

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish

Annual Parish Meeting

at the

Church Hall

Monday, 17th May 2010

at

7:30 p m

Chairman: Mr. David Sullivan

1. Apologies

None

2. Approval of minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting held on 18 May 2009

The Chairman asked the meeting if the draft minutes could be approved. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a complete and accurate record of the proceedings.

3. Award Presentation

Steven Lugg, chief executive for the Hampshire Association of Local Councils presented the Hurstbourne Tarrant parish council with a certificate confirming its qualification under the nation Quality Parish Scheme. This Quality charter mark is valid for 4 years and endorses the overall sound management and effectiveness of your parish council. It was hoped that the achievement of this quality status will add additional weight to any grant funding applications made through the parish council in support of the new community centre project.

4. Community Hall Developments – Dinah Murdoch and Andrew Russell - Hurstbourne Tarrant Development Trust.

Fundraising report by Dinah Murdoch

Mrs Dinah Murdoch presented details on the most recent fund raising events run in 2010:

- 23 March Quiz evening with over 100 people attending raised £1,500
- 17 April Multi-terrain race attracted 130 competitors and raised £1675
- 2 May Battle of the Bourne – Tug of War team competition

Looking forward, future events were being planned for:

- 13 June - The Big Tea Party
- 4 September - Barn Dance
- Date TBC - Sponsored Walk
- 6 October – Safari Supper
- Date TBC – Bridge Lunch
- 2 December – Christmas Sale

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Chairman's Report by Andrew Russell

When I reported to the AGM 12 months ago we were working towards a two phase building programme that would provide the necessary facilities at a lower capital cost and also ease our funding cash-flow. The principle being: to retain the existing pavilion and its facilities and build a multipurpose hall, kitchen and toilets as a first phase. A smaller multiuse room, suitable for meetings, societies and craft groups, changing rooms and adequate storage would then follow the demolition of the pavilion in the second phase. A viable layout was sketched out by our architect that achieved our goals for reduced overall cost and a suitable phasing, but discussion with Test Valley planners foundered when the conditions that they required, regarding cast iron assurances that Phase 2 could be implemented within a fixed timescale, proved impossible to satisfy.

So it was back to the drawing board to define a single phase development that could, at a fundable cost, provide the key sports and social facilities that the community needed, as identified in the feasibility study and subsequently updated, satisfy stringent conservation and planning guidelines, and be both physically and financially sustainable.

Attracting funding is of course of paramount importance and the design criteria reflect the increasing focus on heritage and environmental interests, in addition to sports and social facilities catering for the full demographic range. Drawing on the experience of numerous other community buildings, the aim is to provide flexible activity space combined with adequate storage in order to maximise the scope for multiple use by as diverse a set of users as possible.

We also asked our architect to design the building so that it could be subsequently extended to provide additional facilities if there was the demand and available finance (for example dedicated space for a pre-school group).

This was a tall order but our architect displayed both practicality and imagination and produced a design that met all the requirements. This was solidly endorsed at a public meeting in the Church Hall on 22 October; following which an application was submitted for planning approval, together with all the arboreal and other necessary supporting reports

There has been a slight hiccup over the planning approval but one that we are confidently expecting will be resolved within the next few weeks. Recent legislation has placed the onus on the owner of a property, that he seeks to demolish, to demonstrate unequivocally that the building does not provide a roost for protected wildlife, particularly bats; or if it does that suitable alternative arrangements will be put in place, in a designated manner. Our architect has allowed for suitable roosting facilities in the proposed building to the satisfaction of the planners but we still have to undertake a bat survey as the basis for a formal management plan and this cannot be undertaken until the end of this month at the earliest. We have a letter from the planners advising that apart from this one issue they have no objection to the proposal and we can resubmit, without any additional fee, as soon as the management plan has been approved; with the expectation of early approval.

The current budget cost of this design, including landscaping, car parking and sanitation is £550,000 which is a significant reduction from the £640,000 estimated for the two phase design a year ago and much reduced from the more than £900,000 of the first design. We have achieved this by focusing on essentials and emphasising flexibility.

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Despite the economic situation, counterpart funding is still available for a project of this type and magnitude, although competition is strong. At a seminar run by Hampshire County Council last week, aimed at promoters of just this sort of development, we were advised that the Big Lottery and the Football Association were the frontrunners for this scale of funding and there are a number of other sources. We have for example pre-qualified for a partial grant from the North Wessex Downs body and we will follow up on this once we have planning approval and obtained firm cost estimates.

Timescales are notoriously hard to predict but I am optimistic that by this time next year we will have finalised a financing package and have a definite starting date for the main building works. We may be in a position to commence some preparatory work before that.

Finally I would like to thank David Baker for his help and support for the project on behalf of the Parish Council, and particularly thank the energetic core team of fundraising event organisers coordinated by Dinah Murdoch without whom this project simply could not happen.

Andrew Russell
*Chairman,
Hurstbourne Tarrant Development Trust*

5. HCC Trading Standards – Doorstep crime and rogue traders

Philip Mills Trading Standards Officer HCC gave an interesting presentation covering recent examples of doorstep crime, distraction burglary and rogue traders that have been operating within the Hampshire area.

HCC Trading Standards support a number of initiatives to raise awareness among potential victims and reduce their vulnerability by:

- Raise awareness by using the Safe and Sound booklets and door stickers
- Contact HCC Trading Standards if you hear of an incident where trader is on the premises – Quick Response Team 01962 833666
- Contact HCC Trading Standards if you receive a call that a person has been **recently caught** out by a doorstep trader 01962 833620
- Receive warnings from HCC that a rogue is in the area
- Advise HCC Trading Standards about older peoples lunch and social groups and let us talk to groups and group leaders

6. Local Policing & Neighbourhood Warden Scheme

Roger Kitson (Local Beat Manager) provided an update on policing and community matters covering the 2009/10 period.

Roger gave a general update on policing matters:

- Staffing levels in the safer neighbourhood team remained the same with 6 officers, 1 sergeant and 3 PCSOs. Rachel Cassells (PCSO) would be joining the regular police shortly but her position would be replaced.
- The mobile office scheme that visited parishes each month was to be discontinued as the service was not used by the public.

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- Safer neighbourhood policing would continue to concentrate on engagement with the community through monthly beat surgeries, school visits and coffee mornings. Details of beat surgeries are available on the Hampshire Police website.
- Over the last year rural crime had tended to be focused on trespass, poaching and theft of diesel. A recent spate of antisocial behaviour within the villager had been successfully tackled and 3 youths had been arrested and questioned. This police work resulted in one youth court conviction, one reprimand and an issue of a final warning. 3 ABCs (Acceptable Behaviour Contracts) were also issued which have brought the antisocial behaviour problem under control. Parishioners were reminded that the police needed evidence and assistance from the villagers to tackle such offending. Contact with the police can be made via the 101 or 0845 045 45 45 numbers or by e-mail.

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

Category of crime	2009/10	2008/09	2007/08
Dwelling break-ins	1	2	1
Non-dwelling break-ins	2	0	4
Thefts	10	9	2
Theft from vehicles	1	2	0
Theft of vehicles	1	0	0
Damage	12	10	14
Rowdy & inconsiderate behaviour	21	18	20
Total	46	41	41

Generally this depicted that the level of crime had remained unchanged over the last year although there were significant differences in the types of crime reported. Hurstbourne Tarrant was still regarded as safe and as having a low level of crime.

7. Road Safety report - Action Group against Speeding (AGAS)

A report to the Annual Parish meeting May 2010 by Rupert Conder.

1. During the last 12 months, **the Action Group Against Speeding** has continued to represent the interests of the village by aiming to reduce the danger of traffic speed and limiting the size of some of the vehicles coming through it. I would again like to thank all those who have helped, particularly David Jopson and Ann Nash.

2. It now seems a long time ago that we were discussing **the Megashed**. Planning permission was granted and work has started on the project, but we managed to ensure that Hurstbourne Tarrant's main interests were incorporated into the "Section 106 Agreement" by barring the use of the A343 to Heavy Cargo Vehicles using the site. We are still concerned that the system of monitoring this may not be fully effective.

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3 Hampshire Action Team (HAT), which plans all major road improvements in the county, confirmed that actions planned for the financial year ending 5 April 2009, which had not yet been completed, would be implemented by June last year. Two of those listed have been completed, namely: the replacement of anti-skid surface and a 30 mph roundel near the village nameplate on the A343 and the revised road markings on the A343 north of the Post Office to Bladen Cottage. This has improved safety by giving more separation between pedestrians and vehicles along the A343 and has also given better visibility for residents exiting their drives. However the bollards at Upton Lane junction with the A343 have still not been installed.

4 Safe Routes to School crossing of A343. HCC stated that any increase in the width of the pavement on the south east side of the A343 would have to be balanced by an adjustment to the kerb line on the opposite side of the road, which would reduce the visibility for pedestrians on that side. We accept that the carriageway was a minimum width and that some of the larger vehicles which use this road have difficulty in negotiating the tight curves, but the visibility improvement on pushing out the south side by a foot would be significantly greater than the loss of visibility from the other side of the road. We have requested and await a HCC Highways Safety Survey to see if, by implementing an adjustment, the safety of the Safe Routes to School crossing could be improved.

5 Bus Stop opposite the Bus Shelter on the A343. HCC has agreed that a safety survey of the Bus Stop on the A343 opposite the Bus Shelter would be done at the earliest opportunity and is included in the 2010/11 Traffic Management programme,

6. Outstanding Items. HCC agreed to follow up three outstanding items at the earliest opportunity.

- a. Extension of the Edge marking to the bus shelter and to the Post Office.
- b. The Installation of three Gladiator bollards at the Upton Lane/A343 Junction.
- c. HCC Installation of a timber bollard on the South East side of the school crossing.

7. Installation of Speed Camera signs. Although HCC has agreed to provide Speed Camera Signs, the Police and Safer Roads Partnership need to be further consulted to confirm if Hurstbourne Tarrant is one of their enforcement sites, Enham already has such signs.

8 Disabled Parking at the school. The track to the pavilion is not a public highway but is a Right of Way 'footpath'. When HCC have established ownership, the School will request that a Disable Parking place be marked.

9. Constructive suggestions made by residents.

a. 30 mph Roundel at North end of village. The provision of a 30 mph roundel at the north end of the village will be considered subject to the outcome of current County-wide review of the speed limits on the entire A & B road network. HCC have suggested introducing a 40 mph buffer zone and reducing the extent of the 30 mph limit. HCC has asked for the view of the Parish Council on these suggested speed limit changes.

b. **The construction of a pavement on the A343 bridge over the River Swift** to provide greater safety for pedestrians and create a much needed pinch point to slow vehicles coming down the hill. HCC has added our suggestion for a footway on the bridge over the River Swift to the Community Aspirations database.

c. **Yellow hatching on the narrow parts of Ibthorpe Road to discourage drivers from blocking the road.** HCC said that there are no proposals at present to introduce a priority working system in Ibthorpe Lane. However a previous proposal for a Keep Clear marking was developed for this section of road. This

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matter was discussed with local residents and the Parish Council but at the time it was considered that the road marking alone would not address all of the issues. Such a road marking is likely to discourage drivers from blocking the road and I would be happy to provide the marking if the proposal was supported by the Parish Council.

d. Raised pavement edges in Ibthorpe Road to discourage drivers from mounting the kerb, thereby endangering pedestrians. Pedestrian safety was improved by providing a pavement. An over-run strip allows larger vehicles to access the lane and enables two smaller vehicles to pass when turning in or out of the A343. HCC claim that there was extensive consultation with the school, residents and the PC prior to the scheme being implemented.

e. Double white lines extended to the end of the 30 mph zone at the North End of the village to discourage drivers from accelerating to, often, 60 mph or more to overtake whilst still inside the 30 mph zone. Double white lines are subject to strict criteria and are used to prevent overtaking where visibility is severely restricted. The distance criteria at the North end of the village is significantly longer than the minimum visibility distance criteria for double white lines.

10. Speed Limit Reminder Signs. Over the last 12 months, two new posts have been erected in the village for the SLR devices. The syndicate of 4 parishes is continuing to run the two SLRs. There have been serious problems with the batteries which are being investigated. When operating properly, they do have a “calming effect” on the speed of most cars. I am most grateful to David Jopson for the work he continues to put in to this project on behalf of HBT and to Pam Mutton and TVBC for their support.

11 Gates and a new village sign at North end of the village. The old blue and white village sign is now fairly worn and no longer enhances the appearance of our village. The Parish Council decided that there should be a new village sign at the North End of the village which should be shown and approval sought at the AGM. The aim is to better define the extent of the more built up area and thereby to make drivers more aware of the need to reduce their speed. Similar illustrative signs reflecting the activities of communities are now fairly widespread.

I am most grateful to the two local artists who submitted their designs. The Council also asked me to put together a combined design. The chosen design will be mounted on a gate and the suggested wording below the picture will say “HURSTBOURNE TARRANT” and below it “Be aware - Children and Horses on the road”.

I would welcome any comments or constructive suggestions...

I will ask for quotations as those already approached cannot give one without more detail. There should be no cost to the village.

Have a more defined boundary to the built-up area at the north end of the village.

I would welcome any constructive ideas to make the village safer and to reduce the speed of traffic through it.

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8. Parish Council Annual Report

Chairman's Report and allotments by Councillor David Sullivan

King George V Playing Fields, Pavilion and Primary School reports by Councillor Dinah Murdoch

Pavilion and King George V Playing Fields

Unfortunately, the Boys' Football Club has split up and they are now playing in a variety of different clubs in Andover and other villages around. The British Legion Football Club still plays on Sundays.

Meanwhile, the Playing Field is used a lot for fetes, venues for fund raising and of course by the School. The grass is cut by Test Valley Borough Council under contract. The Pavilion is still used by the Cubs and Scouts and summer parties. It is pretty run down but it is being repainted on the outside and a window replaced to keep it going until we are ready to build a new hall.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Primary School

At the moment there are 110 pupils on roll, although we have lost 2 or 3 pupils recently, we have had 3 new children in this term. We had an Ofsted inspection 2 weeks ago and we heard the result today. There are now 4 Bands – Outstanding / Good / Satisfactory / Adequate and the result achieved was a Good rating recorded against more demanding inspection criteria applied since the previous good inspection result. Last week the Year 6 did their S.A.T.S. and Year 2 had their assessments.

Meanwhile, the school are singing at the O2 building again this year and we continue to play a lot of sport. Next term we have appointed a man to teach Years 5/6 and help our sport at the school.

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Planning Applications and Village Website reports by Councillor David Jopson

Planning Applications

Very little activity this past year on building development and extensions/alterations but an upsurge in tree works. The TVBC planners refused four developments, but two have been resubmitted.

Applications for work	2009/10	2008/9	2007/8
New/Replacement Buildings	6	5	8
Extensions/alterations	7	17	21
Treeworks	19	7	6
TPO	2	3	15
Total	34	32	50

The Parish website www.hbt.org.uk

The Parish web-site, which is supported by the Parish Council, has continued to supply updated information on Parish events including Parish Council minutes, the new community centre fund-raising events including online entry forms for the Hurstbourne 5 mile multi-terrain race in Doles Wood. This has attracted entries from a number of individuals and running clubs from a large area of the southern half of the country.

The running costs of the site have continued to be supported by various businesses in the Parish.

Should any parishioners have suggestions to add additional sources or links for further information please e-mail to info@hbt.org.uk

The Parish Council would like to thank Tricia Andrews for keeping the site up to date and sorting out the odd technical problem from time to time.

Highways and Transport reports – Councillor Alan Haighton.

Councillor Alan Haighton thanked Richard Conder and David Jopson for the substantial support they have provided over the last year on highway matters, speeding traffic and safer route to school concerns.

Small programmes of highway and footpath maintenance has been carried in Church Street and along the Andover Road. The level of police presence in the village to control speeding traffic has been reduced during the last 12 months but this has been offset by the regular use of 2 speed indicator devices in the village. The adverse winter conditions has taken its toll on the general condition of rural roads within the parish but further maintenance work is scheduled by HCC. The Upton drainage scheme remains untested as ground water levels did not reach the necessary level to bring the system into action.

Upton Village report by Councillor Fliss Davis

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In October 2009 the village committee organised a Halloween Spooky walk for the children of Upton which was very well attended. They enjoyed a walk in the dark followed by a party in the barn at Sopers Farm by kind permission of the Millers.

The Christmas tree made its annual appearance of the on the village triangle.

Once again on Easter Sunday the committee organised an Easter event which also included an Egg Hunt by kind permission of John and Sarah Mills at Parsonage Farm. There was a fabulous attendance and the children hunted for eggs whilst it gave the adults time to drink tea/coffee and eat delicious home made cakes!

The village annual summer event is hoping to be in June which we are hoping to be a picnic combined with a Scarecrow competition!

Latest news on the Crown Public House, Upton is under offer and it is hoped that it will be re-open soon.

Environment report by Councillor Debbie Miller

ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2009/2010

WILDLIFE

Although the wet summers of 2007 and 2008 had a severe impact on the parish's wildlife last year, the dry sunny weather during April, May, June and September during 2009, helped to repair the damage. Butterfly numbers in particular saw an increase compared to last year due the sunny weather conditions. However, July brought with it the wettest July on record since 1914, which meant that for some of our late breeding bird species and for species attempting a second brood, breeding success was significantly affected.

December saw the start of the UK's longest cold snap since 1981 with snow appearing towards the end of the month and then heavy snowfall and sharp frosts occurring during January and February. This inevitably has had an impact on our Parish wildlife – many birds were not able to find adequate food during the cold snap and as a result it is predicted that this will have a knock on affect for our breeding birds this spring.

Birds of particular interest that I have noted in the parish over the year include lapwing, yellowhammer, linnet, skylark, bullfinch, barn owl, red kite and raven; winter visitors include fieldfare, redwing & brambling; and summer visitors include willow warbler, blackcap, garden warbler– to name but a few.

The re-appearance of raven and red kite in recent years is particularly welcomed as is the remarkable recovery of the barn owl which seems to be doing well through the river valley.

BOURNE VALLEY WILDLIFE GROUP

The Bourne Valley Wildlife Group continues to be open to anyone who has an interest in learning more about wildlife. A Wildflower & Butterfly Walk was held in May last year and if demand warrants, further wildlife interest walks can be organised for parishioners. For more information contact Peter Billingham.

PARISH FOOTPATH & INFORMATION BOARD

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The Parish Council received some funding from HCC last year to assist in producing an information board, highlighting the parishes' footpaths and places of interest. The finished information board has now been completed and was erected in the Parish Car Park

9. Church Hall Report

Revd David Keighley provided an update on the status of the church hall. The church hall was in need of significant refurbishment if it was to be brought up to modern standards. Bookings for the hall were limited and the revenue gained from hiring was failing to cover rising maintenance costs. It was planned to put the church hall up for sale by auction in early 2010. Following discussions with the Winchester Dioceses it was decided to put the sale on hold and the PCC was asked to hold a review on the future use of the church hall. The church hall was a church asset and any capital raised from the sale had to be used to further religious or other charitable work. It was confirmed that proceeds from the sale could be used for church improvements or could be applied towards the community hall project. It was noted the potential market value of the church hall was estimated to be in the range of £60K-£70K.

10. Footpath and Tree reports

Footpath Report –Mrs Patricia Antelme reported that all was very quiet with regard to public footpaths within the parish and there had been no complaints or issues raised regarding footpaths in the last year. HCC had announced that a small grants scheme was available to support footpath improvements and this was being considered. Notification had been received from the Ramblers Association that a new long distance footpath (the Brenda Walker Way) was being created between Aldershot and Andover and this would incorporate a section of FP 22 along the edge of the parish boundary.

Tree Report – Mr Trevor Wheeler reported that that 2009/10 was another good year for the growth and establishment of young trees which benefited again from a moist and cool summer period.

11. Open the meeting to Parishioners for comments and questions

There were no questions raised from the floor.

12. .Date of the next Annual Parish meeting

The next Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday 16th May 2011 in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed

(Chairman)

Date