

HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

of the Parish Council meeting held on 24 April 2012 in the Village Hall

Present: John Anderson (Chairman), Mike Parry, Paul Pattinson, Stewart Payne, Philip Underwood and Mike Whittall; Jane Woolley (clerk); and one member of the public

Apologies: Cllrs. Adam Taylor-Smith and Elizabeth Cable

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Colemans Copse. On behalf of the Hambledon Heritage Society, Audrey Monk sought the Parish Council's support for the Society's wish that public access should be maintained to Coleman's Copse, following its transfer to the Parish Council by Millgate Homes. This could be done by claiming public rights over land, now owned by Millgate Homes but which was not thought ever to have been enclosed and which was criss-crossed by well-marked footpaths, bridleways and causeways that had been utilised for well over 20 years by many existing Hambledon residents. A petition to this effect to Surrey County Council had to be supported by at least 20 signatories of which 14 had already been obtained and at least eight more were expected. The Society hoped that action to achieve statutory status for these paths might deter attempts to enclose the remainder of the land. The Society was also keen that a part of Coleman's Copse should be cleared, as an indication of the Parish Council's wish to manage its newly-acquired land as a village asset.

BW186. Audrey Monk reported that old boundary fence on the northern side of BW186 (from the Merry Harriers to Busses Common) lay to the north of the boundary bank but that a new fence had been erected on its southern side and that the bank itself had been coppiced and replanted.

BW199. Audrey Monk reported that the original exit into the field from the southern end of Halfpenny Copse remained blocked, despite previous efforts, including by the Parish Council, to have this reinstated.

FORMAL BUSINESS

1. COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

Noted and accepted with regret Sarah Stuckey's resignation; that the consequential vacancy would accordingly be advertised; that if within 14 days a poll was requested by not less than 10 electors a bye-election would be held; but that, if no election was requested, the Council had the power to fill the vacancy by co-option.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2012 were **agreed** and signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were none.

4. FINANCE

Cheques

Approved the following

- Abbey Bookbindery, binding Parish Council minutes 1999-2010 £ 65.00

Agreed and signed the following

- AON Ltd, annual insurance premium £593.55

- Workstation, photocopies for Parish Assembly £ 18.90

- NALC, annual subscription, Local Council Review £ 27.00

- Philip Underwood, village clean-up barbeque refreshments (S.137) £ 51.38

- Hambledon Village Shop, Parish Assembly refreshments (S.137) £ 96.25

Annual accounts

Agreed and signed off the final accounts for 2011-12 (attached to the file copy of these minutes) and thanked Raymond Smith for having carried out the internal audit.

Confirmed and completed the annual governance statement forming part of the annual return to the external auditor.

Noted the requirement of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 for a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal audit and once again **agreed** that it would be appropriate for this to be carried out by the Parish Council. As suggested by the External Auditors, reviewed the internal auditors' report, **confirmed** that audit planning and reporting and the scope of last year's internal audit had been carried out in accordance with the Audit Commission, **confirmed** that the internal auditor was independent of and had no relationships with any member of the Parish Council or the Clerk; and **confirmed** that he was a Chartered Accountant.

Noted the enhanced level of fidelity guarantee and the requirement to review this annually; noted that the maximum cash assets held at any one time were c.£16,500 and that these were never held anywhere other than in one of the two Parish Council accounts with Lloyds TSB; and **agreed** that, as two Councillors' signatures were required before any funds could be withdrawn from either account, the cost of any extra insurance would be disproportionate to the risk involved and could not be justified as a charge against the precept.

Hambledon Almshouses

Agreed that a one-off grant from the Parish Council would help to boost the fund-raiding appeal which had been launched at the Parish Assembly and that a donation of £1,000, from the Parish Council's reserve funds, should therefore be formally approved at the next meeting.

5. PLANNING

WA12/0350 – Lilac Cottage, Cricket Green. **Endorsed** the Planning Committee's decision once again to support this application; noted the request that, if Waverley Officers were minded to refuse it, it should be taken to Committee; and noted that Mike Whittall would pursue this request with Cllr. Cable.

WA12/0399 - Springfields, Woodlands Road. Noted that, following the Parish Council's objection to the proposed dormer windows, the property owner had enquired of the Chairman what alternative would be acceptable and that the Chairman had said he would seek the further views of Councillors. **Agreed** that the proposed two-bay dormer windows were no less acceptable than the existing three-bay ones which were the subject of enforcement action; reiterated its disquiet with the overall scale of development that was taking place at this highly visible property within the conservation area; **agreed** that its position remained

one of objection to any form of dormer window; and **agreed** to stand by its previously expressed opinion (WA11/1777) that, on the assumption that the additional roof space that had been created could not be challenged, it would not object to the installation of two velux windows – providing the dormer windows were first removed.

Dunsfold aerodrome. Noted that Waverley's refusal to vary conditions to permit additional flying over the period of the Olympics had been upheld on appeal; that the application had been resubmitted; and that the Parish Council's previous objections had also been resubmitted.

Waverley Core Strategy. Noted that the Parish Council's comments had already been agreed, submitted and circulated for information to Councillors.

Upper Tuesley development brief. Noted that the Parish Council's comments had already been agreed, submitted and circulated for information to Councillors.

Tuesley Farm. On an oral report by Stewart Payne, noted that the Farm owners had undertaken to make improvements to the community path and that the Farm manager, David Kay, had suggested an annual programme of meetings with the Parish Council to discuss issues of concern. **Agreed** that this would be useful and that if possible Mr Kay would attend at the start of the meeting on 22 May.

6. VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

Noted that Adam Taylor-Smith was unfortunately not able to be present due to an urgent Waverley meeting but that responses to a list of the Parish Council's concerns (attached to the file copy of these minutes) had been provided by Sarah Wells, the responsible Waverley Officer. **Agreed** that, given the protections that were already afforded to Hambledon by existing Waverley practices and government policies, the benefits that would accrue from a VDS were far outweighed by the time and effort that would be needed for its preparation; **agreed** not to proceed for the time being with a VDS; noted that such a decision did not rule out the possibility of preparing a VDS (or LDF) at some future date; and **agreed** that both topics should be revisited in a year's time.

7. VILLAGE FETE AND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Noted that the meeting to finalise arrangements for the fete was scheduled for 17 May and that some excellent prizes had already been donated for the draw. Noted the many competing events that would be taking place over the Jubilee week-end and that good publicity would be essential to a good turnout at the fete and also at the Parish Council party on the Monday evening. Noted various ideas regarding timing and arrangements for the party; **agreed** that the Clerk should take these into account in preparing an initial brief and asked that any further ideas should be e-mailed to her as soon as possible; and **agreed** expenditure of up to £1000, to be met from the Parish Council's reserve funds.

Arising from the decision at the previous meeting that it would be appropriate for the village to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee, **agreed** to accept the rough estimate (£1160 net of VAT) for two replacement signs at each end of the village, of an identical design but also incorporating the wording "2012, Diamond Jubilee"; expressed the hope that these could be unveiled at the Parish Council party; and agreed that the final cost of the signs should be met from the Parish Council's reserve funds.

8. VILLAGE MATTERS

Police. Noted the annual report that had been submitted for the Parish Assembly and noted that this had been included in the write-up of the Assembly in both the Parish Magazine and on the web site.

Rights of way and access over common land. Arising from the Audrey Monk's presentation, **agreed** to support an application to Surrey County Council to maintain public access rights to Colemans Copse and that this should be submitted as soon as possible to ensure that any prospective purchaser of the site was aware of the claim. Also **agreed** to take up with the appropriate SCC Rights of Way Officer the problems affecting BWs 186 and 199.

Road maintenance. Noted the on-going deterioration of Rock Hill and Lane End, neither of which was included in SCC's current maintenance schedule; noted the possibility of repairs being financed from monies left over from 2011-12; and **agreed** that the Parish Council should submit a written question to this effect to the next meeting (on 22 June) of the SCC Local Committee in Waverley.

Telephone box at Hambledon Village Shop. Noted that the windows were leaking and the exterior needed repainting; and thanked Stewart Payne for offering to pursue the need for these repairs with BT.

9. PARISH ASSEMBLY, 19 APRIL; VILLAGE CLEAN-UP, 21 APRIL

Noted the success of both events and the Chairman's thanks to all those involved in their organisation.

10. VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

There were no reports.

Oakhurst Cottage

Noted that the meeting with the local NT manager, Daniel Duthie, was scheduled for 11 May.

11. OUTSIDE MEETINGS

CPRE. Noted that Ion Campbell had resigned from the Surrey Committee and that, with a view to succeeding him, Mike Parry would be attending the next Committee meeting, on 17 May.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 22.020

Date of next (annual) meeting: Tuesday 22 May 2012