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# Mintes of the Annual Parish Meeting 15th April 2024 7:30pm at Trinity Hall Colemans Hatch.

**The AGENDA is as follows**:

1. Apologies for absence.

None

1. To Approve Annual Parish Meeting minutes from 2024.

Duly approved and signed as a true record by Giles Horner

1. Chairman’s report on Parish Council Activities.

See separate report

1. Report from Ashdown Forest Conservators.

Apologies had been received by Mark Robson CEO of the Forest.

A report on the Forest was provided by the District Cllr in his absence.

Cllr Millward reported on the improvements to the visitor centre to improve the visitor experience with extended café and education space. She also reported on the centenary of Winnie the Pooh and possible educational opportunities Although nothing was finalised and planning was only in the early stages. A query was raised over the better administration of conservator administration and better signs to the Forest Centre.

Finally she reported on a new ice cream contract for the forest car parks.

1. Report from PCSO

The PCSO was unable to attend.

1. Report from County and District Councils.

District Cllr Millward reported on the devolution process, the mayoral elections in 2026 and unitary authority elections in 2027 for the new unitary authorities that would be taking over from the two-tier system of County and District councils. She outlined the priorities for the District Council in the next two years without a longer term strategic plan.

The Local Plan process will continue as good policies could then be continued by a future authority.

The community grant scheme has provided infrastructure and needs based funding.

The District have also working with Sussex Police for a safer working partnership.

She outlined the possible funding for cultural and sporting

Nature restoration was a priority for the District using

The District would be introducing waste food collections existing refuse efficiency and recycling is also improving.

The District Council continues to try to provide better eco-friendly homes and affordable housing.

The District Council has won a legal challenge to Southern Water to prevent new homes being occupied until infrastructure is improved.

Outside of the Council she has been involved in Project Ripple Effect with Sussex University collecting data and calling for improvements which has already been seen locally.

County Cllr Taylor reported on the number of drains and pothole repairs locally and she monitors the issues with a new live situation although she is aware of continuing frustrations. The Chair thanked her for her efforts with the ongoing leak / pothole in the High Street.

She outlined the combined efforts of a Unitary Council could possibly benefit residents with more co-ordinated services.
She outlined some initiatives with food waste and soil improvement in a community soil centre.

Finally she reported on the deadline in September to complete the discussions on how the unitary process will progress.

There was a brief discussion on affordable housing and the housing crisis within the current parameters.

There was some clarification on how the food waste would be processed and collected and sold on or donated as weekly food waste was a requirement for the District to implement

1. Reports from local groups.

There were reports from the following groups:

John Smith reported on successes of the Honey Run and the subsidies provided to the Scout Group and Forest. Future funding will continue to be for the youth of the village and possible school infrastructure.

Applications are available on FindaRace Sunday 16th November.

Colin Burnett-Dick reported on the VE day celebrations including a BBQ, speeches and a beacon.

He also reported on the Fete and Horticultural Show on 6th September. Donations and volunteers were gratefully received.

Rev Julie Sear reported on community activities including Little Stars on Mondays and Community café on Thursdays. As always volunteers are encouraged to help. The community youth group has gone from strength to strength from 4 to 18 young people. 31st May there was a concert and there is a fete on 17th May. Colemans Hatch

A working party are looking at Churchyard improvements who were looking to progress from a bronze to silver award.

Geraldine Ormond reported on the local walking group who meet on Mondays and Thursday mornings 9:30am leaving from the Parish Council offices with refreshments afterwards. Walkers include those with mobility and health issues and also those who want to walk to talk.

HATCH was advertised as a community transport scheme as more volunteer drivers were required.

1. To receive questions from parishioners.

Parking was raised as an issue:

It was acknowledged this a perennial issue and the Council had made some inroads but would continue to investigate options.

The school car park surface, fencing and grass needed attention the Clerk would contact CLM to see if appropriate action could be taken.

The lack of availability of PCSO visibility was highlighted.

The footpath signage was noted.

Meeting Closed at 9:10pm