
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – BRAMDEAN & HINTON AMPNER

Held on Monday 29th April 2013 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall, Wood Lane, Bramdean

Present: Matthew Morton (Chairman, Parish Council), Felicity Hindson (Cty Cllr), Harry Verney (City Cllr), PC Paul Mc Shea, PCSO Siobhan Adnams, 5 Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, 26 residents.

1. Apologies had been received from Reverend Bowkett.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th April 2012 were received.
3. Annual Report of the Parish Council given by Matthew Morton

I am grateful to Mandy Bulloch, Tony Harding, Kashy Hawkings, Barbara Holyome (Vice-Chairman) and Tim Laker for all their work on behalf of the Parish Council during the past year. Special thanks to Barbara Holyome who represents this area on the South Downs National Park Authority, Tony Harding (Flood Warden), Hazel Flindt (Blake's Educational Charity) and Robin Disney (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator).

The Annual Parish Meeting on 18th April 2012 was attended by five Parish Councillors, our County and City Councillors, representatives from the local Police, The Clerk and 15 residents. Afterwards, Damian Offer (WCC Head of Landscape & Open Spaces) launched consultations on proposed byelaws, parking areas and regularisation of vehicular access for Bramdean Common. However, after extensive consultation WCC concluded that there was insufficient support to implement the proposed new byelaws and designated parking areas. Alternative measures to curb anti-social use of the common are awaited. Meanwhile, we wish to thank everyone who "watches over" the Common.

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.

The Parish Council was delighted to present each child resident with a commemorative mug and to donate a Malus for planting in Bramdean Churchyard to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Diamond Jubilee Committee is to be congratulated on organising such a memorable celebration to mark this rare national event. We were also pleased to nominate The Friends of Bramdean Children to receive a Mayor's Award for Community Service in recognition of their fundraising for village projects, including new play equipment for the Jubilee Recreation Ground.

We are grateful to Eric Simpson for representing our villages at the Winchester Passenger Transport Forum. We have pressed HCC to accept the offer of a 2 hour bus service on Saturdays and requested the new bus operator, Velvet, to address safety concerns by providing a double-decker on the early morning service for Peter Symonds College students.

We considered 17 planning applications (8 in 2011/12). We formally requested WCC to consider measures to address car congestion brought about by the lack of car parking spaces in Woodlane Close. We made representations to HCC about the shortage of places at Cheriton Primary School and will continue to monitor the situation as the new houses in Freemans Yard are occupied.

Looking ahead, in due course residents will have an opportunity to comment on any viable proposal for affordable housing. Meanwhile, I can report that the planners propose that any development should be 5-8 units (originally 10 maximum).

We wish to thank residents and riparian owners for their co-operation during the extremely wet weather last autumn. It was a very anxious time and we are particularly grateful to Tony Harding for his day-to-day management of the situation; also to Sam Ross-Skinner who has kindly agreed to become Deputy Flood Warden. The situation was exacerbated by the long delay to clear the blocked culvert at the bottom of Wood Lane. Highways were alerted of the problem on 16th October but, despite the best efforts of the local Highway Engineer, a jetter was not available until 17th December by which time the water had reached danger-level. It was a matter of regret that the flow of water was impeded by the same blockage in 2000/01. As winters are forecast to become much wetter, more equipment needs to be accessible at short notice, and HCC will be requested to clear the culvert more regularly in future.

We are also grateful to all the residents who have spread grit from the bins at Hinton Hill, Brockwood Hill, Woodlane Close and Bramdean Common during icy weather. HCC will be using a mix of salt and grit in future to deter passers by from helping themselves!

We adopted the revised Code of Conduct and revised our policy and practice for responding to planning applications. Arrangements are in hand to increase the number of Parish Councillors from 6 to 7, the first such change since 1931.

We met with the SDNPA to discuss alternative proposals to reduce the impact of the National Byway signage (brown cycle loop signs) on our rural roads and were consulted on new tourist information leaflets. An acceptable solution has now been agreed by which the signs will be removed from all the rural roads in this parish and the surrounding area. We also met with the Countryside Ranger team to review several parish footpaths.

The Precept for 2012/13 was £6000.00 and we carry forward a balance of £4713.01.

Finally, as many of you will already know, Felicity Hindson is not seeking re-election as a County Councillor for the Meon Valley Division. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Felicity for all her work on behalf of this parish and to wish her a long and happy retirement.

4. Parish Council Accounts for year ending 31st March 2013 subject to audit

Receipts	12/13	11/12	Payments	12/13	11/12
Balance b/fwd	5246.56	5601.74	Admin/Sundries	543.74	581.26
Donations	-	-	Capital Spending	785.10	583.00
Grant Aid	-	-	Clerk's Pay	2613.12	2613.12
Refunds, etc	-	100.00	Donations	674.00	650.00
Jubilee mugs	792.48	-	Insurance/Legal	780.71	782.37
Precept	6000.00	5000.00	Subscriptions	232.00	270.50
<i>Recreation Ground</i>					
Donations	300.00	300.00	Capital Spending	2662.00	490.00
Grant Aid	1028.00	756.50	Sundries/Maintenance	130.12	279.51
Refunds, etc	-	-	Tennis Coaching	228.00	256.50
VAT recovered	761.16	103.24	VAT	766.40	108.66
	14128.20	11861.48	Total c/fwd	9415.19	6614.92
				4713.01	5246.56

Receipts

Precept: 6000.00

Sale of Jubilee Mugs: 792.48

Recreation Ground.

Donations: 300.00 (DJ Committee re swing barriers)

Grant Aid: 228.00 (Blake's Educational Charity re tennis coaching); 500.00 (HCC re new mower); 300.00 (Open Space Fund re swings).

VAT: 761.16

Payments

Admin/Sundries: 543.74 (Fee to Information Commissioner, room hire, copying, postage, stationery, broadband/telephone, training, etc)

Capital Expenditure: 785.10 (DJ mugs)

Clerk's Pay: 2613.12

Donations: 524.00 (churchyard maintenance including War Memorial); 100.00 (CAB); 50.00 (NATT minibus service)

Insurance/Legal: 660.71 (insurance); 120.00 (external audit)

Subscriptions: 232.00 (CPRE, HALC, HPFA, NALC)

Recreation Ground.

Capital Spending: 2317.00 (swings/barriers).; 345.00 (safagrass)

Sundries/Maintenance: 130.12 (safety inspection, petrol for mower, strimmer sundries)

VAT: 766.40

5. Report of the Recreation Committee given by Tim Laker

We met four times during the past year. I would like to thank Tony Harding, Kashy Hawkings, Rachael Greenwood, Anne Newson and Groundsman, Adrian Taylor, for all their help over the past 12 months. Special thanks to Adrian Taylor for keeping the grass in such good condition despite the extremely challenging weather.

The annual safety inspection was satisfactory and only routine maintenance was needed. However, the Lazer mower, which was purchased second hand in 1985, is nearing the end of its useful life. We have just been awarded £500 from Cllr Hindson's devolved budget towards the cost of a recent replacement. If the Lazer is not taken in part-exchange it will be advertised in a trade magazine.

The annual tennis coaching went very well with 19 children aged 5-12 years participating. Thanks to Victoria and Hady Wakefield for the use of the Bramdean House court, to the coach Adam Goble, and to Blake's Educational Charity for meeting the full cost.

Thanks to the unreliable weather, the new cradle swings were not installed under October (final cost £2662 excluding VAT). Apart from the City Council and the Hampshire Playing Fields Association, we also received a grant from Cllr Hindson's devolved budget, plus donations from the Friends of Bramdean Children and the Diamond Jubilee Committee.

No major projects are planned for the coming year but at some time a plaque will be sited on the boundary fence to commemorate the villages' celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee at its Jubilee Recreation Ground.

6. James Bulloch presented the accounts of Blake's Educational Charity, Reg No 3071797, subject to audit. The Trust was created with the proceeds from the sale of Hinton Ampner School. Investment income had increased by 9% since 2011 to £17,189 and 43 grants to the value of £15,389 had been awarded for educational purposes, including £400 to Cheriton Primary School for swimming lessons. Overall the Trust was in a healthy situation.
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. The accounts of The Friends of Bramdean Children were laid before the meeting. Those present were invited to direct any queries to the Treasurer, Mrs Sarah Densham. The group was thanked for its fundraising work in the community, including new play equipment at the Jubilee Recreation Ground.
9. Report of Mrs Felicity Hindson, County Councillor, Meon Valley

Cllr Hindson said it had been a great privilege to represent the parish for the last 8 years and she was exceedingly sorry to learn of the recent fatal accident near Kalamunnda, Bramdean. This stretch of the A272 would be reviewed by Hampshire Police and Hampshire Highways through the Casualty Reduction Partnership. Further details were needed before any recommendations could be made. The Traffic Management and Road Safety Manager was aware of the Parish Council's request for an extension of the 30 mph speed limit and better signage. The review of speed limits on A and B roads did not recommend any changes for the A272 through Bramdean but a request for a lower speed limit could be considered for the future. The Parish Council might also wish to contact West

Meon Parish Council since parishioners living close to the A272 were also seeking a reduction in the speed limit.

HCC had cut £130 million from its budget to meet the 43% reduction in Government grant over the 4 years from 2011/12. Council Tax was frozen for the fourth year running. The budget for 2013/14 would provide some growth for Adult Services, Children's Services and Highway Maintenance. The Operation Resilience programme was being reassessed after serious damage to the highway network caused by extreme wet and freezing temperatures the previous winter. Superfast broadband, rural footpaths, Shared Space schemes to slow traffic in rural villages, Community Centres and Village Halls were also included in the capital programme.

Ofsted had found the Children's Services Department to be outstanding and children in Hampshire schools to perform above the national average. The growing ageing population had prompted HCC to develop its Prevention and Early Intervention agenda with voluntary organisations to help older people be independent for longer. A new daily Meals-on-Wheels Service began on 2nd April. Dementia Advisors were becoming available to help the newly diagnosed and their families. Local Welfare Assistance had also been introduced following changes to the current Social Fund.

10. Report of Mr Harry Verney, City Councillor

WCC was working in conjunction with HCC to remove the variable speed limits on the A272 through the two villages. The application to build two houses at Wolfhanger Farm had been refused being against WCC policy. Due to the high cost of demolishing redundant farm buildings and clearing asbestos, the site was likely to be difficult to redevelop.

Public and some stakeholder opposition had prevented implementation of updated byelaws and designated parking areas for Bramdean Common. WCC had concluded that it would be desirable to initiate further consultation over revised byelaws which might only prohibit night time parking although this would effectively legalise driving and parking on the common during the daytime and continue to damage the fabric. Despite numerous applications, to date no grants had been identified to fund hard core parking areas or notices on the Common but funding had been obtained to deal with the problems caused by car congestion in Woodlane Close.

11. Report of PC Paul McShea, Winchester Rural North

The Police Station had successfully relocated to Alresford Fire Station. There had been 83 incidents in Bramdean (93 in 2011/12) and 24 in Hinton Ampner (22 in 2011/12). The recent accident on the A272 was being investigated thoroughly. There had been fewer visits by the speed camera unit: speeding incidents were down to 17 (40 in 2011/12). The Police regretted that the proposed revised byelaws and parking areas for Bramdean Common had been defeated by single interest groups rather than local people. A night time curfew might be a future option to curb anti social behaviour. Operation Enigma would continue to persuade travellers to leave the common if they were causing trouble.

In answer to concerns about pedestrian safety on the A272, especially school children, and speeding on Wood Lane outside the 30 mph zone, PC Mc Shea hoped that the new hand held speed gun would have a deterrent effect in both locations. Residents also enquired whether the 60 mph national speed limit for upper Wood Lane could be lowered to 30-40 mph as the road was narrow and frequently used by horses and riders, cyclists, joggers, etc. The Parish Council was recommended to request

that the speed limit between Green Acres and Hinton Ampner Lodge be lowered to 40 mph and also to request a review of the speed limit for upper Wood Lane.

12. Any other business

David Templeman stated that during the past 12 months there had been four incidents of vehicles crashing into gardens of properties fronting the 40 mph section of the A272. The lack of co-ordinated response by various agencies to prevent further incidents was a matter of concern: the facts should be collated and presented to the community. Furthermore, BT had been extremely slow to repair the telegraph pole recently impacted by a motorcycle. The damage was so extensive that residents nearby opposite were disconnected for 5 days.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

After a break for refreshments Christopher Hobbs talked about “Afghanistan and Iraq – a doctor’s view”. Christopher Hobbs had joined the army in 1984, towards the end of the Cold War, when active service generally meant Northern Ireland or waiting in West Germany for the Russians to invade. Everything changed after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in the era before GPS when getting lost in the desert was an occupational hazard if map and compass failed.

MM/RG