

**OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBY HELD ON  
16th MAY 2016  
AT 7:00 PM IN OWSLEBURY PARISH HALL**

**1. PRESENT**

Parish Councillors Gerry Tull (In the Chair), Paul Bowes, Mark Egerton, Will Martin, Paul Phillips, Roger Page.  
District Councillor Laurence Ruffell.  
District Councillor Amber Thacker.  
County and District Councillor Rob Humby.  
Sergeant Stuart Gilmour.  
Joe Fox (The Ship Inn).  
20 members of the public (left at varying times).  
Michael Cleary, Clerk to the Council.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Parish Councillor John Chapman.

Mollie Bailey  
Penny Bowes

**3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 had been previously circulated and were unanimously accepted as an accurate record (Proposed by Councillor Will Martin and seconded by Councillor Paul Phillips). Councillor Gerry Tull signed the minutes.

**4. PRESENTATIONS.**

- a. Joe Fox gave a presentation on his plans for The Ship Inn. Amongst other matters he noted:
- i. the bar would reopen in the coming weeks after a 'light' refurbishment and improvements to fire safety;
  - ii. major investment was planned later on in such areas as the kitchen, restaurant, lavatories and garden area;
  - iii. his plan was for the pub to be a traditional country pub serving country food locally sourced as far as possible, with a good wine list as well as beers. Where possible and appropriate he would consult with the village on the food and drink served in the pub;
  - iv. Joe will also make appropriate arrangements for horse riders and walkers to make them feel welcome;
  - v. he and his family would be living in the pub and very much wanted to be part of the village with the pub being the hub of the village.

He responded to questions from parishioners. Parishioners were supportive of his plans and wished him the best of luck.

- b. Sergeant Gilmour gave a presentation on the recent developments in the Police. He explained the recent reorganisation of the Police with Winchester District now being solely devoted to neighbourhood policing teams.

He commented on the background to the recent resignation of PCSO Richard Nolan. PCSO Nolan had enjoyed the original role of the PCSO as being primarily a uniformed presence in villages listening to concerns and giving support where necessary. He was less happy with the revised PCSO role so as to make more efficient use of Police resources in an age of austerity. It would now deal with incidents such as domestic violence. He noted there would be a replacement PCSO in due course but the timetable was uncertain.

Sergeant Gilmour noted the low level of crime in Owslebury during the last 12 months. He commented on the growing problem of fly tipping in the area and also parishioners concerns about the speed of traffic.

He responded to questions from parishioners.

**4. PARISH REPORT.**

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Michael Cleary, Parish Clerk, gave a report, on behalf of Councillor John Chapman, Chairman of the Parish Council, on the Council's activities during the council year. The salient points are summarised in the note sets out in Appendix 1. In relation to financial information for 2015/16, he commented the Council had continued to reduce its main costs. This had enabled it to hold the precept at more or less the same level for the last 3 years whilst at the same time increasing its reserves, so as to enable the Council to ensure adequate funding is in place for community projects and the replacement of assets. He noted the accounts and governance statements were available for inspection on the website, together with the internal auditor's report and an analysis of all payments over £100. A copy of the financial information made available at the meeting is included as Appendix 2.

#### **5. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS.**

District Councillor Laurence Ruffell delivered his and County and District Councillor Humby's report, a copy of which is set out in Appendix 3.

District Councillor Amber Thacker introduced herself as the newly elected councillor for the Upper Meon Valley Ward (which includes Owslebury).

District and County Councillor Rob Humby delivered his county council report. He commented on a number of matters including:

- a) the boundaries review for HCC;
- b) his new role in HCC as Executive member responsible for Environment and Transport;
- c) the scale of the cuts in central government grants to HCC both now and over the next few years. This forced HCC to make further substantial cuts and in his area of responsibility he had to justify expenditure on roads and environmental matters against other priorities such as social care and education – a difficult balance;
- d) the scale of the road network in Hampshire – some 5500 miles- and the issues he faced and the potential solutions. There were many requests from parishes for traffic calming measures and HCC had to set priorities. He noted in some instances scheme could go ahead (if the Safety Engineering Team approved) provided the parishes contributed to the costs involved;
- e) the current review of recycling centres and the difficult options he faced;
- f) the current review with regard to devolution and the impact it could have on the governance of Hampshire, including the role of parish councils.

He responded to questions from parishioners.

#### **6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**

There were no other public questions.

The meeting closed shortly after 8.50pm.

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

**APPENDIX 1 – COUNCILLOR JOHN CHAPMAN’S NOTES**

Welcome All

- Congratulate Rob, Laurence, Amber
- Sergeant Gilmore
- Joe Fox, The Ship
- Thank Sally Tattersall for her contribution to the PC and Village, thank Paul Bowes for stepping into the breach

no floods but lots of challenge, some positive achievements, some ....

**As last year start with the Parish Plan –**

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

- Still no effective recognition from WCC and SDNP v usage on planning applications.....
- FLOODING
  - o More Patch and mend completed (eg Hensting, Ows Bottom, Hazeley)
  - o Yet to see any proper strategic plan
- CREEPING INDUSTRIALISATION
  - o Planning vigilance
  - o Still concerns around Thompsons Lane
- TRAFFIC
  - o No progress whatsoever on Speed Limits – HCC not listening/prevarication. Will try to get a better result with new HCC Traffic Supremo (Cllr Humby)
  - 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
  - o Quiet Lanes, looked a good idea but in the end did not meet our needs
- INAPPROPRIATE USE OF CURRENT FACILITIES
  - o Vigilance wrt planning apps
  - o Alpaca Meadow
- PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF KEY FACILITIES
  - o Village Hall, has reorganised itself, still awaiting Land registration
  - o The Ship - awaiting with interest input from Joe Fox
- COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICES
  - o Have managed to hold the line wrt current bus service and school busses
  - o Thank Ellen Catterson, appears to be fresh approach from WCC
- NEW HOUSING SPACE
  - o Started working along an 'affordable housing plan'

- SUPPORTING GROWTH
  - o Broadband has improved for some but.....
- PARKS AND OPEN SPACES
  - o Sports Club now operating effectively
  - o Maintenance of Sports field, Play Area and Glebe Field has improved
  - o Pitcot Lane/Monarchs Way, almost there....
  - o Bank tree pruning/trying to keep alive
  - o Playground audits ok but need to think about refurbishment/replacement
  - o Bridleways & Footpaths (thank Gerry), 'new Owslebury bypass complete', better sit lines to be implemented on C9
- ADDITIONAL BURIAL GROUND
  - o PC still not certain on 'final' PCC position, concern registered by some villagers against any use of Glebe Field for graveyard extension
- Communications
  - o OIS functioning, Facebook also quite heavily used

### **OTHER ITEMS**

POLICE -presence diminishing, fortunately not too much serious crime, but.....

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

XMAS LIGHTS - thanks to, Dave Greenslade & Team, and George and Susan Brewer for continuing storage facilities

Phone Kiosk – we purchased it for £1, now deciding what next

### **BEECH GROVE VERGES/PARKING**

- Worked with residents and school, no concerns for sometime, however no 'Swimming Buses lately

**CONCERNS RE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS IN FAIR OAK AND CC AND IMPACT ON ROADS**

**VOLUNTEERS – 'The Problem maybe getting worse'**

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

And finally

Devolution – possibly our next big challenge, could change the way we operate

### **THANKS**

- Fellow councillors, District & County Councillors for support, and of course our Clerk Michael Cleary who does prodigious work for the village, and keeps me out of trouble

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 APPENDIX 2: FINANCIAL INFORMATION PROVIDED AT THE MEETING.

	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14	2012/3
	£	£	£	£
Precept & CTG	23,012	22,925	23,000	20,000
Other receipts	981	3,075	5,144	13,388
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>23,993</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>28,144</b>	<b>33,388</b>
Staff costs	5,791	5,984	6,519	10,494
Other payments	8,841	14,016	16,846	31,816
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>14,632</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>23,365</b>	<b>42,310</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>9,361</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>4,779</b>	<b>(8,922)</b>
Cash at bank	<b>51,749</b>	<b>42,388</b>	<b>36,388</b>	<b>31,609</b>

<b>RESERVES</b>	<b>2015/16 £</b>	<b>2014/15 £</b>	<b>2013/14 £</b>
Community projects	18,250	18,250	18,250
Commemoration	248	648	1,755
Play equipment	15,005	4,500	1,500
Election costs	1,000	1,000	1,000
Christmas lights	567	357	507
Legal/planning advice	2,500	2,500	500
Repairs & refurb.	3,500	0	0
Community bus	61	61	0
General	10,618	15,072	12,876
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,749</b>	<b>42,388</b>	<b>36,388</b>

**APPENDIX 3- DISTRICT COUNCILLORS ROB HUMBY AND LAURENCE RUFFELL**  
**Owslebury Annual Parish report for 2016**

**Homes** Extra Care Home development scheme progressing with the closure of the Chesil Street surface car park which is part of the Council's car parking strategy. The neighbouring Chesil multi-storey car park has capacity to cope with displaced parking from the surface car park. The new scheme will provide 79 new homes with state-of-the-art facilities, these modern spacious flats will provide for all the care and support needs of its residents. 21 New Council Homes are complete and residents have moved in. Winchester City Council has been shortlisted in two separate categories for the UK Housing Awards 2016. WCC have made vacancy management savings of over £245,000 this year in our Housing Revenue Account and made savings in major repairs but still are managing to maintain the improvement and refurbishment programme and our council house stock of 5100 homes with a positive 15 year plan for building new council homes

**Economy** Winchester City Council and Crest Nicholson are jointly funding a business advisor to offer individual support for Bury Farm businesses to understand the needs of each business, and work to help them find alternative premises and solutions to any other business issues. Plans for a new Creative Enterprise Centre in Winchester. Winchester City Council is proposing to transform a former industrial site at Barfield Close into a Creative Enterprise Centre. Working in close collaboration with local universities and creative industries, the Council is designing workspace that is tailor-made to meet the needs of graduates, business start-ups and other creative organisations.

Hampshire Apprentice Partnership - 7 roles available. Winchester City Council is co-ordinating an exciting new apprentice programme in Hampshire. The Hampshire Apprentice Partnership involves four councils in the county and offers thorough experience in the workplace whilst studying for a professional qualification without any fees or debt. Winchester City Council currently has seven diverse apprenticeship roles available for enthusiastic and motivated young people.

The council continues to facilitate the Fieldfare funding which is available for different rural projects over the next five years. Farmers, foresters, growers, rural businesses and rural communities can bid for a share of a £1.6million fund across the Fieldfare area. .

**Environment** Winchester has been recognised as a Purple Flag centre offering visitors an entertaining and safe night out, for a fifth year. Just as a Blue Flag is an indicator of a good beach, a Purple Flag is an indicator of where to go for a good night out.

Corporate Theme 2016/2017 - "Further to the Council's decision in December 2014 to adopt a Walking Strategy for Winchester, and this follows on from the success of the Great Waste project. This is in recognition of the health, economic, air quality, and reduction of congestion benefits of walking and is the aim of our "Feet First" initiative is to promote walking as the norm for short journeys, or as part of a longer journey, and create the context for change over a number of years so that people have direct, easy, safe, and pleasant routes encouraging them to want to walk to school, shops, work and public transport as well as for leisure purposes.

As part of our "Feet First" project we will be looking at actions the Council can lead on and implement itself as well as working with key external stakeholders, such as Living Streets, Hampshire County Council, parishes and major institutions, to facilitate walking in all its forms. We want to make this theme as inclusive as possible and for it to reach out across the District." **Communications** Our communications team is now working with a clearer focus on getting our message out to the public and within the council and making sure we are harnessing the benefits of social media. We are improving the performance our Business Support Team to concentrate on 'What matters to the customer' and have seen big improvements in time scales for planning where we are piloting this. This will also deliver savings in the long term and ethos we are encouraging is that we must constantly work to see how we can improve and do better.

**Transport** New Park-and-Ride at Pitt in Winchester is now open for business situated on Romsey Road near Pitt roundabout adding another 199 spaces to the overall 1650 park and ride parking spaces now available in Winchester City.

The Parking Team has been shortlisted for the 'Partnerships' award category at the 2016 British Parking Awards.

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**Fly-tipping** At Cabinet on the 10th February we agreed to a budget of £30,000 be authorised to purchase mobile CCTV cameras to deal with ad hoc anti-social behaviour issues or problems such as fly-tipping.

**Sport** Winchester City Council and partners are delighted to announce that the 2016 Winchester Criterium will include British Cycling's South Regional Circuit Race Championships.

**Finance** Winchester City Council is doing its utmost to achieve balance budgets while still maintaining services. But the issue I have is that there will be councils in the country left with insufficient resources to run services and we do not know if we will be then called up upon to bail them out, just like the South is always doing for the North. Even so we will have to make cuts.

At a recent cabinet meeting we were informed that we will receive revenue support grant reduced by 42%. - £728,000 less grant reduction than was expected and there is an unknown with the Government consultation on the New Homes Bonus scheme which could be mean further reductions of £4m over the 5 years of the medium term financial forecast. However the Latest update from DCLG does mean a better outcome for both WCC and HCC. The DCLG U-turn is very welcome, we do not have the numbers yet but would hope it would be an improvement of £100k this year and £150K for each of the next 2 years for WCC.

We have about £2 million in general reserves but once these are spent they are gone – it is important to keep money available for when we really need it e.g. if we have another major flooding event for example. Of course we have specific reserves earmarked for particular projects and this is reviewed each year. There are no reductions to frontline service planned for 2016/17 and Grants to the voluntary sector and Council tax support grants to Parishes have also been maintained at the same level as 2015/16.

The Government has confirmed there will be no Council Tax freeze scheme for 2016/17 and Central Government projections assume that all authorities will increase their precept by the maximum amount. Therefore the present projections reflect an increase of 3.4% in Council Tax for the District and Winchester Town area. This equates to an increase of £4.38 for a Band D property.

The decision to terminate the contract for Silver Hill will have a major impact on the council as this was income that has been budgeted in the future and will no longer be coming in. Instead the council will be faced with more expenditure for demolition and making safe the area until a new plan is forthcoming. Thankfully we have other projects in the pipe line, like Station Approach that will generate income for the council, but we have projects that will be a cost to the council money, like the refurbishment of River Park, and providing new offices for the council as the current ones are no longer fit for purpose.

**Local Plan** Consultation on the 'Publication' (Pre-Submission) version of the Local Plan Part 2 was undertaken between 6 November 2015 and 21 December 2015. The consultation focused on the matters of 'soundness' which require the Plan to be:-

**Positively prepared, Justified, Effective, Consistent with National Policy**

The Plan must also comply with both legal and procedural requirements and have been prepared in accordance with the Duty to Cooperate ('legal compliance'). The Publication Plan and other supporting information can be viewed online on the City Council's website.

Comments and representations on the Publication Plan have been received from 368 people and organisations, covering many aspects of the Plan. All of the comments have now been uploaded and can be viewed on the Local Plan Part 2 web page.

The next stage of the Local Plan process is the Submission of the Local Plan and all the comments received at the Publication stage to the Secretary of State, for examination by an independent planning Inspector. The Plan will be submitted for examination in late March 2016 and the appointed Inspector will then start to examine its soundness and legal compliance. The Inspector will produce a list of the questions to be examined at the public hearings, which are expected to take place in late June/early July 2016.

**Cllr Rob Humby & Cllr Laurence Ruffell**

**May 2016**



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. Also may I thank the Chairman and the Parish Councillors for their time and hard work they have given to the parish over the past year.

DRAFT