

**MINUTES OF THE  
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF EAST WOODHAY PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2018 IN EAST WOODHAY  
VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM**

**CHAIRMAN : Councillor Mr J Mitchell**

**PRESENT : Councillors Mrs S Cooper, P Hurst, Mr P Jarvis, Mr B Lambert, Mr J Murdoch, Mr M Rand, Mrs H Teece**

**APOLOGIES :**

**ALSO PRESENT : Cllrs Tom Thacker, Clive Sanders, 19 parishioners**

**CLERK : Mrs S Owen**

**ITEM 1: APOLOGIES**

As above.

**ITEM 2: REPORT FROM EAST WOODHAY PARISH COUNCIL**

**CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT 2017-18**

Good evening Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen and thank-you for coming tonight to support the Parish council and other local organisations, at the Annual General Meeting of the East Woodhay Parish Council (*EWPC*).

I am pleased to also welcome Councillor Clive Sanders our Basingstoke & Deane ward councillor and leader of Basingstoke & Deane borough Council, Councillor Tom Thacker from Hampshire County Council, Mark Rand, Chairman of the East Woodhay Society, our vicar Christine Dale who is representing the East Woodhay Charities.

The formal part of this evening will take about 1 hours, post which we will have a brief Q&A and then at the end of the meeting there will be refreshments over which further discussion can take place with your parish councillors and our visitors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all 8 councillors who have worked hard in their spare time for the community. I would also like to thank our excellent paid clerk Sadie Owen and welcome our new litter warden Patricia Barnes to the role. I would like to thank Julia Calvert who stepped down as the parish litter warden after several years of diligent service of keeping our parish tidy. Thank-you Julia.

2017-18 has been a solid year for the East Woodhay Parish Council. Completing and participating in many projects. Each Council member will now give an update from their area of responsibility.

### **AMENITIES**

The Parish Lengthsman continues to undertake regular maintenance work across the parish. In addition to cutting of hedges etc., this has included repairs to playground equipment and the reseedling of Woolton Hill Recreation ground.

Noticeboard information on Parish Council has been improved on all 5 noticeboards across the Parish.

The council continues to look at ways to improve amenities across the parish and welcome ideas from the community with recent suggestions being received which include callisthenics apparatus, benches and additional sports equipment which will be assessed as part of the S106 monies.

### **TELECOMS / BROADBAND.**

The issues with poor broadband coverage in the areas around the telephone exchange were finally resolved in the second half of 2017 after much pressure on BT. Provision in the parish is now generally good to excellent with the exception of some outlying pockets of poor coverage. Simon Carter was working on this but I have been unable to contact him recently. I am aware he has had health issues so this may be the reason.

### **WATER AND DRAINAGE**

Thames water have been approached to get reassurance that the pumping station at the Milking Bridge in Woolton Hill Road is fully maintained and that there is no likelihood of a repetition of the flooding of a couple of years back. They are confident of their maintenance schedule but maintain that the flooding was due to an exceptional fall of rain in a short period, (which was true). Alas the clear implication of their statement is that in the event of another deluge of the same proportions they cannot guarantee that flooding will not occur.

### **ELECTRICITY**

Parts of the parish do lose service from time to time but we have no records of such events and the electricity network owners (SSE) have refused us access to such records. It could be useful for the parish to know how often such events occur so that we could perhaps exert a little pressure to rectify the situation if it seems to be a frequent problem. The trouble is that we can only know about such events if the people affected tell us. I would like to log events for the forthcoming year and so would ask all parishioners to report any supply interruptions to me as well as your supplier. The PC cannot act to restore your power but if we find there are "hotspots" of supply loss then we can press to have that part of the system overhauled.

If it turns out we do not have a problem then this initiative will be dropped.

## **FOOTPATHS**

Last year, the Parish Council had the last section of the boardwalk off Trade Street built so that this popular footpath can now be used all year round. Of course, as I seem to be saying every year, winter weather is not good for any footpaths but this year the amount of rainfall was really excessive. The water table was so high that even the driest sections turned very muddy but, after just a few days of dry weather, there was quite a dramatic improvement.

In May of last year, our Lengthsman installed 3 kissing gates and a small bridge on the footpath through the Charities Field off Ball Hill Road near the Furze Bush. We had scheduled to have a 4th gate installed near the exit of this footpath on Knights Lane, Ball Hill but on the day it snowed, and a fortnight later the land was under water so we hope the work can be done soon.

On the footpath off Gore End Road Ball Hill, near the county boundary, 3 kissing gates and a small bridge were installed in August. Once building starts on the Breezehurst site, another gate will be built by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is again writing to local landowners offering to convert any stiles on their properties to gates, completely free of charge to the landowner. We are very pleased to have obtained consent to replace all stiles on the footpath in Hollington Farm and this work should start soon. The Parish Council is grateful to all landowners who look after their footpaths and ditches and keep them in good condition for walkers to use.

**THE PC WILL CONTINUE TO PAY FOR ANY STILE CONVERSION TO KISSING GATES, all the landowner has to do is agree to allow the council to make the change. The PC will pay for the labour and materials and the new gates. The goal is to have the countryside paths accessible to EVERYBODY in the community.**

## **EMERGENCY PLAN**

The Emergency plan was updated and re-submitted to Basingstoke & Dean Borough Council.

The purpose of the plan is to identify the most likely risks to our communities (e.g. the impact of severe weather). It also identifies the most vulnerable groups within our area and determines how any risk might be managed using our local resources, should it arise.

The plan is owned and maintained by assigned members of the three councils and has been distributed to Hampshire CC, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire Service and Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council where it forms part of a larger County wide plan.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **Summary:**

	Actual	Budget	v Budget
Income	£ 47,398	£ 34,697	137%
Expense	£ 51,243	£ 34,115	150%
Variance	-£ 3,845	£ 582	

## **General Comment on Finances**

The PC income and expense was considerably over budget for the year. This was intentional to continue the goal of reducing the cash held on account, to spend this money on the parish. As can be seen from the expenditure report there has been some significant spend overspend in areas. This is down to the completion of one off projects like the purchasing of 4 kissing gates for footpaths and building new bridges for 2 footpaths. £7,790. The Heath End playground improvements £12,500. The Parish Council continues its policy to gain grants where ever it can to support one off projects, for example it received grants for footpath maintenance and enhancement.

**Income:** In 2017/18, The precept was £27,800. Other income from B&D and local rental income was £4,739. Litter warden grant from B&D was £3,900. The PC also recovered £10,433 on VAT expenditure in the year – some of this relating to VAT paid on projects in the previous financial year.

**Expense:** Expense for the year have been as follows:

1. Clerks Costs £8,329 (LY£7,219) (Salary £8,136, full year effect of 2016/17 salary increase, Expenses £194)
2. Litter Warden Costs £4,043 (LY £4,464) reduced owing to 2 months with no litter warden
3. Admin courses £813 (LY £1,580)
4. Insurance & Audit £1,316 (LY £1,667)
5. Subscriptions £999 (LY £1,267)
6. Annual maintenance payment £2,335 (LY £3,115)
7. Misc. maintenance £1,652 (LY £11,438)
8. Footpaths work £7,791 (LY £10,469) 4 new kissing gates and new bridges
9. Expenditure on CCTV annual contract £1,370 (LY £1,250)
10. Donations £510 (LY £5,350)
11. Heath End playground ground £12,500
12. Parish Plan £2,950 (LY £2,650)

**Current Account:** The PC current account at the end of the financial year stands at £46,166 (LY £46,682) (31<sup>st</sup> March 2018)

## **S106 Monies**

See S106 report section.

## **PC CHARITY DONATIONS IN FY17/18**

In the last financial year the PC spent £760 on donations (FY16/17 £5,350) which under spent the budget by 39% to the following local organisations:

The Poppy Appeal (wreaths on behalf of EWPC)	£50
Living Stones	£210

The PC always welcome requests from local voluntary groups and charitable initiatives.

### **POLICE UPDATE**

Over the last year we were joined by a new PCSO, John Dullingham (replacing PCSO Damon Hope). John is our primary local police coverage and comes to us with good experience and knowledge of the area. We also continue to be covered by a Country Watch team who specialise in dealing with rural issues and wildlife crime. There is a close collaboration between the PCSO and the Country Watch Team. Both can be contacted using the 101 number, with the despatch team deciding who is the appropriate contact.

The Parish Council has continued to be proactive in building contacts with our local police inspector, Paul Pressley and have ensured feedback from the local community goes to him. The core policing priorities for East Woodhay remain similar to those of previous years:

- Speeding/Traffic,
- Non-Dwelling Burglary,
- Dwelling Burglary.

The Country Watch Team priorities include:

- Farm theft
- Poaching
- Animal incidents (animal persecution and incidents involving farm animals).

John produces monthly reports that we publish to the community. From these it can be seen that the number of incidents that we have, continue to be at a relatively low level.

A continued priority for the Parish Council has been support for the Speedwatch and safer roads initiatives. The Parish council is a member of the Basingstoke and Deane Speedwatch Community. This has enabled us to gain insights into the rural roads strategy from Hampshire Traffic Police and any ongoing safer roads initiatives.

We are now in the 4th year of Speedwatch and struggling to continue. Over the year the group lost its co-ordinator, Chris Loane, who moved from the area after 3 years of working with the team. We are now below the number of volunteers required to maintain a viable team. We have been unable to attract new members to the team over the last year. We urgently need new volunteers to continue and this again will be the focus for the coming year.

The team has built up nearly 4 years' worth of data on speeds of cars and volume of traffic that has provided good insights into areas of key concern. Our biggest concern remains people continuing to speed along Church Road (outside the church and the schools) and outside Woolton Hill Tennis Club. To try and tackle this issue, the Parish Council has invested in a static speed monitor with Highclere Parish. This monitor is now being deployed on key Highclere Roads. This device is educational to motorists, displaying their speed to them and highlighting if they are meeting the speed limit. We have asked Hampshire CC for permission to deploy this device on Church Road and other key roads. This will be a focus for the coming year.

The issue of car parking outside our schools has also become a concern. We are at capacity for car parking at most school drop off and pick up times. This is causing potential accident spots and tensions between motorists. This year we will therefore work with the local community, schools and doctors surgery to come up with ideas to manage and try to alleviate this risk.

### **HARWOOD PADDOCK HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

The housing development at Harwood Paddock has now been completed, but not signed off by Basingstoke and Deane. There remain outstanding issues with the compliance of the landscaping of the development. The Parish Council has worked closely with the new residents and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council to ensure compliance of the development by Bloor Homes.

The handover of community land on this development (for the proposed orchard) is linked to the overall sign off of the development. Therefore we have not been able to progress the legal discussions to pass the land to the Parish Council, nor the development of the orchard. As soon as sign off is complete, we will progress these activities.

The new naming of the estate and the signage has been completed. The estate is now known as "Meadowbrook".

As part of the landscaping a new artwork, commissioned by Bloor, was installed on the estate. This consists of sculptural seating, formed from Portland Stone. The artist is Alex Evans of Stoneform in Dorchester. This was inspired by the shape of flint nodules in the local chalk landscape. Alex has created the seats to be used and enjoyed for all of us and would like to remain in contact with the local community.

### **S106 FUNDS**

As a result of the construction of Harwood Paddock, Bloor Homes have had to pay a specific amount of money towards improving local infrastructure. This is termed S106 funding and we confirmed the final payments have been made by Bloor Homes to Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC). This was recently communicated in Spectrum to the community. To confirm £1.1M was generated and the money allocated into predefined categories as per the original S106 contract.

Spend Managers within BDBC will control the expenditure and ensure it complies with the S106 contract.

- HCC received £595K, of which £310K went to education, supporting our local schools.
- £285K - the rest of HCC's funding is allocated to transport  
EWPC has taken action to ensure the funds will be allocated to improving local highways, requesting that priority be given to widening the road and improving parking opposite the Medical Centre in Trade Street.
- BDBC have received £360K for affordable housing.
- EWPC has been allocated £162K. Of this £93K has been allocated to East Woodhay Village Hall and Woolton Hill Church Hall.

About £59K is assigned to recreation type projects. The allocation of this will be based on feedback from parish residents. EWPC already has responses from the East Woodhay Society survey carried out in 2016 but we are still keen to also hear further suggestions from residents as to how they would like this money used. Please note we have also had recently confirmed the funding is open to clubs (on the criteria that the club has open membership and is actively marketing and engaging with the community – e.g. through the village market or with open days).

There is also a small amount of money allocated to Allotments (£9K). We are working with volunteers in the community to determine if there is still sufficient interest for the creation of allotments within the parish.

EWPC has also clarified with the Spend Managers in BDBC, the process to be followed for project managers to request and spend the funding. This is available in contacting EWPC councilor Paul Hurst.

### **PLANNING COMMITTEE: 2017-18**

The Planning Committee has again this year considered a considerable number of applications from throughout the parish of varying degrees of complexity, with many having the potential to impact on others in the community.

The Planning Committee's remit is that of consideration and comment with regard to planning applications from the perspective of appropriateness of design and impact on the local community and environment; it does not however have any powers of enforcement. We seek to assist where possible as a voice of representation of Parishioners in a variety of planning related matters as applications are submitted to the planning process.

The Planning Committee has maintained a team of four councillors from this time last year, the only changes being myself as Chairman plus a new co-opted council member due to the previous chairman leaving the council due to work commitments. Particular thanks go to our secretary, Susan Cooper, who spends a considerable amount of time behind the scenes administering all the comments from the committee to the Borough Council.

Meetings are held roughly every two weeks and are open to parishioners should they wish to seek guidance or support on any planning matters. For those who do not wish to attend the meeting in person, planning and related matters are now readily accessible via the web, with all applications on the B&DBC Planning Portal and EWPC responses to applications available on the Parish web site shortly after each meeting. We would stress however that we are not planning experts and always suggest that individuals make their own submissions as they carry equal weight to those of the Parish Council.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING**

The Neighbourhood Planning Team is working on the final version draft Neighbourhood Plan to ensure that what will be presented is a cohesive and logically presented document. It is anticipated that the document will be ready for circulation to parish councilors before a public meeting and presentation is held in late June or early July 2018.

Once the final draft is available the team will be in a position speak to Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council and re-draft the "Key Stage" document to give timeline guidance for progress towards a referendum.

### **HIGHWAYS STATEMENT FOR THE PARISH ASSEMBLY, May 2018**

HCC Highways are clearly attending to potholes that have been reported although the delay between reporting and attention is too long. Early reporting of potholes is key to keeping on top of the problem. Once again we request that residents assist by reporting potholes directly to HCC, preferably via the HCC web site. The reporting process is easy and takes just a few minutes. This way every report is logged and progress with the repair can be advised to the informant automatically by e mail.

We understand that potholes have priority over road edge degradation.

Despite regular requests for something to be done the road subsidence on Woolton Hill Road outside the tennis club has not been addressed and Highways have advised that this is not yet considered bad enough to be a priority. The warning notice on the verge remains.

A similar situation applies to the road edge collapse next to the stream in Hollington Lane where warning cones have been placed by HCC Highways.

The parish council will continue to lobby for these essential road works to be done.

### **HARWOOD PADDOCK S106 TRANSPORT CONTRIBUTION**

Following lobbying by EWPC a Deed of Variation to the Harwood Paddock S106 Transport Contribution to HCC has been approved. As a result £246,849 has been reallocated from pedestrian, bus and cycle measures on the A339, Kingsclere, to:

- \* Traffic and safety improvements relating to schools on Woolton Hill Road and or,
- \* Parking and highway safety improvements relating to Trade Street and or,
- \* Improvements to Penwood crossroads and or,
- \* Pedestrian facilities (extended pavement) on Tile Barn Row

We have advised HCC that the local priority is the Widening of Trade Street outside the surgery.

HCC has informed us that the East Woodhay proposals were not prioritised for the final 2018/19 study programme against the other competing priorities across the county. In other words, although HCC do hold developer contributions from Bloor Homes for the East Woodhay proposals, they still need to enter the HCC feasibility study programme where projects are formally allocated a resource to undertake the study. The study programme budget is limited to set amount each year.



However, HCC can consider these schemes again when prioritising work for 2019/20. They are aware that the transport contribution received from Bloor Homes will expire in March 2026 and thus there is still have sufficient time for them to investigate and deliver schemes in East Woodhay. Also, if resources and finances allow, these may enter the programme later in the current year. But as it stands it has not been prioritised.

### **PERMISSIVE FOOTPATH ON PARISH FIELD**

The Permissive Footpath across the Parish Field is now in constant use.

Unfortunately, after heavy rain in the winter months the path can be very muddy. With a view to overcoming this problem we are obtaining quotes for surfacing the path in a way that that does not interfere with agricultural activities in the field. It is possible that the surfacing can be paid for out of available Harwood Paddock S106 funds.

The Parish Council reminds users that the use of the path is subject to restrictions and these are posted at each entrance.

### **DITCHES**

The winter of 2017/18 was a particularly harsh one. However with the Parish Council's persistence and focus on the problem of ditches and the land owners and home owners continued support, the parish ditches are getting more and more functional. As such the flooding issues locally were not as severe as 3 years ago.

The general maintenance work that we have encouraged to happen across Parish certainly is paying off. There are several land owners / householders who have worked hard to ensure their ditches are in good working order and the Parish Council, on behalf of the residents of East Woodhay thank them for this diligence. As always there are some landowners who do nothing.

The PC remind the community of the following rules around ditches and water flow:

1. Every land owner has to accept water from higher land
2. Every land owner is responsible for the passing of water across their property
3. Every land owner is responsible for the ditches and culverts that are on or adjoin their property

Land owners and householder who have not maintained their ditches despite PC requests continue to be socially irresponsible. The PC's view on poor ditch management in a community is the perpetrators are extremely anti-social and their lack of action causes unnecessary harm and is potentially dangerous to their fellow parishioner's. The PC we will continue to work on this topic.

### **OUR GOALS FOR THE NEXT YEAR ARE 2018/19**

- Recruit 2 Councillor into the free 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> seat
- Work to organise community desires for spending of S106 monies

- Continue to work with Harwood Paddock residents and B&D to hold Bloor accountable for the completion of the HP development
- Work to bring the community orchard project closer to a start date
- Continue to work with land owners and house owner to ensure there is awareness on ditch maintenance
- Continue to work with landowners to make countryside more accessible to all by removing stile and replacing at the PC's costs the stiles with gates
- Work on Allotments and see if there is real interest from the community to have an Allotments committee and to create this space
- Complete the "Neighbourhood Plan" project
- Continue to work with the community Speed Watch team
- Continue supporting the Friends of Heath End Playground in modernising these facilities
- Work with the local police and with their focus to reinvigorate the local Neighbourhood watch and Cold Calling Schemes

### **ITEM 3: COUNTY COUNCILLOR, TOM THACKER**

Cllr Thacker commented that he had been successfully elected to his 7<sup>th</sup> year as a county councillor and thanked those present.

*Responsibilities* - Cllr Thacker clarified that the county was responsible for road maintenance, trading standards and school buildings. The borough deals with waste collection and the county with waste disposal.

*Funding cuts* – Cllr Thacker reported that the county's funding had been cut by £23 million. As a consequence, the council tax had been raised by an increase of 3%, which would be used towards funding social care and community transport.

*Roads* – Cllr Thacker acknowledged that potholes were a problem. The council have received £3 million extra funding from central government to tackle the state of the roads. Find and fix teams known as 'Pothole Busters' are now being used in parallel to scheduled pothole repairs. The council have also invested in two dragons which are machines that are able to produce more permanent repairs to potholes.

*Recycling* – Cllr Thacker noted the parish had access to use the Newtown Road recycling centre as a temporary solution, however he expressed confidence that the arrangement would remain in place.

A parishioner queried when he would receive his bus pass which had been re-issued in April. Cllr Thacker requested that the parishioner contact him directly after the meeting.

A parishioner commented that the roadside verge along Broadlayings dropped dramatically, posing a threat to motorists. It was queried whether the council placed as much emphasis on repairing the edges of roads as in repairing potholes. Cllr Thacker requested that the parishioner contact him directly following the meeting.

#### **ITEM 4:       BOROUGH COUNCILLOR, CLIVE SANDERS**

Cllr Sanders thanked all those that had re-elected him. He further added that he had been re-elected as leader of BDBC for a further 4 years.

*Funding* – Cllr Sanders reported that BDBC was also impacted detrimentally by central government funding cuts. He commented that BDBC were investigating ways of lessening the impact by re-investing property and investment income.

Cllr Sanders anticipated that there would be further cuts from HCC later in the year which could potentially impact services within the borough.

It was noted that no borough cuts were proposed to date.

*Borough Projects* – Cllr Sanders reported that the borough suffered from a housing shortage. Consequently 15,000 houses were due to be built in the future. Basing View was being re-developed as a commercial area attracting new business and hotel developments. It was also reported that the borough had just signed up to a £300 million refurbishment of the leisure park, which would effectively double the size of the park and offer several new employment opportunities.

*Southern Electricity* – Cllr Sanders advocated making requests under the of Freedom of Information Act in order to obtain records from local utility companies.

#### **ITEM 5:       REPORT MARY HARCOURT, EAST WOODHAY CHARITIES**

East Woodhay Charities are made up of two charities: Relief in Need and Relief in Sickness. Most of the income arises from investments and some from the rental of charities' land. Any resident in the civil parish may apply in time of need or sickness to the trustees for support. The Trustees advertise this through Spectrum, notices at the Post Office and Surgery, Parish Council website and by word of mouth.

##### **Trustees**

East Woodhay Charities has a board of five trustees. The Trustees usually meet twice a year, in March and October, to administer charities' business. The Rector is ex-officio and chair. There are two nominative trustees appointed by the Parish Council for a term of four years and two co-optative trustees appointed by the trustees for a term of five years.

##### **Current trustees**

The Rector (Chair),

Co-optative trustees: Mrs Mary Harcourt and Mr Chris Boreham.

Nominative trustees: Mrs Susan Cooper and Mrs Claire Mitchell.

### **Secretary**

Our thanks to Mrs Sue Wren who continues to serve the Charities with great efficiency as secretary.

### **Disbursements in year 2017**

Six winter fuel deliveries or grants had been given.

In 2017 the Trustees had invited the schools to apply for grants if there was need. No requests were received.

### **Charities' land**

The charities' land is designated for agricultural use and for many years has been rented for this purpose to a succession of tenants. In 2016 the last tenancy came to an end and there were ensuing a number of challenges in relation to the general condition of the land. The Trustees have been managing the land directly since that time. The Trustees can report some improvement to the condition of the land itself following sheep grazing and that ideally much work is needed to further improve condition, the boundary fencing and trees. The Trustees also report that the Parish Council confirmed their withdrawal of interest in the land for allotments or other community use.

The Trustees have undergone a process of advertising the land for rent and received some interest, however it became apparent that the income possible, given the work needed and the cost of insurance, meant potential income to further the charities' objective would be minimal, perhaps only £200-£300 net per year. It is therefore with some sadness the Trustees report they are actively investigating the selling of the land and investing the income from the sale according to charity regulations. It is clear this will yield a considerably greater income going forward for the charities' objectives to offer relief in sickness and need.

### **Finance**

The annual combined net income in the last accounting year (2016/17) was £2171. (This included the final rental payment for the land tenancy which had been due March 2016 but was not paid until March 2017).

As of March 2018 there were available combined funds of approximately £4,950.

### **ITEM 6: REPORT FROM MARK RAND, EAST WOODHAY SOCIETY**

It is with great pride that I live in such a wonderful and beautiful part of the North Wessex Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is with this in mind that The East Woodhay Society is the society for residents of village of Woolton Hill and the surrounding hamlets of East Woodhay where we have the objective to promote that sense of pride in our parish.

At our AGM in November 2017 we said a huge thank you to John Angle for his incredible and passionate leadership over the past seven years. John stepped down as Chair of East Woodhay Society (EWS) but we are really pleased that John has agreed to continue on the EWS committee and help continue provide his passion and guidance in so many areas.

We were delighted to be able to raise £700 last year for our nominated charity The Rosemary Appeal. This has also been matched with a donation by the Peter Baker Foundation thus raising £1400 in total. Thank you to everyone who supported the society in 2017 and thereby helping to raise money for this excellent local cause.

The Rosemary Appeal is raising money for a new centre at West Berkshire Community Hospital, providing essential facilities, including day therapy, chemotherapy, renal dialysis, IV therapies and a CT Scanner. We are continuing to support The Rosemary Appeal in 2018 and each pound raised will again be matched so I would encourage everybody to help us in our fundraising efforts.

As with all such societies, they evolve, and we reviewed our aims to make sure we are aligned to our overall objective. These have been thus defined as the following:

The East Woodhay Society aims to benefit residents of the Parish by: -

- promoting social activities in order to encourage a community spirit
- campaigning on issues of local importance, particularly those involving planning and the environment
- undertaking activities which improve our local environment
- supporting a charity nominated by the membership.

We are pleased to have increased our paid membership this year; and now having 130 members and we seek to increase this further.

We have undertaken several activities including The Wine Quiz in November which is always a popular and fun evening. We held a fun curry quiz at the Rampant Cat in January and thanks to the pub for doing us proud with some tasty curry dishes. The annual Crafty Craft was particularly successful this year with the team achieving a course record time. A special mention to Alan Stapleton who designed and built the craft; it really is a special piece of engineering. The weather this year was wonderful, and it did help enhance the day. Do check out the photos and video on our website and Facebook page. We also look forward to having a Barn Dance on 29<sup>th</sup> September and have already booked a band for the evening.

We have been active highlighting the issue of potholes and how to report the issue to Hampshire Council. Although there is much to be done, particularly on the more outlying roads of the parish, it has been good news that potholes have recently been filled in Tile Barn Row, Mount Road and Woolton Hill Road.

We also recognise that speeding and parking is a key problem, particularly around the schools, St Thomas church, the surgery and the store/post office. Aligned with the Parish Council and other groups, including the schools, we are having discussions as to what can be done to improve matters. However, with various funding cuts and increases in populations/cars the problem is something that we will likely need to be creative as to how to address.

As well as the ever popular Christmas walk and Daffodil walk, the regular Friday morning Walking for Health walks have been going from strength to strength with regularly over 20 people participating. The team have highlighted additional walks which they could do if stiles were replaced with kissing or self-closing gates and we are delighted to be working with the Parish Council on this proposal. We have a beautiful parish and it is great if we can do more to open this up for everyone.

## **ITEM 7:       QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

*Woolton Hill Drs Surgery* –a resident reported that an automatic door would soon be installed at Woolton Hill surgery. It was noted that funding had not been forthcoming from any local parish councils and that the door had been funded predominantly by a grateful patient.

It was noted that patients had decided to set up a Charity called the 'Friends of Kintbury and Woolton Hill practice' to raise monies for future improvements. Anyone interested in assisting with the project was urged to come forward as a volunteer and to contact Rosemary Cahill for further information.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.