

HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the annual meeting of the Parish Council held on 22 May 2012 in the Village Hall

Present: John Anderson (Chairman), Mike Parry, Stewart Payne and Mike Whittall;
Jane Woolley (clerk); Cllr. Elizabeth Cable; and four members of the public
(invited for specific agenda items)

Apologies: Paul Pattinson, Philip Underwood and Cllr. Adam Taylor-Smith

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

On a proposal by Mike Parry, seconded by Mike Whittall, John Anderson was elected Chairman. On a proposal by John Anderson, seconded by Mike Whittall, Philip Underwood was elected Vice-Chairman.

2. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

These were reconfirmed.

3. REGISTERS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

These were reviewed and up-dated as necessary by all Councillors present at the meeting.

4. COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

Noted that there had been no call for an election to fill the vacancy and that Karen Jones was willing to become a member; noted her (tabled) CV; and **agreed** that she should be co-opted, to serve until the date of the next elections.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2012 were **agreed** and signed.

6. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

7. ASSOCIATE VICAR

Welcomed the Rev. Catherine McBride (who joined the meeting for this item) to the village and wished her well in her new appointment.

8. TUESLEY FARM

Invited David Kay (who joined the meeting for this item) to give a brief progress report and in particular noted proposals for improving the community path and the rights of way that

cross the farm; the hope that a “Pedestrians in Road” sign could be located where the community path exits onto Station Lane; the planning application to change some of the farm buildings to residential accommodation; and the offer to arrange a local Hambledon open day at some time in the future if it were felt that this would enhance the already good relations which Tuesley Farm has with the village.

9. JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Welcomed Peter Cross (who joined the meeting for this item); noted arrangements so far made for building the bonfire in his field and installing lighting; and **agreed** that people attending the party but who wished to be present when the bonfire was lit should be encouraged to walk, rather than drive, up to the field from the Cricket Green.

Noted that most of the 200 tickets for the party had been taken up; discussed arrangements for the hog roast and providing supplementary food; and noted offers of help from various Parish Councillors with particular aspects of the arrangements.

Noted that the signs commemorating both the Queen’s Coronation 1953 and the Diamond Jubilee 2012 were now ready and **agreed** that they should be installed at each end of the village on 1 or 2 June.

10. FINANCE

Cheques

Agreed and signed the following

- Hambledon Almshouses, contribution to fund-raising appeal (S.137)	£1,000.00
- Workstation, print cartridge	£ 24.99
- Norris & Gardiner, Cricket Green cutting, April	£ 199.94
- Richard Kettle, entertainment, Jubilee party (S.137)	£ 120.00
- Information Commissioner, data protection registration	£ 35.00

11. PLANNING

Planning applications

Confirmed the Planning Committee’s decisions not to object to the following

- WA12/0594 – 9 Nutbourne Cottages, extensions
- WA13/0707 – Rose Cottage, Cricket Green, installation of dormer window
- WA12/0725-6 – Oakhurst Cottage, installation of toilet facilities
- AG12/2001 – construction of agricultural barn, Marepond and Little Burgate Farms.

WA12/0399 - Springfields, Woodlands Road. Noted that the owner was appealing Waverley’s decision to refuse planning permission for the proposed dormer windows and that he had been asked to lodge the appeal by 12 June.

12. VILLAGE MATTERS

Bus review. Noted the recommendation that the 503 service through Hambledon should be retained and should run on three, instead of the present two, days a week; that all the recommendations would be considered by SCC’s Cabinet on 29 May; and that they could well be revisited thereafter.

Ditch, Vann Lane. Noted that the ditch opposite Goodbrook House had been dug out but that a jetter was still required to deal with the blocked drain connecting the ditch to the one on the other side of the road.

Telephone box at the Village Shop. Noted that Stewart Payne had had no reply to his e-mail to BT asking if the box could be repainted.

13. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Oakhurst Cottage

Ion Campbell (who joined the meeting for this item) reported on the problems which had given rise to the meeting held between himself, Elizabeth Waring, Norman Gravestock, the Chairman, the Clerk and Daniel Duffie (National Trust) on 9 May. For a number of years the Oakhurst stewards had been concerned at the lack of response to their requests to the NT to do work on the cottage and make it more interesting to visitors: visitors numbers had dropped; and the cottage was losing so much money that it had been on the brink of closure. Last year Mr Duffie had taken over its management and had got agreement from the NT that the income it derived from all its Hambledon properties could be pooled, thus making more funds available for Oakhurst. Bookings had transferred to Winkworth Arboretum, which meant they could be accepted on an as-needed basis; maintenance work had been carried out on the cottage and the garden; and visitor numbers had increased by 127 per cent compared with 2010. However, a new cause of concern had now arisen, namely the NT's decision to do away with visits by appointment only at weekends. This made it almost impossible for stewards to give proper guided tours (without which a visit to Oakhurst was of little interest); they were also having to turn visitors away due to the lack of space.

Prior to the meeting on 9 May, neither Ion Campbell nor Mr Duffie had been aware of the Trust Deed executed in 1984 between the National Trust and the Parish Council whereby Oakhurst was to be operated by the NT as a cottage museum; managed by an Advisory Committee of two NT representatives and five members appointed by the Parish Council; and open to the public by appointment only. A strong case was made at the meeting for a return to the original opening days/hours and to visits by appointment only. Mr Duffie agreed that these should be reinstated in 2013, with the necessary information being included in that year's NT handbook. To alleviate the situation at weekends for the remainder of the 2012 season, he undertook to amend the Oakhurst page on the NT web site to state that at all times visits were to be by appointment.

Following on from advice provided by Ion Campbell and with the agreement of all concerned, it was **agreed** that the five Hambledon representatives on the reconstituted Advisory Committee should be Ion Campbell, Norman Gravestock, Gill Hubsch, John Adams and Jane Woolley (to be replaced by a Parish Councillor after portfolios for 2012-13 were agreed). It was also recommended that Gay Mabley should remain secretary (a role she had carried out since the inception of the Advisory Committee) and that Sarah King should be nominated as an alternate member.

Almshouses

Noted that the fund-raising appeal had already raised nearly £10,000; that grant-makers and other outside bodies were about to be targeted; that it would be appropriate to include in these Waverley Borough Council and landfill trusts; and that Cllr. Andrew Povey could be asked if he could support the appeal from his SCC allowance for Parishes within his ward.

14. OUTSIDE MEETINGS

CPRE. Noted that Mike Parry had attended the Surrey Committee meeting on 17 May when discussion topics had included Tuesley Farm's planning application, possible caravan pitches/sites and Village Design Statements (for which there was considerable support).

15. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman of the Trustees of the Hambledon Almshouses: letter thanking the Parish Council for its donation to the fund raising appeal.

Superfast broadband in Surrey: report in its May newsletter that the infrastructure provider's contract was expected to be awarded by SCC's Cabinet on 24 July.

16. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 22.10

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26 June 2012