



WINCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE WINCHFIELD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015 AT 7.30 PM IN WINCHFIELD VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT Cllr A Renshaw (in the Chair),
Cllr H Dicks, Cllr I Gavin-Brown, Cllr P Jackaman and Cllr M Williams
PCSO B Evans
16 members of the public
Mrs C Johnson (Clerk)

1 APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

Apologies were received from Cllr Crampton and Cllr Southern (HDC), Cllr Glen (HCC), PC Franks and PCSO Wallace. The Chairman congratulated Cllr Glen on becoming Chairman of Hampshire County Council.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ken Crookes (HDC), PCSO Barry Evans and all those present.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on April 23, 2014, 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: Describing Winchfield as a 'village at war', he reported plans for up to 5,000 houses envisaged in a 32-page 'Vision Document' issued by Barratt Homes in October 2014 and entitled 'Winchfield Garden Community'. Although no more than a work of fiction, Hart councillors had bought into this scheme and at a meeting of Hart Council on November 27, 2014, no less than 29 councillors out of 33 had voted to 'test' a new settlement in the parish as the main element of the housing sites strategy for the Hart Local Plan. For the record, the four who voted against 'testing' were our three ward councillors, Tim Southern, Anne Crampton and Sara Kinnell, plus Ken Crookes, who had resigned the following day as Leader of the council because he could not lead them in that direction. Since then, Hart had been 'testing' whether 'Barratt New Town' would work. He however had no doubt that in both planning and financial terms, it would not.

He went on to detail how the plans were being fought on many fronts. The parish council had raised its precept by an extra £20,000 – an increase of 336% – to boost the planning advice fund. Separately, Winchfield Action Group had raised more than £40,000 from generous donations both from residents in Winchfield and further afield. WAG had also engaged a planning adviser, John Boyd, and an eminent QC, Peter Village. Importantly, the QC's Opinion, delivered last month to Hart, had concluded that the council's position was 'hopeless' because of flaws in its process and consultations.

Another campaign had been launched under the banner of 'We heart Hart' with a mass of information which not only demolished Hart's flawed planning policies but informed the council as to the direction it should be taking, particularly relating to overall housing numbers and strategy on brownfield sites. The campaign had distributed almost 30,000 leaflets around the whole of Hart district to inform residents more widely about why the Option 4 policy of a new settlement would be detrimental for the whole of Hart. He thanked David Turver for the massive input he was having via this campaign, and to all who distributed leaflets. Another high-profile campaign had been launched on twitter by Graham Stacey to urge residents to 'Keep Hart beautiful'.

He thanked everyone in Winchfield, and beyond, for their support. It was inconceivable that Hart, which had been designated for a fourth year running as the best place to live in Britain, would continue to champion a new Barratt settlement of 5,000 houses in the very heart of its rural area.

Neighbourhood Plan: Thanks were due to Clare Worley who had been leading the work on the Neighbourhood Plan with a team of volunteers. The various engagement meetings with residents had been well attended. The Neighbourhood Plan when eventually approved would sit as a statutory planning document setting out where the local community wished to see development take place.

Solar farms: Construction work was expected later in the summer on the solar farm which had been granted consent at Oakfield Farm in Taplins Farm Lane. It was believed to be the first in Hart. A planning application was expected soon for a second solar farm at Beggars Corner, where previously Hart planners had supported proposals for noisy motorcross activities. Taken together, these two solar farms would confirm Winchfield as the greenest parish in Hart.

Lengthsman: Last autumn the parish council had begun to use the services of the Lengthsman employed by Hartley Wintney Parish Council. Another initiative designed to improve and maintain the overall look of the parish was the litter-pick in March organised by Kerry Wedlock. This had been so successful that it was likely to become a regular event.

Winchfield Festival: The week-long festival in June had once again been a triumph for all those involved in its planning and organisation, especially since they had had to overcome the effects of an apocalyptic thunderstorm during the night before the first event. Several concerts had been sell-outs and the festival represented a great achievement for Winchfield.

Elections: In the general election, Ranil Jayawardena had achieved the largest majority of any Conservative MP. The Chairman was confident that he would prove to be a very supportive MP and good friend to Winchfield. During the campaign Labour, Green, UKIP and Monster Raving Loony Party candidates had all supported Winchfield's fight to save our countryside.

Two long-serving parish councillors had stepped down at the beginning of the month. He thanked Graham Bourne, who served for 32 years, and Charles Lumby for all they had done for our community over the years. He welcomed their replacements, Meyrick Williams and Harry Dicks, and was certain they would make a great contribution in their new roles.

He was delighted to report that following the elections on May 7 when he had been elected to the District Council, Winchfield now had, for the first time since the formation of Hart Council in 1974, a representative who lived in the village. He thanked everyone for their support and pledged that he would do his very best to represent the interests both of our parish and the wider community in the Hartley Wintney ward, during his four-year term of office. Anne Crampton had been re-elected, but only for a year, and Tim Southern would continue for a further two years. He thanked them both for their immense assistance while canvassing and their valued support of Winchfield.

4 FUTURE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN WINCHFIELD

The Chairman reported that the first post-election meeting of the District Council's Local Plan Steering Group would be taking place on June 3 and meetings would be monthly thereafter. It seemed doubtful that anything would be ready for consultation by the end of the summer.

Cllr Crookes reported that there was optimism that around 300 homes could be provided on the site of the former Police College in Bramshill. The Chairman added that there was also potential for 350 at Guillemont Park near Junction 4a of the M3 and for a substantial number at Pyestock.

5 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Jackaman reported that he and members of the Steering Committee would be meeting at the end of the month with the planning consultant to discuss her review of the first draft of the Winchfield Neighbourhood Plan produced by the Steering Group. There was still much work to be done which in his view did not need to be rushed. The Chairman expressed the expectation that the group would work on the identification and selection of preferred sites for development in due course.

6 FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2015

The Chairman presented the Parish Council's accounts for the year ended March 31, 2015, copies of which had been circulated. **In summary:**

Balance brought forward from previous year	£12,569.95
Total receipts	£8,317.35
Total payments	(£6,187.95)
End of year balance	£14,699.35

The year's payments of **£6,187.95** had consisted of the following:

Administration (inc Clerk's salary)	£3,334.58
Grants <i>upkeep of graveyard, Basingstoke Canal, Winchfield Festival</i>	£1,450.00
Maintenance <i>bus shelter & notice board;</i>	£370.00
Neighbourhood Plan	£175.00
Parish Lengthsman	£530.00
Section 137 payments	£278.26
VAT on payments (to be reclaimed)	£50.11

Reserves: The Council currently held reserves of £14,250.00.

7 OPEN FORUM

No matters were raised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.