HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 2010 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY held on Friday 23 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, Philip Underwood and Ron Vickery; Parish Clerk Jane Woolley; Surrey County Councillor Dr Andrew Povey; Waverley Borough Councillors Elizabeth Cable and Adam Taylor-Smith;

PC Tracey Taylor and colleagues; and over 60 villagers

Apologies: Muriel and Ion Campbell, Monica Fisher, Denys Kinsella, Laurie and Tim Parker, Jeannie and John Postill, Julie Steele, and Annie and John Tidmarsh

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

These were circulated, 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 (reproduced in the June issue of the Parish Magazine and on the village website) were as follows:

Parish precept. Once again, this had been capped at last year's level.

<u>Planning</u>. 18 applications had been reviewed, mainly extensions, alterations and garages, of which Waverley had approved 14. Major matters considered were the application for workers' accommodation at Tuesley Farm, supported by the Parish Council, and the proposed eco-town at Dunsfold, which had been opposed and subsequently rejected following a public planning enquiry. The Parish Council had participated in consultations on the Waverley Local Development Framework Plan, on housing options and on the recently introduced permitted development rights. The support of Hambledon's two ward Councillors was particularly appreciated

Mains drainage. Work was virtually complete, other than some reinstatement.

<u>Traffic and roads</u>. Potholes remained a problem and Cllr. Povey's report (agenda item 8) was awaited with interest.

<u>Village security</u>. PC Tracey Taylor was the new Community Neighbourhood Officer and she and her colleague Dave Boxall were continuing to hold monthly surgeries at the village shop. Thanks were due to her team and to all the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators.

<u>The village shop</u>. Philip Underwood, Amanda Wright, their colleagues and all the volunteers were praised for their on-going commitment. The shop was doing well as a centre for the village but daily turnover continued to drop. Villagers were asked to maintain their support for a vital centre of village life and for a shop which provided an excellent range of facilities.

The Church, the Almshouses, the Nursery School, the Village Hall and Oakhurst Cottage, to name but a few, remained in good hands and thanks were due to all concerned with their management and stewardship

<u>Village maintenance</u>. Tim Coleman was thanked for keeping the village trim and tidy and everyone was encouraged to collect litter whenever spotted.

<u>Footpaths and bridleways</u>. The Parish Council had supported the creation of a path across Tuesley Farm, linking Hydestile and Milford Station.

<u>Village fete</u>. This year's fete, on 19 June, would be in support of Hambledon Football Club.

<u>Communications</u>. Derek Miller and his helpers were thanked for their work and tribute was paid to Derek who was standing down as Editor after 10 years. The village website was expanding and all were encouraged to access it for information.

<u>Hambledon Community Fund</u>. Half the target (£100,000) had already been raised, partly as a result of the government's matched funding programme. However, this would come to an end next April so everyone was asked to consider contributing now.

<u>Village of the Year competition</u>. As winner of the 2008 competition, Hambledon took part in the Southern Regional competition in which it had won the Sustainability Award.

<u>In conclusion</u> the Chairman expressed his appreciation of the support he received from his fellow Councillors and the Clerk; thanked those who would be providing the refreshments which would round off the evening; and commended all villagers for their efforts and interest in Hambledon: without their help and enthusiasm, things just would not happen.

4. <u>FINANCE</u>

The audited accounts for 2008-9 were circulated to all present. There were no comments.

5. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Police

PC Tracey Taylor, who had been in post since January, introduced herself and her colleagues and reminded everyone that their contact details could be found on the website and in the Parish Magazine. She confirmed that Hambledon remained one of the safest Surrey villages. St Dominic's School

Christina Conroy, Chair of the Governing Body, reported that the school now had another local Governor, Monica Fisher, and she hoped that other villagers would consider filling a new Governor vacancy and for taking over as Clerk when Jane Woolley retired in July. The newly-introduced sixth form was proving so successful that the flats at the school entrance were being converted to provide residential accommodation. Angela Drayton had been appointed head teacher with effect from January 2010 and had proved to be an excellent choice. Results of a recent OFSTED care inspection had been a mixture of good/outstanding. Cricket Club. Arthur Blackman was delighted to announce that the 1st XI had been the winner in the first division of the local Village Cricket League. The 2nd X1 remained in the second division. The Club also fielded a friendly and a Veterans XI. ECB accreditation was being sought for Hambledon Colts, whom girls were welcome to join; and last year nearly 70 children had participated in the under-9s, under-11s and under-13s programmes. All managers, and particularly the colts' managers, were thanked for their input.

<u>Football Club.</u> Mic Coleman thanked all those who had supported last summer's dance and auction held to raise funds for the new pavilion. The 1st XI remained around mid-table in its section of the Guildford and Woking Alliance; the 2nd XI would come top of its division if it won its next and final match; and the veterans team had won all but one of its matches. The Club had applied for and received a Charter mark from the FA and had, at last, received its Centenary Award from the Surrey Football Association.

<u>Village Hall</u>. Ron Vickery expressed everyone's thanks to Ion Campbell who had stood down as Chairman. This role had passed to John Tidmarsh, with Paul Vacher and Kim Cross serving as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Income from lettings continued to decline so more fund-raising events were being explored. The Hall fabric remained in good condition.

<u>St Peter's Church</u>. Stephanie Couvela, Associate Minister, reported that Simon Taylor had been appointed Rector and was due to be licensed in September. Giles Carpenter was now a curate at Shottmill and David Jenkins continued to serve Hambledon whilst training for

ordination. Parenting courses were being planned, the youth groups flourished and all were welcome at the monthly coffee mornings.

<u>Parish Magazine</u>. Derek Miller spoke of his pleasure in editing the magazine for the past 10 years and in having widened its scope to become the voice of the entire village. He thanked all contributors and congratulated Tony Parker: advertisement income was now such that almost £1,000 pa could be distributed amongst charities and village good causes. He also thanked Pat and Ray Williams for distribution and accounting, Cynthia Miller for proof-reading and Philip Ryland for bringing a fresh eye to the Magazine's layout. Change was important so further input from the new co-editor, John Hindley, was to be welcomed; and he wished John and Philip every success.

Hambledon Community Fund. Mary Burrows reported that this was one of the first funds to have been launched under the aegis of the Surrey Community Foundation and she stressed the importance of people, if they were able, to donate to the Fund before April 2011 so that their contributions could be more than doubled via the government's matched funding programme. Having raised £50,000, the Fund was now open for business and £923 was available for grants. Applications should be made via the Surrey Community Foundation who could assist at every stage of the process and whose details were available on their own website, via a link on the Hambledon village website and in the Hambledon Community Fund leaflet.

<u>Hambledon Village Website</u>. Camilla Edmiston encouraged everyone to look at the photogallery that was running at the rear of the Hall and was delighted to present Helen O'Donnell with her award as winner of the last photo competition. So far the news pages, the photogallery and the forum were the most visited parts of the site; and the news pages provided invaluable up-dates on a wide range of items.

<u>Hambledon Village Shop.</u> George Pitt, Chairman of the Directors, reported that the AGM would be held in July and that last year's accounts would be posted in the shop during May. Sales were down year-on-year but the shop remained a vital part of village life: paying a little extra on shopping could make all the difference to its success or failure. Two other needs were new ideas and new volunteers. He thanked the paid team and all the volunteers and commended Philip Underwood for his commitment to the shop during the past three years.

<u>Hambledon Almshouses</u>. Andy Falk reported that the Trustees were consulting with the Charity Commission about the composition of the Board of Trustee, ideas for modernising the properties in due course and broadening the qualifications of applicants who currently had to have resided in Hambledon for at least two years.

<u>Hambledon Heritage Society</u>. Geoff Jones spoke about the interviews that were being conducted with some of the older residents. These would be placed on the village website where it was hoped they could be joined by scanned versions of some of the village albums. Research projects included one into the recently discovered Pugin memorial in St Peter's Church and the Rev. Bullock. A successful AGM had been held in March at which Alan Bott had spoken about local churches.

<u>Wednesday Afternoon Group</u>. Elizabeth Waring described the past year as "sociable" – an enjoyable mix of talks, visits, teas and even an outing to the Merry Harriers to meet the llamas. She encouraged people to come to the bring-and-buy sale in May and congratulated Jan Kilsby for her imaginative selection of items to include in the programme.

Oakhurst Cottage. Norman Gravestock stated that the cottage has suffered from the severe winter weather but that external redecoration, using only conservation-grade materials, was now underway and that work had started in the garden. The need to book three days in advance had resulted in fewer visitors and the National Trust would like to revert to the practice whereby bookings could be handled locally. Volunteers for this task were sought.

<u>Hambledon Ramblers</u>. Derek Miller reported that there were now at least 25 members, divided between the monthly long and short walks. The long walks were perhaps not quite as long as they used to be, but the enthusiasm for the ensuing pub lunch was as strong as ever. A two-night stay in Eastbourne had provided the base for three excellent walks in that area in October and some members had recently participated in a trip to northern France.

<u>Hambledon Nursery School</u>. Stewart Payne reported that the school had been judged outstanding in every category in its recent OFSTED report: the head teacher, Nicola Collett, and her staff were to be warmly congratulated. There were currently 80 children in the school, with ages ranging from two to four; and the waiting list continued to grow.

6. HAMBLEDON VILLAGE FETE

Mic Coleman encouraged everyone to take part in this year's fete, on Saturday 19 June, and to look at the display of fete memorabilia at the rear of the hall. The dinner dance on 19 June was already fully booked.

7. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were none.

8. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

Dr Povey first outlined the role and some of the changes he was making to the operation of SCC to achieve transparency and high performance standards.

<u>Snow</u>. SCC had to give priority to clearing A-roads and those required to maintain essential services. Villages should consider their own emergency plans.

<u>Roads</u>. Their already poor condition had been exacerbated by the January snowstorm and an extra half million pounds had immediately been allocated to repairs. To bring all Surrey's roads back to standard would cost up to £300 million: even if SCC were permitted by central government to borrow this amount, a revenue stream (which could include higher Council Taxes) would have to be created for paying it back. The existing road maintenance contracts expired in 2011 and new contracts would include tighter quality and performance criteria.

A strong case was made from the floor for bringing back linesmen to deal with potholes (at present a pothole repair required three separate trips and many were bodged jobs); but Dr Povey defended the award of large-scale contracts for all aspects of maintenance. The quickest way of getting potholes repaired was to report them via the SCC website. As regards damage caused by utility companies Dr Povey stated that they had a duty to repair and that SCC inspected repairs on a percentage basis. However, he agreed to follow up the comment that the percentage inspection rate did not appear to apply in Hambledon. He also agreed to take back the request for improved signage at Milford to prevent HGVs from entering Station Lane (and hence getting stuck on the Hambledon Road) and asked for information on the locality of salt bins within the Parish so that all could be filled before the start of winter. Finally, Dr Povey reminded the meeting that responsibility for maintaining roadside hedges and ditches normally rested with the adjacent landowners and that any problems were best sorted out at local rather than county level.

The Chairman thanked Dr Povey for his presentation and frank answers to so many questions.

9. VILLAGE CLEAN-UP AND BARBEOUE

The Chairman encouraged everyone to take part in the clean-up, both on Saturday morning and throughout the year; and invited all litter pickers and their families to join in the barbeque at the Merry Harriers from mid-day onwards.

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

