

MINUTES OF THE CRAWLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT CRAWLEY VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 23 APRIL at 7.30pm

ATTENDANCE

Mr T Anderson
Mr P Deehan
Mr F Fratter
Mrs R Hall
Mrs C Phillips (Chair)
Jill Judge (Clerk)

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr J Warwick Hampshire County Council (HCC), Mr M White (Cricket Warden) and 13 members of the public.
Guest speaker: Mark Ransome, Arqiva

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr C Horrill, Winchester City Council (WCC), PSCO Kerry Croutear, Mrs A Carey (Neighbourhood Watch),

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 April 2017 were agreed and duly signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising not the agenda.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman's report attached.

4. **CITY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Horrill was unable to attend to the meeting but had provided a report as attached – this was read to the meeting by the Chair.

5. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Warwick's Report attached

6. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH and HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY**

PSCO Croutear's and Mrs Carey's written reports as attached were read to the meeting by Cllr Deehan.

Both PSCO Croutear and Mrs Carey were thanked for their continued hard work in keeping the parish safe.

In addition, the monthly Library and associated pop up café were highlighted and thanks to all those involved extended.

7. **OTHER REPORTS**

a. **Finance**

Cllr Fratter explained that Parish Council had agreed in January to increase the precept for the tax year 2018/19 from £14,500 to £15,000, an increase of 3.4% roughly in line with inflation. The precept is a tax charged on each property in the parish to fund the activities that the parish council undertakes for the benefit of the community. Recently received tax bills had showed a greater percentage increase than this due to lower Council Tax Support from central government and a lower tax base for the parish.

With other income (including receipts from the burial ground etc) an amount of c£16,000 was received with approximately £10,000 of this spent on upkeep of the parish incorporating mowing, tree management and general maintenance. The balance of £6000 was allocated to administrative expenses including the clerk's salary, insurance etc

A summary budget document was being prepared to be published on the website on a regular basis.

Cllr Fratter took the opportunity to update the meeting on Broadband options. Gigabeam was broadening coverage in the Village which meant more parishioners had access to this service which provided faster access than that currently available through BT.

b. **Planning**

Cllr Deehan highlighted the amount of building works currently taking place with an estimated value of £2 million. He believed that this reflected the desirability of the village and a progressive/evolving approach to building showed vibrancy. He looked forward to the pub opening and hoped that this would be an amenity that the whole village could enjoy.

Whilst the Parish Council was not sure how much Winchester City Council Planning considered comments submitted Cllr Deehan was encouraged by City Councillor Horrill's report that "Planning

and Enforcement are a key focus for Parish Councils and the Council has recently reviewed these services and will be announcing improvements post the election”

As the Chair had outlined the Village Design Statement was being updated and at some stage in the future this would be completely revisited.

c. Recreation Ground

Cllr Phillips reported that Scandor regularly mowed the recreation ground and their work would continue to be monitored.

d. Buses, Signs and Highways and verges

Cllr Hall outlined actions that had taken place over the previous year to address traffic concerns. A traffic survey had taken place in June monitoring the four main gateways to and from the Village with ranges of speed and time of day recorded (information available on website). Following this two meetings had taken place with representatives of Hampshire County Council. The first was a walk around the Village looking at potential solutions and the second gave a framework of what could and could not be approved.

The erection of “gateways” to the Village would be supported and these were part of the 2018/19 Budget with Highways with funding from the community to be matched. Cllr Hall had been in contact with Boarhunt Parish who had had gates installed for advice on sourcing, design etc New “white lines” had been agreed with Highways but no date specified for the work to be completed.

With the traffic survey indicating peak times for “speeding” the police were to be asked if it would be possible to observe traffic at these times.

e. Grounds maintenance and Footpaths

Cllr Phillips reported that she planned to organise a burial ground clean up session. Whilst the grass was regularly cut by Robert Smith there was a lot of twigs and associated debris because of recent winds.

f. The Pond and Trees:

Cllr Anderson reported that fish stocks had been reduced and as a result more insects including dragon flies had been evidenced. However, fish stocks were quickly rising again, and the advice was to purchase “police fish” to help aid management.

The aim was to keep on top of reeds during the year with cutting back as appropriate.

Because of decay some tree maintenance work had been completed on the three willows that provided the backdrop to the pond. In addition, three willow saplings had been planted on the opposite side of the pond in anticipation that at some stage in the future the large willows would need removing.

During the year tree management had taken place at the Memorial Garden and Recreation Ground as well as the pond. In addition, replacement limes had been planted at the front of the church. The aim with all tree work was to keep the village safe and plan ahead.

Cllr Anderson highlighted the addition of dog bag dispensers and signage in the Recreation area. To date this appeared to be helping alleviate the problem of “dog poo”.

g. Cricket Club

Martin White, Cricket Warden and Captain of the Club highlighted the new season starting on Thursday with both evening and Sunday fixtures. The Pavilion had been renovated and a drinks licence obtained. All were encouraged to support matches and new players were actively sought. MW thanked Chris..... for his help in keeping the Cricket area looking good and also gave thanks to Arqiva for sponsorship.

8. OPEN FORUM

A parishioner expressed concerns about the way in which contractors at the pub were working indicating a lack of mindfulness for neighbours particularly when it came to parking. He feared that this was a taste of things to come and that parking would continue to be an issue when the pub opened. He wished to be assured that the Parish Council had a strategy for the future relating to parking. It was agreed that representatives of the Parish Council would arrange to meet the new owner of the pub to discuss concerns and would report back accordingly.

Further it was noted that roofing materials (white powder coated tin) appeared to be out of keeping and this would be investigated.

9. GUEST SPEAKER:

Cllr Phillips introduced Mark Ransome from Arqiva who gave an informative talk about what the company did and its location in Crawley.

Chair

Date.....