

These are the unadopted Minutes of the meeting of 7 February 2005, please refer to the unadopted Minutes of the March meeting for any amendments.

Present: Cllr. S. Ambler (chairman)
Cllr. Mrs. J. Brooks
Cllr. P. Collins
Cllr. D. Jackson
Cllr. S. Payne
Mrs. C.A. Leversha (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr. J. Radley (HDC Ward Cllr)
Cllr. N. Lambert (HDC Ward Cllr.)

16/05 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs. Crawley, Hall, & Dr. Sinka and Mr. P Dickinson.

17/05 CHAIRMAN`S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised that he intended to invoke Standing Orders in that each Member might debate an issue for no more than 3 minutes as he wished to move the meeting along and finish at a reasonable time and there was a particularly full Agenda this evening.

18/05 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 11 JANUARY 2005 TO APPROVE

Minor spelling amendments were made to the Minutes. Minute 14/05 (ii) delete "stated" insert "understood that". Minute 15/05 – line 5 after "presentations" insert "about new licensing laws". The Minutes were then agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

19/05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA

Standing declaration from Cllrs. Collins and Crawley with regard to the Village Hall item, in that they are members of the CSSC and both have advised that they do not regard it as a prejudicial interest and would continue to participate in the village hall negotiations. Cllr. Jackson reminded Members that he was Chairman of Zebon Copse Residents Association and stated that there was no conflict of interest at this stage of the negotiations about the Velmead facilities.
implications for a later item on the agenda.

20/05 CONSIDER CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

The Chairman reminded Members of their duty to consider the crime and disorder implications that may arise from any decision they may make tonight but with particular regard to the Velmead Community Centre item.

21/05 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Before inviting the public to speak the Chairman welcomed PC Alex Batten our local beat officer for the village. He then asked permission to adjourn the meeting for the public participation. PC Batten said he would welcome knowing of any issues/problems within the parish and advised that his beat goes to the canal boundary and around the village – the community centre is covered by the Fleet police officers. Cllr. Jackson asked to what extent PC Batten would be involved in Dog Fouling bylaws and raised the problems with footpath 5 in that it is constantly fouled by dogs (but probably just one particular dog). PC Batten said he would look into the bylaws. Cllr. Collins asked whether there were any problems in the village and PC Batten said incidents were few and far between. Members gave him details of issues they would like dealt with. Contact can be made by ringing 01252 850261

which is an answerphone facility as he cannot be on duty all the time. He will respond to telephone calls. The Chairman then reconvened the meeting.

22/05 ZEPHON COMMON & CROW ACT

Cllr. Jackson proposed that this be deferred to the next meeting in order to deal with more urgent business.

23/05 TALL PINES

Cllr. Jackson proposed that this be deferred to the next meeting in order to deal with more urgent business.

24/05 VELMEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE & PRECEPT REQUEST

The Chairman advised that a Special Resolution had been received by the Clerk to permit this meeting to revisit the Precept request – the Resolution is to revisit item 11/05 (iii) from the January Minutes, in the light of pressure from Hart District Council in relation to Velmead Community Centre”. Four Members voted in favour – one Member voted against. The Clerk confirmed that if Members did not dispose of this item tonight it could be carried over to a further next meeting. The Chairman gave a précis of the events with regard to Hart District Council wishing to dispose of the Community Centre and cited the Hart Cabinet Minutes of January 05 which stated that Hart would no longer fund the Community Centre with effect from 1 April 2005. Today, Hart had finally come up with a proposal – it was stressed that this was the first proposal ever made to this Council. Unfortunately, the document had only been received by Members late today and the Chairman was unsure whether Members had had enough time to digest the proposal – at first glance it seems a promising document. The Chairman said he believed we would like to move to an agreement but there was an awful lot of things to be sorted and it was unrealistic to expect this Council to take on this facility in only two months – a more reasonable timescale would be 12 months on from 1st April 2005. We have been asked to increase our Precept by £31k. He mentioned the legal advice received from HAPTC which all Members had received and he read to the meeting the actual wording. The Chairman said that a reasonable proportion of the users come from across the boundary (the unparished area) and this is one argument against the Parish Council totally funding this. The item we need to deal with today is how much funding we can afford to put into the pot – effectively as a Grant – to keep the thing running long enough to facilitate a handover. On an informal basis he advised that approaches have been received from interested parties to form a management committee. Cllr. Collins asked if the Councillors could meet the volunteers in order to assess the skills they would be bringing to the venture. Debate on this matter took place but it was pointed out that this was premature at this stage. This will be part of the whole package which needs to be sorted out in the detail. If at the end of the day, following a more detailed analysis, the Centre cannot be made more financially viable then this may be money wasted. If the Centre continues to lose £50k this would certainly not be sustainable by this Parish Council. Cllr. Payne said that if we do allow some Grant from this Council it should only be released against viable invoices. Cllr. Lambert advised that the Crondall Village Hall annually elects a management team of eight and the remainder of the committee is made up from a parish representative and user groups membership. The Village Hall is now totally self funded and no liability on the Council. It is run as a Charity. Debate took place on the use of the interest accrued on the 106 money – Mr. Evans said he had asked the Legal Section if the interest was tied to the original 106 money and had been told “No” – however he

pointed out that the interest accrued was keeping up with the increased costs of any projects and cautioned against not keeping for this purpose.

Cllr. Mrs. Brooks asked “did we want to keep the Centre going?” All agreed “Yes” but it was pointed out “not at any cost”. Cllr. Payne said in that case how much did the Parish Council wish to Grant towards its running costs; and what caveats do we place upon how any contribution/grant is used.

After a great deal of further debate the Chairman summed up:

“In principle we are in favour of moving forward. We cannot vote to put forward money on anything specific – we need an awful lot more information on what we might be paying for. In the interim the balance of responsibility should lie between Hart District Council, this Parish Council and Fleet & Church Crookham Special Expenses. With that in mind he proposed that we Resolve to consider to increase our Budget by a total of £15k to cover expenses associated with this - £5k which we would put aside to meet legal and consultant expenses and £10k as a Grant towards HDC for the ongoing running in the short term – he was hesitant to add much more because much more information than we have on the table. A proviso was added that significant moves forward must be made before 1 April 2005.

Cllr. Jackson suggested we should be considering a proposal to put to Hart, not a final decision on the precept, since it was not until a mutually agreeable formula had been resolved with Hart that our precept could be re-determined. He was unhappy that we should just give HDC a sum of money – he would prefer that we took responsibility for a certain function and that we would pay against invoices. Cllr. Collins said we needed to know more about the finances. Cllr. Payne said we could agree that the money only be paid at the end of the year if all our agreed criteria are met. Cllr. Collins said we need to audit the books and we need an audit of the building. The Chairman said it was difficult to resolve as there are lots of things which we do not know eg it would be desirable to know if the figure put forward is a year’s figure – it might well be that the figure asked for could well be a pro-rata figure should issues be resolved fairly quickly. Cllr. Jackson said it was not an issue if we raise too high a precept – the only concern was whether the precept was high enough. We need access to detail in order to judge the risk involved. The Chairman reminded Members that what we are being asked for initially, is a gesture of goodwill in terms of funding in order to bring this to a satisfactory conclusion – funding to keep the hall going. Mention was made of the extra £10k which Cabinet had put into Hart District Council budget to help in the transition – the fact that this community centre has such wide usage from the unparished area of Hart and it was felt that special expenses should also contribute £10k. Cllr. Jackson suggested that we add to the Chairman’s proposal that we are prepared to fund 1/3 of the costs for the coming year, the unparished area fund 1/3 and Hart Council fund 1/3 providing all reasonably requested financial information will be supplied.

The Chairman said that in respect of the financial enquiries an offer had been made by Julia Amber (a chartered accountant) who is willing to give us a layman’s interpretation (free of charge) and he asked if

Members were prepared to accept this offer. Members Resolved to accept this offer and expressed their thanks for Mrs. Julia Ambler.

Cllr. Collins again said he wanted a satisfactory audit of the building – we might be walking into a minefield. Cllr. Jackson said “subject to satisfactory accounting procedures” be tied into our contribution. Proposal for discussion to HDC based on something very close to what is in the informal document. It was confirmed that the Crookham Village Parish Council budget is suspended until Members finalise it.

RESOLVED

This Council negotiates with Hart District Council that there should be a split of funding, for the next financial year 05/06 for the Velmead Community Centre facilities to keep running, of £31,000 as identified by Hart Council; £10,000 from Hart District Council in the amended budget paper of Cabinet 3 February 2005; £10,000 from our precept subject to conditions which follow; the remainder from Fleet & Church Crookham Special Expenses in recognition of the unique geographical situation of this facility compared to all of the other village halls.

Conditions: areas to be established are the following but not limited to:

Acceptable financial control of our contribution

The state of the facilities/grounds at handover

Clear view of all relevant financial information through our representative Mrs. Julia Ambler

Subject to the terms of the informal offer from Hart remaining on the table as a basis for negotiations.

The Chairman called for a vote and there were four Members in favour and one Member abstained. The Resolution was carried.

ACTION: Chairman

Clarification was given that upon auditing the books it would also be possible to project expenditure over the next 5, 10 or 15 years.

25/05 PLANNING

(i) General

Delegation of Parish Decisions

Cllr. Jackson attended a meeting on Tuesday – well supported by parish councils – which served to underline the strong feelings against the proposal to downgrade parish councils input by Hart Council. At

the end the 9 points put forward by Hart Council were debated one at a time and with the exception of one (the most important one) were agreed. When it got to the point where the ability of Councils to force applications to the Planning Committee the meeting was hastily terminated and no agreement made. He said we are now in limbo. He asked for Members agreement to respond to Hart on this matter – we need to reinforce the proposal from Hook Parish Council, which had the support of other parishes, sooner rather than later. The majority of Members supported his

proposal and agreed he should support the Hook proposal – it was agreed he send a draft via the chairman.

ACTION: Cllr. Jackson

Land to rear of Chestnuts

Dispensation has been granted for Cllrs. Ambler, Brooks, Collins and Jackson but the letter of confirmation has not yet been received. It was agreed that the Clerk endeavour to get the remaining Cllrs a grant of dispensation also.

ACTION: Clerk

LDF & Parish Plan

There is another seminar but unfortunately it takes place during working hours and no one can attend.

(ii) REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr. Jackson spoke to his report. The Report of the Planning Committee was accepted. Copies will be posted on the village noticeboards with the Minutes of this Meeting. Planning reports are also posted on the Council's website.

ACTION: Clerk

(iii) TREES

Nothing further to report.

(iv) VELMEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE

Dealt with earlier.

26/05 SECTION 106 MONEYS

(i) PLAY AREA L1

Tied in with Velmead Community Centre.

(ii) TALL PINES

Letter received from HDC stating that the 106 money had been correctly allocated to the skateboard park in Fleet. Members were unhappy with this response but felt that nothing further could be served by pursuing the matter.

27/05 NEW VILLAGE HALL

It was agreed to remove this from the Agenda until such time as it might resurrect itself.

28/05 MATTERS ARISING

(i) **Lea Green**

Weekly checks reports received.

(ii) **Community Transport**

Hart Council are tentatively prepared to fund the Call & Go bus service but this still has to go through Full Council.

(iii) **Parish Boundary Review**

This is on the back burner as far as Hart Council is concerned.

Cllr. Jackson said he would like to tie this in with the Velmead Community Centre issue.

(iv) **Youth Facilities**

An email has been received from Mark Blackwell about a meeting on 11 February with Kate Parrish to discuss youth facilities – this will take place at 10 am in the Civic Offices – any Cllrs are welcome to attend.

Mark has made several visits to the Community Centre in the light of large numbers of young people congregating there.

(v) Parish Plan

This has been delayed because of the urgent need to deal with the Community centre but it is hoped to move this forward soon.

(vi) Assistant Clerk

All members had had sight of the contract of employment.

Cllr. Jackson was concerned about the clause which said we would remodel someone`s home to meet health and safety requirements. He wanted it amended to say “will consider meeting reasonable costs”.

With this amendment the contract was accepted and the Chairman and Clerk can now interview applicants. It was pointed out that it is likely that there will be more than 5 hours work per week initially and this will be brought to the attention of applicants.

ACTION: Clerk & Chairman

29/05 FINANCE

(i) GENERAL

(a) Parish Councillors Allowances

Clerk has still to action.

(b) Management of Village Halls

Members agreed to purchase this booklet at a cost of £5.

(ii) Treasurer`s Report

“1. Since the meeting of 6 December we have received interest on our Bank of Ireland account of £204.63 in respect of December.

2. Our bank balances (after the below listed transactions) are:

Bank of Ireland	£56,640.00
NatWest Bank	£9.19

3. Cheques (all dated 31.12.04) have been signed by two Councillors:

NatWest Bank Account	
000007	Open Spaces Society £150.00
	Grant towards legal costs –S137

000008	Mrs. C.A. Leversha	£1,297.48
	Salary £1076.50; Expenses £215.12	
	(includes £21.28 S137) VAT £5.86	

000009	Mr. B.Leversha (reimbursement	£73.72
	Bookers A/c Christmas gratuities to	
	Hon. Members S137) VAT £10.98	

000010	Crookham Village Womens Institute	£500.00
	Grant/Hall hire	

Bank of Ireland Account

000051	Crookham Village Parish Council	£1,914.63
	to fund the above.	

4. Following the last meeting and after discussing with Cllr. Jackson we amended the draft budget by reducing Miscellaneous (line 17 col.5) back to £5,000 and reducing the Precept request to £15,000. I trust the Council can now accept the 2005/06 Budget.

E&OE.”

The January report of the Treasurer was accepted by Members and signed by the Chairman.

“1. Since the meeting on 12 January we have received interest on our Bank of Ireland Account of £219.19 in respect of January.

2. Our bank balances (after the below listed transactions” are:

Bank of Ireland	£56,700.00
NatWest Bank	£1.97

3. Cheques for signature:

NatWest Bank Account

000011 Society of Local Council Clerks	£72.00
Clerk`s subscription	

000012 British Telecommunications	£94.41
Qrtly a/c to 25.1.05 - VAT 14.06	

Bank of Ireland Account

000052 Crookham Village Parish Council	£159.19
to fund the above	

4. Following the last meeting the Precept upon Hart District Council in the sum of £15,000 has been signed and delivered to them.

5. Just under two months remain in the financial year to complete and be invoiced on all outstanding projects and purchases.

E&OE.”

The February report was accepted and signed by the Chairman. However in relation to para 4 we now need to advise Hart Council that due to negotiations with regard to VCC we may have to adjust our precept as it is still under discussion.

ACTION CLERK

30/05 LIGHTING

(i) General

Still awaiting information from HCC about Knights Close lighting.

(ii) Vandalised Footway Lights

Clerk still awaiting the return of these from HCC. Members felt that if they were not delivered soon the Clerk should write to the Director of Environment at HCC.

ACTION: Clerk

31/05 HIGHWAYS

(i) General

Vehicle Activiated signs – email received from Richard Hague (HCC highways) advising that there are criteria to be met before these signs can be installed. Members agreed to invite Marion Sinclair of the Safety Camera Partnership to a meeting.

ACTION CLERK

(ii) A287/Redfields Junction

The Chairman advised that the meeting had been cancelled and believed this was down to Cllr. Glen. The Clerk advised that the request to cancel the meeting had come from the Leader of Hampshire County Council who said officers believed that the failure of Hart to adopt the QEB brief made it premature to discuss the junction. The Chairman said that he was unhappy that the meeting has been cancelled. Cllr. Jackson said that the affected

Parish Councils should get together. Cllr. Lambert said he would be protesting strongly. Members agreed that the Chairman wrote a strong letter to Cllr. Glen and

copy in the Leader of HCC. Cllr. Lambert gave Members a précis of the past history of this particular issue.

(iii) Pilcot Road Footway

Clerk has followed this up and Cllr. Lambert agreed to put pressure on from his position.

(iv) Footpaths General

Footpaths 1 & 5 again disgusting with dog fouling, at the entrance from The Street. It appears to be one dog in particular.

ACTION: Clerk to write again to dog warden.

Cllr. Jackson asked where we were with regard to the footbridge at Malthouse bridge – he could not recall a planning application going to Hart Council for this.

ACTION: Clerk

Rob Thompson is following up on the Albany Farm footpath issue.

32/05 INFORMATION SHARING & AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Letter from Tony Farmer thanking Members for his Christmas gratuity

Cllr. Mrs. Brooks advised of a tidying up of the area around the post office flower bed.

The Chairman advised Members of forthcoming events

With regard to a letter from Hart Council about its complaints procedure it was agreed that we invite the Hart Officer Ruth Anderson to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Basingstoke Canal Authority had sent a draft management plan for Members comments. In view of the size of the document it was agreed it be circulated in a separate folder and that the Clerk advise the Canal Authority that we will need till the end of March to read this

Members advised of dates they would not be available and in view of this Cllr.

Jackson said there would be a need to co-opt two Members to the Planning Cttee for April.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm

HAMPSHIRE