

# **PARISH OF BISHOPSTOKE**

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2008 held at the Methodist Church, Bishopstoke on Thursday 29 May 2008, commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** In the Chair – Cllr Anne Winstanley, Chair of Bishopstoke Parish Council  
Cllrs Bateman, Hansell, McGuinness, McKeone, Roling, Shephard, Snook,  
Toher and Uren  
Five members of the public and three members of YZone, the Youth Facility

**In attendance:** Mr P J Storey OBE, Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council

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

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

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

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Davies-Dear, Pemberton and Thornton and from Ms M Partner.

### **3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 24 May 2007**

Copies of the minutes were available to those present at the Assembly. Proposed Cllr Toher, Seconded Cllr Roling, **RESOLVED** unanimously with deletion of a mention of Cllr Moore (not present) that these be accepted as a true record of the 2007 Assembly.

### **4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 24 May 2007**

There were no matters arising.

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

Cllr Winstanley commented that the fourth set of elections to Bishopstoke Parish Council had just been held since the Council was restarted in 1996. This time the Parish has been divided into 3 wards; North-West, Central & East. There were candidates for all seats on the Council so it more than comply with the democratic representation requirement for Quality Parish status. In North-West and Central wards the elections were contested.

Following the elections, four new councillors were welcomed, Hugh McGuinness, Christine McKeone, Mike Thornton and Richard Uren. Cllr Winstanley gave thanks to the retiring councillors, Debra Hedges, Richard Penson, Andy Moore and Rita Sharp for their contributions to the Council and the community during their time as councillors.

The Parish Council has continued its day-to-day work to represent the best interests of the Village. In particular, it responded to the Post Office consultation in the Autumn, objecting to the proposed closure of Longmead Post Office, but unfortunately without success. It also very recently expressed concern at the proposed withdrawal of police support for community event road closures which threatens the continuation of Bishopstoke Carnival.

The submission to the Village of the Year Competition last year resulted in an award for Village of the Year in Eastleigh Borough for 2007. This award was in recognition of the high level of community involvement in village life in Bishopstoke.

The Council has continued its regular support of village groups and organisations and other external organisations, and in the last year has given grants to Homestart, Vitalise, First Steps Pre-School, Bishopstoke Age Concern; Bishopstoke Good Neighbour Scheme, Surrey & Hampshire Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, The Saturday Venture Association, Bishopstoke Methodist Church towards the improved community facilities which could be seen in place there, Eastleigh Bereavement Society, Blackberry Drive Neighbourhood Watch and Eastleigh Town Band.

The Council is continuing its partnership with the Forestry Commission for improvements to the paths around the Bluebell Trail and has recently agreed funds for a partnership with Eastleigh Borough Council to improve the Otter Close open space, including the play area.

The partnership with Hampshire Police to provide a dedicated PCSO to work in Bishopstoke has been running successfully all year. There has been a police presence at most Parish Council meetings to give an update on community safety issues in Bishopstoke and answer any queries. However, our PCSO, Liam Porter, will shortly be leaving us to take up a post with the Met and Danielle Joyce will be replacing him. We all wish Liam every success in the future and extend a warm welcome to Danielle.

Last year, our guest speakers gave presentations on the Shears Mill turbine restoration project. In the last year Heritage Lottery Funding towards the old turbine restoration and building work has been confirmed and Hampshire Mills Group have made a start by clearing the vegetation around the old turbine housing. Currently the projected date for completion of the work is Autumn 2009.

This year, Cllr Winstanley was very pleased to welcome as our guest speakers, Stella Furmedge, Brookfield Youth Centre Manager and several of the youngsters who regularly attend the Centre – now officially named YZone.

The Youth Centre has now been open for a full year - the culmination of many years work by the Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Youth Project. It was officially opened earlier this year by Cllr Roger Smith, Mayor of Eastleigh at an enjoyable event that several Parish Councillors and community representatives attended. All present could clearly see how much the Centre was appreciated by the young people who attended.

In conclusion, Cllr Winstanley reminded everyone that all Council meetings were open to the public and it was very much hoped that the public would continue to attend.

## **6. Presentation of the Audited and Published Return for the year ended 31 March 2007**

Copies of the audited Annual Return for 2007 were made available to those present, as were copies of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2008. Mr Storey, as 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 highlight briefly the surplus of income over expenditure of £2,588 in the year to 31 March 2008. He also highlighted that more than half of the year's expenditure had been on grants and other aspects of community support. He drew attention to the low Band D council tax charge for Bishopstoke residents when compared with other parish precepts in the Borough, £23.78 in the current year, and concluded that although the Council's reserves should be higher to meet unforeseen outgoings, the financial affairs of the Council were sufficiently healthy to enable it to meet its on-going commitments and aspirations.

## **7. Presentation on the BIFOHH Youth Facility**

Stella Furmedge and 3 members of the BIFOHH Youth Facility, the YZone, gave a presentation on the Facility explaining that the aim of the staff and members was to work towards the Government's five outcomes by enabling young people to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing. Examples were given of how these aims were achieved and there was no doubt that the Facility provided young people with an excellent opportunity to develop, enjoy the Facility's varied resources and to meet their friends in a safe and inviting environment.

Members had also played a vital part in obtaining equipment for the Centre by bidding on the Youth Opportunity Fund for grants. To further encourage this type of participation, it was planned to set up a Youth Council to encourage members to have a voice and exercise their rights and responsibilities locally, nationally and globally and to learn and be part of the democratic process.

Future activities would include themed nights, group work relating to issues affecting young people, anger management and how to cope with pressure, especially at exam times. Outdoor activities would also be developed as would cultural awareness evenings and visits to other external organisations. It was also hoped to start the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme later this year.

In conclusion, the presentation team thanked the Parish Council for its significant support in setting up the Facility and its pledge to continue support in the future.

Cllr Winstanley thanked the presenters for their very interesting and enthusiastic talks.

## **8. Public Questions**

Mr Roberts thanked the Parish Council for the work they undertook within the Community and in particular the support shown towards the fundraising efforts undertaken by the Methodist Church. Mrs Davies asked about the Youth Facility and if any plans existed to provide facilities for those with special needs and was encouraged to learn that plans were in hand to provide specialist youth workers to provide for this need.

*There being no further questions, Cllr Winstanley declared the Assembly formally closed at 8.20pm and invited all present to enjoy the light refreshments provided.*