



WINCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE WINCHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON MONDAY 20 MAY 2019 AT 7.30 PM IN WINCHFIELD VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT Cllr A Renshaw (in the Chair),
Cllr M Williams, Cllr L Hodgetts, Mr R Milnes-James, Ms K Stewart
Cllr D Simpson (Hampshire County Council)
9 members of the public
Mrs S Richardson (Acting Clerk & RFO)

1 APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

Apologies were received from Cllrs Crampton, Farmer and Southern (HDC) and members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The Chairman welcomed two new members of the parish council, Richard Milnes-James and Kate Stewart, who would be signing their acceptance of office in the annual meeting of the parish council following the APA.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 21 May 2018 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 most important event in the past year was the Examination in Public into the Hart Local Plan held in November and December 2018. The plan's most contentious policy was for a new settlement in a search area encompassing Winchfield and Murrell Green.

Winchfield PC made strong submissions at the EiP, and many points were accepted by the Inspector, Jonathan Manning, in his initial letter to Hart Council dated February 26, 2019. He criticised the new settlement policy (SS3) on many grounds including sustainability, deliverability, historic and heritage issues, landscape, land quality, flooding and lack of infrastructure. As the housing numbers were not required in the plan period, he suggested that SS3 should be removed from the Plan, and Hart's Cabinet agreed to this at a meeting in March.

Great thanks go to Cllr Meyrick Williams and Paul Jackaman for their sterling efforts in representing WPC at the Examination and supporting the work of its consultants, JB Planning Associates, together with landscape consultant Michelle Bolger, and housing numbers expert Alan Wenban-Smith.

However, Mr Manning did say that Hart's proposal for a new settlement could remain a long-term aspiration, and in the light of the Hart Council election results earlier this month which gave the Lib Dem and Community Campaign Hart coalition an increased majority, we must expect that although we have won a major battle against the new settlement, the war will continue in the future.

To this end, we have maintained our level of precept to ensure that our fighting fund to employ planning consultants is kept topped up.

Planning Appeals

WPC made a submission opposing the appeal by Wates Developments for 700 houses at Pale Lane, just beyond the parish boundary. After a public inquiry in January 2019, the Secretary of State is due to announce a decision on or before August 6.

WPC also opposed two appeals by Belgrave Homes for 10 and 17 houses on land north of Winchfield Court in Pale Lane. A decision on these written appeals was expected soon.

Defibrillators

Work had proceeded in the past year to get approvals and funding to install defibrillators at the Village Hall and the Barley Mow pub. Thanks go to Cllr Louise Hodgetts for her work on this.

Speed Indicator Devices

A lot of research had been carried out to find suitable locations for Speed Indicator Devices and submit them to Hampshire County Council for approval. Again, Cllr Hodgetts had worked hard on this, along with Harry Dicks.

Footpaths

Work had continued in the past year on improvements to gates on footpaths, funded by Community Benefit monies received from the two solar farms in the parish. Thanks go to Cllr Meyrick Williams for leading on this, together with our Footpaths Warden Chris Griffin.

Broadband

Cllr Williams and Kate Stewart had endeavoured to get residents to join forces in The Hurst area for a project to improve broadband speeds, while separately, residents at Winchfield Court had banded together for a scheme to improve their broadband.

Beauclerk Green adoption

More than 20 years after the estate was built, progress was finally being made on getting it officially adopted by Hampshire County Council, with improvement works being carried out for Bewley Homes.

Scrapyard in Potbridge

Unauthorised breaking of commercial vehicles at the scrapyard in Totters Lane had been causing a menace to residents for several years, but it was hoped that following recent court action instigated by Hart Council, these operations may be coming to an end.

Meanwhile, a new problem had arisen in Totters Lane at Paynes Cottage which had recently been sold and where the new owner runs a business and appears to be turning it to a commercial use with a large area of hard-standing for vehicles and use of the property for staff. Enforcement officers at Hart are aware of the issue.

The Parish Council

The parish council thanks our County Councillor David Simpson for his support in the past year when it had enlisted his help on various issues. Most recently he had set up what are intended to be regular meetings on highways matters with officers at Hampshire and Hart.

Special thanks were due to Susan Richardson who had been our Acting Clerk since August while Alison Ball was on maternity leave. Susan had expertly managed three parish councils during the past year and we are extremely grateful to her for supporting Winchfield in what had been a very busy year for all of us.

Two parish councillors have retired and our thanks go to Paul Jackaman and Harry Dicks for their tremendous efforts on behalf of the community. Paul had made an invaluable contribution over 16 years on planning and financial matters especially, and most recently over the Local Plan. Harry had been a constant source of help and advice on a variety of issues during his four-year term. We will greatly miss their expert input, but hope they will continue to be on hand to assist us.

Thanks go to Louise Hodgetts and Meyrick Williams for everything they had done over the past year, and my thanks are due especially to Meyrick who had so effectively led the council's work in many areas. We welcome our two new members, Kate Stewart and Richard Milnes-James, and trust they will enjoy their work for the community in the years ahead.

4 LOCAL PLAN

In addition to the information provided by the Chairman above, Cllr Williams advised that the next phase of the process required HDC to respond to the Major & Minor modifications raised by the Inspector to which the Inspector will respond within six weeks. The parish council had allocated £5,000 from the 2019-2020 budget for JB Planning Associates to prepare WPC's responses to the HDC Major & Minor Modifications to the draft Plan as advised by the Inspector.

5 COMMUNITY BENEFIT SCHEME

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

6 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

There had been two main areas of expenditure during 2018/19 and these were for the planning consultants and on the improvements to the footpaths.

In summary:

Balance brought forward from previous year	£77,705.00
Total receipts	£46,324.00
Total payments	(£84,706.00)
End of year balance	£39,323.00

The year's receipts of **£46,324.00** had consisted, in addition to the Precept, of VAT rebates, Solar Farm funding and bank interest.

The year's payments of **£84,706.28** had consisted of the following:

Administration (inc Clerk's salary)	£5,167.93
Grants <i>upkeep of graveyard, Basingstoke Canal</i>	£1,850.00
Local Plan Response	£58,455.03
Community Benefit Fund	£6,451.45
VAT on payments	£12,421.57

WPC takes into the 2019-2020 year £39,323.00 together with a Precept of £29,089.00. The Council had been advised that £50,000 of S106 Planning Obligation Funds is currently held by HDC. There are strict guidelines on what type of projects can utilise S106 monies and it was proving difficult to find suitable projects as WPC owned no land on which to develop recreation type facilities. The Council would welcome any ideas from parishioners.

7 OPEN FORUM

Winchfield Station Trough Planters. A resident asked if some monies could be allocated to the purchase of troughs to be planted up and positioned around the railway station. SWR will not allow hanging baskets but the resident felt sure that Clive, the Station Master, would help water the troughs.

Defibrillator. A resident asked if any training opportunities would be offered when the defibrillators were installed. Cllrs Hodgetts and Williams said that they were relatively easy to use. The resident also asked if the cabinets would be locked or unlocked and was told this had not been decided upon as yet.

Totters Lane, Potbridge. A resident commented on what a good result had been achieved in getting the operator to clear the scrapyards site.

S106 Monies. A resident wondered if some of the S106 funds could be used to purchase a tree or two for each house in the parish.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.