

**OWSLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBY HELD ON
13th MAY 2019
AT 7:00 PM IN OWSLEBURY PARISH HALL**

1. PRESENT

Parish Councillors John Chapman (In the Chair), Mark Egerton, Paul Phillips, Roger Page, Will Martin, Charlotte Thompson.

County Councillor Rob Humby
District Councillor Hugh Lumby
Juanita Madgwick, Clerk to the Council.
4 members of the public

2. APOLOGIES

Parish Councillor Paul Bowes.
District Councillor Laurence Ruffell

3. MINUTES

The Councillors noted their acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 14th May 2019, and the Council **Resolved**, unanimously, they were a true record. Councillor Chapman signed the minutes.

4. PARISH REPORT

Councillor Chapman presented the Chairman's report. (See Appendix 1)

5. REPORTS FROM THE DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

District Councillors Report (See Appendix 2)

District Councillor Humby wished to comment on the following on his report:

There has been a change in control in Winchester City Council through the recent local election and there is hope that all the Councillors can work together.

Councillor Humby wished to mention that the Eastleigh development is outside the SDNP.

CAMS are leading a forum on noise and speed and their focus is on the A272 & A32. Speed is an issue for the whole of the area. CAMS are putting together a menu for Parish Councils to use for traffic calming. Winchester City Council is on course for providing their quota for affordable housing.

There has been a slight increase in crime in the area, there have been gangs coming up from the South and moving through the area. The police have been making resourcing available for these crimes.

The Bin service has dipped in recent months due to the Lorries being old and employees leaving, however WCC have put some money into improvements to the Lorries.

The monthly glass collection will start in October the boxes have been ordered and received waiting to be distributed.

County Councillors Report

County Councillor Rob Humby presented his report:

Councillor Humby noted that Hampshire County Council received a £2 Billion budget last year, HCC made a saving of ½ billion, 50% was spent on schools and £35 million was spent on home to school transport. HCC employ 35,000 staff, there are 13 departments under Hampshire Highways. These departments include; environment, flooding, recycling amongst others.

The main aim of Hampshire Highways is road safety as strategic network casualties have gone up. If there has been an accident it is investigated and the issues are addressed. Of the 50 most dangerous roads in the country 3 are in Hampshire, HCC have been given £3 million to address these roads.

HCC are leading on bringing together different authorities and trusts to work together with the Council.

Councillor Humby thanked Cllr Chapman for his hard work over the year as the Chairman of the PC and all the Councillors on the PC.

6. REPOSNSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

The RFO read out the financial report. (see Appendix 3)

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

There were no questions or comments from the public.

The meeting closed at 8:11pm.

Chairman: John Chapman

Date 06/05/21

Appendix 1

Chairman's Report

Good evening everyone, welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting. It is my pleasure and responsibility as chair of Owslebury Parish to give you a report of events in the Parish over the last 12 months. I will then chair any discussion both on my report, and any topics Parishioners care to raise pertinent to the Parish. This meeting will be followed by the Annual Meeting of Owslebury Parish Council at which the Council will elect its Chair and Deputy Chair for the next twelve months. Normal PC monthly PC business will follow that.

The issue that continues to dominate Parish affairs is traffic and of course allied to that the proposed Eastleigh Local Plan.

1. The PC decided in 2016 to ally itself with ADD to raise concerns with the Eastleigh Plan as far as it potentially affects Owslebury. We have no issues with Eastleigh's housing needs, only with probable effects they could have on traffic on our parish roads. As you know our concerns and those of ADD seemed to fall on deaf ears, and a plan was submitted last year that ignoring our points. We immediately wrote to EBC to raise our concerns –

See appendix 1

2. You will be interested to here that the day after the elections last week EBC published their traffic analysis, many months late!
3. Unfortunately there has been a hiatus in the process caused by a change of inspector, due mainly to workload. The new inspector has already has now pointed to concerns with the plan and asked Eastleigh for further information. The above traffic analysis was point raised. I think the summary ADD posted last month last month says it all –

The inspector's letter to EBC identifies five broad areas where the council needs to do more work

- A) Duty to Co-operate with neighbouring authorities.
- B) Environmental impact.
- C) Highways.
- D) Viability work and the Strategic Growth Option.

See appendix 2

4. So the bottom line is we are still awaiting the inquiry to start, our best guess is the beginning of September.

We have also set up our own traffic group headed by Will Martin, to look at ideas for managing/calming current traffic. Currently we are focussed on whether to introduce some speed cameras similar to the ones in Church Lane, Colden Common. To be discussed at the follow on meeting. We did get a study done by a traffic consultant to give us ideas, Will is still thinking these through. We also bought 50 30mph bin signs for use in the village.

Other items to exercise us other the last 12 months were –

Lots of Planning appl.

Dogs, littering still a concern, we have provided a new bin near Th Ship on Whites Hill

Playground – significant improvements including 2 new baby swings, repairs to the roundabout and swings, and better signage

Tree preservation – we are investigating Tree Preservation Orders for significant village trees

Pitcot lane, bollard, noise and bridleway. 2 meetings held with McKenzie Foods another scheduled for this month.

HCC are still trying to fix the bollard.

Affordable housing the council is still interested in supporting this. We had a presentation from WCC which didn't really give us any new ideas. It will be interesting to see if the new WCC has new ideas/impetus on this.

The Ship – has at last started to serve food regularly please consider supporting it.

Finally I would to say how pleased the council with the way our new clerk, Juanita, has picked up the baton from Michael Cleary (a formidable act to follow). She has I think seen/met most of the challenges the Parish can provide and has taken most in her stride.

And PS

OWSLEBURY



To do things for

The PC

The PCC

OMCA

The School

The Hall

Owslebury Parish Council

Chairman:
Councillor Mr J Chapman

Clerk

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By e-mail and hand to-
Planning & Policy Implementation
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Eastleigh House
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Eastleigh, SO50 9YN

Owslebury Parish Council assessment of Eastleigh Local Plan

Owslebury Parish Council (OPC) has assessed the Eastleigh Local Plan and is convinced it is **unsound** and **probably not legally compliant**. Our evaluation is based on the areas that directly impact Owslebury, other areas have not been considered.

Soundness and Legal Compliance (Section 2)

OPC is concerned primarily with the effects that additional traffic generated by the plan will impact the parish, in terms of volumes, noise and other impacts on our environment. The Parish Council has a duty to help protect its parishioners against developments of this nature, and firmly believes that the plan will have a very negative effect on the lives of parishioners if it is implemented.

In particular -

1. The plan requires that the link road on which the traffic plan is based can be delivered in its entirety. Yet no data is available to demonstrate it is feasible, and that it is properly funded. HCC has not yet confirmed that it is feasible.
2. The Strategic Growth options (B&C) on which the plan is based are not supported by concrete evidence to sustain its viability, or that it can be delivered to schedules planned. No proper evidence is presented that Options D&E are less attractive.
3. Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) delegated the final decision on the content of the plan to the Council Leader and Chief Executive thus removing the rest of the elected Council members of legal responsibility for the plan. This is surely at the very least unsound, if not illegal.
4. There is no evidence to show that any impact to South Downs National Park (SDNP) of which Owslebury is part has been properly considered, nor any mitigation measures agreed.
5. There does not appear to have been full and open discussion with Winchester City Council (WCC) required by 'Duty to Cooperate' on the strategic option, the potential environmental impacts or the management of traffic in Winchester District.

Traffic Policies S6, S12 and DM3

The narrow rural lanes of Owslebury Parish (including the Main Village Street) are already significantly impacted by traffic at key times on a weekday basis. More traffic will bring more hazards, both safety and environmental, to a National Park.

1. Northern Link Road. This is presented as a cornerstone of the whole plan, but there are no details as whether it is properly funded and what the timetable should be for its construction relative to the planned tranches of development. For example it has not been assessed against alternatives in Options D&E.
2. Allbrook Railway Bridge. This bridge is very narrow and cannot handle double decker buses or high lorries which get stuck there on a regular basis. The railway line carried by the bridge is the major (and almost only) freight and passenger link to Southampton and its docks. Any disruption to it would cause major economic damage to the whole area. Credible Proposals/mitigation measures to lower and widen the bridge have not been produced and would surely be unaffordable. Any plan that included rail disruption would be immediately vetoed by both Network Rail and the Southampton Port Authority.
3. The traffic model used to 'support' the plan only looks to A&B roads and some junctions. It does not reflect the current traffic through Owslebury or predict further impacts. There are so far no mitigation measures proposed either by EBC or HCC to what is already recognised as a major bottleneck at peak periods. EBC has never offered to consult or discuss this plan with OPC except at the general public meetings.

Alternative Options Policies S5 and S12

EBC reasons for choosing B&C rather than D&E are at the best flimsy and lack robust analysis. They seem dependent on a gap strategy finalised this year after the plan was published last year. No reasoned argument is available to support this, leading one to the uncomfortable feeling that other priorities are in play.

In the view of OPC D&E would have far less impact to the environment and would provide better traffic management and transport access to the region. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) section 9 states

that significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This is to "reduce congestion and emissions and improve air quality and public health". By preferring Option B & C (no ready access to public transport) to option D & E (potential access to rail and motorway transport), the plan appears to be in breach of national guidelines.

Environmental Issues Policies S5, S6, DM1, DM6, DM8 and DM11

1. Impact to SDNP. There is no evidence in the plan that EBC has worked with SDNP to identify and mitigate impacts to the Park whose boundaries will be less than a mile from some of the planned housing development.
2. Itchen SSSI. The planned Northern Link Road would significantly damage the River Itchen itself and the Marshland around the area. No mitigation plans are existent, and no substantive discussions with key parties such as the Woodland Trust or the Angling Trust have occurred.
3. The plan has not yet been completely reviewed by the Environment Agency. The final Habitat Assessment was not put to the Agency in time to comment before the plan was published. The Flood Plain around the Itchen requires significant management to avoid water pollution from future development. No plans or mitigation measures have been put forward to answer this concern.

Summary

All the above clearly demonstrate that the Plan is unsound in a number of areas and in OPC' s view should be rejected. OPC would wish to present its views at any Planning Inspectorate inquiry.

Please confirm receipt of this representation as soon as possible.

Juanita Madgwick
Clerk to Owslebury Parish council

Appendix 2

ADD UPDATE, 5 April 2019: Many thanks to a sharp-eyed ADD supporter for drawing attention to an important letter from the planning inspector appointed to consider Eastleigh's Local Plan, which he found buried on the council's website. The letter, sent by Christa Masters to Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) on 20 March, highlights a long list of gaps in the evidence supporting the Local Plan.

Her comments resonate with the views of opponents of the Plan who have long argued that EBC's decision to adopt it was taken without the necessary evidence. The inspector's letter to EBC identifies five broad areas where the council needs to do more work:

- 1) **Duty to Co-operate with neighbouring authorities.** In particular, it mentions the need to develop common ground with Winchester City Council (which has found the Plan 'unsound') on the question of the proposed link road.
- 2) **Environmental impact.** The letter asks how EBC proposes to address concerns expressed by the Environment Agency relating to the effect on the River Itchen, including impacts of "a strategic nature, noise and vibration, hydrological impacts, otter dispersal corridors, non-native species, water abstraction and water pollution".
- 3) **Highways.** The letter identifies six pieces of essential work still to be carried out and says that, depending on their outcome, there may have to be modifications to the Plan.
- 4) **Viability work and the Strategic Growth Option.** The inspector says that further work may be required on the viability of the proposed options. For example, she says: "The evidence notes that in the context of ecology/habitats and buffers this is an area 'under consideration, with no information available to inform any particular assumptions at this stage'."
- 5) **Other matters.** The letter points out that EBC failed to publish all the necessary notices at sites allocated under the Plan, as it is required to do.

She concludes: "Until the evidence base is complete I am unable to progress the Plan. As a result I am unable to develop my main matters and issues for examination and fully plan the hearing sessions."

In its reply to the inspector on 29 March, EBC promises to address all the inspector's points by June – 18 months after the council meeting that first adopted the Plan.

She then commented –

In terms of modifications generally, it would be preferable to receive these once the evidence base is complete and the Council is satisfied that the schedule you prepare addresses all matters raised. It would appear that a significant amount of the evidence you are preparing will not be available until mid/end June. Once this evidence is available, I will be in a position to proceed with the examination and the preparation and programming of the Matters and Issues.

Appendix 2

Owslebury Parish Meeting Winchester City Councillor Report May 2019

1. Rubbish collection

The current contract for refuse collection comes to an end in October this year. That contract is currently carried out jointly with East Hampshire District Council.

Winchester City Council have decided to extend the existing contract on its own for a further year (East Hants are entering into separate arrangements with Havant).

The key feature of the new arrangement will be the introduction of monthly kerbside glass collection from October 2019 - everyone will be issued with a free box and details of their collection day over the coming months.

The introduction of the kerbside collection will mean that there is less need for bottle banks in the area. Some of these will therefore be removed, depending on usage. Heavily used bottle banks are therefore likely to be retained.

There have been some reliability issues with some of the existing refuse collection lorries which has meant that on occasion collections have been late or delayed. A number of new lorries are to be acquired to address this. Two new lorries have arrived in the last few weeks and two have finished repairs, so there is an expectation for return to schedule in the weeks ahead.

As collection will now be solely in the Winchester City Council district, there will be some changes to schedules and collection days. Again, details of this will be circulated in the coming months.

WCC are also running a full bin collection procurement exercise, for an 8 year contract starting with the successful bidder from October 2020. As part of this exercise and in line with the latest Government consultation on reducing waste, we will also consider a doorstep food collection service as well as other options including textiles.

2. New Leisure Centre under way

Work has now started on the proposed new leisure centre at Bar End. Planning permission has been obtained, Willmott Dixon appointed as building contractor and Everyone Active selected as operator. Everyone Active have been named Swim England's Operator of the Year for the last two years and run 150 facilities nationally.

Funding was approved at the council meeting on 28th February. The new facility will be developed with financial support from Hampshire County Council, the Pinder Trust, and the University of Winchester. Work commenced last week.

The new leisure centre, with eight courts and a 50m pool as well as extensive other facilities, is designed to serve the entire district. With the new location at Bar End, access will be much easier from the Upper Meon Valley ward. It is due to open in 2021.

In addition, a new four court sports centre is separately being proposed to serve the Southern Parishes.

3. District litter clean up

The city council pledged its support for this year's Great British Spring Clean, run by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The Great British Spring Clean brought together individuals, community organisations, businesses and councils to make a difference to the environment on our doorstep.

The campaign ran from March 22 to April 23, with residents urged to get out in the district and help clean up roads and community green spaces. The council, along with its street care contractors, assisted local parishes and litter picking groups by providing free high-visibility jackets, litter picks and black bags which they collected after the event.

Similar initiatives are encouraged and will be supported where possible.

4. Anti-social noise and speeding

The second meeting of the forum set up to seek to address the issues of anti-social motorbike noise in the area met last month, at the offices of the Police & Crime Commissioner. Chaired by CANS (Communities Against Noise & Speed), it brings together the different layers of government (at national, county and district level) as well as the Police to discuss and implement solutions to the problem.

The meeting heard from the Police on its plans for the months head, including the trialling of two different pieces of technology. A menu of options for traffic calming measures is also being prepared for parishes, enabling them to choose lower cost measures that will assist in their locality. Although the focus by CANS to date has been on the major roads, it is acknowledged that the problem cannot be shifted onto the smaller lanes and so an entire area solution is required.

5. District council tax freeze approved

Winchester City Council is proposing no increase in its share of the Council Tax for 2019/2020, freezing the tax at this year's level. This was approved at the council meeting on 28th February. The Council Tax also includes elements for Hampshire County Council, the Police and the parish precept. Both the HCC and Police elements are being increased.

Laurence Ruffell Hugh Lumby.

Appendix 3

Owslebury Parish Council 2019 Annual Parish Assembly RFO's comments on financial results.

The accounts, which are subject to audit, show the Council to be in a good financial position.

The Council kept the precept at the same level as that for the last Five years whilst making substantial reserves for future expenditure on traffic management improvements and the playground equipment.

Receipts of £29,000 mainly comprise of;

- The Precept and WCC grant of £22,832
- Donations from the Action against Destructive Development (ADD) campaign £2,815
- VAT Refunds of £2,463 (Due to traffic survey & playground work)

Payments came to £37,203 an increase of £14,623 on the previous year. The increases were mainly in:

- Training costs were up by £130
- Photocopying costs were up by £90
- Meeting Costs were up by £108
- Office Equipment costs were up by £80 – this was mainly because a new printer was purchased.
- Green keeping costs were up by £242
- Playarea costs were up by £7,660 – This was due to 2 new baby swings being purchased and the swing area and roundabout area being resurfaced (The playground reserve was decreased by £7,500)

In addition to these increase in costs the Parish Council donated £10,865 to the ADD campaign and commissioned a traffic report which amounted to £1,810 and we paid out £1,264.00 from the Xmas Lights ring fenced funds.

These additional costs were largely offset by reductions in routine costs. However, the major reductions over last year were in:

- The Lengthmans scheme, which was taken on by another Parish Council
- Tree pruning down by £200
- Community Assets was down by £742
- Staff costs were down by £500

The Council had reserves of about £67,931 on 31st March 2019. The Council has ear-marked £25,000 to help fund community projects, notably traffic management measures, and £21,000 to fund the replacement of playground equipment in the next four to five years. The general reserve was £18,117, sufficient to fund any unexpected demands for expenditure.

Overall, the Council has continued to hold the precept at the same level it was five years ago, continued to control its costs base and to set aside substantial funds for community projects.

J Madgwick
RFO
May 2019