



WINCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE WINCHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON MONDAY 21 MAY 2018 AT 7.30 PM IN WINCHFIELD VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT Cllr A Renshaw (in the Chair),
Cllr H Dicks, Cllr L Hodgetts and Cllr M Williams
Cllr D Simpson (Hampshire County Council)
11 members of the public
Mrs A Ball (Clerk)

1 APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

Apologies were received from Cllr Jackaman (Winchfield Parish Council), Cllrs Crampton and Southern (HDC) and members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 22 May 2017 were accepted and signed as a correct record.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported on the following matters in his review of the previous 12 months:

Hart Local Plan

The Chairman advised that at this time a year ago, Hart District Council (HDC) was carrying out a Regulation 18 consultation on its draft Local Plan which set out the council's intentions for development across the district up to 2032.

That document proposed a new settlement of 1,800 homes on our doorstep at Murrell Green, although an alternative wholly in Winchfield parish was also mentioned despite the fact that the Parish Council had been given to understand that 'Winchfield New Town' had been 'tested' and ruled out for various reasons, although HDC never made these reasons public.

However, when the Draft Submission Plan was unveiled in December, it contained a strategy to develop a new settlement and defined a 'search area' for it which covered Winchfield as well as Murrell Green.

The Parish Council once again used the services of John Boyd Planning Associates to submit a comprehensive response to the Regulation 19 consultation in March of this year. In addition, a detailed landscape assessment was carried out by Michelle Bolger. Alan Wenban-Smith also compiled a report on housing needs in Hart.

The Parish Council Regulation 19 response was supported by Crondall Parish Council, Dogmersfield Parish Council, Hartley Wintney Parish Council, the Odiham Society and the Whitewater Valley Preservation Society. The main thrust was to argue for the removal from the Plan of Spatial Strategy 3 (SS3) – the need for a new settlement.

HDC's Plan will be officially submitted next month (June) to be followed by an Examination in Public later in the year at which the Parish Council will be authorising planning consultants to make representations.

It is vital that the Inspector is persuaded to delete Spatial Strategy 3 (SS3) for a new settlement from the Plan. It is unwanted and unnecessary.

Winchfield Court

Two planning applications for 10 and 17 houses were submitted for land north of Winchfield Court which were opposed by the Parish Council as the site is now not considered to be previously developed land. HDC has yet to determine the applications.

Winchfield Lodge

The conversion of the lodge into four units with 12 further houses in the grounds has encountered problems mainly over surface water and foul drainage. The Parish Council has objected to a revised application which has no affordable houses because the applicant Kirkby Homes has argued that they would make the site unviable. There is also a shortfall in the number of parking spaces which are required by the Winchfield Neighbourhood Development Plan. This application is due to be considered by HDC Planning Committee in two days' time.

Solar Farms Community Benefit Funds

Monies from the two solar farms have allowed the Parish Council to start improving access on public footpaths with the conversion of stiles to kissing gates. Thanks go to Chris Griffin, the footpaths warden, and to Cllr Meyrick Williams for leading on this, and to members of the Ramblers Association who have given practical assistance, along with Emma Broadbent of Hampshire Countryside Service.

Road safety

Concern continues to be expressed about the speed of traffic in the village, and there was a serious accident in January on the B3016 by the pet crematorium involving a motorcyclist.

Cllrs Harry Dicks and Louise Hodgetts have been working on a scheme to install a Speed Indicator Device at locations which have to be approved by Hampshire County Council.

Scrapyard in Totters Lane, Potbridge

Unlawful activities have continued at the scrapyard and on the highway in Totters Lane which has been designated a clearway in an effort to control parking of vehicles. At a High Court hearing in March, the operator was fined £5,000 plus £12,000 in costs for ten breaches of an injunction. A coordinated effort is being made by HDC, Natural England and the police to clamp down on the unlawful activities.

Winchfield people

The Chairman reported with great sadness the deaths of Ian Gavin-Brown, who had been a parish councillor for 43 years until his enforced retirement last year through illness, and who also notably was chairman of the Winchfield Festival, and of Kate Rosevear who was chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee at the time of the rebuilding of the hall, and who was involved in a variety of community activities over many years. Mrs Marigold Charrington of Winchfield House also passed away this year.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk, Alison Ball, who had excelled with her efficiency over the past year. She would be taking maternity leave from August and the Chairman wished her and her family well, and looked forward to her returning to parish duties in due course. The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Susan Richardson, who was sitting in the public gallery, and who is going to provide cover whilst the Clerk is on her maternity leave.

The Chairman thanked all the parish councillors for their hard work in this difficult year, in particular in addition to the mentions above, Cllrs Meyrick Williams and Paul Jackaman for their assiduous work on planning matters.

The Chairman thanked HDC ward councillors Tim Southern and Anne Crampton who continued to support the Parish Council, as well as David Simpson, our Hampshire County Councillor.

4 HART LOCAL PLAN

In addition to the information provided by the Chairman above, Cllr Williams advised that the Local Plan was now in a quiet period before the examination in the autumn. He had recently attended the examination of the Rushmoor Local Plan to gain experience of how such inquiries are conducted, and he said it was possible that Hart would have the same inspector.

5 COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEMES

The Community Benefit monies had been helping the Parish Council to improve the footpaths in the village and some money had also been put towards payments for the planning consultants.

Cllr Williams suggested that money could be used to purchase a defibrillator as Winchfield was one of the few villages that did not have one. It had been suggested that various charities had donated the equipment in other villages and it was agreed to ask the Parish Council to look into this.

The Chairman asked that anyone who had any other suggestions for projects to spend the Solar Farm monies on to get in contact.

6 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

There had been two main areas of expenditure during 2017/18 and these were the planning consultants and on the improvements to the footpaths. It had been possible to keep the precept for 2018/19 at the same level, slightly less per average band D household, and the Parish Council was in a good financial position.

In summary:

Balance brought forward from previous year	£86,034.27
Total receipts	£35,895.37
Total payments	(£44,223.69)
End of year balance	£77,705.95

The year's payments of **£44,223.69** had consisted of the following:

Administration (inc Clerk's salary)	£5,167.93
Grants <i>upkeep of graveyard, Basingstoke Canal</i>	£1,797.75
Local Plan response	£21,624.91
Neighbourhood Plan	£191.00
Community Benefit Fund	£9,431.94
VAT on payments	£6,010.16

Reserves: after taking into account VAT of £2,169.34 to be refunded, the Council had reserves of £79,875.29, with £76,401.68 being earmarked.

7 OPEN FORUM

Scrapyard in Totters Lane, Potbridge: A member of the public asked if the fine imposed by the High Court had been paid. The Chairman said that he did not know but assumed that it had been. The same person also asked if the Clearway was being enforced. The Chairman reported that HDC was responsible for its enforcement and this was being done but it was a lengthy process. HDC was working with partner agencies to try to coordinate action. A meeting had taken place which had involved the Police. The police officer in attendance had been unaware of the issue but had promised to take up the challenge.

Speed limit on the B3016 Odiham Road: A member of the public raised concerns about the speed of vehicles on the B3016. The 50mph limit that had been introduced was still fast and did not extend far enough. He had seen in the last Minutes of the Parish Council that consideration was being given to the placement of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) at various locations in the Village. He requested that the junction at Shapley Hill be added to the list of locations as this was very dangerous. Cllr Hodgetts agreed to add this location prior to the submission of the document to HCC for approval. She advised that not all the proposed locations were likely to be deemed suitable as HCC had strict criteria for the placement of SIDs. However, it was hoped that by including all the areas considered to be dangerous it would highlight the issues with HCC and possibly result in alternative measures being suggested. Another member of the public raised the issue of large vehicles coming through the village to access the Arena site at the bottom of Station Hill. It was noted that this was allowed as long as it was for access to a property.

Roadworks at junction of Pale Lane with A323 Fleet Road: Prior to the meeting Cllr Simpson had asked for an update on these works as they had come to a stop. He had been told that the design for the new junction was incorrect and an updated design was awaited. The contractors had also found a high voltage cable in the middle of the works. This needed to be diverted and work would not be able to continue until this was done. It was likely the work on the junction would take approximately five to six months once the cable had been moved. It was confirmed that all the work was being paid for by the developer of the 'Oak View' site and would not cost HCC anything. It was agreed that the junction was currently dangerous, particularly at night, and the question was asked whether any improvements could be made in the interim to make it safer. Cllr Simpson agreed to take this up with officers at HCC.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.03 pm.