

PARISH OF HURSLEY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Parish Hall on Monday 11th May 2015, at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: Mrs E Bell (Chair), Mrs J Warwick, Mrs A Apps, Mr M Arthur, Mr G Rees and Mr M Waldron,

Also present: Mr J L Brooks, Clerk to the Parish Council, County Cllr Mr P Bailey and approximately 30 parishioners.

Mrs Bell opened the meeting by welcoming all present and congratulating the Parish Councillors on their election, particularly Mrs Apps and Mr Arthur who were joining the council for the first time. She also congratulated Mrs Warwick on being re-elected to the City Council, noting that impending boundary changes meant that the ward as presently constituted would shortly be changing to a three member ward, but it was not yet known exactly what the new boundaries would be.

Mrs Bell also thanked Fredrica Teale, who was moving away, for her service on the Parish Council and particularly thanked Alan Beusmans for his 30 year service on the council (applause). He had agreed to continue to offer advice as Tree Warden.

Thanks were also due to Phil Pratt for his work as footpaths representative, and to Mr Baker and the HVCA for the works to the northern entrance to the village.

As regards the Flood Action Group, she noted that Captain Day was leaving the village, and Steve Stevenson was standing down. Thanks were due to them for their work over many years and new members were required.

1 APOLOGIES

The Viscount Lifford, Mr J Winchester and PCSO Michelle Wilkinson.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mrs L Pratt asked if the minutes of the flood meeting called by Steve Brine had been put on the Parish Council website as mentioned in Item 10. Mr Brooks apologised for omitting to do this but promised to do so as soon as possible.

Captain Day thanked everyone for the cooperation extended to the Flood Action Group over the years. Much progress had been made since his first involvement in 1992, particularly in the creation of the Flood Plan. During the last year the Poles Lane ditches had been deepened and dug out but work still needed to be done at the village end to connect to them properly. Southern Water had done work in the village but he doubted that all of the work needed had been completed. He considered that connecting the soakaways taking road drainage to the system draining Southend Close into Poles Lane would help to move groundwater away from the village and urged that the authorities be asked to do this.

Mr Baker commented that although the ditches had been cleared he thought that the

4 (Cont.) culverts under Poles Lane had not been similarly cleared and that this would help matters.

5 **PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

Mrs Bell presented the Chair's report of the year past.

6 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Mr Brooks presented the accounts for 2014/20154. He confirmed that the precept for 2015/2016 had been reduced to £19,000. Reserves were now restored but it should be noted that the large end of year balance was distorted by the receipt of the Community Benefit payment from the solar farm development..

7 **REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

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

Winchester City Council has continued to maintain and develop the economic prosperity of Winchester City and District delivering services with the same level of Council Tax for the last four years. Here are details of some of the developments in the past year.

Financial and Contract

Work continues on the new council house building programme and the Council continues to invest in the existing housing stock in particular focusing on improving the insulation and energy bills. Around 20 houses have been completed (including the 3 at The Terrace in Otterbourne), 33 are under construction and another 70 are due to be completed during this financial year.

In response to last year's flooding crisis an initial provision of £100k into the budget for flood relief projects and support was made. One of the early flood alleviation schemes will be the construction of a small flood defence wall to protect properties in Water Lane in Winchester.

Public consultation continues on the major building projects including River Park Leisure Centre, Silver Hill and the Railway Station approach. You will be aware of the Judicial Review of the Silver Hill scheme. Further consultation will begin on this project once the outcome of the independent review is reported.

Considerable work has gone into the grass cutting and road sweeping contract over the past year. An additional grass cut was added to the programme across the District at the beginning of April and a leafing 'hit squad' will be available to deal with areas of risky leaf fall during the autumn. A combination of hedge cutting and new safety legislation on litter picking on fast roads led to a noticeable increase in litter alongside many roads at the start of the year (particularly the A34, the A303 and Poles Lane). A programme of rolling lane closures is now in place to litter pick the dual carriageways throughout May and Poles Lane, Spitfire Link and the A32 were completed in April. You can report littering and fly tipping at any time using the WCC website or via the Council App for your smart phone.

Great Waste

The Great Waste campaign is an initiative aimed at reducing waste and re-using items we usual throw out. Events are planned over the next 12 months and include Swap and Swish where people swap clothes and household items for free and the Love Food Hate Waste event at River Cottage (Tuesday 12th May) where a top chef will demonstrate how to make delicious canapés from leftover food.

WCC textile banks are now located in council-owned and some Parish-council owned car parks around the district. The income from the textile recycling will support local

7 (Cont.) community projects as well as protect the income from local charities such as the Hampshire Air Ambulance. These banks will take old shoes, clothes, household linens, odd socks and underwear even in a worn or torn state as long as they are clean. There is an income sharing option for any parish wishing to participate in the scheme.

Grants

Grants are now available from the City Council (up to £500) to voluntary organisations. The grants are for one –off activities or pieces of equipment. Grants may be for a health related activity, piece of equipment for a sports club, promotional material for an arts event or project or a pilot project for a new community activity (examples include: first aid training, D-day commemoration event, cricket equipment). Contact Melissa Fletcher on 01962 848492. Closing date Monday 1st June.

Cllrs Jan Warwick and Mike Southgate

8 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr Phil Bailey spoke to his report as follows.

By way of background to the new Parish Councillors and to those who are not aware the County covers a wide range of responsibilities from Highways, Education, Adult and Children's services to arts library and Heritage. I cover 9 Parish Councils, stretching up to South Wonston.

Some of the Key points in the last year have been:

Bus Cuts

No 46 Winchester to Southampton General – reduced number of services.

However, our bus situation has been assisted by the developer funded increase in Route 66 services.

The challenge will be how viable the service is once the developer funding stops.

Poles Lane Ditching Work

Ditching work completed November/Dec 2014. Hopefully this will provide some help to reduce the impact of the flooding we experienced.

Highways and Education:

The next issue highlights some of the challenges we face:

John Keeble School parking is a problem and encompasses a number of County Councillor responsibilities and concerns ie School places, traffic speeds and parking.

In April 2015 - 175 pupils, this is up from 122 in 2012. Capacity is now 210 pupils.

65% are from outside catchment.

Over 70% travel by car.

More are car sharing – which helps.

Issues:

Both pubs are helping – ‘Park and Stride’.

IBM have in the past helped, but the situation is that they have coned off the lower area and they area beside the school is locked.

Masonic Hall appears to have also declined to allow parking.

So lots of options –ie

20 mph/Cycle and scooter storage/road marking/min-bus use

8 (Cont.) Re-open discussion with IBM/Masons.

Grants –

HVCA = Provided grants in the last 12 months for equipment, and looking to work with the parish council on other such requests in the year ahead.

Comments and Questions to Mr Bailey

There was a long discussion about the problems caused by parking connected with the school, which since the closure of Hursley Park Road to parking and changes to the access arrangements to the school had become much worse. Mrs Zoie Brown was particularly concerned about the problems of inconsiderate parking in Meredun Close.

Mr Bailey explained that a report was expected from County Council officers within the next few weeks which he hoped would point the way forward.

9 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Michelle Wilkinson had sent apologies and a report which was received too late for inclusion. *A review of the year would be presented to the Parish Council meeting on 18th May.*

10 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, and a village tidy up. A ride on mower had been purchased, partially with a "Have your say" grant, which was being used at the churchyard and other grassed areas, and further equipment purchased with a county council grant awarded by Mr Bailey.

Coming up were another tidy up, a village "nosh up", another cricket day and the 10K. It was also hoped to "revamp" the village website run by Mr Wells.

Mrs Anne Ramsdale, Chair of the Keble School PTA, spoke about the village fete to be held on 13th June at the school jointly with the church, and the campaign to raise £30,000 to fund "Operation Outdoors" to improve outdoor learning.

The meeting was closed at 9.00 pm, following which Mr David Key gave a most fascinating talk about the role of women in Hursley during the Great War.