

Sparsholt Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting 26 April 2017

Present:

Sparsholt Parish Council: Cllr S Wood, Cllr S Wooles, Cllr J Alexander, Cllr S Annesley, Cllr K Cobbold, Cllr J Little, Cllr A Osmond, Cllr N Reid

Other: Cllr Phil Bailey, Cllr Caroline Horrill, Mrs L McCarthy, Mr A Barron, Mr T Dunn, Mrs S Wesley, Mr J Cooper, Mr M Hodder, Mrs Judge (Clerk) and eight members of the public

Apologies:

Cllr P Chadwick, Revd J Machin, Mr T Jackson, Mrs M Bush

1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 20 April 2016

The minutes were approved and signed. There were no matters arising not on the agenda.

2. Sparsholt Parish Council Annual Report

Mrs Wood gave the Annual Report of Sparsholt Parish Council (attached)

3. Report from County Councillor Phil Bailey

Cllr Bailey reported that he would not be seeking re-election following completion of his term in May. Part of the reason for this was the cuts being handed down from central government with local authorities seen as an easy target for Whitehall Conservative spending cuts.

Cllr Bailey explained that the biggest issue he currently faced, when trying to support parish councils, was Highways with key concerns

- Potholes – general state of the roads (Please do use Fixmystreet.com to report any issues: <https://www.FixMyStreet.com> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/FixMyStreet> Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/fixmystreet>)
- Visibility at junctions – when grass cutting budgets are being cut back.
- Road safety issues either at certain junctions - where road layout could be improved for better cycle/pedestrian/car users' safety/
- Or speed reductions measures where road safety of school children or pedestrians is an issue due to cars travelling too fast through villages.

Current and future financial concerns included

- The Insurance Bill now for trips and falls amounted to £1/2m due to Pavement resurfacing.
- The Weed treatment expenditure cut was storing up a problem for the future.

Cllr Bailey wished to pay tribute to the Parish Councillors who rain or shine/ winter weather met to discuss how to improve the area and volunteered their time outside meetings to inspect play equipment and footpaths and be on duty 24/7 for the community. A particularly big thank you was due to Stewart Wooles for his hard working on the flooding issue at The Plough.

Cllr Bailey highlighted further spending cuts with £63m to be cut from Hampshire Schools (Schoolcuts.org.uk website showed a £70,116 reduction in Budget for Sparsholt School by 2019). The "Save our Tips Campaign" was aimed at ensuring that the waste recycling centres were not cut in hours, or even closed on Thursdays, and battling to stop charging for some disposal. One in five subsidised buses had been cut over the last 5 years. The Sparsholt bus service was not subsidised due to the college and therefore not in danger.

Cllr Bailey had handed out several grants over the last 4 year from the repairs to the roof of the village shop to Play equipment. More recently he had been able to supply £1,000 to the Friends of Sparsholt School for the Playground project and £850 to the Memorial Hall for refurbishment upgrading doors.

Cllr Woods thanked Cllr Bailey for all his work over the past four years and for his contribution to the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting.

4. Report from City Councillor Caroline Horrill

Cllr Horrill, who had recently been elected Leader of Winchester City Council (WCC), thanked everyone for their support. Three city councillors represented the ward of Wonston & Micheldever encompassing Sparsholt, an area the size of Singapore!

WCC faced a significant hole in funding in the next three years. Other districts were more commercial and WCC needed to do something different.

Laura Taylor had also started her new role as Chief Executive of Winchester City Council in January.

Cllr Horrill highlighted three major projects being initiated by WCC

- **Leisure Centre**

Following completion of purchase of the Garrison Ground from Tesco, the area at Bar End had been prioritised for the new leisure centre with targeted completion in 2020. This exciting new development would incorporate a 50m swimming pool, 12 court sports hall, four squash courts, a fitness gym with studios, a hydrotherapy pool and other state-of-the-art facilities.

A public consultation would take place as to how to best to use the Open Space at the existing leisure centre at River Park. It was hoped to incorporate a cycle route from River Park to the new facility at Bar End.

- **Central Winchester**

900 people had participated in a Community Planning weekend to give views on the regeneration of the area formally known as Silver Hill. Further Winchester City Council had agreed to buy the freehold of the bus station site in central Winchester from bus operator Stagecoach as part of its more entrepreneurial approach.

- **Station Approach**

It was recognised that there was a lack of Grade A office space within the city centre and this needed to be addressed. The procurement process to appoint designers etc had been launched by RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects)

Other significant non WCC projects included

- John Moore Barracks – this army training site was due to be closed in 2020 and debate was taking place with the MOD as to usage going forward
- Bushfield Camp – Consultations had been taking place about the future of this site, owned by the Church Commission, with ideas including a “Knowledge Park” together with some sort of nature reserve.

Planning

Despite collective opposition to the Digester at the College planning permission had been received. approval of the digester at the College was disappointing. It was good that parishes had aligned in their objection to the application. Going forward it would be essential to keep a close eye to ensure that planning conditions (Section 106) were being met.

Housing

A number of new council houses were planned and key was that people were happy in their homes.

Cllr Wood thanked Cllr Horrill for her comprehensive report and continued support of the village.

A parishioner commented that the whilst the business regeneration ideas (Station Approach) were potentially good for the job market that there was a discrepancy between the cost of living and working in Winchester. Another parishioner raised the question of traffic in the village – this would be addressed under the Parish Plan.

5. Reports from Village Organisations

Sparsholt Church of England Primary School – Mrs Lindsay McCarthy

Report attached

St Stephen’s Sparsholt with Lainston – Mrs Sally Wesley

Report attached

Sparsholt Village Shop – Mr Alastair Barron

Many at the meeting had attended the shop’s recent AGM and thus Mr Barron highlighted key points first thanking the many involved in its operation. The shop was not just a shop but a community hub. Jeanette and her team (including the Post Office) worked hard to replenish stock, source local produce etc. However, with the shop continuing to show an operating loss, including fund raising, reserves were being utilised. Ways to raise revenues were being sought. If everyone just spent £2/3 a week in the shop this would make a considerable difference. The shop was an important part of the Village.

Sparsholt Women’s Institute

Mrs Bush was unable to attend the meeting but had provided a report as attached.

Ham Green Volunteers

Report attached – Mr Terry Dunn

Reports from the Memorial Hall, Sparsholt College and Hampshire Police also attached.

6. Report from Parish Plan Group

Cllr Annesley explained the background to the Parish Plan. Questionnaires had been sent to every household

in the Parish in March 2016 with a response rate of 54.3%. Terry Dunn then focussed on amenities, John Cooper on roads and Mike Hodder on traffic highlighting to the meeting key concerns and potential ways to address these.

The next step would be for the Parish Council to meet and discuss the proposals from the parish plan group and its recommendations. Following this the Parish Plan would be sent to WCC for formal adoption and sit alongside the Village Design Statement and the Sparsholt Village Conservation Appraisal and Management Statement,

Cllr Woods thanked all members of the Parish Plan Group (Norman Wood, Sue Annesley, Terry Dunn, John Cooper, Mike Hodder and Chris Tovey) for the time and effort in producing this proposal.

It was agreed to postpone the Defibrillator training session as the meeting had run longer than planned.

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm.

Signed..... Date.....