

# **PARISH OF BISHOPSTOKE**

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2006 Held at the Methodist Church, Bishopstoke on Thursday 25 May 2006, commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** In the Chair – Cllr Anne Winstanley, Chair of Bishopstoke Parish Council  
Cllrs Davies-Dear, Hamilton, Hansell, Moore, Pemberton, Penson, Roling,  
Sharp, Shephard and Toher  
PC Alan Swanton – Community Beat Officer  
one member of the public  
the guest speaker, Inspector Kelly Whiting, Hampshire Constabulary

**In attendance:** Mr P J Storey OBE, Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council  
Mr P Bulbeck, Responsible Finance Officer to Bishopstoke Parish Council

### **1. Welcome by the Chair**

Cllr Anne Winstanley extended a warm welcome to all present at the eleventh Bishopstoke Parish Annual Assembly.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mignot and Snook.

### **3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 26 May 2005**

Copies of the minutes were distributed to those present at the Assembly. Proposed Cllr Hansell, Seconded Cllr Roling, **RESOLVED** unanimously that these be accepted as a true record of the 2005 Assembly.

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 26 May 2005**

(1) The solar lighting had been installed in Glebe Meadow and other improvements works completed.

(2) The responsibility for policing the rules banning verge parking had been transferred to Eastleigh Borough Council.

(3) The renovation project at Shears Mill was progressing with grant makers being approached for funding and planning permission having been given for the demolition of the existing shed and its replacement with a brick-built housing with viewing windows for the public. The need to replace the footbridge over the River Itchen with a new bridge in a different location would necessitate a review of the building design since access would no longer be possible from the front but the project team were working on a new design to allow access from the side. The Shears Mill turbines would eventually form an historical feature on the Itchen Navigation path and would benefit from Lottery monies being made available to this larger project.

## **5. Chair's Address and Annual Report**

Cllr Winstanley reported that in the last year that there had been just one or two changes on the Parish Council. She welcomed Val Hamilton back and also our brand new Parish Councillor, co-opted earlier this week, Richard Penson. Richard had replaced Patrick Pope, who had moved to Otterbourne in the new year. Patrick had been an active Parish Councillor since 2000, helping to relaunch the newsletter in its current form and work on the current format of the website. He had also represented the Parish Council on the Eastleigh District Association of Parish Councils.

Cllr Winstanley continued by commenting on the on-going work preparing our submission for Quality Parish status. Our regularly delivered newsletters form part of the submission and an examination of the requirements in this area meant that some changes to the format and production timetable of the newsletter were necessary. The Parish Council was also planning to produce a Parish Annual Report following this Assembly for a more limited distribution than the newsletter which went to every household within the Parish.

The Parish Council had continued its regular support of village groups and organisations and other organisations, and in the last year had given grants to the Memorial Hall, Community Centre, Bishopstoke Carnival, 1<sup>st</sup> Steps PlaySchool and HomeStart among others. It had also recently decided to support the Methodist Church in their plans for improvements to the facilities they offer for community use.

An important part of the work of the Parish Council was representing the best interests of Bishopstoke. As part of this, the Parish Council welcomed the opportunity to comment on many subjects ranging from every planning application within Bishopstoke to strategies of the other statutory authorities covering our area. It regularly commented on BT proposals to remove public phone boxes and in the last year had represented residents' concerns on the possible loss of the old oak tree at the entrance to Stoke Park Woods and also local traders' concerns over vandalism at Riverside.

On the practical side, its Members continued to clear rubbish from Bishopstoke Channel from time to time and last did so a couple of weeks ago.

Cllr Winstanley was pleased to report that work continues on plans to restore the turbines at Shears Mill in partnership with the Bishopstoke Society. The Clerk was in regular discussions with Environment Agency, Hampshire Mills Group, Eastleigh Borough Council, both as landowners and also over the bid to be a demonstration of renewable energy, and our other partner, the Hampshire Wildlife Trust and their restoration work on the Itchen Navigation.

The Parish Council's major project this year had been the improvements to Bishopstoke Beach & old St Mary's Churchyard. This was a partnership project with Hampshire County Council under their Villages Initiative. Councillors were sure the improvements would be appreciated by all those who enjoy this feature of our village over the summer.

Cllr Winstanley concluded by looking forward to the coming year and drew attention to the construction work which had now started on the long-awaited Brookfield Youth Centre, stating that the project should be completed around September. The Parish Council had supported youth work by participating in the BIFOHH Youth Project over several years now and it looked forward to being involved in the funding and management of the new Youth Centre for which it had included funding in its Precept.

The other new project under consideration was giving support to the new Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who should be deployed in the Eastleigh area by the end of the year. This came about through a new Government initiative that Hampshire Police will be implementing and also discussions at EDAPTC on general problems over low-level nuisance behaviour, mainly from some young people, and what Parish Councils could do to tackle this within their own area. Cllr Winstanley was therefore very pleased to have Inspector Kelly Whiting with us, who would be speaking later on the changes to Neighbourhood Policing and the part that PCSOs would play in this and also the opportunity for involvement by other organisations such as parish councils.

## **6. Presentation of the Audited and Published Return for the year ended 31 March 2005**

Copies of the audited Annual Return for 2005 were available to those present, as were copies of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2006. Mr Bulbeck, the RFO, explained the procedure whereby the contents of the Annual Return were somewhat historical but confirmed this was the norm. He then took the opportunity to explain briefly the financial out-turn for the year ended 31 March 2006, the audit of which had just been completed. The Chair then invited questions and Cllr Penson sought an explanation on the makeup of the precept and was told that it reflected the Parish Council's need to meet its fixed expenditure and the costs of implementing those needs and projects support by the Parish Council which enhanced the quality of life for Bishopstoke residents.

Proposed Cllr Toher, Seconded Cllr Moore, **RESOLVED** unanimously that the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2005 be accepted.

## **7. Presentation on Neighbourhood Policing**

Inspector Kelly Whiting introduced herself and gave a brief overview of the recent changes to policing nationwide and how this had removed the previous emphasis on patrolling as a means of detecting crime with resources now being allocated to other methods of collecting intelligence more relevant to major crime. This had resulted in a rise in street crime and a reduction in public reassurance. As a result, tackling anti-social behaviour was now back on the Government agenda with the need for patrolling officers recognised. However, frontline officers had been redeployed to staff the new technology crimes such as computer and mobile phone crimes, identity theft, human trafficking, major incident and child abuse leaving insufficient patrolling officers available for the streets.

As a result, the Government was committed to introducing 24,000 PCSOs nationally by 2008 in support of a new Neighbourhood Policing model and Hampshire Constabulary would be recruiting 500 PCSOs of which Eastleigh would get 36 in October/November this year. Inspector Whiting explained that PCSOs would be employed as uniformed members of the police and would be recruited and trained by them. They would wear a similar uniform to police officers and carry police radios but they were not police officers as such but would provide a complementary role. Their core function would be to perform regular visible patrols thereby providing public reassurance and an ability to deal quickly with issues at a local level - to 'nip in the bud'. They would normally work day and evening shifts according to the needs of the area. It was planned that 80% of a PCSO's time would be committed to patrolling.

PCSOs would not have powers of arrest although they could detain for up to 30 minutes. However, they would be able to issue fixed penalty notices for causing damage, low level disorder and harassment, fly-posting, dog fouling, cycling on the pavement, buying alcohol

under age, lettering and other similar offences. They would also have the power to confiscate alcohol and require a person to give their name and address.

Inspector Whiting then turned to the matter of funding and explained that the Government was committing funds in support of the scheme for two years. Many Parish Councils and other organisations were entering into partnership funding agreements whereby for up to £6000 per annum they would be entitled to additional or guaranteed cover by a dedicated PCSO according to their contribution. This was an obvious positive measure for local communities, otherwise PCSO deployment would be determined by where the need was greatest, and she was keen to develop partnership agreements. Finally, Inspector Whiting commented that as the number of PCSOs increased there would be a need for support in terms of accommodation and transport, ideally within the area they served; this point was noted.

A general discussion ensued covering a variety of points including: light blue epaulettes would be worn by PCSOs to distinguish them from police officers; telephone operators were trained to redirect calls to the new 101 number to 999 or vice versa as necessary; referrals by the police who were trained to recognise children at risk whereas PCSOs would not be trained but could report suspicions based on their local knowledge, PCSOs hours of work and funding, before the Chair thanked Inspector Whiting for a very interesting, topical and informative presentation.

## **8. Public Questions**

*There being no further questions, Cllr Winstanley declared the Assembly formally closed at 8.30pm and invited all present to enjoy the light refreshments provided.*