

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Annual Report 2016/17

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Introduction

The parish of Hurstbourne Tarrant is located in the Bourne Valley in North Hampshire. It lies in a designated area of outstanding natural beauty that makes up part of the North Wessex Downs. There are three centres of population made up of the village of Hurstbourne Tarrant, the hamlet of Ibthorpe and approximately half the village of Upton. It is a small rural parish consisting of 385 dwellings with 648 parishioners on the electoral register. Although there are a number of local businesses, there is no major centre of employment. Public transport is very limited but the area contains beautiful scenery and offers many footpaths and bridleways. Most of the built areas within the parish of Hurstbourne Tarrant are designated within a conservation area containing a high proportion of listed buildings including a number of thatched barns and cottages dating from the early to mid 17th century.

Some of main parish facilities include:

- Village Church of St Peters ;
- Primary school – approximately 110 pupils;
- King George V playing fields, newly built community centre and car park;
- Garage shop, post office and cafe;
- Village public house;
- Hurstbourne Tarrant Royal British Legion.

The parish council is a small body made up of 6 councillors and it meets every month. The parish council comes under jurisdiction of Test Valley Borough Council (unitary authority) which in turn is part of Hampshire County Council.

The council levies a precept of £14,850 pa (equivalent to £39.39 pa/household at band D rating) and on average year has an expenditure of approximately £16,500 pa. The council employs one person – a part time Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer.

The parish council does not operate any system of committees, given its small size, all business is transacted by the full parish council and occasionally working parties may be established to carry out specific project work. Each councillor has a portfolio of responsibilities which are assigned at the annual parish council meeting held in May.

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Elected Parish Councillors as 16th May 2016

David Sullivan (Chairman)

Mark Thomas – (Vice-chairman) Portfolio: Footpaths, playing fields, HTCC liaison

Jamie Williams - Portfolio: Planning, Upton Village and Pill Heath

Louisa Russell - Portfolio: Hurstbourne Tarrant primary school liaison & play equipment

Mark Betteridge – Portfolio: Transport, roads and road safety (CSW)

Ian Kitson - - Portfolio: Allotments and environment

Test Valley Borough Councillor

Bourne Valley Ward - Mr Peter Giddings - Conservative, 16 Shepherds Rise Vernham Dean
Andover SP11 0HD –

01264 737647, mobile 07721 051832, Email: cllrpgiddings@testvalley.gov.uk

Hampshire County Councillor

Andover North Ward– Mr Timothy Rolt – UKIP. The Chestnuts, Church Lane, Goodworth Clatford,
Andover, Hampshire, SP11 7HL. Telephone: 01264 358365 Mobile: 07795 204233.

Email: timothy.rolt@hants.gov.uk

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Parish Councillors' reports for 2016/17

Chairman's Summary report by Councillor David Sullivan

Planning report by Councillor Jamie Williams

Allotments and environment report by Councillor Ian Kitson

Footpaths and Hurstbourne Volunteers Report by Mark Thomas

Hurstbourne Tarrant primary school liaison & play equipment by Louisa Russell

CSW, road safety and highways by Mark Betteridge

Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2017 by David Baker

HTCC Annual Report 2016/17 by Susie Hoare

Chairman's Summary report

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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Planning report by Councillor Jamie Williams

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.

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.

Allotments and environment report by Councillor Ian Kitson

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

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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.

Footpaths and Hurstbourne Volunteers by Councillor Mark Thomas

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.

4.5 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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CSW, road safety and highways by Councillor Mark Betteridge

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 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.

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Financial Report for the year ending 31st March 2017

The council's cash reserves stand at £5,300.67 at 31st March 2017 (£21,831 at 31st March 2016). The reserves are maintained to produce investment income and to fund capital projects. The Parish Council recorded a deficit of £16,530 for the year to 31st March 2017.

The precept in 2017/18 had been held at £14,850. This maintains the Band D levy in line with the average for Hampshire parish councils. The Band D levy for Hurstbourne Tarrant for 2017/18 is set at £39.39 per household pa using the tax base of 377 dwellings for 2017/18, this represents a 2.4% reduction in parish council tax levy.

I would like explain the declared deficit of £16,530 for the financial year 2016/17. The parish council are in the middle of a major project to replace play equipment on KGV playing fields at a project cost £24,000 pounds. These costs have all been taken at the end of the 2016/17 financial year. We have bid and have been awarded a TVBC grant of £10,000 towards this project and had £1,653 of S106 monies that will be released against the project in early 2017/18. An additional £4,000 of VAT will be recoverable in 2017/18. So a more realistic deficit figure should be of the order of £877 once all the project costs and contributions have flowed through our parish accounts.

See Table 1 Statement of Accounts and Table 2 Bank Reconciliation for more detailed information.

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council – Table 1			
Statement of Accounts for Year Ending 31 March 2017			
Box		2015/16 £s	2016/17 £s
1	Balances Brought Forward	23,531	21,831
2	(+) Annual Precept	14,850	14,850
3	(+) Total other receipts	1,507	4,372
4	(-) Staff Costs	-2,628	-2,628
5	(-) Loan interest capital repayments	0	0
6	(-) Total other payments	-15,429	33,125
7	(=) Balances carried forward	21,831	5,301
8	Total Cash	21,831	5,301
9	Total Fixed Assets	78,006	98,006
10	Total Borrowings	0	0

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Table 2

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Bank Reconciliation

Prepared by: David Baker (Clerk /RFO)

Date:

Approved by: David Sullivan

Date:

(Chairman of the Parish Council)

Balance Treasurers Account (00730337) per Bank Statement

Balance Instant Access (07150069) per Bank Statement

Balance 30 Day Notice (07210851) per Bank Statement

Outstanding Cheques as at 31 Mar

Outstanding Credits as at 31 Mar

Net bank balances 31 Mar

Total cash

Opening Balance

Less debtors

0.00 Add creditors

Add: Receipts in the year to 31 Mar

Less: Payments in the year to 31 Mar

Closing Balance per cash book as at 31 Mar

**Total Cash
at 31 Mar**

31 March 2016	31 March 2017
31 March 2016	31 March 2017
2015/16	2016/17
1,000.00	1,000.00
13,218.73	12,999.57
7,705.21	7,709.10
-92.47	-16,408.00
0.00	0.00
21,831.47	5,300.67
21,831.47	5,300.67
23,531.43	21,831.47
16,357.33	19,222.09
18,057.29	-35,752.89
21,831.47	5,300.67
23,531.43	5,300.67

Accounts were approved by our internal auditor Tammy King on 14th April and then will be reviewed by BDO LLP (external auditor) later in the year.

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

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Base Budget Financial Year 2017/18

<u>Services</u>	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / Deficit
King George V Field	50.00	1,200.00	-1,150.00
Dene Green		330.00	-330.00
Tennis Court	15.00	50.00	-35.00
Allotments	190.00	190.00	.00
Repairs & Maintenance		1000.00	-1000.00
Interest	8.00		8.00
Wayleaves	100.00		100.00
Sub-Total	363.00	2,770.00	-2,407.00
<u>Administration</u>			
Clerk		2628.00	-2,628.00
Stationery & printing		900.00	-900.00
Insurance		725.00	-725.00
Audit		135.00	-135.00
Room hire		300.00	-300.00
Other expenses		400.00	-400.00
Sub Total	-	5,088.00	-5,088.00
<u>On-going projects:</u>			
Grants & Donations		750.00	-750.00
Shared Speed Indicator Device annual charges		800.00	-800.00
Elections sinking fund		300.00	-300.00
Flood mitigation sinking fund		500.00	500.00
Unplanned new projects		1,000.00	-1000.00
Sub-Total		3,350.00	-3350.00
Income / Expenditure	363.00	11,208.00	-10,845.00
VAT refund from 15/16	2,000.00		2,000.00
Precept in 2016/17	14,850.00		14,850.00
Base Budget Total	17,213.00	11,208.00	6,005.00

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Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre (HTCC) 2016/17 (Susie Hoare, Chair, HTCC)

In its first year of operation (1st July 2015 – 30th 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 2nd 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, pavers 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.

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Dates for Parish Council meetings – May 2017 to Apr 2018

Date of meeting	Type of meeting	Venue and start time
15 May 2017	Annual Parish Council Meeting Note: 1	Community Centre – 5.30 p.m.
15 May 2017	Annual Parish Meeting Note: 2	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
19 June 2017	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
17 July 2017	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
21 August 2017	Parish Council	No meeting planned
18 September 2017	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
16 October 2017	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
20 November 2017	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
18 December 2017	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
15 January 2018	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
19 February 2018	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
19 March 2018	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.
16 April 2018	Parish Council	Community Centre – 7.30 p.m.

Note 1: The Annual Parish Council meeting must be convened within 14 days of the date of elections within an election year.

Note 2: The Annual Parish meeting is a meeting of **the electorate**

Contact details for Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

David Sullivan	Chairman	01264 736514	horseshoelane2@btinternet.com
Mark Thomas	Vice-Chairman	01264 736456	mc.thomas.204@gmail.com
Jamie Williams	Councillor	07977 077875	jamiesfreerange@gmail.com
Louisa Russell	Councillor	07891 243488	diseasea@hotmail.com
Mark Betteridge	Councillor	07771 966058	mbetteridge@btinternet.com
Ian Kitson	Councillor	01264 736733	ian.kitson@kitsonrecycling.co.uk
David Baker	Clerk	01264 736436	theparishclerk@hbt.org.uk
Village and parish council website			www.hbt.org.uk

Any correspondence for the Parish Council should be addressed to
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