

Annual Parish Meeting - 2022

- Chair's address

Never start with an apology, but I am so sorry not to be at the APM and make the report for 21/22. I am not sorry in the least for the reason - we are currently looking after grandchildren in Australia!! My esteemed Vice Chair Neil Mason will deliver my report for me.



Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting of 2022 and first live meeting in 3 years with a first ever Zoom APM last year. A reminder that this is a meeting of the village of Hambledon and not the Parish Council. The meeting can propose motions, vote and pass a resolution - but they are not binding on the Parish, District or County Councils. The PC warmly invites you to a glass of wine afterwards, which you, of course, have paid for!

It is a relief that the dark days of isolating and no village events are now behind us, but I would like to say a final thank you to the very many COVID volunteers who helped us through those times. Sung and Unsung heroes all.

I would like to start by inviting us all to recall all those who have passed away in the last year and the contribution that so many of them made to our village community - amongst whom Cllr Tony Higham is particularly on my mind and his last public appearance at the Hambledon Hilly. But also Daniel Finch, known so well around the Village taken so many years before he should.

A welcome to two new Councillors, Sam Dyson and Chris Hand, and a warm vote of thanks to Cllr Jim Twiney who has now stood down. We will have a space on the PC and Jo will do her normal magic with calling notices etc.

A congratulations to Hambledon Connected, our village business group, who celebrated their second anniversary recently. The PC is most determined to support our local businesses including farmers. We have also established an effective liaison group with the Hambledon Vineyard with Paul Quinn, Neil Mason, Dr Jo Walker and Dr Richard Millard as the reps. If you have any issues please chat over with our two independent members, Jo and Richard. We are most grateful for the Vineyards great support for our Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

On that theme, many thanks to the village groups who have accepted the challenge to organise an event on the Jubilee weekend. I'd also like to make a special thanks to Tabitha Jay, Jo Tester and Steve Wilkins who have made such an effective team for the Jubilee planning. Hope you have a great day and win some Vineyard bubbly!!

Tabitha was also a driving force in the production of the Hambledon 2020 book - Ocado and Amazon delivery folk are very grateful for it!! I'll now move to a series of issues that have arisen over the period:

- **Bus shelter.** The Bus shelter was demolished by a D1 bus and broken into a hundred bits. A very smart oak replacement has now been installed and we even have received our insurance excess back from the bus company.
- **Play Equipment.** The PC remains very concerned that the Village Hall play equipment is too far below the standard that we would want for it. A working group has been beavering away and some designs are shown tonight. The Platinum Jubilee has been announced as a fundraising chance for the equipment, so please help out. The PC need to move ahead on this and have adjusted the precept to help us achieve this important project, more on that later.
- **Greening Campaign.** In the last year the Greening Campaign has moved from strength to strength into phase 3 and 4 (renaturing and retrofit) after a great start. A joint venture with Denmead PC on a repair cafe is a new and exciting venture. We look forward to another

Greening Festival in September with St Peter and St Pauls who have achieved a Bronze Eco Church award.

- **Aquind Interconnector.** The Secretary of State refused the planning application which is being appealed (as you would expect), no news so far.
- **Defib.** A second defib has been fitted in East Street by Court House.
- **Getting better.** We have seen significant improvements in both noise reduction from manhole covers and a reduction in the amount of fly-tipping, particularly in Chidden.

I'd now like to move to our various sub-committees and working groups and review them or introduce a later segment:

- **Planning.** The Planning sub committee has been busy with many applications through the year. Enduring themes are double glazing in listed properties, Alsoils operations at Windmill Farm and development outside the settlement boundary.
- Although not part of this formal group the **Village Design Statement** has been approved by SDNP. It is such an important document that we have given each household their own copy. I hope you agree that it is a very useful and well-crafted document, Planning applications quoting it are sure to get a good hearing at the PC!
- **Flooding Action Group.** Thanks to Jan Jarvie for leading on this important issue. It looks as if the Pipe and the gravel matrix that it sits in, is reducing the groundwater in the valley bottom where the winterbourne runs. Jan will take you through the rest.
- **Finance.** Chris Silcock will take you through the money. As indicated last year we have had to restore the buying power of the precept to meet wage increases, inflation effects and the need to bring projects to completion. Chris will unpack the details.
- **Better Streets.** New street signs have appeared in the last year, especially near Cams. We hope to have the new entrance signs finished for the Jubilee. John will take you through the rest.
- **Traffic and Pedestrian Safety.** Chris will take you through the work of the WG, and what is proposed in this important project.
- **Tennis.** The PC are delighted to rename the Court as the 'Tony Higham Court' and a sign is in place. Tennis remains vigorous and successful.
- **Crime.** Hambledon remains a low crime area, but the PC would much appreciate someone volunteering to be the village liaison with the PCSO/Police to pass the word when necessary and remind us of simple security measure we should be taking.

So some final thanks from me as I stand down as PC Chair: (but remain on the Council)

Firstly to JO Tester our wonderful Clerk who does a great job
Hambledonian for flexibility and support, and deliverers for the VDS
Village Hall committee for supporting the village in so many ways
The School and Pre-School who provide young energy to our community.
Both Church teams
Hortsoc and friends for keeping our beds lovely and a spring and summer show and plant sales.
Our District Councillors Frank Pearson and Vicki Weston who have been stars
Our County Councillor Mr Hugh Lumby who really gets things done.
Art Soc and the many many ways our lives are enriched as a result

I am sure that I have left many out, and for that I apologise.

Neil Mason will now take questions. (Ho Ho)

Paul Quinn, Chair Hambledon PC for 21/22