

COMPTON and SHAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th APRIL 2005
IN SHAWFORD PARISH HALL COMMENCING 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr.Mr. G.Beckett. (Chairman), Cllr. Mrs. P.Caffyn, Cllr. Mr. J.Dolphin, Cllr.Mr. N.Campbell-White, Cllr.Mrs. J.Millar, Cllr. Mrs. M.Shaw, Cllr.Mr. T.Threfall, Cllr.Mr. A.Walmsley,

In Attendance: Mrs. P.Edwards – City of Winchester Trust
Mr. J. Humberstone – City of Winchester Trust
District Councillor Murray Macmillan
County Councillor Ann Bailey
Police Constable Mark Smith
Woman Police Constable Karen Good
45 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.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from:

Mr. Tim & Mrs Gill Coleman	Nancy Emerson
Alan Russell	Robin Tice
Jenny Walmsley	Bill Millar

2. Keynote Speaker – Jim Humberstone/Pat Edwards – Bushfield Camp and its future.

Mrs. Pat Edwards and Mr. Jim Humberstone gave the following presentation concerning the future of Bushfield Camp.

BUSHFIELD CAMP: The Case for National Trust Intervention

The planning history of this site will be familiar to both residents of Winchester and its hinterland and those who take a keen interest in the conservation of the historic city's fabric and its spectacular setting. In essence the issue is that of development or preservation and retention of open downland countryside or put to put it more succinctly scenery and amenity versus sport.

The principal grounds for resisting the current proposals were set out in the evidence submitted by the City of Winchester Trust at the Winchester Local Plan Review Enquiry last year.

Sumarised, the objections of the Trust are as follows:

a) Development of any kind on any part of the Bushfield Camp site would represent an unacceptable extension of the built-up part of Winchester into open countryside. The vulnerability of this part of the southern margins of the city has been recognised over the years by its classification as a strategic gap. This principle should be upheld.

b) The Local Authority has somehow created the impression that provision of sports and recreation facilities at Bushfield can be low key in character with limited impact on the area. The Trust's view is the very opposite. It believes any activities of the kind supported by the City will be bound to generate obtrusive elements. The need for vehicular access, car-parking provision, changing facilities and lighting requirements, presupposes the erection of buildings and structures that will alter the intrinsic character of the site. The changes will be irreversible and visible from the other side of the valley with particular impact on the backdrop' and setting of the Hospital of St. Cross.

c) The Trust believes the site of Bushfield Camp forms an indivisible part of a section of river valley that in scenic and historic landscape terms has very few equals in Britain. The importance of the Upper Itchen Valley in this respect has been undervalued by the Planning Authority. This is despite clear evidence to this effect contained in a number of Reports both by consultants and an in-house team. The Planning

Authority appears to wish to proceed with proposals that will permanently erode the scenic quality and landscape character of this very special place.

d) In addition to its contribution to the historic city setting the site has great importance in archaeological and ecological terms. It must be seen to form part of a continuum with its neighbour hillsides and the valley floor, which contain Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Sites of Special Scientific Interest. There are historic features, archaeological sites and the presence of important insect species on the site at Bushfield. . Archaeological, Historic and Nature Conservation interests are therefore under threat from the proposals contained in the Local Plan.

In conclusion the above summary represents a brief background to the decision taken by the Trust to approach the National Trust to acquire the Bushfield Camp site. It is the Trust's belief that such a move would be wholly within the remit of the national organisation. It accords in our view with a major part of the historic mission of the National Trust, which is to save threatened areas of open countryside for the benefit of the public and future generations.

The concern expressed by local communities over the future of the Bushfield Camp site has been an important factor in influencing our decision. It underwrites our conviction that an appeal to the National Trust is the right action to take, given the circumstances.

Questions were invited.

Cllr Adrian Walmsley:- The presentation centred upon half of the total river valley, do the same arguments apply to the St. Cross area?

Answer:- Yes, the setting of the Historic Buildings in that area is just as important and therefore the whole valley is important. Unfortunately, planning does not look at the whole, only the specific parts. The Trust is endeavouring to obtain Heritage Status for the whole valley, which needs protection.

Mr. Barry Nicholson:- The Church Commissioners own part of Bushfield Camp, what is their view?

Answer:- The Church Commissioners, being commercial Landowners, are keen to maximize their asset values and therefore are keen to build houses and develop the site.

Mrs. C. Bailey:- If Recreation Facilities are not to be developed upon the Bushfield Camp site, where should such potential facilities be located?

Answer:- St. Georges at Bar End has considerable scope for being extended. Additionally, many of the School Playing Fields in the Area are underutilised.

District Cllr. M.Macmillan:- Hampshire County Council are Part owner of the Bushfield Camp site, has the question of establishing a Covenant on the land been raised with them?

Answer:- City of Winchester Trust are hoping to discuss with Hampshire County Council all of these issues.

The Chairman, Cllr. George Beckett, thanked Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Humberstone for their informative presentation.

3. Approval of minutes of the 2004 Annual Parish Assembly.

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly, held on the 28th April 2004, having been previously made available, were approved following a proposal by Cllr. Adrian Walmsley, seconded by Mr. Barry Nicholson - vote unanimous.

4. Matters arising on those Minutes.

There were no matters arising from those Minutes.

5. Adoption of Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2003/2004.

Cllr. Nick Campbell-White undertook an outline review of the "Audited Accounts for the Year 2003/2004", copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting. These accounts had been Audited by both the Internal Auditor and the External Auditor and Cllr. Campbell-White called for their adoption. Adoption was proposed by Mr. John Griffith, seconded by Mr. Skipper and the vote was Unanimous.

6. Unaudited Accounts for Financial Year 2004/2005.

Cllr. Nick Campbell-White undertook an outline review of the "Un-Audited Accounts for the Year 2004/2005", copies of which were circulated prior to the meeting. Apart from the variances when compared with the previous year, Cllr. Campbell-White pointed out that approximately half of the annual precept is consumed by Administration costs. Whilst the Bank Balances appear healthy, it was pointed out that the "Retention Monies" had yet to be paid to the Builder of the Jubilee Pavilion once all of the outstanding "snagging issues" had been resolved. This, together with other lesser commitments, will result in a much lower deposit income being received in the future.

There were no questions arising.

7. Chairman's report on the last year.

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

I am able to report a year of steady progress and consolidation. The Council has met each month except August, and meetings have without exception been good humoured and businesslike, with members reporting on their areas of responsibility and bringing forward proposals for action. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow members for their co-operation, support and wise counsel during the last three years.

In April 2004 the Council considered a request from a parishioner for street lighting to be installed in a residential road in Shawford. After some deliberation, members felt that the rural ambiance would be to some degree spoilt by street lighting, and unless a compelling case was made on road safety grounds this development should be resisted. This position was taken before any cost or feasibility considerations were made.

The matter of aircraft noise and our representations to the Airport management and Eastleigh Borough Council has been a recurring feature in the last year, and will require the attention of this Parish Council and residents for years to come. I would like to record my thanks to Mr. Robin Tice and Mr. John Bevan for their valuable advice on this matter, and further to Cllr Murray McMillan for the representations he has made on our behalf.

Throughout the year the 'shakedown' of the new Jubilee Pavilion has been ongoing, with our tenants, Compton and Shawford Sports Club reporting various teething troubles, and the building contractors, Wilding Butler, responding well to our requests for corrections to defects. The 'snagging list' is now down to a handful of items, and I'm sure these can be dealt with shortly, and the balance of construction monies held by us under the contract can then be paid. Recognition must be given to Cllr Nick Campbell-White for the significant time and expertise he employed helping with this sometimes complicated matter. The issue of additional car parking at the pavilion has had to be addressed; the Council is aware of how unpopular it would be if there were to be significant regular car parking on the edge of the field on busy weekend. Following an advertised public meeting the Council have agreed to extend car parking provision at the pavilion, on the lines suggested as necessary by the Sports Club, with the work taking place as funds permit.

Members of the public will have noticed that the old pavilion was demolished and removed in June. Subsequently the land was leased to the Tennis Club as had been agreed, and has since been available for construction of their third court.

Planning, and our representations to Winchester City Council as the local Planning Authority, has occupied much of the time and energy of your Parish Council during the past year. We strive to take a consistent approach, supporting those proposals that represent reasonable in-filling and developments in

keeping with their locality, whilst vigorously opposing applications for high density developments which will attract significant increases in traffic or are visually out of keeping with their surroundings: Unfortunately our view of these matters is not that of the planning authority, and our results in influencing these issues have been mixed. However, there have been some successes in moderating proposals, our efforts continue and our expertise grows. I am grateful to other village organisations who have co-operated with the Council in their efforts; we have consequently been able to present a united position in many cases. It is most unfortunate that in the current climate we find ourselves having to fight our planning authority as well as developers, but there is no doubt that the planning department know that they will not get an easy ride when presenting unsuitable proposals in Compton and Shawford, and a number of moderated proposals have already been approved.

It was interesting to hear at a public meeting in the scout hut recently of the curious attitude of the authority to the Compton Street conservation area. It seems we will have to watch very closely developments in this area.

The Open Spaces Fund is administered by Winchester City Council on our behalf, and contributions are collected from developers and held to our account. In the past the fund has been used to purchase play equipment, playground fencing, and a significant sum towards the Jubilee Pavilion. The Parish Council now feel that, as a rule, it would be wise not to use these windfalls for the provision of devaluing facilities, but allow the fund to grow so we can acquire a significant asset (probably recreation land within the parish) for the permanent benefit of future generations, just as our predecessors did with the Parish Hall and Memorial playing fields. These plans are in their early stages, and by no means finalised, public input would be appreciated.

The Council has continued to monitor footpaths, report fallen trees and other work to the necessary authorities. Information from members of the public to the Council Chairman or Clerk are always helpful in these matters. We look forward to the experiment involving cattle on Shawford Down, and trust walkers will not be unduly inconvenienced by the limited fencing.

I would like to record the thanks of the whole council to Mike Langford, the Parish Clerk, for his hard work and patience through the last year. It is not easy in these days of bureaucratic interference in the smallest organisation loading up the paperwork, and the inherent difficulty in working with part-time volunteer members who have other demands on their time.

Cllr. Beckett concluded his report by thanking his fellow Councillors for their support over the last three years during his period of Chairmanship. At the May 2005 Parish Council meeting, being the Annual Parish Council Meeting, election of officers is to be undertaken. Cllr. Beckett advised the meeting that whilst he would continue to be a Parish Councillor, he would not be standing for the Chairmanship again.

There were no questions arising.

1. Specific questions on the following subjects from members of the public:

- a) **Planning.**
- b) **Playing Fields**
- c) **Highways, Byways, Environment and M3.**
- d) **Footpaths Representative and Tree Warden.**
- e) **Finance and Administration.**
- f) **Jubilee Pavilion**

Mr. John Boundy:- It was understood that there had been a meeting with the owners of the "Walcon Yard" in Shawford regarding the possible future use of the Yard, what was the outcome?

Answer:- An informal meeting with the owners had been undertaken at which the owners were seeking the Parish Council's views on possible proposals for the yard. It is understood that these proposals consisted of the provision of "lockable" storage containers, being for renting out to whoever needed such storage facilities. It was made clear to the owners, that the Parish Council would require details of the proposals, in writing, before a Parish Council view could be given. General

- discussion revealed that Storage Containers, on a single level, were being considered.
- Mr. John Boundy:- A metalwork fabrication activity is being pursued in a building at the far end of the "Walcon Yard" site, this is in contravention of the existing planning permission for the yard. What is being done about this?
- Answer:- Any contravention of Planning Permissions will be pursued by the Parish Council once the Planning Application informally discussed has been lodged with Winchester City Council.
- Mr. Mike Matthews:- The "Pink Tubes" that were placed around the young trees for their protection by at the time of construction of the M3 motorway, still are in place. When will they be removed?
- Answer:- It was commented that this was the 5th year that this matter had been raised. The Parish Council will undertake to raise the matter with the Department of Transport who originally installed the Pink Tubes.
- Mrs. C.Sorsbie:- Some trees had fallen across the Itchen Navigation and had not been removed. Whose responsibility is it to remove such trees?
- Answer:- The responsibility lies with the Landowner upon whose land the tree was growing. However, some contended that the Environment Agency is responsible for the area up to fifteen feet from the banks of the Navigation. Unfortunately, the Environment Agency is reluctant to take any action on these matters.

9. Report on the Parish Hall from Mr John Griffith, Chairman CASCA.

Mr. John Griffith, who had only taken on the role of Chairman of CASCA at the beginning of the year, briefly advised the meeting that CASCA are doing well. The accounts for the financial year 2004 – 2005 are currently being prepared. The state of the accounts is said to be "healthy".

Questions were invited.

- Mr. Mark Hegan:- When the Parish Hall is in full use, parking in the roads in the centre of Shawford is causing a problem. Can anything be done about this?
- Answer:- The Parking problem is appreciated. Letters have been sent out to all Parish Hall users requesting that Car Parking be done with consideration to other users. The Parish Council recognises this problem and has initiated an approach to the Rail Station authorities with a view to improving car-parking facilities at the Station. The increased use of Shawford Station is a contributing factor in this problem. It was accepted that the whole problem needs reviewing and any suggestions from the Residents Association would be welcomed.

10. Police Report – Police Sergeant Wayne Curson, Police Constable Mark Smith.

Police Constable Mark Smith and Woman Police Constable Karen Good reported on Crime within the Parish over the previous twelve months. During the previous year there had been 45 crimes compared to only 38 crimes committed during the year under review. These were as follows:-

- House burglary – 0
- Assaults – 5
- Theft – 9
- Theft from vehicles – 12
- Criminal Damage – 8
- Minor offences – 4

In general, the crime rate in the Parish was considered to be very low.

With regard to the change of policing in the Parish to "Sector Policing", PC Mark Smith advised that there were now three Police Constables looking after the Parish, providing cover 17hours per day, seven days per week. Cover outside these hours is provided out of Winchester.

There were no questions arising.

11. School Governor's Report – Report by Councillor Mr. Jeremy Dolphin.

Cllr. Jeremy Dolphin's report is as follows:-

I was nominated by the Parish Council as a Sponsor Governor and took up this position at the end of 2004 – I am therefore still very much a new boy at the school!

It is an interesting and challenging time to be joining the Governing Body.

Shortly before attending my second Governors' meeting we were greeted with the news that Gerry Sollom, the headteacher of the school had decided to retire one year early and will be leaving at the end of August this year. Gerry Sollom has worked at Compton School for 16 years and in this time has achieved many great successes. She will be a hard act to follow and the Governors are sorry to see her going. Nevertheless, the process of recruiting her successor is in hand and the Governors hope to be interviewing potential candidates later next month with the view to ensuring that a successor is in place for the Autumn 2005 term.

Academically the school achieved its best results in 2004 since Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) were introduced. The End of Key Stage 2 Assessment results were exceptional with the whole group outperforming the targets set. It should be noted that this particular group has consistently produced good results in their time at the school and it will be challenging to maintain this very high level in the future. This success has also been recognised in the national press who have ranked the school in first place for primary schools in Hampshire and third nationally.

The school remains very popular against a background of falling demographic numbers of new pupils generally in schools. Total number of pupils at the school is currently 116 and there were a record 47 applications received for reception places for 2005.

There is also an ongoing programme of updating and improving the facilities of the school. As some of you will have seen, the school entrance has recently been moved to improve the sight line and safe access for children entering and leaving the school. A very impressive new gazebo has also been built in the school grounds on the site of the old pond with support from the Compton School Association and this new area will be dedicated to the memory of Martha Bickley, a former pupil at the school. Finally there are also plans in hand for the extension to Class 4 to improve the facilities of what is now the oldest remaining classroom in the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to the rest of the Governors for their support in welcoming me on to the Governing Body and also for the work of Gerry Sollom and her staff, supported by the Governing Body and the Compton School Association in making the school so successful.

Questions were invited.

Mr. Caldwell:- Car Parking in Compton Street just opposite, especially at the start and end of the School day, continues to be a problem. Is there anything that the Parish Council can do about this problem?

Answer:- It is recognised by the Parish Council that this is a continuing problem. However, there is no obvious solution that can be implemented. It is understood that the Highways Agency is looking at the road lining issues, which may go some way to alleviate some of the problem. To encourage more "walking to School" does not help in that walking from Shawford across the main road is considered a most dangerous and difficult proposition.

12. Report from the Rector – Rev. Paul Baird

The Rector was not in attendance and had not submitted a report.

13. General Comments, Observations and Questions from members of the Public relating to any aspect of village administration – current or future.

Q. – Mr. John Boundy:- The state of Shawford Down is becoming unacceptable. The undergrowth and grass needs cutting, is the Parish Council addressing this issue?

Answer:- Proposals concerning the grazing of Highland Cattle on the Down are still being pursued by the Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council. Unfortunately, due to changes in procedures imposed by DEFRA, progress on obtaining the necessary grants to undertake the required fencing, are being delayed. In the meantime, the Parish Council will raise the matter with the Countryside Service with a view to obtain a temporary solution.

Q.- Mr. Anthony Duguid:- The Bishops Drain is not flowing and what water there is in it is stagnant. Can

anything be done about this by the Parish Council?

Answer:-

The problem of the Bishops Drain is the lack of water. Responsibility for the maintenance of the Bishops Drain lies with the householders through whose land the drain passes. There is no Public Body who is responsible. If the local Residents Association can determine a suitable solution to this recurring problem, the Parish Council will look at the matter again. Whilst the Environment Agency has reported on the subject, they are not in a position to undertake any action.

Q.- Mrs. Penny Neyroud:- The road signs on the main road indicating Compton Street and Place Lane are not compatible when traveling Northwards as opposed to Southwards along the Main Road. Can this be rectified?

Answer:-

The Chairman, in his capacity as District Councillor, will take the matter up with the appropriate department at Winchester City Council.

Q.- Mr. John Boundy:- The footpath along the Canal Bank at Shawford is "falling" away, can this be repaired?

Answer:-

This issue is the responsibility of the Department of the Environment and the Parish Council will report the matter to them.

There being no further questions, the Chairman, Cllr. George Beckett, wished it to be placed on record the thanks of the Parish Council and Parishioners to Mr. Frank Smith, the Caretaker of the Parish Hall for all his work in maintaining the good state of the Hall.

Mr. Mike Matthews expressed the thanks of the whole Parish to the Chairman, Cllr. George Beckett, for his work on behalf of the Parish during his three-year term as Chairman of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9-10pm.