

**THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING WAS HELD ON THURSDAY 29 APRIL 1999 AT
SHAWFORD PARISH HALL COMMENCING 7.30 P.M.**

(Editor's note: these minutes will be presented for approval at the Annual Parish Meeting on 2 May 2000)

Present: Cllr AD Walmsley (Chairman); Cllr NJ Campbell-White; Cllr R Whitaker;
Cllr TJ Threlfall; Cllr D Ellis; Cllr Mrs JM Millar; Cllr KE Staunton;
Cllr R Wilmshurst; 102 Parishioners. In attendance: County Cllr Mrs A Bailey;
District Cllr Mrs M Campbell-White; Pol Con C Barham.

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr AP Lockett; Mrs M Nicholson; Mr T Coleman; Mrs D Matthews; Mrs M Pooley; Mrs A Case; Mrs J Pitt; Mr A Bisset.

Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 1998, having been previously circulated, were adopted following a proposal by Mr Brooks, seconded Mr Matthews.

Matters arising on the minutes. Nothing raised.

The Chairman's Report of the last year was included with the circulated leaflet 'Annual Review' reporting on the many activities of the council and which made reference to the contributions of many people and organisations to the life of the parish; and expressed thanks to fellow councillors and to the Clerk, hall caretaker Vanessa Smith and to our local police constable Clive Barham. The report referred to the sad loss of our previous Rector, Philip Barret and wished John Widdows well in his appointment as Rector of Compton and Otterbourne. Cllr Walmsley's report stated that he had served 4 years as Chairman and will not be accepting nomination for a further year due to his work requiring longer absences than in previous years. He reviewed the improvements instituted to give wider information to parishioners on major projects. He further reported on the acquisition of the M3 'return land' for a reasonable price, the sale of land at the parish hall for housing and the use of most of the money, through CASCA, to fund parish hall renovations, and that it is hoped to break ground for the new pavilion before too long. The Chairman referred to the leaflet which explains the funding plan and reiterates much of the background behind the design of the pavilion, and in view of the known concerns of some about its design or the overall project, he stated that he would be happy to take questions later. He suggested that a further referendum to establish a current mandate for the design of the pavilion favoured by the Council and Sports Club might help to clear the air and looked forward to views on the matter later tonight. Cllr Walmsley stated that it had been an interesting four years - culminating with the honour of an invitation to a Buckingham Palace garden party - and that he looked forward to serving under whosoever may be elected Chairman next Tuesday. He reminded the meeting about the Welcome Pack and to ask for a copy when anyone new moves in near you.

The 1997/98 audited accounts were adopted following a proposal by Mr R Jordan, seconded Mr B Nicholson.

Reports from sub-committees

a. Finance and Administration.

The report was prepared by the Chairman, Cllr Walmsley, and printed in the 'Annual Review' The Introduction thanked Cllr Tony Lockett for all his hard work as the previous Convenor of the sub-committee for the last several years. Cllr Lockett had resigned from that post a couple of weeks earlier. A new Convenor will be appointed at the Annual Parish Council next Tuesday when all sub-committees have to be re-appointed.

The 1997/98 accounts had been given a very clean bill of health by the auditor who made some helpful suggestions and one task for the new convenor is a revaluation of our assets.

The report asked if there were any artistic people who could design an eye catching letterhead

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for parish council stationery, and explained that the Precept is a very small part of the Council Tax. Concerning funds, the Parish Council are not allowed to build up surplus funds for unspecified purposes but can either borrow (with approval) or save up and the auditor does accept that we are building capital to replace the dilapidated pavilion and a fund was opened in 1982 expressly for this purpose. We received £162,500 from sale of the land adjoining the parish hall. The parish hall was surveyed and given a good structural report when Bob Jordan was Chairman. As our pavilion is definitely not in good shape structurally the new pavilion project was arguably more urgent than the parish hall renovations but as matters have turned out, we have been able to start work on the hall first. From the sum realised from sale of the hall land, the Parish Council voted to contribute a maximum of £142,000 to CASCA for renovations to the hall and subsequently, as it was a Parish Council liability, to spend £12,000 to £13,000 on construction of a necessary retaining wall before any other works could begin. When setting the 1999/2000 Precept it was decided to replace the £13,000 capital by careful budgeting and a larger than normal increase of nearly 40% in the precept, which in absolute terms is quite a small change of just 20p per week on the Council Tax of the benchmark Band D property. In order to support our Sports Council grant application for the new pavilion the Council needed to commit £88,000 to the project and a formal motion was passed to commit this sum to the project. A breakdown of the pavilion project costings was distributed with the Agenda for this Annual Parish Meeting and at this stage the Parish Council believe that the plans are achievable without further large fund-raising or increases in the Precept. We also agreed to contribute £6,000 to the school building fund spread over 3 years starting with year 2000/2001. The Chairman asked for a proposer and seconder to endorse the audited accounts for 1997/98 which had been summarised and circulated.

b. Planning

Cllr Mrs Jean Millar reported in the following terms. The same sub-committee as last year continued to monitor the 32 planning applications put forward to Winchester City Council since April 1998. The outcome of these were as follows: 10 applications for work on trees were granted. Change of use returned "The Firs" in Highways Road to domestic dwelling as well as "Shawford Mill" (in Twyford Parish). "Kingsmere Acres" was granted permission to let its self-contained annexe as self-catering holiday accommodation. Apart from home extensions, which were all granted, plans were submitted and granted for a new house in Cleave Way but were refused for the site to the rear of "Highdown" Cliff Way, also for a sub-division of "Southgate", Cross Way in Southdown. An extra house in the grounds of "Ty-Gwyn", Southdown Road is still being discussed by the Planning Department. One further application for a self-contained annexe with stables and a garage attached has been made for the barn conversion beyond the end of Shepherds Lane. Your Parish Council have objected to this as we feel an additional residential development in "the countryside" would not be a precedent to condone. The meeting will be aware of Compton School's plans to renovate and of renovations to the parish hall currently in progress and due to be completed in the autumn. As for the pavilion replacement she wondered what will be reported in year 2000. Cllr Mrs Millar also reported on an additional 4 planning applications received during April 99: extension and garage at 7 Attwoods Drive; 3 velux windows to one of the three new houses adj the Parish Hall; extension to "Dale View", Highways Road and extensions etc to "Cornersway", Southdown Road to which objection is to be made.

c. Highways, Byways and Environment.

Cllr R Whitaker reported the following matters.

- **Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996** has already passed through the consultation process and WCC legal department have vetted the legislation and implementation in June of this year is possible. The discretionary powers under the Act make it an offence for dog owners not to clean up after their pets. The aim is to improve the environment and its

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purpose is to educate dog owners rather than punish them although on the spot fines or prosecution in a Magistrates Court provide teeth to these discretionary powers. Grass verges, where the speed limit is 30mph or less, come within the scope of the Act, as does open spaces such as the playing field in the village and the Memorial Playing Field. Shawford Down is also included and one of only 20 new poop and scoop bins will probably be installed at the entrance to Shawford Down. Should we want more bins we will most likely have to pay for installation and servicing ourselves.

- **Accidents; Speed Limits; Road Signing; Traffic Calming.** Accidents as a result of road conditions have been minimal during the past year. Considering the road layout through the Parish and reduced visibility of sections of Otterbourne Road and speed along its downhill section, this was an achievement, possibly more by good fortune than sensible traffic calming measures. This sub-committee together with our District Councillor met with a HCC Traffic Engineer, last year, and suggested a number of improvements which in our opinion would reduce accident potential, but only one of these has been implemented to date, this was the lining and signing at the junction of Shawford Road and Otterbourne Road. Other measures such as speed limiting, off setting of bus shelters and or setting these back in lay-bys, and illuminated pedestrian islands for example, have not been progressed. The new reflectors at the Hurdle Way and Shepherds Lane Bridge junctions are an improvement and I believe environmentally acceptable. Recently, a suggestion that we implement traffic calming measures in Compton Street was made or remade as this was taken up with HCC at the beginning of the 1990s, but without success at that time. HCC stated, at that time, that it was of low priority because of a lack of accidents and this could very well be their stance this time around. Nevertheless we will pursue the matter, but first we must be certain that measures such as lighting, speed humps, road narrowing or other restrictions which many consider make the cure as bad as the illness have the approval of the bulk of the residents and Tenants' Association as well as individuals. Ray Wilmshurst has agreed to collate these views, so if you have any opinion, for or against, would you please let him know. I understand that Southdown residents may want a 30mph speed restriction, together with associated repeater signs. I am sure this can be arranged, but bear in mind there were some objections in Compton Down when repeater signs were erected in people's verges.
- **National Spring Clean Week.** We made our input into National Spring Clean Week last weekend, and the Parish Council would like to thank all associations and individuals who assisted, and Vanessa Smith who took on the responsibility of allocating bags and gloves for this project. My experience on the patch I covered was that there was less litter this year than in previous years.
- **Notice Boards and Bus Shelters.** Notice boards and bus shelters continue to be vandalised at an unacceptable rate, with broken windows and defaced woodwork. These are expensive items to purchase and maintain and we never find out who is responsible for the damage. Nevertheless, we continue to take the view that we must not let standards deteriorate and must therefore continue to maintain and replace. To this end we have on order two new notice boards, identified as our parish project for the year just ended. They are of high quality oak and are fitted with polycarbonate windows to try and deter those responsible for breaking them. This is the beginning of a replacement programme which will take a number of years to complete.

Our wooden bus shelters and all slatted bench seats in the parish were given preservative and decorative treatment last year. A new bus shelter has been requested, southbound, opposite Shepherds Lane Bridge. In order to obtain funding for this we must present a case justifying the need, and a resident has agreed to collect data to help our case. This

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information is not yet to hand.

- **Grass Cutting.** Most people I have spoken to thought that grass cutting was generally satisfactory last year, after some years of unsatisfactory treatment. I have discussed this years programme with WCC and the same grass cutting regime will be put in place again for this year. Please bear in mind that it is not intended to be to lawn standard, but to a standard for common land and woodland to encourage population of insects, small mammals and wild flowers.
- **Integra Liaison Group (Hampshire Waste Services).** We continue to meet periodically with the Integra Liaison Group (Hampshire Waste) together with representatives from Otterbourne and Hursley County Councillor, where we discuss matters of common interest such as vehicle movements through our respective communities and future and potential developments. Vehicle movements remain higher than originally planned although appear to have levelled out (220 day v 188 day), and could fall to the planned level when new disposal facilities come on stream in other parts of the county. The incinerator which had been a cause of concern for some years was demolished last year and planning permission is to be submitted for a new office block and two bay workshop to replace temporary buildings at the Poles Lane site.
- There are a number of other matters which have been addressed during the past year and I will be pleased to take questions on matters involving this sub-committee at question time.

Report of the Footpaths Representative and Tree Warden

Cllr T Threlfall reported that his report was published in the Chairman's distributed 'Annual Review', to which nothing could be added, and which contained the following principal matters:

- keeping an eye on the health and safety of trees which are the subjects of TPOs and report of difficult cases to WCC
- inspection of footpaths with reliance on reports from residents of blocked or difficult paths
- HCC initiation of resurfacing the path from Compton Lock westwards to the railway bridge
- difficulties experienced by national organisation Sustrans aiming to establish and maintain cycle tracks, with a published route through Shawford which follows a number of public footpaths and uses private drives whose owners had not been consulted or given any consent to such use of their property. Representations have been made and reassurances sought on the issues raised to which we are awaiting response.
- Twyford Parish Council purchase (with lottery funds) of Compton Lock and the 10 acre field to its east, with the intention of restoring a late mediaeval irrigation scheme on the field. Cllr Threlfall has been co-opted by Twyford PC to represent the Compton and Shawford view.

Parish Hall Project

- a. Cllr NJ Campbell-White submitted a report under four headings: 1) The Project; 2) Main events since last APM (Sept - April); 3) Next - building works-complete new extensions-complete refurbishments. 4) Lessons being learnt Cllr Campbell-White had also reported in the distributed 'Annual Review' which :-
 1. expressed thanks to hall caretaker, Vanessa Smith, and appreciation of the work of the CASCA committee, particularly Mike Matthews

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2. stated that agreement had been reached for the PC to lease the hall and cottage to CASCA for a term of 30 years, operative from 1 August 1999, at a rent of ~12 per annum
 3. advised that 2 Parish Councillors will always sit on the management committee of CASCA who will employ Vanessa Smith on the same basis as at present as from 1st August
 4. stated that building work commenced in February with a finally negotiated price of £167,255 following three tenders, with that of South Coast Installations accepted because of their flexibility over changes.
 5. stated that the PC are contributing £142,000, a £25,000 grant has been obtained from ACRE's "21st Century Halls for England" fund, HCC and WCC have each granted £5,000, with CASCA funding the balance.
 6. reported the total overall project cost of £197,000.
- b. Mr M Matthews, Honorary Secretary, CASCA, read his comprehensive report of the history of the renovation and rebuilding contract. The many matters covered included described works of modernisation, additions, provision of a post office, modern lavatories and kitchen, portable stage and safety lighting etc. Also referred to funding conditions and checking of works. A progress report by Michael Matthews had been published in the circulated 'Annual Review'

Praise and thanks were extended to CASCA Hall Committee.

New Pavilion Project

- a. The circulated 'Annual Review' made reference to the approved plan and to the amended plan for elevational changes which had been refused, also, to the PC proposal to submit a grant application on the basis of the approved plan in parallel appeal against the refusal.
- b. Cllr K Staunton updated the new pavilion issue with the aid of a projector showing film of the existing old wooden pavilion and explained, that due to its bad condition, repair was not an option. His presentation also showed film of a sketch plan of a small type of pavilion and of the approved pavilion to illustrate the siting, aspect and low visual intrusion. He also reported that an appeal is to be lodged against the planning refusal for the amended plan. Cllr Staunton gave a list of funding for the approved pavilion and stated there is some delay in the approval of grant from the Sports Council. Although there were some reservations by some parishioners regarding certain aspects of the new pavilion, he emphasised the Parish support for a new pavilion and suggested that a postal referendum may be undertaken with careful wording of such and with a "Yes" or alternative "No" only.

(There were numerous interruptions by a parishioner during the presentation)

A full update 'Fact and Friction' on the Pavilion Project had been distributed on the many aspects of the project with information on background, funding, estimates, site, designs etc etc.

Playing Fields Management Sub-Committee. Cllr R Wilmshurst read the following report.

Early in the year the high chain link fence was replaced and the field gate re-hung at the Attwoods Drove Playing Field. The centre straining wire although repaired several times remains the attraction for vandals....

The play equipment at Attwoods Drove and the Memorial Playing Field have all been inspected and engineers report dated 22 March has been received giving minor maintenance requirement in the next 3 months. The committee will be considering a parishioners request to look at our equipment with vision of updating with more modern items. We will report back shortly on our thoughts. If Parishioners have any suggestions please let me have them. I do not think some of the items seen in the towns are very suitable for a rural area. Winchester City Council Open Space Strategy 1999-

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2000 states we have an excess adequacy of land for play and sport. They state we should upgrade our play area in the main Memorial Playing Field to Neighbourhood Equipped Area for Play (NEAP) status - 15 minutes walking distance of home for children up to 14 and 8 pieces of equipment; and Attwoods Drove area to Local Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP) status - 5 minutes walking distance of home for children up to 8 and 5 items of play. Provide new play area to east of M3 at Shawford. They state the pavilion is in poor condition and should be replaced - a very good piece of ADVICE. The Management Committee's message to the New Pavilion Committee is get on with it before the present building is blown over. I came across an interest. minute in the Compton Cricket Club minutes book dated 21 March 1940, Chairman Col Haig, does that mean that here we are in 1999 still messing around with the idea-surely time to get on. The grass cutting is again being carried out by Artel Services whose operator has suggested that we should remove all lower branches of our trees to enable them to get close in. I personally prefer it as it is. I would rather see the longer grass around the trunks than see the damage the mowers do to the trunks which are not repairable and result in killing the trees. The committee have not yet discussed this matter on which I will report later. Thank you Mr Chairman.

School Governor's report. Cllr R Wilmshurst read the following report.

I am proud to represent the Parish Council as a Governor at Compton School , having been a pupil there many years ago. We are so fortunate to have such a successful and over subscribed school. I should like to record our appreciation of the dedication and hard work put in by the Head Teacher, her staff and of course the children, supported by Governing Body and the Parents' Association. In September, HCC Education Department Inspection and Advisory Service inspected the school and reported that the main strengths of the school were:

the ethos of the school; high level of attainment by most pupils; the improved quality of teaching; the application, confidence and trust shown by the pupils; good arrangement of pastoral care; the leadership of the Head Teacher.

I am at times amazed at the work that the staff get through. Possibly it is easier in a small school to achieve close team work. We certainly have that. We are lucky to have the out of school commitment to encourage competitive sport in cricket, football and netball. A week's camping in the summertime and various day visits. The school has planning permission to build replacement classrooms for our dilapidated portable buildings. The school has the task of raising around £80,000 to enable them to get grants. Many events are being organised, one being a sponsored walk this Sunday from Winchester Guildhall to the school. I shall be walking. Then on 22 May a barn dance at a farm in the village. The DFEE have agreed to fund a design listing programme up to £20 - a good start! Last year the school applied for grant from the "New Deal for Schools". 43 schools received money. We were 45 on the list and hope for better luck next time. Security of the front door has been improved and access can be controlled from within. All school governing bodies are being reconstructed but ours does not alter much except for an additional member of non-teaching staff. Many schools are finding it difficult to fill Governor vacancies...

Compton School returned a Negative reply regarding Grant Maintained Status. The school is running within budget but are realising how tight it is, especially when you require cover for staff sickness etc. PC Barham, our village constable, produced a letter to distribute to all parents, reference parking in Compton Street, giving advice on the highway code and the use of common sense. My thanks again to all the staff, and finally congratulations to the children on the very enjoyable Nativity Service they gave us at Christmas. How nice to see the church full to capacity.

An overwhelming Vote of Thanks and Appreciation was expressed to Cllr Adrian D Walmsley for all his hard work in the Office of Chairman over the last 4 years.

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Question Time - general matters

- a. Mr MEH Dawson asked when M3 tree guards will be removed. Cllr Whitaker replied that most should be removed this summer.
- b. Mrs G Coleman raised the question of overhanging shrubs, affecting sight lines, at Chequers, corner of Compton Street.
Cllr Whitaker advised that owner should cut back and that he will ask HCC to extend cut.
- c. Mr T Long asked how many residents in the Parish.
Response: not to hand but 1236 on Register of Electors.
- d. Mr B Nicholson asked what benefit of dog fouling law if 30mph limit implemented.
Cllr Whitaker advised that he is to discuss 30mph limit with WCC.
- e. Mr R Mainwaring asked what progress had been made with plans for Bushfield Camp.
Cllr Mrs Campbell-White advised that WCC are putting together plan for sports facilities but there is a problem with park-and-ride. May be a small hotel. No plans passed. WCC trying for grants. Land owned by Church Commissioners
- f. Mr M Matthews asked what progress made with Parish Millennium Celebrations.
Advised that information is in circulation and a report will appear in the June magazine.
- g. Mr M Bell asked if there would be better relations with the City Planning Department if the Parish Council did not object.
Cllr Mrs Millar responded that the PC had no control over members of the City Planning Committee; and Cllr Walmsley advised that we must follow due processes.
- h. Mr de la Mare asked if there was to be a change of use of Footpaths and Bridleways for use of motors.
Cllr Threlfall replied 'No' but Roads Used as Public Paths (RUPPs) could at some time in the future become Byways Open to All Traffic (BOATS)

Question Time - New Pavilion Project

A very wide ranging discussion took place which revealed agreement by all that a replacement pavilion is necessary and that a referendum be held on the Parish Council's proposed pavilion.

Numerous and varied criticisms were raised concerning the PC proposals, the main ones being size, need for further consultations, questions that could be considered for a referendum, number of storeys, careful wording of any referendum etc. which culminated in the following proposals

1. Following a submission by Mrs A-M McCarthy that she was unaware of any formal decision to have a referendum on the pavilion issue, it was proposed by Ann Kelly that a referendum be held, seconded Mr EW Beckett, and carried by 35 in favour and 22 against.
2. Following a proposal by Mr G Beckett it was resolved by a majority of 49 for and 1 against, that the question on the ballot paper be as follows: "I, the undersigned, support the PC proposals for a new pavilion in terms of funding, position and design as described in the attached leaflet".
3. An amended proposal by Mr M Bell seeking an option on the size of the pavilion to be stated in the referendum was lost by a clear majority immediately before voting on 2 above.

The Chairman thanked all for their interest and attendance and closed the meeting.