

COMPTON AND SHAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL

1998 Annual Parish Meeting Report

The Annual Parish Meeting was held in Shawford Parish Hall on 28 April, with Councillor AD Walmsley in the Chair and with County Cllr Mrs A Bailey, District Cllr Mrs M Campbell-White and Pol Con C Barham in attendance, also 38 Parishioners.

The 1997 minutes had been previously circulated with the Parish Magazine, giving a few weeks to study them before the Annual Meeting. An Annual Review was circulated at the meeting providing a summarised version of councillors' reports and acting as an annual report of Parish Council activity during the past year. *[Additional copies of the Annual Review can be made available on request to the Clerk on 860563]*

The Chairman's Report of the last year included reference to the progress made on two major projects in hand: the renovation of the Parish Hall and the replacement of the pavilion on the playing field, but emphasised that much remains to be done.

The Council has contracted to sell the land next to the Parish Hall for £162,500.00 for development with two pairs of semi-detached houses: rather more than the £2,500.00 paid last year for the "M3 return land" next to playing field, and rather more than originally expected. The design for the new pavilion was adjusted to take account of local feedback. We were granted planning permission in October, with conditions which should allay local people's concerns. We hope soon to reach agreement with the Sports Club on new terms and begin grant application. The Chairman's Report concluded with a commitment to keep Parishioners informed of the Council's actions and advice that the confusion over public participation in council meetings had been clarified by standardising on a question session at the start of each meeting.

On Parish Hall matters, Cllr NJ Campbell-White reported that it is proposed to grant a lease for 30 years to Compton and Shawford Community Association (CASCA), after alterations and modernisation, for them to manage the hall, and as a registered charity, to apply for grants. The lease for the hall and caretaker's cottage has been agreed which will commence when finances and plans are finalised. We hope for grants of between £25,000 and £35,000.00. The Parish Council, in January, had agreed to a budget of £150,000.00 for the hall refurbishment but architect's plans modified with CASCA input looked like costing £175,000.00 which will have to be scaled down. We hope to settle on an affordable plan once we know the grant position and have obtained planning permission. The Report concluded by advising that the aim is to start refurbishment in July, and asked for the understanding and co-operation of Shawford residents and hall users.

A Report concerning the proposed new pavilion stated that after listening to everyone's views and taking note of the requirements of the sports club, the architect produced a plan which will minimise the visual impact on the field and allow the tractor and other service equipment to be stored neatly under the pavilion. It also incorporates room for a snooker table which was kindly donated to the village by Mr & Mrs Dyble. After a site viewing, planning permission was granted in October subject to a number of conditions which reflect residents' concerns. The Sports Club has held the field on a 5 year licence which rolled over annually since its initial term expired in 1995. The Council has been working with the club on new terms which will satisfy grant aiding bodies but which will also protect the interests of the community. The report concluded by stating that the Council hope to have an agreement within the next three months so that grant application can begin.

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Other various Reports were submitted by Convenors of Committees which included references to planning applications and decisions, tree planting and grass cutting on the Memorial Playing Field, vandalism to notice boards, bus shelters and seats, traffic flows through the parish from Hampshire Waste Services and a proposed meeting with HCC to discuss traffic calming, footpaths and trees, fouling by dogs and finance and accounts.

The School Governor's Report by Cllr R Wilmshurst mentioned present numbers are 107, that a pedestrian access was installed by HCC, that traffic in Compton Street still causes problems at school times and that an architect has been employed to design accommodation to replace the three temporary classrooms.

Ms Jan Field, WCC Millennium Project Director, made a presentation of plans for the Millennium and Mr WJ Ronan, Chief Leisure Officer, WCC, responded to the matters raised from the floor, which included questions concerning costs.

PC Clive Barham addressed the assembly on his Safety & Security Survey of 1997, and on crime in the area, and reported that the Review of Rural Policing is being applied. He also drew attention to the Police Liaison Group meeting to be held on 12 May.

The Chairman reported on the sad loss of our Rector, Philip Barrett, and of John Large, Austin Whitaker and Gwen Compton.

Questions and matters raised from the floor concerned nuisance of dog fouling; clearance of footpaths; retention of tree guards; ownership of car park opposite Shepherds Lane Bridge; Sports Council grant re expansion of sport; proposed closure of Twyford Fire Station.

PARISH MAGAZINE
HAMPSHIRE CHRONICLE

WITH COMPLIMENTS
DWH Richman
Parish Clerk
12 May 1998