

AGM & PCM May 2012

Date posted

1 Jul 2012

Minutes of the Annual Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30th May 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
Cllr Mr J Beech
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
Borough Councillor Mr K Watts
County Councillor Mr T Thacker

Apologies : Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby - Vice Chairman, Mr G Finlayson 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 gave the following report on Tufton :-

1. A recent report in the media regarding the theft of a red telephone box has raised the issue of insurance. Is the telephone box at Tufton insured? The Clerk will contact the Parish Council's insurance company.

2. Jubilee celebrations are to be held in Tufton to help raise funds for the roof of St. Mary's Church, Tufton.

3. Cllr Mr M Williams was asked if he knew if Tufton would be getting the improved Broadband? Cllr Mr M Williams reported that as far as he knew all 01256 telephone numbers from the Whitchurch exchange will get the improved broadband.

4. The work to narrow of the river at Tufton has been completed.

5. Any news on the Dipper Barn outline planning application - Cllr Mr K Watts reported that as far as he knew it is work in progress and would keep the Parish Council informed of any developments.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Mr P Smail gave the following report:

"Firstly it has been a relatively quiet year in Hurstbourne Priors and I would like to thank the new team of fellow Councillors for their hard work in their respective jobs. I would especially like to thank my Vice Chairman, Sarah, for her efforts in planning issues.

In the past year the council has continued to develop a better rapport with Highways, Vitacress, Borough and County Councillors. The Borough and County Councillors have had a 'can do' and 'how can we help' attitude which is very positive and much appreciated.

The Pavilion thatch repair was completed this year along with improved fire safety measures. The May Fair continues to raise funds for the village in its normal fashion, however last year's Bonfire event was less successful probably due to it falling on the 5th November with many events being held on the same night. The Safari Supper was once again very popular and well

attended.

The unfortunate accident at the B3400 bridge has led to further discussions on speed limits with static and mobile cameras possibly being available in the near future. The bridge itself was repaired promptly by Highways and now looks less new as it weathers. The issue of installing drainage pipes in the grass strip leading to the bridge continues to be debated.

Finally I would like to thank our Clerk, Richard, who continues to keep us on the right track and Graham for all his efforts with the Parish Magazine and Parish Web Site."

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Parish Clerk produced a financial statement showing the results for the year ending 31st March 2012. Each item was explained. The Accounts have been approved by the internal Auditor Mr Paul Reynolds and are ready to be sent to the District Auditor. The Parish Council agreed the accounts and they were signed off by the Chairman and the Clerk.

PAYMENTS MADE IN APRIL AND MAY 2012.

Mr P Reynolds Audit of accounts £115.00

Eclipse Pest Control Mole control £ 80.00

TVBC Ground Maintenance £441.00

Drain and Sewer Services Cess Pool emptying £ 88.80

R.N. Waterman Expenses £ 27.75

Mrs S Sorby Bouncy Castle - Jubilee Celebrations £ 50.00

Helen Ford Pavilion Cleaning and Materials £139.00

Aviva Insurance April and May £268.06

R.N. Waterman Wages April and May £278.00

The Clerk was pleased to report that Basingstoke and Deane have again given the Parish Council an additional grant of £620 towards the Parish Gras Cutting for the 2012/13 financial year.

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

Matters arising from those Minutes :

BONFIRE - Cllr Mrs C Read reported that negotiations are ongoing and things are looking positive for this year.

HIGHWAYS - The Parish Council have met again with Steve Goodall from Hampshire Highways to discuss the recent accidents involving lorries that have come off the road on the B3403 before the corner leading into the 30MPH zone from St Mary Bourne.

Mr Goodall has agreed to put a white line along the edge of the road marking the carriageway, a soft verge sign will be erected along with black and white verge markers.

The Parish Council have been advised to request a Traffic Regulation Order to move the 30MPH sign nearer to the bridge. Mr Goodall stated that Hampshire Highways currently favour the integrated speed limit and village name signs – similar to the top of the hill on the A3400 from Andover. The Clerk was asked to write to Andrew Kettlewell (and copy in Cllr Mr T Thacker) with

a map to accompany the submission – Cllr Mrs C Read agreed to draw this up. Mr Goodall also said he would write to J Hirst about his lorries using the Village Roads.

Cllr Mr T Thacker had no further news to report on the problem of the mud on the B3400 from the Apsley Landfill site. Until the concrete road has been installed Hampshire will not carry out a thorough clean of the road.

The suggested white post and rail fence by the bridge on the B3400 was briefly discussed. The Clerk will ask Brian Pearce and another of his contractors to give a quote to erect the fence. The Clerk asked Cllr Mr T Thacker if he had any funds from his devolved budget that could help finance the project? Cllr Mr T Thacker asked the Clerk to submit an application and he would see what he could do.

VITACRESS - Vitacress have issued a statement following the Diesel Spill incident on the 18th May 2012. The Statement is attached to these minutes.

PLANNING: Hampshire County Council has informed the Parish Council that the Apsley Land Fill operation have applied to extend their licence for the site. The Parish Council discussed this at length and agreed that they were happy with the continuation as long as the wheel wash was sorted out and the drain and road repairs were done to stop the large puddle that forms on the B3400 opposite the entrance to the site.

It was suggested that Paul Jackson the Head of Planning at Test Valley Borough Council was copied in to the reply.

The Parish Council and Borough Councillor Mr K Watts spoke about the proposed Bullington Cross Wind farm. The Chairman thought that the reply sent from Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council put together by Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby was very good and covered all concerns. The EIA Scoping report was briefly discussed and correspondence between James Newberry, Technical Services Consultant, PMSS (Project Management Support Services) and Sarah Church from the Roundwood Estate.

Cllr Mr Thacker and Cllr Mr K Watts asked to receive copies of the Parish Council's submission.

Cllr Mr K Watts thought it encouraging that the Borough and Parish Councils who will be effected by the proposed wind farm are working together to put forward a united front.

CLLR MR K WATTS REPORT: Cllr Mr K Watts said that the Local Development Frame Work has been rejected by the Planning Inspectorate and work will have to start again. Cllr Mr Watts did not think that any changes would affect Hurstbourne Priors.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR T THACKER: Cllr Mr T Thacker spoke about his new responsibilities at Hampshire County Council including his new position as Vice Chairman of the Hampshire Pension Fund and Assistant Executive Member of Adult Services. Hampshire County Council has frozen the Council Tax for another year and have to make savings of £45 Million. There are no planned cuts to services. Savings will be made through redundancy and there is a recruitment freeze at the moment.

Cllr Mr Thacker spoke about the Village Agents scheme to help those in need to live in their own homes independently, roads in Hurstbourne Priors and the County Councils decision to keep the Whitchurch Library hours as they are.

PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS: Cllr Mr M Williams reported that he was recently appointed Vice Chairman of Hill and Valley Business Group. The current Chairman had announced that he was retiring and would be handing over the reins to the new Vice Chairman. Cllr Mr Williams reported that Hill and Valley have surplus funds in the bank with net assets of £14,000. It is proposed to keep a year's printing costs and to distribute the remaining funds to

the Parishes, proportioned to readership.

FOOTPATHS REPORT: Cllr Mrs C Read reported that as far as she knew all of the parish footpaths are clear and walkable. There have been complaints about the stile near the railway embankment at Tufton. Cllr Mrs Read has contacted Peter Watson at Hampshire Rights of Way who had advised that it is the Landlord's responsibility to maintain the stile. When old style stiles are replaced the Council would prefer that kissing style gates are used.

RECREATION GROUND REPORT: Cllr Mr M Williams reported that he has taken 35 bookings for Cricket Matches.

Cllr Mr R Selbie reported that the shingles on the Scoring Hut are to be repaired and the job is in hand. The area by the church wall that used to be covered in nettles is now mowed grass, a job well done by the Cricket Team. Cllr Mr M Williams reported that there is talk of possibly moving the scoring hut nearer to the pavilion, an issue he will raise at the next Recreation Ground meeting. The Chairman suggested that Councillors should look at a possible change of site at the Jubilee cricket match.

VILLAGE HALL REPORT: Cllr Mrs S Sorby reported that Village Hall bookings are good. The Village Hall Committee has put up the new banner with the telephone number for bookings outside the hall and the front has been re-gravelled.

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS: Cllr Mrs C Read updated the Parish Council on the arrangements for the Jubilee Celebrations. It is planned to cater for 120 people for the Cricket Tea. There have been lots of volunteers to make up two complete teams including children from the village. There will be a picnic lunch with petanque for those who want to play, then there will be 20 overs, tea which will be provided by the Parish Council and then the next 20 overs. The Pub has kindly offered to run a bar in the Pavilion from lunchtime onwards. The Parish Council is able to reimburse expenses for the celebrations.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk reported that he has received an email from Whitchurch Town Council Clerk regarding dog fouling at the beginning of the permissive footpath from Whitchurch to Hurstbourne Priors. Whitchurch Town Council would like to erect No Dog Fouling signs in this area and have asked if Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council had any objections.

The Parish Council thought this a good idea.

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

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 25th July 2012 in the Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall at 7.30pm.