



Compton and Shawford Parish Council

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Record of the Annual Parish meeting: 7.45pm Thursday 23 April 2009, Shawford Parish Hall

Present: Councillors N Campbell-White (Chairman), P Caffyn, M Bell, S Clay, J Evans, J Millar, U Stevens, A Walmsley and Mr D Drake (Clerk).

In attendance: County Councillor Charlotte Bailey, District Councillor E Bell, Police Inspector A Hibberd, Ms A Morse, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Trust and 54 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Reverend W Prescott, Jane Sansome.

Review of the Past Year:

Councillor Campbell-White welcomed everyone to the meeting and promised not to hold future meetings on St George's Day! He added that, unlike previous years, formal minutes would not be produced but a record of the key points, and any appropriate action taken, would be published on the parish council web site in due course. Copies of the accounts for the financial year 2008/9 had been distributed to those present and Councillor Walmsley would respond to any specific questions later.

Councillor Campbell-White hoped that everyone had been able to read the excellent annual review, produced by Councillor Walmsley, which had been distributed to every household in the parish. During the past year, there had been a change of Clerk. Mike Langford, who had served the community most diligently, had been succeeded by David Drake. Councillor Campbell-White requested that a vote of thanks to Mr Langford should be entered into the record. He then proceeded to brief those present on issues involving the Parish Council over the past year. These included:

- The transfer of parish records, prior to 2007, to the Hampshire records Office in Winchester.
- Councillor Stevens volunteering to oversee the implementation of the Parish Plan.
- The need for volunteers to assist with the Village Design Plan.
- The excellent work being undertaken by the CASCA committee, thereby ensuring the village hall continued to be a most valued community resource.
- Work on the southern park and ride.
- Local Development Framework plans for Bushfield Camp.
- Removal of 'pink tubes' and cutting back vegetation at the Memorial Playing Fields.
- Coordination with Hampshire County Council officials with regard to footpaths, problems with horses and parking in Shawford and Compton Street.
- Planning policy.
- Updated and additional equipment installed at Compton children's play area and
- The need for a children's play area in Shawford.

He concluded by emphasising the need for good communication within the community and recommended that parishioners should make a greater use of the council's web site, which contained a wealth of information. *[A copy of the annual review can be viewed on the web site: <http://compton.pariah.hants.gov.uk/AnnualAssembly/AnnualReview/>]*

Councillor Campbell-White also asked that his personal thanks to fellow councillors, (Parish, District and County), and to those individuals whose support he had received over the past year, Peter Betts, John Richardson, Ken Staunton, Richard Brooks, Veronica Bliss, PC Mark Smith and the CPSOs, should be recorded.

Individual Convenors then briefed the meeting on their respective responsibilities. Councillor Walmsley advised that a new financial spreadsheet had been produced, which was easier to read than the previous software package: it could also be forwarded to individual councillors by email. He noted that the reduction in reserves of £6553 was almost equivalent to sums donated to the Sparrowgrove and Oakwood Trust (£5000) and Compton Parochial Church Council to purchase extra graveyard space (£1500). Councillor Stevens had made progress on implementing the Parish Plan and had recently written to the Secretary of State for Transport requesting that the M3 road surface should be renewed as a matter of urgency. Councillor Bell noted some planning disappointments, especially those regarding increasing industrialisation at Four Dell Farm, but he assured those present that the Parish Council intended to work hard to ensure the community's views continued to be heard in the WCC Planning Department. Councillor Millar reported on the recent installation of play equipment at the Compton Play Area and Councillor Clay on her success in developing a good working relationship with HCC Estates Department, with regard to the parish footpaths: most of which had seen significant improvements over the past year. And Councillor Caffyn reported on a potential outbreak of 'flashers' within the parish! This related to the imminent introduction of flashing speed lights to try to curb excessive speed on Winchester and Otterbourne Roads. Parking in Shawford continued to present problems but she was working closely with HCC and Network Rail officials and hoped to see some improvement in the coming year. She was particularly grateful to Pippa and Nick Wells for their help in conducting the survey of rail users at Shawford railway station, during a particularly cold spell in early February.

In her capacity as a school governor, Councillor Caffyn briefed the meeting on changes to Shepherds Down School, which now has 74 staff for 110 children, many of whom are severely disabled.

Inspector Hibberd, Hampshire Constabulary, gave a short presentation. He reported that the number of crimes reported in the past year had reduced from 73 to 47. While local police surgeries had been discontinued because of a lack of demand, he and his officers were always prepared to meet parishioners at the police station in Twyford or prior to Parish Council meetings which an officer or PCSO always attended.

Ms Ali Morse then proceeded to brief the meeting on the work currently being undertaken by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and the Environment Agency to improve conditions for wildlife and walkers along the Itchen Navigation System.

Finally the meeting ended with a question and answer session, which included the following:

- A request by Mrs Scoresby for a dog 'Poo Bin' to be placed on Shawford Bridge. (Councillor Caffyn undertook to investigate.)
- A complaint about the condition of the footpath in front of Park View by Mrs Wyles. (County Councillor Charlotte Bailey will consult HCC.)
- An inquiry by Peter Betts about whether there were enough volunteers to ensure progress on the implementation of Parish Plan. Councillor Stevens highlighted the poor response to Councillor Caffyn's request for volunteers for the annual litter clean up but, overall, she considered that she was currently receiving adequate support.

David Drake
Clerk