

# **High Halstow Parish Council**

## **Annual Report**

**2007**

**Home of the Heron**



**High Halstow Parish Council**

**53 Capelands New Ash Green Longfield Kent DA3 8LQ**

**tel: 01474 871269 mobile: 07956 677731**

**e-mail: [roxana.brammer@highhalstow.org.uk](mailto:roxana.brammer@highhalstow.org.uk)**

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## **COUNCILLORS**

George Crozer - Chair  
David Allsop  
Pat Hillman  
Euan Orr  
Andy Waters

Gary Thomas - Vice Chair  
Ray Collins  
Carl Mitchell  
Margaret Shuter

Roxanna Brammer - Parish Clerk

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2007**

**WEDNESDAY 11TH APRIL  
8:00PM**

## **AGENDA**

- **Apologies for absence**
- **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12 April 2006**
- **To receive the Financial Statement of the Parish Council's Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006**
  - **Chairman's Annual Report**
  - **Reports from Local Organisations**
  - **Other business at the Chairman's discretion**
  - **Presentations by:**  
**Inspector Robin Wharfe, North Kent Police**  
**& Katy Jackson, Project Manager for the Heron Centre**

## **HIGH HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2006 AT THE RECREATION HALL, HIGH HALSTOW AT 8.00 pm**

#### **PRESENT:**

Cllr G Crozer, Chairman; Cllr G Thomas, Vice-Chairman; Cllrs D Allsop, Mrs P Hillman, S Joyce, T Riddle and Mrs Margaret Shuter; Rev S Gwilt; Mr Ed Woollard, Medway Council; PC Tim Harris and WPC Caroline Pope and 35 parishioners.

Mrs Roxana Brammer, Parish Clerk

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Paige and from Cllrs C Buckwell and P Filmer, Medway Council;

#### **2 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL 2005**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2005 were agreed and signed as a true record.

#### **3 ACCOUNTS**

The Financial Statement of the Parish Council's Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2005 was received.

#### **4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman's written report had been circulated to all parishioners in the Council's Annual Report and was received. No matters were raised.

#### **5 REPORTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

Reports from other organisations had been circulated to all parishioners in the Annual Report and were received. No verbal reports were given.

#### **6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **a. Development at Chattenden**

A question was asked about the proposed development at Chattenden. The Chairman explained that the proposals were part of a bigger package to rationalise army training and that the MoD had not yet decided to sell. If the proposed 5,000 houses were built there would be an impact on the village. There might be an opportunity to mitigate the impact but it would be unlikely that the development could be stopped.

The meeting was followed by a presentation on rural tourism, given by Ed Woollard of Medway Council.

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.05 pm

# **HIGH HALSTOW PARISH COUNCIL**

## **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2006**

	2005/6	2004/5
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Precept	23860.00	23170.00
Bank interest	1165.79	804.66
Rural Liaison Grant	1650.00	2185.00
Magazine income	156.00	435.00
Street cleaning	11946.97	11183.64
Other income	42.90	8553.61
VAT repaid	1350.11	737.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>40171.77</u></u>	<u><u>47069.87</u></u>

<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Clerk's salary	5068.66	3377.07
Clerk's reimbursable expenses	997.04	801.62
Street cleaner	5590.51	5094.75
Handyman	201.73	265.42
Tax & NI	1846.07	1738.54
Street Cleaning expenses	846.93	51.00
Handyman expenses	12.60	50.42
Section 137	700.00	450.00
Rural Liaison Grant	1650.00	0.00
Magazine expenses	3638.17	2767.40
Administration	2676.43	2871.83
Recreation Ground/Forge Common	4171.15	1532.58
Other expenses	3732.87	5139.32
Heron Centre	0.00	4400.33
VAT paid	1594.23	1064.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>32,726.39</u></u>	<u><u>29,605.27</u></u>

Excess income over expenditure	7445.38	17464.60
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### **BANK BALANCES**

NatWest Current Account	497	7363
NatWest Reserve Account	20728	18417
Medway Council Deposit	28000	16000
<b>TOTAL CASH ASSETS</b>	<u><u>49225</u></u>	<u><u>41780</u></u>

<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<u><u>nil</u></u>	<u><u>nil</u></u>
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**Approved by the Council on 10 May 2006**

**George Crozer**  
**Chairman**

**Roxana Brammer**  
**Responsible Financial Officer**

## ***REPORTS 2006/7***

### ***CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2007***

Whilst it is right and proper to reflect on the past year's achievements you will know we stand on the cusp of the new elections and therefore the end of a four year term. Having served this community as Parish Council chairman for the last seven years I would like to thank all those councillors (both past and present), friends and members of the public who have helped to make this community the thriving hub that it is today. I hope, like me, you are very much looking forward to the future and how we can collectively improve and expand our community in terms of quality.

Having made a conscious effort to support and encourage our youth I am pleased to see the youth club bursting at its seams with development of the colt cricket teams, Sound Hole and soldering (or welding as my mum calls it). The new "Rock and Swing" has been well received and has encouraged more use of our play ground. We are however aware that more still needs to be done.

With the help of many dedicated volunteers this village does a considerable amount to support its youth. I am pleasantly surprised at the relatively little aggravation we suffer at the hands of the few. I say relatively in relation to our wider community but I know some of you have had more than their fair share of the problem. I do sympathise with you and would say that we must collectively stand together against all forms of anti social behaviour. Rebellion is the prerogative of the young but some do tend to take the meaning literally. I hope in the future we can maintain and expand on the progress we have made.

We could not achieve what we do without the support of our community of local policemen and women who are a regular sight in the village and attendees at Sound Hole (some I might add even on their days off). I say thank you to them for their assistance in keeping on top of what I see as our problem.

Project Day continues to flourish and we continue to cart ever increasing amounts of rubbish to the tip especially diet coke cans and vodka bottles. (Some of us can now see why Derek would perhaps want to open an off licence!!)

The Parade this year hurriedly emerged in its new format with no procession of lorries. It was however far better attended than in previous years, giving the toddlers and mums the opportunity to really join in their pram parade. I was also pleased to see the church at the heart of the Community Christmas celebrations. I hope this winning formula can be continued and expanded for the benefit of all. There is now a much larger army of younger organisers and helpers who are glad to be involved and bring stamina and enthusiasm with them.

As you know, since well before the battle for No Airport at Cliffe the concept of "The Heron Centre" has been dear to my heart. It became evident that spear heading this project is a full time or at the very least extremely labour intensive task. Thankfully we have now engaged the services of a professional project manager to guide us through what we always knew would be the most difficult part, (actually getting a charity to part with a large wad of cash!!)

Katy Jackson (who lives in the village) will be moving this project forward over the next few months and I'm sure we will be hearing a lot more about the "Heron Centre" and

what it can offer us and our wider community in the not too distant future.

Those of you who enjoy the benefit of the village during the working week will no doubt have taken advantage of the monthly lunch club called Open House held here on the second Tuesday. This year they celebrate their 9th birthday! They were in danger of closure when some of the volunteers had to hang up their aprons but luckily for us more willing helper stepped forward and Open House was saved.

I know that you would want me to thank all involved on your behalf for the tremendous effort they have made and fortitude they have shown. For those of you that have not had the opportunity to taste their delights I say "take a day off work and try it !! It's village life at its best."

At this meeting for the last two years we have held the Heron Awards. This award scheme serves in giving our community a focus and has attracted quite a number to our annual Parish Meeting. However it has been decided to put it on a biannual basis, I guess so that we can't be accused of patting ourselves on the back too much. So next year we will have two years to celebrate and hopefully new and equally deserving nominees. This year however in September the Relief in Need Charity, church, School and Parish Council will be holding a photographic competition. There will be categories to suit all and along with suitable prizes the winning entries will be used to make up the Village calendar at was so well received this year.

Over the recent past we have seen the beginnings of new developments on the peninsula with the proposals to upgrade Power Stations, Gas installations and the erection of wind turbine technology. Some of these organisations feel a responsibility towards the communities who host and serve them and would welcome the opportunity to become more closely and mutually involved. I feel we should explore these possibilities to see if there is any common ground.

In conclusion I thank you all for your support and help in making this year productive and successful and am look forward to the next period in our evolution with excitement and hope I may play a part in it.

George Crozer  
Parish Council Chairman 2007



## ***VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE***

It would be easy to spend too much time discussing the damage incurred over the last year including the broken windows and graffiti. Although this has been a drain on resources, people's time as well as money, there have been a number of positives to look back on as well.

The Committee took a decision that there was a need to try and improve the appearance of the Hall as it was a facility which we need to be used to keep funds coming in and prove there is a facility that the Community are using and would wish to use more in the future. With the help of the Project Day Team we have seen the corridors painted as well as the ladies and gents toilets. Over the coming year we will look to paint the rest of the interior. We have Margaret Church to thank for carrying out a Health and Safety survey and we wait the results from this shortly. We will also plan to have the electrics checked as part of our regular maintenance. CCTV will be installed this year to try and prevent further vandalism.

The Committee also took the step of engaging a consultant to review our progress to date and the best way forward to make the Heron Centre become a reality. As a result it is fair to say that we now have this way forward as reported in the HHT in February and the Committee's responsibility over the next few months is to ensure that we start to move this forward in the manner laid out in the report

The HUGH Fund has now broken the £100,000 which now leaves us well placed to attract additional funding which will be available. The funds raised have come from all parts of the community which is another positive when we go looking for these additional funds.

Many thanks to the people who continue to support the hall in whatever guise for their time as well their money. This includes the Committee members, users of the hall, the Project Day Team, fund raisers and those who have given their money so generously this past year.

Let's make the coming year the best for the hall and make the  
Heron Centre become a reality.

***Gary Thomas***

## ***HIGH HALSTOW YOUTH CLUB***

The Youth Club is once again very pleased to report that it has had another very successful year.

The club is still full and the Waiting List system is working well. Each September a new membership year begins and twice during the year we review attendance and invite children from the waiting list to fill any spaces that have arisen.

We continue to use a roster for the adult helpers and this enables us to ensure that we always have sufficient cover to supervise the young people. Our aim is to have an absolute minimum of seven adults in attendance each week plus our two young helpers who serve in the Tuck Shop.

We still feel that the membership limit of 60 young people is appropriate. This is for the



children's safety, to ensure that the Club does not become overcrowded. We try to vary the activities that are available each week and some firm favourites are football, netball, table tennis, dance mats, pool and snooker. The Craft Room continues to be extremely popular for many of our members on the weeks when we have it but the Tuck Shop is definitely a "must have" every week!!

The Steering Committee (which was introduced two years ago) continues to be effective by handling such necessities as the annual insurance, affiliation to Kent Youth, CRB checks, and the writing and reviewing of the policies (Child Protection Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy, Health & Safety Policy). We have also formed a Members' Committee so that the young people themselves can have a say in how the Club is run; this has had mixed success, but we will persevere with it (most of the young people would rather be playing together than attending a committee meeting!).

Finally, here is a message for the young people who read this report. If you think you might want to join the Youth Club ask your parents/carers to let me know. You need to be at least 9 years old to join, but you can add your name to the waiting list while you are still 8. I can be contacted by telephone 01634 252604, or a note through the door at 2 Willowbank Drive, or by email [chris.peek@lineone.net](mailto:chris.peek@lineone.net)

I will need your name, address, telephone number and date of birth.

I will then contact your parents/carers when there is a place for you.

**Mrs Chris Peek**

**Membership Secretary, High Halstow Youth Club**

### ***HIGH HALSTOW RELIEF IN NEED CHARITY MARCH 2006 - 2007***

The Charity is an independent one registered with and regulated by the Charity Commissioners. Under the original articles of the Charity and which are still relevant, the Vicar of St.Margaret's Church and the two churchwardens automatically become Trustees of the Charity together with other nominated persons living in the village of High Halstow.

The Trustees have held regular meetings throughout the past year in order to consider any requests received for help. All such requests and any help given is treated in strict confidence.

On becoming a churchwarden Mrs. Jane Lingham was elected to become a Trustee of the Charity and replaces Mrs. Carol Malcolm who resigned in 2006.

Any person who requires help can approach the Charity either directly by speaking or by writing to a Trustee. These requests can be made at any time throughout the year.

The current Trustees are:-

Chairman - Rev. S. Gwilt

Mrs. M. King, Mrs. M. Bufford, Mrs. L. Munday , Mr. J. Myatt, Mrs. D. West ,

Mrs. J. Lingham

The Clerk to the Charity is Mrs. S. Ahmad

## ***CRICKET CLUB - 2006 REPORT***

2006 was a watershed year for the Cricket Club & has to go down as one of the most successful in the Club's long history. Not only did the Club field a Saturday 3rd XI for the first time in many, many years; but, by winning Divisions 1A & 2A in the Mid-Kent League, we achieved our long term aim of securing promotion into the Kent League for both our 1st & 2nd XIs.

On the field success was not limited to the 1st & 2nd XIs. The 3rd XI also did exceptionally well to win their division & secure promotion in their very first season. Details of each team's playing record can be seen below:

	P	W	L	WCN	C	A	BP	Pts
1st XI MKL Div 1A	18	12	1	1	3	1	67	307
2nd XI MKL Div 2A	18	14	1	-	3	-	77	317
3rd XI MKL Div 2C	16	12	2	-	-	2	79	279

(P=Played, W=Won, L=Lost, WCN=Won, Opposition Conceded, C=Cancelled, A=Abandoned, BP=Bonus Points, Pts=Points)

In addition to the 3 divisional titles the Club also cleaned up on the individual batting & bowling awards, winning 5 of the 6 available.

In 2007 the Club will be looking to build on last season's success. We hope to work our way up the Kent league in seasons to come and are even considering running a 4th team in the not too distant future.

Much of last season's success on the field can be attributed the hard work of a small group at the Club who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. They attracted sponsorship & secured grants which enabled us to invest in new playing equipment and practice facilities. These, along with the new fence which the Parish Council kindly provided, transformed the Club and were instrumental in helping us to attract new players. This activity will be continuing in 2007 & beyond as it is our long term goal to make High Halstow the premier cricket club in the Medway towns.

The culmination of last season's success was that the Club was nominated for the Medway Sports Club of the year award & whilst we didn't win it is testament to how far the Club has come & a great honour just to have been nominated. You can follow our 2007 results & keep up to date with goings on at the Club by visiting our website [www.highhalstowcc.co.uk](http://www.highhalstowcc.co.uk).



HHCC 2nd Xi

## ***SOUND HOLE***

### **Background & Objectives**

The name “Sound Hole” is derived from the 'sound hole' found in the centre of an acoustic guitar. Sound Hole literally provides a stage, and all the trimmings, for young, unsigned bands to perform in front of their peers. It has grown and improved beyond recognition in the last 3 years.

There is a team of dedicated organisers/ helpers who contribute their time and effort, free of charge. So many people now give up their valuable time, free of charge, to support the events. Sound Hole has also been supported financially, and in other ways, by a number of organisations. The police have stepped up their involvement, together with the Medway Community Support Officers and Medway Youth Outreach Workers. As a result, Sound Hole is a very safe place for young people to attend.

Sound Hole attracts around 200 youths in each session. The bands vary in ability, and the audience is supportive of both inexperienced and 'veteran' bands alike. At each and every Sound Hole there have been no behavioural problems. All audiences have enjoyed themselves and all bands have enjoyed themselves too. The young people who attend are a credit to their generation.

Sound Hole has its own website and regularly receives an enormous number of 'hits'. Photographs and reviews are often on the website within 2-3 days of the event itself. There is also video footage available. During the Sound Hole evening, the bands are filmed and a large screen projector portrays their performance, thus adding to the 'professional' feel of the evening. The bands can then collect a DVD of their performance, which is copyright free.

### **The future of Sound Hole**

In 2005, Sound Hole ran the 'Underpass'05” all day project for young people. In 2006, Sound Hole had a marquee at the Mixit Event in Gillingham. In March 2007, Sound Hole will be presenting live bands at the Brook Theatre. Sound Hole is also discussing hosting a day project in June'07 at the Lord Lieutenant's “All This and More” event at Detling.

Sound Hole continues to be very successful, without ever trying to be. Youth continue to flock to the events in an unexpected and surprising fashion. There is no plan to change the format, as the current one is clearly a winning formula.

### **Footnote**

*A sincere word of thanks is necessary to George Crozer, the founder and originator of the Sound Hole. Without his vision, drive and enthusiasm, this project would never have got off the ground. All the energy and new ideas come from George. He is a credit to the village and a credit to the community.*

Mark Skudder



