

**TICHBORNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Tichborne Annual Parish Assembly.**  
**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at Alresford Golf Club at 7.00pm**

<b>Present.</b>	Mr P Kilmister	Chairman
	Mr J Curtis	Councillor
	Mr S May	Vice-Chairman
	Mr A McWhirter	Councillor
	Mr R Raimes	Councillor
	Mr H Verney	District Councillor
	Mr R Huxstep	County Councillor
	Mr B Gibbs	Clerk

Ten members of the general public.

**1) Apologies.** Mr R Foot Councillor

**2) To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

These were not approved by the meeting as they were still in draft and had not been issued prior to the assembly. The Clerk apologised for this oversight.

**3) Tichborne Parish Council Chairman's Report.**

Officially our year started on 20th May with the AGM, followed by an ordinary meeting.

However, before this date we learnt from WCC that no money had been paid to them by Croudace Homes for development at Spring Gardens. So there never was a post-dated cheque! After some chasing the money was paid to WCC and we were able to discuss how the sum should be allocated.

Following excellent presentations from Tichborne Park Cricket Club and Alresford Rugby Club we decided that the optimum solution for everyone was to recommend allocation of £23,000 to TPCC and £15,358 to ARFC.

It was pleasing to see that permission was granted to add an extension to the rear of the Old Post Office. At long last the ill-fitting conservatory was removed and the building looks much better now.

Summer was a joy in terms of the weather. Low rainfall meant that the usual lake along Riverside Farm Lane disappeared.

In August we suffered noise from Boomtown Fair. It was quieter than in 2012, however on the Saturday morning the music continued after 04:00. This was a criminal offence and was reported to the head of Licensing at WCC. On the Monday morning after the festival had finished the usual chaos occurred on all the roads surrounding the site.

Parking at the Tichborne Beer Festival was easy because of low rainfall and Patrick kindly put up tape on the village green to stop people parking there.

In September the first new houses at Spring Gardens were offered for sale. Apparently they have been selling well.

The bench on the village green was renovated by John Curtis and Roger Bousfield. They each received a gift from Parish Council for their efforts.

In October Hampshire County Council carried out work on the ford at Ladycroft. There has been some criticism but no outcry.

Chairman's signature .....

date.....

In November the budget was set for 2014 with no increase for the 5th year in succession. We also received news that WCC would not bring a prosecution following investigations into events at Boomtown. Instead they decided to call in the licence for review.

At the end of December a new licence application was submitted calling for up to 50,000 attendees. Parish Council made representations on the review and the new application.

After a lovely dry summer we had a wet autumn and torrential rain in December and January. Riverside Farm Lane was flooded and, for the first time, Hampshire County Council placed flood warning signs in the lane.

On the fun side of winter, Patrick hosted a wonderful New Year's Eve party at the Tichborne Arms and everyone really seemed to enjoy the occasion.

January was the wettest on record with 225% of normal rainfall in this part of England. The floods worsened and we asked Hampshire County Council for a report. Nothing came from this, but in Hambledon many properties were flooded. In our Parish it was just the lane, the meadows, and Grange Farm's cellar. We could always get in and out by car even if it meant a couple of miles extra on our journey. Tichborne Estate said that their private road was available to all at times like these, just like they had done in 2000. We thanked them for their support which has helped many people.

In early February we again asked Hampshire County Council for a report and what action was being taken. Our MP was also asked for his suggestions regarding the dilemma between an SSSI and dredging to reduce local flooding. He came to visit us and said that he would organise a meeting with the Environment Agency for June. He also said he would raise the matter with our County Councillor to see if priority on the lane could be increased.

In mid-February WCC reviewed the PREM500 licence for events at Matterley Bowl and made a few minor changes. They then presided over a new licence for Boomtown. Although the same minor alterations were made as with PREM500, the licence was granted. Input from Tichborne Parish was ignored. More importantly, the representation from SDNP was ignored. Nobody can afford to challenge these decisions as this could cost thousands a day. So we'll have to live with this.

In early March the last meeting of Parish Council was held before elections in May. Simon May announced that he would not seek re-election. Simon has been a valuable member of council and we wish to thank him for all the work he has done and for all the diligence he has provided, as well as a few laughs. Thank you, Simon.

Soon after that meeting we had a litter pick up and gathered bags of rubbish from around the village. Everyone involved had a lovely 90 minutes of exercise on a gloriously sunny day. Many thanks to all who came along, especially to Robert Raimes whose inspired vehicle choice made the whole event much easier.

Peter Kilmister

#### **4) Report from County Councillor Roger Huxstep.**

Cllr Roger Huxstep's Annual Report of Hampshire County Council to the Meon Valley Division, Tichborne.

In May last year I was elected in succession to Cllr Mrs Felicity Hindson MBE who had served the Meon Valley Division for 20 years with great distinction and who is now an Alderman of the County.

Also Cllr Roy Perry was elected in succession to Cllr Ken Thornber CBE who in turn at the same council meeting was elected as Chairman of the Council and Cllr Colin Davidovitz was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Council. Cllr Keith Mans was appointed as Deputy Leader; other executive members included Cllrs Chapman, Edgar, Fairhurst, Joy, Kendal, McNair Scott, Reid and Woodward. Cllr McNair Scott subsequently resigned and Cllr Fairhurst assumed her duties. Cllr Gibson became Assistant Executive to the Leader.

Tributes were paid to Ken Thornber who had led the Council for the past 14 years and particularly latterly in severe and difficult financial times achieving services amongst the best in the land, with a Council tax amongst the lowest in the land and with the reserves in good order so that the future could be faced with some equanimity.  
Comprehensive Review Response.

Chairman's signature .....

date.....

As the Chancellor said in his recent budget “Our country still borrows too much. We still don’t invest enough, export enough or save enough.” The Government therefore has a continuing need to address the nation’s difficult economic circumstances and consequently yet again Local Government has had to take cuts in its grants, indeed some of the hardest hits of any sector in the Comprehensive Spending Review. The cuts to revenue support grant from Government amounted to £32.2M for Hampshire.

On top of that there were inflationary pressures and demographic changes with more elderly people and more children. Demand for services continued to grow, in particular for adult social care and all this meant Hampshire County Council’s target for savings up to 2015 rose to £90.3M; as agreed in the Council’s budget meeting in February. Fortunately Hampshire is in a strong position to tackle the further reductions in Government grant; thanks to prudent planning and investments over a sustained period of aid time and by using savings carefully to seek to transform services to be a provider of modern, efficient and sustainable services for the future.

The Council managed to avoid any urgent or drastic decisions to address the budget deficit that has seen some councils having to stop some services altogether. You will all now have in writing through your council tax demands that Council Tax has not been increased for the fifth year in a row. Hampshire County Council will build on the success of its budgeting to date to plan the next stages to align our spending to its available resources. Hampshire County Council has to live within its means just as all prudent residents do.

This Council has approved the terms of a ground breaking strategic partnership with the Isle of Wight Council, designed to strengthen child protection and education services on the Island. This agreement is a significant opportunity for both authorities. For the Council’s part, there is the chance to offer assistance and develop an area of work as an extension of capacity. Hampshire County Council will support the Isle of Wight Council without compromising its own responsibilities and services for children and young people in Hampshire and without any impact on the County Council's budgets.

#### Youth Unemployment.

The latest economic data shows signs that Hampshire's economy is picking up but youth employment is high at 12.9% although well below the national average of 20.9%. After registering the highest level of business activity in this part of the South East at the end of last year, business activity in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has continued to expand this year. The latest data shows that growth stands at 2%. The County Council and its partners have been working hard to build on Hampshire's economic strengths, bring investment into the county, encourage new business and drive regeneration.

Hampshire County Council is helping young people get that first step on the employment ladder by expanding its apprenticeship scheme to employ up to 1,000 new apprentices over the next five years. To maintain this momentum and continue future sustainable growth, it is critical that Hampshire's businesses and entrepreneurs have access to the infrastructure and skills they need. 'Invest in Hampshire' is one of the County’s initiatives which positions it as a leading investment location and provides all the support that new businesses need to relocate to Hampshire and create local jobs.

#### Broadband Programme.

Hampshire County Council is to get £5 million of government funding following a recent announcement that its proposals for faster broadband in Hampshire have been accepted. The allocation from Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) is to be matched by local public and private finance, and it forms part of the £8.4 million that the Government set aside for the region, including Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

The BDUK funding is part of government plans to ensure that everyone in the country will have access to broadband. Together with the planned commercial investment, the funding will bring enhanced speeds of at least 24 Mbs (Megabits per second) to at least 90 per cent of homes and businesses in the UK and provide universal access to standard broadband with a speed of at least 2Mbps. Today around 50,000 households and nearly 7,000 businesses in Hampshire are in broadband 'not spots', with very slow broadband speeds of 2 Mbs or much less.

It will take time to bring faster broadband to everyone in Hampshire. The aim is for the County to be in the ‘premier league’ on broadband across the nation and well beyond the Government’s new target of 24 Mbps for 95% of premises by 2017.

Chairman's signature .....

date.....

Extra-Care Homes.

Extra-Care Housing provides a real alternative to residential care for older people, more of whom are now choosing to remain independent and be cared for at home. The schemes comprise accessible housing where people have their own apartments, enjoy additional communal facilities and where care and support is available day and night if required. Approval to extend the development of Extra-Care Housing for older people in Hampshire was given back in October 2011.

Phase 1 has delivered 490 units of Extra-Care, of which 240 are new build. Phase 2 is being developed.

Awards.

The County Council has enjoyed what seems like its “usual” but much valued crop of National Awards: the In-House Property Team has received a SCALA Award (Society for Construction and Architecture in Local Government) Civic Buildings of the Year for Barncroft Primary School in Leigh Park. Other Awards were the Ringwood Gateway scheme in association with New Forest District Council and Ringwood Town Council which won a New Forest Access for All Award. Hampshire County Council’s Youth Offending Team has been presented with the Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate, whilst our Hampshire Young Interpreters Scheme developed by the Ethnic Minority and Travellers Achievement Service was the overall winner of the Guardian Public Service Award in the “Grassroots” category.

Hamble Community Sports College has achieved national recognition after receiving an Investor in Careers Award for its careers education. With support from Hampshire Careers and Employability Service, Hamble Community Sports College provides careers education for its 1000 students and their parents and carers. Students are given good advice and guidance about the subjects they choose to study, and numbers of students who are not in education, employment or training when they leave are very low.

Tichborne Matters.

Adverse weather & flooding. It goes without saying that the unusually wet weather that has afflicted the county and has affected the condition of its five and a half thousand miles of roads and therefore much patience will have to be exercised over the reparation measures and the plague of potholes will persist for some time before things are better. The aftermath will include examining flood alleviation schemes and maintenance. In Tichborne’s case the issue of Riverside Farm Lane is serious and all I have seen so far is a statement that to keep the road dry it needs an overlay to elevate the surface above the water levels of the adjacent River Itchen. All very well but no funding for this has been identified.

Hampshire County Council needs to save £1.25 to £1.5 million from public and community transport spending by 2015/16 so there is a consultation running until the end of May which aims to collect the views and preferences of organizations and individual users to aid us in the decision-making process.

The contribution from the Passenger Transport Services support could be achieved by a mixture of the following options:

- Reducing or ceasing support for Sunday services
- Reducing or ceasing support for evening services after 7pm
- Ceasing the 9am early start for the older persons bus pass
- Reducing the frequency and/or days of service
- Replacing bus services with taxi-shares or community transport services
- Reducing the amount of printed publicity with a greater use of electronic information

The review will only look at those buses and community transport services which receive financial support from the County Council – no such bus services apply to Tichborne but residents may wish to contribute to the on-line consultation for people they know in affected areas/services which are listed on the website. However Taxi-shares and car-shares using the 241 service include Beauworth, Kilmeston, part of Cheriton, Tichborne – Alresford which are fully funded by Hampshire County Council.

Chairman's signature .....

date.....

Thank you Mr Chairman, in conclusion I'm happy to report that your County Council is in good shape and fit to face the future.

Cllr Roger Huxstep

#### **5) Report from District Councillor Harry Verney.**

Cllr Verney made a brief report about items including Boomtown 2013, the forthcoming Boundary Commission review of the Winchester district and the need to consider reducing the number of polling stations in the Upper Itchen Valley.

#### **6) Open Forum.**

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

A full and frank discussion took place between members of the public and Cllr Verney about the current situation regarding the Boomtown event and the perceived lack of action from the City Council in response to complaints from many parishes in the Upper Itchen Valley about noise issues, traffic issues and anti-social behaviour on site and throughout the surrounding area.

There being no further business the Annual Parish Assembly closed at 8.15pm.

**Brendan Gibbs**

**Clerk to the Parish Council of Tichborne.**

Chairman's signature .....

date.....