

MINUTES

Present: 36 residents of Droxford were present, members of Droxford Parish Council, County Cllr Huxstep, District Cllr Caroline Dibden, Jeff Hooper Chairman - Droxford Parish Plan Steering Group. Guest speakers: Chris Paterson, Communities Lead - SDNP and David Boyson, Historic Buildings Officer – SDNP. PCSO Owen Reeves (arrived later)

1 Welcome

Cllr Barbara Chandler, - Chair Droxford Parish Council welcomed HCC Cllr Huxstep, WCC Cllr Caroline Dibden and the evening's guest speakers, Chris Paterson and David Boyson. A vacancy for a parish councillor had been advertised. Because a poll had not been called by 10 electors for an election the Parish Council had co-opted Nick Fletcher onto the Parish Council.

2 Apologies for Absence had been received from Cllrs Melson and Withers. Cllr Colin Matthissen left early due to illness.

3 Minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting. Approved and signed as a true record. Proposed by Tim Crowfoot, seconded by Mary Hornby- Patterson

Cllr Chandler announced a change to the agenda and invited Cllr Huxstep to speak first in order to attend another meeting, to be followed by Paterson and David Boyson in order not to detain them.

4 Annual County Council Report

County Cllr Roger Huxstep: Devolution in England, HCC Cllr Perry is anxious to take advantage of a rising economy - Hampshire is larger than Northern Ireland and would derive economic benefit. Divisional boundaries changes – HCC agreed to keep 78 members with an average electorate of 13200. The Meon Valley Division is currently 16% below the projected electorate for 2021 and will have to expand. Recycling centre opening hours will be reduced but none will close.

5 A Village Statement for Droxford

5.1 Chris Patterson (SDNPA): Gave a presentation on producing a Village Design Statement (VDS). Further information in available on the SNDPA website.

5.2 David Boyson: Discussed the process of producing a draft consultation for the Droxford Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Plan (CACAMP) using Historic England (formerly part of English Heritage) register of listed buildings as a starting point. The draft is due for public consultation at the end of June; a hard copy will be sent to the Parish Council to make available to residents.

6 Parish Council reports

Barbara Chandler thanked the officers for an informative and helpful presentation. She thanked Jeff Hooper and his team for preparing the Parish Plan which will come to the Parish Council for approval when completed. A summary of the year's activities followed, specifically taking on board the recommendations which came out of the Parish Plan, of which some actions are in hand: new website, litter pick, increase in lengthsman days, zip wire, defibrillator. Long term capital projects will include an overhaul of the recreation ground play equipment, additional car parking, The Square and cemetery. Residents were invited to join working groups to support the Parish Council.

The [Annual Statement of Income and Expenditure 2014/15](#) had been circulated. Any questions to be emailed to the Clerk. The [Planning Report](#) was circulated. Roger Foster reported on [Highways](#) matters - road safety was identified as the main priority in the Parish Plan. Serious dialogue with the various Highways departments is required. Issues are exacerbated by current budget cuts – funding will not be released unless a direct link to safety can be evidenced. Therefore it has been a struggle to push initiatives along. Village gateways have been statistically proved to slow trunk route traffic down. The Police have been very proactive cracking down on nuisance noise. The Police Commissioner, WCC and HCC councillors and the MP have all been lobbied. Highways' appraisal of one-way traffic along Police Station revealed speeds increased by 5 miles per hour. A 20 miles per hour limit requires a Road Traffic Order. A resident drew attention to children walking along the narrow road without a pavement to School.

A resident spoke in support of the 'Shared Space' scheme in West Meon; road markings removed along the A32 reduced overall through speed.

7 The Parish Plan

DROXFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 8.00 pm Thursday 21st May 2015 at Droxford Village Hall

Jeff Hooper had received the final printed proof of the Parish Plan. The steering group considered hard copy to be important. Funding had been received from the Droxford Fair Committee. He described the Parish Plan as the 'infant of all community led plans, and as a step towards the next task. He warmly thanked all who had contributed so much time an energy and asked for volunteers for the Village Statement.

8 Annual City Council Report

Cllr Caroline Dibden: No increase in Council Tax for the 4th consecutive year. Target to build 150 'proper' Council houses per year achieved. Economic prosperity in Winchester helped by keeping car parking prices down to encourage more visitors. Supporting families. Extra care homes to cater for a 25% increase in household occupants over 88 years old.

9 Droxford community reports

Roger Denham reported on activities at [Droxford Cricket Club](#). He thanked Dave Channon for doing a great job cutting the grass; the Country Fair Committee for help funding a new mower. Local sponsorship is to be sought to secure safe storage of maintenance equipment.

John Symes Aspirations of the Friends of Droxford Church were beginning to be realized through grant applications to the HLF. A 1st round pass for an investment of nearly £¼ m into the village had been achieved. Currently well advanced in the development stage. He emphasized need for wider use of the Church by the community and working closely with the Village Hall was essential, hence the name Droxford Church Community Hub Project.

Droxford Cub Group Annual Report was read by Jason Toman. The community and the Droxford Fair Committee were thanked for their support. More volunteers are urgently needed for the Cubs Group and the formation of a Scouts Group for cubs to be able to continue to stay in the village.

The Meon Valley Community Bus Association has had a good year and are £2600 in surplus. There were no problems to report with the drivers' rota.

10 Police update

PCSO Owen Reeves gave a quick update of recent crimes; theft from Meringtons Stores, an increase in fly tipping and speeding offences. He recommended joining Hampshire Alerts – free online. Hampshire Constabulary is undergoing re-structuring. Area response vehicles will be based on Fareham. Neighbourhood teams based at Bishops Waltham covering Droxford, Corhampton & Meonstoke, Exton, Hambledon and Soberton. Police Constables form a floating team under Sergeant Stuart Gilmour and Inspector John Turton. Courier fraud has been successfully investigated in Operation Grease. He will report feedback at PACT meetings at the end of the Summer regarding speeding bikes and lorries gained from 'spotting' exercises. Illegal bike exhausts can only be identified by visual inspection. George Hollingbery MP is pursuing the issue. His researcher is checking EU legislation and meetings with the Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Hayes.

11 Open Forum

Mary Hornby Patterson said the Droxford Country Fair 2014 was an outstanding success. A video diary recorded the event attended by an estimated 3000 people, double the usual number. £4500 had been donated to Droxford organisations. The 2015 Fair would be held on 4th June with a Victorian theme.

A dog free area in the Recreation Ground was suggested. Failure to pick up dog waste has increased substantially, posing a hazard to children and when cutting the grass. The Council was urged to investigate means of deterrent. Chair reiterated specific issues should be brought to the attention of the Council through the Clerk.

12 Vote of Thanks – Barbara Chandler, Chair Droxford Parish Council

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

The Annual Income and Expenditure report can be seen on www.droxfordweb.co.uk.

Hard copy of the Statement of Receipts and Expenses, Planning, Highways, Scouts and Droxford Cricket Club Reports can be obtained from the Clerk.