



## **Coxheath Annual Parish Meeting**

### **Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting of Coxheath held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 2025 in the Small Hall, Coxheath Village Hall, Coxheath.**

The meeting was Chaired by Coxheath Parish Council Chairman Councillor Gavin Crickett  
Minutes were taken by Irene Bowie, Clerk to Coxheath Parish Council  
In Attendance: 39 members of the public.

1. Welcome by Councillor Crickett (Chairman of Coxheath Parish Council).  
The Chairman extended a warm welcome to all who attended.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 were agreed as a true and correct record of the meeting.
3. Police Representative's and Community Warden's Reports. No reports.
4. County and Borough Councillor Report. KCC Councillor Simon Webb

Maidstone Rural West Residents' Update 2024/25 Dear Resident, It has been my privilege to represent you at County Hall for the full term of four years. I have been reselected for the forthcoming election (May 1st 2025) – I hope to continue my work with you. This last year has been dominated by concerns over funding, both in Children's Social Services and Adult Social Service, however, the improvements made in efficiencies and service reductions have given much hope for the future. Kent has moved from the bottom quartile of financial concerns to midway through the mid-quartile. The 2024/25 budget was agreed by all parties (96% anyway) – there is some cushioning of the County Reserves, which will help in the immediate future. The continuing refusal of Central Government to equitably fund Adult and Children's Social Care is disappointing, however, no where near as devastating as the removal of the winter fuel allowance. In the next month local businesses will begin to be strangled by the increase in National Insurance costs, as well as the added employment costs due to the minimum wage rising. We wait to see what challenges the Chancellor imposes in her forthcoming budget statement. Within Education some good news with the Home to School transport budget showing a surplus for the first time in 8 years and reduction in the number of SEN(D) EHCPs being awarded brings some respite to our budgets. I am fortunate to have been on both the Governance and Audit and Scrutiny Cabinet Committees the last two years and both committees have been able to significantly challenge the Cabinet Members on the decision they have made. For the financial year 2024/25 I was allocated a Members grant of £3,600 and I have focussed on three projects, Nettlestead pedestrian crossing (replacement of lights and a refresh of the white lines; purchasing new tents and equipment for Coxheath Scouts and more furniture for Yalding Parent and Toddler group. At the current time, I am working closely with:- a) Nettlestead Parish to try to reduce the speed limit through the village b) Loose Amenities and Parish Council supporting residents in Church Street to rectify the water run-off – work has been ongoing with senior officers – but not yet to a successful outcome c) All small primary schools to ensure their admissions for 2025 and beyond match expected birth rates Kent County Councillor Simon Webb 07878018997 [Simon.webb@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.webb@kent.gov.uk) I would like to pay tribute to the Leader of KCC, Mr Roger Gough, who leads by example and continues to fight for our residents at both a local, regional and national level. As a Member of the County Cou

## 5. Report from the Chairman of Coxheath Parish Council.

### Summary Report

First, I thank all those members of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk who have supported our community whilst I have been Parish Chairman. The Council continues to try to work with the many organisations around the Village. Irene Bowie continues as our Parish Clerk and RFO having joined us in January 2019.

The Parish Council started the year in April 2024 with a full complement of 8 members. Very sadly, Elizabeth Potts and Gordon Down, both long serving members, have retired from the Parish Council.

The Recreation Group has purchased two new benches for the Jubilee Strip on the Beacon Field. The Play Area Inspections and upkeep at the Village Hall continue to fall to the Parish Council and the Multi use games area (MUGA) which finally opened in 2021 remains well used by residents. Around the village our thanks again go to Dave Mann who continues to maintain Huntington Green and the Beacon Field. Dave also provides us with the floral displays in the baskets and planters throughout the summer.

The Traffic and Community Safety Group are working with Kent Highways through a Highways Improvement Plan to try and improve the roads in our Village. Most improvements if agreed by KCC Highways will have to be funded by the Parish Council. Proposals for Linton Crossroads following the full public consultation in 2022 appear to not be progressing. The group also purchased a Community Defibrillator which is located in the Scout Hut Car Park.

Christmas time saw the Seasonal Events Group in conjunction with the Holy Trinity Church, hold the usual very well attended Lights Switch on, along with carols, mince pies and mulled wine. The Parish Council pay for the supply and installations of all the Christmas Lights in the Village and for the refreshments and Orders of Service for the Lights Switch on. The Seasonal events group has also purchased a Woman in War Silhouette from the Royal British Legion this will be placed in the green near the Church.

Karen Laponder is leading the Parish Council VE 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2025. This will be a 'Picnic in the Park' with live music and entertainment. This will all be provided free of charge to residents.

The Environmental Initiatives Group, is currently reviewing quotations and ideas for improvements on Huntington Green. The final stage of the 3-year tree management plan has taken place with the last area being coppiced.

#### Pavilion Steering Group;

A group has been formed to look at the feasibility of a new pavilion on the Beacon Field. There is a significant amount of Section 106 Funds held by MBC from Developers which has to be spent and there are limitations on what it can be used for.

#### Communications Group.

This group is reviewing ways of improving communication both internally and externally. They are currently looking at a new logo, a new facebook page, and other community engagement initiatives.

Moving on to Finance Committee matters, at the time of writing the end of year accounts are currently being audited. A further supplementary report will have to follow in due course once the audited accounts are available and the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) is completed in June.

► Estimated Income for 2024/25 was increased to give a budget of £128,000, which included a Parish Precept of £104,369 and Parish Services Scheme at £8852.48. Actual Income was £119,329.11.

► Expenditure: The total expenditure for the year was £94,829.87.

General Reserves equal to the current Parish Precept have again been retained untouched. The Parish Working Advisory Groups maintain their own budgets, with funds as earmarked reserves carried forwards each year to pay for both ongoing and future Projects. Coxheath Parish, now classed as a Rural Service Centre by MBC, has maintained the Council Tax Parish Element of the Band D rate fixed at £52 p.a. for each Band D property

Towards closing my thanks go to our Borough Councillors for the year – Claire Kehily and Lottie Parfitt Reid, Simon Webb, who is our Kent County Councillor.

There are many projects that the Parish Council wish to move forward with, but we need new Councillors to help us do this. If you are interested in building a better community for Coxheath please get in touch or come along to one of our meetings and find out what we do.

### **Council Structure**

**The Parish Council has comprised the following Councillors:**

<b>2024-2</b>	
<b>Elected - May 2024</b>	<b>Co-Opted members</b>
Gavin Crickett- Chairman	Karen Laponder – from May 2024
Chris Bird - Vice Chairman	Lewis Walker – from February 2025
Darren Carpenter	
Gordon Down Retired March 2025	
Neil Gardner	
Elizabeth Potts (Retired December 2024)	
Clive Parker	
Sean Thomas	

The Parish Elections were held on the 02 May 2024. Very disappointingly out of 4,004 Coxheath Electors only 8 people came forward for nomination and were duly elected uncontested. We have successfully co-opted two new Councillors but two longstanding Councillors have retired.

The Full Council has continued to meet in the Small Hall at the Village Hall on the last Tuesday of every month (except August and December) at 19:15hrs. The public are welcome to attend all Full Council and Committee meetings and are encouraged to do so to bring to our attention any concerns. Public representations will be heard for a total period of up to 15 minutes outside of the meeting, at the Chairman's discretion, depending upon the fullness of the agenda for the balance of the meeting to follow. Agendas are posted on the Parish Website & Notice Boards and the minutes are posted on the Parish Website once approved at the next meeting.

Each year at the May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, following the election of the Parish Council Chairman and Vice Chairman, Councillors are appointed to the following Committees and Working Advisory Groups. Each Group then has responsibility for its own Terms of Reference and budget for the year, including funds set aside from previous years.

## 6. Reports from Village Organisations and Representatives.

### COXHEATH & LOOSE ACTIVE RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION - CHAIRMANS ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2025

I feel that my first year as Chairman has been quite successful and the Club is in a good place and the activities are thriving. We currently have 195 full members and 33 Associate Members, with no waiting list. We have attracted quite a few new members over this past winter which is very reassuring for the Club's future.

We continue to support our club activities: bowls, whist, arts & craft, Monday Movers, lunches and our Solitaire group. Our craft group make and sell birthday/Christmas cards etc to sell at our monthly meetings, thus providing them with their own income to purchase supplies.

We had a very good holiday to Warners at Cricket St Thomas in July with a very varied itinerary. Our day trips included an outing to Battersea Power Station in September. We also went to Broadstairs where a pub lunch preceded a trip to a local community theatre for The Good Old Days show. 27 people also attended the Service of Thanksgiving at Canterbury Cathedral.

Our plans for 2025 include our holiday to Holme Lacy in Monmouthshire in July and Thursford in November. Day trips to London for a river trip, Painshill Gardens in Surrey and Buckingham Palace in September.

Our committee continue to work very hard to keep the Club running smoothly and I want to thank them all for their support during my first year as their Chairman.

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CALARA regular activities include the following:-

Short mat Bowls. Art and Craft. Monday Movers Exercise Class.

Whist. Cribbage. A Solitaire Group.

We have monthly lunches, Day Trips in the summer and a summer holiday.

### Coxheath and Farleigh Junior Football Club Established 1974 An FA Accredited Club



Coxheath & Farleigh Junior Football Club prides itself in providing football to boys and girls of all ages in a safe and friendly environment. Our club is run entirely by hard working volunteers, who have in date DBS checks and the relevant FA qualifications.

The Club was founded in 1974 and in 2024 celebrates its 50th Anniversary, as a result a new memorial new club badge now appears on all club kit and merchandise.

The name Coxheath & Farleigh is well known in grassroots football in Maidstone, and the surrounding area. We currently have teams at age groups from Under 8 through to Under 18 who play in The Maidstone Invicta Primary League, Maidstone Youth League and the Maidstone Minor League. FA Accredited club that serves its local community and the people who live within it.

The club is indebted to the hard-working volunteers including the Management Committee (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Child Welfare Officer), Managers & Coaches, Members of our Social Committee.

Coxheath & Farleigh Junior Football Club prides itself on providing football to boys and girls of all ages and is run entirely by hard working volunteers. We also run a very successful Saturday Morning Rising Stars (4- to 7-year-olds), which provides a pathway to grassroots football and each year allows us to form a new U8's team, through to our present day Under 16's who will move onto Under 18's, in September.

Our Rising Stars provides a platform for Year R & Year 1/2 children in the community to first and foremost enjoy football. Our coaches help the children develop their skills and understanding of the game, enabling them to progress to be part of a Coxheath teams and this is ably supported by

Coxheath Parish Council, as part of our aim to work within the community.

During this 50-year period, the club has developed experience of competing and winning at the local level. After early years of success, with regular promotions and winning the various league divisions, challenge cup, and consolation cups, the club has certainly gone from strength to strength and is at the forefront of football as we know it today. After last year's success, in May of this year 2 more teams will have the opportunity to win more silverware having progressed to the Cup Finals as the respective age levels.

As its name implies our football club is based in The Village of Coxheath and draws its nucleus of players from Coxheath, Loose, Boughton Monchelsea, Maidstone and other surrounding villages, together with the local schools, and prides itself on proven sustainable, and importantly we place child protection, quality coaching and safety as paramount. The ambitions of the club is to develop year by year and we have a sound Club Committee and backing within the club, and we continue to build good working relationships within the Village of Coxheath and with The Parish Council in particular. It is important to work with the community as well as establishing "report" with local schools and academies and support local events which we do on an ongoing basis.

Like all Grassroots Football Clubs we receive support from our various sponsors, local facilities and club members, and new opportunities are opening up to us with regards to the use of various facilities for training and matches.

Team sponsorship, is paramount and a lot of hard work, is required yearly to secure this, as this enables all teams to have a new kit every 2 years, but also minimize club expenditure, as our only source of income is annual player registration fees, which are competitive compared to other clubs within the surrounding areas. Details of our sponsors is available by our club website and social media channels.

Interested in Joining? – Contact: Neil Hadley Club Chairman – 07812 004513

As a club we are always interested in hearing from anyone who wishes to become involved with the club in one capacity or another, should your child want to play football then why not attend a training session & possibly join one of our teams, you will be given a warm welcome at Coxheath & Farleigh JFC. If you would like to experience being a coach or team manager then we will give you all the support you need as you feel your way forward, and support and encourage to attend the course all of which will be funded by the club.

Neil Hadley,

Coxheath & Farleigh Junior Football Club - Club Chairman.

Website – [www.coxheathfc.co.uk](http://www.coxheathfc.co.uk) - Facebook – Coxheath & Farleigh Junior Football Club Instagram – [coxheathandfarleigh\\_jfc](https://www.instagram.com/coxheathandfarleigh_jfc)

Coxheath Rainbows, Brownies and Guides Annual Report April 2025

### Rainbows

Rainbows, for girls aged 4-7, remains popular in Coxheath and parents are advised to register their daughter at least a year before their fourth birthday. If you are interested in your daughter joining any of our units or in volunteering, please visit our national website. [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

### Brownies

We are an active Brownie unit with 20-24 girls (aged 7-10) throughout the year. We have two leaders with the support a young girl completing her D of E Award.

As well as our weekly meetings we have been on two cinema trip and an overnight stay at Soar trampoline park in Gillingham.

We also had a brownie holiday in Staplehurst where our theme was Mindfulness and girls got to relax and unwind, with foot spa and massages, yoga and relaxing walks.

We hope that Coxheath Brownies gives girls a safe space to be themselves and develop and achieve their dreams.

### Guides

Guides (for girls aged 10-14) continues to thrive with over 30 young members, many of whom come from neighbouring villages. We currently have 5 leaders and three young leaders (aged 15-17).

During the past year we have enjoyed a wide variety of activities including: a summer camp at Tovil Scout HQ; a winter activity weekend at Carroty Wood in Tonbridge; taking part in Challenge Invicta (an incident hike competition organised by our Guide county) and numerous adventurous activities including climbing, swimming, high ropes, canoeing and ice skating.

The girls have also participated in a wide variety of activities in weekly meetings and particularly enjoyed organising a Christmas fair for local Brownie units with the money raised going to Cancer Research.

We are very proud of two of our Guides who completed their Gold Award in the summer, the highest award for members of the Guide section and also of one of our leaders who was awarded the Oast Award for her excellent contribution to Guiding within Kent Weald County.

### Preschool Overview 2024/25

Preschool has had a very busy year. I have completed my Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Mrs Harryman and Mrs Dunkley have started their Level 3 courses.

We have started to welcome outsourced activities into the setting such as Stagecoach Drama, Dance, Hula Hooping, Football as well as The Fire Brigade and Guide Dogs. This is proving very popular with the children and parents.

Numbers are good, with a full intake this year and over 25 on the waiting list for September 2025. The open mornings have proven to be popular and helped promote the setting. We have another planned in June.

Rising Fives have relocated from the Scout Hut to the small hall at the Village Hall which has allowed us to offer full day sessions 3 times a week running from 9am – 3pm. I am sure this will prove to be very popular for prospective new starters.

We have had a very successful fundraising year with the Animal Quiz Night, Wet Sponge Competition and Burger Stall at The Custard Pie Championships as well as Valentines Disco and the future Christmas Bizarre coming up.

### 7. Public Questions and Comments through the Chairman.

Questions were asked regarding:

- The housing developments planned for Coxheath
- Traffic through the Village and parking issues
- Lack of MBC Planning Enforcement.

Signed :

Date: