

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

at the

Church Hall

Monday, 19th May 2008

at

7:30 p m

Chairman: Mr. David Sullivan

1. Apologies

1.1. None

2. Approval of minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting held on 23 April 2007

2.1. The Chairman then asked the meeting if the draft minutes could be approved. Mr P G Wimby asked for Item 11.1, second sentence could be reworded and the minutes were updated to reflect the revised wording. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a complete and accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Declarations of interest

3.1. None

4. Village Hall Developments - Leopold Antelme

4.1. Leopold Antelme reported developments on the Village Hall project. The application for a second Lottery grant having been unsuccessful, the Hurstbourne Tarrant Trust had reassessed its budget and timetable with the help of a new architect, Ms Linda Brown. The estimated cost of the project had now been considerably reduced, on the basis of a comparable school building, recently completed by Ms Brown. The possibility of building the hall in two phases was a viable option. Thus, not only was the total estimated cost lower, but the initial amount to be raised and the time needed to raise it had also been reduced. The Trust was renewing its fundraising efforts and a new fundraising committee, chaired by Mrs. Dinah Murdoch, would be launching a special initiative in the Village. :

5. Local Policing & Neighbourhood Warden Scheme

5.1. Roger Kitson (Local Police representative) and David Smith (Neighbourhood Warden Scheme) provided an update on policing and community matters covering the 2007/08 period.

5.2. It was reported that overall crime in the North Hampshire area was down by 8% and detection rates had improved by 5% points. Recorded incidents within Hurstbourne Tarrant parish were down by 30%.

5.3. Roger reviewed a number of crime figures for the parish of Hurstbourne Tarrant over the last year as follows:

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Category of crime	2007/08	2006/07
House burglary	1	0
Making off without payment	5	2
Assaults	2	4
Theft	3	6
Theft from vehicles	0	4
Theft of vehicles	0	0
Theft of property by deception	0	1
Criminal damage	10	17
Total	21	34

5.4. Generally this depicted a much better situation for the last 12 months and the area was regarded as safe and as having a low level of crime.

5.5. The number of incidents of anti-social behaviour had risen from 13 to 21, this had been addressed by placing 3 young individuals on six month Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs). The situation was being carefully monitored and managed, residents were reminded how important it was to report and provide evidence to wardens and the police to enable action to be taken promptly.

6. Action Group against Speeding (AGAS) & Tesco – Andover Airfield Planning application

6.1. Rupert Conder reported on both AGAS and the Tesco distribution centre - Over the last year we have made a bit of progress! A repeater post has been erected near the bus shelter on the A343 and, for one week we did have a flashing Speed Limit Reminder sign and the average speed of traffic was recorded at 38mph. We should get the device back annually for one week! The 20 is Plenty signs have been erected by the school and the Tesco Warehouse Planning Application has been delayed whilst the impact is further assessed. The points raised by the school's Safe Routes to School questionnaire have been raised with HCC. Other proposals have been put forward during the year to the HCC for assessment and some work will be done in HBT as a result. We are also in the process of arranging, in cooperation with four other parishes, to purchase a Speed Indicator Device.

For a full report see appendix 1.

7. Affordable Housing

7.1. Chris Buchan-Hepburn reported that construction of 9 affordable housing units had started on the 2 sites within Dines Close. Units comprise 1x4 bed, 6x3 bed houses and 2 flats. Every effort was being made to ensure the construction sites are kept safe and secure. Should any issues or concerns arise then he requested parishioners to immediately contact the site manager whose contact details are displayed on the site boards. Depending on the weather the housing should be ready for occupation between March and May 2009.

7.2. Donna Wagers (TVBC Housing Development Officer) was in charge of the allocation process and currently had 44 people registered on the waitlist who met the strong local criteria necessary for

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consideration under the build conditions. Donna provided leaflets and applications form for any additional interested parties.

8. Councillors reports

- 8.1. **Councillor Mr. D J Sullivan** gave his summary report for 2007/08 and his reports on environment and allotments: Southern Water was continuing to work on leaks of groundwater into the drainage system between Hurstbourne and St Mary Bourne. This work was expected to be completed in 2010. Survey work in Hurstbourne had identified some 46 leaks which would be tackled when groundwater rose high enough to confirm their locations.
- 8.2. Allotments had undergone a revival in the last couple of years. All plots were in use and well tended. There was a waitlist of 4 at the moment. A new plot would be created at the top of the allotment site in the autumn.
- 8.3. **Councillor Mrs. D C Murdoch** gave a report on the King George V Playing Field, Pavilion and the Village School. The roundabout in the play area had been refurbished and was a popular choice with children. She thanked Nick Curd and David Sullivan for their restoration efforts. The teenage shelter was very nearly complete. Most significant improvement was the extension of the tennis court area into a multi-purpose all weather surface for use by both the school and the village.
- 8.4. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts have continued to use the pavilion for their activities.
- 8.5. A new and enthusiastic junior football team had been formed led by Mark Pullman and Nicky Purver.
- 8.6. The village school continues to thrive with 104 on roll rising to 111 pupils in September. The head teacher Joyce Johnson had settled in well and the school was making good progress. SATs have just been completed and an Art week was taking place between 19 & 23 May.
- 8.7. **Councillor Mr. D Jopson** gave a report on the Planning Applications received during the year and the village website. A total of 50 planning applications have been submitted over the last year covering 8 new builds, 16 extensions, 1 replacement, 15 TPOs and 10 minor changes.
- 8.8. The village website was currently under new management with Tricia Andrews who had kindly volunteered to take on the task. Work was being carried out to update the support software and provide Tricia with training and guidance.
- 8.9. **Councillor Alan Haighton** gave a report on the Highways and Roads. Alan Haighton thanked Rupert Conder for his excellent support leading the AGAS project within the parish to improve the road safety.
- 8.10. 2007/08 had passed without any flooding problems. Some limited footway repairs had been carried out in Church St and patching work on the A343.
- 8.11. Notification of resurfacing work on the A343 to be carried out on the 31st May and 1 June 2008 had just been received from HCC.
- 8.12. **Councillor Debbie Miller** gave a report on Upton. It had been a busy year in Upton and the Upton committee had run a number of community events ranging from an auction of promises which raised a magnificent £11,000 for motor neurone disease, a bat walk, a Halloween children's party, a Christmas party and an Easter treasure hunt.
- 8.13. Plans were now in place for a Summer BBQ to be held on Upton Common.
- 8.14. The Upton committee were very pleased with the general success of the events and the excellent support from many of Upton's residents.

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9. Other reports

- 9.1. **Footpath Report** – Mr Robert Sykes presented his report to the meeting and acknowledged that he was working in partnership with Mrs Patricia Antelme. In general there was good co-operation between walkers and landowners in the area. There was good use of footpaths in the parish by the public and it was important to encourage considerate use of these amenities. Fallen trees had been dealt with promptly. Part of Footpath 11 in the area of the water meadows which has been recently fenced was being heavily fouled by dogs. Dog owners were asked to make sure they cleaned up after their pets.
- 9.2. **Tree Report** – Mr Trevor Wheeler reported that that 2007/08 was a good year for the growth and establishment of young trees which benefited from the unusually wet June and July period. Trevor was thanked by Councillors for his advice on tree planning matters and the help he provides in keeping footpaths clear of any fallen trees through out the year.

10. Financial Report.

- 10.1. The council's reserves stand at £33,796 at March 31 2008 (£38,504 at March 31st 2007). The reserves are maintained to produce investment income and to fund capital projects.
- 10.2. The Parish Council recorded a deficit of £4,808 for the year to March 31st 2008.
See Table 1 Statement of Accounts and Table 2 Bank Reconciliation for details.
- 10.3. An unusual item in the accounts should be noted that VAT paid on goods received amounted to £6,240 during 2007/08 (£810 in 2006/07) which was an exceptional high figure resulting from substantial projects costs associated with the tennis court extension. It should be noted that these VAT costs will be reclaimed in 2008/09 financial period. When taking that unusual item into account the parish council reserves would be restored to a point equivalent to a small surplus of £400 being achieved in 2007/08.
- 10.4. The precept this year (2008/09) has been raised by £350 to £8,000 (a 7% increase) on a tax base of 369 dwellings (Note tax base in 2007/08 was 378 dwellings).

Table A – Parish precepts 2004/05 – 2008/09

Financial Year	Parish Precept
2004/05	£7,000.00
2005/06	£7,000.00
2006/07	£7,500.00
2007/08	£7,650.00
2008/09	£8,000.00

- 10.5. The Band D levy for Hurstbourne Tarrant for 2008/09 has been raised by £1.44 to £21.68 (a 7.1% increase).

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Table B – Comparison of local Band D rates

Band D Rate – Parish Precepts	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Hurstbourne Tarrant	£20.05	£20.24	£21.68
Longparish	£46.01	£44.78	£44.78
Vernham Dean	£30.80	£39.05	£37.80
Abbots Ann	£31.66	£19.04	£19.80
Penton Mewsey	£27.69	£27.44	£32.35

Table C – Breakdown of the full Council Tax charge for Hurstbourne Tarrant

Breakdown of Band D Charge	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Hampshire County Council	£910.62	£955.62	£999.00
The Police Authority	£119.43	£125.37	£135.54
Test Valley Borough Council	£103.77	£108.45	£113.31
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority	£53.64	£56.07	£58.23
Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council	£20.05	£20.24	£21.68
Total Band D charge	£1,207.51	£1,265.75	£1327.76

10.6. The Audit Commission external audit fee for the last year was £158.63 p.a.

The Parish Council is grateful to Ms Tammy King for giving her services free of charge in carrying out our internal audit of accounts which helps the parish maintain lower costs.

10.7. The audited accounts for 2007/08 are available for public inspection and additional copies can be requested for a fee of £1.00.

10.8. The approved budget for 2008/09 is based on a precept of £8,000 with a planned surplus of £1,360.

See Table 3 for details of the 2008/09 budget.

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Table 1

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Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2008

		Last Year 2007	This Year 2008	Note	Variance
1	Balances Brought Forward	37,652	38,504		
2	(+) Annual Precept	7,500	7,650	1	2.0%
3	(+) Total other receipts	3,615	36,281	2	903.7%
4	(-) Staff Costs	-1,200	-1,200		0.0%
5	(-) Loan interest capital repayments	0	0		
6	(-) Total other payments	-9,062	-47,439	3	80.9%
7	(=) Balances carried forward	38,504	33,796		
8	Total Cash and Investments	38,504	33,796		
9	Total Fixed Assets	78,006	78,006		
10	Total Borrowings	0	0		

Notes to Annual Return for Financial Year 2007/08

1	Planned increase in precept to £7,650
2 & 3	Substantial project costs associated with the building of a multi-purpose all weather play area on King George V playing fields are shown in the 2007/08 accounts. This has inflated both income receipts through grant allocations of £32,367 and project payments of £35,796.

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Table 2

**Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council
Bank Reconciliation**

Prepared by: David Baker (Clerk /RFO)			
Approved by: David Sullivan (Chairman of the Parish Council)			
Financial Year ending 31 March 2008			
	2007		2008
Balance Treasurers Account (0730337) per Bank Statement	100.00		100.00
Balance Instant Access (7150069) per Bank Statement	1,416.73		12,380.86
Balance 30 Day Notice (7210851) per Bank Statement	16,987.53		1,341.92
Outstanding Cheques as at 31 March - Cheque No 000577			-27.00
Outstanding Credits as at 31 March			
Nett bank balances 31 March	18,504.26		13,795.78
Add: Value of investments	20,000.53		20,000.53
	38,504.79		33,796.31
The net balances reconcile to the Cash Book (receipts and payments account) for the year as follows,			
Opening Balance	17,651.82		18,504.26
Less debtors			
Add creditors			
Add: Receipts in the year to 31 March	11,114.78		43,930.51
Less: Payments in the year to 31 March	-10,262.34		-48,638.99
Closing Balance per cash book as at 31 March	18,504.26		13,795.78
Add: Value of Investments as at 31 March	20,000.53		20,000.53
	38,504.79		33,796.31

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Base Budget Financial Year 2008/09

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / Deficit
King George V Field	300.00	900.00	-600.00
King George V Pavilion	385.00	700.00	-315.00
Dene Green		300.00	-300.00
Tennis Court	25.00	50.00	-25.00
Allotments	120.00	60.00	60.00
Repairs & Maintenance		500.00	-500.00
Interest	900.00		
Wayleaves	90.00		
Sub-Total	1,820.00	2,510.00	-690.00
Administration			
Clerk		1,200.00	
Stationery		150.00	
Insurance		1,100.00	
Audit		150.00	
Other		750.00	
Sub Total Administration		3,350.00	-3,350.00
Grants & Donations		500.00	
Election Expenses		n/a	
New projects:			
lbthorpe notice board		400.00	
Car Park Map		500.00	
SID purchase/maint 25% share		1000.00	
School 20 mph signage		800.00	
Sub-Total		3,200.00	-3,200.00
Total Income / Expenditure	1,820.00	9,060.00	-7,240.00
VAT refund from 07/08	600.00		
Precept	8,000.00		
Total	10,420.00	9,060.00	1,360.00

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11. Open Meeting for Parishioners

11.1. There were no questions raised.

12. Date of the next Annual Parish meeting

The next Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday 18th May 2009 in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed

(Chairman)

Date

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Appendix 1

Report to the Parish Council AGM 19th May 2008 The Action Group Against Speeding through Hurstbourne Tarrant

Presented by Rupert Conder:

1. **Introduction.** Over the last year we have made a bit of progress! A repeater post has been erected near the bus shelter on the A343 and, for one week we did have a flashing Speed Limit Reminder sign and the average speed of traffic recorded at 38mph. We should get the device back annually for one week! The 20s Plenty signs have been erected by the school and the Tesco Warehouse Planning Application has been delayed whilst the impact is further assessed. The points raised by the school's Safe Routes to School questionnaire have been raised with HCC. Other proposals, put forward during the year to the HCC, have now been assessed and some work will be done in HBT as a result. We are also in the process of arranging, in cooperation with four other parishes, to purchase a Speed Indicator Device.

The main points that we have addressed in this report are:

The Andover Airfield Planning Development which could add 250 juggernauts to the traffic going through the village every day;

Hampshire County Council plans for traffic calming measures;

A Speed Indicator Device.

2. **Andover Airfield Planning Development number 07/01951/OUTN.** With regard to the massive Tesco Warehouse development our concern is the impact of the increase in HGV traffic. The Planning officer has stated that "...any planning permission in respect of this application would have a legally enforceable condition barring certain routes of which the A 343 would be one. Their lorries and those of their suppliers would be barred from using this route and this can be enforced".

The developer's Transport Assessment still states that there will be 1667 HGVs per 24 hours visiting the warehouse of which 15% will use the A343 as well as 35% of the cars, increasing the traffic through our village by 33.05%, that would be an extra 1,650 vehicles each day. This Assessment clearly conflicts with the assurances that have been given by the Planning Officers at TVBC and HCC. So we must ask the question: is the Transport Assessment incorrect or have the Planning Officers been misled?

Goodmans has employed Capita Symonds Ltd to provide a Vehicle Identification System to identify vehicles abusing the ban on prohibited roads. As Tesco is removing branding from their lorries, it will be impossible for villagers along a banned route to monitor infringements.

We need to be fully satisfied on a number of points relating to this system as described in the Proposal:

a. **Conflict of Interest.** All vehicles using the banned routes will have their registration numbers scanned, but there will be a "White List" of vehicle registrations permitted to use these roads. Matched data would then be deleted. The remaining list of Tesco Vehicle registrations would be violations of the Prohibited Routes. However the client (i.e. Tesco) will maintain the White List and could, in theory, delete all its vehicles from the VRM violation report by adding them to the White List. There is a conflict of interest.

b. **Location of Cameras.** The proposed locations of the Automatic Number Plate Recognition Monitoring cameras which would allow "rat runs" to develop to avoid them. For example, HGVs going to the site from Newbury could use the A343 and turn left at the Tesco roundabout onto the A3093 and join the A303, or even go straight on from the Newbury Road to New Street, East Street, Eastern Avenue to join the A303 avoiding all the cameras. Cameras should be positioned at points on all the banned routes to prevent this. We have asked that the planning application allow for additional cameras should "rat runs" develop?

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c. **Civil Liberties/Privacy Issue.** The cameras will record the registration number of all vehicles traveling along the banned routes. This would be yet another invasion of your privacy in violation of the EU directive 95/46/EC and the 1981 Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data. Of course it could also be of benefit to the police in tracking criminals ... but to whom else might your movements be passed?

d. **Further Conflict of Interest Issue.** The integrity of the database will be protected through access assignment of appropriate levels of security. But who is to decide these access rights? Only the right people should have the right access at the right times. Clearly a comprehensive software package is needed to enforce security policy and monitor. Our experience tells us that this will cost a lot. We have asked who will be responsible for appointing, paying and providing the Management Company?

e. **Public Confidence.** Unless the public is permitted to have access to the Violation Reports, confidence in the system will be lost. We have asked that the cost of enabling public access must be borne by the developer.

f. **Funding.** The cost of maintaining this system to ensure continued high performance will be considerable and will have to be funded for the whole of the life of the Distribution Warehouse. A regime of preventative maintenance, emergency callout and fault resolution, and regular monitoring would be vital. Capita's 5 year contract for running the London congestion charging system is worth £500M for 40K vehicles per hour; the system in Andover for 80 HGV's per hour will cost millions to run and maintain. Perhaps the most important question we should ask is: how would the Andover system be funded, will this be charged to the distribution warehouse occupier (Tesco), or will the local residents be expected to pick up this bill in their Council Tax, if the latter we could expect several pounds added to our individual council tax bills all for a system which would not be needed if planning permission for this was refused?

g. **Penalty for Infringement.** The matter of penalties has not been addressed in the proposal, we have asked:

- (1) What would the penalty be if the ban were infringed?
- (2) Will there be a standing charge for each violation or an increasing charge so that every violation is more punitive?
- (3) Who would be responsible for judging the infringements and imposing any penalty?
- (4) Who would be the beneficiary of any fine, the parish councils of the villages that been inconvenienced, TVBC, HCC or the Treasury?
- (5) If frequent infringements occurred could court injunctions be imposed?
- (6) Would Parish Councils and/or private citizens be able to take out civil cases against Tesco if the ban is infringed?
- (7) How are the "one off deliveries" accommodated in this Index system?... HGV's that deliver once and never again?... foreign HGV etc
- (8) Lifting the Ban. When the A34 or A303 is blocked by an accident, the police have diverted all traffic along the A343. Would the ban still operate in such an event, and, if not, how would the system be aware that the use of a banned road was authorised?

h. **Amendment to the Transport Assessment.** As the developer's Transport Assessment still states that 15% of the HGVs will use the A343, it needs to be rewritten to show where the banned traffic will go, diverting all the traffic off the banned routes onto the permitted routes could have a significant impact elsewhere.

We need satisfactory answers to these and other questions before withdrawing opposition to the Planning Application.

3. Traffic Calming Project. In relation to our Traffic Calming in the village, the North West Hampshire Action Team has stated that:

The central hatching on the A343 Newbury Road will be reduced in width and the portion of hatching taken will be moved to both sides of the road to give greater separation between pedestrians on the pavement and vehicles on the road on the South-East side and to give greater visibility to residents on the North West side of the road when exiting their driveways.

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There is due to be a speed limit review of the A343 and on the B3048 during the year.

The signage off the Andover Ring Road will be reviewed; however, as most HGVs now have Sat-nav systems, even if the signs are changed, it is not likely to have much benefit.

A more defined village boundary, particularly at the North West end of the village might have a significant impact on vehicle speeds. A plan for a new village sign, gates and road markings has been submitted to TVBC for a cost estimate.

The proposals put forward for the school crossing point on the A343 for consideration were discussed. Advice was given that in relation to:

- (1) Two mini-roundabouts: Mini-roundabouts are currently “out of fashion” and such changes to the priority of an A road would be unlikely to be approved.
- (2) A 20mph zone in The Square: At present such a speed limit on an A road would not be approved.
- (3) Pushing the SE crossing point kerb out: This will be the subject of further discussion with HCC as the most likely to receive funding.

4. Speed Indicator Device. HCC told us that it has no funding available for Speed Indicator Devices and that we should co-ordinate our requirement and funding with some other parishes. Tangley, Enham Alamein, Vernham Dean and Smannell have expressed such an interest and we are trying to get a firm commitment from all of them as soon as possible so that we can place an order. The sooner this is done, the sooner we should get the benefits. HBT has already allocated sufficient funding for a 20% share of a Speed Indicator Device.

5. Other Developments. Although the Tesco Megashed planning application if approved would have the most significant impact on the village, I should mention that there are two other large developments proposed which might also have a serious impact on our traffic problem. These are the ASDA warehouse at Solstice Park on the A303 in Amesbury and the ProLogis distribution warehouse at Greenham Park in Newbury.

6. Summary. We have made some progress during the year but it is apparent that with limited funding, several levels of committee to discuss our proposals and many interested parties, we must maintain our pressure and keep our focus on the safety of our village and particularly on the children. As the A343 was built for chariots, carts and coaches the village is not an ideal thoroughfare for modern traffic, so we must persevere with adapting the village to keep it safe.