

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
25 April 2017
REPORT BY CHAIR OF MENDLESHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Cllr Mike Exley

You have just now heard a presentation from Terry Moore, Chairman of the Mendlesham Neighbourhood Plan steering group detailing our success with our Neighbourhood Plan. In addition, our working party for the future facilities required at the Mendlesham Playingfield/ Community Centre site is making extremely good progress, obtaining ideas and aspirations of the Parish for the future.

This type of work can only produce quality results if the community work together and we continue to benefit from some excellent community spirit. Community groups and individuals work very hard and sometimes very quietly to make things happen. Thank you to all of you who help in whatever way.

Community Centre

We continue to receive donations from the Mendlesham Social Club fundraising activities and the Cookery Club. Not only do they provide this financial support, the social club provides events for the community to come together and the Cookery Club educational/Lifeskills for the children. Thank you to everyone who organises, helps and supports these groups.

This pot of money has been used to replace the Main Hall fridge and microwave and replacement parts for the showers.

With the help of volunteers we have also decorated the Main Hall kitchen.

On a less positive note, there have been incidents of antisocial behaviour which require volunteers to clean up and put right matters such as broken glass, items moved from their correct location with more recently the damage becoming more serious. There is a cost to both Community Centre and Community and please can I ask everyone to be aware and in the event of concern, call the Police with the details including the time and descriptions of possible suspects. Unfortunately we are now in a position whereby we will need to focus our efforts and money on updating security to protect what we have, rather than the much nicer position of providing additional services and facilities.

Playingfields

Disappointingly, the footballers are still unable to use the new pitch at Mendlesham as previously anticipated. Today, further works to the drains were completed, but the good news is that Sport England have provided a further grant to cover the cost. Mendlesham Green, we have not forgotten you. A consultation on the playingfield and facilities available/required will commence very shortly and we have already started to discuss what needs doing to improve the area.

Scout Hut:

The building is now down. We are aware the area is perhaps not as everyone would wish, but the site and some of the materials are being used by the Scouts and we

look forward to meeting with the Scouts and helping where we can with their project for a new building.

50 50 shop:

The exterior has now been decorated by volunteers and contractors employed to update the electrical systems.

Community:

We have some wonderful organisations in Mendlesham , looking after the young, older residents, the religious needs of our community and providing sporting, educational and social activities. Many other individuals are also just quietly doing their bit for the community. You know who you are, your work is much appreciated Thank you.

Future:

So what next?

Our Neighbourhood Plan will need to continue to be revised and kept updated to ensure that Mendlesham Parish continues to be the place to live and work that we all appreciate. We will continue to receive planning applications and need to make sure as far as we are able, that new development is suitable, provides additional facilities for the residents, but also protects our valuable assets, including the School and Health Centre, more later.

As a Parish Council, we will have nine out of eleven positions filled and would welcome a full quota to help spread the workload and also provide better representation for the community. So if anyone here this evening is interested in knowing more about the role of Parish Councillor please contact any parish council and of course Sharon Jones. To the existing Parish Councillors, I would like to say thank you for the valuable and often unseen and unsung work that you do. Many of you are members of other organisations and do other voluntary work within the community.

Mike Exley, Chairperson of Mendlesham Parish Council