

**OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBY HELD ON
8th MAY 2017
AT 7:00 PM IN OWSLEBURY PARISH HALL**

1. PRESENT

Parish Councillors John Chapman (In the Chair), Paul Bowes, Mark Egerton, Paul Phillips, Roger Page.
District Councillors Laurence Ruffell and Amber Thacker.
County and District Councillor Rob Humby.
3 members of the public.
Michael Cleary, Clerk to the Council.

2. APOLOGIES

Parish Councillors Will Martin, Gerry Tull.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2016 had been previously circulated and were unanimously accepted as an accurate record (Proposed by Councillor Bowes and seconded by Councillor Phillips). Councillor Chapman signed the minutes.

4. PARISH REPORT.

Councillor Chapman gave a report on the Council's activities during the council year. In particular he commented on the progress being made in relation to the objectives listed in the Parish Plan. He commented on one of the main issues facing the Parish – the need for younger volunteers to assist with parish organisations, so as to secure succession and to gain from the experience of the current (and largely older) generation. The salient points are summarised in the note set out in Appendix 1.

4. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS.

District Councillors Thacker and Ruffell delivered their reports, a copy of which is set out in Appendix 2 and 3. They set out the major activities and achievements of WCC during the year.

The Chairman congratulated County and District Councillor Humby on his election success. District and County Councillor Humby delivered his county council report. A copy of his report is set out in Appendix 4. He noted his report was shorter than normal due to his participation as a candidate in the recent county elections. He commented on a number of matters including the recent burglaries in the area, the recent success in reducing fly tipping and the continuing reduction in the HCC budgets, including that for Highways.

5. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S FINANCIAL REPORT.

Michael Cleary 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 4 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. A copy of his report is set out in Appendix 5.

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

In response to a question on the role of the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA), District Councillor Thacker commented the Park has few officers, but a very wide area to administer. She understood the concerns raised in connection with possible housing developments on the fringes of the Park. However, SDNPA could only express its view and had no authority to intervene directly in the planning process. .

The meeting closed shortly before 7.40pm.

Chairman.....John Chapman.....Date.....14/05/18.....

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held on Monday 8th May 2017

APPENDIX 1 – COUNCILLOR JOHN CHAPMAN’S NOTES

Welcome everybody

Congratulations to Rob Humby

Our Parish Plan tells us -

the overarching task for the Parish Council is to maintain the present countryside and agricultural nature of the Parish and to improve the quality of life for Parishioners.

So I am going to use its key constituents to summarise my view of what has happened in the last 12 months, while noting that it is now becoming urgent that we update the plan. A job for the coming year I believe.

Traffic Management

This has been dominated by EBC plans for more houses on our parish boundaries

A very well attended meeting in of the PC in November listened to several speakers outlining the concerns and agreeing to launch a parish wide request for funds to fight plans from Eastleigh as they evolve. I would particularly like to thank Richard Dale for presenting the current understanding of alternatives facing us at this time.

So far we have formed -

- Strategic alliance with ADD and funded some of their work

- Exerted pressure on WCC and HCC through Councillors and Southern Parishes

- Publicised events as they unfold on our website and with links to ADD

- Set up a PC Advisory Group to help with communication to the Parish

Despite pressure from many areas EBC agreed to allow c 200 houses to be built at the end of Mortimers Lane without paying any attention to the concerns which were raised in many quarters

The key next step will be the publishing of a Development for Eastleigh, probably in July.

Be assured the PC and ADD will be monitoring all these events with great care

We have also tried to get better traffic management rules applied to the Village. Bluntly without success, though I haven't given up and will continue to chase HCC on this.

One other item on traffic. We are getting more and more cyclists on our lanes, some of whom do not ride in a very courteous way wrt to other road users. A first for us is a set of PC signs on Whites Hill to try get speeds down and discourage HGV's.

Creeping Industrialisation/Inappropriate use of Facilities/Protection of Key Assets

All this comes to together in the work we do with the Planning organisation in WCC/HCC/SDNP. I think we are getting better relationships and processes established particularly in respect of environmental protection, but there is still a long way to go.

We have had some hard fights to protect some environments but its worth it.

One really irritating item that continues to haunt us is applications for retrospective planning approval. This is something government has to legislate on.....soon

Transport

Not a lot to say, the bus service is still hanging in, no particular concerns lately wrt School buses

New Housing/Support for Growth

The PC agreed to support the need for 10 affordable homes in the village. Some land was proposed and work is in progress to agree concrete proposals for Planning approval. Watch this space.

Open Spaces/Clubs etc

The Sports Club seems to getting on with its responsibilities, few complaints.....

Additional Burial Space

Rather than use their part of the Glebe Field the PCC is continuing to look for alternative space.

Other

Fly Tipping – a continual problem, but nice to see some big fines being administered so that might help.

We held a successful litter pick in March, my thanks go to Will Martin for organising this

Roads - better relations established with Hampshire Highways

Xmas Lights (although not a PC responsibility)– they are getting better, our thanks to Andrew Hodges and the team for this.

Phone Kiosk – the council acquired it for a nominal for community use. A parishioner plans to use it as a community herb garden, but if this doesn't work out we will look for another use or sell it.

Devolution/Boundaries - devolution didn't happen! Electoral boundaries seem settled. SDNP made a mess of the settlement boundary for Owslebury, we await their next move.

Communications – Website & Facebook go from strength. Many thanks to the newsletter team for delivering all the flyers regarding the Eastleigh plans

ALMOST THE BIGGEST SINGLE PROBLEM

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held on Monday 8th May 2017

Volunteers

Our village will die as an entity if you all fail to play a part. Bluntly its not smart to expect elderly people ensure everything gets done. Younger people must start playing more of a part to ensure knowledge and experience gained over the years is not lost to the detriment of current and future residents. Will all the Village please consider what they can do for the community NOW. The Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council, OMCA, the Xmas lights team all need new blood and extra hands.

Finally my thanks to all members of the PC, our District and County Councillors, and of course Michael Cleary our clerk, for the support they have given me over the last year and the value they have added to our community.

John G Chapman
Chairman Owslebury Parish Council
8th May 2017

APPENDIX 2: DISTRICT COUNCILLOR AMBER THACKER'S REPORT.

Winchester City Council ("WCC") Report for Municipal Year 2016/2017

Dear Councillors

Municipal year 2016/2017 has been an exciting one at Winchester City Council, with a lot going on and various changes and projects. This report will briefly take you through some of the highlights this year, most notably we have fresh and positive changes to the leadership at WCC with Laura Taylor taking over from Simon Eden as Chief Executive, and Cllr Caroline Horrill taking up the mantle of Leader following on from Cllr Stephen Godfrey:-

Winchester bus station

In April 2017 WCC agreed to buy the freehold of the bus station site in central Winchester from bus operator Stagecoach and the purchase was agreed at special meetings of Winchester City Council's Cabinet and Council (5 April) and was supported by members unanimously.

This is a hugely positive step and the investment ensures both the future of bus operations in the city centre will generate income through agreements with bus companies for continued use of the station.

The acquisition exemplifies the City Council's new entrepreneurial approach to the delivery of public services. The Council is taking an active role in securing strategically important property and creating an opportunity for future income generation.

New Leisure Centre

River Park Leisure Centre is now more than 40 years old and its ability to meet the needs of a growing population in Winchester is limited. The City Council has looked at various options for replacing or refurbishing it and has commissioned work from external consultants to test the various options.

The Council agreed in November 2016 to purchase the Garrison Ground at Bar End. This will secure the future of the Garrison Ground for community sports and leisure use and means that part of the site can be evaluated as an option for the location of the city's new sports and leisure centre.

The current estimates from consultants indicate that a new sports and leisure centre at Bar End would cost in the region of £30 - £35 million. It would take approximately three years to design and build.

In March 2016 verification plans for the proposed sports and leisure centre were released to show the possible layout.

Adoption of Local Plan Part 2

WCC formally adopted its Local Plan Part 2 at its Council meeting on Wednesday 5 April.

Part 2 follows several years of extensive work with parishes, local communities and stakeholders and independent examination last year. It focuses on the district's towns and villages and includes a range of detailed policies.

The Winchester Local Plan now provides strong positive planning policy for the district, setting out areas for growth and those to be protected.

Winchester business rates

Winchester City Council has welcomed the Chancellor's announcement at the Spring Budget to set aside over £900,000 in the next four years for businesses across the Winchester district that face a significant rise in their business rates bill.

This funding is 'front-loaded', with over £500,000 available for the coming financial year.

Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showpersons Local Plan

The City Council has launched a survey to seek views on matters to be considered as part of its Traveller Local Plan and options for the identification of sites.

This follows on from the Inspector finding Local Plan Part 2 sound, which establishes a requirement for 15 gypsy and traveller pitches and 24 travelling showpersons plots in the District between 2016 and 2031.

Fly-tipping crack-down

WCC has been cracking down hard on fly-tipping and there have been a number of successful prosecutions for this

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held on Monday 8th May 2017
offence this year.

For fly-tips discovered at Forest Lane in Wickham, Pigeon House Lane in Southwick, Dean Lane in Bishop's Waltham and Chidden Lane in Hambledon between April and June 2016, the perpetrator appeared before Portsmouth Crown Court on 1 February 2017 and was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. He was also made the subject of a Criminal Behaviour Order for a period of five years. The Criminal Behaviour Order prohibits him from engaging in the kind of behaviour which led to these prosecutions and covers the whole of Hampshire. Breach of the order is a criminal offence and can lead to a fine or imprisonment or both.

Fly-tipping rates between October to December 2015 and 2016 have decreased by 33.74. This is a steady decline in reported incidents from information from the Districts.

Council scoops Gold Standard award for local homelessness services

Winchester City Council has become the first council in Hampshire and only the fifth in England to receive the Government's prestigious 'Gold standard' award in recognition of its work in preventing and tackling all forms of homelessness.

The Government's Gold Standard programme for housing options services is based on a national assessment framework that includes a 'peer review' of the authority's front-line service and applications for each of the 10 local challenges. The programme is aimed at promoting good practice and ensuring services are fit for purpose.

Buy your own home - help from the City Council

Cabinet has proposed setting up an 'Open-Market Shared Ownership' scheme. This would support local residents by providing equity to buy a property in the district for those who do not have the substantial deposit required for a house.

Through charging a rent on the deposit element the Council will ensure a good financial return for the local taxpayer whilst ensuring that the Council's investment activity is targeted in the local area.

Local residents will need to meet criteria to access the scheme, with higher scores for those who have lived in the district for over ten years, work in the district and are first-time buyers.

The household will normally own 70% of the property - with a deposit of at least 5% of this value depending on circumstances - with the Council owning a 30% share. In the future, the household can buy the Council out of its share.

It is a privilege to be your Councillor and I look forward to working for you in the year ahead in our wonderful local area.

Amber Thacker

**Cllr Amber Thacker amberthacker@live.co.uk
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APPENDIX 3: DISTRICT COUNCILLOR LAURECE RUFFELL'S REPORT.

Cllr Laurence Ruffell's Annual Report

Jan 2016

In the wake of the Paris Climate Conference last month, Winchester City Council has been considering progress being made locally towards reducing carbon emissions. One way we can achieve this is by cutting the mileage travelled by refuse collection lorries which consume a gallon of fuel every three or four miles travelled on their rounds. Other small changes combined to reduce gas and electricity used to heat and light Guildhall Winchester and the Council Offices. Staff and councillors will be trained in eco-driving that cuts miles per gallon, and the parking policy will be reviewed in 2016 to align it more closely with the Council's economic strategy, including the objective of building a local low-carbon economy.

Feb 2016

Twenty-one energy efficient homes are ready for Winchester City Council tenants to move in. These new homes are part of the Council's ambitious programme to provide 300 new council homes in the District. The new dwellings are designed for local residents of Stanmore to remain in their home as their mobility needs change.

March 2016

The City Council has welcomed Winchester's top place in the Sunday Times' 'Best Places to Live'. "Winchester has a fabulous mix of history, culture, shopping, countryside and accessibility that adds up to a highly-prized quality of life. The Cathedral, the South Downs National Park, festivals such as the Hat Fair, celebrity-chef restaurants and picture-postcard villages are just a few of the area's attractions.

April 2016

To help with the new change in legislation, the Animal Welfare Team at Winchester City Council held a free event to have dogs chipped on 1 April.

Dog owners are reminded that they will have to microchip and register their pet before a new law comes into force on 6 April 2016..

May 2016

Local Elections on new Ward Boundaries, the " Upper Meon Valley" has 2 new District Councillors, Councillor Amber Thacker who lives in Cheriton and is a member of the Planning Committee of the SDNP and Councillor Laurence Ruffell who lives in Owslebury who is the Chairman of the Planning Committee on WCC. Both are experienced Councillors on Winchester City Council.

June 2016

Simon Eden has announced that he is leaving his role as Chief Executive of Winchester City Council after 13 years.

Simon has served Winchester with great distinction, always demonstrating the highest standards of integrity. He has handled the many challenges of his role with dignity and good humour, treating councillors, staff and the public with respect and kindness.

July 2016

Winchester City Council has taken decisive action to deal with anti-social behaviour at one of its tenanted properties.

A so-called 'closure order' has been served on the tenant Valerie Smith and other habitual occupant James Green at 16 Water Lane in Winchester following more than five years of nuisance and anti-social behaviour which have escalated in severity.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held on Monday 8th May 2017

The property will be boarded up for three months while the Council undertakes proceedings to regain possession of the property, which is mandatory.

The Council has continued to receive complaints of nuisance and anti-social behaviour and these reports have escalated in nature and severity including:

- Alcohol abuse and alleged drug-dealing from the property
- Aggressive behaviour, fighting in the street and foul and abusive language
- Bonfires and the deliberate setting alight of a sofa in the back garden resulting in toxic fumes, including fire brigade attendance to extinguish an out-of-control fire

August 2016

The Boomtown Festival took place on the Matterley Estate near Winchester from Thursday 11 August to Sunday 14 August 2016.

The licence under which the event operates takes into account issues such as permitted audience numbers, hours of operation and off-site community noise levels. The public was able to make representations when the licence was reviewed and it was considered and approved at a meeting of the Council's Licensing Sub-Committee.

September 2016

We were offering money for a one-off event, new piece of equipment or community activity?

Grants of up to £500 were available from Winchester City Council..

Applications could be for a health-related activity, a new or additional piece of equipment for a sports club, promotional material for an arts event or project, or a community activity.

October 2016

Plans for involving the public in a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for central Winchester regeneration were shaped at a workshop held at the Guildhall on Monday 3 October.

The workshop was attended by representatives from Winchester's business, environmental and architectural communities as well as councillors and the general public.

Recommendations included:

- Seeking interest from urban design specialists who can help formulate the SPD and carry out public engagement as an integrated process
- Talking to residents, visitors, people already occupying the site, bus-users, young people, people who work in the city and seeking to get representative views
- Considering carefully the business and retail issues.

The aim is to establish a new vision for redevelopment that will reinvigorate Winchester's town centre with a mix of commercial, residential and cultural activity and improve local services.

The principle and broad scope of development in this area of the city around the bus station (***Which the City now own***) and Friarsgate buildings is set out in the City Council's Local Plan.

November 2016

Laura Taylor has been appointed as Chief Executive of Winchester City Council. She is due to start in early January 2017. The role is the City Council's most senior officer, advising councillors and leading staff management and service delivery. The post is responsible for 470 staff, a budget of over £90m a year and a capital programme of more than £170m over the next five years.

Her professional background is in environmental and public health but over her 30-year career in the public sector, she has broad experience of leading a range of customer-facing services. In her current role she is responsible for a number of major development and regeneration projects along with business liaison.

December 2016

THE leader of Winchester City Council has announced he will step down.

Stephen Godfrey said that he felt it was the right time to leave the role after 17 months at the helm.

In a personal statement seen by the Chronicle, the 59-year-old said: "In recent weeks, I have become aware of further pressures and obligations coming my way for which I have neither the time nor energy to meet while also giving the role of Council Leader the commitment that it demands.

"After careful consideration and consultation with many others, I have decided to bring forward my departure from this role and will cease to be Leader of Winchester City Council from 11th January 2017.

January 2017

Cllr Caroline Horrill is the new Leader of Winchester City Council. She takes up the role following her appointment at full Council on 11 January.

Cllr Horrill says we must adopt a new business-minded, innovative and entrepreneurial approach to delivering financial stability to the Council and so ensure we can deliver the highest quality services for our residents, businesses and visitors and that meet the outcomes we have identified in our Council Strategy. My approach to our work will be inclusive and collaborative.

February 2017

Winchester City Council has become the first council in Hampshire and only the fifth in England to receive the Government's prestigious 'Gold standard' award in recognition of its work in preventing and tackling all forms of homelessness.

The Government's Gold Standard programme for housing options services is based on a national assessment framework that includes a 'peer review' of the authority's front-line service. The Council's Housing Options team were presented with the Gold Standard award by Lindsay Megson, Head of Service at the National Practitioner Support Service.

March 2017

Saw the Council prosecute several offenders for fly tipping, this is one such example

Mr Matthew Bartlett of Botley, Southampton appeared at Southampton Magistrates Court on Friday 17 March 2017 and pleaded guilty to three offences contrary to s.34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The prosecution, brought by Winchester City Council related to a fly-tip discovered on a bridle path off Cott Street, Droxford, which is in the South Downs National Park..

District Judge Morgan fined Mr Bartlett a total of £3100 for the offences. In addition he was ordered to pay £291.92 for the cost of clearing up the tips and £2925 in prosecution and investigation costs, making the total financial penalty £6316.92.

April 2017

. Winchester City Council has agreed to buy the freehold of the bus station site in central Winchester from bus operator Stagecoach.

The investment ensures the future of bus operations in the city centre and will generate income through agreements with bus companies for continued use of the station.

The City Council intends to make improvements to the site in the short-term and to propose changes that will improve the flow of buses through the town and increase pedestrian safety.

The purchase will support Winchester as a successful economic and service centre and improve health and happiness by ensuring that public transport options remain available to the local community.

Winchester City Council formally adopted its Local Plan Part 2 at its Council meeting on Wednesday 5 April.

Part 2 follows several years of extensive work with parishes, local communities and stakeholders and independent examination last year. It focuses on the district's towns and villages and includes a range of detailed policies.

The Winchester Local Plan now provides strong positive planning policy for the district, setting out areas for growth

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held on Monday 8th May 2017
and those to be protected.

May I thank the Chairman, Clerk, Councillors and others for their time and hard work they have given to the parish over the past year.

Cllr Laurence Ruffell

April 2017

APPENDIX 4: COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ROB HUMBY'S REPORT.

**Owslebury Annual Parish Assembly
May 2017**

County Councillor Rob Humby report.

Dear Councillors

I hope you won't mind my sending you only a brief report this time around. With the election only being held on the 4th, it has been rather hectic as I am sure you can appreciate.

Primarily, I simply wanted to thank all of you for the wonderful support I always receive as your local councillor.

Whether we vote the same way at election time or not, I always feel as though we are truly pulling together for the benefit of our community.

I look forward to continuing to work closely together with all of you in the years ahead.

Our area is facing unprecedented challenges as record numbers of homes are built in the south east. Our roads, schools and infrastructure will all need to be improved and maintained. We will also need to tackle the innumerable local issues which arise in our communities every day.

I will continue to work hard to tackle these issues for as long as I am your local councillor. Working together, we can ensure our area remains a fantastic place to live and work.

Look forward to speaking with you all soon.

Rob Humby

Owslebury Parish Council
2017 Annual Parish Assembly
RFO's comments on financial results.

The unaudited draft results for 2016/17 show a surplus of £6.2k, ahead of budget but down on the surplus of £9.4k for last financial year.

The Council kept the precept at the same level as for the last three years notwithstanding the council's expenditure has risen over that period. Receipts of £27.4k mainly comprised the precept and WCC grant of £22.9k, a Countryside grant of £782 and donations of £1.7k (see below)

Payments came to £21.2k, an increase of £6.6k on the previous year. The largest increases in payments were:

- Staff costs increased by just under £200 to £6k.
- Green-keeping costs increased by £1,415 to £2,640. This is partly because the former contractor failed to cut the grass as frequently as the council had agreed. The contract was re-tendered with four contractors putting forward bids. The new contractor has good references and provided a good tender price.
- Maintenance costs including for the Play area increased by £846 to £1,243. This reflects the refurbishment of benches in the parish and the phone box, the purchase and installation of signage, repairs to the matting in the Play area and the fence, and high pressure cleaning of the matting.
- Grants to local bodies increased by £2,565 to £3,665. This includes £1,740 raised from donations by the public and passed on to Action against Destructive Development, a group supported by local parishes, interested parties and local MPs. The group funds consultancy advice and other services necessary to protect the interests of villagers and the area generally from the additional traffic that could arise from the adoption of Options B&C of the draft Eastleigh local plan.
- In the light of parishioners concerns about traffic volume in the village, the council commissioned consultants to advise on the options for discussion with HCC. The cost was £850.
- Expenditure on community projects increased by £675 to £1,200 following the acquisition of scalplings for the refurbishment of a footpath/bridleway.
- Tree pruning costs increased by £750 to £950 and was mainly accounted for by a major pruning of the Bank tree in an effort to save the tree.

The council has reserves of about £58,000 on 31st March 2017. Of that sum £18,500 is earmarked for community projects and £23,500 for the replacement or refurbishment of playground equipment. The general reserve amounts to about £11,900. This enables the council to deal with unexpected but necessary expenditure.

Overall, the council has continued to hold the precept at the same level it was three years ago. Reductions in routine costs through greater efficiency or re-tendering have enabled expenditure on community projects to be increased, and a healthy level of reserves maintained.

M Cleary
RFO
May 2017