

PCM March 2012

Date posted

1 May 2012

Minutes of the Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th March 2012 in the Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present : Cllr Mr P Smail - Chairman
Cllr Mrs C Read
Cllr Mrs S Sorby
Cllr Mr R Selbie
Cllr Mr M Williams
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
Borough Councillor Mr K Watts
County Councillor Mr T Thacker
Mr G Finlayson - Village Web Site
Member of the Public - 2

Apologies : Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby - Vice Chair, Cllr Mr J Beech and PC Paula Deery.

WELCOME: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest recorded.

TUFTON: Cllr Mr J Beech supplied the following report on Tufton :-

1. The painting of the Telephone Box has been completed and there have been numerous complimentary comments from the residents.
2. English Heritage have indicated that they will support a grant for repairs required to the roof of St. Mary's Church Tufton as have the P.C.C. Although, it's early days in understanding all the costs, as investigative work needs to be carried out over the next few months, the current estimate is that a further £54K will need to be raised. A fund raising committee has been formed which will be chaired by Tony Lubman.
3. I have been asked to make a correction to a note in the last edition of the Hill and Valley which stated that the footpaths were cleared of fallen trees by the Council. This was not correct as the work was conducted by Paul Moncaster.
4. Work started on the 23rd of March to narrow of the river at Tufton. The weir has been repaired using Purbeck stone and the finished result is very pleasing on the eye. The rest of the narrowing work is estimated to be finished in early April and will comply to all the recommendations of the various agencies.

The Clerk reported that the removal of Poplar trees at Tufton had been raised by a concerned resident. The Clerk contacted Mr Frank Wright the Basingstoke and Deane Tree Officer to make enquiries and received the following reply:

'There was concern about the safety of 15 trees, adjacent to the footpath to the east of the church. Having assessed the trees, it was my opinion that some of the trees should be removed as a matter of priority. A local resident requested that they are all removed. Given the propensity of these trees to drop large branches, I had no objections to this action. The resident has also requested the removal of some conifers growing in the same position.'

'A second resident is concerned about the Poplar trees in their rear garden, and I will contact you again regarding these trees.'

The Parish Council was happy with this explanation on the grounds of safety.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Mr G Finlayson stated we have a new Community Support Officer. Borough Councillor Mr K Watts was sorry to report that he had been involved in a vehicle accident recently and he was not certain if we would get a temporary CSO.

Mr G Finlayson reported that Basingstoke and Dean are withdrawing their funding of the Free Web Sites for Parish Councils and we will have to explore other options. Mr Finlayson will keep the Parish Council informed.

Mrs J Burrell asked if there was any more information on the 4th June 2012 Jubilee Cricket Match and wondered if it could be incorporated with the Village Picnic that is usually held later in the year?

Cllr Mrs C Read stated that the Cricket match is on-going and it was agreed that it was a great idea to combine it with the Village Picnic. The Parish Council agreed. Cllr Mrs C Read and Mrs J Burrell will get together with Cllr Mrs Wyatt-Tylby and Cllr Mrs Sorby to discuss this further. An advertisement is needed for Hill & Valley's next issue so the meeting will be held as soon as possible.

(note: this meeting has now happened, the advertisement is in H&V and separate notes have been issued to Councillors)

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The Chairman signed the minutes as a true record.

Matters arising from those Minutes :-

BONFIRE - The Chairman stated that securing the site for this years' event needs to be done soon to avoid the confusion last year. Cllr Mrs C Read said that she was prepared to host the event once more if both Mr Murray and Mr Duval were happy for the bonfire to be in the same place. She offered to contact them to see if that would be possible.

HIGHWAYS - The Parish Council met with Steve Goodall from Hampshire Highways and felt that they had a successful meeting and have made a valuable contact. The road signs, speed limit, new bridge and repairs were discussed.

The Bridge in Tufton Lane had been damaged and is being repaired, it was noted that care is being taken to match the repair work with the existing, unlike the stark new bricks used to repair the bridge on the B3400.

Cllr Mr M Williams reported that he has a go at cleaning off the graffiti from the 40MPH road signs and damaged part of the '40'.

BROADBAND - Cllr Mr M Williams thought that the improved Broadband service may be available in April.

HEDGE - Mr Murray had his hedge cut shortly after the last meeting. The Parish Council wrote to thank him for doing such a good job.

VITACRESS - The Chairman and Cllr Mrs C Read attended a recent Vitacress Community Meeting. Vitacress have one mini bus (but no driver) that is available for village organisations to use if they need transport for a day out etc. Vitacress no longer have a need for staff accommodation and have sold one of their cottages, it is believed that Cressington will soon be put up for sale.

Vitacress have received complaints about their lorries speeding and reported that all their vehicles are fitted with Satellite Taco equipment, that allows the company to pin point any vehicle

and keeps a record of its speed. A voluntary speed limit of 30MPH is observed by all the Vitacress drivers past residential dwellings in the area.

PLANNING: BDB/75891 - Installation of a 9.87kWp ground mounted solar PV array - Tufton Manor Farm, Tufton Warren. The Parish Council had NO OBJECTIONS to this planning application.

BDB/75652 - Notice of Approval - Change of existing building to agricultural recycling, Apsley Landfill, Pickets Piece.

CYCLING: Cllr Mr M Williams reported that the Whitchurch Association backed by Whitchurch Town Council want to establish a "Jubilee Cycle Trail" running from Whitchurch across Hurstbourne Priors Parish (not the Village Centre) to St Mary Bourne, then to Andover, Fullerton and back via Longparish. This may or may not involve putting up cycle route signs. Cllr Mr M Williams stated that he is very concerned about the suggested route along Egbury lane which has had as many accidents as the B3400. Mr Williams thought there is an alternative off-road route from Whitchurch to St Mary Bourn that could be used along the bridle way.

The Parish Council discussed this and asked Cllr Mr M Williams to write to Whitchurch Town Council with his suggestions and to register Hurstbourne Priors Parish Councils concerns about safety on the proposed route.

ROAD ISSUES: The Parish Council discussed at great length the recent accidents involving lorries that have come off the road before the corner leading into the 30MPH from St Mary Bourne. The verge at this point has disappeared and there is a drop of at least 1 foot from the paved surface to the hedgerow below. Repair work is urgently needed from Highways, it was also noted that one of the 30MPH signs has disappeared.

Cllr Mr M Williams thought that the large Hirst Lorries coming through the village have helped to erode the verge. It was agreed to investigate if there were any conditions attached to past planning applications for the Hirst site about lorries travelling through the village, Cllr Mr R Selbie was sure that there were as meetings were held with Vitacress and J Hirst at the time to discuss vehicle movements.

Cllr Mr T Thacker stated that he was aware of the problem and will speak to Steve Goodall.

The Parish Council agreed that they will also contact Steve Goodall to arrange a site meeting at this spot.

Cllr Mr T Thacker reported that he raised the matter of mud on the B3400 from the Apsley Landfill site to Andover Down. Hampshire County Council has been in contact with the site manager; there is a new lorry wheel wash further into the site, unfortunately to get from this to the road they have to travel on a dirt track. It has been agreed that a concrete road will be installed from the wheel wash to the entrance. Once this has been done, Hampshire Highways will organise a thorough clean of the B3400. Cllr Mr T Thacker will keep the Parish Council informed of any progress.

Cllr Mrs C Read reported that she has looked into the programme run by the Police for designated locals to be trained to use speed guns.

The Parish would rent the gun from the Police, a minimum of four locals would be trained and would work in pairs. The Speeding vehicle details are caught on the equipment and downloaded by the police, a letter is then sent to the offender although no penalty is attached. There is a waiting list to join the scheme and there are several willing residents who would man the Speed Gun. The Parish Council thought this a good idea and worth pursuing depending on the cost involved. Mrs Read offered to investigate the full costs.

Flashing Speed Signs are an alternative but again there is a cost involved if we wished to share

them with neighbouring parishes. Hampshire does run a scheme that we can ask for the speed reminder signs to visit the parish, but we may only get them once or twice a year.

Cllr Mrs C Read reported that a suggestion has been put forward from Mr Chalk to highlight the bridge on the B3400. He has supplied drawings showing a white Post and Rail fence from the side of the bridge to the hedge. This would draw the eye to the narrowness of the road at the bridge and hopefully encourage drivers to be more cautious. The Parish Council thought this a good idea, endorsed by Cllr Mr T Thacker.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR T THACKER'S REPORT: Cllr Mr T Thacker spoke about the offer from Hampshire County Council of an Oak Tree to commemorate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. The Parish Council will request a tree to be planted on the verge before the bridge on the B3400.

Cllr Mr Thacker also reported that there is to be a beacon lit on Beacon Hill, Highclere at 10pm on the 4th June 2012.

CLLR MR K WATTS REPORT: Cllr Mr K Watts reported that Basingstoke and Deane, as part of cost cutting, has severed the links for Borough Councillors to the virtual private network, this allowed access to many of the Councils departments, as a result he had no news to report on Dipper Barn, Tufton as he could not access to the planning portal.

The first consultation on the Local Development Frame Work has now been completed and the LDF will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

Cllr Mr K Watts reported that the Ramblers Association has raised concerns about one of the footpaths being flooded in Tufton. Cllr Mrs C Read reported that she had spoken to one of the workmen carrying out the work on the weir at Tufton and he informed her that footpath was flooded due to pipe laying as part of the river narrowing scheme. Work is due to finish within the next week. The situation will be monitored.

(note: the flooding appears to have subsided now that the river and drainage work has been completed. The footpath is now passable)

FOOTPATHS REPORT: Cllr Mrs C Read reported that as far as she knew all of the parish footpaths are all clear and walkable.

RECREATION GROUND REPORT: Cllr Mr M Williams reported that bookings are good but that there are still a few slots available for Cricket Matches. The Square has received its first cut and Cllr Mr Williams has spoken to Southern Water regarding a hose pipe ban and the watering of the pitch, there will be a four week notice if a ban is to be placed in our area.

Cllr Mr Selbie reported that the recreation Ground has also received its first cut of the season. Cllr Mrs C Read asked Cllr Mr Williams to please ask the Footballers to pick up all their rubbish (sweet wrappers, coffee cups etc) after matches.

VILLAGE HALL REPORT: Cllr Mrs S Sorby reported that Village Hall bookings are increasing after the quiet period after Christmas. The Village Hall Committee intends to put up a banner with the telephone number for bookings outside the hall and would welcome comments.

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS: Cllr Mrs C Read reported that she had liaised with Mrs Perkins and has purchased a particular Witch Hazel they wanted for their garden; this will be presented to Mr John Perkins as a thank you for his time as bookings clerk for the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council, including past members, signed a card.

Cllr Mrs C Read spoke about the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Field scheme. The Clerk delivered the Deeds for the Recreation Ground soon after the last meeting and after seeking legal advice Cllr Mrs Read reported the following :-

* There is already a Covenant restricting the use of the Recreation Ground to a Recreation Ground.

* The Covenant is to protect the land - it is effective when someone can ask the court to prevent or end a breach (in this case the PC appear to 'Hold' the Covenant)

* It is not obvious who could do that in the case of Hurstbourne Priors Recreation Ground but the Covenant refers to the Open Space Act, which would provide for the development of such a Covenant.

* It is not obvious that putting another Covenant, to the same end, is of any purpose.

The Parish Council discussed at length. Cllr Mr M Williams stated that by joining the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Field scheme it could possibly open the door for grants, the Parish Council were not convinced this was the right thing to do for Hurstbourne Priors.

Cllr Mr R Selbie proposed that the existing covenant remain as it is, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Sorby and carried by a majority vote.

CHEQUES TO BE ISSUED IN MARCH 2012:

Southern Water Pavilion Water £55.69

Hill and Valley PC Share £48.75

EON Pavilion Electricity £7.42

Eclipse Pest Control Mole Control £80.00

TVBC Ground Maintenance £231.36

Standing Order

Aviva Insurance Feb and March £268.06

R.N. Waterman Wages February £139.00

Wages March £139.00

Bank Balance after payments have been deducted : £92.15

VAT to be claimed £112.41

CLOSE OF THE MEETING: The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 30TH May 2012 in the Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall at 7.30pm.
