

**MINUTES OF THE OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN
OTTERBOURNE VILLAGE MAIN HALL ON TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2009 COMMENCING 7.30 PM**

Present: Cllrs R Oldham (Chairman); S Hudson (Vice-Chairman); R Zebedee;
W Andrews; N I Phillips; C Barton-Briddon; P Weir, R Taylor; Clerk

In attendance: County Cllr C Bailey; District Cllr G Beckett; District Cllr E Bell;
PCSO W Carne; Mrs P Wrightson; Mrs P Cole; Mr M Warne; 10 Parishioners; Clerk

1. **Apologies for absence:** None received

2. **Welcome**

The Chairman, Cllr Dick Oldham, welcomed all to the meeting.

3. **Minutes of the 2008 Annual Assembly.**

These had been distributed to those attending. The Minutes had been approved for presentation to the Annual Assembly by Councillors at the May 2008 Parish Council meeting. Proposed at the Annual Assembly as an accurate record: Mr M Warne, seconded Mrs P Wrightson, approved and signed.

4. **Chairman's Report for 2008/2009**

The Chairman addressed the meeting and spoke about the Parish Council in general. A trial was being undertaken in which the number of annual meetings was being reduced from 11 to 7. Several changes to the Council had taken place over the past year and the Chairman thanked the Councillors who had left: Keith Smith, Kevin Stafford and Hannah Williams for their contributions and welcomed Councillors Paul Weir and Ricky Taylor who had joined. The Council was at present one Councillor down in numbers and interested Parishioners were encouraged to contact the Parish Clerk for further information. The role of the Parish Clerk was outlined and the Clerk thanked for her support and work.

Two items of note were mentioned falling outside of those being covered by the Committee reports. The administration of the website had changed and Cllr Weir had undertaken to take it forward and update it in a new format. The Parish Emergency Plan had been completed by ex-Cllr Kevin Stafford and was registered with the various authorities.

Besides the Parish Council's work, several important events in the village were also mentioned. A new Rector, the Rev William Prescott, had been welcomed to the village, the Civic Service and annual Remembrance service had been held at St Matthew's Church and several fund raising and traditional events such as the annual May Fair, Christmas Fair and Pancake Party night had taken place. The Village Hall Committee was thanked for its continued hard work and contribution to the village. Two major productions, the annual pantomime and variety show had been extremely successful and numerous other events had been hosted. The village hall had also been extended to provide additional space, which was used during the weekdays for the Chiltern School.

The local Conservation Group had continued its valuable work developing Sponder's Mede and maintaining the old churchyard on Kiln Lane. Working parties regularly took place and new volunteers were always welcome.

On matters of safety, the Police were still pursuing the Georgina Edmunds murder enquiry. The establishment of a full Parish Neighbourhood Watch network had been accomplished, the purchase of a shared flashing speed restriction sign was in process and talks with HCC regarding a pedestrian crossing near Williams Garage would take place.

Otterbourne Primary School continued to be a credit to the village and had recently achieved its Healthy Schools Accreditation and acceptance of its School Travel Plan. The project to develop and landscape the school grounds was proceeding. Several excellent drama performances had taken place at the Village Hall and Thornden School.

5. **Report by Cllr S Hudson, Chairman, Planning and Highways Committee**

Planning General

The Parish Council had focussed on resisting the numerous applications from agriculture to industrial development at Four Dell Farm on Poles Lane. Despite this, the pace of development was continuing with associated heavy vehicular traffic through the village. The Planning Committee would continue with its efforts and would monitor the existing situation. Highbridge Farm on Highbridge Road also gave concern and the Planning Committee would be vigilant about similar development there.

In 2008/09 applications had been submitted for 16 alterations/extensions and 4 new build applications. 3 new dwellings at Wood Sorrell on Main Road were still to be built and 4 new dwellings at the Captain Barnard site had been opposed. Commercial applications had greatly increased in the last 2 years, including that for a 57 bed care home at the Captain Barnard site in Compton & Shawford. This would adversely affect foul water infrastructure in Otterbourne which has been at capacity for years. WCC had reflected the Parish Council's concerns by refusing planning permission but the applicants had appealed.

Enforcement Action by Winchester City Council

Winchester City Council's Enforcement Manager had been invited to speak at a Parish Council meeting. Robust action had been taken to demand demolition of timber framed structures without planning permission on Poles Lane.

Representation at Planning Appeals

The Parish Council had made written representations at Informal Hearings before a Planning Inspector regarding planning Appeals at Four Dell Farm and at the Captain Barnard site. These had demonstrated the concerns of the community and the commitment of the Parish Council.

Adoption of Otterbourne Village Design Statement.

In August 2008, Winchester City Council had adopted the Otterbourne Village Design Statement as a Supplementary Planning document which would give weight in decision-making and help raise the quality of development in the village.

Taking forward Otterbourne Parish Plan

The Parish Plan had been completed by a Team of residents in late 2004. WCC's Community Planning Manager had confirmed the Parish Council's evaluation: 32% of the Actions had been delivered by 2007 and by 2008 there had been more progress and a pleasing 45% of Actions delivered. The promotion of a pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of Williams Garage was being progressed. A lobby was also underway of the Highways Agency to influence some progress on a quieter carriageway surface on the M3 near Otterbourne.

Cllr Hudson thanked her Committee members: Cllr Barton- Briddon, Cllr Phillips and Cllr Taylor for their continued hard work and also the support of County Cllr Charlotte Bailey, and District Councillors Eleanor Bell and George Beckett.

6. Report from Cllr R Zebedee, Chairman Amenities and Recreation Committee

There had been the completion of a number of projects started in the previous year.

Children's Play Area

This exciting project had come to fruition in time for use during the Easter holidays. It had been reported last year that a grant application had been submitted to Veolia and this had been successful for £34,654 towards the cost of the play equipment. Veolia was thanked for their generous contribution. Additional funding had come from the Winchester City Council Open Spaces account.

Security of Otterbourne Common

Reinforcement of the perimeter of the Common with posts, additional ditches and bunds had been carried out to lessen the possibility of further incursions.

Sports Club Lease

The Sub-Lease of the Recreation Ground pitch area by Otterbourne Sports Club had been signed after protracted negotiations. This gave the Club use of the main pitch and Pavilion until 2017 subject to agreed rental reviews. The Parish Council's Lease of the whole Recreation Ground with Southern Water continued until 2026.

Purchase of Oakwood and Sparrowgrove Copses by Community

The purchase of the woodland had been completed by the Sparrowgrove and Oakwood Copse Conservation Trust (SOCCT) during the year. This would safeguard the local amenity areas for future generations and considerable support and donations had been given by the Parish Council and Parishioners.

Possible Use of Elderfield Grounds

In 2009/20, negotiations would continue with Langley House Trust and Elderfield management about possible use of their grounds for sports activities to supplement facilities at the Recreation Ground and Southern Water.

7. **Presentation of audited accounts for year ending 31 March 2008 and unaudited accounts for year ending 31 March 2009. Report by Cllr W Andrews, Chairman, Finance Committee**

Audited accounts for 2007/08

These had been approved by the external auditors on 5 November 2008 without any recommendations.

Unaudited accounts for 2008/09

The main items of expenditure after the Clerk's salary had been: bunds and ditches for the Common (£4,188); SOCCT donation (£5,000); printing of the Village Design Statement (£2,700) covered by an Awards for All grant; legal costs for completion of the Sports Club Lease (£1,400); three new notice boards and two new Countryside Access Boards (£3,000); improvement of street lighting on the footpath to Otterbourne School and St Matthew's Church (£1,000); new play area completion (£68,000 of which £63,254 came from funding not levied on the Precept: £34,654 from Veolia Environmental Trust and £28,600 from WCC Open Spaces fund). The main items of income had been: Bank interest (£3,500) down on last year as a result of overall reduction in interest rates; Sports Club rent (£1,459) in respect of use of one pitch only.

Spending plans for 2009/10

Precept £26,325 (a decrease of 0.01%, £37.77 per household) would cover regular expenditure. Major further expenditure under consideration to be funded mainly by a reduction in reserves: play area – for an access path, benches and bins (£10,400); youth area – installation of a swing and safety matting (£3,900); a shared flashing speed limit reminder sign (£1,500); pavilion – for health and safety maintenance (£3,000) and car park refurbishment of white lines and disabled spaces (£1,000) There were no questions arising.

Bank accounts

The banking arrangements had been under regular review. A new account had been opened with the Co-operative Bank and the majority of funds had been spread between the Co-operative Bank and Lloyds TSB. The Finance Committee would continue to review the interest rates offered by other banks, but the priority was to ensure security of the money invested.

8. **Questions from the floor including any matters arising from Item 3 of the Agenda**

A report from County Cllr Charlotte Bailey had been submitted and distributed to Parishioners attending as attached.

There were four questions arising.

The need for increased security of the recreation ground was raised. Chairman responded that this area was protected by a height restriction barrier and wooden posts, but it was noted that the posts required checking and areas around the pavilion reinforcing.

Action: Cllr to assess the security of the area and stability of the current posts

Concern was raised that the permissive footpaths from the Recreation Ground to the Itchen Navigation could be under threat following the sale of land in this area by Southern Water. Chairman responded that the Parish Council would be watchful, but could not secure paths under ownership of third parties. However, it was known that Southern Water did not have any current plans to sell the field adjoining the Recreation Ground which contained the main permissive path.

Two items were raised about the new children's play area. The first item concerned the landscaping which had not been turfed and was muddying the equipment. Chairman responded that to turf the area would have been too expensive and carried risk of it failing to take. A decision had been taken to allow the play area to be open for the school holidays and following this the landscaping had received further work. The second item concerned the access to the upper level of the climbing frame. This was provided by a climbing wall which was too difficult; the addition of another easier means was required in order to prevent children from accessing the upper level using the slide. Chairman responded that this had been noted as a comment from several parents and the Parish Council would invite Lappset to comment and determine what could be done to achieve easier access without disruption to the wetpour base.

Action: Clerk to invite Lappset UK to visit the site and meet with Councillors to resolve the problem if possible.

Concern was raised regarding the unresolved murder investigation of Georgina Edmunds. Chairman advised that the Police had kept the Parish Council up-to-date during the year and had confirmed that the investigation was still ongoing on an everyday basis.

Chairman thanked the Parishioners for their valuable comments.

9. **Presentations from:**

Winchester Area Community Action (WACA) – Community Transport Services

Mr Stuart Banks addressed the meeting. WACA is a Council for Voluntary Services (charity) based in Winchester and funded by HCC and WCC to support the Community. It helps able bodied groups or individuals of all ages, less able groups or individuals with mobility issues and individuals with carers. It offers a range of services – advocacy, rape and sexual abuse counselling, a partnership officer to help smaller organisations, a volunteer centre and transport services. WACA was promoting Community Transport in the Winchester area by visiting Parishes and Community Groups to inform them about the transport services available, encourage use in light of public transport cuts, maximise the use of WACA vehicle resources, serve the community needs and help people to remain independent. The range of transport services available included:

i) Dial-a-ride – three minibuses seating numbers of 12, 9 and 5. It consisted of a door-to-door service, driven by a WACA driver to serve those people who could not use public transport. The service could be booked up to 8 days in advance, was suitable for wheel chairs and scooters and could be used for some group trips and outings. Charges were in rate bands from the centre of Winchester outwards with a 50% reduction if a client had a bus pass and carers travelled free of charge.

ii) Community Transport – three minibuses and one single occupancy car all wheel chair accessible. It consisted of a minibus hire service ideal for small groups of up to 12. Drivers needed to be MiDAS trained and WACA could provide this training or would try to provide one of its own drivers. Hire was available 24 hours, 7 days per week for anywhere in the mainland UK on WACA Insurance. Charges were £1.15 per mile for the first 100 miles and 0.25p per mile thereafter. Costs included all fuel. A £20 per day minimum charge applied. iii) Shopmobility – was situated in the centre of Winchester on the lower floor of The Brooks. It provided wheel chairs, power wheel chairs, electric scooters for hire to enable easy access to the shops.

15th Chandler's Ford (Allbrook and Otterbourne) Souts Group

Mr Peter Kelly addressed the meeting and gave a photographic display. 2007 marked the 100th anniversary and Brownsea Island, where the first camp for 20 boys was held by Robert Baden-Powell in 1907 was the focus of the celebrations. There had been many changes over the years since Scouting for Boys had first been started, including the formation of the Girl Guides, the Senior Scouts leading on to the Venture Scouts, the admission of girls to the Venture Scouts and finally girls being included in all of the Scouts' sections. The 1st Otterbourne Scouts Group had been formally formed in 1924, although records dated back as far as 1908 when the first Scouting group had started. In 1909 permission had first been given to camp at Cranbury Park and in 1965 the new Scout Hut in Boyatt Lane had been built. Recent membership in Scouting had increased considerably and current numbers attending were 55-60 Scouts and Beavers combined. They enjoyed many of the traditional scouting activities such as raft building, archery, climbing walls and gaining badges.

Rector of the Benefice of Compton, Hursley and Otterbourne

The Reverend William Prescott addressed the meeting. Although the Parishes shared a Priest, the Parishes did not share the same churches, Wardens and other facilities. Each Parish therefore needed an active community large enough to support its church and help it to continue. Similarly, the Priest, although shared between the Parishes, was there to serve each local community and the individuals making up that community. The service pattern had been simplified between the three Parishes in that the Otterbourne Sunday Service now remained the same every week at 9.30 am. Funding for St Matthew's was received primarily from the May Day event and churchgoers.

The Chairman, Cllr Oldham, thanked the Speakers and Parishioners for attending and the Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Annual Report to Otterbourne Parish Council from County Councillor Charlotte Bailey 2008 - 2009

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to report on some of the things I have been doing this last year. I have delivered a report, either in person or writing, to every Parish Council meeting over the last year. I see my role as one of support to the Parish Council and to local people and to keep an eye out for any matters which might affect you as a community.

Planning

I have joined local people all year in fighting against the industrialisation of Four Dell Farm, opposing applications where the effect would be detrimental to the village and asking for stricter conditions. We have failed to stop it but have managed to get extra landscaping and bunding on the site. That is of little help to those affected by the HGVs passing through the village.

Highways

One of the effects of so many lorries is the damage they do to the highway. I frequently report potholes, damage to bollards, kerbs and drains. This year Kiln Lane has been resurfaced as has part of the pavement in Main Road.

I take the opportunity to urge everyone to report faults. One easy way is to email to roads@hants.gov.uk or to go online at www3.hants.gov.uk. The reason for this is that if there are more faults logged then there is more funding allocated.

Parking on Verges, Footpaths and Pavements

This is a concern in all parts of Hampshire so the County have produced a new policy which will act as guidance for possible actions. I have made sure that the Parish Council has a copy.

Drains and Gulleys

I had been told that the gulleys had been cleared in August last year but we could all see that this was not the case. Most of the gulleys have now been cleaned but some had to be done later with a jetter which deals with more closely packed drains.

Parish Footpaths

I have reported where some Otterbourne paths have needed a cut back and I have long been seeking an improvement to the service parishes get in repairing and improving rights of way. A better deal for residents, whose main recreation is often on these paths, has started to gain momentum across the county. The October 'Paths to Partnership' seminar for Parish Councils is testament to this and seeks to involve local people more.

Park and Ride

The permanent 40 limit alongside the P&R is now in place and the major work is now starting. There will be road closures but they will be mainly at night or weekends and I am making sure that signs are put up with the exact dates and times just before each closure. All details of the works can be found at www3.hants.gov.uk/south-winchester-park-and-ride.htm

SOCCT – Sparrowgrove Oakwood Copse Conservation Trust

Since calling the first meeting about the woods last year I have been pleased to lend support to the enthusiastic group who have moved the project on to success. Congratulations to all as we now have community woods protected for the future.

Flashing Light

These have been popular in many villages but as there are only two available for the Winchester District villages have to wait more than a year for a return visit. It is still ordered for Main Road. Meanwhile I have been pleased to support the Parish in its efforts to share a light with other parishes by providing a grant to purchase the light. The Parish will pay for all other costs.

Rural Strategy

I attended a consultation on developing Hampshire's Rural Strategy for the future. We looked at community life, the economy, farming and forestry and the environment. As we all know decisions

can impact strongly on the rural communities and the County is bringing together the views of all parts of the rural communities to plan how it can best support them.

Advice and Care for the Elderly

Getting advice and care to the elderly and their carers before crisis point is reached is something I feel strongly about and following the review of services there is now an Innovations Team for Winchester which will start working with residents who have problems but who are not yet critical. The county has also moved forward on 'Personalising' care for those who need it. People are able to be much more independent in their choices of care.

Winchester Hampshire Action Team

All the County Councillors of Winchester district have taken action on the following:-
A review of services in the Winchester area including Lunch Clubs so that we can identify gaps in this service. Lunch Clubs are often a good point of contact to identify particular needs.
We called together Energy Providers, Voluntary groups, councils and Environmental groups to investigate Fuel Poverty and Home Insulation. We agreed to co-ordinate actions better and use the County call centre to give information and contact numbers.
We recommended support from the County to Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) and the Greening group. These groups have both received large grants.

Audit Commission

Hampshire County Council has been awarded the maximum score possible for the quality of its services and its value for money, as the Audit Commission delivered its official verdict. It is now the top-performing County Council in the land. We also recognise that there are many areas for improvement.

Libraries

I believe that we are lucky in Winchester since the improvements to the Discovery Centre but overall the County failed to meet targets for opening hours, new book buying, visits per 1000 population and number of computers. I would be interested to hear any comments for improving our service, including the Mobile service.

Recent County Campaigns

Kill the Conversation: Drivers in Hampshire who use their mobile phones are being targeted by a countywide 'Kill the Conversation' road safety campaign.

Choose 30: The County are launching a new road safety campaign called Choose 30.

Rogue Traders: Warning of scams which persuade people to give money at the door. Contact the police switchboard on **101** or **0845 045 45 45**. or Hampshire Trading Standards.

Safe and Sound Booklet With more than 125,000 copies distributed across the county, this contains a wide variety of general consumer and safety advice and information such as details of other services that residents may wish to access such as social care, libraries and adult learning. The number to call to request an information pack, a Buy With Confidence Directory or to report a rogue trader is **08454 04 05 06**.

I have also reported on:-

Housing Numbers from the SE Plan Review
New Build Housing Monitoring
The Local Development Framework (LDF)
Hampshire Record Office and Local Studies Centre
Foster Carers
Greening Campaigns
Itchen Navigation Project The new website for the project at www.itchennavigation.org.uk

My County responsibilities include:-

Children and Young Persons' Scrutiny Committees
Schools Admissions Forum
Regulatory Committees
River Hamble Management Committee
Family Placement Panel (for Fostering Service)
Hampshire Archives Trust