

BRAMDEAN & HINTON AMPNER PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 20th July 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Wood Lane, Bramdean

Present: Mr M Morton (Chairman), Mrs M Bulloch, Mr A Harding, Mrs B Holyome (Vice-Chairman), Mr C McCrystal, Cllr Mrs A Thacker (WCC), Mrs R Greenwood (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Mrs Hawkings (family commitment), Mr Budd (work commitment), Cllr Huxstep, PCSO Wilkinson.

3. Disclosure of interests on agenda items

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests or personal/prejudicial interests in respect of items on the agenda.

3. Public session

Cllr Huxstep understood that a report on the Call Flow meeting would appear in the August issue of "Church & Village". Call Flow were taking registrations from Bramdean residents for the upgraded broadband service. There was nothing to report on the standardisation of speed limits to 50 mph and 30 mph through villages.

PCSO Wilkinson had advised of three reports of Criminal Damage, 1st June - 4th June, and two reports of vehicles damaged whilst parked on the road in Bramdean, by means unknown. On 6th June, the window of Bramdean Garage was damaged, possibly by ball bearings fired from a catapult. Alresford was working with Bishops Waltham NPT on Operation Grease to tackle motorcycle nuisance along the A32 and A272. A number of motorcyclists had been stopped for speeding. Tickets had been issued for displaying illegal number plates. To date no cyclists had been stopped for visual inspection of excessively loud exhaust systems. The operation would continue throughout the summer months, particular on Wednesday evenings and on Sundays when large numbers visited Loomies.

Cllr Thacker reported that the public would be invited to participate in the Local Government Review on Council Tax Reduction. Cllr Thacker would take up residents' concerns about fallen trees on the southern boundary of Bramdean Common between Wood Farm and Wood Farm Cottages.

4. Approval of minutes of Parish Council meeting – 18th May 2015

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters reviewed from minutes of Parish Council meeting – 18th May 2015

Mr Morton had completed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk.

WCC had increased the number of designated parking spaces in Woodlane Close. This appeared to have eased congestion and provided spaces for visitors. The Parish Council decided to refer concerns that WCC had apparently rented a vacant garage in Woodlane Close to an Alresford resident to Cllr Thacker.

The Clerk still awaited details from WCC of the next Child Protection training course.

6. Recreation Committee

Playdale Playgrounds had agreed to replace the left hand cradle swing seat and the rotten upright timber on The Twist gratis (both under guarantee) and The Twist nets and fixings for £1089.30 + VAT. The HPFA normally only supported new purchases but on this occasion had offered a grant of £500 towards the repairs. The Friends of Bramdean Children had kindly offered to donate £200. The Parish Council would contribute £389.30 (balance due). Letters of thanks would follow to John Coney (Secretary, HPFA) and to Dawn Durham (Chairman, The Friends of Bramdean Children). Playdale hoped to be on site w/b 20th July.

Mr Harding had adjusted the hard court perimeter fencing (installed 2001) and the main gate hinges. The timber of the main and side gate was showing signs of rot (both installed 2001). Replacing the gate in the poorer condition might qualify for a County Councillor's Devolved Grant. On 29th June, a resident sustained scratches to the upper arms from the cut-off plastic ties holding the nets to the top bar of the goal posts. The incident was reported to Mrs Hawkings, Mr Harding and Adrian Taylor. The ties were replaced with Velcro strips. If this was not satisfactory, the nets would be re-hung with rubber ties.

7. Finance

7.1 Accounts

The Lloyds Bank account was £7890.84 in credit to 30th June 2015 (£6862.11 to date).

Cheques raised since last meeting

388	M Morton presentation to H Verney 27 Apr	29.00
389	WCC fee for uncontested election May 14	75.10
390	HMRC re R Greenwood 1 Apr – 30 June	145.40
391	R Greenwood pay/expenses 1 Apr – 30 June	683.33
392	A Taylor honorarium for grounds man	200.00

WCC had confirmed that the invoice for £75.10 dated 11th December 2014 related to the uncontested parish election in May 2014.

The accounts would be presented on an Excel spreadsheet from 2015/16.

7.2 Audit 2014/15

Thanks were due to Seamus McLaughlin for completing the internal audit. External audit commenced on 29th June.

7.3 Workplace pensions

On 29th May, the Parish Council was enrolled with the Pensions Regulator to receive further information on the pension scheme for possible implementation from 1st May 2017 (details circulated).

8. Planning

8.1 Decisions received (circulated)

SDNP/15/00242/LDP - The Cottage, Bramdean Common. Proposals to be built as approved in W10456/02 and amended under W10456/03LB.

PC – No comment

SDNP – Approved

Decided under delegated powers by Head of WCC Legal Services.

SDNP/15/01942/HOUS – Dean Cottage, Bramdean. Replacement of existing porch, alterations to fenestration, first floor rear extension, replacement of roof structure to allow for internal alterations.

PC – Support

SDNP - Approved

SDNP/15/01419/LIS - Manchester House, Bramdean. External flood defence works and temporary removal of part of boundary wall to facilitate plant access.

PC – Support

SDNP – Approved

SDNP/15/01839/HOUS & 01840/LIS – Hinton Woodlands Farm. Proposed change of materials for external elevations, replace render with brick quoining, flint infill to main extension and facing brickwork to extensions. Alteration to pitch of boot room roof, retain/adjust first floor window above, match shallower pitch of bay window. Amendment to existing planning permission SDNP/14/06525/HOUS & 06526/LIS.

PC – Support

SDNP - Approved

8.2 Decisions awaited

SDNP/15/02877/HOUS - Pentire, Wood Lane. Increase to roof line including second storey side extension, single storey rear extension and open front porch.

PC – Awaited

SDNP - Awaited

8.3 Other matters

WCC would be asked whether permission was required for the two signs erected in the garden of Laurel Cottage, Bramdean, for the Hummingbirds Nursery.

WCC would be asked whether permission was required to site three shepherd's caravans for B&B in the back garden of The Fox public house.

Mrs Holyome would verify landownership before the Parish Council considered contacting the National Trust regarding the new sign, "Private parking for Church Cottages", on land opposite the churchyard gate at All Saints, Hinton Ampner. A photograph of the previous sign was available for comparison.

In case of future queries, the Clerk would request Alistair McGregor to provide details of the plastic sheeting process to be carried out in buildings owned by on George Cann's site. It was assumed that permission already existed for industrial use.

9. Flooding Update

Mr Budd would be asked to confirm whether he had taken up the clearing of the field to the left of Maple Cottage, Bramdean, with the relative of the person who was believed to be the owner.

21165460 Concrete sides of run-off drain from Tanners Lane or install grill.

9th July, HCC confirmed that grip to side of The Fox Inn would be cleared and a concrete pad installed to front to help keep it clear.

21165450 Drain required by Maple Cottage to prevent A272 from flooding on bend.

13th July, HCC advised there were two weir curbs to left (east) of Maple Cottage which drained into a nearby ditch. Pipes were in good condition and had probably been replaced within last year. Quantity of mud was cleared from front of weir curbs to enable water to drain from road. HCC would monitor situation and clear weir curbs again as necessary.

21165454 Clear spoil from highway verge following ditch clearance in Bramdean to prevent slippage and further congestion when it rained.

9th July, HCC advised it was standard procedure to leave arisings behind after ditching works. Cost of employing a licensed waste disposal contractor was not economically viable.

Drainage pipe under A272 at Hinton crossroads was still blocked and needed jetting.

9th July, HCC confirmed pipe to be inspected shortly (action also requested by Kilmeston Parish Council).

Mr Harding would ask Richard Sykes (HCC) to confirm when the back drive works at Woodcote Manor, which were remote from the highway, would be dealt with.

Mr Harding would report that a considerable amount of water had collected during the recent wet weather opposite the Telephone Exchange, A272.

Spoil from the verge had narrowed the footpath from The Old Rectory to Church Lane, A272, preventing wheelchair and buggy access.

For future reference, a new drain/ditch could only be installed if there was a facility for the water to drain into. Due to budget cuts, such work could not be authorised without visual proof (eg a photograph showing the extent of flooding): verbal evidence was no longer acceptable.

10. Highway Report

Update on existing works

21136888 HCC previously advised that white lines in Wood Lane would be reinstated when similar works were carried out in spring.

7th July, listed as completed, incorrect, resubmitted.

9th July, Lisa Davis reported there had been a delay due to a change of sub contractor to carry out white lining on behalf of Highways. Site Manager had confirmed work would be progressed shortly.

21165441 Treat highway footpath, Church Lane to Maple Cottage, with weed killer; cut back off-side edge. 9th July, HCC advised footway in verge between Maple Cottage and Church Lane had received one weed killer treatment. Second application was in hand.

21165444 Remove yellow sign for Hampshire Smokery and Gun Room (top of common) supplied during closure of A272, spring 2014.

9th July, HCC confirmed that sign for The Smokery and Gun Room must be removed not later than 12th July (done). Owner had been advised that sign could not be displayed unless there was a road closure. Should sign be displayed again, it would be removed and not returned.

21165457 Replace missing reflector posts on bend below Bramdean Common.

9th July, HCC advised of forthcoming inspection.

21167037 Smooth five raised sections or resurface section of road following creation of new trenches across carriageway and replacement storm drains on the A272 east of Wood Lane. Impact in terms of noise and concussion from heavy lorries had increased substantially.

17th July, HCC liaising with contractor especially regarding surface outside Manchester House and the entrance to Bramdean Farm. Site visit pending, report to follow.

CAMS 12301 Very muddy middle section of FP 503/504 from Jubilee Recreation Ground to A272.

3rd February, RoW advised that work had been assigned Priority 2.

17th July. Ranger said path was satisfactory, no work was recommended. Parish Council could apply for Small Grant funding to improve path if so wished on a 50/50 basis.

Cut back verge at bottom of Hinton Hill (right hand side) further to improve sightlines for vehicles turning onto the A272.

9th July, Highways confirmed job had been passed to cutting contractor.

Susan Coker (WCC Head of Landscape & Open Spaces) advised that her office hoped to provide an update on the following matter w/b 12th July:

Verify that grass bank bounding 19 Woodlane Close had been added to WCC map for cutting under Highways contract; whether bank-verge cutting issues had been resolved with The Landscape Group; whether Highways would reconsider selling bank to owners of 19 Woodlane Close.

Mrs Holyome would request Elaina Whittaker-Slark to confirm the Winchester Cycle Route leaflet would be available in order that the brown loop signs could be removed.

On 28th June, HCC began asphalt preservation works, junction of Kitts Lane to Tithelands Lane, Bramdean.

Potholes had been filled at Brockwood Bottom.

HCC, WCC and the Police had been asked for possible solutions to address the concerns of a Wood Lane resident about the increased traffic from the A272 to A31. WCC had offered to replace the existing “Unsuitable for HGVs” signs with the larger lorry symbol version with newer reflective material. Existing sign locations in Wood Lane could not be improved upon due to road layout limitations. “Unsuitable for HGVs” signs were installed at the A31 end of Wood Lane (Old Park Road) but had to be removed due to problems with access for farm and industrial site delivery drivers. A lower speed limit or traffic calming was ultimately a matter for HCC but unlikely to be justified, in the likely absence of an accident history or significant speeding. The Police would carry out speed checks in Wood Lane and report the outcome to the Parish Council. Road traffic camera vans could only visit roads where there had been high numbers of collisions, hence their regular deployment on the A272. The Parish Council decided to opt for the new signage and to advise the resident of the outcome (full details to be circulated).

The hedge bounding the middle section of FP503/504, the responsibility of the owner of Bramdean Cottage, needed cutting back. The Clerk would write to request that this be auctioned.

HCC would be asked to grind out the stumps of the two large mature trees on the verge between the Telephone Exchange and Moodys Farm (A272).

Further potholes required attention in addition to those already marked up for attention along Joan’s Acre Lane and up Manor Hill, Hinton Ampner.

On 17th July, a Wood Lane resident who used a wheelchair reported that the drop curbs had been removed from pavement in front of the former back entrance to The Old Rectory. HCC would be asked to provide a section of drop curb for wheelchair and buggy users to safely access the pavement from Wood Lane.

11. Bramdean Common

Mrs Croker’s team carried out a site visit on 10th July:

Residents were advised that they were responsible for maintaining the access tracks. A resident had created and continued to use an illegal new access track across WCC land to his home, 2 Wood Farm Cottages. There were also a number of vehicles in various conditions parked nearby on WCC land. This was an offence.

WCC was not prepared to instruct the contractor to cut the grass more than once per annum. This would take place in September. The grass cuttings would be removed.

Reply awaited on sourcing funds to display new fine rates for breaking the existing byelaws.

The owner of the Hampshire Smokery had complained that the arrow sign by Elm Cottage was removed at regular intervals. The sign was illegal but WCC had made no firm decision as to the best course of action.

12. Parish Website

HCC had advised that the website had reached its disk quota. This hosting problem was likely to affect many other councils. Mrs Bulloch would enquire whether additional space could be made available. Of the neighbouring parishes, Kilmeston and Bishops Sutton did not appear not have websites. The Cheriton website was in regular use. The Tichborne website did not appear to have been used lately.

13. Financial Regulations

The Parish Council adopted revised Financial Regulations. Parish Councillors would receive a copy with the minutes.

14. Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities

Mrs Holyome still awaited a response from WDALC as to the opinion of local member councils. There was no news as to when funding to assist compliance might be available. The legislation was geared to large town councils. Small parish councils would struggle to comply. As further documents could not be posted until the hosting issues had been resolved, the Parish Council would defer contacting Wizbit Internet Services Ltd regarding possible enlargement of the website

15. HALC consultation on future affiliation to NALC

Mrs Holyome reported that a decision was awaited as to whether the proposal should be put to members at the 2015 AGM. There was uncertainty over future HCC funding if HALC terminated its affiliation with NALC in favour of the Local Government Association (LGA).

16. Correspondence

The Parish Council considered a written request from Cheriton Parish Council for support from local parishes whose residents used the Recreation Ground to aid funding and grants to replace equipment in the play area. The Parish Council was unable to offer financial support but wished Cheriton Parish Council well with the project.

The Parish Council had been invited to submit a high resolution picture that encapsulated the beauty of the parish for possible inclusion in the HALC Annual Review. Mrs Holyome would enquire whether the SDNPA could provide a photograph from the Jigsaw map.

The Parish Council did not wish to submit a nomination for the 2016 Birthday Honours List.

17. Reports from Parish Councillors and Clerk

Mrs Hawkings had advised of a great increase in the growth of Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*) on WCC land, HCC land and on land in private ownership. The Ragwort Control Act 2003 (which amended The Weeds Act 1959), imposed a duty of responsibility on landowners to effectively control and preventing spread of this poisonous plant onto grazing land. Placing a notice in the September issue of "Church & Village" to pull plants up to prevent seeding by wind would be too late to be effective. The Clerk would submit a notice for the July 2016 issue.

18. Items to be considered for the next meeting

Draft Budget 2016/17
Parish Website
Risk Management
Transparency Code

19. Date of next meeting

Monday 19th October 2015 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Bramdean.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

MM/RG