

Minutes from Bramshaw Annual Assembly held on 17th May 2017 in the Community Room, Bramshaw Village Hall, Bramshaw.

Present – 5 residents of Bramshaw, 5 Parish Councillors and 5 people giving presentations.

1. **Apologies for absence**

Cllrs Sally Day and Kay Harrison.

2. **Acceptance of meeting notes from 2016 Annual Assembly and matters arising from these**

No matters arising and notes accepted.

3. **Chairman's report.**

Sue Bennison gave a full appraisal of items which had been achieved within the parish in the last year – full report attached; but in summary her report touched on the following items:
Because of HCC elections it had felt to be inappropriate to invite Tobias Bauer from HCC to present his proposals for traffic calming in Bramshaw during purdah. He had however been invited to attend the May meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 23 May 2017 to give a short presentation on his proposals which will be followed by a public consultation at a later date, for the residents of Bramshaw in order to gather the views of the parishioners.

The main achievements of the parish council this year had been:

Successfully getting the drains at Wittensford Bridge

Bramble clearance in parts of Bramshaw and Fritham

Verge protection particularly in Nomansland by the FC

Assisting in clarifying signage at Brook Green Bungalows so the emergency vehicles can find them more easily.

Following the theft of the phone box door from the Furzley phone box sourcing a replacement along with the funding.

With neighbouring parishes defeating the proposed Latchmore Restoration Scheme.

4. **Financial Report – RFO:**

Bramshaw Parish Council had been successfully audited Internal Auditor for the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 – and the paperwork is currently with the external auditors.

To maintain the current level of reserves, (approximately £5000) the Council has raised the precept to £6750 which amounts to an increase of £0.52 per Band D property. At the year end the Council had a bank balances totally £9994.08.

£1000 grant was received this year from HCC for the Lengthsman Scheme – this scheme is managed by Copythorne Parish Council.

The Parish Council awarded grants to:

Bramshaw Church - £250 towards the maintenance of the church yard.

Citizens Advice Bureau - £80.00

Bramshaw Trust £21 towards the costs of the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations.

Total expenditure for the year has been £6088.50 and total income has been £7120.00 – this was made up of £6620 precept and a £500 grant from Hampshire County Council Councillor Edward Heron from his devolved budget which the council used towards purchasing the replacement phone box door for the Furzey Phone Box.

5. **Report by HCC Cllr Edward Heron**

Edward requested the meeting to make full use of all the online services for reporting defects that are available on the [Report a Pothole](#) County Council website – this is particularly useful if there is need to report a pot hole.

He also mentioned there is a strong likelihood that average speed cameras will be deployed on the B3078 Roger Penny Way probably going from the Fighting Cocks to the Cattle Grid at Junction 1. These will be purchased and installed by Hampshire County Council Highways with money from fines being used only for the running costs with the surplus going to central government.

6. **Report by NFDC Cllr Diane Andrews**

In reviewing last year's minutes Diane noted how we had all been concerned over devolution and how currently this is unlikely for Hampshire. She is chair of Planning Development & Control Committee that meets monthly to consider cases where the parish and planning department disagree, or high profile cases where a large number of houses are proposed –e.g. in Ringwood. She represents NFDC on board of Citizens Advice Bureau and Community First New Forest which is responsible for running Wheels to Work and Nightstop amongst other good works.

She has assisted in helping in finding and planning of a cemetery in Calshot. There is to be a new crematorium in Stem Lane, New Milton.

There have been many changes at the New Forest District Council in the last year, but these have all been driven by the need to save money.

Local Plan Review 2016-2036 Part One: Planning Strategy is well under way with it due to be published for shortly. The main focus of this consultation was to get peoples' views on the potential locations for the new housing development we need to accommodate over the next 20 years.

When finalised, the Local Plan Part One will set out NFDC planning strategy, strategic policies and key development sites for the period 2016 to 2036 covering the district area outside of the New Forest National Park. There will be further opportunities to comment on the Local Plan in the autumn of 2017. The time table is available on the NFDC website ([Local Development Scheme - 7th review April 2017](#)).

119 new beach huts have been built on the seafront at Milford-on-Sea to replace the huts that were severely damaged in the violent storms of 2014. The new huts are designed to enhance the seafront, stand up to the challenging coastal conditions and meet the needs of beach hut users, local people and visitors.

Finally she has been busy assisting Copythorne with an affordable housing application – finding a suitable site is quite difficult but it is hoped that progress is now being made.

7. **Police Report by PCSO Richard Williams**

PCSO Richard Williams introduced himself and explained how he and PC Steven Norris had been in post for a year as part of the New Forest Heart team and that they had just been joined by a new PCSO as their area had been increased. There are now 4 PCSO's for the whole of the forest. He supplied us with their contact details via for non emergency issues (PC20127 Steven Norris 07554775477 or email steven.norris@hampshire.pnn.police.uk and PCSO1495 Richard Williams 07554 775469 or email Richard.williams@hampshire.pnn.police.uk).

Beat Surgeries have restarted at the Village Shop and are held every 4 weeks on a Monday at 8.00 am when the shop was busy and people came and had a chat. Burglary from domestic dwellings in the area is now down as is theft from vehicles, though theft from vehicles is still an issue because potential thieves hide and watch where items are hidden - he says there is no safe place to leave valuables when leaving your car – take them all with you. CCTV cameras are very effective at stopping house and shed burglaries as is an alarm that will alert people. It looks likely that speedwatch volunteers will soon be able to work on 40 mph roads.

8. **National Trust – Lee Hullin**

Verge restoration was something the National Trust would be following up on the near future as it is so frustrating to see the verges which are SSSI's becoming one big carpark was the first point Lee brought the meetings attention. It is not only taking away grazing it is also destroying rare flowers etc. The NT would probably use a limited number of dragons teeth (Costing £5 each) particularly around Stagbury Hill. They have a duty to protect the verges.

There has been an issue in the last year of fly tipping on National Trust land, particularly along the road from Newbridge to Furzey – it is a drain on resources to have to keep going to clear it up and unfortunately it is all untraceable builder's waste.

The HSL scheme has a couple of years left to run and in one respect the National Trust is playing catch up with the rest of the Forest in doing work – they are going to reduce the extent of the invasive trees (Turkey Oak and Scots Pine) particularly on Half Moon Common. The issue with these invasive species is that they are stronger, quicker growing and harbour pests, and the Turkey Oak can hybridize with the English Oak. By design they are not replanting on the heathland but they have in Foxbury.

The number and size of the deer herds still continue to be a problem because of the damage they do to trees and grazing. The National Trust have however fenced an area of Foxbury against them at a cost of £17000.

The proposed undergrounding of power lines at Hale Purlieu is still very much in the investigative stages – Ecological studies are currently being carried out – grant money has been ring fenced for

this work but there is a 5 year opportunity to have the work done – However the results of the feasibility study are due next year.

The National Trust are very concerned over the damage that is being done to the Ancient Monuments on Stagbury Hill and Little Stagbury and this is the next big project for them to manage on the Bramshaw Commons.

9. **Broadband in Fritham**

Grant Munn from BT attended the meeting to answer questions on the issues of trying to improve the broadband to Fritham. Fritham is unique in as much it is 7km from the nearest cabinet which makes it impractical to dig up the whole route and lay a new cable. The Wireless point to point solution is also impractical because the mast at Longcross is still too far away. So it now looks like they are going to find a suitable location so that an oversized telegraph pole can be installed. Any solution is not cheap but the only plus point of the apparent delay is that there is now more funding available with a possibility of it now being funded to 50%. It was agreed that a date for another meeting needed to be set – Martin Vann to progress.

Edward Heron asked that if anyone in Brook/Bramshaw that had upgraded to superfast broad and were not getting the promised speeds, to let him know because part of the joint funding initiative was on the basis that the speeds would be met.

10,. **Wheels to Work -**

Unfortunately the guest speaker at very short notice was unable to attend. It is however possible the presentation will be given at a Parish Council meeting.

11. **Other Parish Matters**

Concern was raised over the general condition of The Rosary Garage. It was explained to the meeting that as a parish council we had very few powers in this respect and we certainly could not make anyone make a planning application. Edward Heron said he would ask the NPA whether it might be construed as an untidy site.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Bramshaw Parish Council
Annual Assembly – 17th May 2017

CHAIRMANS REPORT

Those of you with long memories will remember that last year I reported that our County Councillor – Edward Heron has been able to secure some funding for a traffic calming scheme. As with many things progress has been slow and due to the impending General Election further information on how we progress this project has had to be postponed to our May Council meeting, when we expect HCC will be reporting back to us with the options available.

After that meeting we plan to hold a public consultation meeting to explain the recommendations from County and gather parishioners views. So unfortunately this evening, I am unable to report any further progress.

So what have we achieved this year, well at last County have fully repaired the two drains at Whittensford which now alleviates the flooding on that sharp bend on the B.3079.

We have managed to get some significant bramble clearance done throughout Bramshaw and Fritham and it is hoped that working with the Forestry Commission further overgrown areas can be dealt with.

Earlier on this year our telephone box situate at Furzley crossroads had its door forcefully removed. After much discussion it was decided to purchase a new door. It was supplied with glass panels that needed to be fitted, the Perspex ones required removal. A local resident volunteered to do this work and get the door re-hung, it has been quite a task which is now nearing completion. So soon we will have a new door hung. We have now added all 3 boxes to our Insurance Policy.

The residents of Brook Green asked if we could get the road sign changed so that it was visible from both directions, so that the cottages at Brook Corner could be located by the emergency services, no matter which direction they came from. In the end after much discussion with HCC and NFDC, as to who was responsible, I managed to get NFDC to

reposition and reword the sign, so whichever direction the emergency services come from they will now be able to locate Brook Corner cottages without difficulty.

The Forestry Commission have taken steps this year to protect the verges at Nomansland. This is part of their verge protection works that are taking place all over the Forest in collaboration with Natural England and the Verderers. It resulted initially, in some complaints from residents but with negotiations with the Forestry Commission, I believe the those problems have been overcome.

We still participate in the Lengthmans scheme in conjunction with Copythorne, Wellow and Netley Marsh parishes, financed by HCC. It provides us with £1,000 p.a. to pay for small jobs to be undertaken throughout the parish. So if you know of any small jobs that require attention in the Parish please let us know and we will add them to the list.

Together with adjoining parishes we successfully defeated the proposed planning application for the Latchmore Wetland Restoration Scheme. Had it been granted, it would have resulted in a huge number of vehicles through Bramshaw and Fritham, moving tons and tons of material for the majority of the summer months for the next 2-3 years. So we will now keep a watching brief on any future proposals that come forth in the light of this refusal of planning permission.

We still have to face the possibility of the National Grid undergrounding project going ahead. This is to remove the pylons between Pound Bottom and Hale and again this will result in a huge number of vehicle movements through Bramshaw for a considerably long period.

Both planning authorities, the National Park and the New Forest District Council are progressing their Local Plans, submission to the Independent Examiner should be achieved by winter time this year, followed by adoption in the Summer of 2018.

In conclusion, I am sure the residents of Bramshaw Parish will continue to keep us on our toes as regards matters that need our attention. We will do our level best to attend to these in a timely manner.

Cllr Sue Bennison

Chairman

17th May 2017