

Hurstbourne Tarrant Annual Parish Meeting

Annual Parish Meeting

at the

PAVILION

Monday, 20th May 2013

at

7:30 p m

Chairman: Mr. David Sullivan

1. Apologies

None.

2. Approval of minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting held on 14th May 2012

The Chairman asked the meeting if the draft minutes for the Annual Parish meeting held on 14th May 2012 could be approved. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a complete and accurate record of the proceedings.

3. The Develop Trust Annual Report

Andrew Russell presented a summary of his Annual report to the meeting. He was delighted to report the project was alive and gaining momentum. He announced the receipt of a most recent donation of £25k which had lifted the total amount pledged to the scheme to £220K. The Development Trust was now progressing well on achieving its target of £270k from 'in village' funding.

The action plan now was to address three main areas:

- Finalising the design details and specifications and firming up cost estimates
- Drawing up a funding framework & moving forward with grant (and other) funding applications
- Strengthening communications on all key aspects of the project.

Work was on-going to establish key user groups who will provide a focus for communication and take an active part in promoting and developing their particular interests in preparation for the opening of the new community centre.

- This included already established groups such as scouts, cubs and beavers, clubs etc, as well as potential new user groups. For example, actions were underway by a small group of volunteers to establish a junior football team.
- The active involvement of user groups was crucial and cannot be emphasised too much. Demonstrating active community involvement and support, and having a structure in place to help that to happen was absolutely key to getting grant funding. The funders were looking for evidence of this not just empty words in funding applications.

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Andrew Russell thanked Susie Hoare and Tricia Andrews for their work in setting up the Development Trust webpages.

For more information about the project and latest developments, including the current fund raising position please go to:

<http://www.hbt.org.uk/NewVillageHall.htm>

4. Parish Council Annual Report

Chairman's Report - Cllr David Sullivan

The Parish Council has dealt with the Parish affairs with the valued help of the Parish clerk to whom we owe our status as a Quality Parish Council. Also I would like to express our appreciation to Councillor Pam Muttton and Councillor Peter Giddings for their attendance at our meetings and their prompt actions in liaising with their respective authorities, in particular with the footpath and the traffic calming at the northern end of the village.

It has come to my notice that some insurance companies are nervous re the risk of flooding to properties in the village. They seem to be using information that assumes that the "Cock" arm of the winterbourne stream still runs on the surface of the A343 when it was piped below the road about 60 years ago! No property has been flooded by the ingress of water from the stream as the Parish Council dredged the stream bed at parish expense in 2002. The only danger of wet houses is from groundwater rising and only applies to lowered floor levels inadequately damp proofed. The cottage "Murre" on the bend in Church Street remained dry even though the river rose to cover the underside of the concrete bridge adjacent to it before the above work was done.

The allotments are all taken and are a credit to the tenants who cultivate them and I am certain they are a valuable asset to the building of the community spirit in the village as well as the produce that is grown.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their work on behalf of the community and for their good humour and cheerfulness in the council meetings and the members of the public who have taken the time and trouble to find out what we actually do on the third Monday of the month.

King George V Playing Fields, Pavilion and Primary School report – Cllr Dinah Murdoch

We are still raising money for a new Sports and Community Centre on the site of the old Pavilion. So far we have raised over £220,000. There was a small fire in the Pavilion earlier this year caused by an electrical fault. It is not really practical to put in new heaters so the Parish Council has yet to decide what to do in the short term.

The mowing contract with TVBC has been renewed and the first cut has been carried out despite the inclement weather. Meanwhile, there is an on-going problem with people letting their dogs run around off the lead and foul the playing field.

The Primary School is in very good order and moving forward all the time with Christopher Brooks-Martin at the helm! There has been a lot of restructuring of the interior of the building which has made it more efficient. The pupil numbers remain fairly static at around the 110 mark.

Planning Report – Cllr Nick Melhuish

Over the reporting period there was a decrease in planning activity from the very high levels seen in 2011/12. All categories were down on the previous reporting period although there were a number of ancillary buildings, mainly garages replaced which lifted the number of "demolitions".

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Most applications were not commented on by the Parish Council, although in a number of cases we did raise objections. A particularly difficult area is the future of agricultural buildings in the parish which are no longer deemed useful given the changes to farming techniques over the past decades. We had two applications of this nature during the year and responding to strong local opinion we lodged objections to both. One application was subsequently passed having gone to the Northern Area Planning Committee and one was rejected by TVBC. Our local TVBC Councillor, Peter Giddings was very supportive in both cases.

A new planning regime was introduced during the year with the adoption of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Localism Act. Test Valley has also revised the Local Plan to take the new framework into account and this under consultation as we go to press. Generally we believe that these changes will have a minimal effect on our community: our position within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the large number of listed properties in the parish should give good protection to our villages' character under the new framework and legislation.

I will be passing the planning portfolio to fellow councillor Jamie Williams for 2013/14 as part of the natural rotation of briefs between councillors. I would like to thank fellow councillors for their help with the planning brief over the past two years.

Highways and Transport – Cllr Alan Houghton

Firstly, I would like to thank Cllr Pam Mutton (HCC) and Rupert Conder for all their hard work over the past year. Especially on the safer route to school and AGAS (Action Group Against Speeding) through Hurstbourne Tarrant as well as Pam's help with the new footway to the garage and the traffic calming islands to the north end of the A343.

Potholes have been a non-stop problem on all the roads around the area, some due to water table levels and others because of wear and tear. The 'pothole website' has been in constant use:

www.hants.gov.uk/roadproblems .

Some of you may have noticed our village signage has taken a battering, however, this is now nearly all repaired.

There is still a need to report any Co-op heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) that pass through the village.

Registrations of offending HGVs must be reported to the Co-op Transport Supervisor on 01264 712200, who will be very responsive to your calls.

Upton Village and Environment report – Cllr Jamie Williams

Following the adoption of the village phone box, in May 2012 the committee organised a number of painting work-parties to restore the telephone box to its former glory. Thank you to all those villagers who took part in its restoration.

In June the committee organised a village tea party to celebrate the Jubilee. The celebrations began with a children's procession from Parsonage Farm to the Crown – the children dressed as Kings and Queens. With the road closure in place a very long table was laid out along the road outside the Crown, and an array of sandwiches and cakes were laid out – all provided by local residents. Children's games and a fancy dress competition took place in the garden adjacent. Thanks to Julie and Mick, pub landlords of the Crown providing us with music and refreshments and Mr and Mrs Seddon-Brown for kindly allowing us to use their garden.

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In December the committee organised a Christmas Party – kindly hosted by Mick and Julie at the Crown. It was a wonderful evening with over 50 villagers attending. And finally our thanks go to John and Sarah of Parsonage Farm who very kindly donated the now traditional Upton Christmas tree which was put up on the village triangle.

Following my co-option to the PC, we saw higher than average rainfall almost throughout the winter and as such localised flooding was seen in Upton, but the defences worked well. Roadway improvements and repairs have been carried out on the Wildhern hill and also the valley road.

A spring market at Parsonage farm was very well attended in the village and the traffic was well managed.

The season seems a month behind with the low temperatures, grass growth has been slow but all the verges have displayed strong cowslips and primroses. With the rivulet drying up, summer is fast upon us and the barn owls have been seen throughout the valley in the early morning particularly.

5. Meeting was opened up for public debate

Note: The meeting was opened up for public debate. David Sullivan invited concerns, comments, and questions from parishioners and reiterated this was an important part of a consultation process to help inform the Parish Council on the public's views.

Rupert Conder on behalf of AGAS commented that the speed of road traffic on the A343 remained the main concern of parishioners. A review of the use of Speed Limit Reminder (SLRs) signs and an investigation into the installation of permanent solar powered SLRs was beginning in conjunction with TVBC safety improvement scheme for the A343. It was agreed that the policy on the use and development of SLR equipment would be discussed at the next parish council meeting scheduled on the 17th June 2013.

AGAS would continue its work to encourage HGVs drivers and haulage companies to use the recommended route for heavy lorries by using the A34 and A303 trunk routes. The A343 should be reduced to serving local access only by HGVs where possible. Rupert would be making available a simple A4 sized 30 mph sign that could be stuck onto dustbins as a reminder to passing traffic that they were driving in a 30 mph zone. Finally, a reminder would be submitted to the police to schedule regular radar speed checks on the A343 within the village 30 mph boundaries.

In response to a question regarding the travellers encamped in Netherton Bottom, Cllr David Sullivan confirmed the position that the land occupied by the traveller families was registered as common land but had no specific land owner identified and as a result management of the situation defaulted to Test Valley Borough Council. In the case of the Lee family, TVBC were seeking to regularise the situation by considering a case for a temporary planning change of use application that would allow the family to remain on the site until their children had completed primary school education. In the case of the second traveller family, TVBC were looking for appropriate housing.

Trevor Wheeler was invited to comment on recent ground water levels. Trevor informed the meeting that ground water levels were falling quite quickly and that 2013 so far had been comparatively dry compared to previous years. There was no immediate likelihood of any flooding within the parish. In picking up on Cllr

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David Sullivan's comment regarding some insurance companies refusing or imposing higher premium costs on household insurance policies because parts of the parish were classified as flood risk area was totally unfounded based on known historic data. Typically, one or two houses within the parish had had their cellars flooded but there had been no record of living accommodation being affected.

There being no further questions or comments from floor the meeting was brought to a close.

6. Date of the next Annual Parish meeting

The next Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday 19th May 2014 in the Pavilion at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Signed
(Chairman)

Date