

**OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBY HELD ON
9th JUNE 2014
AT 7:00 PM IN OWSLEBURY PARISH HALL**

1. PRESENT

Councillors John Chapman (Chairman), Paul Phillips, Sally Tattersall, Roger Page, Will Martin, Mark Egerton (from 7.15pm), Gerry Tull (from 7.35pm).
District Councillor Laurence Ruffell.
Dave Greenslade, member of the public.
Michael Cleary, Clerk to the Council.

2. APOLOGIES

County and District Councillor Rob Humby

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2013 had been previously circulated and were unanimously accepted as an accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. PRESENTATION

Nicola Morecroft, Divisional Responder Manager, South Central Ambulance Service, gave a presentation on the importance and use of defibrillators. She noted the essential need for emergency aid for people suffering from cardiac arrest where time is of the essence. A growing number of organisations such as parish councils and community centres had acquired defibrillators, and Nicola showed how they worked. She responded to questions. The Chairman thanked her for the presentation, and noted the matter would be discussed at the Annual Council Meeting later in the evening.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman delivered his annual report, a copy of which is set out in Appendix 1.

6. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

District Councillor Laurence Ruffell delivered his and County and District Councillor Rob Humby's report, a copy of which is set out in Appendix 2. In addition he noted that County and District Councillor Humby had had recent discussions with Andy Smith (Traffic Management) and with the directors of BoomTown on matters of interest to the Council, and he would update the Parish Council at its next meeting. He also noted that Rob Humby had been elected Leader of Winchester City Council.

7. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Clerk gave a presentation on the accounting information for the 2013/14 and 2012/13 fiscal years.

8. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

The meeting closed shortly before 8pm.

Chairman.....Date.....

APPENDIX 1 – COUNCILLOR JOHN CHAPMAN’S REPORT

Good evening everybody and welcome to our Annual Meeting. As chairman of the Parish Council I am given this opportunity to report the activities of the council and of course give you all the chance to add your thoughts on events past, present and future.

Firstly I would just like to say how pleased I am that our previous chairman, Anthony Manship, has continued to make a good recovery from his accident last year, and we continue to wish him well. He certainly caught me out when I received a text from him announcing his resignation from the post. I had just emerged from an hours snorkelling in the Red Sea and was only thinking about a beer. I had three instead!

We have had a fairly challenging 12 months! Lots of activity some interesting, some challenging, some hair-raising, some daunting and some downright worrying. The weather caused the most concern. The floods in February/March only affected a small number of our residents, but those on Hensting Lane, the C9 and Owslebury Bottom had some very unpleasant inundations which caused a lot of damage and personal trauma. I would like to thank Councillor Rob Humby for all the efforts he made to keep the water at bay. From closing roads to keeping Hampshire Services focused, he did very well for us. Most of the damage is now cleared, but the need to ensure Longwood Down cannot flood Owslebury and Twyford parishes must remain our top focus item for the next few months. We expect the Environment Agency/HCC/SDNP to produce a plan in the near future which will address this matter. We will scrutinise it very carefully to ensure our concerns have been addressed.

I should at this moment recognise that last autumn Hampshire Highways did fix a culvert at the bottom on Hurst Lane which had caused flooding for the last ten years. If they hadn't then I suspect Hurst Lane would have been closed for several weeks.

Other highway concerns remain. Including potential flooding to Pitcot Lane, and the need to improve drainage in Main Road, especially close to the Village Hall. We have a list of items that we are working on it with Hampshire Highways as part of our Parish Plan.

So what about the Parish Plan! We got lots of input and help. 78 questionnaires were completed, the PC had several meetings to filter the input and add its own. Then our clerk sat down and put it all together. I think it has come out very well – due significantly to Michael's editorial efforts. It was published at the end of last year, is available on the website, normally there are copies in the Hall, or you can get them from Michael. It was partially subsidised by WCC and indeed they will now use it when considering planning applications, traffic issues etc. As part of our regular meetings the PC will continue to work on the issues noted and develop the strategy contained in the plan.

Traffic - lots of problems, not a lot of progress

The Colden Common road closure highlighted the use of Owslebury as a rat run –not apparently known to some in Hampshire Highways. We did get some help with additional signage but generally the village had to accept several weeks of horrendous traffic. Thank goodness there were no serious accidents.

We do have a lot of outstanding actions with the HCC road officer, including a request for a 20mph limit through the middle of the village and a reduction to 30mph of the limit in Morestead. We would also like to see a general 40 mph limit in our lanes. Progress on all of this is not good. So we will be renewing pressure on Hampshire Highways, HCC and the Police to get improvements.

The Boomtown festival will affect a small part of the parish. We are working with Twyford to ensure there is a sensible traffic plan. The one proposed has raised many concerns, it was apparently conceived without any request for local knowledge. An example I am afraid of very poor cooperation between police/festival/highway authorities. I am pleased to note that both Councillors are giving this a lot of attention.

Graveyard space – the Church Graveyard will be in completely full within 5 years. OPC has the responsibility for find a solution to this for the Parish, else it falls to WCC to resolve.

I thank Paul Bowes for helping organise a public consultation. Unfortunately we did not really get enough feedback for the Council to feel comfortable there was a solution acceptable to a significant majority of Parishioners, so we are starting an Advisory Committee next month to recommend a solution.

Public & Community Transport. I am pleased to report that Ellen Catterson has volunteered to act as a Council representative on these matters.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held on Monday 9th June 2014

1. The school bus service is just about adequate though pupils attending Winchester schools have only one option to return to the village, which does affect their participation in School activities. Both our Councillors have helped to keep this service running, I thank them for that.
2. Public bus service is now only 3 days/week and may well be cut further as it is one of HCC's the most heavily subsidised routes. Bluntly there is little we can do to improve this given the level of usage.
3. Community Transport. Councillor Humby is trying to energise local communities to organise their own transport, possibly using a mini-bus network and local hubs. We will work with other groups to help this evolve.

Planning Policy – this is documented in the Parish Plan, however one or two recent events have disappointed the Council. We have seen what we believed were sincere commitments completely disregarded. We have issued a policy statement regarding acceptable practices. This is now displayed on the Village Notice Boards and will be included in the Welcome Pack given to new residents of the Parish.

Sports Club. I am pleased to report that we now have a single Owslebury Sports Club which has taken over the running of the Sports Field activities. I thank Mark Edgerton for helping this all happen. The council will strongly support the evolution of these activities in whatever ways are practical.

High Speed Broadband. We are continually monitoring the evolution in Hampshire. The best we can say at the moment is that some parts on Main Road could be connected in the next 2-3 years. Peter Facey has helped us understand a lot of the mystery of BT's plans. We thank him for that. We do believe its vital for the Parish to have the best communication it can to facilitate work at home etc.

WW1 & D Day Commemoration

An exhibition of local memorabilia will run in the Hall from 21-23 June.

We are getting planning permission for a remembrance stone to be placed on the Glebe Field. We have grant from HCC for both the exhibition and stone. I thank Paul Bowes, Paul Philips, Mark Edgerton, Michael Cleary and Betty Harfield for all the work they have done to make these events happen.

Parish Communications.

1. We instigated the Owslebury Information Network which 'pushes' key Parish information to over 100 households using e-mail. We will continue to expand this to as many households as will provide a receiving id.
2. We will be revising our website, possible bringing editorial and layout management under local volunteer control. We aim to have an 'Owslebury' blog as a way of informing those interested on Parish News/Events. We have asked the 'Owslebury Newsletter' to be part of this. We await their response.

Parish Hall.

I am concerned that not enough people are prepared to help run the Hall. It is a major Village amenity. I will be consulting on this, but volunteers to join the Village hall Committee are always very welcome. Of course this is also the generic problem of getting people to give time and expertise to any activity. But surely in the case of our Village it is worth it!! So any suggestions on how to move forward will be most welcome.

Finally I would like to thank all our Parish Councillors, our District and Councillors and our Clerk for all their support and contributions to the Parish activities over the last 12 months. We have been and continue to be a good team.

John Chapman – 8th June 2014

APPENDIX 2- COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ROB HUMBY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR LAURENCE RUFFELL'S REPORT

Winchester City Council has continued to maintain and develop the economic prosperity of Winchester City and District delivering the highest quality with the same level of Council Tax.

FREEZING COUNCIL TAX—For the last 3 years the Conservative controlled City council have been able to freeze the council tax without cutting services, Taking inflation into account the council tax has actually been reduce by approximately 8%.

APPRENTICIES -- LIVING WAGE -- Last year Winchester City Council decided to implement the new 'living wage' for its directly---employed staff. The Council already paid the minimum wage and will meet the £15k---£20k extra cost of introducing the living wage – £7.65 per hour – within its existing budgets. It is now looking at only engaging external contractors that offer the living wage.

HOUSING -- A programme for building new council homes, the first in more than 25 years, has been launched by Winchester City Council.

The City Council aims to develop 350 new affordable homes for the district over the next 10 years. There are around 3,500 households on the Council's waiting list, with 100 more joining the register each month. A household with average needs and no special requirements could expect to wait three to six years for a property to become available.

Good progress is being made with the Council new build programme, 5 new Council rented homes for local people have been provided in Micheldever (and a further 8 for shared ownership). Construction is underway in Itchen Abbas (5 houses) and Otterbourne (3 houses) which will be completed in the next 3 months.

The Council is working with Parishes across the District to provide housing for local people on "exception" sites at Kings Worthy and Denmead.

Discussions about exception sites are progressing with Shedfield/Waltham Chase, Upham, Bramdean and Corhampton and Meonstoke Parish Councils.

A tour of exception sites is being organised for 6 June 2014 for those Parish Council's who are interested in providing affordable homes for their community, representatives from the Council, Housing Association and Councillors together with the Rural Housing Enablers will be available to answer questions.

New planning policies requires all developers to contribute to affordable housing Our new WCC Planning Policies adopted from March 2013 has required Developers to contribute an additional £706k (December figures) to the affordable housing pot and this increasing all the time and like for like we will achieve more affordable dwellings on site. We do certainly NOT have a failing policy in any way. It secures what developments can afford to pay therefore it is the best that can be achieved under our National Planning Policy Framework taking into account development viability. This year we have delivered 90% of the original £12m capital programmed with key priorities remaining on repairs to existing homes.

RURAL WARDS – A MARKET TOWNS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER was set up 9

months ago to help keep their town centres thriving and resilient during this time of economic uncertainty.

Heidi is delivering local action plans in these three very different rural towns in the Winchester district, with tasks ranging from events management, fundraising and marketing to setting up new business networks and raising customer service standards. The Parish Councils have agreed to add £5,000 from their reserves to pay for a second year. The City Council has already secured £6,000 from HCC to go towards marketing and advertising for the market towns. Bishops Waltham failed in its bid to be part of the Mary Portas high street regeneration scheme in 2012 but received a consolation grant of £10,000 which had been be put toward the hiring of Mrs Isa to work as a development officer. Her work is being credited by business and has been able to secure a £6,000 grant from HCC towards a website promoting the town of Bishops Waltham.

MAJOR CAR PARK WORKS-- WCC looks after 32 car parks across the district of which we are responsible for inspections, maintenance and major repairs. In 2012/14 the works carried out included:

- Installation of 6 additional CCTV cameras : 4 at River Park Leisure Centre, 1 St Peters Car park, 1 at the open deck of Chesil St Multi Story car park.
- We retained all our Parkmark Safer parking awards and had 2 new car parks added to these during the year and they were Cowder Terrace and Arlebury Park.
- That brings our total up to 20 car parks. Chesil Street Surface Chesil Multi--- Storey Colebrook Street Cossack Lane Crowder Terrace Durngate East Winchester Park and Ride (Barfield) East Winchester Park and Ride (St Catherine's) Gladstone Street Jewry Street Middle Brook Street River Park Leisure Centre St Peters South Winchester Park and Ride. The Brooks Tower Street, Arlebury Park Alresford, Alresford Station, Basingwell Street Bishops Waltham, Lower Lane Bishops Waltham

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- Works to Chesil Multi story car park, extensive painting and improved drainage
- Maintenance works and surface repairs to Friasgate, Cattlemarket, Upper Brook Street, Basingwell and Wickham Square.
- Parking enforcement staff have been issued with video badges which can be used to record incidences where their personal safety is of concern.
- Pay by phone parking introduced at the Park and ride sites with over 11,400 pay by phone transactions taking place last year.

Projects for this year are:

Bishops Waltham improved Car Parking

- Also we are working in conjunction with Bishops Waltham Parish Council to identify areas for additional parking again to meet the needs of the village and the most viable site identified is at Jubilee Hall. Planning permission has recently been given for a Wellbeing Centre and an extra 71 long term car parking spaces making a total of 120 standard spaced and 4 disabled person parking spaces

Wickham Improved Car Parking

We have been working with Wickham Parish Council to provide additional parking at Wickham as the parking in the Square is at capacity most days of the week. This is a project that was initiated by Cllr Rob Humby and it is great to see it coming to life. We have come up with a solution using land owned by the council at Station car park and providing 40 extra car parking spaces. This is a relatively expensive scheme due to the specific site requirements and specialist surfacing material required that is porous and will not impact on tree roots, and the need to provide adequate lighting.

IMPROVED LED LIGHTING to Chesil Street Multi story car park with a pay back in 3.77 years.

The revenue savings that can be achieved annually are estimated to be £13,379 per annum which includes a £4,000 per annum maintenance saving.

Hand held computer terminals (HHCT) for our enforcement officers, that not only record detail of penalty charge notices but also allow auditable records to be introduced, recording defects to street furniture, signs or maintenance issues.

Major redevelopment Plans

Silver Hill -- There was a full member briefing, led by Henderson's architects at the end of March. That was an opportunity for wider feedback on the changes made in response to our comments.

The briefing was followed by a public exhibition of the revised plans, after which the Reference Group will review all the comments coming from members and the public, in discussion both with Derek Latham and Henderson. The next stage, once a revised scheme has been fully discussed, will be for the Council to formally give consent, as Landlord, for a further submission to planning to be made. At present we see that as being done in June, through Overview & Scrutiny and Cabinet, although clearly that depends on the discussions over the next few weeks.

Station Approach -- The council had provisionally agreed terms to purchase a key site in the Station Approach area from the County Council and the successful completion of this acquisition will unlock a major development opportunity.

GRANTS -- One of the important points is that Winchester District Citizens Advice Bureau had anticipated a 5% reduction in funding for the year ahead in line with a three year programme of planned reductions. However it has been decided that maintaining the 2013/14 level of funding would help the organization to protect its important outreach services especially in the Southern Parishes.

The Council has maintained prudent management and a clear focus on the long-term financial stability for the council, and will continue to encourage businesses to start up and flourish across our district, which will make it easier for residents to find jobs locally and will deliver the same range of excellent Council services.

Cllr Laurence Ruffell

Member for Owslebury & Curdrige Including Durley & Upham

Cllr Rob Humby

County Councillor for BW Division,

Member for Owslebury & Curdrige Including Durley & Upham