

# PARISH OF HURSLEY

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Parish Hall on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016, at 7.30 p.m.

### **PRESENT:**

Parish Councillors: Mrs E Bell (Chair), Mrs J Warwick, Mrs A Apps, Mr M Arthur, Lord Lifford, Dr J O'Sullivan, Mr M Waldron and Mr J Winchester

Also present: Mr J L Brooks, Clerk to the Parish Council, County Cllr Mr P Bailey, City Councillor Mr Brian Laming, PCSO Michelle Wilkinson and colleague, Mr Steve Lincoln, Community Planning Manager, Winchester City Council and approximately 25 parishioners.

Mrs Bell opened the meeting by welcoming all present.

### **1** APOLOGIES

Parish Councillor Mr G Rees, Mr P Pratt and Mr Hitesh Master

### **2** MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

### **4** MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

### **5** PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs Bell presented the Chair's report of the year past as follows:-

We started the year with a Parish Council election - 12 names had come forward for 9 places. This is a healthy sign of public engagement and, although it is disappointing for those not elected, it is preferable to the opposite situation when additional PC members have to be co-opted.

The nine parish councillors elected for four years are: Amanda Apps, Michael Arthur, Eleanor Bell, James Lifford, John O'Sullivan, George Rees, Martin Waldron, Jan Warwick, and Joe Winchester. Eleanor Bell was re-elected as Chair for the year; Amanda Apps was appointed as PC representative to the Parish Hall Management Committee.

Members of sub- committees on Finance and Administration, Environment and Recreation Ground, Allotments and Cemetery, Traffic and Road safety, are displayed on the parish noticeboards.

Alan Beusmans retired from the PC last May after 30 years and was presented with an engraved glass tankard by his fellow members. Alan also retired from his role as Head gardener at Merdon

Manor and has moved to Romsey, but we are pleased he has agreed to maintain his links with the Parish and stay on as our tree warden.

Phil Pratt is willing to stay on as Footpath Representative but would prefer someone else to take over the role as he is no longer able to regularly walk the Parish paths.

## 5 (Cont.)

**Planning** Two major applications have dominated during the year, one just inside our parish and one just outside.

15/01383/OUT - Land at Pitt Vale. This is the application by Linden Homes to build 350 homes (originally 500) just south of Pitt roundabout - a development which would effectively join Pitt village into Winchester City. The PC has objected to the original pre-application, the submitted Outline and the recent amendments to this - nevertheless the PR company handling public consultation still wants to talk to us! The application is likely to go to Planning Committee at the end of June or possibly in July, where it is likely to be recommended for refusal by WCC, after which the likelihood is that Linden will take it to Appeal.

16/00116/FUL Sparsholt College Green Gas Mill (Anaerobic Digester) to be run by green energy company Ecotricity to supply gas to the locality and to the grid. Had this been a farm scale AD plant, the PC would have given its support - however the scale of the project had raised concerns about the volume of tractor/trailer traffic (including on A3909 and possibly Sparsholt Road) bringing grass feed from surrounding farms to the plant north of Sparsholt village. The application was recommended for approval by WCC Planning officers but refused by the Planning Committee. It is likely that Ecotricity will take the decision to Appeal.

Other planning matters include some business or agricultural permissions, numerous tree applications and householder applications, including permission to demolish and rebuild Hawthorn Cottage in Collins lane on a more stable part of the site. All plans and decisions are available on WCC website. The PC publishes all applications brought before it for comment at each meeting.

With regard to the large new build house at Pitt roundabout, still within our parish, on a site which might have been suitable for social housing under the Exception scheme, there is an ongoing dispute between the new owner and HCC who own the unextinguished highway alongside the new house (old A31), and other riparian users (farmer, bungalow owner, Southern Gas Networks and BT who require unrestricted access), because of the double gates with keypad and pedestrian gate at the garage end. Vehicle access is occasional, but pedestrians and cyclists must have clear access on the footway through to the bus stop on Romsey Road, plus access for horses to the adjacent paddock. The gates give the erroneous impression of a private access, and it is essential that this error is not ratified at sale.

**WCC Local Plan Part 2.** Winchester Local Plan Part 1 - Core Strategy - was adopted a couple of years ago after approval by the Planning Inspector. Part 2 of the Local Plan, which deals with land allocation, has reached the stage of Examination in Public by the Inspector and should be adopted later in the year. An agreed Local Plan is an essential tool to defend against unwanted development. Your councillors have made submissions to this process and will also speak at the Examination in Public.

**ReneSolar Community Grant** The installation of a solar array at Field House Farm, now completed and connected to the grid, resulted in a Community Benefit Fund being granted to the parish. Applications for environmentally friendly projects were invited and grants given to All Saints Church to replace lighting, to Hursley Cubs and Scouts for camping equipment to John Keble School for Outdoor facilities to be made available for community use, to HVCA for enhancement of the village gateways, and for the purchase and installation of two defibrillators, at the Parish Hall and at Hursley Park Cricket Club.

**5 (Cont.) Flood Group / Emergency Plan** Following the departure of Ken Day and retirement of Steve Stevenson, the Flood Action Group was reconstituted, with Richard Baker and Louise Pratt invited to join members from the PC. The Flood Plan was updated and passed to HCC - luckily the actions outlined have not been needed this winter. There is also a broader Emergency Plan for Hursley Parish which again comes under the oversight of HCC.

**Communications Policy** New broom Michael Arthur has undertaken a review, together with colleagues, of the Parish Council Communications Policy. The PC has to establish its own website this year following the decision by HCC to cease hosting arrangements. This is well advanced now and we hope to have details of the new website and email addresses shortly.

**WWI Commemoration 2014-18** – The past year has been quiet in terms of events, however David Key has continued his series of articles, and Antonia Stickland has traced stories soldier by soldier as the months passed. *To come is plus exhibition, gather as publication Poss. 2017 Officers' Hospital and entry of US Air Corps WW2 move of Supermarine from Woolston to Hursley Park.*

**WCC reorganisation** – There are now 45 instead of 57 councillors. Hursley is now part of Badger Farm and Oliver's Battery Ward, together with the parishes of Otterbourne and Compton and Shawford. The ward is represented by three City Councillors who are Eleanor Bell, Jan Warwick and Brian Laming.

**HCC reorganisation** - no change for Downlands

**Devolution** - Heart of Hampshire

**Grants /funds**

**Environment** - Cool Communities - Sustainable Businesses

King's Head has been awarded 3\* for food sustainability and a Hampshire Green Award.

Beechcroft Farm also provides locally reared and slaughtered meat.

Dr John O'Sullivan reported that the landowners each side of the A3090 north of the village had agreed in principle to the planting of a few more May trees to reinforce the memorial avenue instituted after the First World War.

Mrs Bell mentioned that group of parents were looking into the possibility of additional play equipment in the recreation ground funded from the Open Space Fund held by Winchester City Council for Hursley which stands at approximately £10,000.

## **6 FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Mr Brooks presented the accounts for 2015/2016. He confirmed that the precept plus Council Tax Support Grant for 2016/2017 had been maintained at a total of £19,000.

Mr Killeen asked why the cemetery income/expenditure relationship had changed markedly between 2014/15 and 2015/16 and Mr Brooks explained that whilst maintenance expenditure was fairly constant, income depended on demand for burials and was outside the Parish Council's control.

7

## **POLICE REPORT**

PCSO Michelle Wilkinson circulated a report of Annual Crime Statistics a copy of which is attached to the official copy of these minutes.

Summarising, she said there had been a total of 56 crimes and 18 Road Traffic Collisions reported to police in the year, a reduction from the 67 (17) reported in 2014/15.

Particularly notable was the increase in “shed burglaries” of which there had been 13 compared to 1 in the previous year. This had been a common factor over the whole area.

She recommended the installation of shed alarms, registration of possessions on the “Mobilise” website and possibly the installation of automatic number plate recognition cameras.

8

## **REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Mrs Warwick spoke to a report which had been circulated:-

**Devolution** in Hampshire has been an evolving concept over the past six months. An initial proposal for a combined Hampshire authority included all the district councils, national parks and Police and Fire departments. Last week, however Hampshire County Council announced a range of costed options by management company Deloitte for a new unitary structure for local government for across Hampshire and the IOW. The proposed changes are likely to affect the structure of the Districts, Unitary Authorities and County Council. We have of course just completed a District Boundary change (where Hursley is now part of the larger Badger Farm and Oliver’s Battery ward) where we had all-out local elections. We do not know if these changes will affect the County Council elections due next year.

<http://documents.hants.gov.uk/communications/HampshireCountyCouncilFullReport.pdf>

**Grants** are now available as part of Defra’s Rural Development Programme for England. This money can be used to support the visitor economy, culture and heritage projects, farming, forestry and farm diversification projects, local food and drink producers, rural communities, or small businesses located in rural areas.

Further details about Fieldfare LEADER can be found at [www.Fieldfareleader.org.uk](http://www.Fieldfareleader.org.uk)

For more information please contact Ken Brown on 01962 848 588 [kbrown@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:kbrown@winchester.gov.uk)

### **Station Approach, Winchester**

The Council held a display of the two entries to the Station Approach Design Competition last week. Submissions from Design Engine and Hopkins were anonymously exhibited all week and approximately 500 visitors attended. The Design Jury will now submit a report on the preferred report to Cabinet who will decide whether to take this scheme forward.

### **Chesil Street Multi-storey Car Park**

Electricity consumption at Chesil Street multi-storey car park has reduced with LED replacements. The CO2 saving that has been achieved to date (up to the end of February 2016) is 51 tonnes. Now that the upgrade is complete it is anticipated that 55 tonnes of CO2 will be saved each year.

**Planning Development Construction Issues** Following discussions with the Planning Officers it has been agreed to insert the following good neighbourly guidance into relevant future planning consents:

*“Please be respectful to your neighbours and the environment when carrying out your*

**8 (Cont.)** *development. Ensure that the site is well organised, clean and tidy and that facilities, stored materials, vehicles and plant are located to minimise disruption. Please consider the impact on your neighbours by informing them of the works and minimising air, light and noise pollution and minimising the impact of deliveries, parking and working on public or private roads. Any damage to these areas should be remediated as soon as possible.*

**Park and Ride** Stagecoach has won the new competitive contract for an eight year term to run the bus service for the City's park and Ride Service. This will include the use of far cleaner Euro VI buses. The frequency will increase in peak to every 7.5 minutes and in peak to every 12 minutes.

**River Park Leisure Centre** - This is now more than 40 years old and its ability to meet the needs of a growing population in Winchester is limited. The City Council has looked at various options for replacing or refurbishing it and has commissioned work from external consultants to test the various options. Having looked at the cost and practicality of these, the Council's preference, if affordable and deliverable, would be a new leisure centre built at Bar End, on the edge of Winchester. Sports clubs and the University of Winchester, with whom the council plans to work in partnership, support this. <https://vimeo.com/145861235>

### **Local Development**

Following the adoption of Winchester's Local Plan Part 1 - Joint Core Strategy -the overarching document of the Local Planning Development Framework, the Council has prepared a second planning policy document. This is the **Development Management and Site Allocations now known as Local Plan Part 2 (LPP2)**. This incorporates both detailed development management policies and also allocates sites to meet the objectively assessed development needs including retail, housing, employment, community, leisure and transport. A lot of work has been done with Parish Councils, communities and other organisations to develop the draft Local Plan Part 2. We are about to start the Examination stage where the plan goes before an appointed inspector before final approval. This is relevant to Hursley in that any speculative development proposals such as the land at Pitt Vale are 'outside of Winchester's proposed plan' and should be refused by the planning officers. At any subsequent appeal by the developer Winchester would be expected to show it could deliver an adequate supply of all types of housing to support their plan. Detailed supply documents have been submitted to the Plan Part 2 Inspection.

**Mobile Libraries** No static libraries will close in Hampshire but as from the end of June 2016 the mobile library service will be replaced by a Home Library Service. The service is designed for those customers who are unable to access a static library because of ill health, disability or caring responsibilities. The Home Library Service will come to them to exchange books, large print or audio books every four weeks. The service is free and you can find out how to apply by visiting [www.hants.gov.uk/home-library-service](http://www.hants.gov.uk/home-library-service) or free telephone 0300 555 139

Finally she mentioned the Emergency Plan, to which the revised and updated Flood Plan would be attached.

She asked for volunteers to put their names forward as possessing useful skills such a medical knowledge or simply be willing to assist with bedding, food etc in the event of an emergency. A list would not be published but kept with Winchester City Council, each Parish Councillor and secured in the Parish Hall.

**REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Mr Phil Bailey reported as follows.

Ponding outside the Parish Hall – this should be rectified during the current financial year.

Pitt roundabout flooding – much work had been done to alleviate the situation.

Flooding at Enmill Lane Junction with A3090 – He hoped that Resilience funding to carry out works would become available, but the works necessary were very extensive and expensive compared to the number of properties affected. The temporary sandbag solution was useful, constituting a continuing reminder to council officers.

The continuing cuts in available funds was a real problem and would affect the waste recycling centres, footpath weed spraying, necessitate street light dimming, reduce grants to bus services etc etc. However there was a £1.5M Casualty Reduction Fund available for road safety improvements.

In answer to questions he agreed that the standard of pothole repairs was poor and that cycle way improvements were desirable but were largely dependent on developer contributions.

The mobile library service was to be withdrawn but a home service was to be instituted; he would ascertain whether the Parish Council could assist in identifying people who might qualify for the service.

**10****PARISH PLAN**

Michael Arthur reported on the work that the Parish Council was doing to encourage the initiation of a community led parish plan. This was something that would be used to influence authorities whose activities affected the parish. It would also act as an agenda for the Parish Council. Steve Lincoln from Winchester city council then spoke underlining the importance of parish plans and placing them in the context of the government's localism agenda. It was noted that the next stage would be a formal launch event the date of which would be announced in due course.

**11****BROADBAND**

Mr Dudley Rees of Gigabeam explained the rural broadband service which they were offering to selected appropriate locations. They had already rented a space of a mast at Crabwood and were serving several small communities around Winchester. The Hampshire County Council scheme was scheduled to improve broadband facilities in Hursley village in 2017/18 but the Gigabeam service could be available earlier and would be particularly useful to more isolated areas.

Further information was available online at <http://www.gigabeam.co.uk/> and by email from [sales@gigabeam.co.uk](mailto:sales@gigabeam.co.uk)

**12****ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Baker gave an overview of the activities of HVCA over the year which had included a newcomer's lunch organised by Louise Pratt, a cricket day, the 10K run, carol singing, the clearance and tree planting at the north end, a village tidy up and bonfire.

Coming up were another newcomers' lunch, tidy up, a village "nosh up", another cricket day (30<sup>th</sup> June) and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 10K run, also another village bonfire I November. It was also hoped to relaunch the HVI website.

The HVCA AGM would be on 16<sup>th</sup> June – all welcome – and a Hursley Village Summer Party was being organised to take place in a marquee at the Cricket Club. Funds were being raised to enable small grants to be made for worthwhile projects.

He wished to thank Michael Arthur for regular mowing the churchyard and other areas.

The meeting was closed at 9.25 pm.