

Finance Group Report

The Finance sub group recommends that the precept for the financial year 2015-16 should be set at £15225. This represents a 5% increase on the current level of £14500 which is made up of £13750.76 precept and £749.24 council tax support grant. The council tax support grant is likely to be withdrawn at some point in the near future. **SWD/SW/JL**

VDS

NR awaiting a final version pdf to go on the website and 30 bound copies (10 for the planners and 20 for SPC) from Hampshire Printing Services. **NR**

Playground

Nothing significant to report.

The repainting of the playground fence and the woodwork is all done. Unfortunately WD seems to think that SPC is responsible for painting all the fencing in the central area, although it is not our land. NR still has to sort this out. NR has not yet found anyone willing to give a second quote for repairing the goalmouth with artificial turf – the job is just too small for the contractors contacted. **NR**

Piano

No progress as yet. Finding a buyer for the piano is not going to be easy. If the more vocal members of the Village Hall Committee would like to assist in this process, they should feel free !

Shop

Unfortunately, NR missed the committee meeting on Wednesday, due to an oversight. NR had emailed Alistair to ask what time to should arrive (they have two meetings, one for the Committee alone and one for the staff as well) but he never replied, so the meeting failed to imprint on my memory (this is an explanation, not an excuse). NR will try and get hold of a copy of the minutes and report at the next meeting. **NR**

HCC Transport Forum

At Sue's request, NR attended this on Wednesday. It was pretty dull. Although called a "forum", the HCC speakers were totally uninterested in the comments from the floor (many of which, particularly about the lack of a bus station in the Silver Hill development and bus services generally, seemed pertinent and sensible) and all were patronised into silence. The only interesting thing was the talk on the Older Drivers Forum - it is worth taking a look at the relevant slides in the handout (already circulated). **NR**

One other matter of note

A large lorry went up Home Lane on Tuesday and pulled down Gisela May's brick wall, leaving it lying across the road. No-one has admitted responsibility. **NR**

Memorial Hall

Executive meeting held on 11 June, 2014. Outstanding issues included:

Maintenance: Electrical – now mended.

Hob failure – now mended.

Finance: Income down. Need to try and understand why but money from the race

Night should help.

Piano: PC to sell following village questionnaire.

Car parking: Meeting arranged for 23 October 2014.

Lunch Club: Request for free use of Mosaic Room once a month for Lunch Club granted.
OGM 8 October 2014

Income down because of decrease of parties (wedding and other) as well as band disbanding, the Photographic Society having fewer meetings and Brownies coming for shorter stays. This is offset by increased income from HCC (school) and by income from Race Night, exact money not yet fully agreed. Special thanks to Liz West and Roger Young for delving into this problem. Further consideration will be given to better marketing and making the hall more attractive both inside and out.

Other new issues include a pantomime and Christmas Fayre, the possible placing of a defibrillator and car parking. On 11 November Elaine Chapman had her appraisal carried out by Chair and Sue Fowler. Duties were modified and a number of issues raised. These can be seen in a separate report held by the executive. RS

Website

The website is up and running and I continue to maintain the content on behalf of the Parish Clerk. I continue to develop the site to be easier to maintain. **There are still some areas requiring content – any assistance with this would be most welcome** so that it becomes more of a Parish Council resource. I will arrange a suitable time to train the current and/or new Parish Clerk as required. JL

Emails

Most emails have been set up but are not active until I provide passwords which I need to arrange.

I also need to set up additional email addresses as discussed at the last meeting. JL

Newsletter

September's newsletter was delivered on time to our network of delivery people.

There were some delays caused by holidays. JL

Police and Neighbourhood Watch – Nothing to report. SW

Sparsholt Shop and PO

SW attended the quarterly meeting on Wednesday 12 November and noted the following points:

- On a Year to Date basis, at the end of Q3, sales are down by about £3,000 against the Plan. No single cause was identified, but steps are being taken to improve footfall. There will be a range of Christmas related promotions in the Shop. On Sunday 7 December there will be a Christmas Fayre in the Memorials Hall, AM, followed by a Pantomime in the afternoon .
- Retirement of Terry Dunn – A replacement, Fiona Beckett, has been recruited, approved by the Post Office and is now being trained.
- The Shop and PO management will approach the Memorial Hall Committee about the purchase of the Phone Box. SW advised that they should prepare a brief paper describing how they will renovate, maintain and use the Phone Box. SW

Highways

The last few months have been particularly busy, the main points are:

- Caroline Horrill, Sue Wood and SW met with Andy Smith, Principal Traffic Management Engineer at HCC, on 3 September to address the traffic issues identified by parishioners.

This was a helpful meeting that has produced some actions while other items continue to be pursued

- Speed monitoring in Sparsholt was carried out for a week in mid-October at two sites on Woodman Lane. We expect to receive a report on the findings of this exercise before the year end.
- Caroline Horrill, Sue Wood and SW had a useful meeting with Tim Jackson, Principal of Sparsholt College, on 30 September. This meeting identified a number of issues to be addressed. Also, we were advised that there has been no increase in the number of car parking spaces on the college site for more than 12 years. However, the number of students and the coaches delivering and collecting from the site have increased.
- Sue Wood, Richard Somerfield and SW met with Sarah Lees from the School Travel Planning Team at HCC and were joined by Lindsay McCarthy, Head of Sparsholt School. After a discussion of the issues, consideration of a revised scheme for parking around the Memorial Hall, we walked a couple of potential "Park and Stride" routes. A report from Sarah Lees is expected shortly.
- On the same day a Crossing Patrol survey was carried out. The result of this survey was that 10 children were counted crossing the road. To qualify for a crossing patrol the number of children crossing must be at least 15.
- Speed monitoring was carried out for a week in mid-October on the Stockbridge Road (B3049). The recorded average speed of traffic was 50.3 mph in a 50 mph area. The police do not consider that enforcement action is appropriate unless the average speed is in excess of 57 mph. Subsequent enquiries revealed that the monitoring equipment was positioned at the junction with Westley Lane rather than Woodman Lane, where there have been three accidents. SW contacted Andy Smith, he has accepted SW's reservations and will request a further speed monitoring exercise at the Woodman lane/B3049 junction.
- Junction of Woodman Lane and B3049. On 12 November, SW wrote to Ray B Gardener of the HCC Highways Department to advise him that the road surface at this junction continues to deteriorate and the pot holes continue to grow. Also, that the pot holes and other damage has been marked with white highlights on at least two occasions but, no action has yet been taken to repair the road surface which is now becoming dangerous. SW asked Ray Gardner to visit the site, consider what action can be taken to address the urgent, ongoing and growing problem and advise his conclusions. SW

Footpaths and Ham Green

All the footpaths are clear and access is open to all.

The Ham Green path repairs were very successful, and this has had good press coverage.

IH

Notice boards

I am working on the notice board refurbishment project and will have costs to present to the PC in December.

IH

Well House Roof

I have managed to get another rough quote for roof repairs to the Well House. £3000 plus VAT for new felt and battens, then replacing the old tiles. No doubt some of these will need replacing and we might have to be prepared for further roof joist problems once the lid is off the building.

IH