

# Hurstbourne Tarrant Annual Parish Meeting

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## Annual Parish Meeting

at the

## PAVILION

Monday, 19th May 2014

at

7:30 p m

**Chairman: Mr. David Sullivan**

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### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Clayton Danks.

### 2. Approval of minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013

The Chairman asked the meeting if the draft minutes for the Annual Parish meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2013 could be approved. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a complete and accurate record of the proceedings.

### 3. The Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre (HTCC) Annual Report

Mrs Susie Hoare presented the annual report on behalf of the HTCC.

A summary of the main points were:

#### **Achievements in 2013/14:**

**Fund raising** had made significant progress in the last 12 months and raised £295k, including successful grant awards of £150k from HCC's Community Building Fund, £25k from TVBC's Community Asset Fund and £10k from two smaller charitable organisations. Mrs Hoare expressed her thanks for the support provided by our Ward Councillors Tim Rolt (HCC) & Peter Giddings (TVBC).

Based on current working assumptions, around £50k of funding was required to enable the planned build project to proceed.

**Background working** - A great deal of work had taken place in a range of areas to help secure a successful build project in 2014. For example:

- Generating and submitting grant applications;
- Finalising the building design incorporating key suggestions received from within the village;
- Obtaining expert advice on achieving best value in terms of capital costs and operating sustainability;
- Producing and publicising drawings and plans for the community centre;
- Making progress on a number of significant enabling actions to meet necessary legal, environmental and statutory requirements.
- Registering with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with the same purpose as the Hurstbourne Tarrant Development Trust. The name of the charity had become the Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre (HTCC) - charity number 1156307. This would provide many advantages, not least that it simplified legal arrangements e.g. in entering into a lease agreement with the Parish Council, as well as streamlining future management and operational processes once the new Centre was built;
- Strengthening two-way communications across the parish and with wider stakeholders.

#### **Outlook for 2014/15:**

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# Hurstbourne Tarrant Annual Parish Meeting

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**Fund raising:** The process of submitting grant funding applications will continue, as well as village fund raising activities and events and exploring the potential for further private donations or pledges. The aim is to reach sufficient capital funding levels to enable building works to start in October 2014 (c.£50k based on current working assumptions); as well as starting to focus fund raising efforts on equipment/fittings for the new Centre.

**Key elements of the build programme for 2014/15:**

- Amended planning permission was in progress with TVBC with completion expected in early June;
- Detailed specifications & drawings to satisfy building regulations were being completed, with a view to starting the tendering process for the building contract later in June;
- Work is progressing on preparing a landscaping plan for TVBC approval;
- The 125 year lease agreement was being finalised with the parish council;
- Further bat surveys and the granting of a licence from Natural England to migrate the bats from the pavilion roof at the beginning of October were in train;
- Given completion of these actions and provided sufficient funding has been raised, the planned demolition of the pavilion and the start of building works is scheduled for October;
- The aim was to complete the external structure of the community building at the end of 2014, with internal works then starting in the new year;
- Work will continue on ensuring good communications across the parish and with stakeholders as the project progresses via the village website <http://www.hbt.org.uk/NewVillageHall.htm>, the parish magazine, email updates, notice boards and information stands at village events such as the school fete and flower show.

## 4. Parish Council Annual Reports

### Chairman's Report - Cllr David Sullivan

I believe the Parish Council has served the community well during the past year. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their cheerful and willing involvement to serve the village and satisfy our legal and public responsibilities. In particular the efficient work done by the clerk, Mr David Baker, without whose help and guidance I, personally would struggle to satisfy the requirements of proper administration. Also we value the work done on behalf of the Council by Mr Rupert Conder and the very heavy responsibility for replacing the pavilion primarily by Mr Andrew Russell and Mrs Susie Hoare. Good connections with TVBC and HCC are due to the attendance and work of Mr Peter Giddings and Mr Tim Rolt. Tim's work was much appreciated during the winter flooding.

**Allotments:** All allotments are cultivated and due to our policy of splitting original plots into two smaller plots on vacancy, there are no waitlisted applicants from the parish. The annual rent for a large plot was raised to £20.00 from £12.00 to cover higher water charges. The Parish Council believes the allotments to be a valuable resource that cements community spirit.

**The environment:** The main subject has been the Winter flooding of the valley due to high rainfall in the first quarter. The main river ran well and efficiently but the Netherton flow caused problems due to its quantity and faults in the 50 year old pipe from The Dene to Church Street. A working group has been set up to determine future actions that we can do and those which are the responsibility of other agencies. Footpaths have been cleared after the winter storms and thanks to Mrs Helen Levy who notified us of the locations where work was needed.

### King George V Playing Fields, Pavilion and Primary School report – Cllr Dinah Murdoch

There is not a lot to report on the Playing Field which is continually used by both the Village and the School, whether it is a Fete, Flower Show or Summer Fair. The HbT 5k multi-terrain run was a great success this year which started and finished on the playing fields. Dog fouling is still a bit of a problem but people seem to be more responsible. The play equipment is continually used so I think we should all be delighted that the Field is a designated King George V field in Trust and that it can never be built on!

# Hurstbourne Tarrant Annual Parish Meeting

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With regards to the old pavilion, which has served as a very useful asset for over 50 years, I hope that this will be the last Annual Parish Meeting we will hold there, as joy of joys, and thanks to lots of you, we will pull it down and build the new community hall before May 2015? We have raised a great deal of money over the years and have now secured a substantial grant from HCC and another from TVBC and have enough to start. The only problem at the moment seems to be the odd visiting bats! However bat boxes have now been put up so I hope they will pop into them.

## **A343 Project - safety improvements report – Cllr Nick Melhuish**

During 2013/4 we have taken a number of initiatives to deal with safety on the increasingly busy A343. The recent floods highlighted the need for an appropriate traffic management strategy as it was clear for all that the road is simply not suited to large HGVs and struggles with traffic volumes in rush hour if there are any bottlenecks on the road. During 2014 we will continue to work with the HCC Highways department though as usual red tape and “rules” seem to make for hard work in achieving common-sense outcomes.

Specifically during the year we were able to use some HCC grant money to create the pavement from the bus shelter to the garage which makes for a much less hazardous and muddy walk past the Dean Green water meadow. In conjunction with Rupert Conder and AGAS we have investigated the creation of a Community Speed Watch. A number of volunteers came forward and the process of CRB checks and training is ongoing. Things were slowed down by the flooding but Rupert is hoping to trial this later in the year and we will see if it has an impact on speeding.

There were a number of small improvements around The Square though this remains a very difficult area as far as traffic management is concerned with most possible mitigation stymied by regulations which make it difficult to slow traffic on a series of narrow blind corners after a hill. All ideas here are gratefully received.

We are waiting to hear whether 40mph buffer zones can be installed at the top of Hurstbourne Hill and on the northern approach to slow traffic before entering the 30mph zone in the core of the village. Despite this being in place in Highclere and there are advanced warning signs in Enham (which we have also requested) we are yet to hear whether this is compliant with HCC policy.

We will continue to try to implement suggestions from Parishioners as this is a key factor affecting the quality of life in the village.

## **Highways and Transport – Cllr Alan Highton**

No report was submitted

## **Upton Village and Environment report – Cllr Jamie Williams**

No report was submitted

## **Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) and Local Business Interests report – Cllr Clayton Danks**

It has been a quiet year regarding the Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) signs. The system has operated well, with no failures.

Regarding local business. The George and Dragon has been sold to Patrick Fowler, who has managed to achieve planning permission and has now started the building works, so hopefully in the not too distant future the pub will be back up and running.

## **5. Flood Working Group Report – Rupert Conder**

Mr Rupert Conder took the meeting through the executive summary of the Flood Working Party report. He reviewed the list of 28 recommended tasks that had been identified for consideration.

# Hurstbourne Tarrant Annual Parish Meeting

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Copies of the full report, the executive summary and a proposed community questionnaire were distributed to attendees for their information.

Rupert Conder, speaking on behalf of those present and the Community as a whole, thanked the Parish Council for their time and efforts over the last year, especially David Sullivan, who chairs each meeting with his immense local knowledge and keeps the atmosphere light and humorous and David Baker, our esteemed Parish Clerk, who steers the Council within the regulations with such skill.

Councillors had received and discussed the working party flood report at the earlier parish council meeting that day. Councillors had agreed that the following actions would be immediately implemented:

- Action 2 – A formal request to HCC Highways to conduct a survey of all culverts was required;
- Action 17 – The community questionnaire would be implemented. The clerk to print out 375 copies of the questionnaire. The Working Party would make arrangements for house to house delivery and management of returns;
- Action 23 – Parish Council to send a letter to TVBC regarding potential flooding implications associated with the building control regulation in old properties to have to lower the level of existing ground floors to provide increase head-room.

Once the culvert survey had been completed and results and recommendations had been determined the parish council and flood working party could then review how best to take the remainder of the project forward.

## 6. Meeting was opened up for public debate

Ms Rebecca Richards was introduced to the meeting. Rebecca has taken up a voluntary role as Hurstbourne Tarrant's Village Agent. The role was designed to provide direct local support to older people by signposting access to services, providing information such as local transport, access to benefits etc. This was an externally funded role controlled through Age Concern Hampshire.

Mr Rupert Conder confirmed that the Community Speed Watch (CSW) scheme would start its work in late June or early July.

There was one question raised by a parishioner when the meeting was opened to the floor:

HCC Highways had it in plan to resurface the A343 through Hurstbourne Tarrant during 2014 to make good flood damage. The parishioner asked that could the road be resurfaced using 'quiet' road materials. Cllr Tim Rolt (HCC) agreed to take the request to the HCC highways department for their consideration.

## 7. Date of the next Annual Parish meeting

The next Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday 18th May 2015 in the Pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.27 p.m.

Signed .....  
(Chairman)

Date .....