



Compton and Shawford Parish Council

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Record of the Annual Parish meeting: 7.30pm Thursday 14 April 2011, Shawford Parish Hall

Present: Councillors U Stevens, (chairman), J Evans, G Beckett, J Broomfield, J Millar, M Southgate, A Walmsley, M Wilkinson and Mr D Drake (Clerk).

In attendance: Police Sergeant C Hills, PCSO Gavin Cooper, County Councillor C Bailey, District Councillor E Bell and 32 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Councillor M Bell.

Councillor Stevens welcomed everyone to the meeting and began by introducing Councillors Broomfield and Wilkinson, both of whom had been co-opted onto the council, in the past year. She explained that she did not intend to repeat the messages contained within the annual report, which had been circulated to all households within the parish, but would concentrate on priorities for the coming year, including M3 noise and creeping industrialisation.

She had recently received a letter from our local MP, Steve Brine, which had indicated that the M3 was unlikely to be resurfaced within the next four years. He now intended to raise the issue with the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to see if the M3 could qualify for resurfacing on grounds that surface noise had a detrimental impact on the local community. Councillor Stevens recalled that, under the last Labour government, the council had received assurances from DEFRA that arrangements to expedite the resurfacing of motorway would commence in April 2011. She would be reminding Mr Brine of those assurances. She had also written to the managing director of R&W Civil Engineering (the main contractor at Four Dell Farm) to follow up a recommendation from Hampshire County Council Planning Committee that a liaison panel should be established between the company and local representatives. As yet no reply had been received but she intended to pursue the issue with great vigour.

Other issues of importance in the coming year included the Localism Bill, Blueprint initiative and Village Design Statement (VDS), all of which will have an impact upon the future development of the parish, and, as a consequence, will need to be monitored closely.

Finally, Councillor Stevens expressed her appreciation for the support that the council receives from our county and district councillors and trusted that they will continue to keep a close eye on developments at county and district level and to inform the parish council, when necessary. She also thanked Terry Wilson and Peter Betts for their work on the VDS, John Richardson for providing support to the Playing Fields Committee, Bill Goodyear for undertaking a number of maintenance projects on behalf of the council and Jan Russell for ensuring that our bus shelters are kept clean and tidy.

Councillor Walmsley reported that there would be no increase in the council's budget in the coming year. Because of an increase in the number of properties within the parish

this has led to a small reduction in the parish element of council tax, which is approximately 2.5 pence in the pound. He mentioned that, because of conflict with election dates and bank holidays, the council was considering whether it should reduce the number of council meetings in 2012. The Finance Committee had been tasked with making a formal recommendation at the next council meeting on 3 May 2011. Finally, he asked for suggestions to name the road that will provide access to the new development at Old Orchard and Martins Close.

Sgt Chris Hills and PCSO Gavin Cooper briefed the meeting on local policing and community issues. While there had been five dwelling and fifteen non-dwelling burglaries in the past year, most reports to the police involved incidents of anti-social behaviour, parking and speeding. Claire Grainger indicated that she was extremely grateful for the support that she had received from PCSO Cooper last year.

Councillor Millar provided details of a proposed play area at the base of Shawford Down. Winchester City Council's Open Spaces Fund, which would provide funding, had been pressing the parish council to develop the site for several years. Outline plans were available for inspection and she would be very willing to discuss them in detail with interested parties immediately after the meeting.

Councillor Southgate then led an open discussion on transport within the parish, focussing mainly on parking issues within Shawford, Compton Street and Southdown. He mentioned that, following discussions with South West Trains and Network Rail extra parking spaces had been made available at the station but there were still problems in the bays opposite the shops and in Pearson Lane. It was also clear that many parishioners were keen to maintain the current rail service from Shawford.

Mark Hegan, chairman of the Shawford Residents' Association indicated that, since parking is not a problem in the evenings and at weekends, some villagers were reluctant to see the introduction of a 'policed' parking regime. His members will be discussing this issue at the next association meeting in early June and he offered to advise Councillor Southgate of the outcome. Several residents of Pearson Lane expressed concern about the poor condition of the road, the edges of which had been damaged by parked vehicles. Some believed that it constituted a health and safety hazard. County Councillor Bailey said that she had taken the matter up with HCC Highways Department but so far without success. Given that the road had been scheduled for repair in April 2010, Councillor Stevens decided that she should write to the head of Hampshire County Council, Ken Thornber, to express the parish council's concern about the condition of Pearson Lane.

Councillor Stevens mentioned that, upon becoming chairman, she had been presented with a box of documents that included a programme of Compton's celebration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897: a copy of which was on the notice board. She had been in discussions with several organisations within the parish, including the Sports Club, to see whether Compton and Shawford could replicate some of those celebrations for The Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. So far the reaction had been positive but it will require much effort and all offers of support would be very welcome.

Finally, a proposal from the floor which stated that parishioners much appreciated the service provided councillors, all of whom are volunteers, was roundly supported.

David Drake
Clerk