



**Big Local Eastern Sheppey
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Monday 14th November 2016**

7.00 pm at Paradise Club, Leysdown Road, Leysdown ME12 4LN

Present:

Partnership Members

Paul Leacock (Leysdown Resident), Mark Brown (Bay View Resident), Lynd Taylor (Warden Resident), Lee-Anne Moore (Warden Resident), Pauline Wenham (Leysdown Resident) and Daniel Perriam (Eastchurch Resident)

Residents

Sandy Hammock (DofE Co-Ordinator and Warden Resident) (SH), George Heath (Bay View Resident) (GH), Malcolm Pamplin (Leysdown Resident) (MP), Tony Byatt (Bay View Resident), Steve Creed (Warden Resident), Dave Purssord (Leysdown Resident), Sunatha Nissanga (Eastchurch Resident), Christine Taylor (Warden Resident), John Bates (Warden Resident), and Daren Pattenden (Warden Resident)

Invited Guests

Lesley Ingham (Mayor of Swale) and Ashlee Brawn (Mayoress)

Other Members

John Nurden (Sheerness Times Guardian), Richard Palmer (UKIP), Padmini Nissanga (SBC Councillor), Richard Darby (SBC Councillor), Jim Boot (Big Local Rep), Sean Leacock (Project Co-Ordinator), Sarah Williams (Swale CVS/LTO)

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Paul Leacock welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made by all.

2. APOLOGIES

Sharon McNaboe (Warden Resident) and Ivor Gough (Eastchurch Resident)

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Paul Leacock thanked everyone for coming this evening. This is our first AGM and we would like to involve the public so they can see what we are doing and can give us feedback. We did a lot of consultation in all three areas back in April 2012 and gathered information to come up with a profile of the things that we thought would improve the areas. Things we cannot do is replace any existing services i.e. lay on a new bus service. Paul wanted to thank his wife for allowing him to do this, for the Mayor attending, all partnership members, Swale CVS who is the local trusted organisation and local organisations that attend on a regular basis.

We received our first amount of money in August 2014 and in the first year we asked for £100,000 and we split that into various categories, Community Chest, Reducing Worklessness, Training for young people, Village seating, Street Games and this is broken down on the account sheet that was handed out. We are currently in the process of looking at Year 3 plan from all the information we have gathered of what we can do in the areas.

4. PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL SPEND

Sarah Williams explained that Swale CVS as the Local Trusted Organisation looks after the money for Big Local Eastern Sheppey as they do not have a legal structure and this has been put in place by the Local Trust who is the national body. Each area across England that has a Big Local, there is currently 150, have a Local Trusted Organisation in place. Budget and Current Account sheets had been handed out and Sarah explained that for Year 1 the original spend was £105,552 for the period 8th August 2014 to 18th March 2016, so Year 1 actually lasted 19 months due to the Big Local programme being a long term project, we do have a level of flexibility on how long it takes us to spend the money, which is unusual for most funding bodies, because this project is resident led it can sometimes take a bit longer to get projects moving, we are allowed a little bit longer to spend the money. When we finished Year 1 we had £274 left over and this went back to Local Trust and was put back into our future funds that we can draw down.

Sarah then explained about the current accounts, which for Year 2 we asked for £199,500 which is split down into two payments. We received the first amount on 19th March 2016 of £99,750 of which we currently have £10,700 left and we are looking for our next instalment to come from Lottery soon. Some of the projects have been carried forward from Year 1 that we didn't get completed and some new projects for this year.

Daren Pattenden questioned the budget and felt that the figures were extortionate. Sarah explained that we submitted the figures to Lottery in January 2016 and we also have a yearly assessment, which was in February 2016 and at the assessment an independent assessor asked lots of questions about partnership activity, resident involvement and how we got to the costs and he then made a recommendation back to Local Trust to agree the figures and release the funds for Year 2. Daren asked if we are given a certain amount of money each year and as a lump sum, Sarah explained that we do not and is based on resident consultation, what activity we decide and what budget we put forward.

Daren Pattenden questioned £10,000 for additional village seating and asked where it is. Sarah explained that we have three benches outside Eastchurch Primary School in Leysdown, one in Dickson's Field, Eastchurch, two in Brights wood, Eastchurch and two on the roundabout in Eastchurch all with our plaque on. Warden do not have any at the moment as we have to work with the Parish Council's to get their permission and they haven't currently told us where they would like them to go. Daren asked if £2,000 each bench, Sarah explained that we got the benches for free from the prison, except £600 for an indestructible bench for Eastchurch due to previous vandalism on the free bench. Sarah explained that we have currently not spent this Year's budget for additional seating.

Daren said that he lives in the area and cannot see how you have spent tens of thousands of pounds and all he can see is benches. Jim Boot explained that a video will be shown to highlight the projects of Big Local Eastern Sheppey and Paul Leacock asked if he had seen the Street Games that are behind Warden Village Hall. Daren said he had seen the paint on the floor and stated that it shouldn't cost that much for a bit of paint! Sarah explained that it is special paint and is guaranteed for 20 years. Daren also highlighted the playground infrastructure in Warden is inadequate for the young people, Sarah explained that during resident consultations, not one person mentioned the playground equipment, Daren explained that residents are fed up with people being corrupt and not getting nothing done and he could get 500 signatures within two weeks for new equipment. Sarah said we would welcome people to get in contact and let us know what they wanted; they can contact the Facebook page or phone Sean Leacock. Paul Leacock asked Daren to attend the next partnership meeting to bring the ideas to the table, as we need more residents and ideas.

Richard Palmer asked about additional seating as on the first year budget was £6387, Jim Boot explained that was budget received but actual expenditure was £5169. Richard ask how many seats that was for, Sarah explained was for seven across all areas. Richard asked about this

year's budget for seating is £10,000 and how will it be spent, Sarah explained that as we are working with the Parish Councils, it depends on what they want.

Dave Pursford asked if any allocation is not spent is it carried over, Jim Boot explained that it has to be sent back to Local Trust. Dave asked that wouldn't it be fairer for the funds to be split amongst the three parish councils to spend how they like. Jim Boot explained that across England, none of the 150 areas that have received funding have the money gone to a District or Parish Council, but lots of joint projects have happened, for example a Big Local area put in £15,000 for a play park and the district council have match funded. This funding is not replacing the council funding but to add value to what's happening in the areas or maybe make something happen in the area that wouldn't happen otherwise.

Padmini Nissanga questioned the £23,000 of Community Chest funds to different organisations, how much do you get from the lottery to look after the money. Paul Leacock explained that we do not pay anything from the lottery funds to Swale CVS, but there is a 5% amount on top of the lottery funds from the Local Trust that is paid to Swale CVS to look after the lottery funds.

Richard Palmer questioned vehicle lease on the budget, Sarah and Paul explained that nothing has been spent for this.

Richard Darby stated that something similar was on last year's budget and wanted to clarify what Padmini was trying to state was that the running costs are nearly half of each year's budget. Paul Leacock explained that all partnership members are volunteers and the Project Co-Ordinator is paid to oversee all the projects as the partnership is only a small group of volunteers and it takes a lot of work to have been able to achieve what we have so far over the last four years. Sarah Williams also pointed out that for the first 18 months; we did not have a Project Co-Ordinator and progress was limited, but as soon as the Project Co-ordinator was taken on-board, we have been able to get things to happen like the benches, street games, Summer and Easter Playscheme and 40 groups have been given Community Chest funds.

Richard Palmer queried the Project Co-Ordinator and asked if they are employed or self-employed and if employed is the £30,000 gross or net, Sarah Williams confirmed they are employed and covers pension, tax, NI, travel expenses and salary. Richard Palmer asked why it is not broken down as salary and expenses, Sarah explained that is done internally within Swale CVS and from a Local Trust and Charity Commission point of view, we do not have to produce that level of information.

Daren Pattenden asked where the lottery money is kept, which Sarah Williams confirmed is in the Swale CVS bank account.

5. BIG LOCAL EASTERN SHEPPEY PRESENTATION

Sean Leacock presented a short video of all the current projects that Big Local Eastern Sheppey currently are working on or have completed.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Jim Boot advised that there are five officer posts within the partnership that are Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Membership Officer. All nominations had been received in advance of the AGM from voting partnership members.

One nomination has been received for the position of Chair, Paul Leacock, nominated by Lee-Anne Moore and was seconded by Danial Perriam, no objections and was carried by 5 votes from partnership members.

No one has been nominated for the position of Secretary.

One nomination had been received from Membership Officer, Lee-Anne Moore, nominated by Paul Leacock and seconded by Daniel Perriam, no objections and was carried by 5 votes from partnership members.

One nomination had been received for Treasurer, Pauline Wenham, nominated by Mark Brown and seconded by Lynd Taylor, no objections and was carried by 5 votes from partnership members.

Three nominations had been received for the position of Vice Chair, Mark Brown, Lynd Taylor and Daniel Perriam. Voting before the AGM by partnership members had created a tie for Vice Chair between Mark Brown and Lynd Taylor. Jim Boot advised that a decision on who will take on this role will be made at the next partnership meeting.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Daren Pattenden asked Sean Leacock what is his allocated time is each week, Sean explained that he is available four days per week, but there is flexibility to the needs of the business and is based at the 5th Sheppey Scout Hut, Dickson's Walk, Eastchurch on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and has attended coffee mornings at Eastchurch Primary School.

Dave Pursford asked if we have it documented how much is allocated to each area, Paul Leacock explained that it doesn't work like that as some of the projects cover all areas and some may be exclusive to one area.

Richard Palmer queried the forecasting of the budget and asked if we have a budget for a particular project, then another idea comes along, can the unspent funds be used on something else. Paul Leacock advised that the partnership has to agree that it fits in with the original consultation and we get agreement from Local Trust.

Padmini Nissanga asked how much has been given to Leysdown Parish Council as the toilets need repair, Paul Leacock asked if it was the public toilets or the toilets in the hall, Padmini confirmed the toilets in the village hall. Paul Leacock explained that we have given Leysdown Village Hall money towards repairing the toilets through Community Chest Funds, but they will need to get match funding to cover the rest of the costs. In addition to this Big Local has given support through Community Chest funding for a new PA system. Leysdown Village hall has also had substantial help from Sean Leacock and Sarah Williams to provide funding for the new floor in the village hall, to clarify this funding was from The People's Health trust and not the partnership.

8. DATE OF NEXT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Paul Leacock advised that this will be on Monday 12th December, 7.00pm at Scout Hut in Eastchurch and all local residents are welcome to attend and if you attend three partnership meetings you can ask to join the partnership.

Meeting closed at 8.34pm

Next AGM on Monday 13th November 2017, venue TBC