

HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY held on Friday 25 April in the Village Hall

Present: John Anderson (chairman of the Parish Council, in the chair); Parish Councillors Jane Caie, Derek Miller, Paul Pattinson, Stewart Payne and Philip Underwood; Parish Clerk Jane Woolley; Surrey County Councillor Andrew Povey; Waverley Borough Councillors Elizabeth Cable and Adam Taylor-Smith; Mary Orton, Chief Executive, Waverley Borough Council; Charles Orange, Chairman, Hascombe Parish Council; Wendy Varcoe, Chief Executive, Surrey Community Foundation; and approximately 70 villagers

Apologies: Arthur and Sue Blackman, Stuart and Ursula Cook, Caroline and George Pitt, Raymond and Peggy Smith, Dinah Staines, and Ron and Ann Vickery

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

These were circulated to all present, taken as read and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

2. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising that were not covered by other items on the agenda.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Highlights of the report (printed in the June issue of the Parish Magazine) were as follows:

Planning. 11 applications had been reviewed, mainly extensions, alterations and garages, of which Waverley had approved 8. The application for polytunnels at Tuesley Farm had been supported (and subsequently approved by Waverley) and the Parish Council was taking part in on-going consultations on accommodation for the Farm's work force and on possible future uses for Dunsfold Aerodrome. The Parish Council continued to enjoy good relations with Waverley on all planning matters and particularly appreciated the help and support it received from Councillors Cable and Taylor-Smith.

Mains drainage. At long last work had started on the Hambledon and Wormley first-time drainage scheme, which would be the subject of a subsequent report.

Traffic and roads. Traffic speeds were now being monitored by the Community Speed Watch team. Potholes remained a problem due to Surrey County Council's continued lack of funding for highways improvements, which was also preventing the introduction of remedial measures to reduce the accident potential of the Hydestile Crossroads.

Village security. PC John Hockley had been replaced as Hambledon's police officer by PC Samantha Barnettt. The village's thanks were due to both of them, and also to Ron Vickery and the Neighbourhood Watch team.

Football. The Club had now purchased the football field and submitted a planning application for a new pavilion which had been supported by the Parish Council.

The village shop. The up-graded shop and Post Office had been formally opened by Jeremy Hunt MP last summer. Under Philip Underwood's management the shop was now trading at a small profit and, with the help of a vigorous village campaign, the Post Office had escaped closure under the current national Post Office rural closures programme.

The Church Rooms had been inaugurated and were being put to good use.

Village maintenance. Tim Coleman continued to keep the village trim and tidy and all villagers were urged to clear litter whenever spotted.

Almshouses, Nursery School, Village Hall, Oakhurst Cottage. All continued to function well and thanks were due to all those concerned with their management and stewardship.

Communications. Not only did the village have its Parish Magazine, thanks to Derek Miller and his helpers, but there was now to be a Hambledon Village Web Site which would be the subject of a following report.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors for all they did for the village; the Clerk for keeping them in order; Cynthia Miller and her helpers for the refreshments which would round off the evening; and all villagers for their efforts and interest in Hambledon which were what made it such an active community.

4. FINANCE

The audited accounts for 2006-7 were circulated to all present. There were no comments.

5. MAINS DRAINAGE

Stephen Anthony, Project Manager for the scheme, reported that a compound had been set up at Cooper's Place and that, despite problems with the heavy rain, work in the Wormley area was now well under way on this £10m contract for which a February 2009 completion date was envisaged. The scheme would provide connections to the mains for 174 properties, of which 56 were statutorily required to connect due to pollution problems. Connections should start at the end of 2008, following completion of the up-grading of the Chiddingfold pumping station. Anyone having specific issues to raise was invited to contact Mr Anthony at the end of the meeting or at the project compound.

6. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Cricket Club. On behalf of Arthur Blackman, Mic Coleman reported that the 1st XI had come second in the Village League and the 2nd XI fourth in its section. The friendly XI had also had a good season and new players for all three teams would be very welcome. Hambledon Colts, of whom there were now 80, maintained its teams for the under-9s, -11s, -13s and -15s; but more adult support was needed for coaching (for which paid training would be provided) and for transport to matches.

Football Club. Mic Coleman reported that the 1st XI had come second in the Premier Division, the 2nd XI were at mid-table in Division IV (south) and the Veterans continued to roll on and stagger off. Play would resume on the renovated ground in the autumn. Subject to planning permission being granted and enough money being raised, the new Pavilion could also be up and running by then. The Club was thinking of introducing a membership scheme and other fund-raising measure were being planned. The Club would be receiving a Centenary Award from the Surrey Football Association, proof having been found in a 1907 Dunsfold Parish Magazine of the formation of the Dunsfold Football Club and the playing of its first match in that year against the Hambledon Football Club.

Village Hall. Ion Campbell stated that income had exceeded expenditure in 2007. Some regular users had been lost but there had been a substantial increase in lettings for parties. Fund-raising activities in 2007 had included Vann teas, supper quizzes and a theatre evening; future events would include a private garden opening and a concert. A grant from the Parish Council had enabled the Hall to acquire its own projection and amplification equipment.

St Peter's Church. Stephanie Couvela, Associate Minister, reported that the new church rooms had been formally opened by the Guildford Diocesan Archdeacon in September and were now the venue for monthly coffee mornings as well as for children during Sunday services. The services of a part-time children and youth worker had been acquired; the church history had been up-dated; and post cards were being commissioned.

Parish Magazine. Derek Miller said that it now averaged 50 pages per issue, of which 20 were advertisements from which the Magazine derived its profits. Some of these had been used to reprint the Church history and to support the launch costs of the Hambledon Village Web Site; and some had been donated to charity. He thanked Tony Parker for his work as advertising manager and all the regular contributors.

Hambledon Village Shop. Philip Underwood thanked all shoppers for their support which had enabled the shop to turn last year's loss into a small profit. The outside play area was encouraging custom, as were the increasing number of parties and would-be community shop owners who were visiting the shop. Stand-in managers would be welcome, as would some new – and younger- volunteers, including Sunday helpers.

Hambledon Almshouses. Andy Falk reported on last year's Centenary, celebrated with an exhibition in the Village Hall and a forthcoming booklet briefly describing the Almshouses's history. Stuart Cook was resigning as Treasurer after 15 years' service. A small maintenance fund was currently proving sufficient for the on-going work that was always required.

Hambledon Heritage Society. Julie Steele encouraged everyone to borrow and provide material for the Society's albums. A successful AGM had included a talk on local National Trust properties. A notice about the former Hambledon Workhouse bell, now hanging in the Village Hall committee room, would be provided and research into houses shown on the 19th century tithe map was under consideration.

Wednesday Afternoon Group. Jan Kilsby's report, which was read by Cynthia Miller, thanked Julie Atkin and Joyce Dougans for their support and Jan's husband for helping to find speakers. The Group had also appreciated visits to Feathercombe and Tuesley Farm.

Oakhurst Cottage. Norman Gravestock stated that the exterior of the cottage had been painted last year and that it was the only local National Trust property that did not suffer a reduced attendance in 2007.

Hambletons. Jo Ingham's report was read by her father, John Tidmarsh. About 20 families were taking part in activities which ranged from cookery and crafts to gardening. Her thanks were due to all the parents and other volunteers who helped with this lively group.

Hambledon Ramblers. Derek Miller reported a membership of over 20, participating in the long and short walks that were organised each month. A successful trip to the Brecon Beacons had been organised last year; this year a group would be going to Yorkshire.

Hambledon Nursery School. Monica Fisher reported on an excellent OFSTED report in 2007 which meant that the school could increase its capacity if it so wished. However, it preferred to keep this facility in reserve (and maintain waiting lists for every term), to enable the extra places to be taken up during the year by new arrivals in the village. The school would be re-roofed during the summer and a new Head, who had already been working at the school for eight years, would take up her post in September.

Hambledon Village Fete. Philip Underwood reminded the audience that this would be held on 21 June in aid of the Football Club, the Cricket Club and the Village Shop and asked for more volunteers to help run the numerous events and stalls that were being planned.

At the conclusion of the reports Jamie Sehmer, on behalf of the Directors of Hambledon Village Shop, made a presentation to Philip Underwood in recognition of his work in re-energising the shop during the past 18 months. His leadership and the new supplies which he

has sourced had enhanced the shopping experience, increased sales, improved margins and generated profits: he was to be congratulated most warmly.

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were none.

8. FARMING IN HAMBLEDON; WHAT, HOW AND WHY?

An excellent presentation was given by Peter Knight, who farms 400 acres at Burgate Farm, rents a further 600 acres (including the Feathercombe Farm land) and brings his total up to 1,500 acres by means of contract farming. He explained that arable farming on this acreage was a viable proposition but that he supplements it with contract spraying throughout West Surrey. All this work required the use of large equipment, some of which (including the combine harvester) could not be taken through the village; to facilitate the passage of that which could, he made a plea to property owner to keep their hedges and trees from overhanging the roads. Crops included wheat (for seed or milling), oats (for human and animal feed), rape (for cooking oil) and, most recently, artemisia (for use as an anti-malarial drug) which might or might not prove viable. Cereal crops were not big money-makers so he was permanently on the look-out for alternative crops that could be managed by his existing machinery - cow parsley, which produces oil used as a slipping agent in the plastics industry, could be a possibility.

9. HAMBLEDON VILLAGE WEB SITE

Camilla Edminston, Chair of the development team, introduced Paul Osborne who briefly demonstrated the site, its present content and its future potential. He encouraged everyone to log on, register, use the site, make suggestion for additional content and features, and post messages; and he emphasised the importance of regular contributions and of keeping the site up-to-date.

10. VILLAGE CLEAN-UP AND BARBEQUE

Jane Caie reminded everyone of the next day's clean-up and barbeque at the Merry Harriers and that both were designed as family events.

11. HAMBLEDON VILLAGE TRUST

As Chairman of the Trust which owned the village web site, Mary Burrows congratulated the team on their presentation and introduced the Trust's next project: the Hambledon Village Community Fund. This would be a permanent fund, run in partnership with the Surrey Community Foundation who would take responsibility for its administration and act as the interface with the Charity Commission. The concept had been developed in partnership with Hambledon's clubs and societies, who were parties to the Fund agreement. Further information was available in the Fund publicity leaflet and there would be an opportunity to find out more about the scope of the Fund at its stall at the forthcoming Village Fete

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 22.00, when refreshments were served.