

# Selling Parish Council

## Annual Reports

Annual Parish Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019

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## Chair's report, April 2019

Welcome to the last annual Parish meeting before the elections for the new Parish Council in May 2019. On May the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Selling will have a new administration for 4 years and by tonight, you should know who has put themselves forward for this most sought after positions in Swale.

Following the resignation of our clerk last year, we have appointed a new clerk Mrs Colleen Hawkett from Faversham. Contact details on the website.

In the last 4 years, we have held meetings every month, sometimes twice. Meetings have been challenging, frustrating, annoying but in spite of all this I feel we made strides and achieved. We have fulfilled our statutory functions like providing advice regarding planning applications. Some successful, others not.

Most councillors have gone beyond their remit and did what they could to improve the lives of the parishioners in Selling. In the last 4 years, we have had resignations from 2 councillors and 2 clerks. 2 parishioners were elected as councillors during this term and we managed to appoint replacement clerks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our resigning clerk, Mrs Glenda Smart for all the work she did for Selling Parish Council. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Debbie Cook for the support she gave me as vice chair and for being the lead person in organising the Big Lunch in Selling. At the same level, a very big thank you to Cllr Martin Webb for his advice whenever I asked and his endless wisdom. Thank you Cllr Joy Elvy for the calmness you projected into our, at times, fractious meetings. Thank you Cllrs Neame and Hobson for stepping in in the middle of the term and for your contributions. 2 ex councillors, Tanya Gibson and Mark Deal, thank you for all you did as well.

There is business that we have not managed to conclude. We started but did not finish. Swale BC has still not come back to us as to whether indicative planning permission has been granted on the playground. We did not manage to organise a meeting to see what can be done about the appalling traffic.

**Big Lunch** – We seem to have started an annual community event in the summer and it all started with the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations. We have had street parties in the form of a free lunch for the parishioners every year since. The last one was held at the cricket club and the feedback has been very positive. The Big Lunches have been organised by the Council, funded partially by the council together with donations from local businesses. All the work has been done by 6 of the 7 councillors and numerous volunteers from the village. A great success story. It is hoped that this tradition will carry on. This year’s event has been pencilled in for June the 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Newsletter** is a regular feature and has been very successful.

We are once again working closely with the Parochial Church Council.

It is good to see a number of parishioners who attend Council meetings. Council meetings are not public meetings. A parish Council meeting is a meeting held in public. There is no requirement in law to provide a public forum but we at Selling Parish Council welcome the opportunity to offer this facility.

## FINANCES

**Selling Parish Council met in December to set the budget for 2019/20. The total budget set for 2019/20 is £20254.00.**

The additional council tax for band D properties in Selling will be £54.80 compared to £30.34 in 2018/19. The percentage change in our budget is an increase of 80.624%. You will have seen this rise in your Council Tax notification. All the details of how we got to that figure can be viewed on our website.

The main reason for the increase was the external auditor’s fee following an unsuccessful challenge to our accounts. The council felt that in the name of transparency and openness, the name of the challenger had to be made public and we sought legal advice and the unequivocal advice was that we could name and we did and that added to the costs.

## WEBSITE

Take a moment and visit it at [www.sellingparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.sellingparishcouncil.org.uk) It currently serves as a repository for the agendas, minutes of the council meetings, standing orders, members etc and is updated regularly with other matters that may be of interest to the Parish. A new and different ;looking website is envisaged and that will be looked at by the new administration

Cllr Dr Ash Rehal, April 2019

## **Members' Report**

### **Kent Association of Local Councils**

I took over as Selling Parish Council's representative to K.A.L.C. in April last year, replacing Cllr Amanda Saunders. While there have been some difficulties in forwarding details of meetings to me, I attended a meeting in September, where the main speakers were officers from Kent Police. Sgt Darren Walshaw Introduced himself as the Rural Sergeant of the Rural Liaison Team. At present this consists of six officers specially trained in rural issues, and it is hoped to increase this number to twelve in the near future. PC Craig West then spoke on issues surrounding modern-day slavery in rural areas, and the need to be alert to the possibilities of such practices.

### **Recreation Area**

I also took the lead on developing a planning application for change-of-use from agricultural to recreational land, for use as a Recreation Area adjoining Neames Forstal, a project that has been asked for in Selling for more than thirty years. The application was submitted in July 2018, and despite a decision being promised in September, the application was referred to committee because of the number of objections from members of the public. The committee sat in January this year, and SPC has not yet been informed of the result.

The Recreation Area was to be funded in the most part, by Section 106 monies amounting to some £25,000, which were awarded to Selling PC for the specific purpose of a recreation area, in respect of the development of new housing stock in the Selling Station Area. If the money is unspent by May 2019, it will be absorbed into borough finances and Selling will lose it altogether.

There may be some irony to be seen in the fact that most objections came from the occupiers of the new housing stock that generated the money in the first place, but that - as Selling residents know all too well – is the Price of Democracy.

Councillor Deborah Cook

## **Highways**

Councillor Tanya Gibson, who had a watching brief for Highways, resigned in June of last year, citing the intolerable bullying of a fellow councillor as the only reason. Council Gibson had worked tirelessly on the safety of our roads, over an extended period, and thus the village lost an active councillor, who had built up strong lines of communication with KCC and Swale Borough Council officers.

Councillor Webb was asked to take up the brief, for the remaining few months of the Council. The Council has since that point insisted on the maintenance of hedges, which were overgrown to an unacceptable degree, both from the point of view of safety (line of sight, narrowing of lanes, etc.) and also the covering of signs and finger-posts

Councillor Martin Webb

## **Other bodies**

I believe that I am alone among other members for having attended every meeting of Selling Parish Council over the past year. I have also attended all the past year's meetings of the Swale Area Committee of Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC), and taken part in two training sessions run for councilors by KALC. I have been Selling Parish Council's representative on the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership since May 2018, and produced two films promoting clearance work undertaken by horsepower for the Old Chalk New Downs and Perry Wood projects. I have raised issues about speeding and road safety, fly-tipping and potholes, planning and development on behalf of Selling residents at the four Faversham & District Engagement Forum meetings, as well as at the Swale Green Grid Partnership forum and Action with Communities in Rural Kent events. I have taken part in three workshops, two site visits and four

public meetings about the proposed Garden Village developments bordering Selling on the A2/M2 Duchy-owned land and along the A251 between Faversham and Sheldwich. I have helped to promote several Selling charitable projects in their applications for financial and other assistance through the Kent Community Fund and the Swale Borough Council Member Grants.

Councillor Amanda Saunders

## **Cavaliers Cricket Club season 2019**

Our cricket ground is looking in good condition with only a few weeks to go before the season starts. Our first home fixtures are non-league matches on Saturday 13th April & Sunday 14th April against Egerton and High Halstow. It is worth recalling though the last two seasons when heavy rain prevented any cricket being played at Selling until the first weekend of May. Fingers crossed.

### **2. Kent Village League ( KVL)**

For the benefit of our travelling supporters, the KVL Programme starts on Sunday, 12th May, with an away match against Stone –in-Oxney. Due to the vagaries of the fixture list and clubs withdrawing from the league , our first home KVL match isn't until Sunday,23rd June against neighbours Sheldwich. Our second season in Division 1 was just as challenging as the previous season. The standard is much higher than in all the lower divisions and, if we're honest, we were lucky to avoid the drop.

### **3. Kent Regional Cricket League (KRCL)**

Not discouraged by our travails in the KVL last season the Club has joined the KRCL in 2019 with eight home and eight away fixtures played on Saturdays, commencing with our first home game on 18th May. The decision to join another league was not taken lightly in view of the scarcity of player availability last year but we saw it as the only means of continuing Saturday cricket at Selling with a number of new members promising to join the Club provided that

we had competitive cricket on offer. It is expected that the standard will not be as high as Division 1 of the KVL has been over the last two seasons.

#### **4. Other Fixtures**

The above league fixtures are supplemented by a number of “friendly” matches and, thanks to the industriousness of our fixture secretary, the Club has two games every weekend until the end of September, so a total of 26 home club matches at Selling, so if you are inclined to relax and enjoy the sunshine you can witness the skills and exertions on display.

#### **5. Kent Under 11 Girls XI Matches**

We are once again pleased to announce that the Club will be hosting two matches by Kent Under 11 Girls XI on Saturday, 1st June against London Schools and again on Sunday, 23rd August against Norfolk. This is the tenth consecutive season that we have hosted the Kent Junior Girls team . Their coach always comments that Cadman’s Meadow is one of the best grounds they play on in Kent. The girls’ parents love it for its rural charm and it is a tribute to the ground and its facilities that they keep coming back.

#### **6. Kwik Cricket and Coaching**

Kwik Cricket with the three older classes of Selling Primary School is expected to resume after the Easter holidays every Wednesday of the summer term with myself assisted ably by Sue Smart and Club Chair- man Vince Campbell. It is expected that Cricket Coaching will recommence on Sunday Mornings this season with the first session likely to be 5th May. We are also in discussion with a sports coaching com- pany regarding the possibility of running coaching courses during the half ter and summer holidays. Publicity networks will be kept informed as to how this develops

#### **7. Sponsorship**

The Club is also pleased to record the support it has received from Shepherd Neame over the last several years and from our President Lady Swire and the Swire Charitable Trust for as long as any of us can re- member.

## **8. How to Join the Club**

New members of all ages shapes and sizes are always welcome from within the parish and, indeed, from outside its boundaries. Please contact Roger Wynde 01227 458904 or 07747309364.

Roger Wynde  
General Secretary  
Selling Cavaliers Cricket Club

## **1<sup>st</sup> Selling Brownies**

The pack continues to thrive against all odds when it opened in 1986. We were warned that there might not be enough girls for it to last more than three to four years.

We were able to get two Brownies onto Guides as there is only one Guide company on Faversham with a long waiting list, both are very happy guides.

Our year was busy with an indoor boot fair in March, pack holiday at Hornhill Centre, Milstead in April. Selling fete in June, where we ran a few games. We are very grateful for the donation for our day work there. In July we ran tombola at Sheldwich fete retaining our funds of the day. Also in July we ended the term with sausage and chip picnic at Tankerton Slopes, followed by beach litter pick. We were able to use all the necessary kit from Canterbury City Council. We filled/part filled 10 sacks, a worthwhile evening. In September we started the new programme for badges etc. It will be good once we get used to it.

Our Christmas treat was to Alice and the Hatter café in Canterbury, followed by a double enrolment by the station.

Sue Smart - Assistant Brownie Guider

## **Selling Village Hall**

The hall continues to be well used with various school events, Brownies, Art Classes, Keep fit, Parish Council Gardeners, Film evenings. Also this year a coastal theatre group used us for play rehearsals. We have quiz evenings, parties and election days.

In 2018 the stage flap legs were replaced thanks to various ideas, the new ones are easier. Unfortunately our boiler decided to fail and a new heating system was installed with thanks to The Swire Trust grant which covered the cost, luckily this was in October before the winter set in. The hall was hired by a TV artist from Ireland for a three day art course. We also had three flower shows for the enjoyment of all. Three summer boot fairs were manned by three committee members. They raised £171.00 profit. Enjoyable events also, except for the early start.

Just the back window remains to be secondary glazed. This will be completed when we can locate a tower to use.

Next year we hope to replace the strip lights throughout with retro shades and LED lights to be environmentally friendly.

Thanks goes to our hard working committee.

Sue Smart - Hall Committee Chairman

## **Perry Wood Winkle Club**

The Perry Wood Winkle Club has now been running for well over 100 years. There are photographs in the Rose & Crown to prove it!

We meet in the Rose & Crown on the last Thursday of the month, we hold a small number of events each year raising money to support local charities, our main income is from working with the Molash ride to raise money for the up keep of Molash Church as well as funds for us, we also have an annual quiz & fizz, other funds come from collections at Chilham Farm Shop and members. The entire money raised is given out annually. We donated £300 to each of the following, last year, less than in some previous years due to the Molash blossom ride being cancelled due to bad weather. This year the ride will be on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and our quiz on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Kent Air Ambulance, Kent Kidney *Patience*, Demelza House, Pilgrims Hospice,  
Silas Pullen Fund

Peter Higgs (Chairman)