

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on 8 April 2013 at 8pm in the Zebon Copse Community Centre.**

**Present:** Cllr. Simon Ambler (Parish Council Chairman)  
Mrs. Carol Leversha (Parish Council Clerk)

**In attendance:** County & (ZC Ward) Cllr. Jenny Radley, (NM Ward) Cllr. Richard Appleton;  
(CV Ward) Cllr. Chris Simmons and Tony Clarke. Parish Cllrs. Colin Lethbridge, Peter Crawley,  
Julia Ambler, David Jackson,

Eleven parishioners present: Jamie Robertson (Browning Road) Judy and William Taylor (Du Maurier) Philip Rose (Lynams) David and Janice Stenning (Lynams) Daniel Bailey (Brokle) Paul Wilson (Camus) Graham Coates (Danvers) Santio Niyue Chen (Netherhouse Moor) Brian White (Crandall Road) Carol Barrow (Pilcot Road) Tina Collins (The Street)  
Plus approximately 10 observers in relation to issues raised regarding midweek pitch hire to the Hart Football Club.

**Apologies** were received from Cllrs. Philip Ashton and Brian Watt.

The Chairman advised the meeting that he was aware that there were a number of observers present and confirmed that only parishioners were able to speak at this meeting at the relevant time. With regard to items raised if considered appropriate then these could be raised as Agenda items for future Parish Council meetings.

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

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting for Crookham Village Parish Council

I would first like to thank everyone who has given their time to help the Parish in various ways. Our internal auditor, Phil du Gay has again helped us to ensure that our accounts are in order, but is stepping down this year. We are very grateful for all the help that he has given us over the years.

I should also 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 huge amount of work to help with the various projects in which CVPC is engaged. Their time is given on a voluntary basis and is unpaid.

We also have four members of staff, all of whom work incredibly hard and we are very grateful for the dedication they show to their roles. Sarah Sherman and Rebecca Reilly do a sterling job of running the Zebon Copse Centre. Thanks also go to Claire Rowe who has left us recently for pastures new. As our first centre administrator Claire got the centre off to a flying start and I'm pleased to say usage has continued ever upwards.

Finally, I should like to mention Angela Sayers, our Finance Officer and Carol Leversha, our Clerk who both keep us on the straight and narrow with regard to financial and regulatory matters. I should like to thank them both for all their hard work over the last twelve months.

#### **Precept**

Having held our precept steady in previous years, this year we have needed to include a small increase of 2.3% to cover costs which as I am sure you are all aware, continue to rise. The Zebon Copse centre usage continues to rise, meaning that it is finally paying its way. Unfortunately maintenance is also a significant expenditure. We are still catching up from the previous twenty years of minimal maintenance. Our plan is to keep up a good level of routine maintenance so that in future we are not hit with unexpected bills.

#### **Pilcot Rd Footway**

In view of the length of time that this has been a topic for discussion, everyone here is probably as disappointed as I am that I'm not yet able to report this project as completed.

The promised consultation has taken place and there has been much discussion on design. Whilst we took some convincing, we finally agreed that as there are no suitable surfaces that would blend in with the adjacent grass verge, the least intrusive option is in fact a tarmac surface matching the road.

The latest date we have for implementation of this footway is the autumn of this year.

### **Crondall Rd Traffic Calming**

Yet another project that we have been discussing for a long time, I am pleased to report (albeit with some trepidation) that it now appears to be hopefully crawling towards a conclusion. Now that we have proposals that CRAG and CVPC are finally happy with, Hampshire CC are in the process of making some final tweaks before putting these proposals to a full consultation.

### **Lea Green Play Area**

Despite our best efforts at repairing the play equipment on Lea Green, there was so little of it left that could be safely used that we took the decision to remove it all. In particular the safety matting was well beyond its normal lifespan.

In order to try and ensure that the new equipment is what residents want, we are working with Claire Bourke who is helping to co-ordinate local views. The Parish Council are able to provide some funding and we are investigating what grants may be available. We will shortly be speaking to suppliers to get them to put forward proposals, following which we will carry out a full consultation with local residents.

### **Local Development Plan**

This is one topic where things have moved on considerably since the APM last year. We started the year with a packed meeting at which the FACE IT Group was able to provide persuasive evidence to support a resolution to reject significant additional development within the Parish. Representation from various groups, including CVPC and political changes at the May elections, saw the site allocation in the plan revised to exclude development on Grove Farm. The same total number of dwellings still needs to be delivered across the District which means that some have been reallocated to rural areas of which we will have to bear our share. I will talk more about that when we move to the Community Led Development section of this evening's agenda.

The current status is that HDC have submitted the plan to the Secretary of State and an inspector has been appointed although a date for the Examination in Public has not yet been set.

### **Councillor Vacancy and Parish Boundary**

For anyone keen to get involved, we have a vacant seat on the Council. If anyone is interested please come and talk to any of us about what is involved. This vacancy is actually for the Netherhouse ward of the parish. After next year, the present wards will disappear as a result of the reorganisation of the district wards, although the parish boundary will remain the same.

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

Residents may ask questions of those County & District Cllrs present and representing their relevant areas of the Parish:-

Netherhouse Moor – Ward Cllr. Richard Appleton

Zebon Copse Ward – Ward Cllrs. Simon Ambler and Jenny Radley

Crookham Village Ward – Ward Cllrs. Chris Simmons and Tony Clarke

County Councillor Jenny Radley.

The Chairman advised those present that many years ago reports had been invited from the District and County Councillors but these had had to cease when the Wards were introduced and the parish was then represented by 6 District Councillors and a report from each would have taken up most of the evening. Hence those present this evening were happy to answer questions from parishioners in relation to their roles.

Mrs. Stenning asked about the 49 dwellings being proposed for the Redfields site.

Cllr. Simmons said he was not familiar with this case as he was not on the planning Cttee of Hart Council. Cllr Radley said in the initial Local Plan it was allocated for about 40 dwellings but as often happens the developer decided to put in an application for 80 dwellings which was turned down. The site behind Redfields has been identified for 49 dwellings with a number of them being affordable. At the moment it is at the pre-application stage. Cllr. Jackson said as the pre-application forms are now in the public domain he can put them on the Parish website. Cllr. Appleton said there is a rumpus about car parking and there is an issue with the Edenbrook development whereby the refuse vehicles cannot access dwellings. HDC should now have the power to regulate parking.

Mr. Roberston

This is his first APM meeting and he wants to know how County, District and Parish Councils support youth projects. The Chairman said it was mostly County funded and Cllr. Radley addressed the question. Each district was allocated a certain amount of funding and a third party was asked to provide youth clubs etc and targeted support was now given for the most vulnerable children. The previous Hart Youth Service set up its own Charity called Phoenix and are continuing with a lot of the services they provided before and are funded by Fleet Town Council and Hart District Council. From the Parish point of view of supporting youth provision the Chairman said that we had agreed to support a request for provision of a youth club but this did not come to fruition. All we can do is assist people who wish to provide youth provision. Mr. Robertson said he is a member of Hart Football Club which pays for the use of the pitches and there are lots of people here tonight who support the club. From what he understands it is coming down to parking and he thinks we are pushing this out of the parish. Its not about finance its about - 30 to 40 children in the parish (guess) he then changed it to 140 children. He said it was a guesstimate from his side. Parents pay £65 per child per season to the football club. He recognises there are issues which he may not understand. Cllr. Appleton said HDC were not involved in provision of pitches or car parking spaces. He also said that there is a proposed new Leisure Centre at Edenbrook and a desire to put in an All Weather Pitch and two junior football pitches. In general there are enough pitches in the district but the problems seem to arise at the weekends.

Mrs. Barrow

She is unaware of the history of this issue but has lived in Dogmersfield for 5 years and recently moved into the parish. She can only say how dismayed she was to see an email which says football parents were arguing with Centre Staff and is dismayed to see that this topic is even happening. She wanted to know what is the issue. The Chairman confirmed that this is to be an Agenda item for the meeting on the 15 April – members of the public have an opportunity to speak and then this will be brought up again. Not all Members of the Parish Council are here tonight. The one sentiment seems to be parking issues but that is too simple – a document will be presented at the meeting.

Mr. Rose

He said this was an urgent item and needed to be dealt with – Edenbrook people have moved in and there is pressure on the local facilities. People are coming to join HFC - he understands the parish have constraints and they need to solve this with HCC, HDC etc. Cllr. Appleton explained that in terms of money for leisure there are two categories money for district and money for parish. Each parish is asked to put forward its leisure requirements. The Edenbrook development is part of a bigger picture and will help fund district requirements. Mr. Rose said if its £20k to build the car park get that done.

Mr. Bailey

Is it right that planning permission was granted for an extra 15 spaces two years ago and nothing has happened. Cllr. Julia Ambler advised that there was insufficient funding to do this as all the available money was spent on the hall. Looking at the actual plan 14 spaces will be insufficient and if we want more then we will need to bite into the pitches. She reminded those present that the Parish Council has no obligation to keep the land as a football field. HDC created the pitches- the only quibble is the practice requirements at midweek when there are hall hirers. At weekends we have deliberately refused bookings in order to accommodate the football usage. We have to maintain the status quo for everyone's benefit and stressed that is her personal view.

Mr. Chen

Is the money the priority – Cllr. Julia Ambler said if we close the centre to accommodate the pitch use there would be no income to keep the facility going and this is the point that HDC had reached – we subsidise the pitches from the income from the Centre. We run the pitches at a loss as we want to support football in the area.

Mr. Whyatt

He said a couple of years ago he saw accounts from the Parish and saw that football was being subsidised to the tune of £15k per year. Cllr. Julia Ambler said this covered maintenance of field, pitch marking and remedial work during the fallow period.

Mr. Wilson

Wants to see the accounts.

Mr. Rose

He cannot imagine this is a problem (finance) from this parish – Cllr. Julia Ambler said we do not get access to district funding to maintain the facility – all funding comes from the parish precept.

Mr. White (Itchel Farm)

Asked Cllr. Appleton to confirm what he had said about Edenbrook and leisure facilities. Cllr. Appleton said there was to be a new Leisure Centre with a 400 space car park, All Weather Pitch and two junior grass pitches. Projected opening date is 2017. The report goes to Cabinet on 9 May 2013 and this can fit within the site identified in the local plan. He said that with regard to funding perhaps HDC should have a way to address issues which cross parish boundaries.

Mr. Taylor (Chairman of HFC) said he looks after a 140 children (£65 a head) – he said we should be seeking funding from the Football Foundation.

Mr. Wilson said that £4m is available from Sport England at the moment and Cllr. Julia Ambler said she would be delighted to accept a proposal from Mr. Wilson in this respect.

Mr. Rose wanted to know why we were funding Pilcot Hill Footway - that seems to be a highway issue why are we paying from the precept – the Chairman said it was an initiative from the parish residents and had received overwhelming support. Cllr. Radley said there is also money available for local communities.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Zebon Copse Centre and grounds had been threatened with closure by HDC and it was thanks to the Parish Council that it remains in use today.

Mr. Coates

Money – we are missing a trick and you can utilise the Centre and the pitches you can make more money. He does not understand how everything can be so short sighted when if you have those extra car park spaces it's a win win situation. Cllr. Julia Ambler said this is something which the Parish would like to fund but we cannot fund everything. We do not have the funds available to put in these spaces at this time and more than 14 are needed to resolve the problem – we actually require 30 extra car park spaces to meet the needs of all users.

The Chairman advised that the request of the HFC for midweek sessions is coming to the Parish Council meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> April. At the beginning the meeting is opened to the public to speak for up to 3 minutes for items on the Agenda. Mr. Taylor asked if he would be permitted to speak at that meeting and the Chairman confirmed that he would.

Mr. Bailey

Said he believed he could just use the pitch without bothering to pay.

Cllr. Appleton said he had been asked to raise the issue of the poor state of the footway across Lea Green which needed upgrading. The Clerk reminded him that this was the responsibility of HDC as it still owned Lea Green.

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

#### **Memorial Hall Trust (Cllr. Simon Ambler)**

Cllr. Ambler said the two halls, the Memorial and Willis halls, are owned and managed by the Committee and continue to be well used.

Clearly there is a significant demand from local groups for halls as, like our centre at ZCC, demand and income from bookings continues at a steady level and costs are kept to a minimum, helped by a lot of the necessary work being done on a voluntary basis.

The way in which the halls are run is very different from ours but equally successful, although there is minimal resilience in the event of a problem.

The trust maintains a reasonable reserve equivalent to around two year's expenditure and income continues to match or slightly exceed expenditure.

#### **Crondall/Crookham/Fleet Welfare Trust (Cllr. Peter Crawley)**

Cllr. Crawley said this had been set up to give winter fuel to aged and needy residents. There is not much income from investment and most income is from the Mummers Play every Boxing Day each year. There are a dozen of aged or needy people and if parishioners know of anyone who might qualify please advise him. Sadly he has to report the untimely death of Renee Hudson who died aged 90 - one of the oldest recipients. The Trust is very simple with no overheads.

#### **Cottrell's Almshouse Trust (Cllr. Colin Lethbridge)**

Cllr. Lethbridge said the Almshouse land is situated in Gally Hill Road, Church Crookham, Fleet, Hampshire, and forms part of a legacy made by Miss Isabella Cottrell in 1844. The legacy made by Miss Cottrell was also used to build the original Almshouse comprising 6 apartments. This Almshouse was demolished at the end of 1986.

The original Almshouse has been replaced with a new building on the same site. The new building, called Cottrell Court, comprises 16 apartments with improved accommodation, and was available for occupation from February 1988. The Housing Corporation have financed the majority of this project with a combination of a housing association loan and housing association grant.

The Charity provides Almshouse accommodation for poor persons of good character who (except in special cases approved by the Charity Commissioners) are inhabitants of the district of Hart with a preference for such persons who are resident in the Civil Parish of Crookham Village, Ewshot Ward in Crondall Civil Parish or the Urban Wards of Church Crookham, Fleet Courtmoor, Fleet Pondtail and Fleet West.

The Charity is committed to the principle of equal opportunities and observes the letter and spirit of current legislation as far as the governing instrument allows. The Charity is run in accordance with schemes prepared by the Charity Commission. The first scheme was sealed on 8th July 1898 and various subsequent schemes made alterations to it. The current scheme was sealed on 13th October 1992. Copies of the latest scheme and of the latest published accounts are available from the Clerk on request.

The Charity is administered by voluntary trustees. Hart District Council, Crookham Village Parish Council, Church Crookham Parish Council and Crondall Parish Council nominate one trustee each. The Priest in Charge of Christ Church, Crookham is an ex-officio trustee and a further two trustees are co-opted. The day to day work of the Charity is carried out by the Clerk. The Almshouse is a well-run charity and is financially sound. It carries a mortgage which has an interest rate of 9% which seems high now but when it was taken out was a good deal.

### **4. UPDATE ON INITIAL RESPONSES TO PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE**

Cllr. David Jackson said that those who live in the parish will know that in Feb we distributed a questionnaire - 357 residents responded (approximately 25% of parishioners) Two came blank via the web, two returned the newsletter. The reason for the questionnaire now is because of the Hart Local Development Plan going public and we needed to have evidence to support residents views. For example - Grove Farm - we would have evidence to support residents opposition to this. He then produced a series of slides outlining the findings of the questionnaire. The rural element of the parish is required to take more dwellings.

Some years ago HARAHA had done a survey with regard to people living in rural communities wanting to stay in their villages. We have one Rural Exception Scheme which is Knight Close and HARAHA have identified another 20 housing needs in that class. We had identified a site but when Grove Farm was put forward for the LDP we withdrew our support for that RES site. Roads elicited the most responses and Redfields Lane/A287 mirrored all that the parish had been pursuing over the past 20 years. The only new item was the suggestion of a filter left lane which might merit consideration. The village came in for the most criticism as to the condition of the pavements and residents age was a factor in this. Parking on pavements was another issue and he has spoken to the Police who will do a softly softly approach initially. Big demand for doctors surgeries and complaints about length of waiting time for appointments. Litter and dog fouling big concerns. Speeding, a significant issue. Hart Council fortnightly collection met with approval. Safety issues across the area – various aspects. Sports activities – Mark Hensby living on the Copse has offered to start a cycling club. Pool caused a degree of confusion some thought it was swimming others thought it was a game of pool. Football was not mentioned under “other” and he will remedy this in future questionnaires. Play equipment for children and adults was supported. Information mostly from paper – notice boards, newsletters and local press. Want to spend money on traffic and more dog bins. Buses came in for a lot of criticism. Quite a number of people appeared willing to assist with the upkeep of footpaths. How should the parish develop – development accepted but do not change the character of the parish. A resident asked about a car parked on pavement – Cllr. Jackson said talk to your neighbour first but if it is a proper obstruction then call 101 and the police will come and ticket them but it does have to be an obstruction. Cllr. Radley said how important these surveys are as they evidence where measures need to be implemented as a result of the impact of new developments. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr. Jackson who has put hundreds of hours into this project - we are indebted to him.

#### **5. SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNICATION**

Cllr. Colin Lethbridge addressed the meeting and said he is involved in quite a few other groups and they find it useful to have a presence on facebook and twitter. Having a presence on either of these he believes would be beneficial. However, it is easy for people to put comments which offend people and we need to consider the issue. But these sites would be useful for telling people about meetings and what is going on. Cllr. Appleton said he agreed about the people and you do get some interesting comments and you get ideas from comments. There are a lot of things which people want to comment about which are outside the parish and you need to see how you will limit it. Jamie Roberts said it was also a full time job and he works in media – it needs to be kept a check on. Further debate took place on this.

#### **6. COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT IN CROOKHAM VILLAGE**

Cllr. Jackson spoke about the Localism Act and one issue which is of interest to the parish is community led development, which allows us to retain contributions for the Parish unlike normal S106. If a community wants to build something then a referendum has to have the support of 50% of the residents who vote agreeing with the scheme and if it is within the Local Plan then you virtually give yourself planning permission. In the event that the residents want to provide local housing for residents the local community needs to lead on this and it needs to be setup as a corporate body and any benefits from the development must be maintained for the benefit of the community. This could be attractive. As an example the WI Hut is a WWII structure and, as far as CVPC is aware has no security of tenure (NB Post Meeting Note: Mr. White the landowner, advises this assumption is incorrect.) It would be good to find an alternative site for a replacement hall. If the opportunity arises then we will need people to come forward to set up the corporate body. Questions were invited.

#### **7. CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN RECEIVED AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING**

None received.

#### **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman invited any new topics – none were put forward.  
The meeting closed at 9.55 pm.