

Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
held on Monday 4 April 2011, at 8pm  
in the Zebon Copse Centre,  
Danvers Drive, Zebon Copse

Present: Cllr. Simon Ambler (Chairman)  
Mrs. Angela Sayers (Acting Clerk)

In attendance: Chairman of HCC & Consort, Parish Cllrs. Ambler (J), Ashton, Crawley, Jackson, Randall, Whyatt and District Cllrs. Davies and County Cllr. Radley and 32 residents of the parish.

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Carol Leversha (Chairman of HCC & her Consort) to the APM and thanked her for officially re-naming the Zebon Copse Centre.

## **1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr. Simon Ambler addressed the meeting as follows:

"Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2011 Annual Parish Meeting for Crookham Village Parish Council.

Again this has been a busy year for the Parish so I will try and keep my formal report brief. Although the Parish is involved with a number of different projects at present, I plan to concentrate on those areas where we have a significant update to report. This will allow time for you to raise any issues that you might wish with the Parish Council. The present trend to devolve the support for local services to Parish Councils has continued which has placed even greater pressure on our parish budgets. This year we tried very hard to make sure that we did not have another rise in our Parish Precept by taking steps to limit the expenditure on the Zebon Copse Centre. We did aim to hold the Parish Council tax at its previous level, unfortunately, due to minor changes in the tax base (that is, number of households), the 78p per annum change shows as a 1.5% increase. This slide shows where we fit with other Hart Parishes, around the average and this graphic shows how this money will be spent. The major costs are, staff costs 26%, Asset Maintenance and Repairs, which consists largely of costs associated with the football pitches, 25%. Now that we have full control over the Zebon Copse Centre, we are working hard to make sure that the facility is less of a drain on Parish funds by working to increase the income from the centre and limiting expenditure.

At this point, it is customary for me to thank all the members of the community who have given their time to help the Parish in various ways. I am very grateful that this year we have had a lot of involvement from people helping out with various projects and I apologise now if you are one of those people and I don't mention you by name; your help is much appreciated. Our internal auditor, Phil du Gay, helps us to meet our obligations on a financial front. These become ever more onerous year on year.

I should like to extend special thanks to Angela Sayers, our RFO, who this year has done an outstanding job to keep the Parish Council on the financial straight and narrow. In addition to her usual work assisting with budgets, preparing financial information for us and managing supplier contracts, she has helped CVPC to establish the Zebon Copse Centre on a firm financial footing. I should also like to extend a warm welcome to Sarah Sherman, our latest parish employee who was appointed at Christmas to be the second administrator to look after the Zebon Copse Centre. Sarah works alongside Claire Rowe, who has just completed her first year with us. I would like to thank both Claire and Sarah for all their hard work in CVPC's first year of running ZCC. We are pleased to announce that they have forecast an increase in the ZCC income of 69%. Anyone wishing to book the Centre or just pop in for a look round should contact either Sarah or Clare at the Centre. They can be found here most days.

At this point I should like to extend my thanks to all my fellow councillors for all their hard work over the last year. In addition to the formal business of the Council, they do a lot of work helping with various projects, their time is given on a voluntary basis and is unpaid.

Last but not least, a final thank you to our overworked Clerk, Carol who, despite her many other activities as Chairman of Hampshire County Council, has managed to keep on top of all the Parish

work. In her capacity as Chief Executive, Carol is also getting to grips with an increasing burden of managing the extra staff now in our employ. On now to your Parish Council's activities over the past year.

### **Traffic Issues**

CVPC has been very busy this year working on a number of traffic and highways schemes:

- CRONDALL ROAD - HCC have finally agreed to use the proposals produced by CRAG to generate a budgetary estimate for another phase of calming measures. Funding will then be sought, one source is S106 funds from future relevant developments. Unfortunately CVPC is still awaiting this estimate and it was not ready in time for submission to be included for S.106 contributions for the recently approved development at the land adjacent to Seven Steps. HCC will not agree to extending the speed limit further south because of the scarcity of housing South of the current 30 limit, but they did agree to consider rumble strips at the 40 limit. CVPC would like to thank the CRAG group for their hard work in preparing this proposal which was well received and, depending on cost and budgets, might be fundable by HCC. HCC also agreed to consider the possibility of a footway along the roadside starting at the canal and up Brook Hill, to try to separate traffic and pedestrians. This is an aspiration rather than a formal scheme at this stage.
- A287/REDFIELDS LANE JUNCTION – while this junction is very much upper most in our thoughts, we are still awaiting the outcome of a study which should have been available by late January. However, so far, CVPC has not had sight of this report. Another case of “watch this space”.
- PILCOT ROAD FOOTWAY – CVPC has finally convinced HCC that a scheme which covers the part of the route to Dogmersfield and ends within Crookham Village boundary would be of benefit, not least because their safety team had advised that no viable scheme could be found to ease the problem of getting pedestrians across the bridge near the Queens Head. In previous years CVPC proposed assisting with the funding of this important link and HCC has indicated that this would be a critical factor in getting the scheme accepted by HCC. We are currently looking at a rural surface which could be maintained by Highways. HCC asked CVPC to re-confirm support from householders whose properties front onto the proposed pathway, which we have done with favourable replies and CVPC is now hopeful of finally getting this vital link in place in the not too distant future.
- MALTHOUSE BRIDGE – At CVPC's request, HCC has agreed to keep the extra signage planned for the bridge to a minimum and it is hoped that the proposed works on this important local bridge will not be too intrusive while ensuring that residents are protected from speeding traffic.

### **Fleet Town Access Plan**

During the year, the Fleet Town Access Plan was put out for consultation. A working group from CVPC examined the plan in detail and made the strongest possible representation to HDC that, despite using funding from new developments within our local community, very little of the plan would afford any meaningful benefits to our community. The revised plan has finally been published and this 147 page document has again been submitted to CVPC for comment. CVPC is currently looking at the plan but first indications would suggest that it still has little of merit for our local area.

### **Copse Woodland Works**

In September last year, CVPC submitted a joint application with the Zebon Copse Rangers to the Big Lottery Fund for funding to improve the access to the Copse and to provide interpretational boards and other educational facilities. Despite that fact that our initial application was unsuccessful, further work by the Clerk meant that we were given a Conditional Grant Offer and I am pleased to report the Zebon Local Nature Reserve is about to undergo a significant make-over this year to create a new Interpretive Nature Trail around the Copse. The funding will also support plans to make improvements including a new wildlife pond, boardwalk and educational information panels about the history and wildlife of Zebon Copse.

## **QEB**

The second planning application for the QEB site comes before the HDC planning committee on 1st June 2011, to be held in the Harlington. CVPC held a public meeting in February to garner the views of the local residents towards this application. As a result of this meeting, CVPC raised objections to the application on the grounds of the impact the new development would inevitably have on the local area, in particular traffic and education issues.

## **Support for Local Groups and Events**

Each year, within the Parish there are a number of important social events and this year is no different. However, unlike previous years, CVPC is now in a position to show support for major events that are held within the Parish at the Zebon Copse Community Centre. This year CVPC has voted to waive the fee for ZCC for the annual parish fete, this is jointly organised by ZCRA and CVA. The fete will be held on Sunday 3 July. Also this year, the biannual Twinning visit of our friends from Levignen will take place over the weekend of 10 to 14 June. CVPC will support this visit by providing the venue of the picnic and sports activities at ZCC on the Sunday afternoon.

## **Grit Bins**

Last winter the whole area again experienced very heavy falls of snow. Based on the success of the grit bins installed the previous year, CVPC took up the offer from Hampshire County Council to install a further 4 grit bins in Netherhouse Moor and Zebon Copse. We are pleased to say that although the weather was as bad as the previous year, the problems experienced were nowhere near as bad and CVPC is happy to look at extending the provision of grit bins to areas outside Zebon Copse where difficulties have been experienced. If there are any other problem sites within the parish where you think that an additional grit bin would be justified, please let us know in time for next winter.

## **Website**

On a general note, we try and keep everyone informed by the website, notice boards and newsletter. I am indebted to Councillor Jackson for keeping the website up to date. We were gratified to see that over the last year, we have had over 3,500 visits, 74% of which were for ZCC. We are always interested in feedback from residents so if you feel there is anything we can improve please let us know. “

## **2. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS` QUESTION TIME**

The Chairman invited County Councillor Jenny Radley (also a HDC Councillor for the Parish) and Ward Councillors (Tim Davies and Richard Appleton) to the front of the hall. He advised residents that he too was a Hart Councillor for the Parish. Residents asked questions as follows:

### **Brandon Road**

Mrs Helen Parberry

I would like to speak about the traffic calming measures through Brandon Road. Currently they are lethal for children, lots of blind bends, Frenchman's creek the other day – one car hit another car –lots of glass on road. Current measures do not stop cars speeding.

(At this point Simon Ambler mentioned the parish SID, said it will go on Brandon Road)

Anne Axton

There are no indications that children are crossing Brandon Road – lack of signage.

(Jenny Radley spoke – need to identify where on Brandon Road this is most evident. Is it due to overgrown vegetation? Would not expect the speed of any vehicle to be above 30 miles/hr – unlikely).

Robert Staff.

Cars are definitely travelling more than 30 miles/hr – there are boy racers. It is an accident waiting to happen.

Helen Staff

When you are walking along Brandon Road there are a lot of bushes overgrown so it is very hard to see.

(Jenny Radley spoke – need to write down the registration number of the cars that are speeding and pass their details to the police - we need report of incidents.)

Anne Axton – until there is a fatality the police are not interested. Police said only 2 people had come forward about this happening on Brandon Road.

Helen Parberry

There is also the problem of bad parking generally along Brandon Road - 2 cars in particular use Brandon Road on a permanent basis to park.

(Jenny Radley spoke –it may be possible to have parking restrictions around certain areas in the road).

Helen Parberry –Currently the bus cannot even stop at the bus stop

(Simon Ambler spoke – one concept when they built the estate was that all the roads around were made bendy – concept from planning is that having bendy roads enables cars to see people walking. The parking arrangements at the far end, Freeland's end, were built at a time when the government decided nobody needed any parking spaces. The Redfield's end is not as bad. We will do our best to pick up on all these issues you have raised).

### **Airport**

Richard Spink

You publish contact details for Farnborough Airport. Will it be effective in any way by reporting it as there are definitely more planes flying over?

(Jenny Radley spoke – if you don't report and gather evidence you can't do anything about it)

Richard Spink

Have people reported it? Are there any penalties imposed?

Mrs G. Plumbe – I have reported it. It was clearly explained to me that sometimes there are problems at Odiham and they have to go to Farnborough to land.

Mr Graham Plumbe – There is an Air Traffic control centre which you can contact by telephone. There are weekend flying clubs which can result in planes having to be diverted. Must log exact time – this is required.

(Cllr Appleton spoke – agreed that there are gliding clubs at Odiham so they do have to divert planes sometimes. Perhaps the Parish Council could help with certainty of where they might fly. In the long term we might be looking at 100,000 – currently 26,000/28,000 flights from Farnborough)

(Jenny Radley spoke – flights were at their peak in 2007, dipped down since then due to the recession. There are 2 main departures routes and 75 % go in this direction. There is a Steering group who are trying to direct planes over the army training areas to cause less disturbance – trying to avoid residential areas)

(Cllr Appleton spoke – once a plane takes off pilot gets advice from traffic control.)

(Cllr Jackson – There is a controlled air space to stop planes getting too close to Farnborough. You must ring, give time so they can look up and check pilot has followed required track. If the pilot has not he will get a warning).

(Jenny Radley spoke about having extended air space that aircraft can be directed to. Mentioned a tour on a Tuesday morning)

### **CASH**

Bryan Needham – How much cash has the parish council got?

(Simon Ambler / David Jackson – 1 years precept)

### **PILCOT ROAD**

Anne Cockburn – When will we have a path, not just a line?

(Simon Ambler spoke – explained about s106 funds - Redfield's lane junction and the fact that we are waiting on further reports. If Redfield's lane junction does not materialise we might get some funding for Pilcot Road. Eventually will be a rural looking path.)

### **DITCHES**

Malcolm Taylor

What enforcement powers does the PC have for clearing ditches?

(Simon Ambler - none at all but we do know who to speak to)

## **FOOTPATHS**

Stewart Hunt

Does the Parish Council have any authority over footpaths?

(Simon and Richard Appleton explained that the county council do monitor footpaths and who is responsible for what - e.g. if impassable – HCC)

## **TREES**

Graham Plumbe – Tree overhanging wooden bridge, about 5ft 6 – Hilly burrow – south of the PC bridge. It is going to fall and smash bridge.

## **3. TRUSTEES & APPOINTEES REPORTS**

### **Cottrell Almshouses Report**

Cllr. Brian Whyatt addressed the meeting.

“Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen, My name is Brian Whyatt I represent the Parish on the Cottrell Court Almshouse Charity. The Almshouses are situated at the Junction of Gally Hill Road with Gables Road adjacent to the War Memorial. The original Almshouse was built about 1855 with a legacy from Miss Cottrell. The Almshouses were re-built in 1986 at a total cost of £420,000 most of the monies were by donation but a small mortgage is outstanding and its administration is one of the responsibilities of a Trustee. They consist of 16 dwellings 14 single and two double occupancy units. The occupancy is consistently in excess of 90% providing a home and respite for less fortunate Parishioners.

We recently underwent an inspection by the Charity commissioners to assess that we are providing a suitable standard of accommodation for the needy. No problems were highlighted but, some recommendations were made by the commissioner’s surveyors. One of the main points was the asbestos flues which are fitted to all the boilers, we are currently undertaking to change all the boilers to those with a balanced flue to overcome this small problem. As the dwellings are now 25 years old we are refurbishing them with new Kitchens and Bathrooms as they become vacant. We are also in the process of changing all the old timber windows for UPVC double glazed units. The Almshouse is in a sound financial position and will long remain a valuable community resource.”

## **4. POTENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN THE PARISH**

The Chairman gave an overview of the potential for further development within the parish. After his presentation he invited questions:

Helen Parberry

How many empty houses are there? Is there a housing officer who looks at this and monitors this? (Cllr Appleton spoke – if a property is left for 6 months – can bring back into use. Only a handful generally in the area. The Consultation will be summer to autumn for all housing developments.)

Robert Staff

Facilities for housing – do they not have to provide for schools as well?

(Cllr Appleton spoke - ran through spend report etc and plans to expand schools rather than build new ones)

(Simon Ambler spoke – said there were formulas used by developers. Consideration is usually a mixture of cash and facilities)

Robert Staff

Schools should be kept on site to avoid parents having to travel 3 or 4 miles to school by car. This would aid the infrastructure problem

Anne Cockburn

Edenbrook Country Park – tried to get into the park the other day – went to the sales office who said it was only open to residents.

(Cllr Appleton spoke – confirmed it will be public accessible)

## **5. CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN RECEIVED**

None received.

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr. Jackson reminded all present that there was a vacancy for a Parish Councillor for the Zebon Ward and invited interested persons to contact the Clerk.

The meeting concluded at approximately 10pm.