

**Minutes of the Annual Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29th May 2013 in Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllr Mr P Smail – Chairman  
Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby – Vice Chairman  
Cllr Mr Beach  
Cllr Mrs C Read  
Cllr Mrs S Sorby  
Cllr Mr M Williams  
Borough Councillor Mr K Watts  
County Councillor Mr T Thacker  
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk

Members of the Public: Mr G Finlayson, Mr J Broomfield and Mr C Ekins.

**Apologies:** PC Paula Deery

**WELCOME:** Cllr Mr P Smail welcomed everyone to the meeting

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest

**PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY:** Mr Charles Ekins expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. Cllr Mrs C Read proposed that Mr C Ekins be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the current vacancy, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs S Sorby. All agreed. Mr C Ekins was co-opted onto the Parish Council with effect from the next meeting. The Clerk will get the relevant paperwork prepared for Mr Ekins to sign at that meeting.

Cllr Mr J Beach stated that due to a change of job which will require additional travelling he has decided to resign from the Parish Council as it becoming increasingly difficult for him to attend meetings. The Parish Council understood and Cllr Mr P Smail thanked him for his contribution during his time as a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Mr J Beach introduced Mr Jeff Broomfield from Tufton to the Parish Council, Mr Broomfield has expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council to represent Tufton in place of Cllr Mr J Beach. The Parish Council thought this to be a good idea and asked the Clerk to prepare the necessary paperwork to advertise the vacancy.

**TUFTON:** Cllr Mr J Beach reported that additional earth works are to be undertaken in June in reclaiming the river bank at Tufton. Stage one of the Church restoration is underway and should be complete in July. The fund for the total restoration of the Church is £100,000 short, however the PCC are confident that this can be achieved. A Music Fundraising event is to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013, details will be publicised. Cllr Mr J Beach thought it may help numbers attending the church services if they were publicised in the Hill and Valley. Unfortunately Tufton Church does not fall in the Parish of Hurstbourne Priors as it has a different area to the Parish. It was felt that Whitchurch publications may also be helpful in advertising services.

**ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN:**

**CHAIRMAN** - Cllr Mrs S Sorby proposed Cllr Mr P Smail for Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs C Read. There were no other nominations, Cllr Mr P Smail was duly re-elected Chairman.

**VICE CHAIRMAN** - Cllr Mr P Smail proposed Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby as Vice Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs C Read. There were no other nominations, Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby was duly re-elected Vice Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** The past year in Hurstbourne Priors has been dominated by planning issues, the more notable being Apsley Solar Park and extra generator and, currently, the Bullington Wind Farm application.

The village has held the May Fair, the Bonfire Party (although the bonfire is unlikely to be held again in its current format), a cricket match and social event was held in June to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which was well attended by the villagers. The Quiz Night in April at the Hurstbourne Inn, arranged by James and Sarah Wyatt-Tilby, was very popular and we look forward to the next one.

Other happenings in the village in the past year include :- The sudden passing of Robert Selbie, long time Parish Councillor and past Chairman, the start of the major refurbishment of Tufton Church, the pumping of raw sewage into the River Bourne by Southern Water (We continue to support our neighbours in St Mary Bourne in addressing this issue).

As for the Council, our major project at this moment is financing and installing flashing speed reminder signs to try and combat the continual problem of speeding in the village. I would like to thank all of the Parish Councillors for their help during the year and their continued work on other committees linked to the Parish Council. Sarah's help with the planning applications has been invaluable and, lately, her input along with Mark's to our response to the Bullington Wind Farm has created a huge amount of work.

Our Borough and County Councillors have been very supportive as always and we look forward to this continuing. Also thanks to Graham for his efforts for the village web site and Hill & Valley magazine. Finally I would like to thank Richard, our Parish Clerk, without whose constant assistance the Parish Council would not run so smoothly.

Peter Smail. Chairman

## **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

### **CHEQUES AND PAYMENTS ISSUED APRIL AND MAY 2013:**

P Reynolds	Audit of Accounts	£120.00
EON	Pavilion Electricity	£38.52
Mr B Pearce	Painting Village Rails B3400	£192.00
Hill and Valley	Grant for Year	£195.00
Dave Haggard	Pest control	£80.00
TVBC	Grass and Hedge Cutting	£1143.61
Penton Grafton PC	Hire of Parish Office 2013/14	£50.00
Mr D Yeates	Storage	£50.00
Helen Ford	Pavilion Cleaning	£161.45

### **STANDING ORDERS:**

Aviva	Insurance April and May	£267.40
R.N. Waterman	Wages April	£150.00
	Wages May	£150.00

INCOME - 1/2 Precept and Grants                      £5,373.00

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE AFTER ABOVE - £5,555.13

The Clerk produced the end of year accounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and explained each item. The Clerk stated that the accounts have been approved by Paul Reynolds, the Internal Auditor, and he has signed them off on the District Audit Form. The Parish Council agreed to adopt the accounts and the Chairman signed them off on the District Audit Form. The Clerk stated that he can now send them to District Audit.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Mr G Finlayson reported that he had in his possession half of the Longparish sign, he had no idea where the other half was. The Clerk was asked to report this to Highways. Mr Finlayson reported that the Web Site is still in transition and there are still a few issues that need sorting out.

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

### **Matters arising from those Minutes :-**

**Apsley Generator** - Cllr Mr M Williams stated that he had been unable to attend the meeting as he was delayed on a train. He indicated that he disagreed with the Parish Council's decision to object to the Planning Application BDB/77515, he felt that the letter sent by the Parish Council was poor. He stated that he had been to the site to investigate and could see no substance for the Parish Council to object. He has spoken to the applicant and sent in a letter of support.

Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby stated that it was unfortunate that Cllr Mr M Williams had not put his view forward in writing either prior to the March meeting or following receipt of the draft response that was circulated by email to all parish councillors immediately following the meeting, with an indication that it would be sent to BDBC the following Friday. There were no comments received from Cllr Mr M Williams before the time limit and on that basis the response had been submitted. Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby felt that by writing to the applicant giving his support that there was a risk that Cllr Mr M Williams was in breach of the Parish Council Code of Conduct as the Parish Council had made a decision by a majority and that he is he obliged to abide by that decision as a member of the Parish Council. Cllr Mr M Williams commented that he considered this to be too bad.

Cllr Mr M Williams stated that he had supported the application as a resident of Hurstbourne Priors and not as a Parish Councillor.

**Bench** - The Clerk reported that Mr Brian Pearce has been asked to move the iron bench next to the Bus Shelter and is on his list of jobs to be done.

**Village Gateway** - Mr Pearce has painted the fencing at the entrance to the village on the B3400 at both ends; this emphasizes the entrance to the speed limit. It was agreed that this was a great improvement visually.

**Oak Tree** - The Clerk reported that the Oak Tree has still not arrived from HCC. Cllr Mr T Thacker stated that he will look into it.

**Flashing Speed Sign** - The Clerk asked Cllr Mr T Thacker if he could submit a grant application to him for £1,000 towards the flashing speed sign from his devolved budget? Cllr Mr T Thacker was not sure when the funding would be available and would liaise with the Clerk.

**Hirst Lorries** - Cllr Mrs S Sorby had no news to report.

**Verge** - The Clerk reported that Tony Burden would not be able to start work on filling in the ditches until the Autumn. The Chairman suggested that when the Parish Council meet with Steve Goodall they ask his advice on the diameter of the drainage pipes to be used.

**PLANNING:** Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby reported that the Wind Farm response from Hurstbourne Priors was sent in on time and she thanked Cllr Mr M Williams for his help in compiling the response against this planning application. This planning application will come before committee in October 2013.

Cllr Mr M Williams reported Winchester have sent in over 1,000 responses of which 9 were in favour, 400 were submitted by TVBC of which 15 were in favour, Whitchurch Town Council voted 4 - 1 against, Longparish Parish Council have yet to comment. Helen Butler has spoken about the potential loss of business the Wind Farm will have on the wedding business at Clock Barn.

**CLLR MR K WATTS REPORT:** Cllr Mr K Watts spoke about his year and included reports on :- The diesel leak at Vitacress, The Clock Barn and the effect the Wind Farm will have on the business, possible proposals for a community share from EDF if the Wind Farm goes ahead, The Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan, a proposed traffic assessment on several roads, including the B3400 and Cllr Eric Dunlop sitting on the Basingstoke and Deane Planning Development Control Committee.

**CLLR MR T THACKER'S REPORT:** Cllr Mr T Thacker spoke about :- pot holes, the Village Agent scheme, plans to improve 'Nuns Walk' in Whitchurch, the problem with the mud on the B3400 at Apsley, the drains and sewage problem in St Mary Bourne - it was noted that they are not over pumping at the moment - street lights, the Lengthman Scheme (put on hold until September) - 10 Parishes have expressed an interest - a lead parish still needs to be confirmed and that HCC have signed up with BT to improve the Broadband.

Cllr Mr M Williams spoke about the proposed improvements to broadband and explained why some out lying settlements are just too far away from an exchange and will not get the improved speed unless BT invest in additional exchanges.

### **COUNCILLORS REPORTS:**

**Cllr Mrs C Read** - Wished to record a well done to the May Fair Committee for an excellent event. She reported that it had been observed that older children were playing on the swings at a recent Cricket match and wondered whether the Parish Council should put up a sign stating that there is an age limit for the equipment. The Parish Council agreed and the matter will be looked into.

**FOOTPATH REPORT:** Cllr Mrs C Read reported that as far as she knew all the parish footpaths are walkable.

**RECREATION GROUND REPORT:** Cllr Mrs C Read reported that she had been elected Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee. Bookings are at the same level as last year, the mower has been serviced and she now has a supply of heavy duty bin bags for the rubbish bins.

Cllr Mrs C Read reported that it had been agreed that before the next Recreation Ground meeting, the plaque honouring Robert for his time and devotion to the Cricket Club and the village would be unveiled. Doone Pellow has confirmed that Michael, Robert's son, will be in England during the week of 1<sup>st</sup> July and he would very much like it to happen during this time. The date of the next meeting will therefore be the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013 at 7pm to allow Robert's family to attend. Anyone wishing to attend will be most welcome.

Cllr Mr M Williams reported that he has received an enquiry from Schaffer Ltd to hold a fund raising event on the recreation ground, he understands that this may be along the lines of the May Fair, he will keep the Parish Council informed. Cllr Mr M Williams reported that he is still repairing the shed door to improve its strength.

**VILLAGE HALL REPORT:** Cllr Mrs S Sorby reported that the Village Hall bookings are picking up after a quiet first half of the year.

**BONFIRE:** The Chairman asked the Clerk to put the Bonfire on the Agenda for the next meeting, it should be known by then if we can put on the event in its current format. The date for the bonfire, if it goes ahead, this year will be November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby reported that she had received a letter from Mrs J Chalk congratulating the Parish Council for submitting such a good response objecting to the Wind Farm. Mrs J Chalk asked if a copy of the conservation report be made available in the Village Hall and the Church. Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby will do this.

Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby reported that the Parish Council have received a planning application to increase lorry movements to the Sita Apsley site. The Parish Council briefly discussed this and agreed that the

original conditions must apply regarding the lorry wash - although this has not been working and there is a problem with mud on the road.

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

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:** The date of the next meeting was changed to **17<sup>th</sup> July 2013** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.