

Compton & Shawford Parish Council Annual Review

April 2000

Chairman's Report

The past year has been dominated by 3 events, the heart attack of Dennis Richman, the Parish Clerk, the modernisation of the Parish Hall and the proposals for a new pavilion.

Dennis' heart-attack in July put him out of action for 4 months. In the days immediately after Dennis' incapacity I received considerable help from Peter Briggs, Chairman of Otterbourne Parish Council for which I thank him. We are very grateful to Mary Davis, a previous Clerk, now councillor, at Otterbourne and one-time Parish Councillor here, for filling in so efficiently. Ron Whitaker took over the finances and I thank him for the time he spent.

Our new Clerk, Mike Andrews, was appointed in January and says he has now found his feet and from now on will have the Parish affairs (and hopefully the Councillors) under control. We wish him well. Dennis Richman, now fit again, continues as Clerk to Otterbourne and is available for consultation and queries.

The Parish Hall has at last been updated and I hope you will all agree the result has been worth waiting for. For the last 8 years I have been actively working towards the Hall refurbishment and am delighted to see it completed, albeit, due to financial constraints, not as large or as well equipped as I had hoped.

Leasing the Hall to CASCA must be one of the best Parish Council decisions for

some time.

We could not ourselves have brought about the results achieved by the CASCA committee, in particular Jo Pitt and Mike Matthews, whose leadership, energy and boundless enthusiasm during good and bad times brought this project to fruition. The Parish Council will still be part of the CASCA Management Team and Jean Millar and I will continue to be involved as long as we are on the Parish Council.

The initial application for a Sport England Lottery grant towards a replacement pavilion was given a soft refusal in November.

The project has been reconsidered and reassessed. A modified bid with a strengthened development plan is to be sent to Sport England. There is a vocal minority objecting to the size of the proposed pavilion. The job of the Chairman of the Parish Council is to arrange for all the facts to be looked at, assess the needs as objectively as possible, look for compromises and seek the best for the community as a whole. The Parish Council has, contrary to what is implied by objectors, done all of this. The ground floor footprint reflects the needs of the three Sports Club sections, both now and in the future, and incorporates the current legal requirements of separate male and female changing areas and disabled areas and access. It cannot be any smaller without sacrifices.

I believe the village needs this type of updated facility. We do not have sufficient money available to build either this or a smaller pavilion and thus I support an application for lottery funding. The village de-

serves a modern and well built structure that will serve the needs of not only us but generations to come.

Pressure for new housing and extensions remains an area of concern for us. It is likely to be the hottest potato for the next few years. As well as the proposed Bushfield development (which is 90% within our parish) we have been told of two other green field sites in the village being put forward for development (over 30 houses per site) for inclusion in the next Winchester Area local plan, due out in 2001.

I would like to thank all eight other Parish Councillors for the considerable time and effort they have put into looking after parish affairs on your behalf over the past year.

In closing I would like to remind you of the excellent Welcome Pack that we produce for newcomers to the village. When anyone moves in near you, please contact us so that we can arrange a copy for them.

Nick Campbell-White

About this leaflet

For the past two years we have produced a review like this for distribution at the Annual Parish meeting.

In earlier years all we had circulated were the minutes of the previous year's Annual Meeting - news that was by then up to two years old.

We received many favourable comments and suggestions that the review should be distributed more widely. So this year we are circulating it to all households in the Parish with the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Parish Hall



Jo Pitt writes

The refurbished Hall and the extension were officially opened by Sir John Hoddinott in October and are now well and truly up and running. Thanks to Vanessa and Frank Smith for their hard work through the rebuild, this enabled us to stay open. We also appreciated the tolerance of the regular Hall users. Their support brought in much needed money when finances were stretched to the limit.

Bookings are now increasing at a very satisfactory rate but running costs still await assessment. There is also a need to refurbish the Heathcote Room. We would like to bring this into use as soon as possible to generate more income, coupled with the storage space it is too valuable an area to leave in its present condition.

As a result of the increased use of the Hall we are receiving requests for staging and amplifica-

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Parish Hall (cont)

tion equipment. These will be purchased as soon as funds permit. However reserves need to be established to cover maintenance etc.

Externally two major items should be completed by the Annual Meeting: the terrace and car park. Mike Matthews has given CASCA a very generous donation which, with other contributions, will fund a terrace designed by International Designer Adrian Fisher. To our delight this should be completed in time for our first wedding party at the beginning of May. The new car park will provide 22 spaces in front and at the side of the hall. Also several bays will be created outside the car park for local residents. Their forbearance during refurbishment and continued support is much appreciated. Thanks also go to the Horticultural Society for their sterling work in planting the shrubbery.

Together with the upgrading of the Hall we built a Post Office. Although only open on Monday and Thursday mornings CASCA considered this to be a major facility for Shawford. We were very honoured when the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Mary Fagan, opened this in February. This is well supported but more custom would be welcome.

The Management Committee have received help and support during the year from Nick Campbell-White and Philip Gorrod. Their expertise in building and financial matters is invaluable.

Thanks also to Committee Members - Peter Moll, Jean Millar, Jean Ferrington, Vanessa Smith and last but by no means least Mike Matthews who does so many things for the Hall and keeps the Parish up to date with progress with his monthly bulletin in the Parish News Letter.

It would not be possible to run and maintain the Hall to its present standard without their continued support and enthusiasm.

Sports Club & New Pavilion

The Parish Council is continuing the work of successive PCs to replace the dilapidated pavilion and associated collection of sheds on the Memorial Playing Fields. The aim of the project is to develop the Memorial Playing Fields to provide suitable sporting facilities in keeping with third millennium standards and needs, just as the old pavilion met the needs of its day.

- Our objectives are fourfold:
- survival of the present Sports Club, with its three sections (cricket, football and tennis)
 - growth in membership, in some cases to previous levels where club membership has declined
 - improved quality of play and coaching, with higher achievement from the teams
 - attract wider age groups, promote more female participation, and enable the less obviously "sporty" to achieve some sporting ability and success.

The entire project includes addition of a third tennis court, a pe-

tanque pitch (to provide a sport facility which can be used by any of us, not just the super fit), cricket nets to improve the standard of coaching, and a proper car park.

This time last year we had planning permission for the pavil-



Photo montage of proposed new pavilion

ion, but had submitted plans for a more suitable design - chiefly a better internal layout. Surprisingly, Winchester City Council Planning Department had rejected these revised plans, but during the past year we appealed and won the appeal (at no additional cost to the parish).

Our saved fund of £88,000, collected over more than a decade, is insufficient to do very much at all. We are heavily reliant on grants from various bodies, the main one of which is Sport England, who control lottery grant funds for promoting sports. Our original bid to them, made in July,

was given a "soft" rejection, which we printed in full in the Parish Magazine. Their chief objection was that our sports development plans were inadequate, so we are now working on resubmitting the application with a more detailed sports development section.

There is absolutely no plan, as claimed in the recently distributed unofficial handbill, to ship people in from far and wide. What we do

plan, in addition to building up the existing cricket, football and tennis club membership and improving the standard of play, is

- to rekindle women's and youths' football
- to start a petanque (boule) club
- to enable the three schools within the parish to supplement their sports facilities, for example using the pavilion to change in, the playing field to play rounders on, or (by arrangement with the Tennis Club) take tennis tuition.

Ken Staunton,
subcommittee convenor

Footpaths & Trees

Tom Threlfall, Footpaths Representative and Tree Warden writes

In an area rich in footpaths and in trees (such as ours is) the task of keeping an eye on them is mostly reactive rather than proactive, and is most rewarding - particularly at this time of year.

There have been occasional after-gale reports of trees blocking footpaths in the Parish, but a phone call to the relevant staff member at the City

Council offices always has a satisfactory result. The Department of the Environment has been particularly quick to clear trees which fall to obstruct the Itchen Navigation or its towpath.

Demand from parishioners to participate in the Hampshire Wildlife Trust's usual autumn tree-planting project has not been great this year, though it was advertised in the parish magazine at the appropriate time. In the shadow of our own very active Horticultural Society, it is not surprising that demand for bought-in trees is not high.

The Hockley Railway Viaduct, which now has a pleasant footpath along it, is about to be furnished with a viewing platform, which will afford stunning vistas of the Itchen valley. There are plans to launch a 'Friends of Hockley Viaduct' scheme, to raise funds for future developments, since the structure is not yet listed and therefore would have difficulty attracting other funding.

The National Cycle Network (NCN), which proposed last year to use some local footpaths (including the viaduct) as

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Highways, Byways & Environment

Members of the subcommittee are: David Ellis, Ray Wilmshurst and Ron Whitaker and Ken Staunton

David Ellis writes:

Several topics have occupied the attention of the committee during the year. Probably the most serious has been and continues to be the pumping of sewage sludge and controlled waste on to farm land within the parish. There have been several complaints and expressions of concern about this activity and the Parish Council through this subcommittee has pursued the matter with the Environment Agency by means of numerous telephone calls and letters. In every instance the Agency has reported back that they have investigated our complaint and there has been no contravention of the regulations controlling these activities. Which is very frustrating but we will continue to monitor the situation and will continue to make complaints whenever we think it necessary.

Lighting

We were very pleased to report at the last Parish Council



meeting that the lighting of the traffic refuge at the junction of Compton Street and the Main Road is now completed. Ever since the dreadful accident which took place at this spot we have been trying to get illumination of some kind on this traffic island. Finally last July it was agreed by the Hampshire County Council that lighting was required and furthermore under the Street Lighting Community Safety Initiative they agreed to pay half the cost of the work.

Notice Boards

Two new notice boards have recently been installed. These boards are of very high quality, made of oak and have



polycarbonate windows which we hope will be vandal proof. Unlike the previous boards these new ones are lockable. Keys are easily obtainable and this should give the Parish Council some slight control over what is put



on the notice board. The notice boards are part of a replacement programme and we hope to have three more installed by the end of the year.

Bus Shelters

Negotiations have been going on for some months for the installation of a bus shelter at Southdown - almost opposite the Shepherds Lane Bridge. The Hampshire County Council set up a scheme last year under which Parish Councils, if they could show a need, would be provided with a bus shelter free of charge. The shelters are of the type in use in Winchester. The designs vary but because of the exposed nature of the site at Southdown we have been allocated a fully enclosed shelter. Our latest information is that work will commence within the next few weeks.

Footpaths & Trees (cont)

cycle-ways, seems not to have progressed that idea during the year - perhaps to the relief of the local farming community and the Friends of the Maims. It takes some ten years in a queue to have a public footpath redesignated as a Bridleway or a Byway Open To All Traffic (BOAT), and the NCN has not yet started that

process, nor has it jumped any of the numerous democratic hurdles which have to be surmounted before quiet rural footpaths can be converted into 3M-wide tarmac cycleways. Off-the-main-road cyclists have not enjoyed a good press in nearby Badger Farm.

The Twyford Meads scheme, which affects the Itchen Navigation at the eastern edge of our Parish, is progressing on schedule as funding builds up. The Environment Agency will

start work on the restoration of Compton Lock in the near future.

During the year it has been a pleasure to liaise with Mr Chris Corcoran and the Twyford Parish Council on the Meads scheme, and on the rather more controversial Shawford Park Horse Hotel project, which is thought not to be finding favour presently with the City planning team.

I would be happy to extrapolate later upon any of the above topics.

Aircraft Noise

Many thanks to Monty Dawson for this report:

A meeting was held with the Managing Director of Southampton Airport on 15th March 2000 to discuss the results of the trial procedures introduced last summer to reduce aircraft noise over Compton and Shawford.

By common consent from the reports we received the revised routeings did not bring about the results we had hoped for; from the airport point of view they had totally negative impact also, with additional complaints from further afield towards Winchester.

In the light of this the Managing Director agreed to look at further measures which might assist us including introducing a different routing pattern, which would not require a further survey.

At our suggestion that more could be done to keep the public informed about aircraft traffic predictions and the impact of the newer, larger but much quieter aircraft which are replacing the older, noisier twin engine types, the Managing Director agreed to let us have reports from time to time for inclusion in the Parish Magazine. We have just received the first of these.

We trust that a quieter summer is in prospect. In any event contact will be maintained with the Airport and a further meeting to review matters will be held again next Spring.

The chairman adds: Aircraft noise remains a concern although the new Embraer jets operated out of Eastleigh have made significant improvements. Helicopter movements in and out of Shawford Park are presenting the newest aircraft nuisance. The airport has no jurisdiction or control over such movements and suggests we approach the City Council about planning restrictions.

Playing Fields



Ray Wilmshurst writes:

During the past year we met Ruth Bishop from the City Council who explained the new playground standards and new safety regulations going before the EU on play equipment. All our present equipment meets the regulations in place at the time of installation.

New regulations would cover newly installed equipment. We have worked out a preliminary programme to start improving our sites. Items apply to both the Compton Street and Memorial Playing Field (MPF) areas except where noted.

- 1 Install new twin swing with plain seats, retaining existing for cradle with safety surface.
- 2 (MPF only) Install slide similar to that at Compton with safety surface.
- 3 Install two items of toddler equipment with safety surface
- 4 Fence playing areas allowing room for additional equipment to be added.

We are at present negotiating professional advice and obtaining costs. Our programme will be limited to finances available from the Open Space Fund held for us by Winchester CC and collected from all new developments within the Parish Boundary. At present we understand approximately

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Recent Highlights

As this year's meeting marks the end of the term of the current council it seems appropriate to mark some of the highlights of the past four years.

1996

Referendum

Electors vote three to one in favour of plans to sell the plot by the Parish Hall to fund improvements to the Hall and pavilion.

Traffic safety



Following extended campaigns, 30 mph limits are introduced in Compton Street and Compton Down.

Serendipity Trail

Tom Threlfall completes the work started by Barrie Hazlitt to describe a historic walk round the parish

1996/97

Hall Centenary

It was heartwarming to see how the whole community joined in and made a success of the hall's centenary celebrations. High points included the visit of the mayor, the pantomime and the Old Time Music Hall. This is the motif used for the panto.



1997

Traffic safety

No Through Road signs erected following Hurdle Way residents' request to discourage casual traffic.

Flushed with success

So wrote the Winchester Extra of the Parish Council's project to preserve the Shawford Post Office. After three



years of operating from the ladies' loo in the old hall, Vanessa Smith now has purpose built accommodation.

Planning permission

was granted for a new pavilion on the eastern boundary of the Memorial Playing Field

Sale agreed

Parish Council accepts offer of £162,500 for the plot by the Parish Hall.

1998

Beryl Croker Centenary Seat

Fifteen years after watching the council plant a tree to commemorate Mr Webb's



centenary, Beryl Croker enjoys her own 100th birthday present - wearing the same hat!

Titanic Success



Replicas of our old Parish Hall plates star in the Titanic movie. We sell the last of our collection, having raised over £8000.

New pavilion architect

Appointed on basis of track record of successful lottery bids, and experience of pavilion design. The PC can submit the application and not the Sports Club, as earlier thought.

1999

Referendum

A second poll endorses the parish council's new pavilion plans

Hall re-opened

Sir John Hoddinott declares the refurbished Parish Hall officially opened, now under CASCA management, in October 1999. The new Post Office is opened by Mary Fagan, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, in February 2000.

Clerk retires

After his heart attack, it was decided that it would be better for Denis Richman to cut down his work and look after only one parish. He continues with Otterbourne. We welcome Michael Andrews as our new clerk.

“Modernised for the Millennium”

Work on modernising Shawford Parish Hall had only just started this time last year. Now the project is nearing completion and so a few facts and figures should be of interest. Final accounts are in preparation at present so some of the figures below will still change:-

Total expenditure (including VAT): £265,000

Total funds acquired: £233,000

Thanks to the Parish Council being able to recover the VAT on the works elements of the project the Building Fund will more or less break even.

The Parish Council's handsome grant of £142,000 provided the core funding for the project

Other grants have been coaxed out of 21st Century Halls for Rural England (£25,000), The Countryside Agency (£15,000), the National Lottery Charities Board (£5,052), Hampshire County Council (£5,000), Winchester City Council (£5,000) and The Sir James Scott Memorial Fund (£500). An application has been lodged for £4,900 from the Millennium Festival 'Awards for All' Fund. Three



CASCA's membership has risen to over 280 paid-up members.

grant applications have been rejected. Local donations and fund-raising events have added over £26,000, most particularly the £15,000 needed to fund the decorative paving and maze on the terrace. CASCA is now managing the Parish Hall under a 30 year Lease from the Parish Council and for an annual rent of £12. Income from bookings Sep 99-Mar 00 has been 50% higher than during the comparable period last year.

CASCA's membership has risen to over 280 paid-up members.

18 Apr 2000
Mike Matthews
Chairman of CASCA.

Planning

Jean Millar writes
The planning subcommittee for the last year has been Jean Millar, Ron Whitaker and Tom Threlfall.

What have we done?

Whenever a planning application is made in our Parish the W.C.C. office sends a copy of them to us, at the same time posting their orange site notices. The clerk is also sent regular lists of both applications and decisions which he brings to our attention. Having logged each local item the convenor studies them, shares the information with the subcommittee, discusses whether we need to object or comment or whether we feel happy to allow the City Planning office to act on our behalf without any input.

Any contentious matters are brought up and discussed with the full Parish Council. It is our remit to ensure that neighbouring properties are aware of applications and share our copy of plans when requested. When making comment or objection ourselves we try to step back and express an overview on behalf of the Parish as a whole.

We need to know YOUR views on how our village is developing so please talk to us and/or your residents association to help us to preserve our precious village.

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£14,000 is available and not already allocated to other projects.

All of our equipment was checked by our insurance company inspector and passed as safe on 1 February 2000.

The subcommittee is considering a request from a parishioner that TPOs be put on trees at the MPF.

A request from a property owner to purchase a strip of land at the North East edge of the playing field was considered and rejected.

Negotiations and estimates are being carried out to fill the holes in the car park and to grade top



soil over protruding roots of the three poplar trees in the NE corner of the MPF.

Estimates are also being obtained for weed killing on the MPF.

The Council have received information that the Cricket Square is getting beyond normal maintenance and requires some reinstatement. I feel possibly the Council overlooked the point that a cricket square cannot last for ever without special attention every so often. The Cricket Square belongs to the Parish and we feel obliged to contribute to this work. Village Cricket is recognised as the backbone of cricket.

Artel services have carried out the mowing contract successfully on both fields and their contract has been renewed for this summer.

Our thanks to P & J Crouch for installing the wooden fence at the SW corner of the field.

Marking the Millennium



Laying the maze

A time capsule is to be preserved at the Parish Hall near the new paving stone maze.

The contents are being selected by the school children. The capsule will be sealed for 50 years - so we hope that some of those who have chosen the contents will be present to see it opened.

In Memoriam

Among the people to whom we said goodbye this year were Sid Russell, former Parish Council Chairman and host of famous parties, and Beryl Croker, centenarian.



Public sessions at Council meetings

Our Parish Council meetings - first Tuesdays at 7:15pm - are open to public attendance, as they have to be by law.

Although the law does not give the public the right to speak, we decided in 1998 to have a formal public question session near the start of every meeting.

Any discussion on questions raised will take place after coffee, usually between 8:30 and 9pm.

If you want to ask for any subject to be placed on the agenda, please give at least a week's notice.

Finding out about Council plans and actions

Minutes of meetings, as most other Council paperwork, are public documents and open to inspection by arrangement with the clerk.

We publish summaries of all our meetings in the Parish Magazine, the Hampshire Chronicle and on our web pages at <http://compton.parish.hants.gov.uk> or <http://shawford.parish.hants.gov.uk>

Finance convenor's report

Adrian Walmsley writes

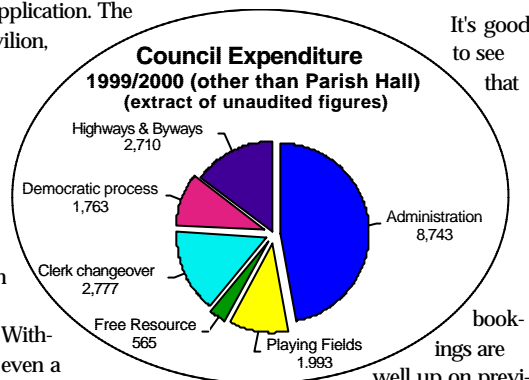
I am pleased to report that the council's finances continue healthy, although there has to be a big question mark for the future until we know the outcome of the pavilion grant application. The current pavilion, which was flooded at Christmas and leaks whenever it rains, is now more than ever in need of replacement. Without grants, even a smaller building would place a larger burden on parish funds. Our bank balance now stands at about £100,000, most of which is committed to the pavilion project. My thanks to Ron Whitaker for looking after the books while the clerk was ill.

Expenditure

Since CASCA is now in charge, I have not included running expenses for the hall in the expenditure summary, although with the grant and VAT refunds the Parish Council has paid about £170,000 to the Hall project this year. "Democratic process" includes the costs of the referendum and the planning appeal. We had to cover sick pay

and a well-earned retirement gratuity for Dennis Richman. The major item under Admin is the clerk's salary. More details will be available at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Parish Hall



It's good to see that

bookings are well up on previous years so it looks as though CASCA will not need to call on the promised PC help with running costs.

Precept

Last year I was reporting on a precept which was increased because of unexpected expenditure on a retaining wall for the Parish Hall. This year, major non-recurring budget items are recouping the costs associated with Dennis Richman's retirement and the first instalment of the grant for the local school building project. As the diagram shows, we were able to reduce the precept to £30.11, or about 60p a week, for the benchmark Band D property.

Parish Council Powers

The 1997 Local Government & Rating Act gives Parish Councils powers to organise or contribute to car pooling schemes, local transport, traffic calming and crime enforcement.

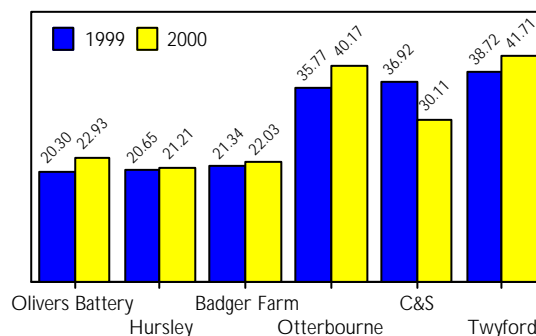
This is over and above the powers granted under Section 137 of the 1972 Local Government Act under which a local council could spend in any one financial year up to £3.50 per elector on anything for which it has no express power, provided that the expenditure is for the direct benefit of the parish, or some or all of its inhabitants.

The list of areas where the council has power to spend money ranges from Allotments and Baths through Playing Fields, Ponds and Public Lavatories to Traffic Calming, Transport and Village Greens.

In some cases the Council is empowered to spend the money itself - in other areas the Council has the option to pay another body to provide the service.

The full list is defined in a NALC leaflet which with their permission we plan to summarise on the Parish Council web site.

Precept per Band D property



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