

REPORT OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Michael Warne (Chairman) presided at the January meeting of Otterbourne Parish Council held in The Bianchi Room at Otterbourne Village Hall.

County Cllr Mrs Ann Bailey stated that she had reported various road issues in recent weeks but tree/hedge cutting back still awaited except for Otterbourne Road. The new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) opened on 15 December at Bar End in Winchester. Local members have been involved at the planning stage of the Centre and it is hoped that the resulting Centre will be much more user friendly than the previous and help to raise recycling levels. An innovative circular split-level design enables bins to be serviced without having to temporarily close the site. With ample parking spaces it should be quicker and easier to use the Centre. Following the Pinewood School fire the decision to close this school was overturned by an independent adjudicator. Trading Standards continue to police the public interest in petrol stations and covert checks have shown that the public are not being short changed. Last year the Trading Standards successfully prosecuted a garage attendant who was fraudulently using petrol pumps. Top Award for Hampshire Music service was presented in London by Dame Cleo Lane, President of the National Music Council. Following the Disability Discrimination Bill we now have a Childrens Bill and the Freedom of Information Act. People will now be able to request recorded information from HCC except where exemptions apply e.g. Data protection and the cost is not beyond a certain figure. The Childrens Bill has led to the setting up of the first parliamentary style select committee of the County Council. The Inquiry will look into the prevention and management of risk to children and young people.

Although poorly attended, the Parish Plan Meeting on 17 January, agreed to deal initially with 3 Action Areas -Spiritual, Communications, Elderly/Social Welfare. The matter of Communications include the need for more noticeboards. It was reported that the production of the Parish Plan had been a very good job with 54% response from the village. It was also reported that Phillip Tutt-Leppard had volunteered to work on a proposed Welcome Pack. No report had yet been received from City Cllr Murray MacMillan regarding the problem of parking on Boyatt Lane and funding of a possible scheme

Concerning the proposed renewal of the lease of the recreation ground to Otterbourne Sports Club, Cllr Roger Zebedee reported the issues of concern to Southern Water (freeholders) and the Parish Council to which Mr Ian Ritchie, Chairman OSC, responded, particularly regarding floodlights. The matters of concern will have to be resolved when the Club's development proposals will have to be acceptable to Southern Water and receive planning approval.

Regarding the proposed provision of a toilet on the allotments, it was reported that only a mains connected installation would be acceptable to Eastleigh Borough Council. A meeting is to be held on 19 January with EBC engineers.

All documentation regarding the provision of a youth shelter and basketball end on land adjoining the recreation ground have been sent to contractor TGD Landscaping Ltd pending a date for an on site meeting.

Concerning the long distance cycleway, a site meeting had been held with Eastleigh Borough Council who had offered to return part of the land to be taken along Main Road edge which was not acceptable. However, the Parish Council would look on the offer sympathetically if money could be found for the Boyatt Lane parking proposal.

REPORT OF THE JANUARY MEETING OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

The South East Plan Public Consultation started now until April 2005 is to be considered by the Parish Council at their next meeting.

The Budget and Precept on Winchester City Council for the year 2005/2006 was agreed in the reduced sum of £24,965 as against the higher sum of £27,675 for the year 2004/05.

St Matthew's Church Magazine

The Editor : Hampshire Chronicle
: Eastleigh Weekly News
Mr A Napier : Southern Daily Echo
Cllr D Wilkins : Otterbourne Parish Council

With Compliments

DWH Richman
Parish Clerk
24 January 2005

REPORT OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Michael Warne (Chairman) presided at the February meeting of Otterbourne Parish Council held in The Bianchi Room at Otterbourne Village Hall.

Cllr Warne reported that the ownership of the Common by Otterbourne Parish had been formally registered with the Land Registry. The common had never been registered in the past, however this would be a compulsory requirement in 5-6 years.

A written report from PC Mark Smith recorded 11 offences for the period 21/12/04 to 15/02/05. These included: 1 burglary dwelling; 1 non-dwelling burglary; 3 criminal damages; 1 assault; 1 drug offence; 1 deception; 3 thefts. Of particular concern was the burglary dwelling which involved distraction of the aggrieved whilst the offence was committed and falsely reporting to be a police officer. However, crime rates were reported as still low within the parish and comparable with surrounding areas.

County Cllr Mrs Ann Bailey reported on the South East Plan Public Consultation stating there had been recognition that infrastructure must be improved before more housing was built. It was advised that the County Council part of the Council Tax for 2005/06 was likely to increase by 3.5%. Cllr Bailey advised that the Hampshire County Council website 'Buy with Confidence' had moved to www.buywithconfidence.info. This lists details of traders, plumbers, electricians, etc who are reliable and give quality service. Cllr Bailey reported that Winchester and District Neighbourhood Mediation Service had published a free pamphlet 'Helping to build bridges between people'. This outlined the work of the Mediation Service in sorting out disagreements between neighbours such as noise, children, harassment, boundaries/hedges, pets and parking. Contact details: Winchester and District Neighbourhood Mediation Service c/o The Winchester Centre, 68 St Georges Street, Winchester SO23 8AH; telephone 01962 813320; email winchestermediation@yahoo.co.uk. Cllr Bailey also introduced a pamphlet from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service offering Free Home Fire Safety Checks. For further information contact Community Fire Safety telephone 023 8062 6809.

City Cllr Murray MacMillan reported that the engineering works to the upper part of Silkstead Lane were complete and should halt the flooding onto Poles Lane. The problem of parking on Boyatt Lane was still being pursued and a date is to be fixed with County Highways to discuss further. A meeting of the Principle Scrutiny Committee had taken place and the contract with SERCO for maintenance of hedges, etc is to be investigated. Parish Councils will be contacted with a request to assess the effectiveness of SERCO maintenance. Cllr MacMillan stated that the Open Spaces Fund created for Parish Councils was under appraisal to ensure that accumulated funds are used as designed. Cllr MacMillan reported on two meetings which had taken place by Southampton Airport Consultative Committee resulting in recommendations for flight changes (i) for a takeoff route directly to the north of Winchester (ii) to collect incoming aircraft 4 miles north of Winchester.

Mrs P M Cole reported on the increase to bus fares from 20 February.

Mrs Cole also reported for the Conservation Group that Chairman M Warne had written to HCC Chief Executive regarding the Otterbourne Millennium sign which had been obstructed by Brambridge Garden Centre sign. Brambridge Garden Centre had agreed to move their sign onto highways land opposite. Mrs Cole reported that the sign was missing from Sponders Mede and the pond had been despoiled with weed. Negotiations were still taking place regarding the Sustrans long distance cycleway which might require a strip of common land.

Mrs Cole stated that a formal report had been received about finding the vestry in the Old Church in Kiln Lane and a copy had been sent to the Diocese. The Conservation Group was to make a map of village footpaths which would go on sale in Williams Garage. The Conservation Group would make objection to the planning application at 6 Sparrowgrove, Otterbourne for the erection of one 5 bedroom detached house on the basis of loss of trees and additional traffic near to a main junction. Chairman M Warne added that the Finger Post needed to be made good.

Cllr M Warne advised that a new draft lease had been received for the Recreation Ground which appeared satisfactory. However, this would be on hold until further negotiations between Southern Water and Otterbourne Sports Club were complete. A new plan from Otterbourne Sports Club and revised comments from Southern Water was awaited. It was expected that a Planning Application from the Sports Club would be forthcoming in the next few months. At this time a Public Meeting would be advised. The Council was aware of local concern and would await comments and feedback before any decision was taken.

Regarding the provision of a toilet on the allotments, Cllr M Warne had attended a meeting on 19 January and reported that EBC had selected a site just inside the Boyatt Lane gate of the allotments close to the main sewage system. EBC were re-costing the proposal. Otterbourne Parish Council were to provide the land and assurances were required regarding the Allotments Association agreement for maintenance and cleaning of the toilet.

Cllr Wilkins circulated draft contents for the Welcome Pack. It was estimated the Welcome Pack would extend to 3-4 pages and hopefully include a map of the village. It was agreed that the Welcome Pack should be made available at the Post Office, Williams Garage and also the Otterbourne Parish Council website. Progress will be reported at future meetings..

Cllr Warne attended the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) meeting on 14 February. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next Parish Council meeting when members had had the opportunity of reading the documents.

The meeting arranged with TGD Landscaping for the provision of the youth shelter and basketball end on land adjoining the recreation ground had been rearranged for 16 February and would be reported at the next Parish Council meeting.

There was much discussion regarding the Long Distance Cycleway. Cllr Warne had attended a meeting and received detailed plans from Eastleigh Borough Council on the proposal to extend the Sustrans cycleway. Cllr Walford reported that the proposal was to narrow the road from Boyatt Lane to the beginning of the bend of Otterbourne Hill to 6 metres (minimum width permissible). There was serious concern regarding the safety of this proposal and the Traffic Officer for the area would be consulted. There followed discussion regarding the negotiation of a strip of common land for the cycleway in exchange for funding from EBC for Boyatt Lane parking – legal advice might be required. Cllr Warne agreed to set up a meeting between all interested parties.

Mrs J A Ayre
Parish Clerk
16 February 2005

REPORT OF THE MARCH MEETING OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the meeting.

A written report from PC Mark Smith recorded: 2 thefts of minor nature; 1 theft from a motor vehicle where the suspect was later apprehended due to the high quality of CCTV at Williams Garage; 1 attempted distraction burglary. The distraction burglary was of particular concern as it formed part of a series of offences targeted at the elderly. Hampshire Constabulary has issued posters alerting the public to these offences and the advice is:

**You can't pick out a burglar just by looking at them –
IF YOU DON'T KNOW THEM, DON'T LET THEM IN**

A written report had been received from City Cllr Murray Macmillan confirming that the construction works to Silkstead Lane were complete. Regarding Southampton Airport it was confirmed that aircraft would be collected 4 miles north of Winchester to reduce the impact of aircraft straying over the residential area, but the north/north easterly takeoff route at present in force could not be changed because of airspace restrictions. This would be re-examined when new schedules were introduced. The date of the first biannual meeting between interested parties including Parish Councils was awaited.

Mr Julian Perkins, Project Manager for Elderfield attended the meeting and reported on current matters. The construction works to the bungalow were almost complete and the works to the house at Park Farm were scheduled to finish end of May. A large amount of garden machinery had been stolen due to a burglary in January and this might result in a later start date for mowing at the memorial. New security lighting had been installed. No complaints had been received and it was noted that all residents were on site and accounted for at the time of the distraction burglary. It was hoped that an improvement in litter around the village had been noted as a number of litter-picks had taken place. Also, if anyone has any unwanted videos, they would be greatly received at Elderfield to sell on EBAY and raise funds.

Plans had been received from Otterbourne Sports Club regarding the new proposals for the Recreation Ground. Councillors raised issues regarding the proposal to turn the pitch around, whether floodlighting is required by the Football Association at this stage, what floodlighting would be needed to meet the minimum lux requirements, involvement in funding and access to the pitch for general users of the recreation ground. **The Parish Council has decided to combine the Public Meeting on the Sport Club's proposals for the Recreation Ground with the Annual Assembly on Tuesday 19 April at 8 pm in the Village Hall.** It is hoped that as many parishioners as possible will attend this meeting where there will be opportunity for full discussion. Representatives from the Sports Club will present the plans and then answer questions.

Regarding the provision of a toilet at the allotments, there had been no response as yet from EBC regarding the new costing or confirmation of site.

Allotment rents were discussed. These had not been increased for 10 years and were low in comparison with other Parishes. It was noted that they did raise sufficient to cover expenses and should therefore be maintained at the present level.

The Welcome Pack was well underway and some details were now on the Otterbourne Parish website www.otterbourne.parish.hants.gov.uk and a hard copy is being progressed.

The introduction of the South East Plan was discussed. A leaflet 'Your Shout' should have been received by all householders to give views on this and the deadline for final comments is 19 April. Chairman Michael Warne agreed to write with conclusions of the Parish Council as follows: it will be an unelected body and will lead to the erosion of local democracy, it is taking extensive powers with strategic planning; it could eventually lead to the demise of County level local government and would take away power from the people; it is imposing a rigid structure and disciplines on Parishes; the duplication of work and administration costs cannot be justified; it should be an item for local referendum.

Plans had been received from TGD Landscaping regarding the provision of a youth shelter and basketball end on land adjoining the recreation ground. PC Mark Smith had been liaising with local youth representatives regarding the facilities. The type of shelter and the provision of a solar light were discussed. Costings had been calculated and it was fully expected that the entire funding will be covered by the Open Spaces Fund. The next stage is for Councillors to meet with Southern Water and then put in a Planning Application.

After concerns had been raised about the narrowing of Otterbourne Hill to 6 metres to accommodate the Sustrans long distance cycleway, no further developments had been received and a date for the meeting between interested parties is still awaited.

The repairs to the fencing around the Play Area at the Recreation Ground had been authorised and should start shortly. Balancing the cost of the works for preservative coating against renewing the entire fence in two/three years, it was decided not to proceed with this part of the work.

Two quotations had been received for painting and works to the Pavilion and a third would be sought; all three to be presented at the next meeting for decision.

Mark Oaten MP had written to the Parish Council with concerns about a large development (64 dwellings consisting of flats and houses) on the edge of St Cross. This lies just within the Parish of Compton and Shawford and they are examining the proposal. The impact on Otterbourne was discussed. It would lead to an already very busy road into Winchester becoming even more congested and there might be a very small number of cars using the Otterbourne/Main Road to Chandler's Ford. However, it was decided that these could not form a basis of objection by the Parish Council. The Conservation Group would discuss the issues and put in an objection as the area was part of the Itchen Valley SSSI.

Surveyors from PGC (Construction) had been noted taking measurements on the Common for their easement granted to drive vehicles across the Common land to a plot of land off Red Lane. A hedge had overgrown the boundary line by some distance and there was concern that measurements would not be accurate. Cllr Warne had written to PGC asking them to cut back the hedge, also noting the alignment with neighbouring property boundaries. A site meeting had been held to ensure that the boundary line was clearly defined. Two field gates were being erected in order to keep out travellers.

Mrs Julie Ayre
Clerk
16 March 2005

REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 19 APRIL 2005

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the meeting.

Following the receipt of Cllr Peter Walford's letter of resignation, Cllr Warne gave official thanks and acknowledgement for his service to the Parish over the past 20 years, at least half of this time served as Chairman or Vice-Chairman. It was hoped that the Council could call upon Cllr Walford's considerable experience and knowledge in the future. Notices advertising a Vacancy for a Councillor had been placed on notice boards and also in the Parish magazine.

A written report was submitted by Cllr Ann Bailey. Cllr Bailey had met with the Area Surveyor and raised issues from residents of Poles Lane regarding traffic, speeds, noise and the state of the road. A Speed Indication Display Unit had been installed for a day and information recorded on this by the Police is awaited. Regarding Otterbourne Hill, pruning of overhanging trees was reported and engineers are to observe the pinch-points which are causing concern to drivers. The badly eroded green area in Coles Mede will have temporary repairs whilst on the waiting list for major works. Pavements from the roundabout at Poles Lane to Southdown Road would soon be resurfaced and traffic delays and diversions are expected.

City Cllr Murray Macmillan reported that he was co-ordinating a meeting at the Compton and Shawford Village Hall between representatives from EBC Planning Dept, Southampton Airport and Parish Council's in the area. Issues on the agenda would include the introduction of new aircraft, new test routes for later in the year and aircraft noise. It was noted that the airport enquiry line would be manned in the future rather than an answer phone.

City Cllr G Beckett reported on a planning application for Coles Mede which had gone to Committee and been granted. It was noted that the design of the Coles Mede development had been important to Councillors and future objections to resist infill development could make use of this.

Mrs Pam Cole submitted a report on the Conservation Group. The AGM will take place on 16 May in the Betty Mobbs Room of the Parish Hall. A bench donated by a Parishioner as a memorial would be placed in the Old Church Yard. Flanders poppy seeds would be planted at Sponders Mede, on the Common and in the Old Church Yard. Greater awareness of the Itchen Navigation Project was required. The death of David Goodall, one of the founder members was sadly reported.

Regarding the issue of parking on Boyatt Lane, Cllr M Macmillan had tried to obtain a grant for works to create parking bays, but this had been unsuccessful. A letter had been received from a resident of Hilltop Cottages requesting an easement across the Common to the property. Council noted that this would increase parking problems along Boyatt Lane, as clear vehicular access to the property would prevent other cars from parking on the gravel area.

The Sports Club proposals for the Recreation Ground were to be discussed fully at the Public Meeting. Three final points were detailed at the Council meeting: i) even if the Parish Council as leaseholders made objection to the proposals, the planning application could still be submitted to WCC and there were no unresolved objections from the freeholders, Southern Water. The Parish Council would then need to consider the licence under which the Sports Club operated. ii) concerns still existed as to the contradictory guidelines from the FA and Wessex League; ongoing requirements from Wessex; and future ambitions for progression by the Club. iii) a decision would not be taken until the May PC Meeting.

Plans and costing for the proposed toilet at the allotments had been received from EBC. The location of the toilet had been changed to the most northerly plot on EBC land with water connection to their line and sewerage connection to Lincolns Rise drains. EBC were seeking an easement from Eastleigh Housing Association who own the Lincolns Rise sewer and the Parish Council as they cross into Parish land for a short distance, possibly to avoid damage to a mature tree. Cllr Warne attended the Allotments Association AGM and established that a substantial number of Otterbourne tenants would use the toilet and a number volunteered to maintain it on a rota basis. EBC had estimated works would cost £7,000 and had requested half from Otterbourne Parish Council. Although there was no obligation to provide a toilet, it was agreed to offer £1000 which was the amount set aside in the precept.

The proposed Welcome Pack was presented by Cllr Wilkins. The problem of distribution to new arrivals in the village was discussed. It was agreed the Clerk would post permanent notices on the notice boards advertising the Welcome Pack for newcomers. The publication would be available from the Post Office at Williams Garage and the website.

A disclaimer was to be inserted by Cllr Wilkins re goods and services information.

The provision of youth shelter and basketball end on land adjoining Recreation Ground was discussed. The estimated cost of this project is £21,288 (not including land clearance) which would be financed by the Open Spaces Fund containing £27,480. The outstanding item prior to planning application was the solar light. PC Mark Smith was in favour of this. The light would only last a maximum of 4 hours in darkness before recharging was required. The cost could be met from the Open Spaces Fund. It was agreed to include this in the planning application which could now go ahead.

Quotations for the maintenance of the Pavilion had been received and one had been agreed. Instructions for this could now proceed.

J A Ayre
Parish Clerk
24 April 2005

**REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE ANNUAL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17 MAY 2005**

Cllr Michael Warne was re-elected Chairman.
Cllr Ian Phillips was re-elected Vice Chairman.

The election of Committee members was as follows:

Finance Committee: Cllr Gray (Chairman); Cllr Wilkins; Parish Clerk
Amenities and Recreation Committee: Cllr Zebedee (Chairman); Cllr Creagh;
Cllr Jeffery; Cllr Dr Chappiti
Planning and Highways Committee: Cllr Phillips (Chairman); Cllr Dr Chappiti;
Cllr Jeffery; Cllr Wilkins

The representatives to various bodies were appointed as follows:

Winchester District Association of Parish Councils: Cllr Creagh; Parish Clerk
Otterbourne Village Hall Committee: Cllr Wilkins
Otterbourne Conservation Group: Mrs P Cole
Otterbourne Sports Club: Cllr Zebedee
Otterbourne Allotments Association: Cllr Creagh
Council for the Protection of Rural England: Otterbourne Conservation Group
Ampfield Countryside Heritage Trust: Otterbourne Conservation Group
Board of Governors: Cllr Phillips

Specific Responsibilities were appointed as follows:

Hampshire Waste Services Liaison Group: Cllr Warne, Cllr Dr Chappiti;
County Cllr Charlotte Bailey; Parishioners Mrs P Cole and Mrs S Patterson.
Footpaths: Otterbourne Conservation Group
Public Transport Representative: Cllr Zebedee (rail and air);
Parishioners Mrs P Cole (buses) and Mr K Smith (air)
Street Lighting and Highway Problems: Cllr Dr Chappiti

The Sports Club proposals for the Recreation Ground were discussed.
Cllr Warne gave a resume of events. The Councillors were asked to make their decision based upon the attendance and views expressed by about 120 parishioners at the Public Meeting on 19 April to which the whole village had been invited and letters received from 36 parishioners.

Councillors discussions included positive support for the Sports Club in being good tenants and in good stewardship. Also in promoting sport which should be encouraged. It was noted that of the letters received there had not been adverse comment or objection to the Sports Club operating with the present facilities, only at the new requirements. It was felt that some aspects of the proposals could be agreed, but other aspects, particularly floodlighting, could not. There was concern that probable progression up the Wessex League would meet with future applications. Whilst it was understood that the Sports Club did not willingly want the new requirements, it was evident that the proposals were beyond the facilities and preferred usage of the Recreation Ground by parishioners. Councillors also broadly agreed that the new requirements would be detrimental to the rural atmosphere of the area and inappropriate for a village Recreation Ground. It was felt that the balance at

present was right but that if the Sports Club developed further it would disadvantage residents and may lead to the Sports Club not achieving their aims if future requirements could not be met. There had been strong opposition to the proposals from a large number of parishioners and Councillors wished to represent these views in their decision. A proposal was made by the Chairman Michael Warne: that this Council does not support the plans for Otterbourne Recreation Ground by the Sports Club. 5 members were in support of the Chairman's proposal; 1 member against; 1 member abstained.

Clerk advised that a letter had been sent to HCC regarding the railings requested for the Otterbourne Hill/Kiln Lane junction; no response had been received to-date. Clerk to follow-up.

PC Mark Smith advised that only 4 crimes had been reported since 1st April. PC 982 Karen Goode was introduced as another representative for the Otterbourne area. Letters had been received regarding the Boyatt Lane parking problem.

Congratulations was extended on behalf of the Council to Cllr Charlotte Bailey, the new County Councillor elected for Downlands. Cllr Bailey is Deputy for the Project Integra Board.

A report by Cllr Zebedee on the Southampton Airport Community and Stakeholders Conference detailed information on the new aircraft routing trials from July 2005. The new trials concentrate on arriving aircraft from the south and departing to the north. Northern departures will be required to maintain the runway heading until reaching 2.5 miles from the end of the runway. However, these new trials will not apply to the noisy Tri-Landers. Cllr Zebedee stressed that it was **important for all parishioners to log complaints during this trial in order that Otterbourne is represented in the decision making process.** Complaints/feedback should be made to Noise & Flight Evaluation, Airside Operations, Southampton Airport, Southampton SO18 2NL. Tel: 02380 627070

Email sou_community@baa.com Website www.baa.com/southampton

It was agreed that the easement requested by 1 Hilltop Cottages over the Common would be on the June Agenda for discussion after Councillors had taken the opportunity of studying the issues involved.

Response was still awaited from EBC regarding the proposed funding of £1000 by the Parish Council for the allotment toilet.

Cllr Gray advised on a campaign by the CPRE to reduce the number of unnecessary signs leading to urbanisation of the community. Cllr Bailey to advise whether HCC made a positive decision not to take part in this initiative. Cllr Warne advised that maintenance works to the finger post sign at the bottom of Otterbourne Hill was in hand with the Conservation Group.

J A Ayre, Parish Clerk
18 May 2005

REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 21 JUNE 2005

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the meeting.

Keith Smith had applied to fill the vacancy for the Councillor's position. Mr Smith has worked on the Parish Plan and is currently a Representative for air transport. The Council agreed co-option of Mr Smith and welcomed him to the Council, which is once again at full complement.

PC Karen Goode reported that May had been a quiet month with 1 theft from a motor vehicle, 1 domestic violence, and 2 public disorder matters. There were regular patrols at the Recreation Ground, but since the incident concerning the breakage of glass bottles in the children's playground, this had been quiet. PC Mark Smith had been contacted re parking in Boyatt Lane again.

County Cllr Charlotte Bailey reported on the site plans for the Silver Hill redevelopment in Winchester which are currently on display. As HCC Deputy for the Project Integra Board Cllr Bailey has registered concern for the amount of traffic noise generated; sustainability of site with regard to the number of lorries required; the possibility of more but smaller transfer stations and studies for shortest delivery routes. The first Scrutiny Inquiry at HCC this year will be into project Integra. Regarding Highways, a long-term solution to the spring on Otterbourne Hill and the Poles Lane roundabout has been requested.

District Cllr George Beckett attended. The Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2005 has created a new duty on local authorities to resolve conflicts arising from disputes over high hedges between neighbours. A free leaflet is available, and a formal complaint's procedure is in place. WCC charge a £450 fee which may be reduced to £100 if the claimant is in receipt of benefits or allowances. Cllr Beckett advised that Parish Councils might be under increased pressure to identify exception sites for affordable housing in the future.

Cllr Smith, representative for air transport, gave a presentation and report on the Airport Meeting at Shawford. Conclusions from this and Council's discussion were: that the airport is of economic importance to the area; it will most probably continue to grow; noise management is the primary issue; EBC is the controlling local authority for representation; BAA will need continued pressure to improve routing for northern villages such as Otterbourne; at present opposition from areas affected is fragmented and a cohesive approach is required. The new trials commence on 1st July and it is important for residents to inform the airport authorities how the new routings affect their property.

Cllr Warne reported on the AGM of the Village Hall Committee acknowledging continued full bookings, excellent turnover and management.

Mrs Pam Cole reported for the Conservation Group. Sponders Mede working party was successful. Benches on the Common needed repair. A village archive addition had been made showing contributions from school children in 1920 to the war memorial. Andrea Bassett is preparing a map of village footpaths but issues of copyright are still to be resolved. The Itchen Navigation Project had identified conflict of interest between conservationists, anglers and dog walkers; a grant of £48,000 had been awarded for feasibility studies.

Mr Julian Perkins gave an update on Elderfield . Renovations were complete and the recent celebrations had been well attended by local dignitaries. Elderfield had full occupancy and was very stable at present. There was a notable success story recounted of a recent resident. Although direct sales of plants could no longer take place, Elderfield's participation in and contributions to the village continued. This includes looking after the war memorial with mowing, planting and watering; maintenance of areas around the village hall and regular litter picks in the village. Mr Perkins advised that they were open to consideration of any new enterprises in which they might help and the suggestion of a litter pick at the reservoir and area of gorse was agreed.

Regarding the Sports Club proposals for the Recreation Ground, Cllr Warne had written to Jack Goodchild with Council's decision to object to any planning application, following the vote taken at the May meeting. The new draft lease received from Southern Water could now be continued. A letter had been received from their solicitors requesting the addition of a new clause that the Recreation Ground and sports field is used 'for the benefit of the community as a whole on a non-profit making basis'. Council agreed to this and the lease is being sent for final legal approval.

Councillors had received information from White and Bowker solicitors advising concerns about the easement requested by 1 Hilltop Cottages and unofficial parking on the Common. The problem of removing the unofficial parking and avoiding prescriptive rights has major implications for the Boyatt Lane parking problems. Cllr Warne will consult with WCC who have manorial rights over the Common and report.

EBC is pursuing the easements necessary for the proposed toilet on the allotments. No further information on funding has been received.

The safety railings at the junction of Kiln Lane and Otterbourne Hill junction south side are hoped to start by the end of the month.

Cllr Warne had received notification that Otterbourne Village Hall Committee has been unsuccessful in their application for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Council agreed to support re-nomination for the next round.

Cllr Warne advised of an informal meeting with the Rector and PCC over a piece of land from the War Memorial to Cranbury Park gates. This is Common land owned by Chamberlayne Estates and is presently unsightly woodland scrub and a rubbish dump. The Church would prefer clearance and a car park for special events such as weddings and funerals with controlled access by locked barrier. Cllr Warne will consult with WCC regarding manorial rights and is awaiting a formal request from the PCC.

A letter had been received from OVHC requesting a new and larger direction sign for the Village Hall off Main Road. The Council is currently reviewing signs within the village area and this will be considered within the overall review. Cllr Bailey advised that HCC were prepared to work with Communities regarding signs, both for new requests and the removal of unnecessary ones. Cllr Warne advised that work to the finger post is in hand with the Conservation Group.

Regarding the provision of the youth shelter and basketball end on land adjoining the Recreation Ground, Cllr Warne advised that his meeting with WCC was positive and the documentation is in order for planning application.

The Finance Committee proposed several new items, replacements and repairs throughout the Parish. Council agreed two new dog bins as requested at the Annual Assembly by parishioners: one at Otterbourne Hill Common west side and the other at the entrance to the footpath by the Old Forge restaurant. A new fixed penalty notice sign was agreed for the Recreation Ground dog bin in consideration of new Parish Council responsibilities and the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill. The local dog warden would be contacted to arrange ad hoc visits to the Recreation Ground. A replacement wooden bus shelter was agreed for the west side of Main Road beyond Poles Lane. A quotation for repairs to benches throughout the Parish was being prepared. A notice board at the entrance to Cranbourne Drive on the northern side grass verge was agreed in replacement of the board outside Elderfield which would be removed. A further notice board in the vicinity of Williams Garage was proposed and this would be looked into. The hinges to the gate of the children's playground had been repaired, however a closing system is also required.

Parish Clerk, 21 June 2005

REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 19 JULY 2005

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the meeting. The first item concerned the burst water main on Thursday 14 July causing temporary road closure through the village. A letter of thanks will be sent to Elderfield whose residents were very helpful in warning people and protecting against the flood where possible.

Cllr Smith requested clarification of parking facilities following two enquiries from residents. The Village Hall car park is for the use of Village Hall users. The 'Free Car Park' on Cranbourne Drive is a public car park. The Oakwood Avenue Recreation Ground car park is a public car park.

County Cllr Charlotte Bailey reported that follow-up had been made with Highways for the installation of the safety barriers at the foot of Otterbourne Hill/Kiln Lane junction. It was hoped work would start in the next two weeks. An order has also been raised for the additional drainage and patching to Otterbourne Hill and another to resurface the Pole's Lane roundabout. Regarding Integra, HCC had advised that all recyclables should go directly, ie loose, into the recycle bin; excess can still be bagged and left beside if necessary. Cllr Bailey had raised several questions to the Highways Agency on noise from the M3 regarding the criteria required for resurfacing with the low noise surface, the amount of litter and frequency of collections and noise mapping. Southampton Airport had published its Master Plan up to 2030. The runway will not be lengthened but passenger numbers will triple over the next 25 years and flights will increase to an average of 16 per hour. Hampshire Ambulance NHS Trust is suggesting radical reorganisation of its service: the proposal is to reduce ambulance stations from 19 to 3 at Nursling, Basingstoke and Cosham. The 84 standby points for ambulances around the county will still be retained. Public consultation time is over the next four weeks.

Cllr Smith reported as representative for Air Transport. A copy of the Southampton Airport Outline Master Plan – Draft for Consultation' was presented. There was concern that this was more of an informative document to BAA's agreed itinerary. Also noise concerns relating to Eastleigh and Southampton were addressed but not the northern villages. It was noted that there was no independent body overseeing the plans or the trials. Otterbourne Parish Council representatives will approach other Parish Councils, WCC and EBC to request the appointment of an independent regulatory body and arrange a meeting with the Head of the Consultative Committee. The overall aim is to ensure that the routings are not profit driven but achieve maximum benefit for the community as a whole.

Cllr Phillips reported as representative for Otterbourne School Board of Governors. A letter of thanks will be sent to Mr Graveling, Headmaster, who retires at the end of the Summer term after 21 years. Mrs A Langrish, the new Headmistress will take up her appointment in the next few weeks.

A response had been received from White and Bowker Solicitors advising on the new draft lease for the Recreation Ground. Changes had occurred in the Land Registration Act and a few amendments needed addressing. The lease will last for a further 21 years

A letter had been received from EBC agreeing to the offer of £1000 from the Parish Council towards costs for the erection of the toilet. A term of 10 years was proposed in consideration of the payment which was agreed.

Regarding the easement for 1 Hilltop Cottages, advice had been sought from White and Bowker Solicitors and WCC. A proposal had been made to offer an easement to outside the property with condition that responsibility to keep access clear rests with the owner.

Regarding the land to the front of St Matthew's Church, a response is awaited from WCC who are examining the possibility of establishing an occasional car park.

A letter had been received from the Eastleigh and Otterbourne Cricket Club requesting funding for three items. A donation of £200 from the Parish was agreed. A further £100 recently received from the WDAPC with stipulation that it be spent on the 'Youth of your Parish' was also donated.

An Invitation List for the Civic Service on 16 October had been received from Compton and Shawford Parish Council for updating

Mr Ian Stockdale reviewed the Parish Plan and progress on the items identified within it. A number of items had been started including the youth facilities, two additional notice boards, the Welcome Pack, the monthly updating of the website and items relating to the Church, however there were many other areas still for consideration. In particular, the Village Design Statement needed a team of volunteers and funding to get underway. Cllr Warne agreed to draft a single-side A4 newsletter for distribution to all households to improve communication within the village and include a request for volunteers to implement the Village Design Statement and other Parish Plan items.

The planning application had been submitted for the provision of the youth shelter and basketball/goal end on land adjoining the Recreation Ground. The orange notice is posted at the entrance to the Recreation Ground. Three quotations have been received from play facilities providers and Monster Play Systems was approved as having the best specifications and comparative price at £17,820 which is to be funded from the Open Space Fund held by WCC. The addition of an integral solar light and also a litter bin to the area were discussed and agreed. Two quotations have been received for site clearance and a third is awaited before decision. Feedback and participation from young people of the village is encouraged and PC Mark Smith will be consulted to arrange this.

A quotation had been received for reconditioning and repairing the Parish benches and this was approved. The inspection report for the children's play area at the Recreation Ground detailed several small items requiring repair and also the safety surface to be topped up with woodchip. It was proposed that, given the cost of overall replacement of the children's play facilities in the future, a fund should be started from the 06/07 precept onwards. Williams garage had kindly agreed to a Parish notice board alongside their own. A further notice board is to be positioned on the verge at Cranbourne Drive near to the school footpath. Quotations from three suppliers had been received for hardwood, man-made timber and aluminium boards. Council approved two double-fronted hardwood boards. Quotations for dog bins and a new bus shelter for west side of Main Road near Poles Lane are still progressing.

Parish Clerk, 20 July 2005

**REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
20 SEPTEMBER 2005**

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the Meeting and welcomed Councillors after the summer recess.

It was noted that the safety railings at the Kiln Lane/Otterbourne Hill junction were in place and Cllr Bailey was thanked for help in achieving this.

The renewal of the lease for the Recreation Ground had been sent to Parish solicitors with amendments and the final draft for signing is awaited.

The offer by the Parish to contribute £1000 towards the proposed toilet at the allotments had been accepted by Eastleigh Borough Council for a period of 10 years. Works should now progress.

Councillor Warne had produced a draft newsletter to send to all Parishioners in order to keep them informed on matters arising from the Parish Plan.

A police report had been received from PC Mark Smith for the last 90 days as follows: Criminal damage – 4 offences; Thefts – 5 offences; Non-dwelling burglaries – 2 offences; Theft from Motor Vehicle – 1 offence; Deception – 1 offence; Assault – 1 offence with minor injuries. Crime reported still relatively low by comparison to other areas. The plans and photographs for the proposed youth facilities at Oakwood Park Recreation Ground had been received well by local young people. Complaints had been received regarding the on-going problem of Boyatt Lane parking and also an overgrown hedge.

The County and District Councillors had much to report on planning matters.

County Councillor Charlotte Bailey reported on the South East Plan and housing targets for Central Hampshire for 2006-2026. Otterbourne falls within the Central Hampshire region. Most new houses in the region will be built on previously earmarked sites but 2,000 will be built on greenfield areas such as Barton Farm in Winchester. All householders should be receiving a questionnaire entitled 'Where shall we live?' in a special edition of Hampshire Now and it is important for Parishioners to respond to all parts and give comments on the attached sheet. Cllr Warne will respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Inspector's Report for the Winchester Local Plan had been received. The Inspector recognised the importance of the 'wedge of countryside' south of Poles Lane and west of Main Road as enabling the countryside to penetrate to the heart of the village and give it a rural character. No justification was found to allocate land at Poles Lane to a specific list for development for industrial use. The top of Otterbourne Hill was regarded as having more affinity to the countryside than to the urban development of Eastleigh.

District Cllr George Beckett reported on the effects of the South East Plan for the Central Hampshire region. Regarding house building requirements over the next 20 years, the lowest rate required is 160 new houses per year and the highest rate is 260 per year. It was noted that this was within the same rate of house building as the past 10 years and District Councillors would support proposals for the lower end of centre rate.

The WCC Planning Improvement Plan was reported on and it was proposed that: the Development Control Committee would sit every three weeks; ten objections from residents would be required from separate addresses for an application to be referred to Committee; Parish Council objection would no longer automatically ensure an application went to Committee; District Councillors could support Parish Council recommendations or residents' objections for referral to Committee on merit.

District Cllr Murray Macmillan, as a representative on the Licensing Committee, reported that there are few, just causes for refusal of a license and the majority of applications are approved. There are proposals to extend the alcohol free zone in Winchester at next full Committee meeting.

Consultation is currently taking place with residents who have been part of the trial Recycling Pilot Scheme for fortnightly alternate collection of recycled/landfill waste. It was thought this had been successful and that the scheme will be increased throughout the district.

The HCC partnership with Integra will be encouraging all Councils to streamline collection services and ensure that residents are more efficient at filling bins with only those items which are currently recycled in this country.

Cllr Smith had attended a number of high-level meetings on Southampton Airport and he would continue to brief members and interested parties and liaise with northern village representatives. The next Stakeholder Committee Meeting is on 23 September and this would also be attended by District Cllr M Macmillan. **The importance of feedback from villagers to the trials was stressed as this is a major consultation period. Comments can be telephoned, by letter or emailed to: Noise & Flight Evaluation, Airside Operations, Southampton Airport, Southampton SO18 2NL. Tel: 02380 627070**

email: sou_community@baa.com

There are also copies of a Community Feedback Form which is in the Post Office at Williams garage and on the Parish website: www.otterbourne.parish.hants.gov.uk/

Mrs Pam Cole submitted a report for the Conservation Group. A plaque would be placed on the bench in the Old Churchyard provided by the Buckley family. Subscription to the Friends of Otterbourne Church would be renewed as it was felt that it was at the centre of village life and should be conserved. Most of the rubbish reported outside Kiln Lane churchyard and the stream had been removed, but some still remained on the verge. Andrea Bassett had prepared a map and text of village footpaths and it would be mounted on the group notice board after testing.

Cllr Warne had attended the Village Hall Committee Meeting and reported that a bench seat had been dedicated to Ken Bolton. New contract cleaners were employed for the Village Hall. The Pantomime this year will be 'Babes in the Wood'. Winchester Brass concert is on 10 December.

Cllr Warne had approached WCC regarding the possibility of making a car park for special church events on the piece of Common land between the War Memorial and Cranbury Park Gates. A response is still awaited from WCC. With regard to the request from 1 Hilltop Cottages for an Easement over the Common this was being progressed and advice was being sought from Solicitors.

A document had been received on the Hampshire Strategic Partnership. This is a Local Area Agreement between HCC and Central Government addressing broad issues which it was felt were beyond the remit for Parish Council involvement

Report of Otterbourne Parish Council Meeting continued

The internal auditors had approved the parish accounts, but had requested a risk assessment scheme to be introduced. This was briefly outlined and will continue over several months in order to implement.

The planning application for the provision of youth shelter and basketball end on land adjoining the recreation ground had been approved by WCC Planning Committee. Although a few objections had been received from residents, it was hoped that careful monitoring and the location of the youth facilities towards the north-eastern boundary near Southern Water would make for a successful project. Councillors are open to address residents' concerns, now and in the future.

A proposal for a height restriction barrier on the inner part of the access road to the recreation ground was agreed in order to increase security of the grounds. Quotations for the installation of two dog bins, on the western part of the Common by the reservoir and on the footpath at the rear of The Old Forge Restaurant, were agreed. Quotations for the installation of the two new notice boards were also agreed. Discussions on the supply and installation of a new bus shelter were postponed until the October Meeting.

21 September 2005

Julie Ayre, Parish Clerk,

REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18 OCTOBER 2005

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the meeting.

The police report detailed seven events over the past 30 days: 2 thefts of pedal cycles, 4 criminal damage reports and 1 assault. Damage to the children's climbing frame at the Recreation Ground had left it unsafe for use and repair is being investigated by the Clerk. With regard to traffic management, Boyatt Lane was still receiving complaints, however it was acknowledged that cars are legally parked and that vehicles should approach the bend with caution.

Regarding planning issues it was agreed that the Clerk will represent Parish views on concerns relating to WCC Planning Improvement and Community Involvement Plan, specifically that Parish representation on planning matters was being diminished, that the number of representations to ensure Committee referral was too high particularly for rural areas and that the more extensive use of electronic transmission may disenfranchise a section of the community without access or ability to use it. Councillor Warne will represent Parish views regarding consultation on the South East England Regional Plan.

County Cllr Mrs Charlotte Bailey submitted a report requesting suggestions for new highways projects for minor schemes for improvement to paths or roads. New white lining is to take place between Compton Street and Coles Mede roundabout. Any additional requests for safety measures should be advised. A report and questionnaire on the Minerals and Waste Development Framework for the next 15 years had been received and response made that the facilities should be spread throughout the County to spread the burden of noise and traffic. Parish Councils have also been sent the document for response. The Hampshire Wildlife Trust has submitted a very good bid for Lottery Grant funds for the Itchen Navigation project.

District Cllr Murray Macmillan reported that the ditches along Poles Lane and the grilles at Coles Mede should receive works to keep them clear prior to winter onset. Regarding Southampton Airport there was concern that the Consultative Board lacked authority to exert pressure on important issues. A meeting had been set up to determine the possibility of raising a collective resolution through WCC to be put to EBC. Regarding licence applications it was reported that there was a last minute influx before the deadline and that there was little opportunity to refuse or change applications.

Cllr Smith reporting for air traffic had attended a number of meetings. At the Southampton Airport Consultative Committee there had been poor response to evidence that large numbers of people had been disenfranchised under the current scheme. The economic importance of the airport had taken greater weight. The Master Plan presentation at the airport had provided a full explanation and set of plans. The Stakeholders meeting had taken place and it was confirmed that FlyBe will be phasing out the noisy BAE 146 aeroplane and introducing the quieter Embraer from August 2006, but there is no commitment as to how long this will take to complete. Mark Oaten

MP had been updated and a meeting with the Dept of Transport had been proposed following the outcome from the meetings so far.
Cllr Zebedee reported that the South West trains franchise for the next 10 years is due for renewal in 2007.

A response from White and Bowker Solicitors had been received regarding the proposed easement across the Common to 1 Hilltop Cottages and a site meeting had taken place. Following legal advice and response from WCC, who has manorial rights over the Common, an easement will be offered to the rear of the property with conditions attached including reimbursement of Parish costs. It was also advised that the unlawful parking area on the Common to the front of the cottages should be restored to Common land. Councillors acknowledged concerns relating to increased pressure on Boyatt Lane parking. Chairman Michael Warne will meet with the landlords of the Otter Public House to determine whether vehicles might find parking within the Otter car park.

It has been agreed that Chamberlayne Estates may proceed with clearance of the area to the front of St Matthew's Church and that provided the area is closely restricted for parking for special church events the PCC may proceed with their plans.

The draft newsletter updating Parishioners on matters arising from the Parish Plan was discussed and agreed. A village household distribution will take place within the next month. The Welcome Pack was also discussed. This is available on the Parish website and it was agreed to print off 30 copies for newcomers to the village. Parishioners are asked to inform any Councillor or the Clerk of new residents who might like this and a notice will be placed on the notice boards

Cllr Smith presented a draft document on Risk Assessment which Councillors could use as a base for future implementation of a management scheme. Any concerns presented to Council will be assessed at the Parish Council meetings and a Register maintained. Concern regarding Public Liability insurance for very part-time contractors for the village was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would accept cover for specific workers.

Ground clearance and sub-base works are well underway for the youth facilities on land adjoining the Recreation Ground. The area is well enclosed with temporary fencing to protect both the Site of Importance to Nature Conservation and the public. An update on costs was presented and additional works to construct a level area were agreed.

It was agreed that the siting of the height restriction barrier at the Recreation Ground should be placed by the speed bump on the access road. Three quotations were presented and quotations for installation are ongoing.

Quotations for the new bus shelter for Main Road West by Poles Lane were presented. Council considered a brick bus shelter, however this was considered more expensive. A wooden style similar to Old Deeds was approved pending final measurements on site by the supplier

Julie Ayre, Clerk,
19 October 2005

REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 15 NOVEMBER 2005

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the Meeting and welcomed a substantial gathering of Parishioners and representatives.

The Police Report noted 4 offences since the October meeting: 1 theft of the Bill Harris plaque at the Sports Pavilion; graffiti stretching from the M3 bridge on Poles Lane through the village to Chandler's Ford; 1 public order offence and 1 suspected theft. Boyatt Lane parking problems and concern over the hedge at 2 Hilltop Cottages had also been reported.

Cllr Warne gave a résumé of events regarding Elderfield. Anthony Rice had been accepted as a resident at Elderfield in November 2004. On 28 October of this year he was convicted on two separate charges of wounding with intent and murder and was sentenced to 25 years in prison. There was considerable unease in the village in view of the assurances given over the years by Langley House Trust that Elderfield was unable to offer residence to persons with a history of violent or sexual offences or consider offenders who presented any increase in risk to the community.

Cllr Warne had acquired the transcript of the trial and the Parish Council had written to Mr S Robinson, Chief Executive of Langley House Trust to express concern that Mr Rice was accepted as a resident in view of his record of violent and sexual offences and to ask for a definitive statement of the type of ex-offenders who were considered for residence. The Parish Council had also written to Ms C Knott, National Offender Manager at the Home Office to ask for an explanation of the MAPPA arrangements and why they were ineffectual in Mr Rice's case. Several letters from parishioners had been received expressing the kind of concerns that had been addressed in these letters.

Mr Paul Bowes, Operations Manager West for Langley House Trust advised that three formal inquiries into the circumstances of the Rice incident were taking place – by the Probation Inspectorate, by the Police and by Langley House Trust. The findings of the Probation Inspectorate will be made public when complete. Mr Bowes gave a résumé of Elderfield's history within Otterbourne noting the hospitality and co-operation of the village and the involvement of Elderfield's residents in public services.

Questions were raised from Councillors and Parishioners regarding: representation of the Parish on the Probation Inspectorate inquiry; the principles of MAPPA; the profiles of residents accepted by Elderfield; the present case re past assurances given by Langley House Trust; the decisions taken for acceptance of past and future residents; funding and safety measures initiated since the case. Parishioners expressed serious concern that the type of resident profile at Elderfield had changed over the years, there was lack of confidence in safety measures and feelings of insecurity and fear within the village.

Mr Bowes stated that residents were referred from the Probation Service and an individual risk assessment was made for each referral to decide on acceptance. Mr Perkins, Project Manager for Elderfield stated that the profiles of residents at Elderfield had not changed over the years. Mr Bowes agreed to return after the Probation Inspectorate inquiry to address further questions. The Parish Council would write to try and gain representation on this inquiry.

County Cllr Charlotte Bailey reported that the fence on Otterbourne Hill would be repaired soon and the roundabout at Poles Lane would be improved by using tarmac instead of granite sets.

HCC had looked at several sites to the south of Winchester for a new Park and Ride project and favoured the Compton/Badger Farm Road junction to serve commuters from the M3 and also Kings School. This is presently owned by HCC and designated countryside. Long-term benefit to the environment needed to be considered carefully against impact on the present environment.

It was noted that Hampshire Residents are recycling well, although it is frustrating that there are not enough labelled recycled products accepted by the UK. Cllr Bailey had written to Mark Oaten MP to support new recycling plants to utilise all plastics and paper products.

Regarding Winchester Library, work by the Archaeological team is being started January 2006 when the library will be moved to Capitol House on Andover Road. Works are scheduled to start from May '06 and the Library should open in late Summer 2007. There has been additional funding to make up the shortfall for new books. Details for the final internal layout are still changing but there will be smaller reception areas, a fast track area, quiet rooms for study, different places to use the computers, a children's section, an area more encouraging for teenage readers, a room for community use and for groups to hire for events and a gallery for display. Plans will be discussed on 24 November.

Cllr Macmillan had attended a Planning Committee meeting regarding the development proposed on Highways Road, Compton. This had been granted approval by WCC on likelihood of approval at appeal. The new Licence Bill was being considered by the House of Commons.

At the Village Hall Committee Meeting it was agreed to update the fire alarm system to meet current standards and a new electronic keyboard will be purchased to accompany entertainments.

The Conservation Group reported that grants to build the flint wall around the Old Church Yard at Kiln Lane were still being pursued. The display mounted in the Church room during the Village Community Week was well received. The Autumn Talk is scheduled for 24 November at 7.30 pm in the Bianchi Room of the Village Hall. The speaker will be Andrew Walmsley on the Wildlife and History of the New Forest. Non-members are welcome for a £1 fee. The Mummers would be performing on 18 December outside 6 Park Lane for their 30th year. Otterbourne School hoped to restart using their Environment Field at the rear of the Village Hall once the brambles had been cleared.

A response to the Consultation document from Southampton Airport had been submitted. A presentation had been made to Twyford Parish Council and Residents Association which had gained support. A report from the Dept of Transport had been received and the Parish Council will respond.

Cllr Warne gave a résumé regarding the proposed restriction of parking on the Common outside Hilltop Cottages. The area was Common land on which parking was not permitted. Parking had always been unlawful but had been ignored. An easement, to enable a local resident to gain vehicular access to her property had been requested and the Parish Council, as landowners, sought legal advice. The Common land was owned by the Parish Council, however Winchester City Council owned manorial rights ie the legal right to enforce the byelaws. The legal opinion was that whether or not the easement was granted WCC could no longer ignore the unlawful parking.

The Parish Council was aware of the concern regarding the parking problems and traffic implications for Boyatt Lane and had investigated the possibility of widening Boyatt Lane by the allotments and providing new residents car parking spaces. This was being followed up by County Cllr Bailey together with a safety assessment and accident report for the past 3 years. Cllr Warne had approached the landlords of The Otter to investigate whether parking permission could be gained for overnight and this was being considered. Several letters had been received from Parishioners pointing out the concern for road safety and the Parish meeting was opened to Parishioners. Concern was expressed about the effect of closing the unofficial parking area on the Common with regard to increased parking pressure on Boyatt Lane, speed problems around the bend, safety for pedestrians, the hedge of No 2 Hilltop Cottages overhanging the pavement and obscuring the road sign.

In summation Cllr Warne agreed that the Parish Council would write to WCC with residents' concerns about parking and speeding in Boyatt Lane, in particular with regard to safety, The Parish Council would work with WCC, HCC and residents to try to find a compromise and workable solution. Residents were advised to write to the Chief Executive of Winchester City Council independently with their concerns.

Regarding the easement for 1 Hilltop Cottages Parish solicitors had advised that any easement offered to 1 Hilltop Cottages must be professionally valued to reflect benefit to the property. The offer of an easement in principle has been made to the resident to the rear of 1 Hilltop Cottages conditional upon costs for construction and Parish Council legal costs being at the applicant's expense. If accepted the easement will be professionally valued.

It was noted that Otterbourne Hill cycle path was in poor condition and required clearing of leaves. The bench on the Common required maintenance. One of the floodlights owned by the Sports Club at the Recreation Ground had been reported broken and a Parishioner had requested removal of the stanchions in the car park.

Regarding provision of the youth facilities at the Recreation Ground, the foundations part of the project is nearing completion, although work might need to halt if ground conditions become too soft to avoid damaging the Recreation Ground surface. The contractor, P Gunter Plant Hire was praised for his work and undertaking a degree of project management. An update of costs was presented. Unexpected costs had been incurred due to changes in ground level which had not been identified at outset. Cost to-date was within budget for the Open Space Fund held by WCC.

Julie Ayre, Clerk
16 November 2005

**UNNOFICIAL PARKING ON OTTERBOURNE COMMON
AND EASEMENT TO 1 HILLTOP COTTAGES
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 15 NOVEMBER 2005**

Present: Cllr Warne (Chairman); Phillips; Smith; Creagh; Wilkins; Gray; Jeffery; Zebedee
County Cllr Mrs C Bailey; District Cllr Mr M Macmillan; Mrs PM Cole;
PC Mark Smith; 18 Parishioners, Clerk

Cllr Warne gave a résumé of the events to-date.

Parking on the front of Hilltop Cottages had always been unlawful but had been ignored. The area was Common land on which parking was not permitted. An easement, to enable a local resident to gain vehicular access to her property had been requested and the Parish Council, as landowners, sought legal advice. The Common land was owned by the Parish Council, however Winchester City Council owned manorial rights ie the legal right to enforce the byelaws. The legal opinion was that whether or not the easement was granted WCC could no longer ignore the unlawful parking. The Parish Council was aware of the concern regarding the parking problems and traffic implications for Boyatt Lane and had investigated the possibility of widening Boyatt Lane by the allotments and providing new residents car parking spaces. Cllr Warne had also approached the landlords of The Otter PH to investigate whether parking permission could be gained for overnight. This was being considered. Several letters had been received from Parishioners pointing out the concern for road safety. The Parish Council would try to work with HCC and WCC to find a solution to the problem.

The meeting was then opened to the Public.

Mark Wadey representing residents views from Park View, Ivy Cottages and Stone Terrace spoke regarding concern for road safety, the notable problem of parking for residents, the users of the allotments and users of the Common area. The possibility of herringbone parking along Boyatt Lane by the allotments was discussed. Cllr Warne advised that had been accepted by HCC in principle and engineering terms, but cost had been a major issue. It was estimated the scheme could be £75,000.

Cllr Warne advised that it might be possible for residents to purchase a piece of land at the rear of their properties and gain access through The Otter car park for parking. Christina Avis advised that this might be difficult to achieve as the future agreement of The Otter landlord and freeholder could not be guaranteed. Mrs Bishop was concerned that if access was approved to the rear of the properties then it might be used for housing development. Cllr Warne advised that this land was designated as Countryside and might therefore be acceptable.

County Cllr Charlotte Bailey agreed to check with HCC regarding the possibility of the allotment parking scheme. It was pointed out that high accident record takes priority. Cllr Bailey to check the accident record for the past three years for Boyatt Lane.

PC Mark Smith advised that responsibility to enforce parking restrictions on Red Lane and also parts of the Common that were unprotected by bollards would be a future concern. Cllr Warne to follow up with Tony Waite of WCC.

Cllr Macmillan requested clarification on the number of cars that could be accommodated by the allotment scheme. It was thought 15, possibly up to 20. It was noted that the scheme would stop parking to both sides of the road which currently causes problems regarding width for large vehicles.

Helen Wilson noted that Boyatt Lane properties had changed over the past years to become largely 2-car family occupancy. Residents had called a meeting and safety was a major concern.

Christina Avis agreed that the problem of safety must be stressed as it was felt an accident either to car drivers or pedestrians was waiting to happen. It was noted that a safety assessment had not been made of the area.

County Cllr Charlotte Bailey would approach the Safety Officer to make a safety assessment, speed check and accident record. It was noted that the time of day for this was important as congestion varied considerably. The time of 5.30 pm was proposed by Cllr Bailey. Photographs taken by residents of congestion at other times would help to support the case.

Cllr Gray asked whether HCC could reduce the speed around Boyatt Lane. Although 30 mph, it was felt that this was too fast for the area.

Margaret Teremetz pointed out that at the time of the safety inspection the lack of a 'Slow' sign from Pitmore Road direction and the partial obscuring of the slow sign from Otterbourne Hill direction should be noted. Cllr Warne responded that the hedge of No 2 Hilltop Cottages which obscures the sign and overhangs the pavement is currently being addressed with regards cutting back.

Cllr Warne advised that the road across the Common might also be closed to cars in the future as it had been proposed as part of the Sustrans cycle route. This scheme was currently on hold due to funding.

Cllr Gray noted that this would both increase congestion for Boyatt Lane as the only access route through to Pitmore Road and had added implications for the cycle route along Boyatt Lane.

In summation Cllr Warne agreed that the Parish Council would write to WCC with residents' concerns about parking and speeding in Boyatt Lane, in particular with regard to safety. It was pointed out that the closure of the car park was a legal issue which WCC would need to address. The Parish Council would work with WCC, HCC and residents to try to find a compromise and workable solution prior to the car park closure. Residents were advised to write to the Chief Executive of Winchester City Council independently with their concerns. The Chairman was thanked by the residents.

ELDERFIELD REPORT
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 15 NOVEMBER 2005

Present: Cllr Warne (Chairman); Phillips; Smith; Creagh; Wilkins; Gray; Jeffery; Zebedee
County Cllr Mrs C Bailey; District Cllr M Macmillan; Mrs PM Cole; PC Mark Smith;
Mrs A Langrish, Clerk, 18 Parishioners
Mr Paul Bowes, Operations Manager West, Langley House Trust
Mr Julian Perkins, Project Manager for Elderfield, Langley House Trust
Inspector G Marshallsay, Hampshire Police Constabulary, Winchester

Cllr Warne gave a résumé of the events to-date.

Anthony Rice was convicted on 28 October of two separate charges of wounding with intent and murder. Sentenced to 25 years in prison. Considerable unease in the village in view of the assurances given over the years by Langley House Trust.

- 22 May 1985 – AJ Richards, General Secretary – ‘As a Trust we are still unable to offer a home to any man who has a history of violent or sexual offences’.
- 20 July 1998 – John Adams, Chief Executive – ‘Let me assure you that the situation at Elderfield has not changed and there are no plans to change it’
- 15 October 1998 – John Adams, Chief Executive – ‘There is no intention of increasing the risk that present or future residents pose to people in the community. We are very conscious of the presence of vulnerable people both young and old in the area and are keen to reassure residents on this point.’
- 4 January 2002 – John Adams, Chief Executive – ‘We are very conscious of the presence of local schools, the use made of the playing field and the open nature of the garden centre and, for these and other reasons, will not consider offenders who present any increase in risk to the community’.

Mr Rice was accepted as a resident at Elderfield in November 2004. He had been convicted of rape and four cases of assault in 1982 and sentenced to seven years imprisonment. In 1987, while on home leave from prison he was convicted of two threats to kill and received a sentence of two years imprisonment. In 1989, 13 days after release from prison he committed other offences and was sentenced to life imprisonment for attempted rape and assault. He was released from this sentence on parole in 2004.

The Parish Council had written to Mr S Robinson, Chief Executive of Langley House Trust to express concern that Mr Rice was accepted as a resident in view of his record of violent and sexual offences and to ask for a definitive statement of the type of ex-offenders who were considered for residence at Elderfield. The Parish Council had also written to Ms C Knott, National Offender Manager at the Home Office to ask for an explanation of the MAPPAs arrangements and why they were ineffectual in Mr Rice’s case. Several letters from parishioners had been received expressing the kind of concerns that had been addressed in these letters.

Mr Bowes advised that it might be inappropriate to answer all questions because an ‘Independent Inquiry’ was taking place. This was between the Probation Inspectorate, the Police and Langley House Trust and (*Probation Inspectorate’s inquiry*) would be made public when complete. Mr Bowes gave a resume of Elderfield’s history within Otterbourne noting the hospitality and co-operation of the village and the involvement of Elderfield’s residents in public services.

Questions from Councillors:

Cllr Smith asked about the scope of the 'Independent Inquiry' and whether it extended to Langley House Trust's role within the village. Mr Bowes replied that there were three investigations taking place to ensure a degree of openness.

Cllr Smith responded that if the Trust had made commitments to the Parish Council since 1982 then it should respond to the Village.

Cllr Warne advised that there was a perception within the village that 3-4 years ago the type of resident at Elderfield had changed. At this time the garden centre had also closed. This had led to a build up of fear in the Village. Mr Perkins replied that he had attended a Parish Council meeting and had explained the garden centre was closed because of Risk Assessment reasons. During his time as Project Manager at Elderfield no changes in residents' profiles had occurred.

Cllr Creagh asked what type of offences the residents of Elderfield had committed. Mr Perkins replied that all referrals were based on merit, not on particular types of offence, however, paedophiles were not accepted due to the proximity of Otterbourne School.

Cllr Smith asked about the MAPPA principles and whether this applied to a special type of ex-offender of high risk. Mr Perkins replied that if there was a perceived risk to the public it required MAPPA arrangement to be made. MAPPA allowed measures to be put in place that did not come from the Court and it acted as support to the public and ex-offender.

Cllr Macmillan asked if there was anything notable from the profile of Mr Rice that could point to this happening again. Mr Bowes replied that the MAPPA arrangements were being reviewed independently and this was welcomed. It was uncertain whether this review would be made public. Cllr Warne advised that he had requested an explanation of how MAPPA worked in the letter to Ms Christine Knott, the National Offender Manager.

Mr Bowes advised that at present there is a 67% national reconviction rate for ex-offenders and compared this to the current rate of 1.6% reconviction rate for Langley House ex-offenders. This demonstrated the impact of the Trust on the way that ex-offenders re-committed to the Community. Cllr Warne responded that despite this report, the Parish Council was elected to represent Otterbourne parishioners and their concerns.

Cllr Wilkins noted that Mr Perkins had stated that the profile of residents had not changed at Elderfield over the years. The question was then asked as to whether ex-offenders with similar profile to Mr Rice had been accepted in the past and also would be in the future. Mr Bowes replied that this would form part of the independent review. Cllr Wilkins stated that this type of profile did not correspond to the reassurances given to the Village over the years.

Cllr Macmillan asked whether Langley House had any discretion as to the type of ex-offender it accepted. Mr Perkins replied that Elderfield was not obliged to take all referrals; it was dependent on an individual risk assessment. He stated that there was nothing within Anthony Rice's profile that said he should not have been accepted at Elderfield and that he had been working successfully in a community open prison for 18 months prior to his release.

Cllr Zebedee asked what interim arrangements of curfew had been made before the results of the Independent Inquiry were known. Cllr Creagh asked whether the procedure inside Elderfield had been changed following Mr Rice's case. Mr Bowes responded that some measures would be put in to monitor arrangements but there was no requirement to monitor the curfew as it was self-imposed.

Cllr Gray asked whether there was any difference in the level of funding received by Langley House Trust depending on the category of ex-offender. Mr Perkins replied that there was none.

Inspector Marshallsay advised that a police internal review was being carried out regarding MAPPa and information sharing and management of the risks. Cllr Warne advised that this should be made public in order to allay fears. Inspector Marshall advised that unless exempted, the review would be available under the Freedom of Information Act.

Cllr Smith asked whether the Village would be represented on the 'Independent Inquiry', particularly as the Village had been given assurances and there was genuine concern. Mr Bowes stated he did not know. Cllr Warne agreed that the Parish Council would follow up with a written request. Mr Bowes advised that after completion of the inquiry he would attend a Parish Council meeting to report and respond to any further questions.

Questions from the Public

Mrs Bishop, who had been on the Elderfield Support Group stated that there was a definite feeling that the category of person now at Elderfield was very different to that of 3-4 years ago. Reassurances were asked for that the remainder of Elderfield's residents were not of similar profile to Mr Rice. Mr Bowes replied that there was a risk assessment procedure called OASIS carried out which gave an individual assessment for each person. Residents were accepted to the project through the local probation service and with the risk assessments this produced a level of indication of risk – but nothing further. Mrs Bishop asked why Mr Rice's profile did not propose a risk. Mr Bowes replied that based on previous work carried out with Mr Rice the indications were that he was not.

Mrs Cole stated that since 1998 letters had been written to Langley House Trust to say that the type of person had changed in that they used to be immature-type ex-offenders having committed minor offences, whereas today the ex-offenders had committed more serious offences. Langley House Trust's website stated that they specialised in working with a full range of ex-offenders. It was questioned as to why the Village should accept ex-offenders such as this. Cllr Warne advised that there had been a general feeling of unsafety in the village expressed because of the case. Mr Bowes suggested that society itself had changed in this way. This was unacceptable by Parishioners as a cause for feelings within the Village.

Mrs A Bailey asked that a serious request should be made for a representative from the Parish to be on the Independent Inquiry. The Village had always been assured that this type of person would not be accepted at Elderfield and the question arose of how future residents would be chosen to regain the safe feeling of the Village.

Mr Kirby asked who set up the 'Independent Inquiry' and who would be carrying it out. Mr Bowes advised that there are three main agencies involved: the Probation Inspectorate, the Police and Langley House Trust. It would be run by the Probation Inspectorate.

Mrs Stokes asked whether residents were allowed out at all times. Mr Perkins replied that unless there was a specific curfew all residents had their own door key and could come and go as they liked subject to the 'working ethic' of the house.

Mrs Macdonald stated that Otterbourne had shown hospitality to Elderfield from the outset and that Elderfield residents had given service to the village in many ways. It was noted that the closure of the garden centre had made Elderfield more closed to villagers and that in order to regain the feeling of safety, it must become more open again. Mr Bowes agreed that this was an important

point. Suggestions were offered for working groups within the Community and also visits to Elderfield from individuals. Mr Perkins advised that he was aware that the closure of the garden centre had changed openness and his reports to the Parish Council every 3 months had hoped to address this.

Mrs A Bailey asked why the Cricket Club had continued to play at Elderfield re risk assessment. Mr Perkins advised that this was managed by the Cricket Club and strict routes to and from site were in operation.

Mr Bowes advised that a recent CCTV site survey had been carried out with regards to monitoring movements.

Inspector Marshallsay asked whether there were any other measures which would reduce the feelings of fear for parishioners. Cllr Warne replied high profile sector policing would help.

Cllr Smith requested that the Parish Council be able to make further considered response at later date.

Mrs Macdonald asked whether there would be sufficient investigation into the background of Mr Rice re the profiles of future residents.

Inspector Marshallsay clarified the inquiries. i) there would be a Police Internal Management Review by the Asst Chief Constable ii) there would a Langley House Trust inquiry iii) there would be an inquiry run by the Probation Inspectorate.

In summing up Cllr Warne restated that there was serious concern and fear in some areas and that this must be taken back to the various inquiries. Mr Bowes stated that he was due to meet with the Chief Probation Officer and would take back the thoughts of Councillors and local representatives from the Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Warne thanked Mr Bowes, Mr Perkins, Inspector Marshallsay and Parishioners for attending.

Note from Clerk:

There are three formal inquiries into this case:

- i) by the Police as an Internal Management Review headed by the Asst Chief Constable**
- ii) by Langley House Trust**
- iii) by the Probation Inspectorate also referred to as the Independent Inquiry. The findings of this inquiry will be made public.**

REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20 DECEMBER 2005

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the Meeting.

Replies had been received to letters sent to the National Offender Manager and Langley House Trust regarding the recent case of Mr Anthony Rice. The three inquiries held by the National Probation Service Hampshire Area, Police and Langley House Trust had all been completed. The date for the Independent Inquiry by HM Inspectorate of Probation was awaited. Cllr Warne had written to request the possibility of evidence being submitted on behalf of the Parish. It was confirmed that this report would be made public when completed. Councillors were concerned that information was available to Parishioners and updated through the Parish News and website.

A presentation by Inspector Marshallsay followed on the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA). This imposes a duty on police and probation services to establish arrangements for the assessment and management of risk posed by certain sexual and violent offenders. Mr Rice was being managed under the MAPPA arrangements. It is operated by criminal justice and social care agencies and aims to reduce re-offending and to protect the public. Questions were raised from Councillors and Parishioners. Cllr Warne concluded that it was important to retain ongoing commitment to the case and receive a full and proper response.

County Councillor Charlotte Bailey reported on the proposals for the new Park and Ride site and had requested information on the assessment of alternative sites as well as the preferred site at the Compton/Badger Farm Road junction. Regarding housing, 7000 responses had been received from the leaflet 'Where Shall We Live?' which will be examined before final response to South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA). In order to support the proposed 6,100 new homes a year requested by SEERA, HCC will request guarantees for more infrastructure funding and that the character and identity of towns, villages and countryside will be protected. It was not expected that major development sites such as Barton Farm would be called upon. The SEERA report will be published in March followed by a period of public consultation. A report from Project Integra stated that its recyclable waste is not exported to countries in the Far East, but is reused within the UK in established markets. Hampshire is approaching 30% recycling rate and has a record of high-grade sorted materials which is most important to the end market.

The Conservation Group reported that the Autumn Talk had been a very informative and successful occasion.

The renewal of the Licence for Otterbourne Sports Club was discussed. The wording of the current Licence was approved and a ten year renewable Licence was agreed with rental to be advised.

Regarding the unofficial parking on Otterbourne Hill Common, a letter had been received from WCC Traffic Engineers stating that safety issues on Boyatt Lane would be addressed by additional parking restrictions if necessary. It also advised that public funding for off-street residents' parking would be unlikely. Cllr Warne would arrange a meeting with WCC on site to discuss the situation further. County Councillor Charlotte Bailey had requested a Safety Assessment at the bend on Boyatt Lane together with accident and speed records and also the original assessment of the parking lay-by proposal next to the Allotments. Solicitors acting for No 1 Hilltop Cottages had put the offer of the easement on hold until resolution of the unofficial parking.

SUSTRANS had written to Cllr Warne stating that a 1 metre strip of Common land was required in order to complete the cycle path up Otterbourne Hill and on to Thornden School. Also that Boyatt Lane junction would require widening and an island creating. Plans had been received and further details regarding compulsory purchase were expected.

The overhanging hedge to No 2 Hilltop Cottages was discussed. This had been cut back as far as possible and any further cut would kill the hedge to the outside and present an ugly brown face. Council agreed that the hedge presented a risk for pedestrians especially pushchairs and wheelchairs and that it should be cut for safety reasons. Estimates for the climbing frame had been received and it was hoped that the insurance claim would be agreed soon. Some of the stanchions had been removed from the Recreation Ground and the remainder would be requested for removal. The bench on Otterbourne Hill Common had received temporary repair pending refurbishment. The leaves on Otterbourne Hill had been removed but further clearance was required, together with several other pavements within the village.

Three requests for donations had been received. St Matthew's Church needed to upgrade the Church Room to disabled use standard and Cllr Warne will examine this and report at the next meeting. The Open Spaces Society had requested a donation to cover expenses for examining and reporting on the new Commons Act and Council approved £100.00. Council declined a request by the Citizens Advice Bureau for funds to continue its home visit advice service which is to be cut due to reduction in funding by WCC. The tender for the maintenance contract for the Recreation Ground had been awarded to a new contractor, J Kimber Landscape Services who currently undertake Compton and Shawford Recreation Ground.

Julie Ayre, Clerk
23 December 2005

