

HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 2012 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY held on Tuesday 19 April in the Village Hall

Present: John Anderson (chairman of the Parish Council, in the chair); Parish Councillors Mike Parry, Stewart Payne, Mike Whittall and Philip Underwood; Parish Clerk Jane Woolley; Surrey County Councillor Dr Andrew Povey; Waverley Borough Councillors Elizabeth Cable and Adam Taylor-Smith; and over 60 villagers

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 May issue of the Parish Magazine and on the village website) were as follows:

Parish precept. This had been capped at the same level for the last four years.

Planning. 26 applications had been reviewed, mainly extensions, alterations and garages, of which Waverley had approved 22.

During the year the Parish Council had been getting to grips with a new raft of planning regulations: the National Planning Policy Framework with its presumption in favour of sustainable development; the increased recourse to permitted development rights; Waverley's Local Development Framework Core Strategy, on which the Parish Council had already submitted comments; and, at community/Parish level, the value to Hambledon or otherwise of Neighbourhood Development Plans and Village Design Statements.

In commenting on Waverley's development brief for land at Upper Tuesley Farm the Parish Council had stated that, despite the need for the additional housing, development must be dependent on the provision of the necessary infrastructure.

Roads. Some repairs had been effected during the past year but much remained to be done. Snow clearance had improved, thanks to more gritters on some roads and Peter Knight's snow plough tackling the rest. Two more salt and grit bins had also been obtained.

Police. PCs Tracey Taylor and Dave Boxall had helped maintain village security and their "surgeries" at the Village Shop had kept them in touch with villagers. Ron Vickery remained Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

Maintenance. This continued to be undertaken by Tim Coleman, who had made good use of his new digger, part funded by Surrey County Council and by the Parish Council.

Other village organisations and activities. Reports on these would follow but on behalf of everyone the Chairman thanked those who ensured that Hambledon's sporting clubs, the Village Shop, the Village Hall, the Church, the Almshouses, the Heritage Society, the Community Fund, the WAGs, the two schools, the Parish Magazine, the village web site and the many other village initiatives all functioned so well. Everyone benefitted from them and appreciated the hard work that went on behind the scenes to keep them flourishing.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors and the Clerk, as well as everyone in the village for the support and input which made Hambledon so special.

The Diamond Jubilee.

Philip Underwood outlined Hambledon's programme for celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, starting with the fete on the Cricket Green on Saturday 2 June and an evening dinner dance. On Sunday 3 June St Peter's would be organising a church service and picnic. On the Monday evening the Parish Council would be hosting a party for all villagers, at the end of which Karin Sehmer, High Sheriff for Surrey, would light the Hambledon bonfire. This had been registered by the Queen's Pageant Master and would thus take its place in the national chain that was being organised to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

4. FINANCE

The audited accounts for 2010-11 were circulated to all present. There were no comments.

5. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Cricket Club. Arthur Blackman reported that the 1st XI had come fourth in its division of the local Village League and the Friendly XI had won about half its matches. Over 90 Colts had participated in last year's under-9s, -11s and -13s programmes and the end-of-season barbeque had attracted about 300 Colts and parents.

Football Club. Mic Coleman reported that in 2010-11 not only had the first XI come top in the Working and District premier division but the Club had also won the Sport Godalming Team of the Year award. During the past year both the first and second XIs had done well and there had been considerable praise for the pitch at Badgers Field. The new Pavilion could be ready for the start of the 2012-13 season if a final grant were forthcoming from the FA Foundation Football Fund.

St Peter's Church. Simon Taylor reported that Catherine McBride, the new Associate Vicar, had already moved into Hambledon. The past year had been one of stabilisation, following the Church's realisation that St Peter's was of real importance to the village. The new youth worker, Alwyn Webb, had settled in well, a history of St Peter's was in preparation and a hearing loop had been installed in the church.

Parish Magazine. Philip Ryland, co-editor, reported that income continued to exceed expenditure, largely thanks to Tony Parker who kept the advertisements rolling in. He thanked Pat Williams for organising the teams of Magazine deliverers and invited more occasional contributors to help the Magazine to reflect the activities of all people in the village.

Oakhurst Cottage. Ion Campbell reported that the year-on-year increase in visitors had risen by 128 per cent in 2011. The National Trust had undertaken some improvements and, to help make the cottage financially viable, had made changes to opening days and times. Unfortunately this had been done with no regard to the availability of stewards, whose current numbers fell far short of those required to operate the new opening hours. This would be discussed at a forthcoming meeting with the local National Trust representative. In the meantime further volunteers were urgently required, particular at week-ends.

Hambledon Village Trust and Web Site. Tim Parker reminded the meeting that the Trust was the landlord of both the Village Shop and Pendle Cottage and, as such, had continued with its on-going programme of routine external maintenance. The Trust also "owned" the **village web site** and was currently financing a programme up-grade. As Camilla Edmiston reported, this was needed because the site had recently been hacked. The site continued to attract a constant level of visitors, particularly to the news pages, and was gradually being expanded; but it was disappointing that more use was not made of the forum.

Hambledon Village Shop. Amanda Wright reported on behalf of the new management team – herself, Alan Brien and Alison Wilson. Year-on-year sales were up by a modest amount and new ideas and ranges were being introduced. The Christmas grotto had proved particularly successful and the Shop now had its own pages on Facebook and Twitter.

Hambledon Heritage Society. Julie Steele reported on the recent AGM and Annabel Watts' talk on the Jekyll garden at Munstead Wood. Elizabeth Waring was keeping the village albums up-to-date and a new pamphlet, setting a circular walk in the village in its historical context, had been published. The Society was currently considering how best to ensure that public access to the ancient rights of way in Hambledon Hurst were not lost consequent on the purchase of the site by Millgate Homes.

Hambledon Community Fund. Camilla Edminston reported on behalf of Kath Evans and Julie Llewellyn, neither of whom was able to be present, listed the grants that had been made or approved during the year. The Fund, which after only four years now stood at just over £70,000, was managed by the Community Fund for Surrey and the yield on investments was 4.8 per cent. Funds were derived from individual donations, fund-raising events, book sales in the Village Shop and some newly-introduced merchandise which was on sale in the Shop and at the Merry Harriers. New leaflets had been produced and the Fund now had its own page on the village web site.

Wednesday Afternoon Group. Jan Kilsby reported on the enjoyable mix of talks, visits, lunches and teas that had made up last year's programme.

Hambletots. Julie Bayne reported that on the success of the group which continued to provide a valuable drop-in centre for parents, carers and children. Craft activities now formed a part of each session, the toy cupboard was being replenished and stackable furniture was being sourced.

Hambledon Ramblers. Derek Miller reported on the activities of the exercise regime for the not-so-young of Hambledon. There were now three groups – the longer walks (which were getting progressively shorter) plus a pub lunch, the short walks and the amblers. Longer walks were organised by different members of the group but Mary Parker continued to organise every short walk and was due an especial thank-you.

Hambledon Nursery School. Nicola Collett, head mistress, reported that the School remained extremely busy with 72 families currently on the role. Many of these came from Busbridge but where possible preference was given to Hambledon residents. There had been high praise from Busbridge Infants School for children joining them from the Nursery School and a request for a visit to experience the "Hambledon model". The School continued to work closely with St Peter's Church and Alwyn Webb was a frequent visitor. Donations of trees and bushes by parents and Sainsbury were providing the children with hands-on gardening experience and their awareness of nature and wildlife was enhanced by Professor Bayley's excellent maintenance of the land surrounding the School. An evaluation of the School's provision against newly-introduced government guidelines was under way and, as ever, the School was faced with the problems – and costs – of maintaining a Grade II listed building.

St Dominic's. Andy Falk reported on behalf of Monica Fisher, Chair of the Governors, who was unable to be present. He reminded the meeting of the aims, role and activities of the school. Good progress continued under the leadership of Angela Drayton; there had been a successful Diocesan inspection; the school had received autism accreditation from OFSTED; and its recent general OFSTED inspection had resulted in a mix of outstanding and good gradings.

In response to the Chairman's invitation **Dr Povey** spoke briefly about some of his initiatives whilst Leader of Surrey County Council. These included a review of financial procedures, work with the Police to improve driving habits, improved waste management to reduce landfill to only 30 per cent of the total by 2013, access for all to superfast broadband, and volunteering – though here he was talking to the converted: everyone in Hambledon was a volunteer. He referred to Surrey's new roads maintenance contract which he felt was marginally better than the previous one, and to the youth service budget was now vested in the SCC local committees. Finally he reminded the meeting of two important forthcoming developments: the establishment of county strategic health and well-being boards and the

election in November of police commissioners, both of which would have significant implications for accountability.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

It was agreed that the only question, relating to the Hambledon Almshouses, should be addressed during the ensuing presentation.

7. HAMBLEDON ALMSHOUSES

Andy Chairman of the Trustees of the Almshouses, spoke briefly about their history and purpose. The present two buildings were over a hundred years old and badly in need of modernisation. Proposals had therefore been drawn up for up-grading kitchens and bathrooms, remodelling and modernising living accommodation and providing disabled access which together would add approximately 33 per cent to each dwelling. Planning permission had been obtained and the provisional estimate for the work, which would be carried out with minimal disruption to the occupants, was £200 - £225,000. The Trustees had set aside £20,000 for the project and were now looking to raise the balance. A leaflet drop to all households in the village would provide further information, including ways of making donations; and the Trust was registered for Gift Aid. It was recognised that other appeals were running within the village and that the state of the economy could be better; nevertheless an on-going supply of low cost housing was vital. The Almshouses were an integral part of the village and an asset that needed to be preserved for future generations.

In response to questions the meeting was assured that only if no-one with Hambledon connections was available to fill a vacancy would permission be sought from the Charity Commissioners to accommodate a person (or couple) from a neighbouring village. The possibility of including parking within the curtilage had had to be discounted on account of the lie of the land. Nor, given the increase in the size of each property that would result from the up-grade, could funds be augmented by selling off what would remain of the gardens.

In conclusion Councillor Cable wished the Trustees every success with their fund-raising appeal.

8. VILLAGE CLEAN-UP AND BARBEQUE

The Chairman encouraged everyone to take part in the clean-up on the morning of Saturday 21 April; and invited all litter pickers and their families to join in the barbeque at the Village Shop from mid-day onwards.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 22.00

Hambledon Parish Assembly: Police report, April 2011 – March 2012

Crime Statistics

Assault	4
Burglary – dwelling	2
Burglary – non-dwelling	10
Public order	1
Theft*	2
Drugs	4
Theft of motor vehicle	2
Criminal damage**	1

** can include theft from shop or stall/by employee/ not otherwise coded*

*** includes offences against buildings, vehicles and properties.*

Shed and Dwelling Burglaries

There has been a decrease in shed and non-dwelling burglaries across the area, due to the Intelligence-led pro-active Operation Quixote and extra night-time patrols. Several persons known to Surrey Police for this type of activity have been specifically targeted. In addition, Operation Weston runs at regular intervals overnight to target rural crime.

Theft from Motor vehicles

Surrey Police are currently running Operation Klaxon across the county, targetting thefts from rural and beauty spot car parks. This involves checks on car parks at random times during the day and will run for a two month period. So far this has resulted in a marked decrease in thefts from vehicles.

A283 Casualty Reduction Route

The A283 Petworth Road will remain a casualty reduction route for another 12 months. Neighbourhood Teams are working with Roads Policing and the local Casualty Reduction Officer, PC Marc Sturrock, to identify all causes for accidents and speed related problems.

Social Media

In the immediate future all local Surrey Police Neighbourhood teams will be using social media as another form of contact. There will be a Waverley Facebook account and all officers will have individual Twitter accounts.

PCSO 13228 David BOXALL

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