

COMPTON and SHAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 27TH APRIL 2001
IN SHAWFORD PARISH HALL COMMENCING 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr.Mr.N.Campbell-White (Chairman), Cllr.Mr.M.Bell, Cllr.Mr.A.Walmsley, Cllr.Mrs.C.Simmons, Cllr.Mrs.J.Millar, Cllr.Mrs.M.Shaw, Cllr.Mr.S.Jennings, Cllr.Mr.T.Threlfall, Cllr.Mr.G.Beckett.

In Attendance: County Councillor Mrs. A.Bailey
City Councillor Mrs. C.Bailey
54 members of the Public.

Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from: Police Constable Clive Barham
Mrs. Sherren
Mr. Bob Jordon
Mrs. Gill Coleman

Approval of minutes of the 2000 Annual Parish Meeting.

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting, held on the 2nd May 2000, having been previously circulated, were approved following a proposal by Mr. R.Wilmshurst, seconded by Mr. M.Matthews.

Matters arising on the minutes.

There were no matters arising from those Minutes.

Chairman's report on the last year.

The Chairman, Mr. N.Campbell-White reported as follows:-

- The year started with a recently appointed Clerk, a new City Councillor, 4 new Parish Councillors, three of whom enthusiastically undertook convenorships of Sub-committees.
- The Clerk resigned, details concerning this resignation being circulated to the Village.
- As time passed, the working environment of the Council has improved and a more positive atmosphere prevails.
- The Chairman expressed his gratitude to Mr. M.Andrews for his efforts in taking on the task of the Clerk's job resultant from the loss of the previous Clerk, Mr. D.Richman.
- After a period utilising "locum" Clerks, Cllr. R.Wilmshurst and his panel interviewed for a further Clerk, resulting in the appointment of Mr.M.Langford as the new Clerk.
- On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chairman thanked Mike Langford for the extensive time spent in acquainting himself with, and the re-organising of the Parish Council records.
- Cllr. R.Wilmshurst resigned in November and the Chairman paid tribute to the 34 years he had served the Parish Council, 10 years of which was as Chairman.
- Following the election to replace Cllr.R.Wilmshurst, George Beckett was elected to the Parish Council. Having previously been a Parish Councillor, the Chairman expressed the appreciation of the experience Cllr. G.Beckett brings to the Council.
- With a view to making Parish Council proceedings open to all, sub-committee meetings are now advertised as open to the Public.
- The New Pavilion Project has gone full circle from Lottery bid to a self funding proposal to a Lottery bid, albeit a reduced bid when compared to the original.
- The Chairman expressed his gratitude to Paul Murray and his team for the work undertaken to date.
- Under the guidance of Mike Matthews, CASCA have transformed the Parish Hall into a thriving concern.
- The work of Martin Bell, Eric Caldwell and Jean Ferrington was applauded in respect of the Time Capsule planting at the Parish Hall.

- Reference to planning matters was made, with Southdown School, Shepherds Down School, Bushfield Camp and potential development of “Longacre”, Hurdle Way being singled out for comment.
- The Chairman expressed his thanks to all Convenors and those representing the Parish Council for the work they have done voluntarily over the previous year, and looked forward to continuing the current positive work in the future.

Adoption of Audited Accounts for financial year 1999/2000.

The Audited Accounts for the financial Year 1999/2000, having previously been circulated, resulted in the following questions from the public:-

1. Mr. K.Staunton asked if the “Asset Valuation” as shown, is carried forward to the subsequent year? Cllr N.Campbell-White answered “yes”, however, he and Cllr M.Bell are currently undertaking a review of the Assets owned by the Parish Council with a view to revalue and/or write off.
2. Mrs. Cave-Penny asked what is the Sports Equipment that is owned by the Parish Council? The Chairman answered “the Goal Posts”, however this was questioned, but in any case this is anticipated to be removed from the Asset Register.

There being no further questions, adoption of the Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 1999/2000 was proposed by Mr. Hargreaves and seconded by Mrs. J.Lockett.

Unaudited Accounts for financial year 2000/2001.

Cllr. N.Campbell-White explained the details of the Income and Expenditure as shown in the “Unaudited Accounts for the Financial Year 2000/2001” which were previously circulated. It was emphasised that due to the reorganisation of the accounts onto a computerised Accounting Package, the Parish Council was able to efficiently publish the Accounts at such an early date. This is something the Parish Council had not been able to do previously.

Questions from the Public were as follows:-

1. Mrs. Cave-Penny stated that the cost of the New Children's Play Equipment was not shown, and asked why? The Chairman replied that whilst the New Play Equipment is currently being installed, payment has not as yet taken place, therefore it was not shown.
2. Mr. K.Staunton asked why are the “Assets” not shown? The Chairman answered that the Accounts as circulated, cover only the Income, Expenditure and Balance Sheet. This, to save paper. The Clerk holds the full set of accounts, which can be viewed, on request.

Reports from subcommittees:

Planning.

Cllr. J.Millar reported on the follows:-

- She thanked Cllr T.Threlfall and Cllr. M.Shaw and latterly Cll. G.Beckett for their assistance during the previous year.
- Changes in Planning procedures at Winchester City Council had been instigated.
- Only one totally new development, this being at “Longacre”, Hurdle Way had been submitted and this was refused permission.
- 28 applications for extensions to houses and garages, most granted permission.
- Only one tree application refused out of 13 submitted.
- Cllr. T Threlfall did sterling work in respect of Shawford Park Stables – the appeal by the applicant being refused.
- Compton School being transformed and Shepherds Down School being expanded.
- Southdown School building due for development, which causes concern.
- The Winchester District Plan is being reviewed.

Playing Fields.

Cllr. Mary Shaw reported on the following:-

- Making safe the path at the Northeast corner of the Memorial Playing Field.
- A Parishioner wanted to buy a strip of land from the Memorial Playing Field, but the request was rejected by the Parish Council.

- The Parish Council had installed two dog bins on the Memorial Playing Field.
- Millennium Tree Project – a grant of £2,000 was applied for and as a result 12 trees were planted on the Memorial Playing Field and 2 in the School grounds. A further grant of £1,447, obtained by Martin Bell, has enabled more trees on the perimeter of the reclaimed land at the Memorial Playing Field to be planted.
- The Parish Council is looking at the possibilities of bringing back into use the reclaimed land adjoining the Memorial Playing Field, which has been very neglected.
- We now have a new well-equipped play area adequately fenced at the Memorial Playing Field. The cost was £19,625, which has been financed by Parish Council and the Open Spaces Fund. It will be opened as soon as possible, when the ground conditions allow completion.
- The Play Area at Compton Street is being addressed under Phase 2 of the project, with a view to its updating. We are seeking grants to fund this.
- Both Play Areas are inspected every week and findings recorded.
- This year Grass cutting on the Playing Fields is being undertaken by a new contractor.
- The old Pavilion is still standing, and is now waterproof. Efforts have been made to fill the potholes in the car park.

Questions from the Public were as follows:-

1. Mr. K.Staunton – asked
 - a) Why was it necessary to deceive the Parish Council over the requested “Needs Assessment” document? In answer, Cllr M.Shaw explained that the “Needs Assessment” document was a survey document demonstrating support for the project by those people surveyed, there was no deception.
 - b) Why was the Play Area at Memorial Playing Field chosen in preference to the Play Area at Compton Street, as the first phase of Play Areas refurbishment? Memorial Playing Field was chosen because that Play Area was in a dilapidated state, the area was not fenced and because the project had to start somewhere.
 - c) Will the Parish Council monitor the use of the new Play Equipment in order to demonstrate that the money was well spent? Cllr. M.Shaw stated “no”, but he was assured that the Play Area will be used.
2. Mrs. J.Walmsley asked if the cost of refurbishment of the Compton Street Play Area is anticipated to be the same as that for the Memorial Playing Field Play Area? Cllr. M.Shaw replied “no”, the Compton Street Play Area refurbishment is quoted at £12,000.
3. Mrs. Cave-Penny asked why was there an age limit being imposed on the type and usage of the Play Equipment being installed? Cllr. M.Shaw said it was intended that the Play Equipment should be for the Younger Children as the Older Children were catered for with facilities such as Football and Cricket etc.
4. Mrs. J.Lockett asked if there was any history of accidents with children using the existing Play Equipment? No, there was no history of accidents reported.
5. Mrs. J.Lockett said, with regard to the Survey, that residents in Compton Street did not know of the Play Equipment on Memorial Playing Field, therefore she asked why were they not consulted within this survey as to where the first Phase should be? Cllr. M.Shaw said the question was previously answered, but had to start somewhere.

Highways, Byways and Environment.

Cllr. Celia Simmons reported as follows:-

Notice boards

- This year we have reviewed the Notice boards in the Parish.
- Two new boards are on order, these will replace those in Southdown Road and Shawford.
- The Parish Council are refurbishing those in Compton Street and Shepherds Lane.

Bus Shelters

- Two Bus Shelters were finally installed in the Summer, one at Southdown Road and one opposite Shawford Road, provided by Winchester City Council.

M3 noise

- Work is ongoing with Cllr. Ann Bailey, Cllr. Charlotte Bailey and Otterbourne Parish Council to address the noise problem in our Parish caused by the M3

- Mark Oaten, our MP, has been kept informed and is writing to Lord Whitty, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, on behalf of the Parish.

Shawford Down

- The Parish Council are aware of the dog mess on the Down and so is the Warden who looks the Down. At the moment an experiment is being conducted at Danebury Ring near Andover with Dog Bins and on-the-spot fines. If this is successful, then Hampshire Countryside will undertake the same on Shawford Down.

Cllr. Celia Simmons asked Cllr. Martin Bell to advise the meeting with regard to the subject of Waste Injection. Cllr. Bell advised as follows:

- Waste Injection into farmland - the recent absence of this practise is as a result of weather and foot and mouth. It is likely to start up again shortly.
- The permitted wastes, which include untreated human waste and slaughterhouse waste, are under review and part of the review will be consultation. The PC will be involved in the consultation and will comment appropriately.

Footpaths representative and Tree Warden.

Cllr. Stuart Jennings reported as follows:-

- Last year had been dominated by two phenomena, which together closed off large stretches of Footpaths within the Parish.
- The first of these was flooding making some paths inaccessible
- The second was the potential for Foot and Mouth disease.
- It was reported that the County Authority is considering allowing the opening of some paths after consultation with Parish Councils and Farmers.
- Several paths were blocked for a short while by fallen trees during the year.

Questions from the Public were as Follows:-

1. Mrs Ann Kelly asked if the footpath through Cleave Way is open? Cllr. S.Jenning replied that it was.

Cllr. T.Threlfall reported as follows:-

Tree Warden

- Monitoring of Planning Applications had been an ongoing activity.
- Cllr. T.Threlfall continues to be a line of communication between the Parish Council and Hampshire County Council and/or the Arboricultural Officer of Winchester City Council, Mr Michael Edwards who is a constant source of pragmatic help.

Sustrans

- This is the branch of the National Cycle Network, which is planned to pass through Shawford, running from the foot of Otterbourne Hill to the west end of the Hockley Viaduct via Red Lane.
- Mr. Nick Farthing of Sustrans seems to be more flexible than his predecessors.
- Sustrans appears to remain unaware of legal differences between Rights of Way and Public Footpaths.
- Mr. Nick Farthing has agreed to take responsibility for negotiating with all interested parties and address the legalities of upgrading footpaths to bridleways etc.,.

Hockley Viaduct

- Has failed to obtain Listed status, and therefore finds it difficult to attract grants.
- Winchester City Council Estates Department keeps it tidy and has put a walkway along the top.
- It has been suggested that the Viaduct should be incorporated into Sustrans proposal.

Twyford Meads

- This is a scheme initiated by Twyford Parish Council to reconstruct the 18th century irrigation arrangements to the north and east of Compton Lock. Funds are in place, and work was due to start in April, but weather and the footpath closures have held up proceedings for the time being.

Shawford Park's proposed Stable Block

- The appeal against Winchester City Council's refusal to allow the 2162sq.M new building at the south end of Shawford Village was rejected on four issues: local impact, effect on wildlife, uncertainties about possible future use and relationship to the Hampshire development Plan.

Footpaths

- There has been no expenditure on the Footpaths to the east of the M3.
- Consequently, the Navigation towpath would be impassable if it were available, but it is out of bounds due to the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak.

Questions from the Public were as Follows:-

1. Mrs C.Sorsbie stated that there are proposals for cycling along the Towpath and asked if this can be stopped? Cllr. T.Threfall explained that the Sustrans proposal does not involve the Towpath.
2. Mrs C.Sorsbie – asked if a Dog Bin could be provided in Park View? Cllr C.Simmons replied W.C.C. will not put Dog Bins on public land where there is some controversy – this is an ongoing problem.

Finance and Admin.

Cllr. N.Campbell-White reported on the following:-

- At the start of our new year Ray Wilmshurst was elected Convenor, the issues to be addressed being:
 - ❖ The non balancing of the overall Parish Accounts.
 - ❖ Funding for the new play equipment.
 - ❖ VAT reclaim problems and thereafter
 - ❖ The search for a new Clerk and
 - ❖ The transfer of £100,000.00 of Parish Funds from a current bank account to a high interest deposit account. The Bank where the money was deposited was considered by some to be risky as they thought it did not have an adequate credit rating.
- Ray Wilmshurst resigned from the Council in November, leaving the Sub-committee without a convenor, and with only 2 of the above issues sorted out.
- It was decided that Cllr. N.Campbell-White should take over the duties, and having been duly proposed and seconded, assumed the Convenorship.
- With the expert help of Mike Langford and his wife, the whole of the 1999/2000 accounts were reworked and transferred to a specialised computer accounting package.
- At the end of the exercise the books balanced and all VAT anomalies solved.
- Additionally, the Income and Expenditure account and Balance Sheet are now automated, together with virtually everything else needed for the Public Auditor.
- The Public Auditor congratulated the Parish Council on a clear and detailed set of accounts with explicit paper trails. All of his queries were answered.
- The Auditor suggested some minor alterations on how the accounts could be improved for his purpose for the next year.
- Mike Langford has now reworked the 2000-2001 accounts in the same format as the 1999/2000 accounts.
- The accounts are already prepared for next January's audit.
- The Budgets have also been reworked onto the same accounting system, so that all convenors can now compare budgets with expenditure on a monthly basis.
- The greatest expenditure through the Council books over the last 2 years has been to do with the Shawford Hall Refurbishment Project
- Colin Jones with his experience and computer expertise, was asked to run the Parish Hall Building Fund on behalf of the Parish.
- Colin has assiduously kept the records and the accounts; needless to say they balanced precisely, and were again considered excellent by the auditor. Colin Jones was thanked by Cllr.N.Campbell-White on behalf of the Parish and Councillors.
- £100,000.00 has now been transferred from the Julian Hodge Bank to the Bank of Ireland on a 4.913% fixed term deposit.

Parish Hall – with an update from Capt. Mike Matthews, CASCA Chairman.

Capt. Mike Matthews reported as follows:-

Position one year ago.

- Car Park – was almost complete.
- Terrace – Dispute over colours of pavers.
- Heathcote Room – specification in hand.

- Staging and Audio – grant dependant
- Final snagging – keen to net all o/s snags.

All of the above issues are now complete with the exception of repainting the railings. One additional warranty item was also in hand – the Emergency exit door.

Finances

- Special Building Fund closed in March 2001 and a surplus of £1,100-00 transferred to the main CASCA fund. This to be put towards the Heathcote Room refurbishment.
- Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2001 still being finalised but the Treasurer.
- The Budget for this current year projects a small surplus.

Operations.

- 8 new Trustees have replaced the 7 who resigned – this gives a wider representation.
- Increased business keeping Vanessa and Frank very busy.
- CASCA responded to a request to use their charitable status to assist with fund raising for the new Playgrounds.

Next Steps.

- To set up a system for routine maintenance.
- To design and produce a colour brochure.
- To continue improving the facilities – your thoughts welcomed.

Dates to note

- Spring Supper a week tomorrow.
- Visit and concert by a Chicago School Choir on 5th July.

Questions from the Public were as Follows:-

1. Mrs J.Lockett asked whether the Parish Hall is let when Vanessa Smith is away on holiday, etc. Mr. M.Matthews answered “no”, but arrangements can always be made to accommodate such bookings, if notified in advance.

New Pavilion – with an update from Paul Murray, Chairman New Pavilion Building Committee.

Cllr. A.Walmsley reported as follows:-

- This time last year the Parish Council had almost completed preparation of a lottery grant application.
- The new Parish Council, which took office after the elections in May 2000 felt that, in view of the result of the election, the whole project should be re-evaluated.
- A number of public Sub-committee meetings were held at which many different options were examined.
- After much discussion it was decided to go for a block built timber-clad building similar to the Scout Hall in Martins Fields.
- It was also clear that the only consensus location for the pavilion was on the eastern boundary of the field with the car park on the “Reclaimed Land”.
- Paul Murray volunteered to chair an all-party committee, under the auspices of the Parish Council, to see the newly agreed design through to completion.
- On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr. Walmsley thanked Paul Murray and his committee very much for taking the project forward.

Cllr. A.Walmsley called on Paul Murray to Report on his work on the New Pavilion Building Committee – he reported as follows:-

- The mandate given to the Pavilion Building Committee by the Parish Council was to build “ a long lasting building, of attractive design, such as a block built timber clad building, on the eastern boundary of the field with the car park on the “Reclaimed Land”, subject to major decisions which will be made by the Parish Council.”
- To carry out this mandate a committee was formed chaired by Paul Murray consisting of :

Anthony Lewis Treasurer	Cllr. Adrian Walmsley
Jo Lockett Secretary	Ian Gray
Lyn Brace Fund Raising Chairman	Martin Dearlove Sports Club Chairman
Cllr. Martin Bell	John Evans
Cllr. Nick Campbell-White	Brian Marchmont

- With the permission of the Parish Council, Mr Bill Everton of Gentle Associates, Botley, a Project Manager, was appointed to prepare a preliminary scheme design.
- The proposed design is a medium sized (242 sq.m) single storey pavilion being block built with a timber cladding and a tiled roof.
- The budget cost plan produces a total cost for the new pavilion of £230,000.
- The Parish Council has already saved £100,000 towards this project.
- Confirmed grants available of £10,000 from the Winchester City Council, Open Spaces Fund.
- £1,800 from the Hampshire Playing Fields Association.
- The Sports Club is going to contribute £20,000 and plans to fundraise £8200 are ongoing.
- It has been decided to seek Sport England funding for the remaining £90,000.

SPORT ENGLAND BID

- Liaison was undertaken with the local authority and with the governing bodies for the sports involved.
- A Sport England Bid has now been submitted, now awaiting their decision.
- Thanks were expressed to Cllr Adrian Walmsley, Jo Lockett and Brian Marchmont for all their help on the preparation of the bid document.

TIMETABLE

The Sport England bid is in two stages with a final decision being given in the Autumn of this year. If successful, planning permission must be obtained, followed by the tendering process. Construction will start in late Spring 2002 with completion in Autumn 2002.

FUNDRAISING

- In March a Horseracing night was held in the Village Hall which raised £1,359.
- There are many people locally who would like to contribute to this worthwhile local project. Donations of any amount would be most welcome.
- Donations of £100 or more that will be discreetly acknowledged in the new pavilion.
- Other fund raising events planned.

Questions from the Public were as Follows:-

1. Capt. M. Matthews said the Architects Fees of £6,000-00 appeared to be rather low and asked if this was correct? Paul Murray replied that it was and that it was particularly good value for money.
2. Mr. P. Moll asked what Happens if the Sport England Grant is not forthcoming? Cllr. A. Walmsley advised that "Fallback Plans" are in the process of being developed – the cost of which is estimated to be in the region of £150,000-00.
3. Mr. Ken Staunton referred to the "Equipment Store", and asked where is this to be located? Paul Murray responded by advising that it is anticipated that the "Equipment Store" will be located in a gap in the trees on the "Reclaimed Land". It will consist of a "good looking" container and is estimated to cost about £3,250-00.

School Governor's Report.

Mr. Ray Wilmshurst reported as follows:-

- A lot of activity and transformation is ongoing at Compton School.
- Initial tenders for the Building work were above the available Budgets.
- Initial plans were curtailed, and the Administration areas were eliminated.
- £20,000 in the "maintenance fund" became available, so some of the Administration areas were re-instated.
- Currently the roofs are going on and the project is on schedule.
- Questions as to how many additional pupils will be accommodated are answered by stating the same number, but with better facilities.
- Currently there are 115 pupils on the Roll with special needs being catered for.
- The teaching Staff consists of 1 Head Teacher, 3 full time Teachers, 1 full time teacher on "Term Contract" and 2 part time Teachers.
- The retirement of one Teacher, Mr. M. Lander, has caused current interviewing for a replacement.
- A change in Clerk to the Governors has taken place, Mrs. McGrath having assumed that function.

- Mr. Wilmshurst asked that the meeting express their gratitude to all members of Staff of Compton School for the excellent work they undertake.
- Mr. Wilmshurst advised that his term of office expires on the 9th October 2001, the Parish Council then having the right to submit their representative who does not necessarily have to be a Parish Councillor.

Question time.

1. Capt. M. Matthews, referring to the "Pink Tubes" protecting trees and shrubs, asked when are they going to be removed? Cllr. C. Simmons advised some have been removed, but upon advice, the remainder must stay for the time being.
2. Capt. M. Matthews referred to the Footpath from Memorial Playing Field to Cliff Way and asked if it could be "surfaced"? The Chairman responded that the parish Council will look at it, the appropriate Sub-committee will address the issue.
3. Capt. M. Matthews said that there was discussion concerning the "free" distribution of one edition of the Parish Magazine and asked what is the current position on this? Cllr. A. Walmsley advised that there are several issues surrounding this matter, encompassing the cost at £400-00 per edition and the matter of distribution. Also the question of existing subscribers has to be considered when making a free publication. Accordingly, the matter is left in abeyance, but is being kept under review.
4. Mr. R. Wilmshurst asked what is being done to advertise that there is a Parish Magazine? Cllr. A. Walmsley advised that there is an A4 leaflet that is produced and included within the "Welcome Pack" presented to any new residents moving into the village. It is essential that any new residents are advised to the Parish Council in order for such "Welcome Packs" to be presented.
5. Mr. M. Dawson asked what would be the cost to produce extra copies of the Parish Magazine for sale at the Village Post Office etc., possibly 20 copies or so? Cllr. A. Walmsley advised that such extra copies would eat into any profits without any guarantee that such extra copies would be sold. However, the matter would be kept under review.
6. Mr. A. Lockett said that plans were put in place for Winchester City Council to undertake "noise measurement" procedures from his property in respect of the M3 motorway noise. These plans were not followed through, and when enquiring of Winchester City Council, Mr. Lockett was advised by Winchester City Council that responsibility for the "noise measurement" had been delegated to Mott MacDonald, the contractor. Why was this as the Contractor, Mott MacDonald, was not the appropriate party to undertake this activity? City Councillor Charlotte Bailey advised that she was very unhappy with this resultant situation. She had referred the matter to the Environmental Health department and had raised the matter with the Chief Executive of Winchester City Council. There were precedents for the City Council to undertake the requested noise measuring. Currently progress in this matter has come to a stop, but Charlotte Bailey confirmed that she is actively pursuing the matter.
7. Mr. G. Carroll asked if the Parish Council could "close off" the grass area on the main road just South of Compton Street to prevent "Travellers" from accessing that area and staying there, resultant from which there would be damage again to the area and considerable mess? The Chairman said this issue had been brought up at previous Parish Council meetings. PC Clive Barham had advised that the closing of one area would only result in moving the "Travellers" on to another area. It had therefore been decided to leave the matter in abeyance. However, the subject would again be discussed by the Parish Council, possibly with a view to asking the appropriate Land Owner (H.C.C.) to protect their land.
8. Mrs. J. Cave-Penny asked if the hedge at the Compton Primary School, which had been removed during the current building work, is it going to be replaced? The Rector, John Widdows, advised that the hedge would be replaced on completion of the building works, this being part of the planned landscaping of the area.
9. Cllr. A. Walmsley asked as to the Public's opinion concerning the holding of the Annual Parish Meeting on a Friday evening. By a show of hands, it was evident that most people were against holding the A.P.M. on a Friday evening. Accordingly, the date of the A.P.M. would be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting with a view to booking the venue one year in advance and avoiding a Friday evening.

There being no further questions, the meeting was closed at 10-00pm.