

HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE 2013 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

held on Thursday 18 April in the Village Hall

Present: John Anderson (chairman of the Parish Council, in the chair); Parish Councillors Karen Jones, Mike Parry, Paul Pattison, Stewart Payne and Peter Spall; Parish Clerk Jane Woolley; Surrey County Councillor Dr Andrew Povey; Waverley Borough Councillors Elizabeth Cable and Adam Taylor-Smith; PC Tracey Taylor and CPSO Dave Boxall; and over 50 villagers

Apologies for absence were received from Philip Underwood, John and Jeanie Postill, Arthur Blackman, Derek Miller and Pat Williams

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:

Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The strength and spirit of collectivity in the village had been well demonstrated by a range of activities and events: the unveiling of new commemorative signs at each of the village; the fete and dinner dance which between them had raised nearly £9,000; the church service on the Cricket Green; and the Parish Council party and hog roast, culminating in the lighting of Hambledon's jubilee bonfire.

Planning. This had been affected by two central government initiatives: a presumption in favour of sustainable development and permitted development rights granted under certificates of lawfulness. Eight of the 22 applications received during the year were for certificates of lawfulness. The remainder were all for extensions and alterations and none had raised major issues.

Upper Tuesley Farm. Outline planning permission had been sought by a government agency for a development on this site of 120 houses, 40 per cent of which would be affordable. The Parish Council, in common with many other respondents, had expressed itself in favour of more housing but could not support the increased traffic and other pressures which a development of this size would impose on local infrastructure. It had also recommended that Waverley should seek a far greater financial contribution from the developer, given that the land value of the site accruing to government would be in the region of £7m. Why could not 50 per cent of this be returned for use locally? As a result, Waverley's joint planning committee had deferred a decision to enable an increased infrastructure contribution from the developers to be negotiated. The Parish Council would be party to these further discussions.

Highways. These continued to deteriorate and repairs remained ineffective. In the face of Surrey County Council's seeming inability to do much about Hambledon's drains and ditches

the Parish Council would be commissioning work on its own account and applying to a new Surrey scheme for a contribution to the cost.

Finance. For the fourth year running the Parish Council had budgeted for no increase in expenditure. The increase in Hambledon's precept was due to the change from Council Tax benefit to local authorities having to fund their own support schemes.

In conclusion the Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors and the Clerk, as well as everyone in the village for making Hambledon so special and for remaining involved.

4. FINANCE

The audited accounts for 2011-12 were circulated to all present. There were no comments.

5. REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

Mic Coleman reported for the **Cricket Club**. Cancellations due to weather had affected all the teams but the matches that did get played resulted in the 1st XI coming fourth in its division of the local Village League. The 2nd XI had more or less broken even. Seventy colts had signed up and four sides – under 9s, 9-11s, 11-13s and 14 year olds – had played in the Barclay League with varying degrees of success. Matt Kiley, representing the **Football Club**, said that the 1st XI had made it to the cup final of the Woking and District premier division and, despite having lost, had been earmarked for promotion to the Surrey Intermediate League. The 2nd XI had come fourth in its league. The numbers of both children and veterans had increased substantially and the Club was now fielding six teams. Work had started on the new clubhouse which was due to be formally opened in July; and a campaign to raise the final £10k needed to fund its completion had been launched.

Catherine McBride thanked the village for welcoming her so warmly to **St Peter's Church** last summer. Numbers at services were on the increase and she was delighted that the Church was undertaking activities with other village groups, including the Nursery School and the Hambledon Community Fund. Her next challenge was to see whether the Church could be open to the public more often. John Hindley, co-editor of the **Parish Magazine**, thanked contributors and advertisers for their input; Tony Parker for managing the advertisements; Pat Williams and her team for distributing the magazine in all weathers; and Ray Williams for his many years' service as Treasurer. Ray was about to retire and a successor was being sought. The Queen's Diamond Jubilee had been celebrated with two special issues and, despite their extra cost, the magazine continued to show a surplus, some of which was distributed to worthy organisations.

Norman Gravestock reported that visitor numbers to **Oakhurst Cottage** had risen to 1,500 last year, due to the National Trust having abandoned the booking system. Both stewards and the cottage had been swamped and he congratulated the stewards on their forbearance. The pressure on them had been recognised by the Trust which had now reverted to visits by appointment only. A structural inspection was about to be carried out, prior to remedial work being undertaken during the summer.

On behalf of the **Hambledon Village Trust**, Jane Woolley stated that Tim Parker had resigned as a Trustee, following his appointment as Chairman of the Village Shop Directors. Rob Goffee and Peter Spall had joined Jane and Mary Burrows as Trustees. The Trust continued as backer of the Hambledon web site and its recent programme of building maintenance work at the Village Shop and Pendle Cottage would ensure that both remained in good working order for the next five years. Paul Osborne encouraged use of the **Hambledon Village web site**: this had been made easier with the introduction of a Facebook

page which in turn linked to a feed to the Village Shop. Most hits were to latest news, the forum and photographs; and an increasing number of outside visitors were accessing the site.

Tim Parker spoke on behalf of **Hambleton Village Shop** and made particular mention of the 20th anniversary celebrations in November. The importance of communications and training for the volunteers had been recognised, as had the need for ideas for increasing trade and footfall. The latter had been discussed at a recent volunteers meeting and selected proposals were now being taken forward by groups of volunteers. Julie Steele reported on the **Hambleton Heritage Society** AGM and Norman Gravestock's armchair talk on Hambleton's industrial and agricultural history (now on the village web site). A stall at the fete had included a display of photographs of Hambleton celebrating the Queen's coronation. Gay Mabley was dealing with the family history enquiries received via the village web site. It would be two years before Surrey County Council decided whether public access to Coleman's Copse could be maintained; meanwhile the Society was planning to erect a view map on the top of Hambleton Common.

John Tidmarsh stated that **Hambleton Village Hall** had had a difficult year: expenditure had increased and bookings were down. A new meter had been installed so that heating costs could be charged out to those hiring the hall. Andy Falk reported that the **Hambleton Almshouses** now had three new Trustees: Peter Spall, Mike Parry and David Jenkins. The up-grade appeal fund now stood at approximately £75,000 and the Trustees were aiming to increase this to £100,000 by the autumn to enable refurbishment of the Almshouse which was now unoccupied following John Givens' move to a care home.

Jan Kilsby gave an entertaining description of the activities of the **Wednesday Afternoon Group**. Speakers were becoming increasingly expensive: the answer was fewer lectures and more parties and outings. Talks had ranged from the experiences of a wartime Spitfire pilot to the use of dogs to comfort people in hospital; there had been visits to public and private gardens; and advantage had been taken of every occasion for a party, including Halloween. Jan was followed by Anthea Edwards, now in charge of **Hambletots**. Prices had been held for a continuing and well supported programme that provided a baby area, craft events for the older toddlers and song time for everyone, including parents and carers. Hambletots also now had its own Facebook page.

Cynthia Miller spoke on behalf of the **Hambleton Ramblers**. Long walks now tended more towards the medium – seven or eight miles instead of ten – but always with a pub lunch in sight. Thanks were due to Jenny Caddie and others who organised the programme of long walks and to Mary Parker who remained in charge of the short walks; and all ramblers were to be congratulated for doing battle with the mud throughout the winter.

Nicola Collett, head mistress, reported that there were 70 children at **Hambleton Nursery School**. She referred to its work with St Peter's Church, including "coffee connections" involving parents and held once a month at the Merry Harriers. Keeping up with changes in government policy had caused a lot of work; more rewarding was the local education authority's recognition of the school as one of the best outdoor learning environments in Surrey. Nicola thanked the Parish Council for the donation of the village's old Jubilee sign, which the children loved; and she concluded with particular thanks to Monica Fisher who had resigned after 10 years as Chair of the School Trustees. Christine Campbell had taken her place as a Trustee and the new Chair was David Evans.

Monica Fisher, Chair of the Governors of **St Dominic's**, concluded the representatives' reports. The last OFSTED care inspection had judged the school as outstanding: this was

very much due to the out-of-hours regime for the 30 children now in residence in the sixth form. A current sixth form activity was the restoration, with input from the groundsmen, of the Japanese garden that had been created when the main house was built. The school was currently undergoing a change in management: after 80 years the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary were withdrawing and the Grafham Grange Special Education Trust, which already ran two schools in the area, was taking over. However, St Dominic's would continue to operate along exactly the same lines as hitherto.

The Chairman then gave the floor to **Dr Andrew Povey**, who was not standing for re-election to the County Councillor in May. Dr Povey congratulated the village on its strong sense of community: of the eight Parish Assemblies held in his ward, Hambledon had always been his favourite, largely due to the representatives' reports. He was glad to have represented the village for the past eight years and to have played a part in ensuring that it, together with the rest of the county, would be receiving superfast broadband in the near future.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were none.

7. HAMBLEDON COMMUNITY FUND

In a well-illustrated presentation Julie Llewellyn demonstrated how the Fund operated, drawing on external support from the Community Foundation for Surrey and internal support from the village; and explained the process for applying for and awarding grants. The endowment fund now stood at almost £109,000. It was the interest from this sum that was available for grants and several awards had already been made to a selection of village groups and to two individuals. More small regular donations and legacies would help to swell the fund, along with the proceeds from several HCF events of which the next would be "Night at the Opera" in June. It was important to keep increasing the endowment fund: HCF was led by the community not only for now but, perhaps even more importantly, for the future.

8. VILLAGE CLEAN-UP AND BARBEQUE

The Chairman invited everyone to take part in the village clean-up and barbeque on 20 April.

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