

Minutes of the Annual Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th May 2014 in Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mr P Smail – Chairman

Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby - Vice Chairman
Cllr Mrs C Read
Cllr Mr C Ekins
Cllr Mr J Broomfield
Cllr Mr M Williams
Richard Waterman - Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mr T Thacker
Borough Councillor Mr K Watts
Mr G Finlayson - Web Site

Apologies: Cllr Mrs S Sorby

WELCOME: Cllr Mr P Smail welcomed everyone to the meeting

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no Declarations of Interest recorded.

CLLR MR T THACKER'S REPORT: County Freezes Council Tax for Fifth Year Running

Despite having received cuts in central government funding of 43% since 2010, we have again, along with the Borough Council, frozen our part of Council Tax. This keeps it at the same level for the fifth year running. For a Band D property our part remains at £1,037.88, which is one of the lowest county council rates in England.

Budget - The County is having to make further 12% cuts across the board.

All departments will have to make savings, so local communities will need to think about how, for example, to provide their own local transport services. It is likely that more community services will need to involve the voluntary sector more.

Highways - The County Council has budgeted £54 million for highway maintenance and has submitted a bid to Government for further funds to repair local roads damaged by the severe winter weather. The Council is bidding for a share of the extra £168million funding that Government is making available to councils across the country this year, following the wettest winter on record. Estimates are that Hampshire's flood damaged roads will cost about £36 million to put right.

Transport - Hampshire County Council is asking for the views of both passengers and Hampshire residents on bus and community transport services funded or subsidised by the County Council in a current consultation. The consultation closes on 31st May.

The County Council needs to reduce spending by over £1.25million from public and community transport spending - as part of the 12% overall savings the Council needs to make.

Broadband - The County Council is rolling out its Rural Broadband programme, whereby 90% of Hampshire have fast broadband by 2015, and 95% of the county will be covered by 2017.

Hurstbourne Priors Matters - Tufton - I have asked the highways projects team to seriously consider replacing the white "cat's eyes" - on the Hampshire County Council administered stretch of the hatchings on the off slip road of the A34 - with red reflectors, as are used on the Highways Authority administered section. I will report their response, when I have it.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN: Cllr Mr P Smail stated that after 5 years in the role,

he wished to stand down as Chairman but will remain on the Parish Council. Cllr Mr P Smail wanted to give the Parish Council time to discuss the next Chairman and he would therefore continue as Chairman and will stand down at the November meeting.

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The year has not been dominated by large planning applications for a change, but the notable planning applications were from the ex-Vitacress house called Cressington, phase two of the Bio Digester at Faulkners Down Farm, the ongoing Wind farm at Bullington Cross and the 'on hold' application for the re-development of part of the equestrian Centre.

We have two new Councillors, Jeff Broomfield and Charles Ekins, who came from opposite ends of the Parish, which now gives us representatives from all parts of the Parish which can only be good. Tufton continues to raise funds for the refurbishment of the church and has recently held a Flower Festival which was very successful. The May Fair was held as normal, but the Bonfire had a sabbatical due to the cropping plan of the field in which it is normally held, hopefully this year it will be business as usual.

The Recreation Ground has a new Chairman - Clare Read. The Recreation Ground Committee have been busy with repairs to the pavilion, new showers and the major expense of refurbishing the Cricket Square roller which was funded by the Parish Council and the Cricket Club 50/50.

Highways - The Council has reported pot holes, had the village Gate Ways painted white, washed road signs and most importantly purchased the Flashing Speed Reminder Sign, part funded by our County Councillors Devolved Budget. A 50 MPH speed limit is due to be introduced between Hurstbourne Priors and Whitchurch. The Play Area on the recreation Ground has been refurbished and is soon to be re-painted. HBP has joined the Lengthsman Scheme along with 9 other parishes in the area. This is the first year so we will monitor its progress.

I would like to thank Sarah Wyatt-Tilby for her work with the planning applications and the village tidy up, Graham Finlayson for his continued work with Hill and Valley and the setting up of the web site. I would also like to thank the other Parish Councillors for their continued hard work on other committees and responsibilities. And finally a thank you to our Clerk, Richard Waterman, for his hard work and organisation of the Council (especially the Chairman).

TUFTON: Cllr Mr J Broomfield reported that the Flower Festival held on the 17th May was a great success, over 300 people attended both days and £3000 was raised towards the Church refurbishment project. The flowers lasted several weeks and provided a visual display for events held in the church.

The Environment Agency have carried out works on the old railway embankment. Work appears to have finished but the contractor has to return to the site to carry out levelling works. It was noted that the land in question now belongs to Mr Tacchi.

Cllr Mr J Broomfield stated that he was impressed at the speed Basingstoke and Deane delivered the Dog Fouling signs following the request for them at the March meeting. The recent bad weather highlighted several blocked drains in Tufton, these locations will be forwarded to Cllr Mrs C Read to add to the Highway issues list for Steve Goodall.

Cllr Mr J Broomfield reported that Tufton are soon to have new residents and asked to look at the welcome letter sent to new residents to see if it could be slightly tweaked for Tufton. He would forward their names and addresses to Cllr Mrs Sorby.

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

Matters arising from those Minutes :-

Flashing Speed Sign - Cllr Mrs C Read reported that from the 11th April to the 12th May the Flashing Speed Reminder Sign (SID) has been activated 31,000 times. The data is forwarded to PC Paula Deery and will be used as evidence to build up a portfolio to back up a request for a reduction in the speed limit on the B3400 thorough Hurstbourne Priors. The Parish Council were staggered at the figure of activations, it was suggested that the rubber strips that monitor speed and vehicle movements are requested for the B3400.

Planning Enforcement - The Clerk reported that Basingstoke and Deane are taking further action on the issue of the caravans on the land adjacent to Andover Road.

Telephone Box - Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby reported that BT have refurbished the telephone box and re-commissioned the telephone.

Highways - Cllr Mrs C Read reported that the Highways list of issues is regularly up-dated and forwarded to Steve Goodall the Highways Engineer.

Lengthman Scheme - Cllr Mr M Williams up-dated the Parish Council on the jobs he has requested for the Parish. He intended to submit the request to the Lengthsman Co-ordinator the following morning.

2014 Bonfire Event - Cllr Mrs C Read reported that the date of the St Mary Bourne bonfire has still not been confirmed. The site for the bonfire has been provisionally confirmed as available, if this is not confirmed and access agreed by the July Meeting the event will be shelved.

PLANNING: Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby reported that a meeting to discuss the Bullington Wind Farm application is to be held on the 16th June 2014. Cllr Mr M Williams will attend and secure a slot to speak at the meeting. Cllr Mr M Williams spoke about several issues that have been raised by the Hampshire Energy Group that could have a bearing on the way the application is viewed.

Cllr Mr K Watts stated that, due to the recent elections in May, there has been a shift of power and he was not sure if he would still be on the Planning Committee.

Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby spoke about Neighbourhood Plans. Hurstbourne Priors and Tufton are protected against development within their Conservation Plans. To produce a Neighbourhood Plan will take a considerable amount of work and it is questionable if will be of benefit to our parish. It was suggested that it may be more prudent to take the existing Conservation Plan and add to it to produce a Village Design Statement.

Cllr Mr J Broomfield stated that he would like more information on the benefit of Neighbourhood Plans before making comment. Cllr Mr K Watts stated the Conservation Plans are to be reviewed. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR K WATTS: Cllr Mr K Watts stated that he has given his full support to the Village Hall Committee's application for an allocation from the Local Infrastructure Fund. Due to the recent elections the decisions by the allocations committee have been put on hold. Cllr Mr K Watts spoke about Dog Fouling and an issue with the police and fixed penalty notices, parking at Whitchurch railway station and access issues and the Borough Councils new constitution.

FINANCE

CHEQUES AND PAYMENTS ISSUED APRIL AND MAY 2014

Dave Haggart	Mole Control	£80.00
Southern Water	Pavilion Water	£15.76
Drain and Sewer Services	Cess Pit Empty - May Fair	£147.60
Input Joinery	Repairs panels Play Area	£228.00
Mr B Pearce	Repairs Play Area	£140.00

STANDING ORDERS

Aviva	Insurance - April	£133.70
Aviva	Insurance - May	£133.70
R.N. Waterman	Wages - April	£150.00
R.N. Waterman	Wages - May	£150.00
EON	Pavilion Electricity April	£18.00
EON	Pavilion Electricity May	£18.00

£1,214.76

INCOME

½ Precept	£3500.00
Grant	£1200.00
Grass Grant	£ 673.00
CC share Roller	£ 235.50
Cricket Fees	£ 260.00
	£5,868.50

MONEY DUE IN :-

VAT Refund £187.80

WORKING BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE AFTER ABOVE

£5,700.30

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 1.4.2013 TO 31.3.2014

The Clerk produced a report on the end of year accounts. Each item was explained. The Clerk reported that the internal Auditor, Mr Paul Reynolds, has completed the accounts and has not raised any issues.

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the accounts. The Chairman signed section 1 - Accounting Statements 2014/14 and section 2 - Annual Governance statement 2013/14 on the Audit Form. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for keeping such good account.

COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

Cllr Mr M Williams - reported that Hill and Valley made a profit of £1500 last financial year and have cash deposits of £22,000. The Committee decided not to give the Parishes grants again this year.

Printing costs are in the region of £6,000 a year.

Cllr Mrs C Read - reported that a parishioner has kindly offered to replace the Lych Gate fixings that were stolen some time ago. The Clerk will arrange to drop off the remaining part so that it can be matched.

A bus service consultation form has been handed to the bus users, many of the questions may not be relevant to the service provided for our area but it gave an insight into the cuts Cllr Thacker spoke about at the start of the meeting.

Cllr Mrs C Read reported that the horses in the field at the top of the hill on the B3400 got out onto the main road and caused quite a commotion. Traffic was held up for some time whilst they were rounded up on a particularly dangerous bit of the road. The horses have now been moved.

FOOTPATHS REPORT: Cllr Mrs C Read reported that the grass in the middle of the gallops needs cutting and that she will report this to Mr Tacchi's Agent. All the footpaths are clear and walkable. Cllr Mr J Broomfield reported that one of the finger posts is missing by the little bridge at Tufton.

Cllr Mr M Williams spoke about a recent re-opening of an old Bye-way by Hampshire County Council in another parish and wondered if there were any lost footpaths that could be re-instated in Hurstbourne Priors. This was noted.

RECREATION GROUND REPORT: Cllr Mrs C Read reported that a list of rolling repairs to the Pavilion is being put together and quotes obtained. The new shower has been fitted. The Cricket Club are extremely happy with the refurbished roller.

Cllr Mr M Williams reported that the first game of cricket has been played, one game has been rained off but has been re-booked for later in the year. Bookings are looking similar to last year.

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

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: 30th July 2014 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm