

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**HELD AT 6.30PM ON MONDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 2019 IN THE VICTORIA HALL**

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**PRESENT:** Cllr Cathy Roberts – Chairman, Cllrs Diana Harvey, Tony Woods, Chris Farrance, Ian Wilson, Dorothy Harvey, Peter Gee, Roger Robertson and Becky Moss

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Karyn Reid (Executive Clerk) and Sarah Daly (Deputy Clerk)

28 Members of the public plus County Councillor David Simpson and District Councillors Anne Crampton and Spencer Farmer

**Abbreviations:** Cllr – Councillor, HWPC – Hartley Wintney Parish Council, HDC – Hart District Council, HCC – Hampshire County Council

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### **CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

Cllr Roberts opened the meeting at 6.45pm, welcomed all present and explained that she was an outgoing councillor. Cllr Roberts welcomed back those councillors that had put themselves forward again to serve HWPC and a copy of the Assembly Notice was tabled.

#### **1) APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Steve Airton and District Councillor Tim Southern.

#### **2) TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

The Executive Clerk had circulated the minutes prior to the meeting and published them on the HWPC website. Councillors and members of the public had no questions regarding these.

Cllr Dorothy Harvey proposed that the minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Assembly be agreed as an accurate record; seconded by Councillor Farrance. This was agreed without opposition.

#### **3) TO TABLE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr Roberts tabled a copy of the Annual Report and outlined the content. All councillors, office staff, Community Bus drivers and external contractors were thanked for their very hard work throughout the past year. It has been a busy year with events and Cllr Roberts had great pleasure in awarding local groups and individuals at this year's Chairman's Reception – particularly presenting the British Legion cup to the Hartley Wintney Branch of the British Legion. The finances of HWPC have also been managed carefully throughout the year as documented in the report. Cllr Roberts opened up the floor for questions.

Chris Cornwell asked what EMR stands for. This refers to ear marked reserves. Cllr Roberts elaborated that the money set aside for development of the orchard is not EMR as it is Pat Vaughan's legacy money.

Kelvin Fay proposed that the 2018/19 Annual Report be agreed as an accurate record; seconded by Sophy Bennett.

#### **4) TO PRESENT THE 2019/20 BUDGET**

Cllr Roberts presented the 2019/20 budget and parishioners were invited to ask questions.

A resident asked why the budget for council administration costs increases substantially for 2019/20. Cllr Roberts explained that a new staff member has been recruited so this reflects their salary, plus existing staff have been granted a pay increment. A further question was asked about the £16,000 deficit when the general reserves are up by £9,000. Cllr Roberts stated that there has been an increase in the precept and an increase in the population, hence the increased funds received and amount of annual reserves. The Executive Clerk added that there were lots of projects underway to spend these reserves.

#### **5) OPEN FORUM**

Cllr Roberts invited questions from the floor.

Sophy Bennet introduced herself as a resident of Cricket Green Lane and member of Hartley Wintney Preservation Society. She expressed disappointment that no action had been taken following her attendance at a Full Council meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February. At the meeting HWPC had agreed to reposition the new picnic benches, currently located next to the cricket green, to a more appropriate location. Play areas and other green spaces are being considered. Cllr Roberts confirmed that the Parish Council would be looking at an alternative site within the Parish. The Executive Clerk confirmed that relocating the benches to the new St Marys Park sports facility is a possibility. Cllr Roberts said that the lease had only just been handed over so councillors needed to discuss when and how these benches will be relocated. The Executive Clerk confirmed that HDC have left the decision down to HWPC.

Lesley Parish commented on the areas of hedgerow at the allotments that were cut down by the contractors working on the Vicarage Hill scheme to increase visibility turning right out of Church Lane onto the Fleet Road. It was felt that this was unnecessary and had a negative environmental impact. There have been incidences of theft of tools since the work started and the hedging was not completed at the same time as the replacement fencing. It was felt that HWPC should have consulted with allotment holders regarding the proposed works as well as residents of Vicarage Hill.

Lesley Parish also commented on how messy the Common area looked outside St Johns Church, particularly near the war memorial. There have been recent comments on social media about this issue. It was suggested that a footpath is needed across this area from the pelican crossing and that wildflowers should be reinstated.

Kelvin Fay reported that the new picnic benches next to the cricket green were very well used over the Easter holidays. He felt that the general consensus from local people was that they like the benches and they should stay. Sophy Bennett replied that the residents don't like them, they were not consulted and they are not in keeping with the surroundings. She felt that HWPC made a decision and they should stick to it.

Ian Coster wished to thank HWPC for all its hard work over the past year. He queried why contractors working locally leave their signage after the work is complete and why they are not obliged to remove it. County Councillor Simpson said that he could ask Hampshire Highways to remove signs on behalf of residents. District Councillor Crampton relayed an example of a similar problem in Eversley where she got 31 out of 37 abandoned signs removed following reports from residents. She asked residents to report any issues direct to her for action to be taken.

Tina Newman introduced herself as a resident of Cricket Green Lane. She presented an image of a 'No Access' sign and queried whether this meant 'residents only' as many cars use this area as a shortcut. A number of proposals were presented to HDC and through the Traffic Partnership meetings to look at resolving this issue and this was following resident consultation. The proposals were all rejected so no solution has been implemented. The resident expressed concerns that parking permits are paid for but the residents in receipt of these cannot find any spaces in which to park. There is also a lack of Traffic Warden presence to enforce parking restrictions. County Cllr Simpson added that the biggest issue is enforcement. There was some discussion about the introduction and effectiveness of resident only parking bays 2 years ago. District Cllr Crampton referred residents with any of the issues above to book a slot during the Listening Post that takes place before Full Council meetings on the first Monday of every month in the Lady Kaye Room at Victoria Hall.

Sheila Banks introduced herself as a resident of Cricket Green Lane. She felt that the top of the Cricket Green was becoming an unofficial car park and reported that there was a new business close by that had informed staff that they could park in this location. The resident has suffered a number of incidences of verbal abuse and felt that introduction of restricted parking measures on Green Lane would cause more people to park around the cricket green. Cllr Roberts said that the issue would be raised as one of growing concern with HDC and through Traffic Partnership meetings. The red bays were introduced in the car park to encourage people to park for free. Making the whole car park free is not an option as HDC receive the income generated from the paying bays. The parking issue can be raised with the businesses in order to try and find a solution.

Another resident asked whether HWPC have any plans to install electric car charging points in the village. Cllr Roberts said that this is an aspiration in the Neighbourhood Plan and something that HCC are looking into.

A new resident of Hartley Row Park reported that the route from Mount Pleasant down to the new development is a mess and needs clearing up. There have been incidences of anti-social behaviour, crime and burglaries on the estate. He felt that the 40mph speed limit should be reduced, particularly as children walk along here to school. County Cllr Simpson replied to say that a reduced speed limit to 30mph was proposed but this was turned down by the police. The resident reported a number of accidents that had occurred as a result of the speed limit. County Cllr Simpson asked that these were always reported so that the problem could be shown to HCC Highways for action to be taken.

Cllr Robertson promoted the upcoming Fringe Festival and Restoration 150 project. He made an appeal for any old photographs that anyone may have from 30-40 years ago that show the rhododendron bushes that used to grow around the entrance of St Johns Church.

Cllr Dorothy Harvey asked residents to report issues direct to HWPC for these to be directed to the correct department within HDC or HCC, thus getting a better response than just phoning a switchboard number. County Councillor Simpson added that potholes should be reported to HCC Highways rather than Fix My Street. Cllr Dorothy Harvey thanked Cllrs Roberts, Fay and Watt for their hard work during their time at HWPC.

There were no further questions.

The meeting closed at 7.33pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....