

COMPTON and SHAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28th APRIL 2004
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.Ford, Cllr.Mrs. J.Millar, Cllr. Mrs. M.Shaw, Cllr.Mrs. C.Simmons, Cllr.Mr. T.Threlfall, Cllr.Mr. A.Walmsley,

In Attendance: Mr. David Boardman – Client Services Manager, Winchester City Council.
District Councillor Mrs. C.Bailey
District Councillor Murray Macmillan
County Councillor Ann Bailey
Police Inspector Stephen Sargent
Police Constable Mark Smith
56 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:

Mr. Barry and Mrs Mary Nicholson
Heather Wyles
Mrs. C.M.Sorsbie
Mrs. A.Matthews
J.Dolphin

Mr. Nigel Pugh
Mr. Mike Bailey.

Approval of minutes of the 2003 Annual Parish Assembly.

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly, held on the 30th April 2002, having been previously circulated, were approved following a proposal by D Bellan, seconded by Mr. Mike Matthews - vote unanimous.

Matters arising on those Minutes.

There were no matters arising from those Minutes.

Keynote Speaker – Mr. David Boardman - a presentation of the proposed “Waste Collection” process that is due to be implemented on a trial basis late 2004/early 2005 in the Southdown area of Shawford.

The main points of Mr. David Boardman’s presentation were as follows:-

- Outline of the services provided by the Refuse Department of Winchester City Council.
- The services policy currently being followed.
- The need to change.
- The targets that have been set for “Recycling”.
- Analysis of current “Waste” that is currently collected.
- Categories of waste collected, “Household Waste”, “Green Waste” and “Recyclable Waste”.
- Comparisons with other “Top performing Authorities”.
- Proposed Pilot area for the new Waste Collection proposals, part of which includes Southdown area of Shawford..
- The new Waste Collection proposals
 - Empty one refuse bin every two weeks.
 - Empty one recycling bin every alternate two weeks.
 - Collect one bag of Garden waste every two weeks.
 - Replace the small recycling bin with larger recycling bins upon request.
 - Households with six or more occupants may have an extra bin.
- The objective is to reduce the amount of Household waste and improve the percentage of waste that is to be recycled.
- Extensive communication of proposals is to be undertaken in order to get householders to comply with solving the problem of waste disposal.
- The timetable for events is as follows:-
 - May 2004 – initial preparation.
 - August 2004 – information about the new scheme sent to all properties.
 - September 2004 – deliver bins and sacks.
 - October 2004 – commencement of new scheme.

- May 2005 – Waste analysis.
- August 2005 – Customer survey/evaluation.
- October 2005 – Refer to Cabinet for decision on Future Arrangements.

Following the presentation, the following questions were raised by members of the Public:-

- (Q) Will glass and glass bottles be allowed in the Recycling Bins?
 (A) No – glass and glass bottles must be taken to the recycling centre/bottle banks.
- (Q) Material that should not be in the Recycling Bins has to be diverted to waste landfill sites, what percentages this?
 (A) Approximately 10% - efforts to improve this figure are in hand.
- (Q) Packaging materials such as cartons etc., cause confusion between “waste” and “recyclable”; where is the line drawn?
 (A) It is difficult in some areas to distinguish. The principle is to keep it simple, therefore only Paper, magazines, plastic bottles and tin cans are to go into the Recycling Bins.
- (Q) What is the logic to change the frequency of waste collection?
 (A) The target is to move 12,000 tonnes per annum from Household Waste to Recycling. This requires a higher degree of “waste management” by each householder and the less frequent collection of Household Waste is expected to encourage this.
- (Q) When comparing the situation with other countries such as Germany, the Retailers there provide facilities for recycling Packaging. Are the same possibilities being pursued here?
 (A) Some retailers do provide such facilities, but in this country the needs of the Retailer are far more complex.

Chairman’s report on the last year.

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

- A pleasure to report on a year of satisfactory progress.
- Reference to the Chairman’s Report in the Annual Newsletter.
- Expressed the Parish Council’s appreciation of Mike Langford, the Clerk, whose support and clerical administrative work had been invaluable.
- This coming June marks the end of the present Parish Council, a new Parish Council is due for election.
- Thanks to all Parish Councillors were expressed, for their work and support over the preceding twelve months – and indeed four years.
- Looking to the future, there is an anticipated growth in administration and “red tape” being imposed by Central Government.
- Significant increase in legalistic bureaucrats initiating directives.
- Additional burdens on the “Responsible Financial Officer” who in the case of Compton and Shawford is also “The Clerk”.
- The legislation, which gives Compton and Shawford Parish Council its powers, is the same as that applying to the larger Town Councils who have a multitude of Staff.
- However, the same rules and responsibilities apply to both ourselves and these larger Town Councils, albeit we do not have the resources of these larger Town Councils.
- An example of this is the “Lighter Touch Audit Regime” under which we have to appoint our own “Internal Auditor” as well as submitting the accounts for verification to the Government appointed external Auditor. The cost of this Audit process has been £750-00, which is considered excessive in order to Audit an account of only £23,000.
- The “pie chart” reproduced in the Annual Newsletter shows nearly £9,000 spent on “General Administration” – almost 40% of the total Parish Council Budget.
- This is anticipated to get worse.
- A significant increase is envisaged in the need to obtain “Legal Advice” due to the complexities of directives, and likelihood of legal challenge by individuals.
- The Central Government’s initiative of “Quality Town and Parish Councils” has the potential to increase costs and bureaucracy, together with increased work for both the Councillors as well as the Clerk/RFO.
- Achieving “Quality Status” enables the Parish Council to be given greater responsibilities and work.
- It is a small step for those Parish Councils not achieving “Quality Status”, to have their Consultative Status removed and other powers curtailed.
- It is therefore considered that Compton and Shawford Parish Council will have to pursue the obtaining of “Quality Status” through the “Quality Town and Parish Council” scheme.

- This is yet another administrative cost upon the Parish Council, with be a continuing cost in maintaining compliance.
- Therefore, we need to consider the medium term solution which is possibly one of the following options:-
 - 1) Eliminate the Parish Council, passing all the existing assets to a body such as the Community Association. Any continuing activities in respect of these assets would have to be funded by subscriptions as such a body would not be in a position to raise a Precept. Winchester City Council would assume all the other responsibilities currently undertaken by the Parish Council
 - 2) Merger with another Parish Council such as Otterbourne, thereby increasing the number of households upon which the Precept is levied, but at the same time achieve economies of scale, so keeping costs per household down.
 - 3) Continue as we are – preferred – but accept the increase in cost and therefore accept significant increases in the Precept. An increase in Precept over the next term of four years is envisaged to be up to 50%.
- Answers to these questions are not expected at this meeting, but consideration to these issues needs to be given with possible answers being given at next year’s meeting.

Adoption of Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2002/2003.

The Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2002/2003 were circulated before the meeting. Cllr. Mr. N.Campbell-White called for these accounts to be formally adopted.

Proposed – Mr. K. Staunton

Seconded – Mr. M.Matthews

Vote – unanimous.

Unaudited Accounts for Financial Year 2003/2004.

Cllr. Mr. N.Campbell-White briefly outlined the un-audited accounts for the financial year 2003/2004.

Questions:-

Mr. John Boundy asked what the significant difference in the Playing Field income was over the previous year.

Cllr. N.Campbell-White explained that this was occasioned by the grants that had been obtained for the Children’s Play equipment in the Compton Street Play Area.

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

a) Planning.

Councillor Mr. Martin Bell had recently stepped down as convener of the Planning Committee due to a potential conflict of interest and Councillor Mrs. Jean Millar had taken on this role. However, as Councillor Bell had been Convener for the major part of the year, he agreed to make the report on behalf of the Planning Committee.

A report within the Annual Newsletter was referenced, this covering all that needed to be said on Planning Matters during the year in question.

Questions:-

Mr Roy Freeland

Q. -In the PC's planning policy, what development would not reflect and preserve the character of the area? Specifically, what density in each area would be unacceptable and what other issues such as backland development would be a factor in opposing or not opposing an application?

A. – Answered as follows:-

- **Policy Statement** - The parish council accepts the inevitability of modest development in our parish along the lines described in the Urban Capacity Study. The council will strive to obtain the maximum positive influence with the planning bodies over the longer term. To this end the council should adopt a reasoned and consistent policy towards new developments. Within those constraints the parish council will specifically oppose developments that do not reflect and preserve the character of the area. We also recognize that we are a low sustainability area with minimal infrastructure. The parish council will oppose any increases to the current policy boundaries within the parish.
- Essentially, a proposed development should conform to the following:-
 - To be “in-keeping” with the surrounding area and neighbouring properties.
 - The density of dwellings to be in accordance with the Urban Capacity Study.

b) Playing Fields

Councillor Mrs. Mary Shaw reported as follows:-

- Mrs. Shaw said she had enjoyed her role as Convenor of the Playing Fields Management Committee for the last four years.
- She considered that during that time considerable improvements had been made such as:-
 - Two new fully equipped Children's Play Areas, one on the Memorial Playing Field and one in the Compton Street Play Area.
 - New Goal Posts in the Compton Street Play Area.
- Councillor Mrs. Shaw said it gave her great pleasure seeing children enjoying these new facilities.
- Looking to the future, the entrance to the Old Pavilion will eventually be closed off and the area landscaped.
- Councillor Mrs. Shaw thanked the members of the Playing Field management Committee, together with the Clerk, for their assistance during the preceding twelve months.

Questions:-

There were no questions arising.

c) Highways, Byways, Environment and M3.

Councillor Mrs. Celia Simmons reported as follows:-

- The main activities of the Highways and Byways Committee are covered within the report in the Annual Newsletter.
- Any issue connected with Roads and Verges etc., should be raised with Councillor Mrs Simmons.
- Cllr. Mrs. Simmons has contacts with Winchester City Council who can usually rectify the problems reported.
- There had been several instances of vandalism to the Buss Shelters, which had been a cause of concern. Such vandalism had cost significant amounts of money to rectify.
- Cllr. Mrs. Simmons expressed her thanks for the Petition concerning the M3 Noise project. This petition had been submitted to the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Education, with the assistance of Mark Oaten, the local Member of Parliament.

Questions:-

Mr. M. Matthews. - Q. – As for previous years, 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. However, as this has now gone on a long time the Parish Council will raise the issue with the appropriate Authority again.

Mr. Skipper - Q – There have been changes to the Flightpath of Aircraft entering and leaving Southampton Airport causing significant disturbance and noise pollution. What is the Parish Council able to do about the matter.

Mr. R.Freeland - Q - If the new flightpath patterns are now in effect, they are a disaster. It appears that when landing from the North planes are now flying directly over Southdown whereas previously they followed the much less densely populated Itchen valley route. What does the PC plan to do to remedy the situation urgently?

In answer, the Chairman read out the note from Mr. Robin Tice, the Parish Council's representative on issues to do with Southampton Airport and Aircraft Noise. This letter is held on file. It was also reported that the Instrument Landing System was not working and had been “off-line” since the 24th April 2004.

General discussion ensued, the salient points being as follows:-

- There is a telephone complaints telephone procedure, but this is essentially an answering machine.
- It is important to use this telephone complaints procedure as each and every call is logged.
- It is also important to log the time and date of aircraft not complying with the “Cummins” plan.
- If a Pilot can see the runway, he will take the quickest route to that runway.
- The Airport Authority are aware that numerous people are upset by the noise of aircraft not keeping to the planned flightpath into and out of Southampton Airport.
- If the Instrument Landing System is not working, then the Trial Period is invalidated and should be restarted when it is working.
- It was suggested that complainants should also write to the offending Airlines, making their complaints known.
- It was pointed out that all Airline operators were involved in the establishing the proposed new flightpaths.
- It was suggested that the Parish Council should write to the Airports Authority stating the complaints that Parishioners had voiced.

Mrs. Margaret Campbell-White raised the matter of the M3 Noise issue and advised that she had been in correspondence with Mr. Roy Perry, M.E.P. Copies of this correspondence is held on file.

d) Footpaths Representative and Tree Warden.

Councillor Mr. Tom Threlfall reported that all he had to say was adequately covered within his report in the Annual Newsletter. However, he added the following observations:-

- The Officer responsible for Footpaths used to be awarded a Budget of £1000 per annum.
- These monies had never been used on Footpaths, other more pressing needs consumed these funds.
- Additionally, Mrs. Liz Giles of Hampshire County Council, has always proven to be most effective in maintaining the Footpaths in the Compton and Shawford area.
- Accordingly, the cost of Footpaths to the Parish Council had been retained at nil.

Questions:-

Mr. Stewart Hunter -

Q. A lot of work had been undertaken outside "Red House", Bridge Lane, approximately one year ago. As this work had never been finished, there is now a lot of mud etc. around the area, can the Parish Council rectify the situation.

A. The Parish Council will investigate the matter.

e) Finance and Administration.

Councillor Mr. Nick Campbell-White reported as follows:-

- Convenor of the Finance and Administration Committee – Job
 - Look after the Finances and expenditure, with the Clerk
 - Look after the Administration and Government directives, with the Clerk.
 - Set and monitor Budgets, looking ahead, with the Clerk.
- Finances
 - Income and Expenditure – monthly sheet.
 - All expenditure set against Budgeted headings.
 - Currently, figures are distorted due to the New Pavilion project.
- Looking head
 - No further cushion or reserve – "hand to mouth" like other Parish Councils.
 - Precept will need to be increased.
 - Administration burden on the Clerk's time is disproportionate.
- Burden of Government
 - Last year
 - Lighter Touch audit regime.
 - Freedom of Information Act.
 - This Year – Revised Declaration of interests and code of Conduct.
 - Indemnities in Public Sector.
 - Financial Regulations for Town and Parish Councils.
 - Code of Practice for handling Complaints
 - Risk Assessment for small Parish Councils.
 - To come
 - Many more
 - Quality Parish Council Status
- Our Parish
 - We are a Quality Parish Council in fact if not in title.
 - Minutes and Accounts are first rate and well above most Parish Councils – thanks to the Clerk, Mike Langford.
- Thanks to the Clerk, Mike Langford, and the members of the Finance and Administration Committee, Cllr. Mr. George Beckett, Cllr. Mr. Martin Bell and Cllr. Mr. Adrian Walmsley.
- Other Tasks.
 - Southdowns National Park.
 - Pavilion Snagging List.

Questions:-

There were no questions arising.

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

Mr. Mike Matthews reported as follows:-

- Another successful year with occupancy continuing to rise.

- Last year's surplus allowed the completion of the Caretakers Cottage refurbishment plus freshening the paintwork in Shawford Hall.
- This year's surplus should enable the exterior paintwork to be repainted together with replacement of the Shawford Hall window frames.
- The saddest event during the year was the sudden death in September of the Caretaker, Vanessa Smith.
- Her husband, Frank Smith, has taken on the job of Caretaker and is successfully maintaining the high standards previously achieved by Vanessa.
- The Caretakers job gets busier; currently there are 52 recurring user groups, which can mean four or more bookings a day.
- Additional equipment has been added, notably a new Larder Fridge, a second TV/VCR Combi, a portable sound system and six more tables.
- Risk assessment inspections are commencing.
- The implications of the Disability Discrimination Act are being reviewed.
- Restructuring of CASCA is in progress.
- It is proposed to reduce the number of Trustees.
- The Chairman and Treasurer of CASCA, will both stand down and suitable replacements are being sought.

Questions:-

There were no questions arising.

Police Report – Inspector Stephen Sargent.

Police Inspector Stephen Sargent, supported by Police Constable Mark Smith, reported as follows:-

- Inspector Sargent had recently taken over at Arlesford/Twyford.
- Essentially, his attendance at the meeting was to introduce himself.
- During the last year, the crimes committed were as follows:-
 - Compton had a yearly figure of 20 crimes as follows:-
 - 2 dwelling burglaries.
 - 1 non dwelling burglaries.
 - 8 criminal damages.
 - 4 vehicle crimes.
 - 1 theft
 - 2 public orders.
 - 2 drug offences.
 - Shawford had a yearly figure of 29 crimes as follows:-
 - 2 dwelling burglaries.
 - 6 non dwelling burglaries.
 - 5 criminal damages.
 - 7 vehicle crimes.
 - 7 thefts.
 - 1 indecency.
 - 1 drug offence.
- Essentially, the crime rate in Compton and Shawford is considered very low.
- Thanks were expressed to Police Constable Mark Smith for his impressive devotion to serving the community in his capacity of Police Constable.

Questions:-

Mr. John Boundy

Q. - When telephoning the Police, calls are diverted to a call centre. In Wiltshire, the telephone number of the local Police Station is available. Is Hampshire going to operate in the same way?

A. – Local Police Stations, such as Twyford are not always manned, often the police are out of the Station. The Call centre number is located in Winchester and the appropriate response can be arranged from there. If there is an emergency and immediate attendance by the Police is necessary, then the 999 number should be used.

School Governor's Report – Report by Mr. Bob Emmerson, Chairman of Board of Governors.

Mr. Bob Emmerson reported as follows:-

- For many years the School Governors report had been given by Mr. Ray Wilmshurst, who had sadly passed away last year.
- Compton Primary School has had a good year.
- The school had participated in the "Pathfinder Project" which came to an end in March 2004.

- This project proved to be a wholly positive experience with the success of the school's efforts being acknowledged by Mr. David Milliband, Minister of State responsible for School Standards.
- The National Standard Attainment Test resulted in Compton Primary School being one of the top performing schools in Hampshire and was placed amongst the top 30 primary schools in the country.
- For the third year in succession, the LEA Inspector has designated Compton Primary School as "a highly effective school".
- The arrival of the Revd. Paul Baird has boosted the close working relationship with All Saints Church.
- Because of the recent Education Act requiring the re-structuring of the Governing Body, there is no automatic representation from the Parish Council on the School Governing body.
- Representations are being made to allow for representation of the Parish Council on the school Board of Governors.

Questions:-

There were no questions arising.

Jubilee Pavilion – Report by Mr. Paul Murray.

Mr. Paul Murray reported as follows:-

- The brief given at the outset of the project to build a new pavilion was "To build a medium sized, long lasting pavilion of attractive design, on the eastern boundary of the Memorial Playing Field with the car park on the return land".
- This new Pavilion, the Jubilee Pavilion, was opened on the 20th December 2003.
- Members of the Pavilion Building Committee were:-

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

Thanks were given to these Committee Members for all their work on the project.

- The project was supported financially by Sport England Lottery Fund by the grant award of £246,025.
- The Parish Council contributed up to £100,000.
- Winchester City Council's Open Spaces Fund contributed £10,000.
- The Sports Club contributed £20,000
- Hampshire Playing Fields Association contributed £1,800
- Local fundraising and donations contributed £22,500.
- Councillor Nick Campbell-White has now assumed the responsibility for ensuring that all the items on the remaining "snagging list" are attended to.
- The Clerk, Mike Langford, continues to oversee the financial side of the project.
- Gratitude was expressed for the work put into the project by Gordon de la Mare, Secretary of the Sports Club, and for his ongoing involvement in managing this new facility.
- Three remaining tasks are outstanding, these are:-
 - Demolition and clearance of the old Pavilion.
 - Use the remainder of the funds for the planting of shrubs and trees.
 - Purchase and install "toilet roll holders", something that was overlooked in the planning stage.
- The New Pavilion Building Committee has now been disbanded and the Jubilee Pavilion has been handed over to the Residents of Compton and Shawford.

Questions:-

There were no questions arising.

Report from the Rector – Revd. Paul Baird

The Rector, Revd. Paul Baird, said a few words as follows:-

- He thanked the Community for the warm welcome he had received on coming to the Parish.
- He had been impressed by the warmth and involvement of the Community in the various activities being undertaken within the Community.
- The "Church" is another group within the Community.
- The "Church" as a group, is available to anybody within the boundaries of the Parish, not just to members of the "Church".
- The physical building of the church is to be enhanced/improved in the foreseeable future for the benefit of the Community.

- It is perceived to be Paul Baird's mission to work together with the Community for the benefit of the Community.

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

Mr. John Boundy Q. – In the forthcoming Parish Council Elections, do Parishioners have the opportunity to vote for 9 Councillors?
A. – The Chairman outlined the procedures for the Elections and confirmed that voters are able to vote for up to 9 Parish Councillors.

Mr. Mark Heaton Q. – In respect of making complaints in connection with Aircraft Noise, what is the telephone number that residents should telephone?
A. – Telephone number 0870 040 009 then select option 6.

There being no further questions, the Chairman, Councillor George Beckett, thanked everybody for attending and closed the meeting at 10-05 pm.