

Summary of the reports presented at the Annual Parish Meeting 19th May 2008.

Village Hall

Leopold Antelme reported developments on the Village Hall project. The application for a second Lottery grant having been unsuccessful, the HbT 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.

Local Policing & Neighbourhood Warden Scheme

Roger Kitson (Local Police representative) and David Smith (Neighbourhood Warden Scheme) provided an update on policing and community matters covering the 2007/08 period. It was reported that overall crime in the area was down by 8% and detection rates had improved by 5% points. Recorded incidents within Hurstbourne Tarrant parish were down by 30%. 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.

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

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 20s 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.

A full report from Rupert will be available as part of the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting.

Affordable Housing

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.

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

Councillors Reports:

Councillor David Sullivan

David Sullivan had nothing significant to report on the environment. 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.

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.

Councillor Dinah Murdoch

Dinah Murdoch reported that the roundabout 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. Beaver Cubs and Scouts have continued to use the pavilion for their activities.

A new and enthusiastic junior football team had been formed led by Mark Pullman and Nicky Purver

The village school continues to thrive with 104 on roll rising to 111 pupils in September. The head teacher Joyce Johnson has 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.

Councillor David Jopson

David Jopson reported that 50 planning applications have been submitted over the last year covering 8 new builds, 16 extensions, 1 replacement, 15 TPOs and 10 minor changes.

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.

Councillor Debbie Miller

Debbie Miller reported that in Upton it had been a busy year for events in the village ranging from an auction of promises which raised a magnificent £11,000 for motor neurone disease, bat walk, Halloween children's party, Christmas party and, Easter treasure hunt. Plans were now in place for a Summer BBQ to be held on Upton Common. The Upton committee were very pleased with the general success of the events and the excellent support from many of the Upton residents.

Councillor Alan Houghton

Alan Houghton thanked Rupert Conder for his excellent support leading the AGAS project within the parish to improve the road safety. 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. 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.

Councillor Fliss Davis

Newly elected Councillor Fliss Davis was introduced to the meeting – Fliss will be taking up the responsibility for supporting the village of Upton in 2008/09.

Footpath Report

Robert Sykes and Patricia Antelme reported that 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.

Tree Report

Trevor Walker reported 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.

Financial Report

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.

The Parish Council recorded a deficit of £4,808 for the year to March 31st 2008.

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.

The precept this year (2008/09) has been raised by £350.00 to £8,000 (a 7% increase) on a tax base of 369 dwellings (Note tax base in 2007/08 was 378 dwellings).

The Band D levy for Hurstbourne Tarrant for 2008/09 has been raised by £1.44 to £21.68

Full details of the financial accounts may be obtained by contacting the Clerk on 01264 736436