

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF BISHOP'S SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL.**

**PRESENT**

**Cllr. Miller – Chairman**  
**Cllr. Rutherford – Vice Chairman**  
**Cllr. Nankivell, Tait and Budd**  
**Cllr. R. Huxstep – County Councillor**  
**Mr K. Fell – Clerk**  
**Mr Richard Milligan**  
**2 Residents**

The Chairman opened the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

There were apologies from Cllr. Thacker and Cllr. Margot Power.

**2. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2015.**

These had been agreed at a previous meeting.

**3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016.**

The minutes were agreed and the Chairman signed the Minute Book.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

Welcome to all of you and to the members of the Parish Council, especially to our 2 co-opted members Peter Tait and Rodney Budd. I want to thank our Clerk, Kenrick Fell, and the Parish Councillors for their hard work and dedication. The Parish also conveys its thanks to Martin Henderson our Internal Auditor, Richard Milligan the Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator, Cllr. Amber Thacker and Cllr. Roger Huxstep. I would also record the debt the village owes to Anthony Bussy, who was a Parish Councillor for many years, and Treasurer to the PCC.

New Alresford Development Strategy

The residents forming the Alternative Plan Strategy have worked very hard but Winchester City Council seems not to be listening, and is persisting against well-thought-out objections to push ahead with the housing on Sun Lane.

Lengthsman Scheme

This continues to be of great benefit to the village appearance, keeping the footways and the drains clear strimming the banks and verges to maintain tidiness and clear sight-lines.

However there is concern that Hampshire County Council may cut the grant which enables this to continue. We must do whatever we can to resist this.

SLR's

No change here vehicles are still speeding through the village. The last reading of the SLR from the West end was 17,876, slightly down from over 19,000 previously recorded.

Parking

The permanent parking spaces have been provided opposite School Lane on the B3047. It is safer for residents and makes the main road much tidier. Also we have had several negotiations' with the Highways Department relating to safety measures on the B3047.

The bus shelters have been repaired.

The new Notice Board was purchased from the Solar Farm Community Grant.

Donations

We have made donations to St. Nicholas Church, the CPRE and the Alresford minibus.

The information leaflet was updated by the Parish Clerk, and checked by the Parish Councillors. It was then distributed to every household.

The website consultations are ongoing.

#### Water Meters

They have been installed throughout the Parish where possible.

### **5. VILLAGE HALL REPORT.**

Bookings at the hall remain consistent with previous years. We are fortunate to have regular week day hirers and a steady flow of bookings at weekends.

We welcomed a new treasurer, booking secretary and PCC representative this year.

The renewal of the acoustic boarding was completed last October with the grant obtained from the developers of the Solar Farm. The acoustic boarding looks very good and early indications show that it is working.

The committee is now in the process of organising the Village Fete on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

The Chairman thanked Gill Grant, Chairman Village Hall for her report.

### **6. REPORT FROM ST. NICHOLAS PCC – MR RICHARD MILLIGAN.**

We have had a very exciting year. Thanks to Mandy Caldwell a choir has been formed and has performed with great aplomb at the Christmas and Easter services. Both services were well attended and the feedback was that everybody thoroughly enjoyed the services and appreciated the choir.

Many thanks to the Reverends Peter Clemett and Bryce Fletcher, and lay preacher, Peter Colquhoun who have given up so much time to take our regular services and to look after us. We thank them for their efforts.

At Christmas the Rev. Amanda Grant retired having done eight months as our pastoral vicar. We much appreciated her support and wish her well for the future. The congregation has increased and everybody who wishes to attend our services is more than welcome.

Finally, Gwynneth Rutherford, Alan Joly and Bill Smith have retired from the Council and we thank them for their many years of work for the Church.

The Council itself has undertaken a lot of work but has done it in good spirit. Many thanks.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Milligan.

### **7. REPORT FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – MR RICHARD MILLIGAN.**

Mr Milligan was very pleased to report that the past year has been fairly uneventful. This is good news indeed with petrol prices having been reduced which has led to a reduction in fuel theft.

My main concern is that the current government seems determined to reduce the police force. With the country's population on the increase, so should there be an increase in the number of police.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Milligan.

### **8. REPORT FROM THE W.I.**

We have had a full and interesting year. One of the highlights being a member representing us at a Royal Garden Party held to celebrate the National W.I. being 100 years old. Other members celebrated at events in Hampshire such as going to an Abba Revival concert, a picnic at Hillier's Arboretum, and a lunch in the Autumn.

We have had some very good speakers: learnt all about Bees, how to do embroidery from recycled items, a very thought-provoking talk on Life under the Veil, to lighter entertainment by a Harmony Quartet.

Our own W.I. is 70 years old this year and our main celebration is to be in May when we are taking members on the Basingstoke Canal having hired a barge. We had a good Spring and Harvest Supper in the Hall, food made by members, and went for a Christmas meal.

We won the Quiz in our group and went forward to the County Finals where we held our own even if we didn't win. Also took part in the Skittle Tournament. The Coffee Mornings continue to be a successful meeting place once a month and in the Spring and Christmas have had various stalls to boost W.I. and Village Hall funds. Our outing, when we invited villagers to join us, was on the hottest day of the year when we visited Cotswold Farm Park owned by Adam Henson. Membership is constant but we do have to compete with so many other activities that seem to be on the same evening. We always help where we can and ran a stall at the Village Fete – teas for the Church – and of course tea, coffee and cake at the W.I. stand at the Alresford Show as well as at the Jumble Sale.

Our Charity was once again filling Shoe boxes with gifts for children. We try to offer something of interest to everyone and always welcome visitors to our meetings.  
The Chairman thanked the W.I. for their interesting report.

#### **9. REPORT ON HIGHWAYS – CLLR. BUDD.**

Cllr. Budd stated that slow signs had been requested for the B3047 near the Ship Inn and these have now been fitted. Also additional 30MPH roundels have been fitted on the posts adjacent to the 30MPH signs painted on the road. Minor works were requested on Water Lane, Whitehill Lane and Scrubbs Lane. The layby beyond the 30MPH zone on the B3047 towards the A31 has been submitted to Operation Resilience for re-surfacing. The drains outside the Village Hall have been cleaned and inspected by camera and proved clear. The road and drains under the railway bridge on the B3047 have been cleared and so far no flooding has occurred. We await details from the latest speed sensor placed in the village.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Budd for his report.

#### **10. REPORT FROM WDAPC.**

Cllr. Nankivell said that he had not been able to attend any of the meetings and the Clerk was now passing on the Agenda for these meetings to all councillors.

#### **11. REPORT ON FOOTPATHS.**

Cllr. Nankivell stated that the footpaths were OK and he had no problems to report

#### **12. RESIDENTIAL PLANNING.**

Cllr. Tait gave details of the planning applications. Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 the Parish Council had reviewed a total of five residential planning applications and one application to remove one tree within a domestic curtilage.

In the four cases involving domestic properties, the Parish Council received no objections and also raised none on its own behalf. Three were subsequently permitted by WCC. In one case, the applicant withdrew the application pending a WCC requirement for a bat impact survey.

Following the independent survey, the application was re-submitted and approved by WCC.

One case involved a revised submission relating to the Ship Public House, a Grade 2 Listed Building. The Parish Council supported the proposed refurbishment of a valued local amenity. The revised submission was approved by WCC.

The application to fell a mature Leylandii tree was not opposed by the Parish Council, subject to its removal complying with the WCC Tree Preservation Policy. The application was refused by WCC.

Cllr. Tait was thanked by the Chairman.

#### **13. INDUSTRIAL PLANNING.**

The Chairman said that there had been a planning application to extend the existing car park at Sutton Manor Farm. This had been approved.

The Ship Inn renovation was complete and it opened on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Old Park Road – Still in a badly neglected state, no further news of any redevelopment.

#### **14. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – CLLR. HUXSTEP.**

##### **Hampshire's Children's Services cited in Ofsted Annual Report**

Hampshire primary schools' performance has been reported as being in the top five in the south east and in the top quartile nationally. In early years' education, the County Council is one of two authorities nationally described as being 'the highest performing' for improving outcomes for pre-school children and ensuring they are well prepared to enter primary education.

## **Hampshire's Key Stage Results 2015**

For Key Stage 2, Winchester District children have achieved better results year-on year since 2013. For Key Stage 4 (GCSE) children they have improved upon their 2013 performance by a percentage point with 73% achieving 5+ A\*-C grades including English & mathematics. For detailed results for individual schools visit:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/>

## **Hampshire Libraries at the forefront of innovation**

Hampshire has been leading the way in adapting libraries to ensure they remain relevant in a changing world. The Independent Library Report for England commissioned by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport claims that 'public libraries in England will close unless they change and provide the type of spaces that people want to use. Many of the recommendations in the report, such as the need to focus on digital provision and positioning libraries at the hub of a local community, are already either in place or in the pipeline in Hampshire. All of our libraries are equipped with free Wi-Fi and computers and the larger ones have café facilities, sofas and a comfortable, contemporary feel. Hampshire's libraries are the epitome of the modern library - busy community spaces with high visitor numbers, although the use of the mobile library service has seriously declined. This has prompted a recent review of Library Services given the continuing austerity phase of budgeting. There were over 9,000 responses to the consultation and outcome will be known on 18<sup>th</sup> April. It is being recommended that the Mobile Library Service will be stopped from June this year. It will be compensated for by extending the Home Library Service to reach about three quarters of mobile library users. There are no plans to close static libraries.

## **Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)**

A review of HWRCs resulted in changes to opening hours at Hampshire's 24 centres from 1st April 2015. The change followed consultation with residents on a number of options to shape the service for the future. These looked at affordable ways to ensure the County Council continued to deliver a modern, value for money service for Hampshire's residents. The changes did not result in recycling centres being closed down to meet the required overall budget savings for 2015/16, however, because of continuing budget restraints a further review through consultation started today. The 10-week public consultation to ask residents how they think savings can best be made in the cost of running the county's household waste recycling centres (HWRCs). "The cuts the government has made to Hampshire's grant are now so severe that we simply cannot afford to carry on as before.

"The county council had been planning to make savings to meet a £98million funding shortfall by April 2017, but when the government announced its funding plans for local authorities for the next three years, Hampshire lost £48m more this year than had been anticipated.

"It is therefore vital that the resources we have in Hampshire are focused on where they can make the most impact, and how we deal with Hampshire's waste is part of this.

"We are now in a position where we need to establish how we can run the HWRC service with a much smaller budget in a way that is financially sustainable for Hampshire council tax payers in the long term."

The 24 sites are currently open every day except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

24 is a large number compared with other areas, and it is clear we are no longer in a financial position to be able to provide this same level of service.

"This consultation is a genuine opportunity for people to tell us how they think a different and more affordable model can be established.

"We are asking people what they think of changes in opening hours - an hour less each day, weekend-only opening, winter closures - and what they think of closing some sites altogether.

"We will be looking at how many people use each of the sites, how much waste is collected, and the distances between sites.

"I would urge Hampshire residents to take part in this consultation and help us define an affordable service which works for them.

"No decisions will be made until we have looked at all the evidence and taken people's views into consideration."

For more information, and to respond to the consultation, visit [www.hants.gov.uk/hwrc2016](http://www.hants.gov.uk/hwrc2016).

Paper copies of the consultation can be obtained by calling 0300 555 1389 or emailing [hwrc.consultation@hants.gov.uk](mailto:hwrc.consultation@hants.gov.uk). The deadline for responses is noon on May 25.

## **Celebrations**

The Commonwealth Flag was raised in Hampshire on Monday 9 March 2015, to mark Commonwealth Day, along with over 650 Commonwealth Flags across 38 Commonwealth countries. It was the second year that local authorities and civic dignitaries, community groups and charities throughout the British Isles had carried out local flag raising events and ceremonies of dedication to mark Commonwealth Day - building on 2014's highly successful inaugural events. The flag was raised this year only yesterday by the Mayor of Winchester in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire. The Magna Carta 800th Anniversary celebrations were hosted by HCC including a lecture in the Great Hall on 10 June. And, joyfully, **Her Majesty the Queen** on 9<sup>th</sup> September became Britain's longest serving Monarch and on behalf of the Council the Leader wrote to Her Majesty expressing our good wishes on her achieving that record. On 24<sup>th</sup> September a letter was received from the Chief Clerk to the Queen - Mr Christopher Sanadamas saying the Queen had asked him to thank the Council and to send her best wishes to you all.

## **Hampshire County Council - Highly commended at national landscape awards**

Work to create a high quality outdoor space for schoolchildren in Basingstoke has earned Hampshire County Council national recognition in the prestigious Landscape Institute Awards. The in-house Property Services Landscape Team was highly commended in the awards, which were announced on 26 November and their work recognised as outstanding examples of work by the landscape profession.

## **Telecare service scoops national award**

Hampshire County Council's Telecare Initiative has scooped another prestigious national award. The 2015 TSA (Telecare Services Association) Crystal Award for Inspiring Change and Progress within Technology Enabled Care Services was won by PA Consulting Group, for their inspiring Telecare partnership work with the County Council. Telecare is a 24-hour personal emergency monitoring service which helps people to continue to live independently in their own home. Using wireless technology and environmental sensors to continuously monitor those with care and support needs, 24-hour monitoring ensures that the right help can be provided immediately and also gives reassurance to relatives and carers who are not able to provide round the clock support.

## **General Election**

The General Election showed how the people have spoken very emphatically in Hampshire. The Council has therefore committed itself to working with the MPs and the Government that the people have elected. The Leader wrote to all the Hampshire MPs, new and returning members, congratulating them on their election and invited them to meet in Winchester and brief them on County issues. This has culminated in an all-party parliamentary group for Hampshire, being established by Ranil Jayawardena MP. They are already involved in the Hampshire Railways initiative. The new Government was clearly elected on the promise to control public expenditure and, put simply, to live within its means and that has manifested itself

in a severe reduction of the Revenue Support Grant to shire counties and districts, i.e. 37.4 % for Hampshire and 42% for Winchester District.

### **Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)**

Submissions to the LGBCE re a new pattern of divisions for the county closed on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> January this year. On 15<sup>th</sup> March the Commission considered its final recommendations and will publish them on 5<sup>th</sup> April whence an Order is laid in Parliament in May for implementation at next year's County Council elections. The electorate for Hampshire's divisions in the district of Winchester is projected to be 101,315 by 2021 of which 14,512 are in the revised Meon Valley division, up from just under 12,000. Accordingly, the recommendation for the Meon Valley division is to retain the parishes of Corhampton & Meonstoke, Exton, Hambledon, Shedfield, Swanmore, Warnford, West Meon and part of Soberton with newcomers of Curbridge, Curdrige and the more highly populated Whiteley. The division has therefore lost the more sparsely populated villages of Beauworth, Bishops Sutton, Bramdean & Hinton Ampner, Cheriton and part of Soberton. Bramdean & Hinton

Ampner will be drawn into the Bishops Waltham Division comprising the parishes of Beauworth, Bishops Sutton, Bishops Waltham, Bramdean & Hinton Ampner, Cheriton, Colden Common, Durlley, Kilmeston, Owslebury, Tichborne, Twyford and Upham.

### **Devolution and Combined Authorities**

On 19th July the Leader of the County Council together with the Leaders of IOW, Southampton and Portsmouth and the 11 Districts of Hampshire sent a letter to the Secretary of State for Local Government indicating an intent to explore the possibility of gaining devolved powers from Government as a Combined Authority. On 4th September to meet a deadline set by the Government a more formal submission was made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the same signatories plus the 2 chairmen of the National Parks and with indications of support from The Police and Crime Commissioner, The Chief Constable, the Chief Fire Officer and the Chairmen of the Hampshire and IOW Fire and Rescue Authorities.

There was no response as originally promised around 24th November; later amended to end of January. It was then thought that there would be an announcement alongside the chancellor's budget statement and that didn't happen; believed to be due to there being an alternative bid made by local authorities in the south of the county prepared to offer up a 'metro-mayor' something that the original Hampshire & Isle of Wight bid did not want. However, it is clear the Government is firm that there can be no devolution deal without there being an elected mayor. If Hampshire is to remain as a single entity, it may be necessary for our shire to accept a mayor of some form just to avoid the formation of 'Solent City'. The all-party parliamentary group for Hampshire was in talks with the Treasury in an effort to secure a pan-Hampshire solution. As of 1<sup>st</sup> April, Cllr Roy Perry was not aware of councils in the Solent ratifying a combined authority proposal. He is continuing bilateral meetings with Hampshire council leaders to consider the options. Legal advice to date indicates that no combined authority can come into force without the consent of all local authorities in the area which of course includes Hampshire County Council.

### **HCC Council Tax**

Hampshire's council tax next year will be the lowest of any county in England and Wales. This is despite the axing of the Government's Council Freeze Grant and the Government authorising county councils to raise Council Tax by 2% to pay for additional provision for adult social care and so ease the burden on the NHS. After 6 years with a standstill of Council Tax in the county, Hampshire has had to raise its precept by the maximum allowed without a referendum of 1.99% for a total rise of 3.99% this coming year. This is equivalent to an increase of £41.40 on a Band D property - an increase of 80 pence a week. In real terms after inflation of around 15% over the period, being taken into account the Hampshire tax is still lower than it was 5 years ago - a tribute to a competent and prudent administration.

Hampshire is one of the largest counties in the country and the council has a budget of approximately £1.9bn per annum and a direct workforce of just under 10,000 employees and over 25,000 in education. Winchester City Council has also set its council tax. It is classified as a shire district and was not allowed to exceed an increase of £5.00 per annum for a Band D property. A level just below this was selected resulting in an increase of 9 pence per week for a Band D property. Soberton Parish Council's precept was raised 10.86% to £37.68 per annum, yielding a rate of 72 pence per week for a Band D property.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. Huxstep.

#### **15. CITY COUNCILLOR – AMBER THACKER.**

Cllr. Thacker had sent her apologies

#### **16. FINANCE – CLERK.**

The Clerk had distributed a copy of the 2015/6 Budget.

The Precept had been kept to the same as last year. £4,800 which based on a tax base of £205.39 for a band D property equates to £23.37. This is an increase of approximately £1 from last year.

The audit for 2015/6 was carried out successfully and I have received the papers for 2016/7 .

#### **TO PAY**

Office Depot .	£57.06
Clerk's exps.	£108.28

#### **17. COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR.**

Sally Mason expressed regret that there were so few parishioners at the meeting and thought it should be advertised more.

#### **18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – ANNUAL MEETING 10TH MAY 2016.**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

The June meeting was agreed as Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and Cllr. Rutherford gave his apologies for the May meeting.