
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – BRAMDEAN & HINTON AMPNER

Meeting held on Monday 30th June 2014 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall, Wood Lane, Bramdean

Present: Matthew Morton (Chairman, Parish Council), Peter Eade (HCC), Roger Huxstep (County Cllr), Harry Verney (City Cllr), PC Paul Mc Shea, PCSO Michelle Wilkinson, 5 Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, 31 residents.

1. Apologies had been received from Graham Budd, Sarah Densham, Chris McCrystal, Bruce & Anne Newson and Bill Taylor.

Matthew Morton (Chairman) proposed that Item 12 was brought forward and this was agreed.

12. After the Floods – What next?

Harry Verney began by reporting on the latest inspection of the local drainage system: 30” of rain had fallen between November 2013 and March 2014.

Roger Huxstep read out a statement on the Flood Alleviation Strategy for the Itchen Valley from Roy Perry (Leader of Hampshire County Council). HCC was committed to help communities affected by floods and had applied for grants from various agencies. Bramdean and Hinton Ampner would be included in bids for flood alleviation projects, there would be a strategy to complement the existing Flood Risk Management Strategy, small scale flood alleviation measures and on-going maintenance. It was agreed that the statement would be attached to the minutes.

Peter Eade (HCC Highways Manager) confirmed that current survey to identify constrictions (eg varying width of 600m pipe from Woodcote to Bramdean Garage) and breakages in the drainage system would be completed on 9th July. The CCTV images would locate the repairs and arrangements made to carry them out. Due to budget cuts, CCTV investigation could not be undertaken as regularly as might be desirable but the highway ditches would be re-dug.

Cllr Verney understood the Environment Agency planned some additional clearance from The Old Rectory to move the water onwards. There was the possibility of some EU funding for this work.

David Templeman requested that a strategic and tactical report be obtained from the Environment Agency and attached to the minutes. Cllr Huxstep undertook to take this request forward.

Pippa Deakin said that flood damage to her home, Manchester House, would cost £500,000 to repair. The camber of the road fell directly into the old and porous boundary wall. Ms Deakin said that there were no storm drains on that side of the road and requested that curb drains be provided from The Old Cottage to Manchester House (which could not be tanked due to its listed status). Tom Waldron (HCC Assistant Highway Engineer) would be asked to make a site visit to Manchester House.

Lisa McCrystal (The Old Cottage) said that the existing drainage was clearly insufficient and asked what long-term solution HCC planned to remedy this deficiency. Mrs McCrystal asked why dredging had not been prioritised after it was agreed that was needed annually in the 2002 Environment Agency/Halcrow report. Those present sought assurances that in future ditches would be dredged annually in September-October.

Blocked culverts adjoining private land were thought to increase flooding. The Environment Agency should enforce clearance of ditches in riparian ownership.

Answering complaints about inadequate signage when the A272 was closed, Mr Eade said “Road Closure” signs were sited at each end (Chilcomb and West Meon Hut) but it had been very difficult to control traffic in between. Some signs had been deliberately removed. It was a matter of regret that Bramdean Garage has been drawn into directing lost motorists and that there had been a number of near-miss accidents besides constant hazards for pedestrians.

Cllr Verney observed that the HCC element of the Council Tax would need to be increased by 4% to fund all the necessary flood work which might not be popular with residents across Hampshire.

Mr Morton thanked Mr Eade for attending the meeting to update residents.

2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2013 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. Last May saw an increase from six to seven with the co-option of Graham Budd, the first such change since our two parishes were united in 1931. This May saw Tim Laker stand down due to an imminent house move and we would like to record our appreciation of his service to the Parish Council over the past 20 years, in particular as Chairman of the Recreation Committee.

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

Tony Harding received a Mayor’s Award in recognition of his outstanding service to the community during the floods. We are all extremely grateful for his hard work this winter as Flood Warden and for his continued commitment as plans are drawn up to minimise future risk. Thanks also to Sam Ross-Skinner (Deputy Flood Warden) and to residents and riparian owners for their co-operation.

The severity and duration of the recent flooding in the centre of Bramdean caused a great deal of damage both to personal property and to highway infrastructure. Our plight was so widely reported in various media that The Mayor and Mayoress of Winchester, accompanied by the Deputy Leader of the City Council, came to see for themselves. This was our second mayoral visit since the millennium but we would have preferred to have made the headlines for different reasons.

Last year saw the death of Dina Flindt, who served Blake’s Educational Charity as Hon Secretary for 22 years, and the retirement of Robin Disney, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator since 2009.

The Annual Parish Meeting on 29th April 2013 was attended by five Parish Councillors, our County and City Councillors, representatives from the local Police, The Clerk and 26 residents. Afterwards, Christopher Hobbs talked about his army service from a doctor’s viewpoint.

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.

It was a pleasure to nominate Audrey Blake for a Mayor's Award for Community Service in recognition of many years of fundraising, particularly to benefit the children of our two villages.

We were delighted when HCC accepted the offer from Velvet Travel to run a 2 hourly Saturday bus service from the new bus operator, Velvet. We continued to highlight safety concerns regarding services used by college students and school children. We are grateful to Eric Simpson for continuing to represent the parish at the Winchester Passenger Transport Forum.

We considered 13 planning applications (17 in 2012/13). It was a matter of great regret that the historic barn at Hinton Woodlands was severely damaged in the storms of October 2013. The Parish Council had pressed the agencies with the legal powers to make repairs to secure this structure since 2001 and the damage could have been avoided.

We invited a local company to submit proposals to redesign the parish website and will continue to press HCC for faster broadband speeds in rural communities like ours.

We supported the Crime Prevention Operation organised by the Police and Neighbourhood Watch.

We shared residents' concerns about the future of The Fox public house and considered possible options to prevent its future sale without the community being consulted.

We took advice to establish whether it would be prudent to adopt a policy to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

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 remaining houses in Freemans Yard are occupied.

We participated in the National Parish Council Recruitment Research Project at the University of Southampton to consider how more people could be encouraged to stand for the office of Councillor.

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

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

In due course residents will have an opportunity to comment on any viable proposal for affordable housing.

The Precept for 2013/14 was £6373.59 including the Council Tax Support (CTS) of £373.39 and we carry forward a balance of £5170.66.

4. Parish Council Accounts for year ending 31st March 2014 subject to audit

Receipts	12/13	13/14	Payments	12/13	13/14
Balance b/fwd	5246.56	4713.01	Admin/Sundries	543.74	799.32
Donations	-	-	Capital Spending	785.10	-
Grant Aid	-	-	Clerk's Pay	2613.12	2820.16
Refunds, etc	-	-	Donations	674.00	775.00
Jubilee mugs	792.48	12.48	Insurance/Legal	780.71	705.53
Precept	6000.00	6373.59	Subscriptions	232.00	237.00
<i>Recreation Ground</i>					
Donations	300.00	-	Capital Spending	2662.00	1400.00
Grant Aid	1028.00	1545.71	Sundries/Maintenance	130.12	478.40
Refunds, etc	-	50.00	Tennis Coaching	228.00	234.00
VAT recovered	761.16	-	VAT	766.40	74.72
	14128.20	12694.79		9415.19	7524.13
			Total c/fwd	4713.01	5170.66

Receipts

Precept inc Council Tax Support: 6373.59

Credit re Jubilee Mugs: 12.48

Recreation Ground.

Donations: -

Grant Aid: 234.00 (Blake's Educational Charity re tennis coaching); 500.00 (HPFA re cradle swings); 811.71 (Open Space Fund re mower).

VAT: To be reclaimed in 2014/15

Payments

Admin/Sundries: 779.32 (room hire, copying, postage, stationery, broadband/telephone, repair to VH notice board, etc)

Capital Expenditure: -

Clerk's Pay: 2820.16

Donations: 550.00 (churchyards including War Memorial); 115.00 (CAB); 60.00 (NATT minibus); 50.00 (BLESMA)

Insurance/Legal: 705.33 (insurance); No audit fee after 2013/14

Subscriptions: 237.00 (CPRE, HALC, NALC)

Recreation Ground.

Capital Spending: 1400.00 (mower)

Sundries/Maintenance: 478.40 (safety inspection, petrol for mower, minor repairs, signs, mower sundries, goal nets, etc)

VAT: 74.72

5. Report of the Recreation Committee given by Tim Laker

We met four times during the past year. Following a satisfactory annual safety inspection, it was decided to implement the recommendation to update signage for users to the latest British Standard. The only other works were of a minor nature to the hard court, play hut and tractor shed, carried out to the usual high standard by John Sankey. Thanks to some excellent negotiating by Tony Harding, the Lazer mower, purchased second hand in 1985, was finally put out to grass in favour of a very nearly new Toro. We can only hope it will give us as good service as its predecessor.

The plaque to commemorate the villages' celebration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee at the Jubilee Recreation Ground is now in place.

The annual tennis coaching went very well with 16 children aged 5-12 years participating. Thanks to Victoria and Hady Wakefield for the use of the Bramdean House court, to coach Richard Libby and to Blake's Educational Charity for meeting the full cost. Sadly, since then concerns as to whether the Parish Council should be involved with the coaching unless it had adopted a child protection policy, resulted in a decision to have no further involvement. However, we understand

that the coaching, which has run since 1997, will continue under the auspices of The Friends of Bramdean Children and we wish them well in the future. Having taken advice on the protection of children and vulnerable adults, the Parish Council is likely to adopt a policy later in the year.

Finally, as you may know, Jane, Sarah and I are shortly moving to Stroud so this is my last report as Chairman of the Recreation Committee. I would like to thank Tony Harding, Kashy Hawkings, Rachael Greenwood, Anne Newson and Adrian Taylor, for all their help and support not just over the past 12 months but over the past 13 years since I became Chairman in 2001.

Mr Laker was presented with three rose bushes as a token of appreciation from his colleagues.

6. James Bulloch presented the accounts (subject to audit) of Blake's Educational Charity, Reg No 3071797 which had been created with the proceeds from the sale of Hinton Ampner School. Income had increased to £19,737 and 45 grants to the value of £15,021 had been awarded for educational purposes. Overall the Trust remained 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.
9. Report of Mr Roger Huxstep, County Councillor, Meon Valley (full text of report available)

In the Comprehensive Spending Review the Chancellor said, "Our Country still borrows too much. We still don't invest enough, export enough or save enough." Consequently, Hampshire County Council (HCC) has had its revenue support cut by £32.2m. Inflationary pressures and demographic changes, there being more elderly people and more children, have increased demand for services, in particular for adult social care, and HCC's target for savings up to 2015 has risen to £90.3m.

Recent economic data suggests that Hampshire's economy is picking up, but youth employment is high at 12.9% although well below the national average (20.9%). After registering the highest level of business activity in this part of the South East at the end of last year, business activity in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has continued to expand this year. The latest data shows that growth stands at 2%. HCC and its partners have been working hard to build on Hampshire's economic strengths, attract investment, encourage new business and drive regeneration.

Hampshire's Superfast Broadband Programme recognises that fast reliable broadband is important to people and businesses across the county, playing a vital role in economic growth as well as having a positive impact on rural communities. The aim in the long run is for the County to be in the 'premier league' on broadband across the nation and well beyond the Government's new target of 24 Mbps for 95% of premises by 2017.

Extra-Care Housing provides a real alternative to residential care for older people, more of whom are now choosing to remain independent and be cared for at home. The schemes comprise accessible housing where people have their own apartments, enjoy additional communal facilities, and where care and support is available day and night if required.

The unusually wet weather, much more than twice the winter average rainfall, afflicted the county and affected the condition of its 5,500 miles of roads, 275 miles of which were inundated. During the past year HCC contractor, Amey, had filled 105,000 potholes. The aftermath includes

examining flood alleviation schemes and road maintenance. Bramdean was the subject of such survey and consequently considered appropriate remediation.

HCC must save £1.25-£1.5m from public and community transport spending. A consultation ran until the end of May to aid the decision-making process. Almost half of respondents wished to maintain current days of service that is Monday -Friday or the current frequency of hourly. The outcome will be known in the autumn for possible implementation early in 2015.

10. Report of Mr Harry Verney, City Councillor

Cllr Verney had continued to lobby for support to curb the nuisance caused by motorcyclists speeding through villages early on Sunday mornings. Refusal to build houses at Wolfhanger Farm had been overturned, subject to the site being cleared of asbestos. Cllr Verney was still keen to see effective new byelaws adopted to discourage antisocial behaviour on Bramdean Common.

Answering a question from Seamus McLaughlin, Cllr Verney said there might be a re- application to build 7-8 houses at Old Park Industrial Estate, Bishop's Sutton, in place of the existing waste transfer station. The site was too far from the main road for any affordable housing units.

11. Report of PC Paul McShea, Winchester Rural North

PC McShea reported that the Police must save an additional £25m over the next few years. Due to further staffing cuts, one officer would be leaving Alresford Police Station. Crime had been fairly stable over the past year. A total of 1590 vehicles had been caught by the speed camera van between Bramdean and the Beauworth crossroads, including 17 motorcycles. Residents might feel they were being unfairly targeted but only 84 vehicles had a local postcode. The highest recorded speed in the 30 mph limit was 58 mph; motorcycles mainly sped in the 60 mph zone which was not checked. Budget cuts meant that it was unlikely an effective method could be found to curb excessive noise. The mobile speed camera van normally only operated in daytime hours but as Wednesday evenings were particularly noisy Pc McShea would enquire if a patrol could be set up. Residents were advised that fixed cameras were normally only installed at locations where there had been numerous accidents: mobile units were favoured for flexible operation.

12. Any other business

Caroline Young asked whether residents might be interested in the Community Speed Watch initiative: a group of six local volunteers would be needed to work in conjunction with the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team. As 10 people expressed possible interest, it was agreed to publicise the opportunity in a future issue of "Church & Village".

Gordon Gardner (NT Property Manger) said that part of the roof of Hinton Ampner House had blown away in the Great Storm on 14th February. A potential of 15,000 visitors had been lost due to the prolonged closure of the A272 due to the floods. The National Trust would appreciate it if local residents saw visitors walking across farmland that they could guide them back to official paths to avoid crop damage. Mr Gardner was invited to publicise the matter in a future issue of "Church & Village".

Judith Willis was grateful to everyone who had ensured the continuance of the 67 bus service, now with a May-October Sunday service supported by the SDNPA. However, there was a regrettable discrepancy in fares: Stagecoach was more expensive than Xelabus and although Stagecoach

tickets were accepted on Xelabus the opposite did not apply. The Parish Council would ensure that the comments were passed to the appropriate authority.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Afterwards Nigel Lee looked back on “Growing up in Bramdean in the 50s and 60s” and his life on the land. Nigel was born in Cowplain, and moved to Bramdean as a young boy following the premature death of his father from TB; his family was one of the first to live in Woodlane Close. Nigel had an idyllic childhood of open spaces to play football and cricket before the Jubilee Recreation Ground existed, the Youth Club and the occasional treat of watching television at a neighbour’s house. With photographs past and present, especially of much loved buildings no longer standing, there was plenty to interest those who had lived in Bramdean at the time and those who arrived later.

MM/RG