

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – BRAMDEAN & HINTON AMPNER held at Bramdean Village Hall 29th March 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Katherine Hawkings (Chairman, Parish Council), 5 Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, Cllr Bolton, PCSO Victor Mills and 35 members of the public.

1. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st April 2022 were presented for information.
2. A presentation by Mr Gordon Gardner, The General Manager of Hinton Ampner House.

Mr Gardner spoke about the recently published plan for the improvement of the Hinton Ampner House and Estate.

He continued by saying that the Trust is keen to improve the estate at Hinton Ampner House as part of a ten-year plan. This will include a major tree replanting scheme. To support this project a number of key appointments have been made including a new countryside manager and biodiversity officer.

Mr Gardner also commented on the recent flooding issues in Cheriton with the water appearing to emerge from their estate. The Trust had worked with Southern Water (SW) in order to reduce the number of leaks in the SW pipes laid across the site.

Mr Gardner produced maps showing the vision for the estate and with the help of Mr Collins explained how the project would increase biodiversity in the estate, will improve the footpath network and will increase tree plantings.

Working with the farming tenant of the estate, the Trust will be looking to promote greater biodiversity on the site whilst supporting the tenant in his farming activities. Care had to be made to ensure that that there remained a working woodland in place with some timber production continuing onsite.

Mr Gardner commented that there would always be an issue at Hinton Ampner House with visitor numbers and car parking. There was no easy solution to this and it was not intended to set aside further land to provide for car parking.

3. Annual Report of the Parish Council – Katherine Hawkings

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors, Matthew Morton, Tony Harding, Graham Rothery, Chris McCrystal, Anna Cox and Jane Catling for their work on behalf of the Parish Council this past year. We said farewell last May to Barbara Holyome and wished her a happy retirement after having served four decades on the Parish Council.

I would also like to thank our new Clerk, Brendan Gibbs who started working for us in July. He is an experienced and qualified Clerk and is invaluable to the running of the Parish Council.

Thanks, must also go to our nominee to Blakes Educational Charity, Hazel Flindt, to Chris Day our Neighbourhood watch coordinator, to Seamus McLaughlin who agreed to be our Internal Auditor for one final year.

I also would like to thank Graham Rothery, Olly Cox and David Coppendale who set up and move the Speed Indicator Devices around the village. I would also like to give a special thank you to Jane Rothery for her continued fund raising for the maintenance of the defibrillator. Her plant sales are a wonderful revenue raiser and to date we have enough funds to maintain the defib for the next 2 years. I must also thank Graeme Lunn for his regular checks of the defib and taking the time to log all his checks online too.

We held four Parish Council meetings during the year and our Annual Parish Meeting was in April 2022. This featured a fabulous talk by Rosebie Morton about her passion for roses and the business she has created.

Where possible Parish Councillors attended meetings organised by or with representative of the Environment Agency, Hampshire Highways, Hampshire Association of Local Councils.

Over the course of the year, we have looked at fourteen planning applications withing the two settlements. All planning applications are on the SDNP planning portal and can be accessed by anyone. Our plan is to have a link on the BHAPC website to make it easier for residents to find them.

We have benefitted from the Hampshire County Council Lengthsman scheme grant funding of £1000 again. This has meant that we have been able to keep the watercourse strimmed and mown alongside the main road, kept the footpath in Hinton Ampner mown and bus shelters maintained. This scheme is continuing for the next financial year but we are aware that there are huge pressures on the County Council budget which may mean it is under review in the future.

Hampshire Highways have continued to repair culverts throughout Bramdean and Hinton Ampner. The watercourse has flowed very well this year despite a very high-water table but we do rely on all the riparian owners to keep their sections of the watercourse clear too.

You will have noticed one of our bus shelters in a sorry state at the bottom of Brockwood Hill. This will be replaced with a like for like structure and is now in the hands of our insurer to resolve.

As you know we benefitted from some Community Infrastructure Levy funds. These funds come when residential houses or annexes are built within the parish. We have already bought a defibrillator and two Speed Indicator Devices. We ask you today to consider how you would like to spend the next tranche.

In total, we have £12,383.95 available to us of which £7,462.72 is required to be spent by the end of this September.

One suggestion has been to upgrade the big piece of play equipment on the Recreation Ground. It is coming to the end of its life, has been repaired several times and after a survey we have been told that it should be replaced. On the table over there ?? you will see a proposed replacement.

Another suggestion is an additional SID.

We would be grateful if you would this evening inform any one of the Parish Cllrs as to your views and preferences. Equally if you have any other suggestions, we would love to hear from you.

You may remember that last year one of the possible options of CIL spend was gateways at either end of Bramdean and up Wood Lane. When the drawings and costs in the region of £8,000 came through it seemed an expensive scheme particularly when sight lines would only have allowed one gate in two out of the 3 sites. Following this it has been decided to have put this scheme on hold for the time being.

I am very happy to discuss this with anyone if they would like after the meeting.

Bramdean Common has seen its fair share of travellers again this year. Fly tipping was bad again and sadly the tree we planted for the late Queens Platinum Jubilee was driven in to and then we found the stake was stolen. It was well watered throughout the dry summer by volunteers and we hope it will have survived.

With the Kings Coronation fast approaching, the Parish Council will be funding Coronation mugs for all children under the age of 16 years of age. These will be handed out at the Coronation event planned for the 7th May. We have also made a grant toward the insurance of this event. I do hope that we will also be able to plant another tree up on the Common.

We have reluctantly had to raise the precept by 2.9% to cover the continuing rising costs to the Parish Council whether it be fuel for the mower, maintenance of the recreation ground, office costs, insurance and the Clerk's salary. We have kept it as low as possible and as an indication for you of the rise, a Band rate D property will pay an extra £1.07 per year.

Finally, we are here to look after the village in the best way we can. We are always here to listen to anyone's concerns or suggestions and of course enjoy receiving messages of gratitude for jobs well done.

Parish Council meetings are open to the public and you are always welcome to attend them.

4. Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023 – Brendan Gibbs

A summary of the budget outcome for 2022-23 (subject to audit) had been circulated to Parish Councillors.

Income

The Precept was £8420. HCC funding of £1100 was received to engage a Lengthsman (including £100 to administer scheme). Donations of £480.00 were received during the year towards costs of running of the village defibrillator.

Expenditure

There were no large items of expenditure to report. Admin/ Sundries included copying, ink, paper, postage, stationery and telephone. There was some minor capital expenditure at the Jubilee Recreation Ground including £274.23 for the recovering of the shed roof and provision of improved locks and a replacement swing was required at a cost of £105.95.

This year we carried forward the sum of £20,647.86 of which £12,383.95 is ear-marked for CIL expenditure.

5. Report of the Recreation Committee – Chris McCrystal

I would like to thank my fellow committee members Kashy Hawkings, Tony Harding, Anne Newson, Brendan Gibbs and Adrian Taylor, for their support over the past year. Adrian continues to maintain the Recreation Ground on our behalf to a very high standard.

The ground remained open throughout the last year. We dispensed with the COVID-19 protocols and removed the hand sanitiser as well. Following the last quarterly risk assessment, all remaining signage was removed as it was deemed no longer necessary following further relaxation of government guidance together with continued low usage of the facility.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to convey a special word of thanks to those residents with a boundary on the Recreation Ground that have cut back trees and vegetation to prevent damage to the surrounding fencing or significant overhang.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm.