

These are the unadopted Minutes of Crookham Village Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, 8 April 2019 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. Tony Clarke and Parish Cllrs' Julia Ambler, David Jackson and Beverley Batt.
There were approximately 15 residents present.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Peter Kenaghan, Cllr. Andrew Friend and Cllr. Dr. Indra Sinka and Ward Cllr. Peter Collings.

1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting for Crookham Village Parish Council. He was pleased to see a good turnout. "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. We have had some changes in Councillors but I'm pleased to say that very recently we have been joined by Beverly Batt and Andrew Friend, a warm welcome to them both, however we still have one vacancy for anyone interested.

We have four members of staff: our Clerk Carol, Angela our Responsible Financial Officer and our two Centre Managers at the Zebon Community 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 approved for **Watery Lane**.

The **Grove Farm** site also has reserved matters approval for the first phase and we have been in detailed discussions regarding the new community building.

Cross Farm having being refused by Hart DC have appealed, the date for the appeal is 10th September. We previously submitted our detailed views on this application which have highlighted a number of very significant concerns supported by 295 objections submitted by residents. We will be making representations at the appeal inquiry.

The **Hart Local Plan** has gone through its public inquiry, the inspector has submitted an initial report to which Hart DC have responded. The next stage is for the inspector to hold a 6 week consultation on the final plan with amendments. Following this he will produce his full report and the plan will be adopted by Hart.

Precept

This year saw a small rise in our overall budget for the Parish with a 1.99% increase over last year to £74.29 for a band D household.

Lengthsman Scheme

The Lengthsman scheme which started in September 2017 proves invaluable with many small local jobs completed. Typical work includes the cutting back of the vegetation to clear public footways. The scheme has also allowed CVPC to get all street furniture cleaned including road signs. If there's anything like this that you spot, just let us know and if appropriate it can be added to the work programme.

Zebon Community Centre

The Centre continues to be well used by residents and CVPC and has a new website which has been recently launched.

The Crescent Green

After somewhat drawn out discussions between the lawyers sorting out the necessary paperwork, we have finally taken ownership of the Crescent Green in the village. This has been added to the list

of open spaces in the Parish that we maintain and we can ensure that it is properly maintained and available for recreational use by residents.

Grants – over the last year, CPC has provided a number of grants to local organisations. The recipients include Dogmersfield, Winchfield and Crookham Village Horticultural Society to sponsor the craft tent at the annual show and also support a craft workshop at the forthcoming ZCRA fete in July. Last year we gave a grant of £1,500 to Accessible Boating to assist with disabled accessibility at Crookham Wharf. I'm please to say that this work is now finished.

2. REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN TEAM

The NP started in 2014 and since then we have been compiling evidence to support the important issues identified by residents. We also have a couple of aspirational policies which we are hopeful for. Several drop in sessions were held and the Plan then went to Hart for review and as a consequence further work has been undertaken and special thanks must go to Cllr. David Jackson for his work on the maps. Flooding was one serious omission and work is ongoing. It is hoped that the Policy will receive approval at the Steering Group meeting on Thursday and then we will go out to consultation on that policy by the end of the month. With the further work moving on apace it is hoped that the Plan will go to Hart before the Cross Farm Inquiry in September. A monitoring brief will be added to our Standing Orders for this ongoing process. A request was made for evidence to support the flooding policy and offers were made from the floor.

3. COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLLRS' REPORTS & QUESTION TIME

Cllr. Tony Clarke presented his report:

Cllr. Clarke advised he was one of the 3 Ward Councillors on Hart District Council. This ward is about 6,000 electors, with 4,000 front doors and spreads across Crookham Village, Crookham Park, Quetta and Humphrey Park, Ewshot and part of Church Crookham. He has been a Member since 2012 and lives the village. He has served on Planning, Overview and Scrutiny and now Licensing Committee. The main interest area for the District Council always seems to be planning and much of what he had intended to say has been covered already. In relation to Hart's Local Plan, the Planning Inspector's initial findings are that with a few tweaks it will be found Sound and then if passed by the Inspector (expected this Autumn) it will run to 2032. It is then likely to then be updated on a 5 yearly basis. He was pleased to say that although the Plan is not yet "made", as it is agreed policy it can now take significant weight in local planning decisions. A question was asked about the DPD. This is a big piece of work to provide evidence for or against the main growth strategies of a New Settlement concept vs other options such as Urban Extension and increasing density in Fleet itself. Towards the end of the plan period we will again be reaching the 5 year land supply threshold and will need plans in place for further growth, but that is in the future. Government is pushing for all districts to plan for significant development. With the previous strategy of Urban Extension (mainly of Fleet and the Crookhams), infrastructure contributions can make little improvement – e.g. a pedestrian crossing or roundabout and 2000 dwellings are needed to support one shop. If Hart were to have a new settlement this would have the critical mass to deliver the multi-millions required for a new secondary school.

Cllr. John Bennison

Cllr John Bennison introduced himself and explained where his County Council division covered, including 16,000 people and 8 schools all of which have to have a LA Governor, anyone interested please get in touch. He is on two Committees, Economy Transport & Environment and Culture & Communities Select Committee and on a Task & Finish Group looking at Libraries. Highways makes up the main part of his workload. He spends a lot of time talking to officers at Winchester and Hook.

At the moment there is a Purdah period for the 6 weeks leading up to the local elections. He mentioned an incident along Crondall Road and was pleased to advise that further highway signage

is to be done there, an officer is looking at the Malthouse Bridge junction as well. Windy Gap will have some minor works carried out very soon to help large vehicles turn left, with officers looking at a longer term solution for this junction either traffic lights or a roundabout. He mentioned the new Southampton to London fuel pipeline and the route it will take. An issue which caused a lot of interest at Ewshot APM was Waste Collection, There is a consultation out at the moment to look at how we collect our waste nationally because we have been stuck at about 40% recycling for many years. He went into great detail about the different options. Whatever is decided will be potentially standardised waste collection for England and Wales.

In the absence of our Trustee Representative it was agreed that her report go into the Minutes as it this is the meeting which it has to be presented to.

4. TRUSTEES AND APPOINTEES REPORTS

(i) Crondall/Crookham/Fleet Welfare Trust

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 have representation from Crookham Village, Crondall, Church Crookham and Fleet Town/Parish Councils, 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. Due to increasing difficulty finding funds, we are having to look at new ways to fundraise, however we were delighted to be able to put our Christmas 2018 gift back up to £100 from the decreased amount of £80 per person that we had to make in 2017. We are currently supporting 13 people in Crondall, 4 people in Fleet, 3 people in Crookham Village and 4 people in Church Crookham and the feedback that we get is that our Christmas gift always makes a big difference to them. Over the past year, we have been grateful to be funded by Ho's takeaway in Church Crookham, Crondall Events, Communicare and Crondall Parish Council. We never take any donations for granted and we can't rely on repeat donations, so we remain cautious in our approach. In addition to our usual Christmas gifts, we also made several small grants to help with things that many of us would just take for granted:

£10 for someone to be able to get a haircut for an interview

£10 for someone to buy fresh food because they had just come out of hospital with no support at home

£59 for an outreach worker to be able to attend a benefits appeal with a person suffering with mental health issues, enabling the gentleman to get a successful decision on his case

£15 for emergency electricity costs for a vulnerable person who was to be cut off

and we supported the 3rd Fleet Christmas Day lunch event in 2018

We continue to look for local people who would benefit from our help, and we would welcome any introductions to people for whom members of Crookham Village Parish feel we could make a difference. 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 and through pride or ignorance they often don't come forward, so we need any help we can get to reach them. 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.

(ii) Cottrell's Almshouse Trust

The Crookham Almshouses (located next to the war memorial in Gally Hill Road) 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 80's. The last 12 months have been busy for this charity as it makes ongoing improvements to the fabric of the building and updates to individual units. We have had two new residents, both in their 50's and desperate for somewhere to live and in real need. One previously lived in Wickham Place, Church Crookham, but was subject to very noisy neighbours and was becoming increasingly anxious about numerous arson attacks which have taken place there. The other grew up in Church Crookham but had large debts, run up by an alcoholic partner. Both have settled well and are a credit to themselves and our charity. As always we feel privileged to be in the position to help vulnerable and needy people by offering them a safe haven and a roof over their head. In September last year, the clerk, chair and treasurer took residents out for afternoon tea in Farnham. We arranged a taxi for them, so the afternoon was a real treat for them and an opportunity for the trustees to get to know our residents a little better. We plan to do the same again this coming September. A big issue for us during the past year or two has been the rise of mental ill health amongst our residents. The clerk and a number of the trustees have undergone training to increase our understanding and to equip us with the skills to interact effectively with our residents. 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.

In the absence of Cllr. Dr. Sinka it was felt that the presentations given by our County and District Councillors had provided a good insight to the Role of a Councillor and her presentation was entered into the Minutes as a brief for recruiting new Members.

5. ROLE OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Dr. Sinka's presentation was reported as follows:

The Council is composed of 8 Members, 5 represent the ward of Zebon, 2 represent the ward of Crookham Village and 1 represents the ward of Netherhouse Moor. Elections take place on a 4 yearly cycle – the next date is May 2020.

Collectively all 8 care for the whole of the parish. Full Council meetings are held monthly as are Finance and Planning committee meetings. All Members attend Full Council and 4 Members are appointed to each committee.

Time commitment – reading relevant paperwork, attending the meetings and engaging with projects. As a lay member probably 8 hours a month for meetings and for one off projects as much time as you can give. Currently, the NP is taking up many, many hours of work with a great deal of pressure on a small number of Members which means they do not currently have the capacity to engage with other worthwhile projects.

Parish Councils have powers and duties as follows:

- Allotments (we currently do not have)
- Burial Grounds (ditto)
- Bus shelters (no buses)
- Bye-laws
- Clocks (public clocks must be maintained)
- Community Centres, Halls
- Drainage – of ditches and ponds
- Entertainment and the Arts
- Footpaths
- General spending – a limited amount of money to spend on anything deemed of benefit to the community that is not covered by other specific responsibilities as described in this list
- Gifts – may accept gifts

- Highways – lighting, parking places, right to enter into discussions about new roads and road widening. The consent of the Council is required for diversion or discontinuation of a highway, traffic signs and other notices, tree planting and verge maintenance
- Land - acquisition and sale of
- Legal proceedings – power to prosecute and defend any legal proceedings in the interests of the community, power to take part in any Public Enquiry
- Litter – provision of litter-bins and support for any anti-litter campaigns
- Planning – consultee for applications in the parish
- Postal and Telecomms facilities – power to pay a public telecom operator any loss sustained in providing services for the parish area
- Public conveniences – provision and maintenance of
- Recreation – provision of recreation grounds, public walkways, pleasure grounds, open spaces, village greens, gymnasiums, playing fields, holiday camps and boating ponds
- Rights of Way- footpaths and bridleway maintenance
- Seats (public)
- Signs – danger signs, place names and bus stop signs
- Tourism – financial contributions to any local tourist organisations (the village is twinned with Levignen)
- Traffic calming
- War Memorials (we support the one in GHR)
- Water supply – power to utilise stream, well or spring water and to provide facilities for general use

The Parish Council is supported by 3 Hart District Councillors and 1 Hampshire County Councillor – all of whom engage and support the Council.

Training is paid for by the Council as is mileage to attend the venue.

There are a raft of organisations the Council can work with and call upon for expertise and support. One new project is the opportunity to engage in the reduction of Waste Prevention. A fund has been created to support this and the maximum grant available is £5k but a Lead Member is needed to drive it.

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

None received.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman spoke about the need to have some volunteers to aid with reviewing the Conservation Area as this has not been looked at since 1994. A volunteer is also needed to review the footpaths across the parish. With regard to cycleways – the Chairman had raised the possibility of one along Hitches Lane. Youth projects – a volunteer in the north has set up some good youth projects. He explained that for many years funding had been set aside by the Council but nothing had come forward and so it was removed. However, if there is a volunteer who wanted to engage on such a project the Council would be minded to support them. On top of all the work on the Neighbourhood Plan we now discover that a care home has been granted on Appeal at Hartley Wintney and this has implications for the Cross Farm application which Members will need to look at closely. From the floor a request was made to record appreciation for the work the Lengthsmen carry out and what a good job they do.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.