

COMPTON and SHAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th APRIL 2006
IN SHAWFORD PARISH HALL COMMENCING 7.30pm.

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

In Attendance: County Councillor Charlotte Bailey
Police Constable Traynor
44 members of the Public.

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman Cllr. A.Walmsley welcomed everybody to the meeting. As an experiment, Cllr. A.Walmsley advised the meeting that the Parish Councillors would be sitting in the body of the audience as opposed to sitting at a "top table", this to create a more informal atmosphere for the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. Mrs. M.Shaw,	District Councillor Murray Macmillan
Richard and Maria Skipper	Eric and Joan Caldwell
Charles de Haes	Peter and Wendy Ashcroft
Valerie Roberts	John and Liz Boundy
Bill Millar	Barry Nicholson
Police Inspector Shaun Moore.	

2. Approval of Minutes of the 2005 Annual Parish Assembly.

The Chairman advised the meeting that copies of the Minutes of the 2005 Annual Parish Assembly had been available on request from the Clerk and 6 copies were available on the desk should anybody wish to have a copy. There were no requests for copies of these minutes.

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Assembly, held on the 27th April 2005, having been previously made available, were approved following a proposal by Mr. Ian Gray, seconded by Mr. Barton-Briddon - vote unanimous.

3. Matters Arising on those Minutes.

There were no matters arising.

4. Adoption of Audited Accounts for Financial Year 2005/2006.

The Audited Accounts for the financial year 2005/2006 were distributed to attendees of the meeting. Councillor Nick Campbell-White made the following brief comments about these accounts:-

- These Accounts had been Audited by both the Internal Auditor as well as the external Auditor and therefore a subject of historical record.
- It is a legislative requirement that such accounts be formally adopted by the Annual Parish Assembly.
- The major variances over the preceding year was the Playing Field income which received some £9,500 from the Open Space Fund and the Playing Field expenditure which was for the purchase of additional Children's Play Equipment in the Compton Street Play Area.
- All other areas of Income and Expenditure were comparable with the preceding year.

There were no further comments made or questions raised.

Adoption of the Audited Accounts for the financial year 2005/2006 was proposed by Mr. John Griffith, seconded by Mr. David Jones and the vote was Unanimous.

5. Unaudited Accounts for the Financial Year 2005/2006.

The "Income and Expenditure" together with "Balance Sheet" elements of the Accounts for the Financial Year 2005/2006 were distributed to attendees of the meeting. These accounts were in the process of preparation for both the Internal Audit as well as the External Audit. Councillor Nick Campbell-White made the following brief comments about these accounts:-

- The Highways and Byways income is shown as a deficit. This was because the Annual Precept, which contains an element of Highways and Byways income, is always shown as a separate item. Consequently, when certain funds which had been voted upon for specific projects to be undertaken by Highways and Byways, were not spent due to delays in the project and those monies taken out of the accounts to Sundry Creditors to be brought back in during the subsequent financial year, the Income falls into deficit for this year.
- The Playing Field Income received £5,000 from the Open Space Fund.
- The New Pavilion accounts received £2,000 and £6,000 which were monies brought forward from the previous year.
- The major expenditure for the Playing Fields was the Purchase and Installation of the Cricket Nets at the Memorial Playing Field, the cost of which was met from the Open Space Fund.
- The major expenditure of £17,403 under the New Pavilion was primarily payment of the Retention Monies to the Builder on completion of construction together with extension of the Jubilee Pavilion Car Park.
- The above, together with £12,000 taken out of the Accounts and put to Sundry Creditors for previously voted upon specific projects, resulted in an overall deficit for the year of £3,217.
- With the final payment to the Builder for the Jubilee Pavilion, it was always expected to run into deficit, such final payments coming out of reserves.
- The total value of Parish Council Assets is approximately £814,000 and a General Fund of approximately £28,000 to support this is not thought to be excessive.
- The expenditure on General Administration and Finance is the cost of running the Parish Council. These two element amount to approximately 48% of the Annual Precept and could be considered high. This raises the question as to whether the Parish wants a Parish Council when the administration cost is such a large part of the precept.

It was pointed out by the Chairman, Councillor A. Walmsley, that the cost of the Parish Council to a "Band D" household is £34.54 per annum, some 3% of the total tax bill. Elimination of the Parish Council will significantly reduce services and make very little difference, if any, to the overall tax bill to each household.

(Question) – Mr. Mark Hegan.

What are the projects for which £12,000 has been taken out of the Accounts and placed to Sundry Creditors?

(Answer) – Councillor Nick Campbell-White.

The following is a list of the Projects for which £12,000 has been taken out of the 2005/2006 Accounts and placed to Sundry Creditors, to be brought back into the 2006/2007 Accounts:-

- £3,000 – Landscaping around the Jubilee Pavilion.
- £1,400 – Landscaping around the third Tennis Court on Memorial Playing Field.
- £2,800 – Refurbishment of the Victorian Jubilee Memorial.
- £2,800 – Crown Lifting of trees and Scrub Clearance on the Memorial Playing Field.
- £500 – Repairs to a leaking water pipe feeding the Cricket Square, Memorial Playing Field.
- £1,500 – Grant received from DEFRA for the production of a Parish Plan.

There were no further comments made or questions raised.

6. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman, Councillor Adrian Walmsley, reported as follows:-

"It's fashionable for politicians to flaunt their green credentials these days. So I'm pleased to say that the parish council has implemented its own recycling policy. We've been recycling used chairs. After George Beckett's second three year stint, I was re-elected chairman in May 2005. That makes it 5 out of the past 11 years that I've been in the chair.

While that is nothing compared to Chris Corcoran's reign at Twyford, or Geoff Sharman's 20 years and counting at Oliver's Battery, I think it's healthy to have a new face at the helm from time to time. So I'd be pleased if we elect a new chairman at the annual parish council meeting next week.

It was 10 years ago yesterday that I gave my first annual report as chairman.

If I was a backward looking kind of person, I might remind you that this time in 1996, we had just purchased a computer for our clerk, we had established a parish website and although the M3 had been open for fifteen months, it would be another 6 months before the purchase of the "return land" next to the playing field was completed.

I might also remind you that, back then, we were planning two weeks of celebrations to mark the centenary of this Parish Hall. The celebrations would feature

- exhibitions, parties and quizzes,
- a Simon Theobalds pantomime (complete with Di Threlfall as the principal boy, Simon Jones as the Fairy Stockbroker, and a special mention in Bob Emmerson's write-up for the elegant pair of legs shown by Simon North)
- an old time Music Hall evening, whose many highlights included the Horticultural Society's scary story about "The Vegetable Plot".

We were also just about to look into a suggestion to purchase the former Booking Office at Shawford Station as a Parish Office and information point.

You probably won't be too surprised to hear that, this time in 1996,

- People were worried about car parking in Compton Street near the school, and
- Nick Campbell-White was bemoaning the Hall's annual losses of £3.5k.

It would take a referendum and two and a half more years before we could finally bank the proceeds of the sale of the adjoining land and start on the Parish Hall refurbishment.

But we're not here to talk about ancient history. So what has happened in the last 12 months?

- We've made huge progress on the upkeep of Shawford Down,
- the rail services have improved, including a recently added 16:53 service from Winchester, thanks to lobbying by the Shawford Rail Users' Group (SRUG),
- and the Bluestar No 1 bus now runs four times an hour along the main road.

We held a meeting with the chairs of the Residents' Associations to discuss the idea of a Parish Plan. Everyone thought it was helpful to get the different parts of the parish talking together, so we may all meet again when other important issues come up.

Both schools in the parish are very well regarded and continue to improve on their own already high standards.

Our new priest, Paul Baird, sadly on leave of absence at present, has been doing a fine job, with his committee, of driving the Church Centenary project, which included looking into aspects of social exclusion - arguably a topic this Parish Council should be concerned with.

We have had a largely favourable press from the Hampshire Chronicle, as you can see from the cuttings on the boards. A year ago, however, the Chronicle told us that they could no longer promise to print our parish council reports in full. We decided then to stop sending them our reports at all. But a number of you have told us you miss the reports in the paper, so we will revisit that decision at our meeting next Tuesday.

CASCA continues to thrive and the Sports Club's finances are much healthier, largely thanks to improved bar takings in the new pavilion. Incidentally, although for insurance reasons and to conform to the licensing regulations, use of the pavilion is for members only, anyone in the parish who would like to use its facilities would be welcome to join one of the sports sections as a playing or a non-playing member.

The Parish Council has given the Sports Club a nominal rent for the first five years of the new pavilion while they recover from the lean years in the old building. But our aim, when their lease is reviewed, is

to move towards a cost-neutral position, so that the running costs of the field are borne by its main users and the burden on the council tax payer is reduced.

Which brings me on to the question of finances.

- What does the Parish Council cost?
- Are you getting value for money?
- And what are the alternatives?

Nick has spoken about the increasing proportion of our budget which goes on admin, due in large part to the stream of new rules and regulations coming from central government.

What does the Parish Council actually cost? For the benchmark "Band D" property owner, £34.54 of your Council Tax comes to the Parish Council, which is about 3% of the total bill. Or, in round terms, enough to buy a pint of beer at the Bridge every four weeks, To share with your whole household. If you fell into the top council tax band, you'd be paying twice that. So the Parish Council would be costing you a pint of beer a fortnight – shared between your whole household. If we weren't here, you might be able to reduce your council tax bill by a small amount. But then you'd have to trust the City Council to look after the parish's interests. On the other hand, if you thought the Parish Council should be doing more, we could double our precept and you'd hardly notice the difference in your overall council tax bill. Of course there has never been an easy way to know what else you would like us to do, but the Parish Plan, which Michael Widén will talk about, gives us a way to find out.

One thing is sure – without people willing to serve as Parish Councillors, there couldn't be a Parish Council. Several of the current councillors, who have given sterling support over the years, are planning to stand down at the next elections, in 2008. Please give some thought to standing yourself. It's one of the rewarding ways you can do something for the community.

Nick's going to think I'm picking on him, but I'd like to bring you back to his comment about the stream of directives from central government. Many of the new regulations are, I agree, frankly inappropriate for a council our size. But some could be relevant. One government initiative which we need to keep on our radar is the Quality Parish Council scheme. We already meet most of the requirements for Quality status, such as producing an annual report, and publishing our minutes and accounts in a timely fashion. Up to now we haven't seen a need to jump through the final hoops to achieve formal Quality status. But this may change. A recent review by NALC, the National Association of Local Councils, highlighted the need to make the Quality scheme more attractive to smaller councils, through financial and other incentives. If this happens, we will reassess our position.

So what are the priorities for the next twelve months? Firstly, playing facilities. Whenever Winchester City Council reviews the recreational facilities in the area, they highlight the lack of a children's play area in Shawford. We would like to do something about this, if a suitable site can be found, and Mary Shaw is talking to some of the families with children about the options.

Our other priorities are the three Ps:

- Planning
- Park and Ride and the
- Parish Plan

Planning - Can seem so complex it sometimes feels like wrestling in mud. As soon as you think you have a grip on the problem, it slips out of your hands.

- Guidance from central government keeps changing.
- Decisions from the local planning authority have been inconsistent, to put it mildly.
- And later this year the new Local Development Framework will come into effect.

We are lucky to have had Jeremy Dolphin to apply his forensic intelligence as chair of our planning committee.

Three of us attended a planning seminar recently. We had a few Vicar of Dibley moments watching representatives of other parish councils struggle with the complexities.

We recognise the right of property owners, and the duty of executors, to try to realise the maximum value of their assets.

But it is our duty to do what we can to make sure that developments are in character and do not overburden the local infrastructure.

We were disappointed that such a high density development was recently permitted in Highways Road, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that the Longacre site will be developed with just two dwellings, in line with the latest permissions.

Steve Opacic, Head of Strategic Planning at the City Council, tells me that the Compton Down Local Area Design Statement should be available for comment shortly and he expects that we will find it sympathetic.

Park and Ride - We were contacted back in November by an employee of the County Council promising a meeting to discuss the proposed Park and Ride. But the invitation was swiftly retracted. We got the impression that he was censured by his superiors for talking to us prematurely. We were eventually invited to a briefing at the beginning of this month, which confirmed our fears that the County Council had already ruled out all possible sites except Bushfield Farm. They were promising public exhibitions of their plans in late May.

Helped by our District and County Councillors, we made it very clear to them that they needed to do an equally detailed study of alternatives, particularly the Tarmac site, before the public exhibitions. Judging by the number of yellow jacketed people wandering about the Tarmac site, they have taken our message on board.

When do you think we first asked them to evaluate the former Tarmac compound for park and ride? We floated the idea in February 1995, in response to the Bushfield Camp study, and we wrote and asked again in April 1996.

When we see what they come up with at the public exhibition next month, we will get together with the residents' associations and decide what action to take.

Parish Plan - The third "P" is the Parish Plan. We are very enthusiastic about this and I look forward to hearing what Michael will tell us later tonight.

And finally a big vote of thanks to our clerk, Mike Langford, to my fellow councillors, to CASCA and Frank Smith for making the hall available, to Joan Olson and the WI for tonight's refreshments, and to all the others of you, too many to mention, who oil the wheels of the village by helping run the clubs and societies which flourish here."

There were no questions arising.

7. School Governor's Report: Councillor Jeremy Dolphin.

The Parish Council Representative on the Board of School Governors, Councillor Jeremy Dolphin, reported as follows:-

"I am pleased to report that the Compton All Saints Primary School has had yet another successful year!

The school has a new head, Lindsay McCarthy, who took up her position in September following the retirement of Gerry Sollom. Lindsay appears to have settled in well into her new environment - her enthusiasm and capacity for work has to be seen to be believed!

Lindsay received a baptism of fire in her introduction to her new role when the school was subjected to one of the new "short notice" OFSTED inspections in November 2005. The staff and governors rallied around to provide support to Lindsay and I am pleased to be able to report that the school was rewarded for its efforts by the Inspector awarding outstanding grades in 4 out of the 5 assessment categories and a good grade in the 5th, This inspection was followed by the Church Inspection where initial indicators are that the Inspectors have judged the school as good in each of the four key areas assessed.

This year has also seen the completion of the last part of the building works (for the time being) on the main school building with the completion of the extension and improvements to Class 4. This was the oldest of the classrooms and now provides for a much improved environment and facilities for staff and pupils.

The issue of parking and congestion in Compton Street at the start and end of school remains a difficult problem to resolve. The school has been experimenting with cones to try to alleviate the impacts as much as possible and ensure the safety of children. Yellow lines are also being considered for the affected part of Compton Street. The school entrance for pupils has been moved to improve safety for children entering and leaving the school and a further gate is planned for access at the junction of Otterbourne Road and Compton Street to address safety concerns. A School Travel Plan is also under development. However, it is practical reality that parents will continue to use cars for transporting their children to and from school and there appears to be no short term solution to the problems that this creates.

The school remains a popular school and is in demand by parents. During the Spring term there were 122 pupils on roll with 9 pupils on the waiting list for places. All 17 available places for the September term had been taken up.

I am happy to take any questions from Parishioners on matters relating to the school.”

There were no Questions raised.

8 Police Report.

Police Inspector Shaun Moore was unable to attend the meeting, accordingly Police Constable Traynor was delegated to attend in his absence.

PC Traynor briefly outlined the results of the recent Police re-organisation which has essentially resulted in two aspects of Police Boundaries, Winchester City Boundary and the Rural Area Boundary. Compton and Shawford falls within the Rural Area Boundary which spreads from Bishops Waltham to Denmead to Whiteley, some 540 square miles. This operational area is up for review in a couple of months' time.

During the last twelve months the following crimes have occurred in the Parish of Compton and Shawford:-

- 1 Dwelling burglary.
- 5 Non dwelling burglaries.
- 5 Criminal damage incidents.
- 1 Incident of tampering with a motor vehicle.
- 4 Thefts from motor vehicles.
- 6 Thefts
- 3 Thefts of cycles.

Incidents of Domestic Disputes are excluded from the above figures. Essentially, the rate of crime within the Parish is considered low. The ongoing issue of cars parking in Shawford Road opposite the Bridge Hotel continues to be looked at.

(Question) – Mr John Griffith.

In view of the re-organisation of the Police, what is the situation with regard to Twyford Police Station?

(Answer) PC Traynor.

The Police Station at Twyford continues to operate with a Police Sergeant and three Constables. It is proposed to increase this manpower in due course.

(Question) – Trudie Hill.

With such a large area to cover under the new re-organisation, what are the anticipated response times for emergency calls to the Police?

(Answer) PC Traynor.

All calls to the police are graded – 1 = emergency, 2 = non urgent. All emergency calls are responded to by the dispatch of a police car from Winchester, Bishops Waltham or even Eastleigh, depending upon what is happening at the time. A definitive time of a response cannot be specified, it very much depends on what is happening at the time.

The Chairman, Councillor Adrian Walmsley, thanked PC Traynor for attending the meeting at such short notice.

9 and 10 - Questions, Comments and Observations.

(Question) – Mrs. Jane Hazlett.

There has been a proliferation of sign boards for The Malms apartments for sale erected by Bryant Homes on land adjacent to Shawford Down. The land belongs to Hampshire County Council, therefore does Hampshire County Council benefit from these signs and how long are they going to be disfiguring the Down?

(Answer) – Councillor Patricia Caffyn – Councillor Jeremy Dolphin.

This is a complicated matter. If the signs are on land owned by the Countryside Service, Hampshire County Council, then an application must be made to them by Bryant Homes. The Highways Agency own a strip of Land adjacent to the road, consequently Bryant Homes would have to make an application to them if the sign board is to be erected on that Land.

Councillor Jeremy Dolphin added that any such Sign Board that is erected is the subject of Planning Permission and is usually only allowable for a period of twelve months.

(Question) – Penny Neyroud.

The demolition and re-development of a property in Compton Street has caused an unsightly solid white fence to be erected around the development site. This is considered to be a significant eyesore, especially in a "Conservation Area", can the Parish Council do anything about it to make it less obtrusive?

(Answer) – Councillor George Beckett.

In his capacity as District Councillor, Councillor George Beckett will investigate the matter and report back in two weeks.

(Question) – Trudie Hill.

With the current proposals to refurbish the Victorian Jubilee Memorial, are there any documented plans of the scheme which can be viewed?

(Answer) – Councillor Patricia Caffyn.

A Landscaping scheme together with details of the refurbished Victorian Jubilee Memorial are currently being drawn up. However, a problem has recently arisen in that it is now uncertain as to who owns the Land upon which the Victorian Jubilee Memorial is located. Once this issue is resolved, the plans will be available for inspection.

(Question) – Mr. Mark Hegan.

In respect of the proposed South Winchester Park and Ride facility, which is understood to be planned by Hampshire County Council for locating on the Bushfield Farm site, what representations can be made by Parishioners to get the Authorities to consider alternate sites?

(Answer) – Councillor Adrian Walmsley – District Councillor George Beckett – County Councillor Charlotte Bailey.

A meeting between the affected Parish Councils and Hampshire County Council had been undertaken at which Hampshire County Council's planned location had been challenged. Various correspondence between Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council has brought pressure to bear on Hampshire County Council to seriously review other potential sites for a South Winchester Park and Ride facility, namely the Old Tarmac Site. Consequently, the planned exhibition covering the proposal has now been delayed which will be a precursor to a period of Consultation. It is therefore considered appropriate to wait until the exhibition and Consultation period commences before making any further representations.

11. Keynote Speaker – Mr Michael Widén of St. Mary Bourne Parish Council – Producing a Parish Plan.

The Chairman, Councillor Adrian Walmsley, welcomed to the meeting Mr. Michael Widén of St. Mary Bourne Parish Council, who was to talk on their experiences when producing their Parish Plan.

Mr. Michael Widén gave a presentation of St. Mary Bourne Parish experiences, the main points being as follows:-

- Michael Widén has been involved in St. Mary Bourne Parish Council for a period of some four years.
- During this time, he was involved with the Parish at large in the preparation of a Parish Plan.

- There had been a lot of negative thinking on planning matters and the impact that the Parish had upon the Planning Authorities at District Council level.
- The Government White Paper published in 2000 encouraged the involvement of local government and residents in Planning issues.
- Accordingly, a Parish Plan project was initiated by the Parish Council. This took the form of two parts which ran in parallel:-
 - Parish Plan – which covered the cultural, social and environmental side of issues within the village. This was intended to be a long-term living document which would continuously be under review.
 - Village Design Statement – which covered the planning, development and ongoing character of the village.
- A lot of help was provided by Jo Dixon of Community Action Hampshire.
- A lot of help was provided by dedicated Planning Officers at the District Planning Authority.
- The whole project was not found to be easy.
- It was essential that the project was seen to be Community Led as opposed to being Parish Council led.
- Whilst there were two representatives from the Parish Council sitting on the Steering Committee, the Steering Committee were primarily made up of volunteers from all parts of the Community.
- Previous attempts to document a basic Parish Plan in 1981 had led nowhere.
- The latest attempt to produce a Parish Plan and Village Design Statement was to develop a serious document which would be used by the Planning Authorities, Parish Council, Residents and Developers as a “Bible” covering that which would be acceptable in the life and development of the Village.
- The first step was to establish a Chairman and Steering Committee of 10 people from within the Community.
- Finance was provided by Grants from the Countryside Agency and District Council to a total of £5,500-00 over 18 months.
- Total expenditure at the conclusion of the project was £5,350-00.
- The project was commenced by the compilation of a Questionnaire which was distributed to the Community.
 - Some 700 Questionnaire forms were printed.
 - These Questionnaires were compiled by Age and Sections of the Community.
 - Housing Need surveys undertaken by the District Authority were incorporated.
 - 60% of the questionnaires were returned and the results compiled.
- Some two years into the project, Government Legislation changed which invalidated the work done on the Village Design Statement. The options available were to start again on the Village Design Statement element or to negotiate with the District Authority on its use.
- It was determined that the Village Design Statement element would be split off from the Parish Plan and negotiations with the District Planning Authority undertaken to utilise the document as an “Informal Guidance Document” and/or “Material Consideration Document”.
- In general:-
 - It is important to involve as many of the Community in the preparation of a Parish Plan as is possible. To this end, it was found beneficial to hold several “Open Days” at which members of the Community could give input.
 - It is important to have a close relationship with the District Planning Authority in the preparation of a Village Design Statement.
 - It was considered appropriate to build up to a single document, although due to the change in legislation, the Village Design Statement element had necessarily to be split off for St. Mary Bourne.
 - The Final document must be adopted by the Parish Council and Approved by the District Council, thereby giving it some weight and credibility.

(Question) – Mr. Neville Caffyn.

The sum of £5,500 which St.Mary Bourne received by way of Grants – was this sum adequate to meet all the Costs.

(Answer) – Mr. Michael Widén.

This sum was proved to be ample. The most costly element was the “Copy-Writing” of the completed document which amounted to some £500.

(Question) – Councillor Nick Campbell-White.

How many people and groups of people were involved in producing St.Mary Bourne's Parish Plan and Village Design Statement?

(Answer) – Mr. Michael Widén.

Initially a Chairman and Steering Committee were established, the Steering Committee consisting of ten people, two of whom were Parish Councillors. Subservient to this Steering Committee were several "Focus Groups" who focussed upon various aspects of the Parish Plan/Village Design Statement.

(Question) – Mr. Peter Betts.

Should the Parish Plan document and the Village Design Statement document be produced concurrently or in parallel?

(Answer) – Mr. Michael Widén.

Originally, St. Mary Bourne intended to produce a single document containing the two elements. However, due to the change in Government Legislation, the Village design Statement had to be split out. The Parish Plan element must be adopted by the Parish Council and the Village Design Statement must be adopted by the District Planning Authority as well as the Parish Council.

(Question) – Mrs Jane Hazlett.

In the consultation process within the Community, were there any serious differences of opinion as to what the Community wanted?

(Answer) – Mr. Michael Widén.

The key to avoiding difficult differences of opinion and the impact of such differences upon the outcome of the project is how the Questionnaire is constructed and from that determining a clear majority decision as to what is required. A Majority answer to any issue is essential together with a minimum of two "Open Days" at which members of the Community can express their opinions.

(Question) – Mr. John Griffith.

What direct benefit had accrued to the Parish from having a Parish Plan/Village design Statement established?

(Answer) – Mr. Michael Widén.

The Parish Plan was adopted in St. Mary Bourne a year ago. Within this plan, each topic has an "Action Summary" which is the subject of an ongoing review. By this means, the wishes of the Community as detailed should be satisfied within a two to three year time frame. Subsequent to that period, additional items will be added to the "Action Summary", hence the document becomes a living document detailing the wishes of the Community.

With regard to the Village Design Statement element, it has been use some six times in the evaluation of Planning Applications and their acceptance to the Planning Authorities as well as the Parish Council and Community.

The Chairman, Councillor Adrian Walmsley, thanked Mr. Michael Widén for his presentation and answering the questions raised.

In conclusion, Councillor Adrian Walmsley pointed out that through a Parish Plan, the Community can identify things that can be "fixed" by the Community themselves. The Parish Council has already successfully obtained a £1,500 grant from DEFRA for the Parish Plan Project. However it was emphasised the Parish Plan Project is not to be a Parish Council led project, but a Community Led project. To this end a draft Constitution is available for inspection and Mr Peter Betts has volunteered to Chair the first public meeting to establish a Steering Committee on the 23rd May 2006.

The Chairman thanked all those who attended this Annual Parish Assembly and the meeting closed at 9.05pm.