

TICHBORNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Tichborne Annual Parish Assembly.
Tuesday 27th April 2016 at Alresford Golf Club at 7.00pm

Present.	Mr P Kilmister	Chairman
	Mr J Curtis	Councillor
	Mr R Foot	Councillor
	Mrs G Hugh	Councillor
	Mr A Kinder	Councillor
	Mr A McWhirter	Councillor
	Mr R Raimes	Councillor
	Mrs A Thacker	District Councillor
	Mr R Huxstep	County Councillor
	Mr B Gibbs	Clerk

Two members of the general public.

1) Apologies were received from the following parishioners.

Lady Elizabeth Craig-Cooper, Mr Patrick Roper.

2) To approve the minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Assembly held on the 14th April 2015.

Mr John Curtis proposed and Mr Robert Raimes seconded that the minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Assembly held on the 14th April 2015 be approved.

A vote was taken and those who voted did so to approve the minutes.

3) Tichborne Parish Council Chairman's Report.

Chairman's report 2015/2016

Parish Council's year started on 19th May with the AGM, followed by an ordinary meeting. At the meeting Robert Raimes was elected to be Vice-Chairman and Neil Kinder received a Chairman's award for all his time and effort in creating a new website for our Parish. We released details of the website in June and received very positive feedback.

In June an application by Matterley Estate for a Lawful Development Certificate was refused. This means that no more than 28 days of non-agricultural use can be made of what is agricultural land. Despite the restriction, WCC decided to allow the Boomtown festival to go ahead as planned. Tickets for the 2016 event went on sale in November. We wondered how it can go ahead without planning consent.

At least WCC appeared to have listened to us over electoral ward boundaries. In July we learnt that we will be in the Upper Meon Valley Ward rather than Twyford.

A lawful development certificate application was submitted by Tichborne Estate to allow for non-agricultural activity to continue at Vernal Farm barns. Council took the position that it had no objection although there was concern over the loss of old barns on staddle stones.

The ford at Ladycroft has been fixed ... but don't tell too many people. It is really a farm track and if two vehicles come face to face along the track then there will be a stand-off, or one might end up in the watercress beds! In August plans were submitted to refurbish Ladycroft Farm. As this listed building has been empty for as long as most people can remember we welcomed the proposals.

At our September meeting the whole idea of Ladycroft Farm was discussed with residents of Ladycroft in attendance. There were one or two concerns but no issues.

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However, the residents of Ladycroft said that they wanted a 30 mph limit and there were no objections. A vote was passed to ask for HCC to change the limit for that short stretch of road.

For lovers of flowers October was a brilliant month. Despite a slight ground frost, dahlias kept budding and blooming.

The weather was good news for Grange Farm Partnership as they were able to harvest all their grapes for another season.

A fair amount of rain fell in November and early December. The lane through the village became covered in mud. No sign of HCC's road sweeping vehicle, but Robert Raimes kindly cleared most of it.

One effect of all the rain was that the ground was waterlogged. Vehicles used by the shoot soon turned paths and ancient byways like the Kings Way into mud baths. Robert spoke to the shoot after the season ended. When the time is right the tracks will be levelled and grass seed sown. This will benefit walkers and ramblers who in turn use the pub and provide good income.

A planning application for Matterley Estate was received by SDNP on 24th December. We decide to ignore whether people liked or disliked the festivals and submitted an objection based on law. Events at the site are in conflict with the laws and objectives of the National Park, in particular their policies on Dark Skies and Tranquillity. Thank you to Anthony McWhirter for his diligence.

We also objected to development at Hassocks Copse because we do not consider that sufficient thought has been given to parking and the use of Appledown Lane.

In March we heard that Boomtown had asked for a minor variation to their licence to increase attendance to just fewer than 60,000. It was refused. Another one went in straight away to allow just fewer than 55,000 and was also refused.

Peter Kilmister

4) Report from County Councillor Roger Huxstep.

Household Waste Re-cycling Centres.

A previous review of Household Waste Re-cycling Centres (HWRC) resulted in changes to opening hours of twenty-four centres from 1st April 2015. The change followed consultation with residents on a number of options to shape the service for the future. These looked at affordable ways to ensure the County Council continued to deliver a modern, value for money service for Hampshire's residents. The changes did not result in recycling centres being closed down to meet the required overall budget savings for 2015/16 however, because of continuing budget restraints a further review through consultation is under way.

The 10-week public consultation asks residents how they think savings can best be made in the cost of running the county's HWRCs. The cuts the government has made to Hampshire's grant are now so severe that we simply cannot afford to carry on as before. The county council had been planning to make savings to meet a £98million funding shortfall by April 2017, but when the government announced its funding plans for local authorities for the next three years, Hampshire lost £48m more this year than had been anticipated.

It is therefore vital that the resources we have in Hampshire are focused on where they can make the most impact, and how we deal with Hampshire's waste is part of this. We are now in a position where we need to establish how we can run the HWRC service with a smaller budget in a way that is financially sustainable for Hampshire council tax payers in the long term.

The 24 sites are currently open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Twenty-four is a large number compared with other areas, and it is clear we are no longer in a financial position to be able to provide this same level of service.

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This consultation is a genuine opportunity for people to tell us how they think a different and more affordable model can be established. We are asking people what they think of changes in opening hours - an hour less each day, weekend-only opening, winter closures - and what they think of closing some sites altogether. We will be looking at how many people use each of the sites, how much waste is collected, and the distances between sites. I urge Hampshire residents to take part in this consultation and help us define an affordable service which works for them. No decisions will be made until we have looked at all the evidence and taken people's views into consideration.

Hampshire Railways.

A top-level rail summit was held at the beginning of last year to push for greater long-term investment in Hampshire's railways. South West Trains is one of the few regions making a positive contribution into rail infrastructure but this trains' region has suffered from years of underinvestment. Rail bosses, Hampshire MPs, Leaders of Local Authorities and representatives of Local Enterprise Partnerships met amid concerns that rail infrastructure serving Hampshire is unable to cope with continued growth in passengers and freight. It was explained that any improvements to rail links between Portsmouth and Southampton depended on work at Salisbury, Basingstoke, Woking and Waterloo i.e. improvements in the south of the county are dependent on other parts of the county and further afield. The aim of that summit, which was convened by the Leader of HCC, Cllr Roy Perry was to provide collective support to lobby for a fair share of Government investment to improve frequency and reliability on some of the most congested sections of railway in Britain. This initiative is continuing and if devolution happens it will be a significant factor in its success.

Hampshire's Children's Services cited in Ofsted Annual Report.

Hampshire primary schools' performance has been reported as being in the top five in the south east and in the top quartile nationally. In early years' education, the County Council is one of two authorities nationally described as being 'the highest performing' for improving outcomes for pre-school children and ensuring they are well prepared to enter primary education.

Hampshire County Council - Highly commended at national landscape awards.

Work to create a high quality outdoor space for schoolchildren in Basingstoke has earned Hampshire County Council national recognition in the prestigious Landscape Institute Awards. The in-house Property Services Landscape Team was highly commended in the awards, which were announced on 26 November and their work recognised as outstanding examples of work by the landscape profession.

Hampshire Libraries at the forefront of innovation.

Consultation feedback has shaped sustainable future for Hampshire's Library Service. A Library Service fit for the future will be delivered to the people of Hampshire, following one of the largest public consultations held by Hampshire County Council. The Library Strategy approved on 18th April has been shaped by the 9,500 responses collected during the consultation. The Strategy will provide an approach to meet customers' demands for a modern service - making the most of emerging digital technologies and investing in library buildings. Planned improvements include exploring the use of electronic self-service counters to provide extended opening hours in some locations, and the refurbishment of a number of sites to make them bright and more welcoming to visitors. In addition, the Home Library Service will be expanded to replace the relatively high-cost Mobile Library Service. 62% of consultation respondents were in favour of stopping the Mobile Library Service which is used by just 1% of total library customers, and costs £11.44 per visit per customer, compared to £2.23 per static library visit. Mobile library vehicles are also in need of frequent repair as they near the end of their ten-year leases. As a result, the Mobile Library Service will no longer run after June this year. Additional alternatives offered by the Library Service include:

Working with local communities in the 20 busiest mobile library stops to identify opportunities for volunteers to deliver books to appropriate community gatherings offering free online library learning sessions in communities that will no longer have a mobile library stop and developing links with voluntary sector groups that provide community transport to help rural communities access their local library when they no longer have a mobile stop.

The County Council is facing its most challenging period of prolonged national austerity measures, which has seen huge reductions in the Authority's funding from central Government in recent years. The closure of the

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Mobile Library Service will contribute £360,000 towards a total library savings target of at least £1.7 million by 2020. Further savings are set to be delivered through a combination of the following approved proposals which also received public support during the consultation:

- Sharing library buildings with complementary partner organisations (77% agreed)
- Withdrawing poorly used library collections such as CDs, games, and DVDs (75% agreed)
- Increasing the number of trained volunteers to support paid library staff (58% agreed)
- Further details, including the consultation results and a draft of the revised Library Strategy, can be found in the Decision Day report to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside.
- Decision Day report to the Executive Member for Culture, Recreation and Countryside

Celebrations.

The Commonwealth Flag was raised in Hampshire on Monday 9 March 2015, to mark Commonwealth Day, along with over 650 Commonwealth Flags across 38 Commonwealth countries. It was the second year that local authorities and civic dignitaries, community groups and charities throughout the British Isles had carried out local flag raising events and ceremonies of dedication to mark Commonwealth Day - building on 2014's highly successful inaugural events. The flag was raised this year only yesterday by the Mayor of Winchester in the presence of the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire. The Magna Carta 800th Anniversary celebrations were hosted by HCC including a lecture in the Great Hall on 10 June. And, joyfully, Her Majesty the Queen on 9th September became Britain's longest serving Monarch and on behalf of the Council the Leader wrote to Her Majesty expressing our good wishes on her achieving that record. On 24th September a letter was received from the Chief Clerk to the Queen - Mr Christopher Sanadamas saying the Queen had asked him to thank the Council and to send her best wishes to you all.

Telecare service scoops national award.

Hampshire County Council's Telecare Initiative has scooped another prestigious national award. The 2015 TSA (Telecare Services Association) Crystal Award for Inspiring Change and Progress within Technology Enabled Care Services was won by PA Consulting Group, for their inspiring Telecare partnership work with the County Council. Telecare is a 24-hour personal emergency monitoring service which helps people to continue to live independently in their own home. Using wireless technology and environmental sensors to continuously monitor those with care and support needs, 24-hour monitoring ensures that the right help can be provided immediately and also gives reassurance to relatives and carers who are not able to provide round the clock support.

General Election.

The General Election showed how the people have spoken very emphatically in Hampshire. The Council has therefore committed itself to working with the MPs and the Government that the people have elected. The Leader wrote to all the Hampshire MPs, new and returning members, congratulating them on their election and invited them to meet in Winchester and brief them on County issues. This has culminated in an all-party parliamentary group for Hampshire, being established by Ranil Jayawardena MP. They are already involved in the Hampshire Railways initiative. The new Government was clearly elected on the promise to control public expenditure and, put simply, to live within its means and that has manifested itself in a severe reduction of the Revenue Support Grant to shire counties and districts, i.e. 37.4 % for Hampshire and 42% for Winchester District.

Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE.)

Submissions to the LGBCE re a new pattern of divisions for the county closed on Monday, 11th January this year. On 15th March the Commission considered its final recommendations and will publish them on 5th April whence an Order is laid in Parliament in May for implementation at next year's County Council elections. The electorate for Hampshire's divisions in the district of Winchester is projected to be 101,315 by 2021 of which 14,512 are in the revised Meon Valley division, up from just under 12,000. Accordingly, the recommendation for the Meon Valley division is to retain the parishes of Corhampton & Meonstoke, Droxford, Exton, Hambledon, Shedfield, Swanmore, Warnford, West Meon and part of Soberton with newcomers of Curbridge, Curdrige and the more highly populated Whiteley.

The division has therefore lost the more sparsely populated villages of Beauworth, Bishops Sutton, Bramdean & Hinton Ampner, Cheriton and part of Soberton. Bramdean & Hinton Ampner will be drawn into the Bishops

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Waltham Division comprising the parishes of Beauworth, Bishops Sutton, Bishops Waltham, Bramdean & Hinton Ampner, Cheriton, Colden Common, Durley, Kilmeston, Owslebury, Tichborne, Twyford and Upham.

Devolution and Combined Authorities.

On 19th July the Leader of the County Council together with the Leaders of IOW, Southampton and Portsmouth and the 11 Districts of Hampshire sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Local Government indicating intent to explore the possibility of gaining devolved powers from Government as a Combined Authority. On 4th September to meet a deadline set by the Government a more formal submission was made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the same signatories plus the 2 chairmen of the National Parks and with indications of support from The Police and Crime Commissioner, The Chief Constable, the Chief Fire Officer and the Chairmen of the Hampshire and IOW Fire and Rescue Authorities.

There was no response as originally promised around 24th November; later amended to end of January. It was then thought that there would be an announcement alongside the chancellor's budget statement and that didn't happen; believed to be due to there being an alternative bid made by local authorities in the south of the county prepared to offer up a 'metro-mayor' something that the original Hampshire & Isle of Wight bid did not want. However, it is clear the Government is firm that there can be no devolution deal without there being an elected mayor.

If Hampshire is to remain as a single entity, it may be necessary for our shire to accept a mayor of some form just to avoid the formation of 'Solent City'. The all-party parliamentary group for Hampshire was in talks with the Treasury in an effort to secure a pan-Hampshire solution. As of 1st April, Cllr Roy Perry was not aware of councils in the Solent ratifying a combined authority proposal. He is continuing bilateral meetings with Hampshire council leaders to consider the options. Legal advice to date indicates that no combined authority can come into force without the consent of all local authorities in the area which of course includes Hampshire County Council. There will be an update of HCC's position at the Council's AGM this Friday (13th May 2016).

Council Tax.

Hampshire's council tax next year will be the lowest of any county in England and Wales. This is despite the axing of the Government's Council Freeze Grant and the Government authorising county councils to raise Council Tax by 2% to pay for additional provision for adult social care and so ease the burden on the NHS. After 6 years with a standstill of Council Tax in the county, Hampshire has had to raise its precept by the maximum allowed without a referendum of 1.99% for a total rise of 3.99% this coming year. This is equivalent to an increase of £41.40 on a Band D property - an increase of 80 pence a week. In real terms after inflation of around 15% over the period, being taken into account the Hampshire tax is still lower than it was 5 years ago - a tribute to a competent and prudent administration. Hampshire is one of the largest counties in the country and the council has a budget of approximately £1.9bn per annum and a direct workforce of just under 10,000 employees and over 25,000 in education. Winchester City Council has also set its council tax. It is classified as a shire district and was not allowed to exceed an increase of £5.00 per annum for a Band D property. A level just below this was selected resulting in an increase of 9 pence per week for a Band D property. Soberton Parish Council's precept was raised 10.86% to £37.68 per annum, yielding a rate of 72 pence per week for a Band D property.

Cllr Roger Huxstep
Member for Meon Valley Division

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5) Report from District Councillor Amber Thacker.

Cllr Amber Thacker's Annual Report to Tichborne Parish Council - Annual Parish Assembly on 27th April 2016.

6) Open Forum.

Before the open forum began refreshments from the bar were provided to all those attending.

There being no further business the Annual Parish Assembly closed at 8.27pm.

Brendan Gibbs
Clerk to the Parish Council of Tichborne.

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