

These are the unadopted Minutes of Crookham Village Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 16 April 2018 in the Zebon Community Centre, Danvers Drive. Please refer to the Minutes of the May Crookham Village Parish Council meeting for any amendments.

Present: Cllr. Simon Ambler (Chairman), County Cllr. John Bennison, Ward Cllrs. Jenny Radley and Tony Clarke, and Parish Cllrs' Julia Ambler, David Jackson, Dr. Indra Sinka, Peter Kenaghan, Nick Hill and Dan Bunter and Mrs. Wendy Makepeace-Browne.

Apologies were received from Mr. & Mrs Stenning (residents of the Parish).

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman presented his report as follows: "Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2018 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 our newest Councillor, Nick Hill who joined us in December 2017 and takes us up to our full complement of eight councillors.

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.

Planning

Planning issues continue to dominate our work. The reserved matters application has been submitted for **Watery Lane**. We have submitted detailed comments, in most areas the developer has addressed our concerns although there are still some questions over the sports provision.

The **Grove Farm** site was resubmitted following a previous refusal and Berkley Homes won their appeal last July. We were active participants in this appeal representing 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 supported by 295 objections submitted by residents.

Hart Local Plan on the topic of the long awaited Hart Local Plan, the regulation 19 consultation has been completed and its anticipated that the plan is will be submitted by the end of May.

Precept

This year saw a small rise in our overall budget for the Parish with a 1.99% increase over last year and now amounts to £129,857.00. This equates to a total figure of £72.84 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.

Lengthsman Scheme

The Lengthsman scheme finally started in earnest in September 2017 when the CVPC appointed contractor had been fully trained. Since that time, the service has proved invaluable with many small local jobs completed. Typical work includes the cutting back of the vegetation to clear public footways towards St. Nicholas School and at Malthouse Bridge to clear the sight lines for traffic. The scheme has also allowed CVPC to get all street furniture cleaned including road signs. Our contractor is now assisting CVPC to erect the SID to monitor the speeds on Crondall Road where residents continue to raise concerns about the speed of traffic entering the Village.

Zebon Community Centre

This year saw the continuation of the rebranding exercise for the Zebon Copse Centre which was renamed to become the Zebon Community Centre. The Centre continues to be well used by residents and CVPC is now working towards developing a new website for the Centre.

News in Brief

- **Community Bus** – over the last year, Cllr Jackson has been working with other Community groups to develop plans to provide a bus service to fill the gaps left by scheduled bus services as there was concern that there will be a shortfall in funding for scheduled bus services due to the £140million shortfall this coming financial year. CVPC is supporting the Fleet Link community bus service for a further year.
- **Grants** – over the last year, CVPC has provided a number of grants to local organisations. The recipients include £200 to Dogmersfield, Winchfield and Crookham Village Horticultural Society to sponsor the Craft Tent at the annual show, £200 to Zebon Copse to support a craft workshop at the forthcoming ZCRA fete in July and £1,500 to Accessible Boating to assist with the provision of an accessible wharf at Crookham Wharf.
- **Defibrillator** – CVPC has continued to supply further defibrillators to the parish, siting an additional machine in the Zebon Community Centre sports area. We will look to supply further defibrillators as suitable sites are identified and parish funds permit.
- **Drug Dealing** – It has been recognised that, in common with many parishes in Hart District, Crookham Village Parish is not immune from anti-social behaviour, some of which rises from substance abuse and drug dealing. CVPC, in conjunction with Safer North Hampshire, local police and local schools, have been working to seek a viable solution to this problem. Partly as a result of this initiative, some local schools have held parents evenings at which parents are warned about the problems and what signs to look for.
- **Crack Willow** - CVPC received complaints for local residents on Nether house Moor, about a series of crack willow trees which create a considerable nuisance in the spring time. As a result of these complaints, CVPC agreed to remove some of these trees and possibly replant with more suitable species.
- **Garage conversion policy** – CVPC has raised a concern that the conversion of a garage into residential accommodation under permitted development rights takes no account for the loss of parking spaces and increase in living accommodation that leads to an increase of parking on roads. A motion was submitted to the HALC AGM that *“Planning policy which allows for development to be carried out under Permitted Development Rights be amended to include a requirement that the resultant development should comply with the Local Planning Authority’s guidance on parking standards.”* This was accepted by HALC.

2. REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan has continued throughout the year and we are pleased to report that the NP is finally nearing completion. Although we had hoped to get the latest draft of the document out for final consultation in March, this has not proved possible and we are still putting the final touches to the document and appendices. We are also working on the website which will be used for the consultation. Katie Bailey of HDC has seen the plan and has made suggestions for amendments/changes and these have been passed to our Consultant for his views on her suggestions. A Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening is now required for the Plan. Hart Council had originally said it was not needed but they now have stated it is required and they will provide it.

We hope to start our final consultation in mid-May after the District elections are over and assuming all goes well, we hope to be in a position to submit our final plan to Hart District Council by summer. This would mean that we could hold a referendum in the Autumn and pass the plan for acceptance by the Inspector in Autumn 2018. I should like to express my great gratitude to everybody on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for all their hard work in getting the plan to its present level of completion. The end is almost in sight and we just need one final push to get it accepted.

3. COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS' REPORTS & QUESTION TIME

Cllr. Tony Clarke presented his report:

“ I’m Tony Clarke, I have lived in Crookham Village for 20 years and I have been one of your District Councillors since May 2012 - alongside Jenny and Simon. As you know, Hart covers services like Planning, Waste and Housing, but tonight I just want to explain a bit about Hart’s Local Development Plan and why it is relevant here.

I first got involved when I realised that fellow villagers, local people with little knowledge of the planning system, were sleepwalking into a shocking situation. Others were taking advantage of us, to promote our neighbourhood as a solution for the whole district’s housing needs – and I’m sure you are familiar with the problems of over-stretched infrastructure.

Of course there is a need for the right kind of housing, with proper infrastructure to go with it - but in the last 20 years, over 60% of all Hart’s housing has been in the Church Crookham and Crookham Village parishes, whereas other areas have seemed protected. The QEB (Crookham Park), was the district’s largest ever brownfield site and the developers wanted our precious green countryside too. It didn’t seem to make sense.

Local Plan

So becoming a district councillor, I took a close interest in the emerging Local Plan - to help set a fairer strategy for the whole area. It has been a huge and detailed project, with each of the many policies requiring a robust legal evidence base behind it. The government requires every district to have a LP and ours will run to 2032.

Crookham Village urgently needs Hart to have a new plan in place, because most of the old one is now considered ‘out of date’ – leaving little legal defence at government planning appeals.

While we have been trying to speed it up, others have tried to slow it down, or propose amendments that will cause it to fail, because every delay forces more housing here. Keeping the process moving forward has been like herding cats.

Without a current LP we have had a torrid time in recent years with major housing development ‘approvals by appeal’, notably 300 at Watery Lane and over 400 at Grove Farm. Where it has looked like a refusal was on the cards, developers have jumped at the chance to take the decision away from Hart, the LPA, and to appeal direct to the government, to avoid missing the boat for another 20 years.

Unfortunately, like in criminal law, it is the legality of the case AGAINST approval that is tested, not the merit of the application.

You probably know that Hart’s LP has had a tortuous journey, but is thankfully now past its last legal stage of public consultation. The responses are currently being collated and the LP will be ready to submit within a few weeks, soon after the election. The government will then set a date for an EIP

hearing (probably a few months later), and appoint a Planning Inspector to decide whether it is accepted.

The reason we cannot submit the LP today is mainly because so many, including all the developers, responded to the consultation at the very last minute. Each response has to be logged and then either Taken on board (with a tweak); Dismissed with reasons; or Deferred to explain to the Planning Inspector at the EIP.

NPPF

Meanwhile, the government has now confirmed that their amended guide to planning law, the NPPF, will be published in September. This is due to include a completely new way of calculating housing numbers that, for most districts, changes the basis of their 'objectively assessed housing need'. This complex calculation has been the key evidence base for most local plans. Requirement for districts to use this new calculation will come into effect six months later, in March 2019.

Depending where you stand, provision for the beginnings of a new settlement and Hart's approach to calculating housing figures may have been controversial, but without this potential 'expanding waistline', Hart would now have to delay the LP yet again, guaranteeing more inappropriate development here. As it is, we can be confident to submit the plan now with the flexibility to cover whatever the government throws at us next."

Cllr. Jenny Radley updated on access to the army land – the army has decided to fence off the area to the north of Bourley Road, which includes the High Speed Vehicle Test Track, for Health & Safety reasons. The fencing will have access gates which will allow access to the public when military training is not in progress. However, it will not be possible to give advance warning of closures. The gates will have clear signs to show when the area is closed to public access, and these will be securely fixed in position when the gates are locked. There will also be new signs at each entrance gate to remind people about the byelaws. In addition the fence has been set back to allow walkers, riders and mountain bikes to get around outside of the training area when access is not open to the public. The MOD made it clear they have given over 3 local SANG areas for public use: Naishes Wood on Crookham Park, Wellesley Gardens and there will be a SANG on Hartland Park, which were all former training areas, and these are open to the public in perpetuity (80 years or so). It is hoped that Bourley Road will be opened by the end of the month following significant road works . Cllr. Radley advised that this was her last meeting as one of the District Ward Cllrs as she is stepping down from the Hart District Council this May. She will be taking up a place on Church Crookham Parish Council instead. She wanted to say what an honour and privilege it has been to support CVPC for the past 14 years. The members and staff are all remarkable people and they achieve a great deal for their residents. Many thanks to them all.

Cllr. John Bennison advised that the HCC Revenue Support Grant from Central Government had dropped by another £40m this year and will drop again next year to zero . HCC have to save £140m in the next two years. There is new Highway contractor, SANSKA replacing Amey. Hitiches Lane was closed for Southern Electric to repair drainage pipes which they had damaged in earlier works. There are still two gullies to be cleared at Crookham Village end of Hitches Lane. Windy Gap – the temporary no right turn is now permanent. This is temporary position the long term aim is to install either traffic lights or a roundabout money coming from large Developments in the area. Bourley road – two lots of work – the buildings on Tweseldown Racecourse have been connected to mains electricity the MOD are paying for this to be done. Work is been done on the bends just past the Racecourse and to rectify the cambers. Drainage works are been completed and HCC are on the verge of adopting it. Apart from the 30mph section at the Church Crookham end there will a 40mph limit along its full length to Aldershot. Bourley road will be closed for the Farnbrough Airshow in

July during periods of actual flying. There is an exhibition this Wednesday, 2 till 8 at Basingbourne Church Hall for the new Fuel pipeline from Fawley to the West London terminal.

4. TRUSTEES AND APPOINTEES REPORTS

(i) Memorial Hall Trust

Cllr. Simon Ambler reported as follows: The big Canadian maple at Wills Hall has died and will be cut back to about 10ft high and turned into a piece of Art. 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. It is operated as a Charity and relies mainly on volunteer assistance, the halls provide a valuable community facility. The Trust maintains a reasonable reserve equivalent to around two year's expenditure and income continues to match or slightly exceed expenditure and the Trust have increased their reserves this year.

(ii) Crondall/Crookham/Fleet Welfare Trust

Mrs. Wendy Makepeace-Browne reported as follows: "By way of a very brief description of the charity for anyone new, 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 Trustees meet twice a year, in April and November, we have a small board of 6 and we work well as a team, which we feel is important for the Charity and for our recipients. We remain confident that we are on track with the focus and aims that we share for the Trust, and we are compliant with the Trust constitution.

Like most charities, we are finding that times are getting tougher and we are having to look at new ways to fundraise so that we can continue to support our recipients. In December 2017 we had to decrease our Christmas pay out to £80 per person from the previous 2 years where we were able to give each person £100. This may not seem much of a decrease, but for the people we help, that £20 makes all the difference although they remain very grateful for any help we can give. Our main regular sources of funds for the past year have been Ho's takeaway in Church Crookham, Crondall Events and The Co Op on Aldershot Rd Church Crookham. We manage our funds as tightly as we can to make them work for us, and since losing our main donor last year, we have sadly not been able to replace them yet so we move into this next year with some uncertainty for the future.

We supported the Fleet Christmas Day lunch event again in 2017, as well as our list of around 20 'Christmas Gift' recipients but we didn't make any ad-hoc gifts during the past year. We continue to look for local people who would benefit from our help and would welcome any contact information for people whom members of Church Crookham 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 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. Whilst we still have funds, we want to direct them to where they are needed most, for as long as we can. 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

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. 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.

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

None received.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Debate took place on ways to encourage more residents to make the effort to attend the APM. Deliver a flyer a week before the actual meeting and make the content relevant. EG these are all the things we can do but we need to know from you what you want done. Explain how the rates are arrived at by HDC and HCC. Cllr. Hill said we need to explain in the flyer what the purpose of the APM is and how residents can influence what goes on in the parish and they also have an opportunity to ask questions of their County Councillor and Ward Cllrs. Councillors to give thought to the content of the Flyer so as to encourage attendance of parishioners. It was suggested that the APM again be held at this Centre for next year to record whether the flyer was successful.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.