

**OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
10TH May 2009
AT 7:30 PM IN OWSLEBURY PARISH HALL**

PRESENT

Councillor Mr A Manship – Chairman
Councillors: Mr J Chapman, Mrs J Chase, Mr R Page, Mrs P Sharpe and Mr G Tull.

IN ATTENDANCE

County Councillor Mr P Mason
District Councillor Mr L Ruffell
P C Clive Barham
Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs E Manship

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
District Councillor Mr R Humby
PCSO Helen Carthew
PS Dorian Chapman

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2009 had been circulated. Mrs LeVoi proposed the minutes were an accurate record. Mrs Chase seconded this. The Chairman signed the minutes.

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL – HOW TO PROTECT YOUR VILLAGE
GUEST SPEAKER – MR EDWARD DAWSON – PLANNING ADVISOR**

Mr Dawson talked on the Local Planning Process. He confirmed that under current Government policy as much planning as possible should be devolved to local communities, however, local plans must also support national objectives. He referred to the context of planning and the importance of referring to documents such as the Development Plan, Regional Spatial Strategy and Local Development Frameworks. Of particular relevance to Owslebury he outlined PPS1 – Principles and PPS7 – Rural Areas. He talked through projects in which he had been involved and suggested some principles to consider when seeking to protect a village from unwanted planning.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I begin with my thanks to the new police team for Owslebury, PC Clive Barham and PCSO Helen Carthew. They have immersed themselves in the community in every way.

The Council is very pleased that Owslebury is included in the South Downs National Park.

Planning – This subject this year has continued to be focused on planning law not being followed which has disappointed all Parish Council members, particularly in relation to Marwell Yard. The decision to reject the recommendation from both HCC and WCC Planning Officers who supported the Parish Council's view was overturned by HCC Members.

The sub-committee set up for the Parish to design a Village Design Statement or Parish Plan has sadly disbanded due to lack of interest and individuals time. Whilst we should in the future have added protection from the South Downs National Park there is a way to go before the necessary process is in place. Meanwhile, as we have seen over the past year, Planning Law is ignored and we must take every opportunity to protect our village. I therefore hope a new VDS committee will be re-launched in the coming year with new initiative. Volunteers are welcome to come forward and help.

Longwood Crossroads – With 3 accidents reported in the past year including one resulting in major injury, action to progress improvements has been very slow and disappointing. A VAS sign is on order for Longwood East approach and we have been assured that this, along with a new road sign looking like a cross roads, will be in place within 10 weeks of the last accident. The removal of all hedges at this junction has been at last agreed by so far has still not been actioned.

The Toddler Group, Parents and associated working party have worked with great enthusiasm to improve the Children's Play Area and to date 2 pieces of equipment have been installed. They continue to fund raise and together with the Clerk complete grant applications and my thanks to them all for their very hard work on behalf of the Parish. I encourage all to support them to enable the 20 still needed to complete the project to be raised.

The Website continues to grow with 70 hits recorded each week. A photographic competition was a great success with 20 photographs exhibited on the web earlier this year. Again my thanks to Mrs Harfield for continuing to develop the history section and responding to questions from around the world on genealogy. Please remember that all community groups have space set aside on the web to advertise their activities and programmes. It would be great to see this section further used.

A successful litter collection was organised by Cllr Meads. Our thanks to everyone who took part.

Owing to cars vandalising the recreation ground the Council, working together with representatives from the Football and Cricket Clubs, has recently laid logs and installed a low gated barrier to protect the ground yet enable parish contractors and the sports clubs to gain entry.

British Telecom continues to invite the Parish Council to purchase the telephone box, minus the telephone, as an ornament for the village. The Parish Council has continued to fight this decision and the current position is that BT must maintain the telephone service. The Council has put money in reserve for maintaining this facility should the law change.

The Parish Council has long considered virtual Footpaths. These are painted areas along an edge of a road enabling school children to walk safely to school. Owing to the width of main road this will not be approved by HCC but alternatives are being considered.

The Whaddon Lane kerbing project is virtually complete. Sadly HCC decided to leave out the 1st passing place at the top of Whaddon Lane. The Parish Council raised its concern but regrettably was unable to persuade the engineers that this was required.

The Parish Council was requested by HCC to recommend nominated areas for grit bins. This is in progress.

A new Parish and Community Noticeboard has been installed at the request of the residents of Marwell. We now have 4 noticeboards in the parish in which all residents are free to advertise personal and community functions.

A request was received from the Winchester Villages Trust for a representative from Owslebury to support in the distribution of funds. The Winchester Villages Trust manages an income from the Alice Long Educational Foundation. I am pleased to report that Mr John Hart from Hensting Lane has taken on this role and welcomes your requests or information regarding those who would benefit.

A request by Michael Cryer for a historical sign for the West End of Lower Baybridge Lane to replace the existing new sign is supported by the Parish Council. It is hoped that the funds required can be obtained from an HCC grant supported by the residents of Baybridge.

Finally I thank all Councillors, both in the new and past Council for their support and contribution over the past year, not forgetting the Clerk for her continued hard work.

REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

a) **Representative to Winchester District Association of Parish Councils – Cllrs Mr A Manship (report) and Mr J Chapman**

This group has met in the Winchester Guildhall twice in the past year. The main topic has been the formation of the committee to run the South Downs National Park. An elected representative from this committee will stand for the coming year. The other subject discussed was the encouragement of Parish Councils to have a representative responsible for climate change.

b) **Representative to Owslebury Parish Hall Management Committee – Cllr Mrs T Meads**

Cllr Meads apologised for not making many meetings. Cllr Chapman reported that the Parish Hall continues to operate successfully. However, the committee continues to be concerned regarding the lack of volunteers to help run it. Anyone interested in finding out more with a view to helping should contact Cllr Chapman or any member of the committee.

c) **Representative to Winchester Area Community Action – Cllr Mrs J Chase**

I have been unable to attend these meetings as they occurred on days I was at work but a Community Engagement workshop was held in Littleton in November which I was able to attend. Kate Rowlandson from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils and Jo Dixon from Community Action Hampshire gave a very interesting presentation on how to discover who is in your village, how you can help them and how they can help you. Representatives from WACA have been involved in advising us on setting up a Youth Club information on which I have included a report regarding OMCA

d) Representative to OMCA Committee – Cllr Mrs J Chase

I have attended several meetings this past year and been involved in the organisation of the popular Murder Mystery evening which, along with other entertainment e.g. the comedian Kevin Tomlinson, which have raised money to support on-going events in the village. The senior citizens' outings remain very popular and plans are underway to re-instate a youth club and a special meeting took place in October 09. Stuart Banks from Winchester Area Community Action provided information on community transport, dial-a-ride and a minibus-hiring scheme to take youngsters to cinemas, sports clubs etc. Cherie Williams, a youth worker in Youth Activities, suggested various activities that may be appropriate but we must find out what our young people want and enlist the necessary support that is legally required.

e) Representatives to Rights of Way – Cllrs Mr A Manship (report) & Mr G Tull

The main achievement in Owslebury over the past year is securing an agreement by all concerned for a gated barrier for Red Lane. The Parish Council received large donations towards the cost.

f) Tree Warden – Cllr Mr A Manship

As Tree Warden I attended a course organised by WCC during the year and was given guidance regarding procedures to follow regarding tree maintenance and preservation. I will shortly be conducting a tree survey of trees that may be at risk in the future.

g) Local Authority Representative to Owslebury Primary School – Cllr Mrs T Meads

The Parish Council continued good links with the school particularly in respect of traffic issues & the use of the website. The school has been very supportive of our initiation of a feasibility study to consider the possibility of a virtual footpath along part of the main village road.

h) Highways Liaison Committee – Cllrs Mr A Chapman, Mr A Manship, Mr R Page & Mr G Tull

Cllr Manship reported that the Parish Council subcommittee has met on 4 occasions to discuss mainly the Whaddon Lane improvements. The Clerk and Chairman have recently completed a Pothole survey of the village requested by Hampshire Highways. This work is slowly being carried out throughout the village. Cllrs Chapman and Page confirmed their disappointment that the 3rd passing bay at the top of Whaddon Lane had not been constructed. After only a few days the difficulties were clear to see, evidence is clear that vehicles are mounting the kerbing.

i) Playgrounds Representative – Cllr Mr R Page

Cllr Page has continued to monitor the playground weekly to ensure the safety of the equipment used.

j) Playground Project – Cllr P Sharpe

Over the past year there has been a lot of work put in to raise money to pay for the new improvements the Parish Council and local parents would like to see in the play area.

We have applied for grants from: -

- Hampshire Playing Fields – successful, £2000
- Landfill Tax – unsuccessful
- Tesco Community Chest – unsuccessful
- Radio Solent Quest – successful, £250
- Star Energy Community fund – unsuccessful
- Bovril – pending answer
- LEADER funding – application in progress

We have kindly received money from: -

- OMCA - £1000
- County Cllr - £500

The Parish Council has pledged: -

- From two years precept - £1,300
- From the Open Space Fund - £7,117

Local parents have arranged fundraising activities: -

- The Big Lunch with 20 local children taking part in a sponsored walk, £501.
- Race Night, £1308.

With the above money the play area now has two new pieces of equipment installed, a bird's nest swing and a multi-play seesaw.

For the next year I will continue to find ways in which we can raise money for the further improvements we would like to carry out in the play area.

k) Travellers Representative – Cllr Mrs J Chase

There have been no incidents in Owslebury this year. The only contact with W.C.C. has been for help and advice regarding the installation of a barrier at Red Lane to deter campers and fly tipping.

l) Enforcement Update – Cllrs Mr A Manship (report) and Clerk

This liaison committee has met every 3 months to monitor, review and contribute to the progress made by the WCC Enforcement Team. Since the inception of this committee the total number of active cases has been reduced to 6.

m) Representatives for Sports Clubs using the Recreation Ground – Cllrs Mr G Tull & Mrs T Meads (report)

Parish Councillors met with representatives of both the cricket & football clubs to discuss preventative measures to stop inappropriate vehicular access to the recreation ground. Additional pegged logs along the boundary and a low swing bar gate have now been installed.

n) Public Transport Representative – Cllr Mrs J Chase

The only meeting I was able to attend this year was on a Saturday at the Winchester Discovery Centre. Representatives from all the travel companies providing services in Hampshire gave summaries of the years profits / losses. There was a good attendance from Councillors as far afield as the New Forest who shared similar concerns over their local bus services. I was assured that our village bus service will continue for the foreseeable future.

o) Improving Communication with Parishioners Lead – Cllr Mr J Chapman

We have started to encourage more use of the website and the photographic competition generated interest. Major disappointment that the Owslebury Newsletter does not want to have anything to do with the website and have declined every approach of support.

p) Representatives on Village Design Statement Working Party – Mr H Petter with Cllrs Mr R Page, Mrs T Meads & Mr J Chapman

There have been no meetings held this year

q) Planning Lead – Cllr Mr R Page

Nothing further to report from the Chairman's report.

r) Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Mrs J Chase

There is great concern in the village following repeated damage to car tyres, mainly in Beech Grove. Other problems in the surrounding rural area include theft of catalytic converters and building materials and poaching. Lately there have been reports of thefts from churches. We are fortunate in having an excellent neighbourhood watch team in Owslebury and I have attended most of the meetings this past year.

s) Litter Collection – Cllr Mrs T Meads

The Parish Council organised a very successful litter pick in early October. We were delighted that so many villagers took part on a lovely autumn morning. A whole trailer full of rubbish was collected. Sadly there is obviously a need to make this a regular event.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

Hampshire County Council & Hampshire Police Authority – Bishops Waltham Division County Councillor Mr Peter Kent Mason – Annual Report 2010

I would like to start by saying how pleased I was to be re-elected last June for a third term. Whilst there have been some successes, there are still a number of items in the pipeline I wish to see through to completion.

Another year has passed and I am now pleased to present my ninth annual report. The last 12 months has been just as busy as before with the casework increasing significantly, dealing with complaints against children and adult services, school placements, requests for speed limit reduction, flooding issues and compensation requests against the County Council. With the poor weather this winter many of the roads in the division have deteriorated beyond all proportion and complaints have flooded in by Letter, E-mail and Telephone, this has been the largest response during my years on the County Council.

I continue to serve and have an active presence on the Culture and Communities Committee, along with the same two outside bodies, namely the Twyford Waterworks Trust and the Bishops Waltham Citizens Advice Bureau. I also

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on Monday 10th May 2010

continue to serve on the Winchester Hampshire Action Teams made up of the Seven County Councillors for the Winchester District, this year resulting in over 80 meetings. This includes attendance at all full Council meetings, seminars, site meetings and briefings plus visits to constituent's homes for casework.

As previously a sum of £10,000 was allocated to each County Councillors to personally distribute upon application to worthy causes within their division. I am pleased to report that this sum was distributed as listed below to 23 different and deserving causes, however the sum of £350 was not issued due to receiving the application after the closing date in February.

- Twyford Parish Council (Purchase of Berry Meadow) £500
- Bishops Waltham in Bloom (Winter Planting) £300
- Colden Common Community Assoc. (Adult learning Services Laptops) £500
- Durley Parish Council (Memorial Hall Renovation Work) £500
- Colden Common Pre School (Art Work & Celebration) £400
- Woodpeckers Environmental Group (Map Board) £250
- Bishops Waltham Parish Council (Seat for Cemetery Bus Stop) £300
- Home Start Meon Valley (Training Volunteers) £500
- Colden Common Community Assoc. (Overhead Projector) £350
- Bishops Waltham CAB (IT Equipment) £700
- Twyford Village Hall (Fire Protection) £500
- Colden Common Parish Council (Prior Park Road Renewal) £500
- Owslebury Parish Council (Toddler Group Play Area) £500
- Colden Common Friendship Club (To assist meetings & Outings) £300
- Curdridge Parish Council (Parents & Toddlers Group) £300
- Victim Support (Criminal Injuries Claims) £400
- Bishops Waltham Parish Council (Virtual Tour of PC Website) £400
- Upham Parish Council (Stage Curtains) £500
- Relate Winchester & District (Bursary Fund Support) £250
- Colden Common Parish Council (Brambridge Sign) £200
- Bishops Waltham Gardening Club (Raised Beds for Children & Disabled) £500
- Curdridge Parish Council (Village Notice Board) £500
- Durley Parish Council (Car Park repairs and drainage) £300

This year I have attended 66 Parish Council meetings (three more than the previous year) which equates to a very satisfactory 94% attendance. I still consider that my regular attendance at these meetings helps me to keep in touch with the local developments and concerns within the Bishops Waltham Division.

Another reason for being so delighted at being re-elected was this enabled me to retain my position on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Police Authority. This year I have been sitting on a panel of 5 to appoint two new assistant chief constables and I will be interested to monitor their progress for the next three years.

I am Chairman of the combined Community Affairs and Crime Prevention's Committee now called the Community Engagement Committee and also a Member of Standards & Governance Committee. I have attended all 7 of the Police Authority Full Meetings. Also as an outside body member I attend Eastleigh Community Safety Partnership meetings. I have also attended seminars, briefings and inspections resulting in 73 meetings totaling in excess of 750 hours on Police business. I have given several radio interviews concerning grants given by the Community Engagement Committee.

I have also attended at 4 Attestations and 1-award ceremonies. I am still delighted to confirm that the standard of entrants has been extremely high. At each of the Attestations I have been delighted to make a short speech of welcome on behalf of the authority and to meet the proud families and officers.

I have kept in regular touch with Lead Officers from the Police Western Operational Command Unit, which covers Eastleigh, New Forest and Test Valley.

As I finish every time by assuring all residents of Bishops Waltham Division that, I shall continue to support and represent them at all levels with the utmost vigour.

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

a) District Councillor Laurence Ruffell

The first thing I have to do is thank everybody who voted for me in the City elections, I am delighted to be able to represent you for another term. The last 12 months as a District Councillor have again been really busy.

The Longwood Crossroads continue to be on the top of my to do list, I have been badgering all my contacts in the HCC to proceed with the construction of staggered Tee Junctions. This action was agreed at the last meeting I attended in the Chairman's front room, the sooner this improvement is done to this junction.

In my last report I said I am here to help, here are a few examples of the way we as Councillors can help making life a little easier.

Recently I have been involved in obtaining a pedestrian crossing the A334 outside of Botley. Those negotiations with HCC estates dept and the landowner took almost a year. Now an "In Principal" agreement for the purchase of the land has been made. Now the good news, the refuge is in the design stage, it is being funded by outside funds and HCC hope to have the Refuge finished this year.

Another occasion I received a request for help was from a local farmer who complained to me he was having to replace his wing mirror on his Lorry at £70.00 a time because the hedge by the side of the road was overgrown, the hedge had some sapling in it, these were doing the damage to the mirrors. I visited the farmer and was shown the offending hedge. Then I arranged a meeting with Kathy Hobbs of HCC Highways, I explained the problem, and she agreed that HCC would trim back the hedge. This has now been done and I hope no more wing mirrors will be damaged.

I am currently involved with a project in Durley Primary School .The school plan to move the pond to the Memorial Garden just the other side of the road (I have already found out Planning Permission is not needed, it can be done under permitted development) this will allow for extra parking, and the perennial parking problem at pick up time. For this we will need help from HCC, I had asked Chris Wilson of HCC to attend a meeting with myself and the Head Teacher for preliminary discussions, this meeting took place last Friday April 23rd. The plan is to move the existing driveway to the far side of the playing field, create a new entrance, then form a lay-by from the new entrance to the old entrance to be used as a drop off/ pick up area. The important gain from moving the entrance is that young children won't have to mix with vehicles when getting to their playing field. I will be contacting the other schools in the ward to see if there is any way in which Rob and I can help

On Thursday 17th September I was also privileged to attend Fairthorpe Manor for the Official Opening of Ben's House with HRH the Princess Royal.

During the past year, some of the other meetings I have attended. A WINNAC "Winchester Action Against Climate Change" seminar in Brighton arranged by the Planning Committee to study Buildings with low carbon emissions, and ways to insulate buildings and how to heat them using heat source pumps, both air and ground. And I have been to the MoD site the old Caterham Barracks to see how energy saving issues are being used when converting old Army Barracks into very modern and energy efficient homes.

Other meetings I have attended during the year: -

- LDF meetings at the Guildhall (Cabinet)
- Site viewing at Silverlake Garage.
- Site viewing at The Crescent Twyford.
- Enforcement Meetings
- Site viewing Spring vale
- Site viewing Humphreys Twyford
- Soton Airport Consultative Committee.
- Rob and I visit Miss Barnes in new home
- Site viewing Moto Cross 3 Maids Hill
- Princess Anne's Visit to YMCA
- Planning Seminar YMCA
- Planning Forum Guildhall
- Site viewing Willis Way
- Member Training Tree Issues, Guildhall
- Durley Primary School
- Soton Airport opening walkway
- Site viewing B/Waltham
- Site viewing Whiteley

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on Monday 10th May 2010

- Durley Primary School Grants meeting
- Site viewing Compton
- Durley Village hall
- Site Meeting Re Glass Collection Owslebury
- North of Whiteley Development Forum
- Contract Workshop, P Guildhall
- Botley Parish Action Group Meeting.

I have also attended 7 Full Council Meetings, 18 Planning and Development Meetings, 4 Social Issues Scrutiny Meetings, 1 Environment Scrutiny Panel meeting and 39 Parish Council Meetings.

I am the Winchester City Council representative on the Bishop's Waltham Sports Committee, a Member of Soton Airport Consultative Committee and Vice Chairman of North of Whiteley Development Forum.

Finally I would like to thank the Chairman and the Parish Council for all the hard work they do and offer my continued support and co-operation.

b) District Councillor Rob Humby (Report read by Clerk)

Concerns in Owslebury continue to be mainly Planning and Enforcement matters, whilst wider issues still include the Local Development Framework, involving the Strategic Development Area and the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire. I continue to attend Cabinet and Cabinet LDF meetings, promoting concerns raised by residents and rural businesses where appropriate.

Sitting on the Local Economy Scrutiny Panel keeps me up to date with any initiatives to help rural businesses. Part of this involved organising a Planning event along with the Economic Development Officer, where we invited farmers, growers and local businesses to Fairthorne Manor. A presentation was given by Planning Officers, the Landscape Department, followed by a question and answer session. I have also raised concerns about the issues of young people being able to remain living and/or working in their local communities with the provision of affordable housing.

I am on the steering group dealing with LEADER funding from SEEDA. I have presented successful applicants with their plaques. I attended the opening of East Straton Village Hall, which received funding for a new heat pump.

I attended a Hampshire farming conference at Sparsholt, where many issues concerning rural communities and businesses were discussed.

At the launch of the Bishops Waltham Pocket Guide I gave a speech in my capacity as Support Member for the Rural Economy. In this role I also attended the ceremony at the Southampton Guildhall to mark the launch of the working partnership between Winchester City Council and the Federation of Small Businesses.

Representing the rural economy, I attended a breakfast budget meeting at the Royal Hotel in Winchester, along with Cllr Beckett, Portfolio Holder for Local Economy, and the Economic Development team to meet with 20 local business leaders.

I was involved in the Service Reviews at Winchester City Council, where I attended 20 meetings concerning the re-organisation of departments and working practices within the City Council.

I have also judged the gardens entered in the Housing Association competition in Winchester and judged the Christmas lights in Bishops Waltham. This year I will be judging the Winchester in Bloom competition.

Finally I would like to thank everybody, especially the Parish Council, for all the hard work they do throughout the year.

POLICE REPORT – PC CLIVE BARHAM & PCSO HELEN CARTHEW

PC Barham confirmed that he and PCSO Helen Carthew are based in Bishops Waltham. Their function is to take a long term view to prevent emergencies happening. However, in the case of an emergency we can expect a response unit from either Winchester or Bishops Waltham. PC Barham confirmed that the Parish of Owslebury is a relatively safe area. He presented the Annual Occurrence Summary for Owslebury Parish, in comparison with that of Upham and Bishops Waltham. Of most concern are the punctured tyres in Beech Grove and Main Road that have occurred over the last two to three years. He has carried out late night patrols and is still seeking information. The Police have also sought to work alongside Owslebury Parish Council and Hampshire County Council to press for effective action at the Longwood Crossroads.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on Monday 10th May 2010

The Police seek to engage with the local community, through Neighbourhood Watch, Parish Council meetings, Beat Surgeries and Countrywatch. PC Barham requested that parishioners report suspicious events as they happen so that information can be collated and acted on. Also, the service offered to a community is based on statistical identification of need, so if events are not reported a community may not receive the service it deserves.

PC Barham brought 'Your Voice Counts' to the attention parishioners present and asked all to complete and return, to help the Police prioritise Community Priorities. PC Barham will also place a copy on the website.

PRESENTATION OF THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2009

The Clerk circulated the Receipts and Payments Account, year ending March 31st 2009 and talked to the key points. Community Assets comprised two dog bins, a lawn mower and a new bus shelter in Morestead. The Clerk reported a general increase in cost across all expenditure resulting in an increasingly tight budget.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chairman.....Date.....