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Parish Council Meeting Minutes

Monday 2nd March 2015, 7.30pm

Present: Cllr B Birdwood, Cllr T Higham, Cllr J Thornton, Cllr S Wigley, Cllr T Wood and one member of the public.

In attendance: G Wright (Clerk)

Chair of Meeting: Cllr J Thornton

Clerk for Meeting: G Wright

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Cllr M Thistlethwayte's apologies for absence were accepted.

Cllr C Dibden had tendered her resignation as a Parish Councillor prior to the meeting and this was reluctantly accepted. Cllr Thornton said that Cllr Dibden's long and valuable service and expertise as a Parish Councillor, especially regarding Planning matters, would be sadly missed. Cllr Thornton proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Dibden which was agreed unanimously.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Public participation.

The Chairman opened the meeting for public participation.

a. The Police

PCSO Amey Stevens was not in attendance at the meeting and no report had been received prior to the meeting regarding Police matters, however, Amey had informed the Council that due to Police beat changes, PCSO Owen Reeves would be taking over the Hambledon beat from Amey from April 2015.

b. The County Councillor

Councillor Roger Huxstep contacted the Council prior to the meeting explaining that he had to attend a Council meeting at Winchester but hoped that he would be able to attend HPC's meeting later. **POST MEETING NOTE:** Unfortunately, the Winchester meeting ran late and Councillor Huxstep was unable to attend HPC's meeting, however, he sent his report which he asked to be circulated (see below):-

In preparation for this winter, work has included cleaning and jetting an extra 2,500 gullies, soakaways and drainage chambers which have been identified as potential flood risks, as well as 1,800 drainage-related maintenance or local jobs at over 100 sites. The Council has also submitted 33 bids to the Environment Agency for funding towards flood defence and alleviation measures.

Re the Pipe Scheme:

Simon Cramp is still keen to hold a meeting with the parish council, Flood Action Group, and local county and district councillors prior to the proposed public exhibition on 20th April. This will give him the opportunity to run through the key information for the management of the construction phase. He will arrange this once the way ahead is clear from the tendering process which is due to conclude by mid-March.

Just to update you in case you receive enquiries on why works have not started this week as indicated earlier. It had not been confirmed which contractor would undertake these works and when they would start. Dyer and Butler have now been appointed, although there will be no work this week and it will start Monday 9th March.

HAMPSHIRE SUPERFAST BROADBAND – GETTING CONNECTED

At his meeting on 22 January 2015, the Executive Member for Policy and Resources agreed a report on Hampshire Superfast Broadband (SFBB) and the County Council's plan to increase the availability of broadband services to premises in hard-to-reach areas through Phase two of its programme.

Phase one of the County Council's multi-million-pound programme is on track to ensure that 90 per cent of premises in Hampshire can access high -speed broadband by the end of 2015. So far, 155 cabinets and more than 55 kilometres of fibre optic cables have been installed, allowing over 33,000 premises to gain access to superfast broadband speeds for the first time.

In total, Phase one is expected to add more than 59,500 business and residential properties. Following the new deal with BT, at least 34,500 further properties will gain access to superfast broadband, lifting the availability of high speed broadband from around 80% to more than 95%. Hampshire County Council has also agreed to extend the scope of its current programme to include support for residents living in new housing development where the private sector has not and is unlikely to make commercially funded access to SFBB provision for them. The title for the extended programme of intervention is 'Getting Connected'.

More needs to be done and will be done. We just wish BT would speed things up.

Hampshire students had reason to celebrate this summer with strong performances in SATs, GCSEs and 'A' Levels.

Of those completing their primary education in 2014, 88% achieved the nationally expected level 4 or above in mathematics, 91% in reading and 87% in writing – all above national results. 81% achieved level 4 in all three subject areas, an increase of 3%, and compared to 78% nationally. 25% reached the higher standard of level 5 in all three subjects.

The percentage of Hampshire's 13,000 GCSE students achieving five A-C passes, including in English and mathematics, remained at 60% this year, despite a number of changes to how subjects were examined and counted which has seen national results fall from 61% to 58%.*

At 'A' Level, 89% of the 10,000 post-16 students studying at Hampshire's colleges and sixth forms achieved the Level 3 standard of two or more A-E grades at A Level, or the vocational equivalent, compared with 88% nationally.*

Council proceedings.

The last full council was held on Thursday 19th February. Councillors debated the budget for 2015/16 and also received a briefing from Sir Tony Redmond, the Lead Commissioner of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in anticipation of re-drawing divisional

boundaries for the 2017 County Election. Our division, the Meon Valley may well be the subject of an enlarged area to bring in up to further 10% more electorate.

The budget was approved and therefore there will be no increase in the County's Council Tax. It means therefore that it is six years since there has been any increase in Hampshire County Council's tax precept. Over the same time period inflation has been 11% giving a real terms decrease of 9.9%. The revenue budget that covers the cost of providing services including wages, goods and materials - which must be reduced by 12% in 2015/16 to meet cuts in Government grant and to balance demand pressures linked to an ageing population and children in care. A relentless drive for efficiencies and savings since the period of austerity began, in 2008, will result in a total of £240million savings achieved by the end of March 2016. The changes to meet these savings were agreed as part of the budget setting for 2014.

We now prepare for the next phase of our savings and efficiency programme which aims to address a further £100 million of savings required by April 2017 – the equivalent of another 14% reduction in departmental budgets over the next two years. We embark on this next cycle from firm foundations as we are on track to deliver the current target in savings by 31st March 2015.

Despite receiving one of the lowest grants per head from Government; resulting in the Council losing around 51% of its general grant from Government since 2010, on top of cuts to specific grants. Managing the next round of cuts will be much tougher, as savings become harder and harder to find. The austerity process has to be on-going, as we recognise the Government's need to bring public expenditure back under control. Fortunately Hampshire continues to perform extremely well - having established a solid reputation as being home to some of the best public services in the country. The Council will consult in the spring on a range of options to deliver the right support to residents at the right time and in the best way, which is likely to mean scaling back some areas and doing some things differently.

c. **The District Councillor**

Councillor Dibden contacted the Council prior to the meeting explaining that she had to attend a Council meeting at Winchester but hoped to attend HPC's meeting later. **POST MEETING NOTE:** Unfortunately, the Winchester meeting ran late and Councillor Dibden was unable to attend HPC's meeting. Cllr Dibden had circulated her report prior to the meeting (see below):-

Cabinet Changes

There has a change of Leader and Cabinet at WCC. Following the decision by the Judge that one aspect of the Judicial Review into the Silver Hill regeneration Scheme is upheld, the Leader and Deputy Leader have stepped down. Frank Pearson has been elected as the new Leader. He is one of the District Councillors from Swanmore, and has been a Mayor in the past. He has said he sees his role as a safe pair of experienced hands, and his first action was to order a review or inquiry into the process by which the errors occurred. The aspect which was found unlawful is that the original contract back in 2004 should have sent out (under EU law) for a tender process, which it was not, and then when changes were made to the agreed project in 2014, it should again have been sent out for re-procurement. So poor advice or decisions were given and taken over a period of over 10 years, when both Liberal Democrats and Conservatives were in "power", and indeed also Labour in their role as Chair of Overview and Scrutiny.

Budget

The budget has been agreed, and as predicted there will be no increase in council tax for the next year. Some money has been set aside for the costs into a Silver Hill inquiry and longer term some decisions will have to be made about how to recoup the income which was expected from the development.

Boundary Review

The Boundary Commission have released their preliminary case for the new wards. Hambledon has been put into a ward called Central Meon Valley (which would have 3 councillors) encompassing Hambledon, Soberton (all of the Parish - it is currently split), Swanmore and Waltham Chase (which splits the Shedfield Parish). Droxford is proposed to join a new 3-member ward with Upper Meon Valley but stretching all the way beyond Twyford to Shawford. The consultation was opened on 10th Feb, and runs until 6th April.

The Commission must follow the following criteria when drawing up electoral arrangements:

- * To deliver electoral equality where each city councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the city.*
- * That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.*
- * That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.*

My "personal" suggestion is that Hambledon PC should respond to the Consultation and say they are happy to be in Central Meon Valley Ward but have historic and geographical similarities with Droxford rather than Waltham Chase. The numbers are a bit high for Upper Meon Valley, and a bit low for Central Meon Valley, so it should balance out. The link is as follows: www.consultation.lqbce.org.uk <<http://consultation.lqbce.org.uk/>>

Roadside Waste

There has been some email correspondence on litter on the verges which coincided with a report from the Waste team at WCC. It is available to view online at <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/statement-litter-picking-verges-winchester-city-co/>

3. Minutes from the previous meetings:
 - a. Council Meeting of 2nd February 2015
The minutes of this meeting were accepted and approved unanimously.
4. Planning
 - a. Planning applications as listed in Appendix A were discussed.
 - b. Planning decisions as listed in Appendix B were noted.
5. Finance
 - a. The financial report to the 28th February 2015 was received and accepted.
 - b. Payments as listed in Appendix C were ratified.

6. Transport and Highways

- a. Signage. The signage to Hambledon Primary School and The Church was discussed. Cllr Wood had contacted a company based in Guildford and provided them with a rough idea of the signage requirements. The required signage would include a representation of a Church on it and would probably cost between £400 and £500. The School said that they would make a contribution towards the costs. Cllr Wood was unanimously authorised to proceed with ordering the signage for this project. **ACTION: Cllr Wood**
A discussion also took place regarding the Brown signs in the Village, redundant signs and decluttering in general. Cllr Thornton agreed to contact HCC and WCC regarding the Hambledon Vineyard sign. **ACTION: Cllr Thornton**
- b. Litter Picking of verges in Winchester City Council Area. Changes in legislation were noted. In addition correspondence had been received from David Griffiths regarding litter picking of verges in Hambledon (see correspondence section of minutes); also Saturday 21st March had been designated Community Clear Up Day by the Government. Cllr Birdwood agreed to respond to Kris Hopkins, MP regarding his letter regarding Community Clear Up Day and it was agreed that Cllr Thornton should contact David Griffiths regarding arranging the Community Clear Up Day and produce some flyers advertising the event to the Village. **ACTION: Cllr Thornton**

7. Footpaths

- a. Windmill Farm
Some concerns had been raised regarding the detail of the footpath application and The Clerk had contacted HCC again for further clarification. As a result of this clarification Cllr Birdwood agreed to arrange a meeting with HCC to determine what further action was required.
ACTION: Cllr Birdwood
- b. Stewarts Green & The Church
Further concerns had been raised regarding the footpath from Stewarts Green to the Church. Cllr Birdwood confirmed that scalplings had now been put down and that Chris Martin had been asked to continue to monitor the situation.

8. Pipe and Flooding issues

- a. Cllr Higham provided a further verbal update regarding the Pipe and Flooding issues. The Brook lane by pass had now been prepared and the tender was now out to companies. A further Public Meeting/Exhibition had been arranged in The Village Hall for the afternoon of Monday 20th April 2015. At the moment, further work was likely to start towards the end of May 2015.

9. Village email contact list

- a. Cllr Thornton apologised for lack of progress on this item and asked for it to be deferred to the next meeting. **ACTION: Cllr Thornton and The Clerk**

10. Community Assets – Community Right to Buy

- a. The Clerk had supplied further information on this item prior to the meeting. A preliminary list of potential assets had been drawn up but were not discussed at the meeting. It was suggested that this could be an item for the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting (Assembly) to be held during April. The Clerk was requested to find out how long it took between identifying potential assets and whether or not they had been approved to be added to the list of Community Assets by Winchester City Council.
ACTION: The Clerk

11. Electoral Review of Winchester

- a. A report had been received with draft recommendations of the Boundary Commission. District Councillor Dibden's report (see earlier in minutes) gives her recommendations regarding Hambledon. Cllrs agreed to study the Boundary Commission's recommendations and Cllr Dibden's recommendations and submit comments by 6th April 2015.

ACTION: Cllr Thornton

12. Protocol for Public and Press Reporting Council Meetings

Following discussion and further consideration the following was agreed unanimously:-

- a. To approve incorporation of HALC (Hampshire Association of Local Councils) Protocol for Public and Press Reporting into Hambledon Parish Council's Standing Orders.
- b. To approve use and display of HALC Public Notice Protocol for Reporting at meetings.

The Standing Orders and Website would be updated in due course.

ACTION: The Clerk

13. Annual Parish Meeting for 2015.

- a. Following discussion and agreement, the date and time of the Annual Parish Meeting (Assembly) open to all Hambledon electors was agreed as **Tuesday 28th April at 7.30pm in Hambledon Village Hall**. Refreshments would be provided and a formal agenda would be agreed at the next Parish Council Meeting.

14. Tennis Court

- a. It was proposed to broaden free access to the village tennis court by including all children currently attending Hambledon Primary School. Cllr Higham said that the school had an after school club and that Tennis was included on the school's curriculum. Following discussion, the proposal was approved unanimously.

15. Correspondence

- a. Email from David Griffiths regarding litter picking of verges (see item under Highways and Transport also). Cllr Thornton agreed to ask David to arrange a Village Community Litter Pick Up day for Saturday 21st March 2015. **ACTION: Cllr Thornton**
- b. Email from Teresa Encke (Secretary of Village Hall Committee) regarding HPC representation at Village Hall Management Committee Meetings (VHMCMs). Councillors discussed this item and decided that it would be appropriate for HPC Councillors to attend VHMCMs when their input was considered to be useful. The Clerk was requested to reply to the VHMCM.

ACTION: The Clerk

16. The next meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Monday, 13th April 2015 in Hambledon Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 20:51.

Appendix A – Planning Applications

- i) **SDNP/14/05240/PRE – Land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Speltham Hill, Hambledon, Hampshire** – Replacement buildings for stables and home office use with vehicle storage and minor alterations to permitted planning application 11/01224/FUL – **Pre-application notification - For information only.**

Appendix B – Planning Decisions

- i) **SDNP/14/06650/LIS & SDNP/14/06633/HOUS – St Agatha, East Street, Hambledon, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO7 4RX** – Removal of 4 no. PVCU windows and french doors to northwest elevation and replace with timber windows/french doors (affects the setting of a listed building) – **Approved.**

Appendix C – Payments

Payments made between Council Meetings

31/01/15	BACS	G Wright	January 2015 – Pay, Expenses & Travel (includes National Pay Award)	£494.02
31/01/15	132	CPRE	Annual Subscription for 2014/15 - (no VAT)	£36.00
31/01/15	BACS	Taylor Robertson	Asst Tennis Coach – 20 th Dec 2014 & 10 th Jan 2015 - (no VAT)	£30.00
31/01/15	BACS	Village Hall	Hall Hire costs for period 6 th Jan 2014 to 9 th Dec 2014 [including Defib. Training events] - (no VAT).	£480.00
04/02/15	BACS	D Gillott	Tennis Coaching for Dec 2014 & Jan 2015 – (no VAT)	£420.00
04/02/15	BACS	Taylor Robertson	Asst Tennis Coach – 17 th Jan 2015 & 24 th Jan 2015 – (no VAT)	£37.50
25/02/15	BACS	Village Hall	Main Hall Hire costs for HCC Flooding Exhibition on 13 th Oct 2014	£160.00
25/02/15	BACS	G Wright	Feb 2015 – Pay, Expenses & Travel	£467.00
Total payments made				£2,124.52