

BRAMDEAN AND HINTON AMPNER PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Monday 20th January 2014 at 7.30 pm in The Village Hall, Wood Lane, Bramdean.

Present: Mr M Morton (Chairman), Mrs M Bulloch, Mrs K Hwkings, Mr A Harding, Mrs K Hawkings, Mr T Laker, Mr R Huxstep (County Cllr from 9.05 pm), Mr H Verney (City Cllr), Mrs R Greenwood (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence

Mr G Budd (illness), PC McShea (illness), PCSO Wilkinson (on leave).

2. 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

Mr Gordon Cooper expressed concern about the uncertain future of The Fox public house. The criteria for the WCC Assets of Community Value (ACV) scheme were discussed. WCC had allocated a member of staff to advise and oversee applications. Four pubs in the Winchester area had already been listed: Denmead had purchased their pub to let at a lower than commercial rent. Advice was also available from CAMRA. Mr Cooper was disappointed that the Prime Minister's pledge of £250m for communities to save their village pubs had now been withdrawn.

Mr Morton understood that The Fox was under offer (sale price £335,000) and that an attempt by a group of residents to form a co-operative had failed. It was agreed to wait and see if the current offer went to sale before taking further action. The Parish Council was grateful to Mr Cooper for his enquiries to date.

The Clerk presented the Crime Statistics 1/11/13 – 20/1/14 on behalf of PCSO Michelle Wilkinson (PCSO Adnams on maternity leave). There had been a number of 101 calls reporting suspicious behaviour, most of which had proved to be genuine behaviour and 4 reports of poaching with 2 arrests at Brockwood Bottom (report to be circulated). The Clerk would query the absence of burglary and speeding incidents. The Parish Council had supported the recent proposal from Cllr Sue Walker (Meon Valley) that parishes should work together to reduce excessive speed and noise pollution on their roads. In the absence of PC McShea, it was agreed to defer discussion of what action the Parish Council would wish to discourage excessive speeding and noise nuisance.

Cllr Verney was concerned that following the installation of heat source pumps to WCC-owned properties in Woodlane Close heating bills has increased by ca 300%. The matter would be raised with the Member responsible for Housing. It was uncertain whether Cheriton Parish Council would open the sluice gates to flood the water meadows between North End and Cheriton Mill, whether the sluice gate by Riverside Cottages was operational or if it would alleviate the present situation. Cllr Verney would enquire whether there was a sluice gate at Hinton Marsh. It was noted that water was running down the A272 east of Bramdean. A number of cellars were being

pumped out. Mr Harding was recommended to contact the Cheriton Flood Warden, Mr Pat Lawrence, for a source of sand bags.

4. Approval of minutes of Parish Council meeting – 21st October 2013

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

5. Matters reviewed from minutes of Parish Council meeting – 21st October 2013

Mr Morton reported that the National Trust had cut back the vegetation on Hinton Hill to meet the legal requirements. To date, no off-road parking had been provided for new tenants.

John Sankey had kindly stabilised the notice board at the bottom of Hinton Hill. The structure was firmly anchored in the verge. Mr Sankey would not accept payment for this minor work but would be pleased to take any further action thought necessary.

A letter of thanks had been sent to Robin Disney who retired as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator on 30th September having carried out this role since 2009.

6. Recreation Committee

Mr Laker was confirmed as Chairman for 2013/14. Anne Newson reported that the plaque marking the Diamond Jubilee celebrations would be in situ shortly.

Arrangements were in hand to top-up the fuel account at Bramdean Garage for the coming season. Appleton Signs had supplied two new signs (i) to replace the existing on the entrance gate and (ii) an “Information for Users” sign for the hard court gate (cost £33.12 + £6.62 VAT). The supplier had kindly waived the £15 delivery charge.

Some local boys who regularly played football on the hard court had asked whether it could be resurfaced with astro turf. Although the Committee was delighted that the hard court was so popular unfortunately, apart from the cost, this would not be feasible as it would limit the use of the court for other purposes.

The venue for tennis coaching, Monday 28th July – Friday 1st August, would be confirmed shortly. The application form would be amended to state that requests for children holidaying with relatives to play could only be granted if there were spare places as the coaching was for children resident in the parish. Every effort would be made to make supervision arrangements more flexible so parents were on duty when their children were playing. It would also be stressed that voluntary help from parents was necessary for the coaching to take place. Advice would be taken as to whether the Parish Council should adopt a Child Protection Policy to safeguard its activities.

7. Finance

7.1 Accounts

The Lloyds Bank account was £6960.28 in credit to 31st December 2013 (£6819.28 to date). The official address for the bank account was changed by signed mandate dated 9th January. It was decided to make a donation of £115 to Winchester CAB for 2013/14. The Clerk would purchase a new inkjet printer before existing stocks of ink cartridges ran out.

Cheques raised since last meeting:

333	NATT donation re minibus 2013/14	60.00
334	BHA Village Hall room hire 2013	40.00
335	T Laker glazing panels for VH notice board	45.25
336	HMRC R Greenwood	141.00

Cheques to be signed at the meeting:

337	R Greenwood pay/expenses	589.27
338	CPRE sub 14/15	29.00
339	CAB donation 14/15	115.00
340	Appleton Signs 2 signs for Rec Ground	39.74
7.2	Budget and Precept 2014/15	

The revised budget for 2013/14 and the draft budget for 2014/15 were discussed. No major expenditure was expected to 31st March. The Clerk awaited confirmation as to when the next HPFA subscription was. Mrs Holyome confirmed that WDALC did not require a membership fee for 2013/14 or 2014/15.

For 2014/15, Rec Improvements were increased to £1000 for the possible replacement of a “spring” animal and Parish Website increased to £1000 for design/set-up costs. Much of the election administration was done by Parish Clerks but WCC would charge (to be advised) for the parish council election on 7th May. The final surplus for 2013/14 could increase by £200-£300. Total expenditure for 2014/15 was likely to be ca £7000. The CTS grant had been confirmed as £429.52. It was resolved to set a Precept of £6670.48 and to advise WCC accordingly.

7.3 Approval of Annual Return 2012/13

As now required by external audit, the completed Annual Return was presented to the Parish Council. Mr Morton congratulated The Clerk on excellent record keeping.

8. Planning

8.1 Decisions received (circulated)

SDNP/13/01083/HOUS & 01084/LIS - Bramdean Manor. Outdoor swimming pool. Resubmission.
PC – Support SDNP - Approved

SDNP/13/01102/HOUS – Brockwood Farmhouse. Erection of detached oak framed 4 bay garage.
PC - Support SDNP - Approved

SDNP/13/03796/HOUS - Post Cottage, Bramdean - Demolition of existing precast concrete double garage; construction of timber workshop and two carports. **Resubmission.**
PC – Support SDNP – Approved

SDNP/13/03869/HOUS & 038870/LIS - Turnpike Cottage, Hinton Ampner. Single storey oak garden room, relocation of existing oil tank and patio to garden room.
PC – Support SDNP - Approved

SDNP/13/04679/HOUS - Brockwood Farmhouse. Construction of brick based glass house within householder’s garden.
P C – Support SDNP – Approved

8.2 Decisions awaited

SDNP/12/03396/LIS - Bramdean Cottage. Open internal door between kitchen and breakfast room.
Appeal to Secretary of State Decision awaited

SDNP/13/02485/HOUS – 3 Woodcote Cottages, Bramdean. Two storey side and rear extension.

On 13th January, it was decided that the appeal was no longer suitable to be determined by the Householder Appeals Service. **Appeal to be heard by Secretary of State. Deadline for written representations 27th January. PC had supported revised application and had no further comments.**

SDNP/13/02460/HOUS -Tanners Farm, Bramdean. Alterations to permitted permission

SDNP/12/01651/HOUS. Single storey rear extension after removal of existing greenhouse, internal alterations and fenestration changes to east facing elevation. **Resubmission.**

PC – Support

SDNP – Awaited

SDNP/13/05418/FUL - Manor Farm (College Farm) Bramdean. Demolition of existing building, erection of 5 bedroom dwelling; renovation of existing outbuilding, new glasshouse; new garage; new garden pavilion, new landscaping and restoration of pasture.

PC – Support

SDNP - Awaited

8.3 Other matters

Mr Morton wrote to Alison Davidson (WCC Historic Environment Manager) following the severe storm damage to the Grade II listed barn at Hinton Woodlands on 28th October. Since 2001 the Parish Council had regularly warned WCC and other agencies that the barn was in an increasingly vulnerable condition. The present situation could have been avoided if agencies invested with legal authority had ensured that urgent works were carried out to safeguard the structure. It had been mooted that the new owner was committed to fully rebuild the barn. If so, the Parish Council trusted that the project would be fully supported by WCC, SDNPA, etc.

9. Flooding Update

Mr Harding reported that ground water levels continued to rise. The situation at Littledean was of particular concern. Over the years, the A272 had been resurfaced and was now ca 1 foot above the property. It was likely that a further drainage pipe was needed under the A272 from Littledean to the highway ditch and it was agreed that Mr Harding would suggest that the property owner sought advice from Highways.

There was an adequate mitigation plan on the Groundwater Management Plan for Hampshire but the groundwater map for SO24 0LW was indicative rather than accurate: in the immediate area around The Fox the margin of error appeared to be ca 25 yards. This needed to be made explicit as it could be problematic if used as an accurate reflection by bodies: eg insurance companies.

10. Highway Report

No additional work had been carried out by the bus shelter at Brockwood Dean: the grips either side needed digging out deeper to carry the water away from the road.

The Parish Council remained of the opinion that the chevron at the bottom of Wood Lane should not be replaced and that the redundant metal posts should be removed. Cllr Verney and the owner of Corner Cottage were at liberty to take the matter up with Tom Waldron (Highways).

The roadside edge of the highway footpath from Church Lane to Maple Cottage did not appear to have been treated with weed killer. The other edge needed to be cut back. The footpath from the former Hinton Ampner school to the crossroads had been cut but the surface had not been cleared.

Andy Grattan-Kane had forwarded a current copy of the latest Definitive Map of paths in the parish for the Parish Council to amend and return to the HCC Rights of Way and Commons Registration Team.

20TH JANUARY 2014

Damian Offer (WCC) had been asked to confirm whether the steep grass bank bounding 19 Woodlane Close had been added to WCC mapping for grass cutting under the Highways contract, whether the issues regarding the cutting of various banks and verges had been resolved with The Landscape Group, also whether Hampshire Highways (landowner) had reconsidered selling the land to the owners of 19 Woodlane Close.

Mr Morton would request the landowner to cut back the hedge bounding the footpath from The Fox to the access for Mead Cottage/ Old Rectory to improve pedestrian access and visibility.

The original supplier, Greenbarnes, had quoted ca £159 to supply two replacement vandal resistant clear polycarbonate panels on the Village Hall notice board. Mr Laker had obtained similar material for £45.25 (inc VAT) which Mr Harding would install in due course.

Pot holes on Wood Lane between Mariners Farm and Bramdean village had been repaired. The reflector posts by Maple Cottage, Bramdean, had not yet been replaced.

On 20th January, Elaina Whittaker-Slark (SDNPA Ranger) reported that the brown loop signs could not be removed until the new cycle route was agreed with the National Byway Trust and the route leaflet was available for use, hopefully before the summer (report to be circulated).

11. Bramdean Common

On 6th January, Damian Offer (WCC) wrote to owners of properties adjoining Bramdean Common to clarify the responsibility for maintenance of the various tracks across the common which provided access to their properties (letter to be circulated). On 13th January, Damian Offer was asked to advise whether there had been any problems collecting of refuse from properties, especially along the access track to Wood Farm Cottages.

Discussion of possible locations of signs suggested by Cllr Verney to display the new rates of fines for breaking the present byelaws on Bramdean Common would be deferred until funding had been secured for the signs.

12. Affordable Housing

If suitable sites could be identified, Chris Buchan Hepburn (Hyde Housing Association) could provide information to publicise the issues and sites under consideration. Parish Councillors would be invited to tour completed HARAH schemes.

13. Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 28th April 2014

Mr Morton reported that two residents were considering talking about parish history ca 1900-2000. Otherwise, a speaker might be available from the Hampshire Record Office. Brief details of the Annual Parish Meeting would appear in the March issue of “Church & Village”. Details of new travel talks by John Pilkington would be circulated.

14. Parking at Jubilee Recreation Ground

Cllr Verney would request WCC to confirm whether funding had been allocated in 2014/15 to remove the wide section of grass verge outside 15-16 Woodlane Close to create additional parking spaces and create some residents’ parking spaces opposite the Jubilee Recreation Ground.

15. Road Safety Pilot Project

Mrs Holyome reported that the draft guidance was completed (copy to be circulated for comment).

16. Parish Lengthsman

Mrs Holyome would investigate the reasons to prevent a single parish from employing its own Lengthsman funded by the HCC Parish Lengthsman scheme.

17. Parish Website

Mr Morton reported that Wizbit Internet Services Ltd had quoted £995 + VAT to design a new website. Parish Councillors were asked to advise Mrs Bulloch what information they considered should be included on the website before Mrs Bulloch discussed likely requirements with the company. The project would be part-funded from the 2013/14 CTS grant of £373.50 which had been set aside for that purpose. The Clerk would apply for a grant from the County Councillor's Devolved Budget; if this was unsuccessful the balance would be funded from the reserve. Website design had changed significantly since the existing one was created in 2001 and it was vital to update this means of communication.

18. The Fox public house

Further to the discussion during the Public Session, if the present offer did not result in a sale, it was suggested that possible options to prevent The Fox from being sold without the community being consulted should appear in a future issue of "Church & Village".

19. Correspondence

The Parish Council had provided information for the WCC for the Open Space Strategy 2014/2015. WCC was obliged to maintain a strategic overview of open space deficits and surpluses for the whole district and that information provided by parishes within the South Downs National Park would be made available to the SDNPA when they undertook a similar exercise.

It was agreed to nominate Mrs Audrey Blake and Mr Adrian Taylor to receive Mayor of Winchester's Community Service awards in March 2014.

20. Reports from Parish Councillors and Clerk

Mrs Holyome attended the WCC Parish Council Briefing at The Guildhall on 16th December.

Mrs Bulloch reported on the briefing on the National Parish Council Recruitment Research Project at the University of Southampton on 9th January. The Parish Council felt that the most successful way to recruit new members was personal approach which its normal practice. There would be parish elections in the Cheriton & Bishop's Sutton ward on 7th May.

Cllr Huxstep was welcomed to the meeting at 9.05 pm.

An update on the review of the number of speed limits on the A272 by Cllr Vicky Weston would be emailed in due course. Cllr Huxstep suggested the Parish Council discussed the impact that extremely low broadband speed had on rural life with Hampshire Superfast Broadband Manager, Mike King (mike.king@hants.gov.uk / 01962 846168). HCC now appreciated the effect that low broadband speeds would have on the future prosperity of Hampshire.

21. Items to be considered for the next meeting

Affordable Housing
NALC Financial Regulations
Road Safety Pilot Project
Website

22. Date of next meeting

Monday 28th April 2014 at 8.00 pm (Annual Parish Meeting) in the Village Hall, Bramdean
Monday 19th May 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, Bramdean.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

MM/RG