncture a member of the public requested that the Parish Council give backing to the White Hart Public House as a Community Asset. The Clerk is to progress the matter through the appropriate channels.</p>	
<p>05.16.8 Organisation Reports Collier Street</p>		
<p>Borough Councillor's Cllrs Blackmore/Burton/McLoughlin</p>	<p>Cllr McLoughlin, expressed his thanks to those who supported him following his re-election to office on the 5 May 2016.</p> <p>MBC is to operate a Committee Style Structure going forward perceived to be more inclusive and less political.</p> <p>The Local Plan is out for consultation. It is not perceived to be perfect but it gives some defence to the siting of new developments. 2 new directors are to be appointed. Further development are envisaged for the Town Centre. Waiting details of the flood mitigation. A huge job with repairs to the road networks.</p>	
<p>Community Safety/Highways Cllr Barbara Grandi</p>	<p><u>Community Safety and Highways Report from Cllr Barbara Grandi</u></p> <p><u>Speedwatch</u></p>	

Speedwatch sessions were conducted on 4 consecutive Wednesday evenings in Yalding, Laddingford and surrounding parishes during the summer.
New Speedwatch volunteers met on Saturday 16th Jan. More than a dozen vehicles were found to be exceeding the 30 mph limit near the car park. Councillor Steve Fisher now has the Speedwatch equipment and will be coordinating this initiative. More volunteers are needed to make this effective as regular sessions are needed to deter speeding drivers.

Highways

On December 9th Councillors Grandi and Goff met with the Highways Steward Claire Chewter and her Manager to discuss Highways issues in the Parish.

Roadworks

The main B2162 roadworks were problematic in the week beginning July 27th when the road was closed and traffic diverted through Haviker Street. All traffic including lorries became snarled up along the narrow lane. Richard Emmett from KCC Highways apologised and said 'lessons had been learned'.

Haviker Street- was closed for one day only on Monday July 27th for pot hole repairs

Road Repairs on the B2162

Contractors carried out pot hole filling and other road repairs to the B2162 in preparation for the surface dressing from Spenny Lane to Haviker Street, no specific dates given:

B2162 CLAYGATE AND COLLIER STREET – Spenny Lane to Green Lane

09:30 to 15:30hrs for up to 5 days

Alternative route via Sheephurst Lane, B2079 Goudhurst Road, West End, Church Green, High Street, Maidstone Road, Underlyn Lane and Green Lane

B2162 COLLIER STREET, - Green Lane to Haviker Street

09:30 to 15:30hrs for up to 5 days

Alternative route via Green Lane, Hunton Road, East Street, West Street, Vicarage Road, High Street, B2162 Benover Road and Collier Street

Resurfacing works to Plain Road, Marden and Hampstead Lane Yalding are also listed.

Further information on planned roadworks in the borough can be found at: www.roadworks.org

Many different problems were reported via the Highways on line or by email, these included:

- Spenny Lane Fly Tipping: waste from a fencing job.
- Claygate Road A domestic Fridge was dumped outside the disused yard at the bottom of Gain Hill in Claygate Road.
- Flytipping Building waste dumped in Longend Lane on July.
- Flytipping Builder's waste dumped in Forge Lane, this time in two separate locations about 150 metres apart. August
- Flytipping Horse manure dumped in Forge Lane. August
- Flytipping Fence panels, builder's waste and a printer were dumped in King's Lane. August
- Flytipping A large number of tyres were dumped in a field entrance along Spenny Lane. August
- Damaged Signs The 30 mph sign by the car park and the flashing 20mph sign by the school were both knocked out of position.
- Flytipping A flytipped mattress was reported on the verge in Jarmons Lane. December
- Overhanging Trees on the B2162 and in Forge Lane were reported after Storm Katie.
- An Overgrown Beech Hedge along Jarmons Lane was reported.
- Fly tipped glass and frames from a conservatory were dumped in Spenny Lane. March

Freight Zone, the 7.5 tonne weight limit Traffic Order:

On March 30th Andy Corcoran, from Kent Highways, responded to inform the Parish Council that he has now sent off all the necessary paperwork to resolve the issues with the Traffic Regulation Order and this should all be in place including Pikefish Lane and Darman Lane on the 11th April 2016. The only outstanding signing issue for the actual restriction will be to then move the current HGV signs from Pikefish Lane & Darman Lane to the junction with Queens Street.

School Safety

Clr Barbara Grandi met with KC Councillor Paulina Stockell, Elaine Hendren Highways Fund Officer, Paul Ryan (CSPS Head teacher), School Governor Ceri Mooney and a representative from FOCSS at the school on the afternoon of Friday March 27th in 2015 but progress was very slow and frustrating after that. Despite meeting again in June 2015 with schemes proposed it all went quiet and 5 months later we were informed that Elaine Hendren had left during a substantial reshuffle at KCC Highways. The scheme is now being progressed again with KCC Highways Road Safety Department but it seems funding is unlikely to come from KCC.

	<p>Neighbourhood Watch: Neighbourhood Watch emails were circulated all year and they included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicles driving around offering chain saws, generators, power washers etc. May • A silver people carrier and a white van was involved in dog stealing in Horsmonden. May • A white transit van pulled into the yard of a property in Benover. May • Thefts were reported from vehicles parked at Marden and Yalding train stations. June • A property was burgled in Hampstead Lane Yalding. May/June. • A Cannabis factory was discovered in two metal containers near Hampstead Lane Yalding. May • Suspicious vehicle reported when a small white van pulled into the driveway of a property near Church Farm. June • A dead horse dumped in Forge Lane, July. • Overnight in July outbuildings to properties in Yalding and Laddingford were broken into. • Garden furniture stolen along Benover Road, July. • Suspicious small white van reported by Yalding NHW. August. • Several sheds and outbuildings broken in to along Haviker Street and on the main B2162 Collier Street. August • Gates stolen from a private driveway in Haviker Street, August. • A vehicle battery and a quantity of diesel was stolen from a JCB digger parked in Green Lane, Collier Street. December • Burglary at a house in Claygate, money stolen. • Copper lightning tape was stolen from St Margaret's Church. December • Over 30 sheep were mauled and killed over Christmas. The dog's owner was identified and the dog destroyed. • Wooden Gates were stolen from a property on the B2162 near Jarmons Lane between March 9th and 10th. • Apple Juice and a box of fruit was stolen from Oak Apple Farm shop, the police were informed. April • A Brown Mastiff dog was safely returned to its owners after going missing in March. <p>Collier Street Car Park: We have substantially reduced the ongoing issues with noise nuisance from cars at night, damage to the fences and grass areas and evidence of inappropriate behaviour. However isolated incidents do occur when the gates are open so we do need to continue the two successful strategies of using a padlock to lock the gates and utilising the volunteer rota for gate closing. Unfortunately a number of the original volunteers have withdrawn and we need more residents/parents to come forward. Three padlocks have been lost during the past year, this is due to the padlocks being left open with the code visible. Another unfortunate loss occurred when the battery powered CCTV camera was stolen, this will be too expensive and vulnerable to replace. A permanent litter bin has been ordered by the Parish Council and MBC have promised a wheelie bin that can be used by both the church and car park to dispose of litter and rubbish.</p>	
<p>County Councillor Cllr Paulina Stockell</p>	<p>Copies of Cllr Stockell's report are available as a separate attached to these minutes</p>	
<p>Friends of Collier Street Church James Guillum Scott</p>	<p>Apologies 21.04.2016 from James Guillum Scott.</p> <p>Margaret Ashworth reported that the application for the post of Vicar has been advertised with an appointment anticipated in the Autumn 2016. Rev Gary Colville will continue in post until a suitable replacement is appointed. She was unsure as to whether the lighting conductor has been replaced. The memorial plaque commemorating the Home Guard donated the decorative arch in memory of those who gave their lives had been stolen. The police are too made aware. It seems that a local Trust maybe able to help with a replacement plaque and the suggestion was that this be placed inside the Church to prevent a reoccurrence of theft.</p>	
<p>Friends of Collier Street School Chair Jake Wallis</p>	<p>No report of attendance</p>	
<p>Helping Hands/Age Concern Margaret Ashworth</p>	<p>Although we do not have many calls for help the main concern is the old people in the village who are lonely. They manage well very well with the help of good neighbours but always welcome a visit from anyone. We do find the pop-in tea party in the Church once a month is a great help, getting people together to enjoy a social afternoon with tea and cakes. We have also re-instated the monthly tea party at various homes in the village as we were told the few people attending would still like it.</p>	
<p>Neighbourhood Watch Cll Barbara Grandi</p>	<p>With thanks to Cllr Grandi the report is included under Community Safety (as above)</p> <p>The email alerts operating by Cllr Grandi are working well and it was suggested that an offer to be included in these be included on the next Village News.</p>	

<p>Parish Magazine Jeannie Gough-Hill</p>	<p>Jeannie briefed the meeting on her new role as joint editor. She takes it in turn with Jacki Fogg to edit the magazine on alternative months. Tracey Bentley takes care of the cash flow and the bank balance is looking fairly healthy. Sincere thanks to Cllr Simon Hill for producing the 6 of the 10 issues per year without charge. The editor is always open to receiving more copy and the response form many readers have been very positive. The last issue ran to 32 pages.</p>	
<p>Police CSPO Nicola Morris</p> 	 <p>2015/16 Over the last twelve months I have continued to work within Nettlestead, Collier St, Marden & Yalding. Some examples of work carried out: Surgeries/drop ins – Marden Library, Marden Train Station, Yalding Farmers Market, Collier St Church Weekly catch ups with Golding homes and joint home visits, linking in with their local activities for residents Joint Family Management Officer visits to support local families Regular contact with Southeastern railway Regular contact with British Transport Police Joint operations held with Kent Police, South-eastern railway and British Transport Police to combat crime, antisocial behaviour and drugs within the villages Horse Watch/Security Event held for local residents Nuisance diaries issued to residents to keep log of events Op Innovate – Rural initiatives - CPT (Community Policing Team) and Special Constables deployed to the area – road checks completed, Police dogs carrying out patrols within area. Persons arrested and drug searches carried out Several reports of nuisance motorbikes – persons identified and spoken to The Community Safety Unit (CSU) have been used to combat local issues – tasking's have been put in place and CCTV deployed within the areas to prevent and deter Crime and Antisocial behaviour The Kent Police website shows a breakdown of crime and locations – just need to put in your postcode on the home page. Follow up visits are conducted to local victims of crime All antisocial behaviour victims are followed up by myself, whether a call or a visit is requested Anyone wishing to contact me about any issues or crime prevention advice can call the non-emergency Police number 101 and ask for local officer PCSO Nicola Morris 56202. Please continue to report any suspicious persons/vehicles/nuisance through 101 Thank you for your continued support in making the areas safe. PCSO 56202 Nicola Morris - Maidstone Neighbourhood Team Nicola is also to bring all of the information together prior to establishing a strategy for a police Lorry Watch initiative. In the interim residents are asked to report the abuse of the prohibited zone by lorry drivers to be reported to 101, hence building a log of the number of incidents. Ex Cllr Maureen Arthur has also volunteered to co-ordinate the various incidences within Parish.</p>	
<p>St Margaret's School Governors Chair Tom Stevens</p>	<p>Staffing is stable. One teacher is currently on maternity leave and will be returning to school in the Autumn term. Mrs Anne Howden our school secretary retired last year after 15yrs service. She was well known in the community and could be seen at the annual pet show each year selling raffle tickets. Anne was liked by generations of children and parents alike. Mrs Sharon Lupton has taken over from Anne as secretary and we wish her well.</p> <p>Leadership: 2 senior teachers had successful sponsorship as part of PE Skills day.</p> <p>On the curriculum front the school is to celebrate her majesty the queens 90th birthday by holding a Commonwealth day.</p> <p>The September intake for year 'R' is looking good. Our school role at present stands at 118 children.</p> <p>We are delighted to report that just under half of our children in year 6 who will be leaving us in July have gained a place at a selective school.</p> <p>The school was delighted at receiving a financial donation from an anonymous family who had historic association with the school for which we are extremely grateful.</p> <p>The school continues to be in good condition. Last year KCC carried out repairs to the main roof and chimneys that required attention. We also had a sewerage treatment plant installed which is currently being monitored and tested by the appropriate authorities.</p>	

	<p>We are currently in negotiations to purchase an additional acre of land at the rear of the schools existing play area which will include fruit trees, and a wild life area. It is our intention in time when funds are available to extend the hard play area. The Head Teacher and I have met with the local planning officer who is in favour of the proposal and was very helpful. We are proceeding with the application in conjunction with KCC.</p> <p>Traffic Group: A parent of the school, the father of one of our teaching staff who is a retired Highways Engineer and a governor are working with the KCC in the continuing effort to have traffic calming measures installed outside the school and church.</p> <p>That concludes my report on behalf of the school.</p> <p>T B Stevens JP MCMl</p> <p>Chair of Governors St Margaret's C E School Collier Street.</p>	
<p>Village Hall Cllr David Goff as Chair of the VH Committee</p>	<p>David I do not appear to have your notes</p>	
<p>W.I. Email Viv Peters</p>	<p>We have had another full year of activity. It began with our 72nd Birthday in June with cake and Rod Leeming ex Special Branch putting a new slant on being a Bodyguard. We also enjoyed our Summer Tea Party</p> <p>Two of our members attended the Queen's Garden Party and came back with their stories of the day.</p> <p>Whilst our President and Treasurer roasted all day at Lullingstone giving out tea and cake to 1,400 members, Yalding members ran from the shade to shade determined to see all the scarecrows. Our members have attended various workshops including "A journey through Gems", Art and Craft and Home Economic Days, "Four Simple Stiches" and were shown how to make coloured silk scarves in a microwave.</p> <p>Our speakers have given us tips about appraising Antiques and were in awe of the Medical Detection Dogs who could recognise one drop of blood in an Olympic Swimming Pool. Antonia Gallup entertained us with her escapades around India on a motorbike. Most of which were indescribable. Yaywell ice cream visited us and with spoons at the ready we were forced to treasure their delicious ice cream.</p> <p>We wish and to thank Mary Jakes for finding such a variety oif speakers.</p> <p>With our District we had a visit to Bletchley Park, enjoyed our Carol Service at Allington and journeyed to Brighton for Holiday One Ice.</p> <p>We took photos of members for our "Box" and dressed our Scarecrow as Hippy. Our Challenge in September was well attended with Glen Brace winning every category but one. Our judge, Pat Tomlin praised our Victoria Sponges which was a consolation.</p> <p>We held a Jumble Sale in April and Craft Fair on October, our Lunching Ladies is going strong and Jill Smith's Walking Group is well attended.</p> <p>Our membership has dropped slightly with members moving but it is beginning to rise again since January.</p> <p>We are looking forward to another interesting and varied year</p> <p>Viv Peters – Secretary, Yalding WI</p>	
<p>Woodpeckers Margaret Ashworth/David Goff</p>	<p>After many years Tom Newman relinquished the role as leader of the group. He has carried out the role of leader with great fun and enthusiasm been amazing over the years and carried out with great fun and enthusiasm along with about 12 volunteers who turn up on the first Saturday of the month. Now we have a very capable person leading the group as Steve MacKay has taken his role. Barbara Grandi is managing the money side. It's very much a social occasion each month. Cake and Tea supplied by Pam 'L'. 'Bodge It', 'Force It' and 'Bang It' (David, Ray and Stephane) do a really mammoth job and we are very grateful for all their hard work.</p>	
<p>Yalding Almhouses Cllr Barbara Goff</p>	<p>The Trustees met in September 2015 and in January 2016.</p> <p>General Maintenance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One property needed the ceiling in the kitchen repainting after a leak in the bathroom above • A rear shed/outhouse was re-felted • The gardens were maintained by a local gardener 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trustees are planning some repainting of window frames later in the year. <p>Fire Damage: There will be further redecoration required after a small fire in the kitchen of one of the properties in early April 2016 after a wrapped loaf of bread fell on to a toaster. The fire brigade attended but a neighbouring lady had put the fire out using fire blankets.</p> <p>Residents: One tenant moved to a more appropriate sheltered housing unit in August 2015. There was already a lady waiting for a vacant Almshouse so she moved in as soon as the property had been cleaned and redecorated. Two of the tenants are currently suffering ongoing health issues and have been in and out of hospital lately.</p> <p>Finances: The finances are very astutely and expertly managed by the Treasurer Donald Troup and there are 'healthy' funds available. <u>Finally a reminder of the criteria for anyone interested in moving in to the Almshouses</u> <u>Qualification for Residency</u> The Charity Commission's Scheme states that the 'almspeople shall be poor widows or spinsters of good character who are above the age of 50 years and have resided in the Parish of Yalding for not less than two years'. The definition of 'poor' shall be deemed to be savings or assets of not more than £16,000; this will be reviewed from time to time. An amended scheme has been agreed with the Charity Commission that appointments of residency could be made for at least half the almshouses to be occupied by people who did not live in the village(s) but had strong connections. This gives the Trust sufficient discretion when considering applications. <u>Rules of and Conditions of Residency</u> Seventeen rules and conditions exist but the essential ones are summarised below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 6 houses and the Residents occupy them as licencees paying a weekly maintenance contribution in advance towards the upkeep of the almshouses and this figure may be increased annually upon four weeks' notice. The amount of contribution cannot exceed the maximum level which will qualify for Housing Benefit, excluding any charge for water or other services. A pet may be kept with the permission of the trustees. Residents cannot undertake any employment although voluntary work is permitted. Residents are asked to be considerate to their neighbours and keep their dwelling clean. Trustees undertake to carry out all repairs including internal and external decorations. Residents may not make any structural alteration to the dwelling or alter or add to the plumbing or electrical installations either internally or externally without prior consent of the trustees. Residents are generally welcome to work in the garden but are asked to seek consent before planting trees. Lawn maintenance is the responsibility of the trustees Central heating and hot water are provided for all reasonable purposes of the residents. Residents are responsible for the payment of electricity. The use of paraffin heaters or candles is not allowed, nor any other appliance that may give rise to a fire risk. The residents shall be responsible for the insurance of their own goods against fire or other loss. </p>	
<p>Yalding Education Foundation</p> <p>Emailed Jenny Scott</p>	<p><u>Yalding Educational Foundation - April 2016.</u> Yalding Educational Foundation supports the education of former pupils as well as current pupils of Yalding, Laddingford and Collier Street Primary Schools. Former pupils going onto Higher Education are supported by being invited to apply for a scholarship. The Foundation assesses the applications against a set of criteria and successful applicants receive a cheque. In 2015-6, there were eighteen successful applicants. The amount received by students varies from year to year according to available funds and numbers of successful applicants. The Foundation also supports a Spoken English Competition at the three primary schools. This involves five pupils from each Year 6 reading a passage from the Bible, a poem of their choice and a newspaper article. They then speak for five minutes on a topic of interest to them. The Foundation provides a prize for the winner at each school. In addition, when possible, good use is made of any reserves, by offering the headteachers of the three schools a contribution to fund an educational visit along certain criteria, for the older pupils. This year the schools are unlikely to have this opportunity.</p>	

05.16.13 Date of Next Full Meeting	Monday 13 June 2016	
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Prepared by
Alan Crocker
Clerk to Collier Street Parish Council