

**Minutes of the Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 8th June 2016 in the Hurstbourne Priors Pavilion at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllr Mrs C Read – Chairman
Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby – Vice Chairman
Cllr Mrs S Sorby
Cllr Mr P Smail
Cllr Mr J Broomfield
Cllr Mr C Ekins – (delayed)
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
Graham Finlayson – Web Site
Borough Councillor Mr K Watts
Members of the Public – 4
Mark Fitzpatrick and Brian Norton - Cleanslate (Developers of the Hirst Site)

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

CLEANSLATE

Mr Mark Fitzpatrick addressed the meeting. The plans have been amended slightly and there are now 41,000 square metres of residential and 6,000 of commercial B1 Office use. Smaller houses will be built to meet demand. Cleanslate felt that there was not a need for 5 bed houses as part of this development. The houses will be heated by LPG and be a mix of designs mostly brick and tile but with some thatch and brick and flint. This is to give it more of a village feel, incorporating a green and play areas, and for it to be in keeping with Hurstbourne Priors existing housing. There will be an exhibition in the HBP Village Hall on the 11th June 2016.

The Chairman stated that Cllr C Ekins (who was delayed) had asked if there were plans for the provision of Broadband and if so would it be available for Chapmansford, New Barn Farm, Apsley and all the others at that end of the Parish? Mr Fitzpatrick stated that Cleanslate are in talks with BT and Virgin. Virgin runs its cable along the railway line and would be an ideal partner.

Questions were asked about cleaning the land and possible light pollution. Mr Fitzpatrick answered as best as he could and stated that more information would be available at the exhibition. Mr Fitzpatrick hoped to have the planning application submitted by the end of June 2016. The Chairman thanked Cleanslate for coming and for organising the exhibition which she hoped would be well attended.

A discussion then followed regarding this development. The Chairman reported that she was disappointed by the behaviour of St Mary Bourne Parish Council as they were trying to lay claim to any s106 money available despite having projects within their own Parish. They had also attributed comments to the developers following their own Council Meeting which were incorrect. Cleanslate have had these comments removed from the records.

The Chairman and Cllr Wyatt-Tilby had had an informal meeting with Cleanslate when they took on the development. At that meeting Cllr Wyatt-Tilby outlined the comments made by the Parish Council regarding the planning application with regard to transport and infrastructure. The adoption of a 30mph zone extension from the existing limit at the St Mary Bourne boundary past Tugbury Cottages and some way up either side of the Harroway was something that was also discussed and Cleanslate agreed to support it within their planning application.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Jan Atkinson asked if there was any news on the extension of the 30mph from St Mary Bourne to the cross roads? The Chairman stated that she been in contact with Highways, funding is one hurdle to overcome, even with this in place it can take a minimum of two years to get a speed limit extended. Vitacress are also pushing for the extension to the speed limit. Jan reported that Vitacress are aware that there is a speed problem and are carrying out a Speed Watch on the vehicles visiting and exiting their site.

The Clerk reported that Mandy Ware at Hampshire County Council was the person to contact re speed limits and that he would pass on her contact details to the Chairman.

Jan Atkinson reported that the footpath from Viaduct Cottages to North Tugbury is over grown and impassable past the stretch that she keeps cut. The Chairman will mention this to the Lengthsman to see if it can be included in the work schedule.

Jan Atkinson also spoke about a possible disused footpath on Vitacress land that runs alongside the road, if this could be recommissioned it would be much safer for pedestrians. The Chairman said that she will make enquiries to see if Vitacress would be amenable to this or if a permissive path could be created.

Mr Mark Williams spoke briefly about a recent press report concerning the St Mary Bourne parish Council meeting minutes. The article stated that the Borough Councillor for St Mary Bourne had written to Basingstoke and Dean giving support to all the 106 money from the Hirst development going to St Mary Bourne. Keith Watts was very disappointed to hear this.

Mr Mark Williams reported that the May Fair was a great success this year and generous grants have been given to the Village Hall and the Recreation Ground. Mr Williams suggested that the Recreation Ground Committee now spend some of that money on a specific cause, possible replacing the all weather net. The Chairman agreed that this will be discussed by the Recreation Ground Committee at their next meeting.

Mr Graham Finlayson reported that the 76 Bus Service is to be changed again and will no longer serve the station, the Sunday service is also under review. The Parish Council will make some investigations and contact Stagecoach and County Councillor Tom Thacker. It was agreed that no-one had heard about any consultation on this matter and it seeming strange given that Stagecoach operate SW Trains.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN – Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby proposed Cllr Mrs C Read as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Mr P Smail. There were no other nominations. All agreed. Cllr Mrs C Read was elected Chairman.

VICE CHAIRMAN – Cllr Mrs C Read proposed Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby as Vice Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Mr C Ekins. There were no other nominations. All agreed. Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby was elected Vice Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

(as read to the meeting by the Chairman)

It has been a varied year in Hurstbourne Priors once again. Plenty of planning applications which have raised challenges as well as a full review of our procedures to make sure we comply with the legislation for Local Government Administration.

The planning highlight was the news late last year that Edf had withdrawn its appeal for the wind farm at Bullington and that the Inspectorate Hearing would no longer take place. Thanks again to Sarah, and Mark Williams, for all their hard work in ensuring that Hurstbourne's representations were so powerful. The outline planning application at Hurstbourne Station by Hirst Recycling was approved, we worked with the applicant to try and ensure that our concerns regarding transport and services were understood. I firmly believe that working with developers as well as with the Planning Department is the way ahead. Conversations that I have had with BDBC regarding s106 proforma has already borne fruit.

In total we considered 14 applications this year, four associated ones from Whitchurch which required our input and another variation regarding the Sita site. It must be a matter of concern that the applications from the Bio-digester plant at Apsley continue to be largely retrospective and I know that Sarah has repeatedly logged our disquiet about this with the Planning department. We have introduced the option for planning meetings in the months when there are not PC meetings, though so far have not had to hold one. We look forward to seeing the full details of the Local Plan which was adopted by the Borough Council on May 26.

The Lengthsman scheme appears to work well for us as a Parish but I do have concerns that the budget will remain the same but that the requirement for them to take on previously centrally funded operations, such as footpath maintenance, may stretch the budget too thin. We do also need a feedback system from the Administrator.

Our flashing speed sign continues to 'catch' a vast number of cars exceeding the limits. From May to the end of November it flashed over 30,000 times – there were three weeks off when they were replacing the lampposts – on the 30mph St Mary Bourne Road. Between December and the end of May it flashed a shocking 93,000 times on the B3400. I understand that Community Speed watch based in Tadley are now much more interested in our figures and I will be liaising with them to get mobile lazer speed traps to visit as a proper deterrent.

Peter and I continue to attend the Community Forum meetings held by Vitacress between St Mary Bourne, Hurstbourne and themselves. Chris Hall is keen that these meetings keep both parishes up to date with their plans as well as being able to support their neighbours especially with regard to roads and infrastructure. In recent weeks we have been able to liaise over the threat of over-pumping by Southern Water and will join forces to appeal against the postponement of the re-surfacing of the valley road, and in particular at Chapmansford Cross, as a result of the continued tankering by Southern Water.

The Recreation Ground is looking much better and the new cutting regime for the outfield has been working well. We are currently getting quotes for the re-thatching of the Pavilion and re-fitting of the kitchen and shower rooms so that we can apply for funding allocated as part of the s106 Hirst project. We have also been notified that funding is available for green spaces and the provision of play and fitness equipment. To this end we have had quotations for the installation of a Trim-Trail on the recreation ground.

This year our May Fair was a tremendous success, despite some rather 'seasonal' weather towards the end of a very happy afternoon. Jim Vyse took over the running of it after Helen Mehaffy's very successful tenure and with the support of an excellent and dedicated committee. The profit for the event was £13,475.71 which has led to very generous contributions to the Church, Village Hall and Recreation Ground. Since the demise of the Bonfire and Fireworks following the tightening of the rules on insurance, safety and placement this is the sole fundraising event for the village and it is invaluable for the beneficiaries.

Once again there was a fantastic Safari Supper organised by the Goads' and the Sorbies' which had a record number of households involved including several new families within the village. As always it was a fun and entertaining evening and my thanks to the organisers.

We had a great turn out for the Clean For The Queen tidy-up of the Village, Recreation Ground, Church and Churchyard. A great effort by all and our picture in Country Life as well! I think it would be nice if we could co-ordinate the annual village clean-ups between the Parish and Parochial councils in the future.

Finally, my thanks to our County and Borough Councillors for their support, Graham for his work on the web-site and especially my thanks to Richard without whom things really would not run so smoothly.

FINACIAL REPORT.

CHEQUES AND PAYMENTS ISSUED - June 2016

Aviva	Insurance - DD	£138.44
Eon Electricity	Pavilion - DD	£8.00
R.N. Waterman	Wages - DD	£160.00
Dave Haggar	Mole Control	£80.00
Mr B Pearce	Maintenance	£200.00

Derek's Garden machinery - Mower Service	£181.75
CPUK	£189.00
Drain and Sewer	£222.60
Web Site	
2 x emptying of cess pit	
	<u>£1,179.79</u>

INCOME

½ Precept and Grants = £5,559.00

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE AFTER ABOVE - £8,225.14

END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS

The Clerk produced the end of year accounts and explained each item. The Parish Clerk produced the annual return form for the year ending 31st March 2016. The Parish Council agreed to adopt the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statement. Proposed by Cllr Mrs C Read, seconded by Cllr P Smail. All agreed. The Chairman signed the Annual return form.

TUFTON

Cllr J Broomfield reported the sad news that Tufton have again been the target for vandalism. The Church has been the victim of silver spray paint and the night before the meeting the Church was entered and the alter cross was broken. The Police have been informed but were not keen to visit the crime scene. The parish Council were shocked to hear this news. On a positive note there is a Mini Flower Show to look forward to celebrate the Queen's Birthday celebrations this weekend.

The telephone box has been painted, the signs have been re-erected on the B3400 and the weeds are growing again on the A34 slip road.

Cllr C Read suggested that Grass Crete (the plastic modular system that allows the grass to grow through) be laid in the grass parking area, this could be a solution to the 'sinking' problem.

Cllr J Broomfield reminded the Clerk about the £100 (2 Years) grant for the Tufton Church. A cheque will be issued.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record. Matters arising from those minutes: -

TUFTON BRIDGE – Tufton Bridge has now, finally, been scheduled for repair. Cllr C Read had been pestering the bridges department in Winchester for some time over this. The road will have to be closed during construction work as it is now in such a poor state and it is hoped that the work will happen in August.

PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY – There is still a vacancy on the Parish Council.

PLAY AREA – The Clerk reported that the piece of equipment Cllr Mr P Smail suggested at the previous meeting costs £7,000. The details were passed to the Chairman for inclusion in any bid for green space/recreation funding.

PLANNING

Orchard Venue – The Chairman spoke about the Wedding/Party/Celebration business that has been set up using the Orchard next to the church as the venue. The Chairman reported that she has received many varied comments on this issue. She has visited the owner and passed these worries on and also sent a follow-up letter. It is hoped that these will be taken on board before any events take place.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR K WATTS

Cllr Mr K Watts reported that he has not done a lot for Hurstbourne Priors over the last year. A lot of his time is taken up with planning applications and the new Local Plan which has just been adopted after much consultation.

Cllr Mr K Watts spoke at length about planning, the Hirst Development, 106 money the new infrastructure levy and HCC Devolution. He reiterated his concern about the behaviour of St Mary Bourne Parish Council and said that he would contact his counterpart to discuss it.

PARISH COUNCILLORS REPORTS.

CLLR P SMAIL – Reported that when he was Chairman the three parish Chairman's (HBP, Longparish, St Mary Bourne) met occasionally to discuss village issues, this was extremely helpful. The Chairman thought this a good idea.

Cllr P Smail stated that he was encouraged that the developers of the Hirst Site have recognised the need for smaller houses and hoped that some would be affordable homes or bungalows.

Cllr P Smail stated that Dairy Cottage is falling down and is looking very untidy, what is happening to the redevelopment plans for the Equestrian Centre? Was there any news? The Chairman will try to get an up-date before the next meeting.

CLLR S WYATT-TILBY – Reported that the telephone in the telephone box is not working and that she will report this to BT.

CLLR S SORBY – Reported that large lorries have started coming through the village, there seems to be an increase in Builders Merchants and Grain lorries. This was noted.

CLLR C EKINS – Reported that if the litter collecting was carried out on the Harrow Way he felt it had not been done well. The Chairman thought this had been done as it was on the list for the Lengthsman. It was agreed that the amount of traffic probably made litter picking rather risky.

CLLR C READ – Reminded everyone of the Queens 90th Birthday Celebration in the village. The new car park at Andover station is now open. There is a Health Focus talk in Alton on the 21st June 2016 discussing strokes. There has been a spate of illegal poachers in the area and walkers have been asked to make a note of any suspicious looking 4x4 or jeep type vehicles. There has been a certain amount of crop damage at Apsley by illegal poachers but the entrance to the field has now been blocked.

FOOTPATHS REPORT

The Chairman reported that as far as she knew all the Footpaths were clear and walkable. Cllr C Read would speak to the Testbourne Estate about cutting their permissive paths and especially F13 which connects Tufton to Dirty Corner. It was felt that this was not on their 'radar' as previously the fields had been grazed and therefore there was no excess vegetation. The footpath maps obtained from HCC are proving difficult to condense into a readable map so its back to the drawing board and other options will be looked into.

RECREATION GROUND REPORT

Booking for the 2016 Season are good. Costings for the refurbishment of the Pavilion including re-thatching are being looked into as it is hoped to use the 106 money allocated. Cllr C Read to obtain some quotes. It was agreed that she would also ask for the rethatching of the bus stop to be done at the same time as this could be more cost effective.

VILLAGE HALL

Cllr S Sorby has reported that application for the financing of the floor has been completed. Cllr S Sorby confirmed that the Village Hall have received a generous contribution from the May Fair. The Chairman reported that HCC will not pay for a Village Hall Sign and suggested that the Vitacress Community Fund be approached. She would ask Steve Goodall for the suppliers details.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman reported that she had received a letter of thanks from Mr and Mrs French for the work the Lengthsman did in digging out the ditch behind the bus stop. This did not flood after a recent heavy rainfall.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATES FOR THE 2016 MEETINGS

29th June – Planning Meeting
27th July – Parish Council
31st August – Planning Meeting
28th September – Parish Council
26th October – Planning Meeting
30th November – Parish Council
21st December – Planning Meeting