

Shedfield Parish Council

(Incorporating the villages of Shedfield, Shirrell Heath and Waltham Chase)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD 18 MAY 2009 AT 8 PM AT SHIRRELL HEATH METHODIST CHURCH HALL

Present:

Parish Councillors: Alan Cox (Chair), Jess Bond, Roy Phillips, Ruth Wiffen, Lesley White, Malcolm Hogg, and Rupert Irons

District Councillors: Roger Huxstep, Linda Gemmell

County Councillor: Felicity Hindson

Clerk: Yvonne Wheadon

Trainee Clerk: Jackie Hardaker

Police: PCSO Paul Martin

Approximately 16 electors from the community attended this annual event, including representatives from parish organisations as given below.

1. Apologies:

David Ogden (Parish Councillor)
Graham Smith (Parish Councillor)
Val Green (Parish Councillor)
Jan Veitch (Waltham Chase WI)
Maggie Mclean (1st Shedfield Rainbows)
Angela Barnes (Horticultural Society)
Robin Boston (Tree Warden)

2. Minutes: The minutes from the Parish Assembly held 6 May 2008 were signed as a true record.

3. Chairman: The newly elected Chairman Alan Cox thanked those present for attending and began by reading a report from David Ogden, the exiting Chairman, who was unable to attend. The progress and achievements from the last two years, which Cllr Ogden had chaired, were summarised which included a new website, separating of charity accounts, improvements to Shedfield Recreation Ground and the Cemetery, improved management of allotments and the extension of Shedfield Sports Pavilion to upgrade facilities and provide a permanent office for Shedfield Parish Council. Parishioners were encouraged to provide feedback and to input ideas to the Parish Council. Thanks were extended to all past and present Parish, District and County Councillors as well as the Parish Clerk and other staff for all their help and support. Thanks were also extended to all the people that have given messages of support during his illness. Cllr Ogden would remain as a Councillor and wished the new Chairman every success in the future.

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County Councillor Felicity Hindson

Cllr Hindson congratulated Cllr Cox on becoming Chairman and went on to explain that work is continuing with speed reduction and road repairs in the area with funding secured to extend the footway near The Forge Inn on the B2177.

Development at Silverlake Garage is still being monitored and a traffic survey is pending for Clewers Hill. A scheme is being piloted whereby small jobs such as gully clearing etc will be contracted and funded locally in 10 Meon Valley Parishes. Still striving to achieve a safe, off-road, route to school for children attending St Johns Primary School. Over 40% of waste in Hampshire is now being recycled or composted.

Hampshire's 101 telephone service has become a non-emergency police number running alongside the 0845 0454545 number.

A parishioner expressed concern that the national speed limit applies on many of our minor roads. Cllr Hindson responded by saying that is also a shame if the countryside has too many road signs and that there is a responsibility for motorists to drive with due care on country roads. Installing new signs involves a lengthy process.

Another parishioner expressed concern with regard to the number of dangerous pot holes that exist and also with regard to the fact that repairs crumble so quickly under traffic. Cllr Hindson explained that a temporary repair is often made so alleviate the problem until permanent repair can be done. New equipment should mean that permanent repairs will happen more quickly. Parishioner encouraged to report defects both to Hampshire Highways and the Parish Council.

District Councillor Roger Huxstep

Congratulations extended to both Cllr Cox and Cllr Bond on becoming Chairman and Vice Chair. Cllr Huxstep reported on costs of services and efficiency savings made over the last year. A summary was also given of Local Development Framework which proposes, for example, 300 new dwellings in Waltham Chase by 2026.

Winchester City Council will host consultation meetings on this subject as follows:

11 June 2009, 6-9pm, Jubilee Hall

15 June 2009, 3-8pm, Wickham Community Centre

There is still a large backlog of enforcement cases, 24 at present.

Noted that Yellow Pages can now be recycled and that an 8 lane running track has been opened at Bar End, Winchester.

Cllr Irons queried whether infrastructure changes would take place alongside plans for new dwellings.

County Councillor Hindson replied by explaining that a formula is used to calculate requirements for e.g. school going population. There is a need to ensure funding will be available.

Cllr Phillips commented that the Parish Council often advises on issues such as flooding when new developments are proposed and that this advice is often ignored.

Cllr Huxstep explained that Inspectors look at individual cases rather than the surrounding area. These problems need to be worked on.

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District Councillor Linda Gemmell

Congratulations extended to Cllrs Cox and Bond.

Cllr Gemmell commented on issues regarding the need for more social housing and the fact that existing housing is refurbished less frequently.

Cllr Phillips expressed concern that such housing in our Parish is not prioritised for people who are from the local area. Cllr Gemmell sympathised and stated that a 106 agreement needs to be in place in order to guarantee housing for local people only.

PCSO Paul Martin

Officer Martin gave a summary report of recent crimes in the area which included a burglary at Clewers Hill, two attempted vehicle thefts, a break in and attempted break in.

An increase in theft of garden equipment would be expected this time of year and so extra vigilance is required.

In liaison with Trading Standards, three 'No Cold Calling' zones have been proposed in Shedfield and Waltham Chase.

Tree Warden (Sue Grigg)

Sue gave a very interesting summary of the work carried out by the Tree Wardens in the Parish including a campaign increase awareness of trees in the Parish and planting of new trees at Shirrell Heath. A map showing trees with Tree Protection Orders (TPO) is now available on the Winchester City Council website. Information was given on the diseases that are widespread amongst Oak and Horse Chestnut Trees in recent years.

Sue is happy to collect tree saplings from anyone to plant out at schools etc. Contact details are in the Parish Magazine.

1st Shedfield Brownies (Leader - Mrs Sarah Moore)

Currently have 26-28 girls. Many activities/events have taken place over the past year including Harvest Festival, Diwali, Mothering Sunday etc. Last year the pack went to Alton for 4 nights Holiday Camp, this summer they are going to France.

Many fundraising activities have taken place for this and thanks also extended to Parish Council for a generous donation. The guiding centenary will be celebrated in 2010 and the pack has chosen to support a charity 'Kidscape' for that year.

Monica Simpson (Toddler Group)

Reported on its continued success and refurbishment to create new storage cupboard. 25-30 toddlers meet fortnightly and have fun with crafts and activities.

Roger Huxstep (Shedfield Society)

There are plenty of ongoing issues/developments in the area Silverlake, Raglington Farm, Showman's Depot, Church Meadow and other enforcement cases. A summer walk and litter pick have taken place and thanks expressed to all those involved in the latter. Cllr Huxstep urged vigilance with regard to planning in the Parish.

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Tri-village Championship (Organiser - Sean Beech)

76 people attended the event last year. The date for this year is 11th July from 10am to 4:30pm. It is hoped to improve the turnout this year.

St Johns Primary School (Chair of Governors Mrs Sarah Moore)

Two mezzanine floors have been added to provide an ICT Suite and Learning Support Room. Many successful performances have been staged by the children and the SATS results continue to remain high. Great successes also achieved in sport particularly in a Hampshire wide football tournament in which St Johns came second and cross country where the girls team won a pyramid schools competition. Ongoing fundraising takes place to support both the school and outside charities.

Waltham Chase WI

A report was supplied which summarised the events that have taken place over the past year. The 21 WI members continue to campaign for another crossing in Waltham Chase and to hold jumble sales. A visit to a twin WI in Wiltshire took place and funding via a lottery grant was received for member to attend a course at Denman College.

Shedfield WI

A report was supplied which summarized events from the past year which included an outing to Mottisfont Abbey, a garden lunch and many fundraising events. Celebrations will take place next year to mark the founding of the institute 90 years ago. 24 members currently and new members always welcomed.

Waltham Chase Pre-School

The Management Committee had applied for funding for a purpose built pre-school building on land near to St John the Baptist school. Unfortunately this bid was unsuccessful and the Committee is now looking for a facility that would enable them to cater for longer opening hours where equipment could be left outside overnight.

General Comments/Questions

The Parish Council would like to sponsor an event for elderly people in the Parish. Any suggestions should be fed through Cllr Phillips or Cllr Cox.

The Chairman thanked attendees and declared the Assembly finished at 9:40pm