

MINUTES OF THE CRAWLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT CRAWLEY VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 29 APRIL at 7.30pm

ATTENDANCE

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

ALSO PRESENT

Cllr C Horrill, Winchester City Council, Mrs A Carey, Neighbourhood Watch and 18 members of the public.
Guest speaker: Patrick Hendra, Young Engineers' Club

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr J Warwick, Hampshire County Council

2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 April 2018 were agreed and duly signed as a true record.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Chairman's report attached.

4. **CITY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Horrill's report attached.

5. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Warwick's was unable to attend the meeting but has sent a written report as attached.

6. **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT**

Mrs Carey's written report attached. Both the police and Mrs Carey were thanked for their continued hard work in keeping the parish safe.

7. **OTHER REPORTS**

a. **Finance**

Cllr Fratter reported that Parish Council, as the City Council, had agreed in January not to increase the precept for the tax year 2019/20. 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. Increases in parishioners' total council tax bills reflected higher charges from Hampshire County Council, Hants Fire and Rescue Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

With precept income of £15000 in the 2018/19 financial year and other income (including receipts from the burial ground etc) an amount of c.£16500 was received with approximately £8,000 of this spent on upkeep of the parish incorporating mowing of areas, including the burial ground and recreation ground, and general maintenance. The balance of £6000 was allocated to administrative expenses including the clerk's salary, insurance, audit etc

b. **Planning**

Cllr Deehan highlighted that with fewer major projects building work in the village was less than in the previous year. With the centre of the village a conservation area a considerable number of applications were received relating to trees. A pragmatic approach was taken by the Parish Council with the need to maintain trees recognised and professional advice from Winchester City Council planning noted.

Works to build the approved Anaerobic Digester at Sparsholt College had not yet commenced. Cllr Deehan emphasised that the consultation with the village about traffic was a condition of planning (ref Cllr Hall's report below)

It was recognised that the owners of the pub had invested considerable sums in the property and that this would hopefully safe guard the existence of a pub in the village for generations come, however, parking remained a major concern and solutions continued to be sought (ref Councillor Hall's report below).

c. **Recreation Ground**

Cllr Phillips reported that Scandor regularly mowed the recreation ground and that charges for the current year would be same as last. The Parish Council paid for 24 cuts a year with any in excess of that amount funded by the Cricket Club.

Unfortunately, the problem of "dog muck" remained despite the provision of dog bins, dispensers with dog bags, newsletter reminders etc.

A programme was in place in remove the ivy from the trees at the boundary of the site.

d. **Buses, Signs and Highways and verges**

The on line service to report potholes on line to Hampshire County Council was highlighted with repairs dealt with quickly and effectively. Parishioners were encouraged to use this service and to contact Cllr Hall if they had had difficulties in doing so.

Cllr Hall divided her traffic report into two parts – historical issues and current.

Historical issues incorporated addressing concerns from villagers relating to speed and pedestrian safety. Following engagement with the village and Winchester City Council plans to install village gateways were well underway with finalising of funding and design. The next stage was to seek final approval of Highways.

Cllrs Hall and Deehan had attended a meeting with Cllr R Humby (Executive Member for Environment and Transport, Hampshire County Council), Cllr J Warwick (Portfolio Holder for the Environment, Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Councillor), Cllr C Horrill (Leader of Winchester City Council and Winchester City Councillor) and Mr A Smith (Traffic Management East (Winchester, Fareham, Gosport, East Hants, Havant, Hart, Rushmoor) Hampshire County Council in November. The meeting had been instigated by a parishioner's letter to MP Steve Brine who unfortunately was unable to attend on the day.

Whilst the meeting gave the opportunity to put all traffic concerns on the table the outcome was disappointing in terms of demonstrable actions. HCC's policy is that safety comes first, with financial resources prioritised on schemes that have an impact on reducing casualties. Priorities are evidence based and where circumstances change HCC will review.

WCC had given permission for an anaerobic digester to be built at Sparsholt College with the village of Crawley a designated route for vehicles carrying feedstuffs. The applicant had received permission from WCC to vary the conditions of the original application enabling new feedstocks including straw that would mean even larger vehicles using village roads. The Parish Council highlighted this as a change in circumstances. Engagement with all parties was key and the parish council would continue to pursue this.

Current issues related to parking issues at The Fox. Drivers parking inappropriately caused not only inconvenience but possible delay to emergency vehicles. Parishioners were advised the most effective way to deal with this was to contact the police when evidencing such parking. The Parish Council had spoken to both the pub owners and Winchester City Council (as granters of planning permission and car park) to try and find solutions. Concerns that busy days at the pub combined with village events would exacerbate the situation had been mitigated by a successful National Garden Scheme Easter weekend event. Where possible the Parish Council would try and engage with organisers of future events (e.g. cycle races) to manage parking

e. **Grounds maintenance and Footpaths**

Cllr Phillips reported that Robert Smith continued to maintain areas including the burial ground, churchyard, playground and pond. In addition, the lengthsman (a service provided by HCC) visited four times a year providing valuable additional services such as ensuring all road signs were cleared of vegetation, paths cleared etc.

Cllr Philips highlighted the playground which she regularly inspected (and cleared of litter!). An annual inspection had been completed which was available for anyone to view.

f. **The Pond and Trees**

Trees

Cllr Anderson reported that work takes place to both maintain trees and deal with any potentially dangerous trees. Of course, a specific event such as a storm would also trigger work.

Pond

The edges of the pond were being trimmed to keep under control with the previous year's programme impacted by building works. The current project was to create naturally clean water using a "grey water system" to be installed in the first weekend in June. This would be monitored for success.

A working group had been established to assist the Pond Warden to maintain and improve the Village Pond. A small grant from Winchester City Council of £500 had been received to purchase aquatic plants to naturalise the village pond and improve water quality complementing the above. In addition, donations of materials etc had been received.

Cllr Anderson took the opportunity to highlight the **Crawley Residents Social Club** which had developed since its inception into different entities including the monthly Library, the Film Club (shows would recommence again in the Autumn/Winter) and the Tavern on Friday evenings. Whilst activities were enjoyed by all the opportunity was also taken to raise money for good causes.

8. **VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT**

Cllr Philips highlighted a display showing planning guidelines from the Village Design Statement and asked all to view and comment as appropriate.

The VDS (originally approved in 2001) was in the process of being reviewed to cross reference guidance for planning proposals to policies within the current Local Plan. Volunteers were sought to help with the task with Cllr Philips emphasising the importance of this Supplementary Planning Document about the visual character of the village and how it might be protected or enhanced.

9. OPEN FORUM:

A parishioner questioned the appearance of white gateways asking if a more natural barrier could be created. It was explained that the gateways were a visual cue for those entering the village and had been discussed in detail with Highways.

A landowner indicated that BT had undertaken work without permission relating to high speed internet and that this was being investigated.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm and was followed by a presentation by Patrick Hendra and a number of young engineers who demonstrated fantastic working models leaving all in awe!

Chair

Date.....