
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – BRAMDEAN & HINTON AMPNER

Meeting held on Monday 27th April 2015 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall, Wood Lane, Bramdean

Present: Matthew Morton (Chairman, Parish Council), Roger Huxstep (County Cllr), Harry Verney (City Cllr), PCSO Michelle Wilkinson, 3 Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, 16 residents.

1. Apologies had been received from Ron Gerrard, Tony Harding, Kashy Hawkings, Chris McCrystal, PC Paul McShea, Paul & Sandy Stevens, Hady Wakefield.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th June 2014 were received.
3. Annual Report of the Parish Council given by Matthew Morton

I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their help and support during the past year beginning with the co-option of Chris McCrystal and Kashy Hawkings becoming Chairman of the Recreation Committee in place of Tim Laker.

Thanks to our Vice-Chairman, Barbara Holyome, who also represents this area on the South Downs National Park Authority, to our nominee on Blake's Educational Charity, Hazel Flindt, and to our Internal Auditor, Seamus McLaughlin.

We are most grateful to Tony Harding for his work to ensure that the post-flooding remedial works agreed with HCC were carried out. Thanks also to Justin Berryman who succeeded Sam Ross-Skinner as Deputy Flood Warden and to residents and riparian owners for their co-operation.

Thanks are due to Eric Simpson for continuing to represent the parish at the Winchester Passenger Transport Forum.

During the past year Chris Day was appointed Neighbourhood Watch Village Co-ordinator and The Fox re-opened as a Free House.

The death of Gladys Trickle last August marked the end of an era in Hinton Ampner stretching back to the days of Ralph Dutton. Gladys' contribution to church and village life will be greatly missed.

The Annual Parish Meeting on 30th June 2014 was attended by six Parish Councillors, our County and City Councillors, representatives from the local Police, The Clerk and 31 residents. Afterwards, Nigel Lee took us on a leisurely stroll down memory lane illustrated with photographs past and present, "Growing up in Bramdean in the 50s and 60s".

Four Parish Council meetings were held in the past year. The Parish Council was represented at meetings organised by Winchester City Council, the Hampshire Association of Local Councils, the Winchester District Association of Local Councils, and at The Mayor's Sunday Service. Parish Councillors attended meetings on topics from the aftermath of the floods to the nuisance of speeding on the A272 and plans for superfast broadband in rural areas.

We considered 14 planning applications (13 in 2013/14) including a welcome proposal to restore the historic barn at Hinton Woodlands.

The new parish website, www.bramdean.hants.gov.uk, finally went “live” last September. Thanks to Mandy Bulloch for kindly agreeing to update the material. It has already generated some family history enquiries: from a lady tracing an ancestor who worked at Brookwood (now Brockwood) Park in the 19th century to a man from California seeking proof that his great-great grandfather who fought at Waterloo was born in Bramdean as stated in his discharge papers! There has also been much interest in the Church in the Wood, especially after it was featured on Channel 4 last Christmas.

We adopted a Child Protection Policy and updated our Vision Statement from 2014/15 onwards.

Last November we received the welcome news that WCC had finally drawn up plans to create additional parking spaces in Woodlane Close and work should begin on 5th May.

WCC concluded it had no reserves at present to implement new byelaws on Bramdean Common or to make a goodwill repair to the access track to Wood Farm Cottages (this was a matter for the landowners). The possibility of signage displaying new rates of fines for breaching the existing byelaws was investigated by Cllr Verney.

Sadly the brown cycle loop signs still cannot be removed until the information leaflets on the new route are available to the public.

The Precept for 2014/15 was £7000.00 including Council Tax Support (CTS) of £429.52 and we carry forward a balance of £5977.33.

Matthew Morton proposed that Item 11 be brought forward and this was agreed.

11. Report of PCSO Michelle Wilkinson, Winchester Rural NPT

Following an organisational restructure PCSOs had become local beat officers and would attend Parish Council meetings, etc, to enable Police Constables like Paul McShea to concentrate on higher levels of crime. The Annual Crime Statistics for 1st April 2014 to 27th April 2015 gave the number of crime reports as 36 (72 for 2013/14). Thanks to Op Thornley, four men recently pleaded guilty to poaching offences. The public should continue to dial 101 and quote Op Thornley to report acts of poaching or hare coursing. Fake chainsaws had been on sale in the Alresford area. The equipment was not believed to be stolen but was believed to be fake and highly dangerous.

Victoria Wakefield raised the incidence of speeding on the double white lined section of the A272 from the Beauworth cross roads to Hockley Cottages. PCSO Wilkinson would pass on a request for a patrol by the speed camera van.

PCSO Wilkinson would pass on the question from David Templeman regarding curbing motorcycle noise on the A272. Cllr Huxstep said the Hampshire Police Commissioner was examining the legality of a group of motorcyclists riding through villages at speed and whether it constituted antisocial behaviour in which case it could be an offence.

Judith Willis said speeds exceeding 60 mph were quite common on the A272 at various times of the day.

4. Parish Council Accounts for year ending 31st March 2015 subject to audit

Receipts	14/15	13/14	Payments	14/15	13/14
Balance b/fwd	5170.66	4713.01	Admin/Sundries	663.27	799.32
Donations	-	-	Capital Spending	995.00	-
Grant Aid	495.00		Clerk's Pay	2935.66	2820.16
Refunds, etc	-	-	Donations	698.00	775.00
Jubilee mugs	-	12.48	Insurance/Legal	427.94	705.53
Precept/CTS	7000.00	6373.59	Subscriptions	290.00	237.00
<i>Recreation Ground</i>					
Donations	-	-	Capital Spending	-	1400.00
Grant Aid	-	1545.71	Sundries/Maintenance	670.96	478.40
Refunds, etc	-	50.00	Tennis Coaching	-	234.00
VAT recovered	353.34	-	VAT	340.84	74.72
	13019.00	12694.79		7021.67	7524.13
			Total c/fwd	5997.33	5170.66

Receipts

Precept : 7000.00 (CTS 429.52)

Credit re Jubilee Mugs: -

Grant Aid: 495.00 (County Cllr's Grant re website)

Recreation Ground.

Donations: -

Grant Aid: -

VAT: 353.34

Payments

Admin/Sundries: 663.27 (room hire, copying, postage, stationery, broadband/telephone, training, DBS check etc)

Capital Expenditure: 995.00 (new website)

Clerk's Pay: 2935.66

Donations: 698.00 (churchyards including War Memorial, NATT minibus, Rowans Hospice)

Insurance/Legal: 427.04 (no Legal costs for 14/15)

Subscriptions: 290.00 (CPRE, HALC/NALC, HPFA – sub waived 13/14)

Recreation Ground.

Capital Spending: -

Sundries/Maintenance: 670.96 (safety inspection, petrol for mower, minor repairs, safety chippings, moss treatment for hard court, etc)

VAT: 340.84

5. Report of the Recreation Committee

Firstly we would like to record thanks to our past Chairman Tim Laker, Chairman of the Recreation Committee for 13 years. Kashy Hawkings took over from him in June 2014 and would like to thank Tony Harding, Graham Budd, Anne Newson, Adrian Taylor and Rachael Greenwood for all their help over the past year. Our special thanks to Adrian who maintains the ground and the equipment so beautifully.

In the last year we have had to replace, under guarantee, three upright wooden posts on the The Twist which is now 15 years old. Unfortunately the climbing nets are beginning to deteriorate and these will need to be replaced this year at some considerable cost. Other expenditure was minimal including petrol for the mower, cushion fall safety chippings and moss treatment to the hard court.

The Friends of Bramdean Children took over the organisation of the tennis coaching last summer. Thanks to the generosity of Blake's Educational Charity they offered local children between the ages of 4 and 14 a week's worth of tennis coaching in August last year and we hope this will be as successful this year as last. We are very grateful to Hady and Victoria Wakefield for their continued support of this event.

Finally, as a consequence of adopting a Child Protection Policy the Committee felt it was appropriate for Adrian, our voluntary groundsman, to undertake a DBS check as a safeguard whilst working at the Jubilee Recreation Ground. The Parish Council also arranged for Rachael to undertake a DBS check in her capacity of Child Protection Liaison Officer.

6. James Bulloch presented the accounts (subject to audit) of Blake's Educational Charity, Reg No 3071797. Income had decreased slightly from £19737.33 in 2013 to £18489.56 in 2014 but the Trust remained healthy: 51 grants had been awarded during the past year including for swimming lessons and tennis coaching. About 50% of applicants informed the Trustees what their grant had helped them to achieve. Mr Bulloch would pass on Jennifer Templeman's enquiry as to whether feedback could occasionally appear in "Church & Village".
7. The accounts of Bramdean and Hinton Ampner Village Hall, Reg No 301764, were laid before the meeting. Those present were invited to direct any queries to the Treasurer, Mr Gordon Cooper.
8. As the accounts of The Friends of Bramdean Children were not available, those present were invited to direct any queries to the Treasurer, Mrs Sarah Densham.
9. Report of Mr Roger Huxstep, County Councillor, Meon Valley

Cllr Huxstep presented the main points from his report. Devolution - England was seeking more influence over its affairs. HCC was keen to obtain more devolved powers. Winter Preparations – These included cleaning and jetting extra gullies, soakaways and drainage chambers identified as potential flood risks plus drainage related maintenance. Fortunately, the recent winter weather had been far less challenging than the previous year. Education – Attainment in Hampshire was 1-2% above the national average. Services for Vulnerable Children - These had received a good report from Ofsted. Troubled Families Programme – This was working effectively. Care at Home – New service providing care and support to older people and physically disabled service users. People want to remain in their own homes. Council Proceedings – It was decided at an Extra-Ordinary meeting on 13th April that despite a likely 5% increase to the electorate the number of HCC councillors should remain at 78. Changes to Waste Recycling Centres – Opening times were revised from 1st April but none of the 24 centres had been closed. Council's Budget – Expenditure must be reduced by 12% during 2015/16. The Council Tax had not been increased in real terms. Broadband – Progress was slow but Call Flow was now available to some property postcodes served by the Bramdean exchange. It was likely that the remainder would have to wait for an improved service until 2016-2018.

10. Report of Mr Harry Verney, City Councillor

Cllr Verney said his main work during the last year had been implementation of remedial flood works. He had also taken up the question of variable speed limits through the parish.

Matthew Morton said that according to the headline in the Hampshire Chronicle, "Veteran City Councillor Harry Verney from Cheriton (was) set to stand down". Harry had represented the Cheriton and Bishop's Sutton Ward since 2002. His mother had served on the Rural District Council so it could be said to run in the family. Harry was descended from Florence Nightingale, though it was not known if she shared his fondness for Scottish Dancing! Harry had a wealth of local knowledge from living in Cheriton for many years and a genuine interest in helping the community. A presentation was made to Cllr Verney to thank him for his help and support over the past 13 years and to wish him well in the future.

12. Any other business

David Templeman asked how the Environment Agency was supporting the parish and what action it had taken. Cllr Verney said that Agency staff had attended meetings to progress flood remedial works. Cllr Huxstep said the agency had worked closely with HCC to resolve severe problems at Bramdean. As Mr Templeman felt there was no tangible evidence of agency involvement Cllr Huxstep would enquire further of Stuart Jarvis (HCC Director of Economy, Transport & Environment).

Victoria Wakefield remained very concerned about the poor condition of Bramdean Common. The trees and undergrowth should needed be cut back and managed. There appeared to be a new track at the top. Cllr Verney said WCC had no plans for a new access track. All residents had received a letter advising them of their legal responsibility to maintain their existing access tracks.

Matthew Morton reported a great increase in dog fouling on the grass in front of the Jubilee Recreation Ground boundary fence. As the Parish Council was responsible for this strip of grass, clearing up was very unpleasant for Adrian Taylor. It would be greatly appreciated if local people could request culprits to clean up after their dogs. Victoria Wakefield said that dog fouling was also a problem on Rights of Way, eg by Bramdean Church.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Afterwards, Boniface Mpario talked about “The Maasai Tribe of Kenya and Tanzania”. Boniface now lived in Hampshire but was born and brought up in the Maasai Mara game reserve and participated in many tribal ceremonies as a Senior Elder. Despite the advent of compulsory education, ID cards and mobile communications, the Maasai were a matriarchal society from nurturing new mothers and babies, to hut building and milking cows. As to polygamy, a man with 250 head of cattle milked twice daily needed more than one wife: it was too much for one woman!

MM/RG