

COMPTON and SHAWFORD PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25th APRIL 2007
IN SHAWFORD PARISH HALL COMMENCING 7.30pm.

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

In Attendance: County Councillor Charlotte Bailey
Police Inspector Kevin Baxman
Police Sergeant Ally Hibberd
P.S.O. Cooper
District Councillor Keith Wood
45 members of the Public.

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman Cllr. J.Dolphin welcomed everybody to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from:

Cllr. Mrs. M.Shaw,	District Councillor Murray Macmillan
Saskia Marshall	Muriel Wilmshurst
Penny Neyroud	Neil Hargreaves
Ian and Jenny Street.	

1. Approval of Minutes of the 2006 Annual Parish Assembly.

In the list of those "In Attendance" on page 1, County Councillor Ann Bailey was shown as being in attendance and this should have read "County Councillor Charlotte Bailey". There were no other amendments requested.

Agreed:

The Minutes of the 2006 Annual Parish Assembly, as published together with the above mentioned amendment, were a true record of that meeting.

Proposed: Mrs. J.Pitt

Seconded: Mrs. M.Campbell-White.

Vote: Unanimous.

The Chairman duly signed the Minutes of the 2006 Annual Parish Assembly.

2. Matters arising on those Minutes.

There were no Matters arising.

3. Adoption of Audited Accounts for the Financial Year 2005/2006.

The "Audited Accounts" for the financial year 2005 – 2006 were distributed to attendees of the meeting and questions were invited.

It was noted that the income figure for "Playing Fields/Sports Club rent/Tennis Club rent" was down in comparison with the previous year. This was explained in that the figure not only includes the Rents from the Sports Club and Tennis Club, but also includes grants from the Open Space Fund. Such a grant was received to fund the "Cricket Nets" on Memorial Playing Field.

There were no further questions on the Parish Council Accounts for the Financial Year 2005/2006.

Agreed:

The Parish Council Accounts for the Financial Year 2005 – 2006 be adopted as a true record of the Accounts for that year.

Proposed: Mrs J.Walmsley

Seconded: Mr. Bill Millar.

Vote: Unanimous.

4. Unaudited Accounts for Financial Year 2006/2007

The "Un-audited" Parish Council Accounts for the Financial Year 2006 – 2007 (income and expenditure plus Balance Sheet) were distributed for information to attendees of the meeting and questions invited.

Q. – Mr. Richard Trussler.

It was asked how the amount of Interest that had been received from the Parish Council's chosen Bank compared with Interest Rates that could possibly be received from an "Internet Bank".

A. – Cllr. J. Richardson – Convenor Finance and Administration Committee.

It was explained that the rate of interest received was possibly lower than that which could possibly be obtained from an "Internet Bank". However, being public monies, The Parish Council's Accounts had to be held with a recognised and reputable Bank and it would not be acceptable to the Auditors to place these monies with an "Internet Bank" just to obtain a higher rate of Interest.

5. Chairman's report.

6. School Governor's Report: Councillor Mr. Jeremy Dolphin.

Cllr. J. Dolphin, Chairman of Compton and Shawford Parish Council, is also the Parish Council's representative on the Board of School Governors of Compton Primary School. Accordingly these two Agenda Items were combined into one single report.

Cllr. Dolphin commenced his report by stating the need for "new blood" on the Parish Council. It had been indicated that some existing Councillors will not be standing for re-election in May 2008. Accordingly, a campaign to encourage interest in the Parish Council from potential new members had been on-going. Without the support of new volunteers to serve the Community it is envisaged that the quality of the Parish environment will deteriorate. It has been disappointing that there has been no interest shown to-date.

Cllr. Dolphin's review of the previous twelve months encompassed the following:-

1. Planning.
 - Four Dell Farm – a major issue that is being determined by Hampshire County Council as opposed to Winchester City Council.
 - Compton Down (LADS) – Highways issues prevents further development within the area.
2. Park and Ride – A successful campaign to re-site the proposed facility on the Itchen Farm (Tarmac site) as opposed to the originally proposed Bushfield Farm site.
3. Parish Plan/Village Design Statement – expanded upon by Dr. Peter Betts.
4. Schools – Shepherds Down School – The Parish Council held a Parish Council Meeting in the school and it was appreciated that the school provide excellent facilities there. The Head Teacher, Mr. Tony Gazzard is to retire shortly.
Schools – Compton Primary School – continues to "go from strength to strength" . Lindsay MaCarthy the Head Teacher has settled in well. However, the success of the school has resulted in being full to capacity resulting in appeals being made when potential pupils have to be turned away.
5. Church – The Rector, Paul Baird, had resigned and it is unlikely that the Parish will get a new Rector in the short term. It is envisaged that there will be a merger of the three Parishes, Otterbourne, Compton and Hursley.
6. Sports Club – Work progresses to achieve a "Cash Neutral" position from the Parish Council's point of view. The Sports Club are undertaking varying Fundraising activities.
7. Parish Hall – Cllr. Dolphin expressed the Parish Council's gratitude for the excellent work being undertaken by Mr John Griffith and the CASCA Management together with Frank Smith in looking after the Parish Hall.
8. Shawford Down – Maintenance of the Down is ongoing and is being managed by Hampshire County Council, Countryside Services.
9. Transport – Shawford Station has been refurbished and therefore is unlikely to be closed. An adequate train service is provided, but it is considered unlikely that services will be increased. Bus services to the Parish continue to be sufficient.

In conclusion, Cllr. Dolphin expressed his thanks to the Clerk, fellow Parish Councillors and members of the Parish who undertake work for the various Village Clubs and Societies. Cllr. Dolphin also thanked Mrs. J. Olsen and members of the Woman's Institute for the provision of refreshments at the Annual Parish Assembly.

There were no questions arising.

7. Police Report

Police Inspector Kevin Baxman outlined the recent re-organisation within the Police Force, policing the area. Winchester district has been divided into two areas, Winchester East and Winchester West. Winchester West covers, amongst others, the Parish of Compton and Shawford, and is centred at Twyford Police Station.

Police Sergeant Ally Hibberd outlined the "incidents" reported to the Police during the previous twelve months. These totalled 122 incidents, of which 48 incidents are considered to be "crimes". These "crimes" encompassed Dwelling and non Dwelling burglaries through to "Domestics". In general, the figures for the year were considered comparatively low. However, it is known that not all incidents were reported and therefore the Police cannot react to things that are not reported. Sgt. Hibberd encouraged people to report incidents to the Police when and where appropriate.

Police Support Officer Cooper outlined the function of the newly introduced Police Support Officers (PSOs). Their function is to create a more visible Police presence by cycling around the district and attending to lesser crimes such as anti social behaviour. A PSO does not have the same powers as a Police Constable, but can take care any lesser incidents.

Q. – Mr. Eric Caldwell.

What use is made of "Crime Stoppers"?

A. – Police Inspector Baxman.

"Crime Stoppers" can provide useful information, but the incidents reported in "Crime Stoppers" do not form part of the figures outlined above.

Q. – Cllr. N.Campbell-White.

With the increase of Policing through the PSOs, can the police provide better surveillance to reduce the instances of vandalism.

A. – Police Sergeant Hibberd.

The PSOs are ideally suited to attend to this type of issue and will maintain a watching brief on specific locations if and when requested. Requests for such attendance should be made on telephone number 0845 045 45 45.

Q. – A Shawford Resident.

Parking on the main road through Shawford continues to be a problem, can the Police deal with this?

A. – Police Sergeant Hibberd.

The Police can deal with any specific Parking problem when it arises.

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Peter Betts – Parish Plan Project/Village Design Statement.

Dr. Peter Betts, Chairman of the Parish Plan Project, gave a "slide" presentation of the work of the Parish Plan/ Village Design Statement. The main points made were as follows:-

- The Parish Plan and the Village Design Statement will be combined into a single document.
- Input to this document from Parishioners is essential.
- To achieve this various "Open Days" have been held, together with numerous discussions with Residents.
- A Questionnaire is being prepared, which will be distributed to every household within the Parish.
- It is hoped that a very high response rate will be achieved.
- The aim of this work is to produce a document which details the needs/wishes of the Residents within the Parish and to indicate how the Parish should develop.
- The VDS element of the document must be accepted and adopted by Winchester City Council and thereby become a Supplementary Planning document to be used when considering subsequent Planning Applications.
- Dr. Betts requested additional help with the work of the Project team.

Mr. Keith Wood – Planning Portfolio Holder, Winchester City Council.

Mr. Keith Wood outlined the work of the Planning Department, Winchester City Council, the main points being as follows:-

- There have been problems within the Planning Department which are beginning to be resolved.
- A lot of Guidance is prescribed by Central Government and certain targets in achieving a required number of new housing has been set.
- Winchester City Council are on course to meet the targets set. Currently there is no plan to use the "Reserve Sites" for future development.

- Emphasis is now placed upon issues such as Character, Design and the environment when considering Planning Applications.
- Accordingly, the Planning Department tries to influence the proposals from developers and at the same time to conform to the Guidelines from Central Government. It is a question of balance.
- The establishment and adoption of a "Village Design Statement" is a useful tool in the Planning process.
- It can only be adopted by Winchester City Council if it conforms in general to the Guidelines from Central Government.
- With its Adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document, the Planners can take into account the wishes of the Community when considering any Planning Applications.
- The document should be brief and "to the point", thereby enabling the Planning Officers to easily see what the Community expects.
- Whilst the approach of the Planning Officers to Planning Applications has not been that which would be desired by the Community in the past, such issues are now gradually being influenced by the new regime, hopefully to achieve a conformity between the Community, the Planning process and Guidelines from Central Government.

Q. – Mr. Mark Hegan.

Does Central Government accept the Village Design Statement as a Planning constraint on Developers?

A. – Mr. Keith Wood.

Yes – the Village Design Statement when adopted by Winchester City Council must conform in general to Central Government guidelines and therefore be a "Supplementary Planning Document" to be taken into account when considering all Planning Applications.

Q. – Mr. David Jobson.

How effective is Planning Enforcement and how far do the Planning Department go in rectifying non conformance with Planning Permissions?

A. – Mr. Keith Wood.

More funding is being put into this area. However it is a very difficult matter to police. Most incidents of non-compliance are rectified by the developer by the submission of a subsequent Planning Application. Matters that require more aggressive correction can be very expensive and Winchester City Council is averse to unwarranted risk. However, the Planning Department are now becoming more assertive in such matters.

Q. – Mr. David Walker.

Whilst the "Character" of Compton Down is accepted as being the driving force limiting development, the density issues need to be re-addressed, is this possible?

A. – Mr. Keith Wood.

Compton Down is a special area and the Traffic Issues are the main constraint upon allowing further development. Density issues apply to all areas, but with Compton Down the traffic issues are an overriding concern. Until these traffic issues are resolved, it is not considered possible to allow further development.

Q. – Jane Haskin.

The Parish Plan project is costly, who pays for this?

A. – Dr. Peter Betts.

Various Grants have been received and the Parish Council have made a contribution of £1,000 in order to initiate the Project. The funds received to-date will cover the production of the Parish Plan/Village Design Statement documents. Costs that arise out of the requirements of implementing the various issues contained within the Parish Plan are matters to be considered in the future.

Q. – Mr. Eric Caldwell.

The "Status" of people working in the Planning Department, Winchester City Council, appear to have been reduced in recent years, would benefit be obtained if the "Status" of such people were to be improved?

A. – Mr. Keith Wood.

The quality of people working in the Planning Department is "some good and some not so good". Currently the Department is endeavouring to consolidate the various groupings to become more effective. In addition, Winchester City Council is trying to give authority to the Lower Levels, thereby improve Job Satisfaction.

The Chairman, Cllr. J.Dolphin, thanked Dr. Peter Betts and Councillor Mr. Keith Wood for their attendance and input to the Annual Parish Assembly.

8. Questions from members of the public on

Q. - Mrs. C.M.Sorsbie

Please could the Council clarify who is responsible for the maintenance and safety of the Towpath?

- 1) - There has been no maintenance of the path - Charlotte Bailey, I understood, had got the Winchester City Council to agree that it would be. This was some years ago.
- 2) - No work was done on the verges - I think Tricia Caffyn had tried to get this done.
- 3) - There is **no** red bin for Dog faeces and yet daily we have people exercising their dogs.
- 4) - The **no** cycle notice is mainly ignored. I think it is badly positioned and people don't understand it.
- 5) - The trees on the Twyford Bank are a worry - they are overgrown and liable to fall our side."

A. – Cllr. P.Caffyn and County Cllr. Charlotte Bailey.

Cllr Caffyn -The Footpath is the responsibility of the "Rights of Way" department Hampshire County Council, the Itchen Navigation Banks are the responsibility of the Environment Agency and the maintenance thereof is being sorted out through Hampshire County Council.

The question concerning "Dog Bins" was raised a couple of years ago, but this was rejected. This matter will be reviewed.

Cllr. Bailey – The Footpath is the responsibility of the "Rights of Way" department and it is currently on their list of things to do.

Trees overhanging the Navigation are the responsibility of the Environment Agency in conjunction with the owner of Shawford Park.

Vegetation outside the properties along the side of the Footpath is the responsibility of the Property owners. However, Hampshire County Council will "strim" these areas.

Q. - Mr. Paul Murray

What will the Parish Council's future role be in relation to both the application for a "concrete crusher" at Four Dell Farm and to the apparent recent unlawful use of the proposed site and also similar unlawful use of other buildings at Four Dell Farm. In particular will the Parish Council be asking Winchester City Council to seek compliance to planning permissions already granted for these buildings.

A. – Cllr. G.Beckett.

The Parish Council has lodged an "Objection" to the Latest Planning Application. The current use of the site has been reviewed by Winchester City Council and a site visit concluded that its use was not in conformance with previous planning permissions. Accordingly, the Planning Enforcement Officer is progressing this matter.

Winchester City Council are a major Consultee in respect of the latest Planning Application for this site and after investigation has concluded that an Objection will be lodged.

Q.- Mr. Simon North

Opposite his house on the far Railway Bank a large Communications mast has been erected. What is the Parish Council's position on this matter?

A. – Cllr. A.Walmsley.

This matter had been investigated and it was established that no Planning Application had been published. The matter had therefore been passed to the Enforcement Officer for further investigation. However, it is thought that as this mast has been erected on Network Rail land, no Planning Application was necessary as Network Rail have a "Blanket" permission to erect such masts on their land.

The Chairman, Cllr. J.Dolphin, thanked everybody for attending this Annual Parish Assembly and closed the meeting at 9-15pm.