

# Hurstbourne Tarrant Annual Parish Meeting

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## Annual Parish Meeting

at the

## COMMUNITY CENTRE

Monday, 15th May 2017

at

7:30 p m

**Chairman: Mr. Ian Kitson**

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### 1. Apologies from Councillors

There were no apologies.

### 2. Approval of minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016

The Chairman asked the meeting if the draft minutes for the Annual Parish meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016 could be approved. The Chairman then signed the minutes as a complete and accurate record of the proceedings.

### 3. Parish Council Annual Report

Note: Councillor Ian Kitson opened the meeting and reported that Councillor David Sullivan had decided to step down from the role of parish council chairman after 20 years of service. Cllr Kitson thanked David Sullivan for his outstanding service to both the parish council and the local community. David Sullivan confirmed that he could continue serve as a parish councillor for the next two years provided his personal circumstances permitted.

#### Chairman's Report for 2016/17 - Cllr David Sullivan

I feel that our village has continued making progress as a good place to live and work in this beautiful part of North Hampshire. We are now blessed with a thriving Community Centre, exceeding expectations of use and bookings, a good functioning pub and have retained a post office facility at the Londis shop. We have a tea room plus units including a vet practice and now a business hub in the ex post office building. The village school continues to excel and we have welcomed Revd Trevor and Margaret Lewis to continue church work in this parish.

The Parish Council has worked extremely well together, a great team with diverse and relevant skills and a co-operative and amicable spirit. In particular, we have had the services of a highly qualified parish clerk whose skilful guidance has been a great help to us all and me in particular.

I need to step down from my chairmanship role for personal reasons after twenty years! I shall continue as a parish councillor to the end of my current term of office unless circumstances change. It has been a pleasure to serve the community over these years and contribute to the village in which we have lived and worked for 52 years.

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## 4. Councillors Reports

### 4.1 Councillor Ian Kitson – Allotments and Environment

The Parish allotments have once again been fully utilised this year with some 13 parishioners and family enjoying the lovely location and growing their own produce, with numerous entries and prizes at the Village flower show. The parish council still has over 10 people on the waiting list for an allotment, with priority being given to Parishioners. The allotment heaviest pumpkin competition is now in its second year, thanks to Gordon Willis. My thanks go to the allotment holders who voluntarily mow the grass and trim hedges to keep the allotment tidy throughout the year. The Parish Council replaced the Allotments entrance gate this year with plans to improve the water supply in the near future.

Sadly, this year the Parish has suffered from a spate of fly tipping, but thanks to prompt reporting from the parish council and action from Test Valley Borough Council, in liaison with the affected landowners the tips have been swiftly cleared up. The Parish Council has recently applied to join the Parish Lengthsman scheme this offers funding toward local improvements/ repairs to items such as ditch clearing verge mowing and road signs. A number of benches around the parish are currently being repaired or replaced, many thanks to the volunteers for this.

### 4.2 Cllr Jamie Williams - Planning report

This Year Planning in the Test Valley has seen some considerable activity.

- The Test Valley Local Plan was at last adopted and this makes our lives considerably easier with regards to having clear local policy.
- The Community Infrastructure Levy has taken over from the old Section 106 contributions.
- The Government has published more guidelines on how to interpret the National Planning Policy Framework.

Within the Parish we have also been busy.

The now well established tussle between the Conservation Officers and the need to update old houses into practical living spaces continues to flare up and in general the middle ground is helping to maintain our older more valuable buildings and hopefully create more sustainable living spaces.

Upper Ibthorpe Farm, have proposed to build up to four houses at the top of the Horseshoe in Ibthorpe and the scheme has given rise to many valid concerns from neighbours, on development in sensitive areas that are supported by Local and National policy. Traffic is very often the major concern.

This and the Adams Farm proposals for a new house, illustrate how important it is for residents to take notice of the yellow signs that applicants have to erect when they apply for something and for people to become actively involved in the consultations.

Both Adams and Upper Ibthorpe will be going to Committee and therefore giving Parishioners an opportunity to speak at the hearing and to voice concerns that are overlooked by the officers.

It is clear the TVBC enforcement team has been very active in the region picking up on unlawful development. It is important to remember that any concerns of un-consented work should be reported to them and can be done anonymously.

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With other rural applications for conversion of redundant barns, equestrian buildings and new farm barns the portfolio has had a lot to do and will continue to do so as further larger applications are received.

The PC has commented on more applications this year than previously and it has been interesting to engage with the planning officers and also the parishioners to try to get any concerns resolved prior to decisions. It is so often perceived impacts that cause concern and some engagement with the applicant certainly seems to go a long way in resolution.

## **4.3 Cllr Mark Thomas - Footpaths and Hurstbourne Volunteers**

We have held three Parish Working parties over the last year and are grateful to volunteers of all ages who have turned out in a variety of weather to collect litter and carry out light maintenance. We have four groups who meet at Upton, Dene Green, Ibthorpe and the Community Centre. The last clear-up coincided with the Great British Spring Clean weekend and a record number of volunteers attended. Litter is collected daily from around the Playing Field and whilst we do not have a serious problem, we would respectfully ask visitors to use the bins provided.

We are so fortunate to have a wonderful network of local rights of way and the Parish Council continues to monitor our local footpaths and liaise with landowners and Hampshire County Council to keep these accessible. A number of paths have been trimmed, fallen trees removed and stiles repaired during the last year and special thanks go to Cllr Ian Kitson for the loan of various items of equipment to carry out this work.

The Parish Council continues to remind dog walkers of their responsibility to clear up after their pets and we have posted signs at several 'hot-spots', with particular diligence being paid to the Children's play area.

If anyone would like more information about volunteering, or wishes to discuss footpaths, litter or dogs, please contact Mark Thomas on 07815 082326 or mark.thomas.204@btinternet.com.

## **4.4 Cllr Mark Betteridge - CSW, road safety and highways**

The speed of traffic through Hurstbourne Tarrant continues to be a major concern to those living on or near to the A343 and to those whose children walk to the school. This has been exacerbated on numerous occasions by roadworks and issues on the A34 which increases traffic volume due to the Newbury Road being a natural diversion.

The solar powered Speed Indicating Display (SID) sign makes a noticeable impression as observations are that most drivers do slow down. Of course, there are the few who ignore the speed limit regardless and occasional police camera deployments catch a number of offenders. We do not feedback on how many or whether the offenders have been prosecuted.

The Speed Limit Reminder [SLRs] signs, which we share with other parishes, do have a beneficial effect, but to a lesser extent than the SID. We have approval to purchase another SID serving the traffic travelling in the opposing direction but the exact location for this is difficult to ascertain due to short sightlines. We are getting advice on this. The SID only displays the speed of the traffic coming towards it, currently from the North (Newbury) direction. Vehicles travelling in the opposite direction

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are very often significantly exceeding the speed limit, accelerating fast as they come out of the chicane.

Other speed mitigation safety projects installed over the last few years, namely the traffic islands, the pavement from the bus shelter to the shop and the extension to the pavement outside the school, continue to be a great success in that they have significantly reduced the risk of accidents.

The Safe Routes to School crossing of the A343 is still a serious safety issue. The value of the bollards and the vulnerability of pedestrians to vehicles mounting the kerb at that point has been demonstrated yet again by the virtual destruction of one of the bollards recently and on another occasion by the other being "clipped". Hampshire CC are aware of this and we will do all we can to try to come to an effective solution to reduce the issue and the danger to pedestrians. Although there are many concerns, we have thankfully had another year in the village without any serious road traffic incident.

## **4.5 Cllr Louisa Russell – HbT Primary School Liaison and play equipment**

The two major projects that I participated on this year have been the new play equipment in the village playground and the organisation of the Swift meetings in the Community Centre. The Swifts which was initiated by Mark Thomas and David Sullivan has proved to be a great success. So far we have had 3 meetings, all of which have been well attended and enjoyed. This has been a successful enterprise which will hopefully go from strength to strength.

The second project was the installation of the new play equipment, which both Milla Williams and I participated in. However it was really the brainchild of Georgina Wilson who did most of the work to get us to where we are now. We are looking forward to it going up towards the end of May. Hopefully it will be well received by the village children, in particular the school children as we aimed the equipment to be of particular enjoyment to children between the ages of 4 and 11.

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## 5. The Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre (HTCC) Annual Report

In its first year of operation (1st July 2015 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016), the Centre had already proved to be a highly popular community venue for a wide variety of regular classes and activities as well as an extensive range of private and village events. Some 7,200 people had used the Centre (including ‘repeat business’) against our original target figure of approximately 2,500. Of these, around 70% were local users and 30% were users from neighbouring areas. Financially, it had been a very successful first year of operation, with income and expenditure on target, and reserve funds set aside.

Since then, the Centre has continued to be a thriving village venue for all kinds of activities, and to-date we are well on target in terms of our forecast income and expenditure for the second year of the Centre’s operation (1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017).

Regular classes and activities taking place at the Centre include Yoga, Pilates, Planet Education PE & sports coaching for young children, children’s story telling & movement sessions, the Parent & Toddlers Group, the After-School Club, Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, table tennis sessions, HbT Historical Society meetings & talks, Parish Council and PCC meetings. In addition, the inaugural meeting of the new SWIFTS Social & Support Group for people living in the Parish held in March 2017 was very well attended and will now take place regularly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday morning of each month.

Along with these regular activities, the Centre has been booked for a wide range of events including many children’s birthday parties, christening parties, wedding receptions, wakes, luncheons, special occasion parties, family gatherings, charity fund-raising events, Enham Shining Stars Club sessions, James’ Club sessions, Fellowship Days, a variety of workshops & meetings, antiques valuation days’, the Primary School Summer Production; and village events such as the HBT5 Race & Fun Run in April, the Annual Parish Meeting in May, the School Summer Fayre in June, the Village Show in July, the HTCC Open Evening in September, the Harvest Lunch in October, the ‘Saturday Night Fever’ event in November and the School Christmas Fayre.

It is particularly pleasing that so far, around 60% of the event bookings are ‘repeat business’. Feedback from users is that they have booked the Centre again because of the quality of the building and its facilities, the ease of the booking process and ‘good customer services’.

As a result of generous contributions from previous fund-raising events, as well as the 2016 HBT5 Race and the Village Show, we were able during the year to purchase a projector and screen for the Centre. This means that the Centre now has a comprehensive suite of audio visual facilities. Those who came along to the HTCC Open Evening in September saw the new ‘kit’ in action – and gave it the thumbs up; and it has since proved to be a popular facility for various occasions, workshops and meetings. We also held our first highly successful village events using the equipment and wi-fi connections to live stream three of the 2017 Six Nations Rugby Matches. Many people of all ages from the parish came along to enjoy the games live on the spectacular big screen, and also to meet up with friends and neighbours from the village. The success of these live-streaming events gives a good foundation – with the help of local volunteers – for organising other village events centred around sporting and other broadcast occasions, combined with a community get-together.

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Behind the scenes, a sound management structure has been well established to ensure the ongoing efficient and effective management of the Centre. The key roles fulfilled by the nine trustees of the Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) – all of whom volunteer a considerable amount of their time to help manage the Centre on behalf of the village – are:

- Financial management
- Booking management
- Building maintenance
- Communications & marketing
- Business administration
- Health & safety

As well as the trustees, a growing number of volunteers are giving their time to help with the operational and maintenance aspects of the building as well as with organising community activities and events held at the Centre. This includes the volunteers of all ages who join the Parish Working Party each quarter to help, for example, with sweeping leaves, paviors and car park demarcation lines, and litter picking at the Centre. Thank you so much to all volunteers. We are so grateful for your help and support. It makes such a difference!

We particularly want to take this opportunity to give sincere thanks on behalf of the village to David Sullivan who until July 2016 was an HTCC trustee. David was actively involved at the outset of the project when the original action group, initiated by Leopold Antelme, was set up in 2001. Thank you David for your hard work and commitment throughout so many years' in helping to make our new Centre a reality for the village.

After many years of effort by very many people, the village now has a thriving Community Centre: with the vital help of local volunteers, we can continue this success story – for the immediate future, and for generations in the village to come.

## **6 Revd Trevor Lewis**

Revd Trevor Lewis introduce himself thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak to the meeting. Revd Trevor Lewis presented a brief personal profile of his life. He met and married his wife Margaret 40 years ago and they have two children. For most of his working life he had been employed as an engineer and project manager with ICI. He came to the ministry quite recently going through his training between 2003 and 2009 and was ordained in York Minister in 2009. His first ministry was based in Middlesbrough for a year before moving to the North York Moors. Just ten weeks ago he took up the role of parish priest in Hurstbourne Tarrant and its surrounding parishes. Revd Trevor Lewis stated he saw his role as the parish priest for all parishioners, by nature he liked to say 'Yes' and stressed the church was open to all. Over time he would welcome meeting and getting to know as many parishioners as possible. During the first few weeks he had been focusing on our two local schools and had joined both boards of school governors. He had been greatly impressed by the beauty of the Bourne valley and was delighted by the warmth the community had shown him on his arrival and he was very much looking forward making his ministry a vibrant part of our parish community.

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## 7 Meeting was opened up for public debate

Mr Rupert Conder proposed a vote of thanks to the parish council for its excellent work and support to the community. Mr Conder personally thanked David Sullivan for his 20 years of service as chairman and complimented David on his leadership that had been delivered with great humour over the years. Mr Conder also complimented Susie Hoare on her commitment and support to the Community Centre demonstrated by the wonderful success achieved in the first 2 years of operation of the centre as it became such a vital asset to our community.

Mrs Yvonne Hill asked what was the status of the parish council's plans to install a defibrillator in the village. Cllr Mark Thomas responded that progressed had stalled recently as there were 2 challenges to overcome:

- Siting of the defibrillator was planned to be located at the George & Dragon public house, but unfortunately TVBC had objected on planning grounds as it was a listed building
- A grant application to the British Heart Foundation had been made but was rejected as the funding limit had been reached for the time being.

Mrs Yvonne Hill announced that she would like to offer a £1000 donation towards the defibrillator project in memory of her husband Roy. Cllr Thomas thanked Yvonne for her very kind offer and asked the parish clerk to place the defibrillator project on the agenda of the next parish council meeting. **DB to action.**

There were no further comments or questions raised by any parishioners present at the meeting.

## 8. Date of the next Annual Parish meeting

The next Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 in the Community Hall at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Signed .....

(Chairman)

Date .....