

**NOTES TAKEN AT THE  
DROXFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
8.00 pm Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016 at Droxford Village Hall**

**Present:** 32 residents of Droxford were present. Cllr Barbara Chandler – Chair Droxford Parish Council, Cllrs Nick Fletcher, Colin Matthissen, Janet Melson – Vice Chair Droxford Parish Council, Louise Withers; County Cllr Huxstep, District Cllr Caroline Dibden, Sgt Stuart Gilmour, District Cllr Vicki Weston, District Cllr Linda Gemmell.

**1. Welcome**

Cllr Barbara Chandler welcomed HCC Cllr Huxstep, WCC Cllr Caroline Dibden and Sgt Stuart Gilmour. The agenda was re-ordered for Cllr Huxstep to leave early to speak at Curdridge APM.

**2. Apologies for Absence** were received from Cynthia Westwood.

**3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting.** Approved and signed as a true record. Proposed by Tony Hoile, seconded by Tim Crowfoot.

**4. Annual County Council Report:**

County Cllr Roger Huxstep's full annual report is appended. Following his report the Revd. Tony Forrest questioned the 'academisation' process in Hampshire. Cty Cllr Huxstep said the system is not really broken and some rural schools will fall by the wayside unless their future can be assured. Hampshire County Council oppose the Secretary of State's plan.

**5. Parish Councillors' Annual Reports**

**5.1 Barbara Chandler** announced a different format this year to devote more time to the public forum. The Precept was raised to build a reserve for projects identified by the Community in the Parish Plan. Grants, match funding and/or a loan will also be required. Cllr Chandler summarized the Council's scope of work. She asked for volunteers to support the PC to monitor footpaths, inspect the play area and to join Landscape Watch. She thanked the councillors who had recently stepped down, Jason Toman, Pietro Acciarri and Louise Withers for their time, effort and contribution. The full report is appended.

**5.2 Louise Withers** gave her final Annual Planning Report, having just resigned at the previous meeting. There had been 18 new planning applications, 3 tree planning orders and 3 discharges of conditions. Building at Townsend was finally about to go ahead. The full report is appended.

**5.3 Janet Melson** summarized recent responses received from Highways resulting from a parking survey carried out by Richard Adams, and a request to re-instate a dedicated parking space for residents, carers or visitors to St Marys Close. Cllr Melson intends to invite officers and councillors from WCC and HCC to a meeting to discuss a proactive way ahead. The full report is appended.

**5.4 Nick Fletcher** outlined the Consultations in which the parish council had been engaged. The South Downs Draft Local Plan was published last Autumn. Councillors considered that the Droxford settlement boundary was out of date and proposed it was expanded. The decision is as yet unknown, publication is expected Autumn 2017. The Conservation Area Character Appraisal was useful and supported expansion of the Conservation Area. The Village Design Statement has been put on hold for the moment. It is not the highest priority and someone to chair it is required. A number of options to increase car parking are being considered, one of which is to enlarge the car park in the Recreation Ground. The play area requires remedial action or total replacement. The Council is looking to expand the age range catered for. Estimated costs sought started at £50K. The Council will be consulting widely.

**5.5 Colin Matthissen** said a decision had been taken to increase the Precept to fund capital projects. (Precept £18,582 2016/17). The current reserve for capital projects is £12,000. The total reserve is approximately £28,000. Parish Councils are required to hold between 50% -100% of the Precept in unallocated reserves. The draft Performance v Budget 2015/16 and draft Income Statement 2015/16 had been circulated. The annual accounts are to be audited by Fair Account on 11<sup>th</sup> May.

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**6. Annual City Council Report:**

**District Cllr Caroline Dibden** said the District and County Councils had suffered a drastic 40% reduction in funding. Cuts had not been made to frontline services such as Planning (a statutory duty), Waste and Social Services. Austerity had bitten although £30K had been allocated to a mobile CCTV camera to catch fly tippers. The full report had been forwarded for circulation and is appended.

**7. Police Report**

**Sgt Stuart Gilmour** outlined the new policing structure following structural re-organisation and staff reduction. The principle behind vehicle response is to deploy to the nearest call out, in the same way the ambulance service sends the nearest vehicle to a call. The crime rate in Droxford is very low, but there is concern about traffic and motor bikes on the A32. 230 offences were detected in 2015. Funding of a 4G mobile speed camera for locations such as St Clair's Farm will be committed by the current Police & Crime Commissioner if government funds are made available. Bikers speeds through villages are fairly compliant, the problem arises when accelerating out of the village. In summer speeding bikers elicit more calls than any other subject. He asked for anyone with information about vehicle being 'keyed' outside Droxford Junior School to come forward.

**8. Public Forum topics**

**Speed Watch.** District Cllr Weston invited anyone interested to contact the Newtown group who operate successfully.  
**Potholes.** Frustration was expressed at the length of time it took to repair.

**Mary Hornby Patterson** said the Victorian themed Droxford Country Fair in 2015 was very successful. The event was attended by an estimated 1200 adults and 1000 children. There were 200 volunteers and stall holders. £1000 had been donated to the FODC; allotment holders had received £100, and £900 had gone towards the School glass project which had produced outstanding work. The 2016 Fair will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> June with a medieval theme.

**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](http://www.droxfordweb.co.uk).