

**OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBY HELD ON
11th MAY 2015
AT 7:00 PM IN OWSLEBURY PARISH HALL**

1. PRESENT

Parish Councillors John Chapman (In the Chair), Paul Phillips, Roger Page, Mark Egerton,,Gerry Tull (from 7.35pm).
District Councillor Laurence Ruffell.
County and District Councillor Rob Humby.
PCSO Richard Nolan (left at 8pm).
3 members of the public (left at varying times).
Michael Cleary, Clerk to the Council.

2. APOLOGIES

Parish Councillor Sally Tattersall.
Parish Councillor Will Martin.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2014 had been previously circulated and were unanimously accepted as an accurate record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. PRESENTATION.

Mags Wylie, Senior Rural Housing Enabler, Rural Action and Chris Paterson Communities Lead, South Downs National Park gave presentations on rural housing. Amongst the points raised they noted:

- a) the parish does not currently have, or is likely to have, settlement boundaries (within which development can take place, if approved) and is therefore classified as 'countryside';
- b) affordable housing may be permitted in the countryside under the provisions of 'rural exception sites'. The housing must be small scale, relating well to the area and be available in perpetuity as affordable housing. There would need to be wide spread community acceptance of the sites involved;
- c) applicants for affordable housing must normally either live in the parish, work in the parish or have previously lived in the parish and have family still in the parish. Currently 9 applicants have registered with Hampshire Homechoice as wishing to rent affordable housing in Owslebury, although the actual demand may be significantly greater;
- d) 'affordable' is currently defined as being 80% of open market rents.

A copy of their presentations is filed with these Minutes and is available on request from the Clerk. They responded to questions. The Chairman thanked Mags and Chris for their presentations, and noted the matter would be discussed by the Council at a later date..

5. POLICE REPORT.

PCSO Richard Nolan summarised the incidents reported in the parish over the last financial year. These were mainly in relation to anti-social behaviour, ranging from swearing to unruly behaviour. In response to a question he commented that the overall level of incidents was low relative to other country parishes.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

The Chairman delivered his annual report, a copy of which is set out in Appendix 1.

7. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS.

District Councillor Laurence Ruffell and County and District Councillor Humby delivered their reports, a copy of which is set out in Appendix 2 and Appendix 3.

8. FINANCIAL INFORMATION.

The Clerk gave a presentation on the accounting information for the 2014/15. The Council had reduced its main costs significantly over the last 3 years (administration, salary, grass cutting and insurance). This had enabled it to hold the precept whilst at the same time increasing its reserves, so as to enable the Council to ensure adequate funding is in place for community projects. A copy of the presentation is filed with these Minutes and is available on request to the Clerk.

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

There were no public questions.

The meeting closed shortly after 8pm.

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

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Welcome

- Note ‘key’ people Rob, Laurence,
- Mags Wylie Senior Rural Housing Enabler, Action Hants
- Chris Paterson Communities Lead SDNP

Not as challenging as 2013-4 – no floods but lots of challenge, some positive achievements, some

Parish plan is a good place to start –

Overall objective- maintain the present countryside and agricultural nature of the Parish

- WCC and SDNP claim to consult it, but.....
- However credit to SDNP with new procedures they will consult the parishes more
- FLOODING
 - o Lots of Patch and mend completed (eg Hensting, Ows Bottom, Hazeley)
 - o Yet to see any proper strategic plan
- CREEPING INDUSTRIALISATION
 - o Planning vigilance
 - o Issue with WCC v ex Humbees Nursery
- TRAFFIC
 - o Yet to make any real progress on Speed Limits – problem for 30 years, HCC not listening/prevarication. Work with Rob. No point in speed watch until speed limits sorted out
 - o Significant road repairs enacted, bottom of Hurst Lane still an issue
 - o New engineer very helpful
 - o closures of Morestead and Hazeley Road/Whaddon Lane Impacted village life and on The Ship
- INAPPROPRIATE USE OF CURRENT FACILITIES
 - o Vigilance wrt planning apps
- PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF KEY FACILITIES
 - o Village Hall, committee set up to discuss future mgt structure
 - o The Ship
- COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICES
 - o Current economic climate making things worse
 - o Have managed to hold the line wrt current bus service and school busses
 - o Need for joined up thinking at HCC – lower carbon policy but more cars as fewer buses/ isolated village with fewer buses = danger of social isolation.
 - o Thank Seniors Club for looking after older people needs?
 - o Thank Ellen Catterson
 - o New Bus Shelter courtesy of Tony Bush
- NEW HOUSING SPACE
 - o Starting to work with SDNP

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- SUPPORTING GROWTH
 - Pushing hard to improve broadband facilities
- PARKS AND OPEN SPACES
 - Working with Sports Club to help them thrive
 - Maintaining Sports field, play area and Glebe Field
 - Pitcot Lane thank Ray Taylor
 - Bank tree pruning/trying to keep alive
 - Playground audits ok but need to think about refurbishment/replacement
 - Common Land
 - Bridleways & Footpaths (thank Gerry Tull), concerns on funding
 - Thank Marwell for current improvements to ROW around the park
- CLUBS AND SOCIETIES
 - Sports Club
- ADDITIONAL BURIAL GROUND
 - Committee working with PCC on issue
- Communications
 - OIN set up to consistently good reviews 170 people on OIS
 - New website launches – now attracting 300+ hits per month and growing
 - Doesn't seem to have impacted the Newsletter

OTHER ITEMS

WW1 & D DAY COMMEMORATIONS

- Exhibition was very good, a little under attended but the weather that weekend didn't help
- Stone eventually laid in November, its dedication was not publicised which was a pity, Thanks HCC, private contributors one of whom donated £1000
- However I thank ME, PB, PP, MC and Betty H for all the work they did both in assembling artefacts and arranging the exhibition. Also for obtaining the stone itself, designing the inscription and the layout on the Glebe field
- A major thank you as well to Mike Ball of 'Bagit' for arranging the transportation of the stone from Yorkshire and erecting it in position

DEFIBRILLATOR – given isolation of Owslebury, essential to have in an emergency and purchased at minimal cost with the help of grants and had 2 well attended training sessions.

FINANCE – worked hard to reduce our administrative and routine costs, increase our reserves so we have funds for community projects in an era of budget cuts at district and county level, and to reduce the precept.

BOUNDARIES

- Boundary Commission proposing district council changes

XMAS LIGHTS - thanks to Chris Fuchs, Dave Greenslade and George and Susan Brewer

FLY TIPPING – Becoming a major nuisance, we appeal to anyone who sees any suspicious to contact the clerk or the Police asap Thank volunteer litter pickers

EMERGENCY PLAN

- In place, But we don't really want to use it in anger

BEECH GROVE VERGES/PARKING

- Has become an issue, we are working with the school to remove some of the concerns

BOOMTOWN

- Despite the concerns over the planned traffic routes we were largely unaffected by last years event, and so far we don't anticipate concerns this year

VOLUNTEERS

- Still majority of Village activity is run by over 60's..
- How do we get others to take responsibilities?

THANKS

- Rob, Laurence, Fellow councillors,

DRAFT

APPENDIX 2- COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROB HUMBY

Annual Report

Many thanks for allowing me to give my annual report this evening. The last 12 months have been extremely busy, at both Winchester City and Hampshire County Councils, and locally after last year's wet winter. The majority of my casework has been related to highways and flooding issues. Indeed, I have worked with the Highways Department at Hampshire County Council and parish councils across the Division to work out which highways issues should be given priority in each of our areas. The breadth of highways issues has been quite extensive and has included everything from HGV and large vehicle movements to speeding traffic through our villages, and the filling in of potholes and repairing road defects. I would like to thank the parish council for all the hard work they have put in to highlight the key highways issues and working with me to tackle them.

The projects across my ward have ranged in size and scope from large schemes such as the improvements to the Morestead Road to smaller projects such as speed monitoring. It is important that we continue to work on these issues and I am hopeful we can be even more successful in the year ahead.

I have also worked closely with officers on flood prevention and mitigation measures across our area. Although we did not flood this year, we must never forget the terrible situation in 2014; we must be vigilant every winter and do everything we can to protect homes and businesses from flooding. By working together to ensure that ditches, culverts and drains are cleared regularly and improved where necessary, we are protecting our communities from future flooding.

Some of you may have seen my recent coverage in the press regarding rural broadband. We all know how frustrating slow internet speed can be and I am hopeful that BT will come back with the answers in the next few months. To me, the key thing here is clarity. Rural communities such as ours just want to know where we stand. Yes, of course we would like to all be included in the commercial roll-out but if we are not, fine. By giving us a definitive answer, BT will allow us to get on and make our own arrangements if necessary. For many in the countryside, slow broadband is more than just an inconvenience. It is the difference between success and failure. Rural businesses and farmers depend on their connection to the Internet to survive, thrive and grow. I hope to provide an update on this issue for parish councils in the next few months.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held on Monday 11th May 2015

This broadband issue is a small part of something much larger; the rural economy. From local businesses to tourism, our area boasts some of the best of rural Hampshire. I have been working with County Council leader Roy Perry to speak up for our rural areas and to highlight our skills. I would be very interested to hear your thoughts on this and any suggestions you may have about how we can better speak up for our fantastic rural areas.

Returning to local issues, there are a number of on-going concerns which we will continue to work on in the year ahead. Chief among these is the problem of speeding traffic. Our rural communities are blighted by the issue of speeding vehicles. They threaten the safety of cyclists, walkers and horse riders as well as the tranquillity of our villages.

We need to work closely with the county officers, the police and the local community to continue to discourage speeding vehicles and identify where the trouble spots are so that enforcement can be carried out. This has to be our top priority for the year ahead.

Finally, I would like to thank the Parish Council for the support you have given me, as your councillor, over the last year. We have achieved a great deal together and I believe we can continue to do so.

Rob

Cllr Rob Humby

Hampshire County Councillor | Winchester City Councillor

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL APRIL 2015

Winchester City Council has continued to maintain and develop the economic prosperity of Winchester City and District, delivering the highest quality with the same level of Council Tax.

- **Paying all our staff at least a living wage.**
- **Further improvements to our Council tax reduction scheme.**
- **Freezing Council tax so helping reduce the cost of living for so many across the district.**
- **We have schemes to help job seekers to gain employment.**
- **We are building new Council Houses.**
- **We are spending more money on maintaining our existing stock of Council Houses.**
- **Local Government is constantly impacted as public spending is reduced, our Revenue Support Grant is down compared to last year.**

Planning for the future of Winchester town.

Winchester City Council is developing its Local Plan Part 2, which will include detailed planning policies for the next 15-20 years. The Council's Local Plan Part 1, adopted in 2013, establishes the planning strategy for Winchester, including housing targets for the next 20 years, together with a requirement for sufficient land available to meet economic and retail needs. Current work suggests there is unlikely to be a need to release any significant new greenfield sites to meet the town's housing, employment or retail targets. These will mostly be provided for on sites already identified such as Barton Farm, Silver Hill? and the Station Approach area. But there might be a number of more local issues that may have land requirements or will need to be addressed through the Local Plan.

House-building in Winchester district

House-building in the district is on track in spite of the prolonged recession. The level of house completions fluctuates according to the state of the economy and major developments do not happen every year, but in the Winchester district the level over the past five years is consistent with our Core Strategy – Local Plan Part 1. The Council can demonstrate an adequate supply of deliverable housing sites to allow the rate of housing completions to increase and all the signs are that this is happening.

It is projected that 357 dwellings will be completed, the highest number since 2010-11 There are around 3000 households on the Council waiting list, with more joining every month. A household with average needs and no special requirements could expect to wait 3 to 6 years for a property to become available.

New homes at Itchen Abbas

The first new council-built houses in the Winchester district for a decade are 3/3 bedroom houses and 2/2-bedroom houses at Station Close, Itchen Abbas, they have been handed over to Winchester City Council. The new properties are known as Baxter Cottages after former councillor and Mayor of Winchester, Neil Baxter. The houses are owned and managed by Winchester City Council. They are let at an affordable rent, which is well below market prices, and priority was given to people in housing need with a local connection to Itchen Abbas who were registered with Hampshire Home Choice. The houses are located on the site of a disused pumping station and Council garage block. They are built according to the 'Code for Sustainable Homes Level 3', which means that they are energy-efficient.

Also three new affordable homes for the Winchester district were handed over at Bourne Close in Otterbourne. The 3/3-bedroom houses are owned and managed by Winchester City Council. They are also let at an affordable rent, priority was also given to people in housing need with a local connection to Otterbourne. The houses are located on a former Council garage block. They are designed to meet 'Code for Sustainable Homes' level 4 with code 5 for energy, which means that they are energy-efficient.

Winchester City Council has chosen an electric car to replace a petrol pool-car used by staff for business across the district. The BMWi3 was 2014 World Green Car of the Year. It has a range of 100 miles or up to 186 miles with the 'range extender' – essential for a large rural district where staff such as planning officers need to make longer journeys in the course of their work. It has zero emissions when it is run on electric and has a small petrol engine as back-up to prevent drivers from being stranded on longer journeys

A plan to encourage more walking in Winchester has won the support of the City Council.

The Winchester Walking Strategy has been produced by a cross-party group of councillors and representatives of local organisations interested in residents' quality of life, the environment, economic vitality and the attractiveness of the city. The City Council agreed to support the strategy as a way to encourage and improve walking across Winchester. The group will work closely with Hampshire County Council, which has the main responsibility for transport and highways in Winchester. The new Strategy should assist this joint working to improve all forms of sustainable transport – including walking and cycling. Winchester is one of the first local authorities to put forward a comprehensive plan to make walking safer and more attractive. There is evidence from many UK towns and cities that where provision for walking is improved pedestrian use increases as does economic activity.

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Many of us are used to that New Year diet aimed at reducing our waist sizes. However, Winchester City Council recommend that households use the start of the New Year as a perfect opportunity to reduce their other household 'wastes' by using the network of recycling facilities across the District to dispose of items that can be reused or recycled. Everyone is used to getting rid of extra glass bottles and jars at the bottle banks. If you find you can't face another year with that jolly jumper or sad socks then the Council has a network of textile banks where these can be put to good use along with any other unwanted clothing from a Spring Clean out.

Residents of Upham near Bishop's Waltham have published a parish plan that sets out how they would like to see the parish improve in the coming years. The Plan took two and a half years to complete, with assistance and funding from Winchester City Council. The plan is titled Our Village, Our Voice, emphasising the strength of local opinions about life in the area. Almost half of all households took part in the production of the plan. The plan identifies countryside, community spirit and tranquillity as the three most-valued qualities of the parish. It sets out more than 20 actions to maintain these important qualities and to address other issues such as road maintenance, surface-water drainage and poor broadband and mobile phone services. The Parish Council will now work with local people and outside agencies to try and achieve the aims that residents have identified..

Friarsgate car park in Winchester will close permanently for safety reasons on Monday 30 March. The car park, parts of which are more than 40 years old, has come to the end of its useful life. Winchester City Council kept parts of the car park open for as long as possible but now needs to close the remaining 131 spaces to ensure public safety.

With the Boundary changes due to be published at the end of June or early July. Our Ward of Owslebury & Curdridge will be no more. I understand that Upham and Durley could Join Bishops Waltham, and Curdridge will become part of a ward to include Whiteley. **Owslebury** could become part of a very large ward called Twyford & Upper Mean Valley. Also may I thank the Chairman and the Parish Council members for their time and hard work they have given to the parish over the years.

Cllr Laurence Ruffell & Cllr Rob Humby
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