

These are the unadopted Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 10 April 2017 in the WI Hall, The Street, Crookham Village. Please refer to the Minutes of the May Parish Council meeting for any amendments.

Present:

Cllr. Simon Ambler (Chairman)

Ward Cllrs' - Tony Clarke & John Bennison

Parish Cllrs' -Julia Ambler, Clive Eastwood, David Jackson, Peter Kenaghan and Dan Bunter.

Residents of the Parish – Brian Whyatt & David Stennings

Apologies were received from Jenny Radley & Indra Sinka

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting for Crookham Village Parish Council

As always, I should like to start by extending 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. I would also like to welcome two new Councillors, Peter Keneghan and Dan Bunter who have recently joined us.

We also have four members of staff: our clerk Carol, Angela our Responsible Financial Officer and our two centre Managers at the Zebon Copse Centre, Tabby and Lucy. All of them work incredibly hard and we are very grateful for the dedication they show to their roles.

The year was tinged with some sadness as in June last year when Peter Crawley died. Peter was our longest serving Councillor and over his forty years of service has contributed an enormous amount to the Parish. Not only in his role as a Councillor, but through the Twinning Association and Crookham Village Association. Earlier in the year, in May, I had the privilege of presenting Peter with the Freedom of the Parish. A ceremony that was attended by Peter's family as well as past and present Councillors and many of his friends.

Planning

Unfortunately, planning issues continue to dominate our work. The reserved matters application has been submitted for Watery Lane. We have looked at this and submitted detailed comments identifying a number of areas over which we have major concerns.

The Grove Farm site was resubmitted following a previous refusal and Berkley Homes have now lodged appeal against non-determination which starts on 18th July. Again, we will be active participants in this appeal to represent the views of our residents towards this proposed development.

Cross Farm has an application pending determination for a hybrid application, in outline for 160 units plus a 64 bed care home, plus a full application for SANG and access. Again we have submitted our detailed views on this application which have highlighted a number of very significant concerns. In addition, this has been submitted as a SHLAA site in the emerging Hart Local Plan.

On the topic of the long awaited Hart Local Plan, the regulation 18 consultation will start toward the end of the month and run for 6 weeks.

Precept

This year saw a small rise in our overall budget for the Parish with a 2% increase over last year and now equates to a total figure of £71.42 for a band D household. This reflects the fact that we now are taking more responsibility and have more control of the maintenance of our environment through initiatives such as the Lengthsman scheme. We will continue to work hard to ensure we achieve value for money in all areas, as well as keeping up maintenance and enhancing the areas over which we have responsibility.

Lea Green Play Area

Last year we made improvements to the play equipment in the Netherhouse Moor children's play area. These included a zip wire, basketball/football net and several pieces of adult gym equipment; all of which are proving very popular. We are currently clearing and tidying the open spaces adjacent to the play area, with the hope that if these open spaces are well maintained, this will discourage the fly tipping that has occurred over the years.

Open spaces and assets on community value

As a Council, one of our key roles is to look at what assets and facilities we can provide to benefit the local community. This doesn't just include things such as play areas but also open spaces and footpaths. There are various ways that we can ensure that important open spaces can remain accessible to the community, the most positive being to apply to have ownership transferred to the Parish Council. This we have previously done with the open space on Netherhouse Moor. This year we have applied to Hart DC to transfer the Crescent Green to the Parish Council, thus ensuring that it remains as publicly accessible open space. The other option for important local facilities is to apply for them to be registered as Assets of Community Value. We have successfully done this for both the Village Social Club and the Black Horse Pub.

What this means is that the owner must inform the local authority should they wish to sell the asset. If a group wishes to buy that asset, they can then trigger a [moratorium](#) for six months, to give them the opportunity to raise the money to purchase the asset, although

the owner doesn't have to sell to a community group. The asset of community value listing only improves the chances of community groups being able to purchase by providing more time to raise funds. It does not require the owner to sell at a discount.

Lengthsman Scheme

This scheme run by HCC allows us to undertake those minor highway and maintenance works normally undertaken by the County or District. We have completed the legal agreement for this and our contractors have completed the appropriate training. We hope to start our work under this scheme very shortly.

Zebon Copse Centre

Thanks to the efforts of our Centre Managers, this facility continues to be well used. Our latest addition to play equipment is a sports wall, similar to the one at Netherhouse Moor. This was purchased through a Lottery Grant. I should like to thank Responsible Finance Officer, Angela Sayers for all her efforts in managing to secure the grant on behalf of the Council. The new equipment will have a grass matting area in front and will cater for football and basketball/netball target practice. We are hoping that this new equipment will prove an attractive alternative for those who kick footballs at the walls and windows of the Centre.

2. REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

As we reported last year, work on the Neighbourhood Plan has continued throughout the year. In the early part of the year we conducted a major consultation to determine the views of residents about the "green" policies needed within the Parish. This included asking residents on their views on the need for preserving the local gaps as well as the conservation areas within the Parish. We were very pleased with the response which was overwhelmingly in favour of retaining the local gaps as well as the green spaces that permeate the Zebon Copse development which are much valued by residents.

Since the departure of our last consultant, we have worked to develop a series of draft policies both for the built environment as well as the green environment and earlier this year needed to seek further expert advice as to whether we were still on the right lines. To this end, we appointed a second consultant to assist us and he has been invaluable in pointing out what further work we need to do to get our policies fit for purpose for the needs of our Parish. His comments revealed that there was still much work to do to gather the evidence to support our proposed environmental policies and we have also now appointed the Hampshire Wildlife Trust to help us gather the evidence to support our new policies. We expect to have their report within the next month or so to fill this gap in our evidence base.

We have been very pleased to welcome four new members to the NPSG, all of whose interests lie in preserving our green environment as much as possible while permitting new development. Their work has been invaluable in working towards preparing suitable environmental policies as well working with our consultants to gather the supporting evidence.

We hope to complete this phase of the work by early summer and move towards the final consultation in September 2017. This would mean being ready for submission of our plan to Hart District Council by late autumn. We would hope to hold the referendum in the New Year and passing the plan for acceptance by the Inspector in spring 2018. I should like to express my gratitude for the hard work of our Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in getting the plan to its present point.

3. COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS' QUESTION TIME

Brian Whyatt

When will the public get sight of the Local Plan?

Draft plan available 25th April 2017- This is the start of the 6 week consultation.

Cllr David Jackson

Is there going to be a developers' open day? Yes – no schedule available yet.

Any update on Devolution – The administration in Whitehall has changed and the main drivers of the project have left. A recent MP meeting indicated it was not going to work and there were more pressing issues to deal with.

John Bennison

Bourley Road

This has been resurfaced across the racecourse. There was an issue with a chamber near the Peter Driver site where spring water was coming in so they are going to have to come back. The rest of the road into Rushmoor will be top dressed. Drainage work still needs to be done before handover to the Council.

A287

The waterworks are all finished and the pipes are in use. The tidying up of the road is now being done.

Peacocks Gardens Centre

A company has been doing recycling work on the land and were surprised when they were told that planning permission was required. The planning application was submitted and turned down by committee. The operators have now been given 28 days to return the site to its original state or appeal.

Basingstoke canal

The land slip is being sorted but there are a few problems so the work will not be finished till early summer. Boats are being allowed through over Easter.

4. TRUSTEES AND APPOINTEES REPORTS

(i) Memorial Hall Trust

Cllr. Simon Ambler reported as follows:

This local facility is well established and well run and little changes from year to year. There are two halls, the Memorial and Willis halls which are owned and managed by the Trust, they both continue to have a high level of usage.

As a charitable Trust, the business model is completely different from that which we use for ZCC, relying mainly on volunteer assistance. The halls provide a valuable community facility, complimenting rather than competing with other halls in the area.

The Church Crookham Parish Community Centre has had no detrimental impact on bookings, these continue to increase from year to year, at present almost reaching capacity

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

(ii) Crondall/Crookham/Fleet Welfare Trust

By way of a very brief description of the charity, this Trust was originally set up around 1830 to provide fuel for the poor as it had become illegal for people to cut their own turf from waste land. The Trust has changed over time and now helps by giving financial aid instead of actual fuel.

The charity has continued on an even keel since its major structural changes during the previous couple of years. We have maintained the current Trustee membership, with associated roles and responsibilities, which has been very positive for all concerned. As a group, we are all confident that we are on track with the focus and aims that we share for the Trust, and we are compliant with the Trusts constitution.

Our community work since my last report, has been steady. As public money is become scarcer, we have changed our collection tin focus and have withdrawn from several local pubs, in favour of new mini supermarkets, which is proving to be a successful strategy. Ho's takeaway in Church Crookham remains one of our best collection points and we are always very grateful for the customer and business support that we get. We still have a relatively healthy balance in the Trust investment account and have a safe future for our recipients for the next 3 years, but in January 2017, we lost our main donor (Crookham Mummers) due to a change in their organisational structure, so we are now looking to replace that contribution as it is the decider for how long we can continue.

We are still making the higher value monetary Christmas gift to our 25 recipients, and this continues to make a real difference to them. We made a contribution to the 2016 Fleet Christmas Day lunch event. We have helped a gentleman who had a foot operation and needed new shoes but couldn't afford to buy them. We have helped a single mother with carpets for her housing association home, as she had to move in with only concrete floors and her toddler is asthmatic so the dust was a problem for him. We have been approached a couple of times by people who fall outside of our constitutional remit, but who were very definitely in need of help, so we successfully managed to pass them on to a charity that could work with them and our board is getting more creative at finding solutions in order to make a difference to people indirectly as well as directly.

We are constantly looking for local people who would benefit from our help and would welcome any contact information for people who members of Crookham Village Parish feel we could make a difference to. Many of us think that we live in an affluent area, but locally, we have a huge number of people being supported by the state and charities. These people are quite literally are on the breadline. Through pride or ignorance they often don't come

forward, so we need any help we can get to reach these people. We have funds and we want to direct them to where they are needed most, for as long as we can.

I have submitted the Trusts November 2016 AGM minutes (including Treasurers report) to the CVPC Clerk, to be held on file for information. This shows that we did manage to hit our highest ever 'giving' target of £3.2k last year in financial help for recipients. The board hopes that the CVPC representation can remain as is for the foreseeable future, we thank you for your continued support and we look forward to your representation decision in due course.

(iii) Cottrell's Almshouse Trust

(Gill Butler - Chair of Trustees)

The Crookham Almshouses provide accommodation for poor persons of good character who are inhabitants of Hart but with preference for those living in the parishes of Church Crookham, Crookham Village and Ewshot. The almshouses consist of 16 units; 14 for single people and 2 for couples. We have no lower age limit and currently have residents ranging in age from 50's through to 90's. The last 12 months have been busy for this charity as it makes ongoing improvements to the fabric of the building and updates individual units. We have also had a steady turnover of residents. In the past 12 months, one resident sadly passed away, others have moved on into the private rental sector and as always we feel privileged to then be able to be in the position to help another vulnerable and needy person by offering them a safe haven and a roof over their head. We are thankful for the input that representatives from the parish councils make to this charity. Although trustees only meet formally twice a year, it is there that key decisions are made and we appreciate the experience, knowledge and wisdom each individual brings to the table.

(Wendy Makepeace-Browne – CVPC representative)

Further to the Chairman's update, I would like to add a personal note of thanks to CVPC for allowing me to represent it for this valuable charity. We now have a group of 8 strong Trustees who are committed to the success of the Almshouses, which shows in the support that the tenants and the Clerk get. We have sadly lost our clerk (Chris Stanbury) of the past 5 years as he retired on 31st March, but as of 1st April, we welcomed back the previous clerk (Alex Pickup) who brings back a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Trust. It is a pleasure to be part of this team.

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

None received.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

John Bennison thanked Wendy for her hard work with the charities and almshouse and informed members that there were now 3 foodbanks in Hart and that requirements were increasing each year. Members discussed the possibility of contributing when budgets were next discussed.

The meeting finished at 20.43pm