

PARISH OF BISHOPSTOKE

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2009 held at the Methodist Church, Bishopstoke on Thursday 12 May 2009 commencing at 7.30pm

Present: In the Chair – Cllr Anne Winstanley, Chairman of Bishopstoke Parish Council
Cllrs Bateman, McGuinness, McKeone, Roling, Shephard, Snook, Thornton and Uren

Four members of the public, Sergeant French and PCSO Joyce.

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

1. Welcome by the Chairman

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

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Davies-Dear, Hansell, Mignot and Toher.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 29 May 2008

Copies of the minutes were available to those present at the Assembly. Proposed Cllr Shephard, Seconded Cllr McGuinness, **RESOLVED** unanimously that these be accepted as a true record of the 2008 Assembly.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 29 May 2008

There were no matters arising.

5. Chair's Address and Annual Report

There have been no changes in Parish Councillors in the past year. Our new Councillors, who started last May after the elections, have settled down well and made a good contribution over the last 12 months.

The Parish Council has continued its day-to-day work to represent the best interests of the Village.

We have continued our regular support of village groups and organisations and other external organisations, and in the last year we have given grants to Homestart, Vitalise, CRUSE Bereavement Care, Bishopstoke Age Concern, Victim Support, Bishopstoke Brownies, Bishopstoke Memorial Hall, Bishopstoke Carnival, Eastleigh Bereavement Service, Hampshire Families, Open Sight - Bishopstoke and Bishopstoke Scouts.

We are continuing our partnership with the Forestry Commission for improvements within Stoke Park Woods for community benefit and the improvements to the Otter Close open space, including the play area which we have agreed to contribute funds towards in a partnership with Eastleigh Borough Council, will soon be taking place.

Our partnership with Hampshire Police to provide a dedicated PCSO to work in Bishopstoke has just been renewed. There has been a police presence at most Parish Council meetings to give an update on community safety issues in Bishopstoke and to answer any queries. Our new PCSO, Danielle Joyce, took over from Liam Porter after last year's Assembly.

Two years ago our guest speakers gave presentations on the Shears Mill turbine restoration project. Now it looks as though work is really going to happen on this project. As well as the £10,000 of Parish funds ear-marked for this project, we have contributions from the Heritage Lottery as part of the Itchen Navigation renovation project and also from Eastleigh Borough towards making this an example of Green Energy generation from hydropower. Currently, the projected date for completion of the renovation work is late Autumn 2009.

We have continued our support of Brookfield Youth Centre, now named YZone by the young people who attend, in partnership with Fair Oak Parish, Eastleigh Borough & Hampshire County Councils. You may remember the presentation last year by the Centre Manager, Stella Furmedge, with assistance from some of the young people.

Last summer we had the repairs and rededication of the Millennium War Memorial, generously funded by local undertaker, Paul Capper, after the very regrettable vandalism. Our Armistice Service at the Memorial at 11am on 11th November has increasing numbers attending every year.

We have supported the Greening Campaign in Bishopstoke in the last year, with help from a grant from our County Councillor, Angela Roling. Our visiting presentation this year is a report on Phase 1 of the Greening Campaign. The Greening Campaign works to reduce carbon emissions in a community by getting community support for small changes in residents' behaviour so that each makes a contribution towards reducing energy use; it also saves money for those taking part.

We have also continued our support for Bishopstoke Carnival and last Autumn I presented certificates of appreciation on behalf of the Parish Council to some past and present members of the Carnival Committee.

We are going to be taking over maintenance of St Mary's Churchyard from the Parochial Church Council as it is going through the process of being declared a closed churchyard with no more room for burials. We are also in discussion with Eastleigh Borough Council about taking on some of the services provided locally by the Borough. We will definitely be taking on management of the allotments and the Cemetery next April as it has now been realised that these should have been transferred in 1996 when the Parish Council was recreated. They are statutory duties for Parish Councils where they exist. We are also interested in play areas, open spaces, countryside sites and bus shelters.

In conclusion, may I remind you that all Council meetings are open to the public and we very much hope that you will continue to attend.

6. Presentation of the Audited and Published Return for the year ended 31 March 2008

Copies of the audited Annual Return for 2008 were made available to those present, as were copies of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2009. 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 £13,274 which, together with the increase in the current year's Precept, would place the Council in a very healthy financial position to continue to plough back significantly more than half its income into the community at large and to contribute towards specific projects including the renovation of the Shears Mill turbines and refurbishing the play equipment in Otter Close. There were also exciting moves to transfer responsibility for communal assets such as the Cemetery, allotments, bus shelter maintenance and play areas

to the Parish Council, together with associated funds, but which could then be developed further in accordance with locally determined requirements as additional finance became available.

7. Report on the Greening Campaign Stage 1 and Future Plans

Cllr Richard Uren, as a member of the Bishopstoke Greening Campaign Committee, then explained that the Greening Campaign was a community based initiative involving the community in working together to reduce carbon emissions whilst at the same time saving money. The Campaign was started by Terena Plowright from Petersfield, the principle being that the reduction of carbon emission does not have to be left solely to Governments but we can all play our part by doing simple things around the home. The Campaign works by all residents in the community receiving a pledge card asking them to undertake at least 5 out of eight pledges. The pledges are all simple things that most people were probably doing any way. Examples include turning off lights when leaving a room, turning off all inactive appliances and washing laundry at 30C. After the resident is doing at least 5 of the pledges the card is then placed in their window. A count then takes place from which it can then be determined the quantity of CO2 is being saved by the community.

Last summer a local committee was formed to encourage the campaign in Bishopstoke and Fair Oak and Horton Heath campaigns. Public meetings were held where the residents picked up their pledge cards and a formal launch took place on 7 March. This was very well attended with standing room only. The committee had written to numerous organisations and groups in Bishopstoke and several of them were represented at the launch including Bishopstoke Brownies, Stoke Park Juniors and the Environment Centre. After the launch, the pledge cards were distributed to households and a recent count has shown that just under ten per cent of the local population is taking part.

Cllr Uren concluded by explaining the next stage of the Campaign which would be a community project which he would be looking to bring forward later in the year. In the ,meantime, he and the committee were looking at obtaining external grants and issuing advice on grants available to the community, for example, to assist with home insulation, car sharing schemes, encouraging local businesses to implement savings measures and for everyone to suggest more ideas to increase the possible savings.

As part of the question time, Ms Kent highlighted the setting up of community food and amenity growing projects in this country and the provision of more green spaces for children to play. The aims here were to improve nutrition and reduce obesity, to increase the amount of exercise taken, to make food more affordable, to reduce 'food miles', that is the mileage incurred by transporting food long distances across countries when it could be produced more locally, and other initiatives.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Uren and Ms Kent for their update reports and encouraged all present to take part and support the Campaign.

8. Public Questions

The Chairman then invited Sgt French to give a brief overview of crime and the incidence of nuisance in the Bishopstoke area. Sgt French confirmed she and her team would continue to target 'hot spots' and deal robustly with anti-social behaviour and confiscate alcohol from under age drinkers. A significant reduction had been achieved in most areas of concern over the past year and the Police and others in the crime reduction partnership remained intent on capitalising upon this. During the Summer months, the 'Do you know where your kids are' campaign would again be run and persistent offenders would be invited to sign acceptable

behaviour contracts or ultimately become the subjects of ASBOS if their unacceptable behaviour continued. Tests continued to be carried out on licensed stores to ensure that alcohol was not being sold to anyone under age and one store had recently failed and was being investigated by the licensing team.

Speed was one of the main complaints received by the Police and the speed enforcement team took action in those areas worst affected. Official warnings were issued to moped and mini moto riders who were creating a nuisance and ultimately the riders could be arrested and the bikes seized; this sent out a positive warning to others to obey the law. As part of Operation Nemesis, which was a Force wide operation to reduce crime and prevent burglaries, several crime reduction days had been carried out at Wyvern Schools and Stoke Park Schools with children encouraged to bring in their bikes for coding and where stalls had been set up with information leaflets and the opportunity to have two way talks with parents. The police were also working with Trading Standards to combat the frequency of distraction burglaries and doorstep crime. 'No Cold Calling Zones' were being set up in the areas worst affected to assist the elderly and vulnerable in combating this form of crime.

In conclusion, Sgt French reminded everyone of the existence of the Beat Surgeries where the public could talk face to face with a member of the Police and she urged all members of the community to make contact with the Police whenever they saw something suspicious or of concern to enable patterns of crime to be monitored and the best allocation of resources made to combat these.

There being no further questions, Cllr Winstanley thanked Sgt French and PCSO Joyce for their talk and declared the Assembly formally closed at 8.20pm with all present invited to enjoy the light refreshments provided.