

**COMPTON and SHAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2003**  
**IN SHAWFORD PARISH HALL COMMENCING 7.30pm.**

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

**In Attendance:** Mr. D.Atwell – Chairman Planning Committee, Winchester City Council.  
District Councillor Mrs. C.Bailey  
District Councillor Peter Mason  
Police Sergeant Bill Ord  
52 members of the Public.

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman Cllr. G.Beckett welcomed everybody and introduced the members of the Parish Council and outlined their roles.

**Apologies for absence.**

Apologies were received from:

Mrs Gillian Webster	Mr. Ray Wilmshurst
Nancy and Bob Emmerson	Mr. Howlett
Tim and Gill Coleman	Peter and Wendy Ashcroft
Mrs. Jenny Walmsley	Mrs Delphine Matthews
County Councillor Mrs. A.Bailey	

**Approval of minutes of the 2002 Annual Parish Assembly.**

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly, held on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2002, having been previously circulated, were approved following a proposal by Mrs Charlotte Bailey, seconded by Mr. G.Knowles - vote unanimous.

**Matters arising on those Minutes.**

There were no matters arising from those Minutes.

**Keynote Speaker – Mr David Atwell, Chairman, W.C.C. Planning Committee**

The main points of Mr.Atwell's presentation was as follows:-

- This was the last function that Mr. Atwell would be attending as a Winchester City Councillor as he was to stand down due to ill health.
- Mr. Atwell outlined his previous experience as an Architect, which made him suitable to be Chairman of the Planning Committee.
- In general planning terms he considered that Government was pursuing short term planning solutions and there was no cohesive long term Planning Strategy.
- The Hampshire Structure Plan was in a mess, therefore there is no clear way ahead covering the next 20 years.
- The issue of PPG3 guidance from central Government is now becoming a real force in planning considerations. Central Government expects Local Authorities to comply.
- To ignore PPG3 will result in costly appeals which the Planning Authority will lose as the Appeal Inspectorate will comply with Government guidelines encapsulated within PPG3.
- PPG3 stipulates higher densities – 30 to 50 dwellings per hectare.
- “Brownfield” sites are to be developed in preference to “Greenfield” sites and gardens to existing dwellings are considered “Brownfield” sites.
- It is accepted that PPG3 will change the character of an area.
- In the Winchester area, there is a shortage of “affordable housing”, an issue which needs to be solved as a priority.
- The development of Barton Farm would alleviate this problem, but the various pressure groups seem to be winning the day.
- “Exception Sites” will not meet the demand, however, Parishes will have to accept “exception sites”.
- Hampshire is seriously underdeveloped – the Winchester area has been running at 20% underdevelopment year on year and will therefore not be able to catch up with needs.
- Local communities will have to accept change.

- Objections to Planning Applications can only be valid on the basis of “Planning Rules”.

**Questions:-**

- Mr. Mike Everett:- Q. - In respect of “Social Housing”, can anything be learnt from Europe?  
A – There are no directives from Brussels, however, in Europe there is a far greater “Rental Sector”, which if existed in the U.K., the shortage of affordable housing would not be so apparent.  
Q. – Is anybody doing anything about providing Social Housing and subsequently keeping that housing as Social Housing.  
A. – There are restrictions on housing that is developed for Social Housing where the “Right to Buy” is eliminated. The issue of people having a Right to Buy their Council Houses has to a great extent caused the shortage of Social Housing.
- Mr. MacMillan. - Q. - There is concern over the interpretation of PPG3 by differing Planning Authorities and is such interpretation dependant upon guidance from the Officers?  
A. – Mr. Atwell was unaware of any inconsistencies in applying PPG3 throughout Hampshire, although the Test Valley and Eastleigh are trying to ignore PPG3, but in those cases they will be brought into line by the Appeals procedure.
- Mrs. D. Angell. - Q. – How can the provision of Social Housing be ensured?  
A. – Under the local plan, 30% of development must be for Social Housing. This also encapsulates the issue of “better mix” of housing.
- Mrs. P.Caffyn. - Q. – The issue of Trees and Archaeological interest is taken into consideration with Planning Applications, why not the interests of local residents?  
A. – Trees and Archaeological interests pertaining to a development site can be deducted from the site. Local residents are not part of the site, therefore cannot impact the development of that site, only planning issues pertaining to the site can be considered.
- Mr. S.North. - Q. – Historical deeds and covenants may preclude development, do they impact the Planning process.  
A. – Covenants which preclude development would still stand, however, such covenants could be taken to law to be changed. Therefore this is not an issue normally considered by the Planning Authorities.
- Mr. B.Nicholson. - Q. – The developer buys land, gets planning permission and builds for the Market price of the resultant dwelling. Where is the Social Housing element in that scenario?  
A. – If Social Housing is not specifically included in the development, then a premium is paid by the developer to subsidise Social Housing in an alternative site.
- Mr. P.Mason. - Q. – What is the make up of the Winchester City Council Planning Committee?  
A. – The Planning Committee is:-
- Not bound by political or Party Political rules.
  - The “whip” concept is not part of the process.
  - There are 14 members of the Planning Committee.
  - Representation on the Committee is proportional in the same ratio as for the full Council.
  - Voting on an application is purely on the merits of the application itself.
- Mr. N.Campbell-White. Q. – It is thought that the application of PPG3 by Winchester City Council is far too rigid. What sanctions would there be against Winchester City Council if the requirements of PPG3 were not complied with?  
A. – If the PPG3 guidelines were not followed and the application was refused, such a decision would be overturned by any subsequent costly appeal.

The Chairman, Cllr. G.Beckett thanked Mr. David Atwell for his presentation and answers to the questions raised.

**Chairman’s report on the last year.**

The Chairman, Cllr. G.Beckett reported as follows:-

- During the last year steady progress has been made with a high degree of co-operation and goodwill between members.
- Planning has been a major issue and assistance in planning issues has been given by the various Residents Associations.
- Further bureaucracy has arisen, most notably the new "Lighter Touch Audit Regime" and "Code of Conduct".
- Further bureaucracy is envisaged such as the imposition of "Quality Town and Parish Councils" requirements.
- A successful "H.M.the Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebration" was held during the year.
- At long last the New Pavilion project is now proceeding well with construction due to commence on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2003.
- Cllr. G.Beckett expressed his thanks to all members of the Parish Council and the Clerk, for their support during the year.

#### **Adoption of Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2000/2001.**

The Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2001/2002 were circulated before the meeting. Cllr. Mr. N.Campbell-White called for these accounts to be formally adopted.

Proposed – Mrs. Heather Wyles

Seconded – Mrs C.Sorsbrie.

Vote – unanimous.

#### **Unaudited Accounts for Financial Year 2001/2002.**

Cllr. Mr. N.Campbell-White briefly outlined the un-audited accounts for the financial year 2002/2003.

#### **Questions:-**

Mr. M.Gordon. – Q. –What does the expenditure figure of £3,871-00 cover?

A. – This figure covers two years Audit fees plus Insurance premiums.

Mr. D.Jolyon. - Q. – When is it expected that the cost of running the playing fields will break even?

A. – Hopefully in the next few years once the Sports Club has re-established itself in the new Pavilion.

#### **Reports from Committee Convenors: (Brief questions will be answered after each report.)**

##### **a) Planning.**

Cllr. Mr. M.Bell reported on the following:-

- The threat of increasing higher density development Planning Applications is becoming a reality.
- The need for more housing is recognised and therefore the Parish Council's policy is to be more accommodating but at the same time endeavouring to protect the character of the Parish.
- A "Policy Statement" reflecting this has been established.
- A project to identify sites suitable for "Affordable Housing" has been initiated.
- Reference was made to specific development sites covering Longacre, Mawdlam Lodge, Highdown, Highways Road, Silkstead Priors and Shepherds Down School.

#### **Questions:-**

Mr. R.Freeland. – Q. – A statement was made to the effect that Mr. Freeland considered that the Planning report in the Parish Council Newsletter was wrong in respect of Mawdlam Lodge.

A. – The Parish Council regretted the necessity to be in disagreement with some residents over this issue, but in order to establish some credibility the Parish Council felt it necessary to take the view that it had.

Mr. B.Nicholson. –Q. – The Southdowns Residents Association objected to 1 dwelling at Mawdlam Lodge. The Parish Council lost the opportunity to object as they had supported the development of 2 dwellings.

A. – The Chairman, Cllr. Mr. G.Beckett advised the meeting of the Parish Council's position on this issue.

Questions were raised by Mr. I.Gray and Mrs Venn concerning the possible upgrading of Hurdle Way and adjacent roads, necessitated by the pending Planning Application for the Longacre site. It was answered that the Highways officer had indicated that only Hurdle Way from Longacre to the Main Road would need to be upgraded and the cost of this would be down to the developer.

Mrs. P.Caffyn. -

Mrs H.Wyles. - Q. – Reference was made to a question previously raised by e-mail concerning proposed “Portaloo” cleansing at the Walcon Yard.  
A. – The Chairman advised that this required some research and would be answered in writing.

**b) Playing Fields**

Cllr. Mrs M.Shaw reported on the following:-

- Completion of the new Children’s Play Area in Compton Street.
- Renovation of the Football pitch goal mouths in the Compton Street Play Area.
- A new Bench Seat was installed in the Children’s Play Area at memorial Playing Field, commemorating the Queens Golden Jubilee.
- Plans are being prepared for landscaping the residual land after the old pavilion is demolished and the third tennis court is constructed at Memorial Playing Field.
- Once the New Pavilion is built, plans will be developed to manage the remainder of the M3 reclaimed land.

There were no questions arising.

**c) Highways, Byways, Environment and M3.**

Cllr. Mrs. C.Simmons reported on the following:-

- Installation of a new Bus Shelter at the end of Attwoods Drove.
- Car Parking in Compton Street.
- Street Lighting in Martins Field.
- Refurbishment of Bench Seats.
- The M3 noise project.
- The Parish Council’s thanks to Mr. Bill Goodyear and Mrs J.Russell were expressed for their work in cleaning the M3 subway and the Bus Shelters.

**Questions:-**

Mrs. S. Marchmont. – Q. – To alleviate car-parking problems in Compton Street, has there been any progress in the possible use of “Church Field” as a car park?

A. – This matter continues to be under discussion, but is being delayed until the appointment of a new Rector. Previous plans in this respect had been cancelled due to reluctance of Parent of children at the School to use Church Field as a car park.

Mr. M. Matthews. - Q. – When will the “Pink Tubes” protecting young trees on the M3 embankments be removed.

A. – The Highway Agency advise that they will be removed when the trees are mature enough.

**d) Footpaths Representative and Tree Warden.**

Cllr. Mr. T.Threfall advised the meeting that his report was contained in the “Newsletter” circulated to all Parishioners prior to the meeting. Accordingly he called for any questions.

**Questions:-**

Mrs. P.Caffyn. - Q. – Is it allowed to cut through the embankment from the Bishops Drain to the Navigation?

A. – This depends upon what is stated within the individual Householder’s deeds.

Q. – It was noted that the Navigation’s water levels are very low.

A. – The breach in the Navigation embankment, which caused the loss of water in the Navigation, had now been repaired, and it is noted that water levels have yet to recover.

Mrs. Sorsbrie. - Q. – The water in the Bishops Drain is stagnant, can something be done about it?

A. – It is the responsibility of individual householders to keep the Bishops Drain clear of vegetation and debris. To-date, the Bridge Hotel has refused to undertake their responsibility in this respect. However, with the change of ownership of the Bridge Hotel, the Parish Council will raise the matter again.

Mr. Broadbent. - Q. – The issue of “cycleways” was raised, what is happening?

A. – The subject had gone quiet, therefore it is assumed nothing is happening at present.

**e) Finance and Administration.**

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

- Negotiation and finalisation of new Leases with the Sports Club and Tennis Club.
- Successful conclusion to the Lottery Funding application.
- Directives from central Government necessitating additional bureaucracy covering the "Lighter Touch Audit Regime" and "Publication Schemes" under the Freedom of Information Act.
- Vandalism on the Stone War Memorial.
- The Precept for the Financial Year 2003 – 2004 set at £22,298, an increase of only 2.2%.

There were no questions arising.

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

Mr. Mike Matthews, Chairman of CASCA, reported as follows:-

- Another successful year
- Some "teething problems" continue to be experienced in respect of the electrical installation, main drains and some Kitchen equipment.
- Biannual Inspections take place.
- Renovation of the Caretaker's Cottage is at the top of the list of things to do.
- A "Risk Assessment" procedure is being developed.
- Hire "rates" are reviewed annually.
- Further equipment is being installed including "flip charts" and an electrically driven screen.
- CASCA now has 18 Trustees.
- Thanks to Vanessa Smith, the Caretaker, and her family for their continued support in running the Parish Hall.
- Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Mr. N.Campbell-White and Cllr. Mrs. J.Millar for their support on the CASCA Management Committee.

There were no questions arising.

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

Mr. P. Murray, Chairman of the New Pavilion Building Committee, reported as follows:-

- Funding for the New Pavilion is now in place.
- Construction will commence on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2003.
- Completion of the new Pavilion is anticipated to be by 26<sup>th</sup> December 2003.
- Total costs of the new Pavilion is set at £399,225-00.
- Grants have been received from Sport England, Winchester City Council Open Spaces Fund, Hampshire Playing Fields Association.
- Fund Raising by the New Pavilion Building Committee amount to £21,400-00.
- The Parish Council are contributing £100,000-00.
- Thanks to the New Pavilion Building Committee for their work on this project were expressed.

There were no questions arising.

**9. Police Report – Sgt. Ord, Itchen Valley Section (Twyford).**

Police Sergeant Bill Ord reported as follows:-

- 23 offences were recorded in Compton.
- 10 offences were recorded in Shawford.
- In the previous year there were 47 offences in Compton and 38 offences in Shawford.
- In comparison with Otterbourne who had 83 offences, the Compton and Shawford Crime rate was considered to be low.
- Sgt Ord gave an explanation of the centralised "call centre" used to contact the police at Twyford Police Station.

There were no questions arising.

**10. School Governor's Report.**

Cllr. Mr. G.Beckett read out to the meeting the report from Mr. Ray Wilmshurst, School Governor, who was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health. The main points reported were as follows:-

- Compton Primary School is taking part in the “Pathfinder Project”.
- As part of the “Pathfinder Project” the school has received to-date grants amounting to £80,000-00.
- There are 114 pupils on the school Roll.
- There are currently 24 full time and part time staff employed by the school.
- Unfortunately one Pupil died during the year and it is planned to have a permanent memorial to this pupil.
- The Playground and car park has been extended.
- On behalf of the Parish Council, congratulations for their hard work by the Head Teacher and Staff were expressed.

There were no questions arising.

**11. Question Time; relating to any aspect of village administration – current or future.**

Due to the lateness of the hour, together with the fact that numerous questions had been raised and answered during the meeting, a formal question and answer session was not undertaken. Any remaining questions would be answered on an informal basis during refreshments.

The Chairman, Cllr. Mr. G.Beckett, closed the meeting at 10.40pm.