

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
held in Velmead Community Centre
Danvers Drive, Zebon Copse on
Tuesday, 8 April 2008 at 8pm**

Present: Cllr. Simon Ambler (Chairman)
Carol Leversha (Clerk)

In attendance: Parish Councillors Hall, Ney, Sinka, Ashton, Jackson, Crawley
Ward Councillors Appleton, Bennison, Davies and Radley
Approximately 40 plus Residents of the Parish

1. CHAIRMAN`S REPORT

“ Good evening ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2008 Annual Parish Meeting for Crookham Village Parish Council.

- 1.1 While this year has been a busy one for the Parish, I will try to keep my formal report brief. There are a number of projects that are ongoing but I will just highlight those areas where we have significant updates to report. This will allow time for you to raise those issues that you want the Parish Council to look at.
- 1.2 I have also decided on a slight change of format for this year. As we are in the position of having six district Councillors and one County Councillor looking after our interests, rather than asking them all to make formal reports, there will be an opportunity for you to ask them specific questions.
- 1.3 At this point, it is customary for me to thank all the members of the community who have given their time to help the Parish in various ways. I am very grateful that this year we have had a lot of involvement from many people helping out with various projects and I apologise now if you are one of those people and I don't mention you by name, your help is much appreciated.
- 1.4 First, our thanks go to our internal auditor, Phil du Gay, who helps us to meet our obligations on a financial front. These become ever more onerous year on year.
- 1.5 Thanks also to Ann Kay who has represented the Council on the Cottrells Almshouses Trust and the Fleet, Crondall & Crookham Welfare Trust for many years and is now stepping down from this role.
- 1.6 Our thanks also go to Jean and Alan Symes for their continued upkeep of the Crossways flowerbed.

- 1.7 We have also had a lot of help on the project to take over the management of the Velmead Community Centre. I should particularly like to thank our financial advisor on the project, Julia Ambler who worked with Angela Sayers, our RFO, to put together budgets and financial information for the project. Also thanks to Daphne Gandy, who has helped with the preparation of the new grounds maintenance contract. I will say more on the Community Centre later.
- 1.8 The Parish Plan is another project on which we have had invaluable help from willing volunteers, to whom I would like to express my thanks. This means that we will be a position to publish information very soon.
- 1.9 I should also like to thank my fellow councillors for all their hard work over the last year. Like all the other people I have mentioned, their time is given on a voluntary basis and is unpaid.
- 1.10 Last but not least, a huge thank you to our overworked clerk Carol, who despite her many other activities, manages to keep on top of all the Parish work.
- 1.11 Having spoken about community involvement and how pleased I am with the participation, I have to express a note of disappointment that, despite making every effort to publicise the forthcoming elections in the hope of welcoming some new faces to the Parish Council, only six nominations have been received for the eight seats.
- 1.12 On now to your Parish Council's activities over the past year. I will start with a number of those areas in which we have moved forward significantly.

Parish Boundary

- 1.13 For many years now, we have been trying to persuade Hart to tidy up the parish boundary to include all of the Zebon Copse estate. This was one of the options on which we were consulted as part of the recent Hart wide parishing consultation. Also included in the options was the possibility of splitting up the existing Parish and moving Zebon Copse into the new Church Crookham parish. This caused some concern whilst it was debated, as it would have had a major impact on many of the projects on which CVPC was working.
- 1.14 We took the opportunity as part of this consultation to resubmit our request to realign the Parish Boundary, which we originally submitted as part of the 2000 review. This will ensure that those anomalies in sections of roads where some houses are in the parish and others are not are finally resolved.
- 1.15 Last month HDC agreed that there should be no major changes to

the Parish and that the boundary changes should be accepted. This decision will allow CVPC to go forward with security.

Redfields Lane/ A287 Junction

- 1.16 This is a difficult junction that has been subject to a steady increase in traffic flow over the years. There are now ever growing traffic queues turning out of Redfields Lane and an increasing accident record. After a number of meetings with Hampshire Highways department, led on behalf of the Parish by Councillor Robert Ney, they have agreed to implement improved signage at this junction.
- 1.17 While the sign in the Farnham direction has been installed for some time, the sign for traffic travelling towards the M3 will be more sophisticated and only operate when there is traffic queuing in Redfields Lane.
- 1.18 This should have been installed over the last weekend but unfortunately this was delayed by the snow and we don't currently have a revised date.
- 1.19 Following it's installation, we will be monitoring the junction closely to see whether the traffic flow is improved and the accident rate reduces.

Velmead Community Centre

- 1.20 No apologies to those of you who have seen this on the agenda for the last seven years. Yes it has, but last Thursday, 3rd April saw a major milestone in this project.
- 1.21 Hart DC Cabinet approved both the principle of the transfer of the centre to the Parish and the release of funding from developers contributions to make changes to the building which are deemed necessary following consultation with users. These changes will in turn improve the financial viability of VCC and ensure its long term future.
- 1.22 I am sure that the success of this key phase of the project was significantly helped by the excellent presentation made to the Cabinet by Cllr. David Jackson and Julia Ambler. As this is such a major project, I have asked Cllr Jackson to run through the key parts of his presentation for us tonight.
- 1.23 This is obviously not the end of the matter but the start. It removes uncertainty over the future of the facilities and allows us all to make firm plans for the future.
- 1.24 In addition to changes to the building, there are also upgrades of the play areas planned, which will be partly funded by the parish's participation in Hart's funding bid to the Big Lottery Fund.

- 1.25 Cllr. Jackson presented a slide show of the site and explained how the Parish Council had worked with users and the architect to arrive at a satisfactory solution which would allow greater use of both halls, a bigger kitchen, an admin office and enhanced sports facilities as well as solving the major issue of storage.
- 1.26 He explained how each of the changes would work and how they would then free up other areas to be available for hire. A stage area is to be added at one end of the new Hall and there is the use of the meeting room as a backstage area. There will be a new toilet block which would enable use by both sexes when male and female teams are playing. There is also extra storage for sports items e.g. white lining equipment.
- 1.27 All in all the changes would make the Community Centre a more attractive proposition for hirers and thus reduce the losses it currently incurs under Hart Council ownership.

Canal / Swingbridge

- 1.28 In line with previous consultation responses as to how much people value the canal and its environment, the parish continues to provide support for canal improvements. The grant is provided to the Canal Authority on the basis that it funds projects within the parish.
- 1.29 Last year the identified project was refurbishment of the swing bridge, which as you can see from the picture looks much better.
- 1.30 We have allocated money within our budget for the forthcoming year as well, although we have not yet decided where it should be spent.

Parish Newsletter

- 1.31 We aim to distribute two editions a year. We would appreciate feedback from you as to whether you feel this is the right frequency; whether you like the layout and what content you would like to see.
- 1.32 I should like to take this opportunity to apologise to anyone who has asked for something specific to go in which then didn't appear. By the time we get to the final edit, it is always a juggling act to fit everything we want in and sometimes we have to cut articles.

Pilcot Road Footway

- 1.33 Finally a short update on one of our less successful projects: While we haven't given up on this project and still see it as high priority, the prospect of reaching a successful conclusion is not looking good.

- 1.34 As time has gone on, the estimated cost has risen and Hampshire Highways department have greater calls on the money than they have available.
- 1.35 At the last meeting I went to, the suggestion was, that a case could be made for reducing the speed limit to 30mph and the road could be remarked in such a way that a safe area for walking could be created. We haven't yet seen drawings as to how this can be achieved.
- 1.36 At present, the Parish is still committed to this project and we propose to keep the money allocated to help fund this project in our budget. In the event that it becomes apparent that there is no possibility of a footway going ahead, we will, reluctantly, reallocate these funds to other projects."

2. COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME

The Chairman said that apologies had been received from Cllrs. Hutcheson and Singh. He invited those councillors present to identify themselves to residents and then invited residents to raise any issues with the Ward Councillors. There were no questions forthcoming.

- 2.1 Cllr. Appleton advised that the Hitches Lane development has now begun. Permission has been given for 300 dwellings – we will be getting 60 allotments at the end of this year. The roundabout and realignment of the road will commence shortly.

3. Appointees & Trustees Reports

- 3.1 Mrs. Kay advised she had been a representative on the Cottrells Almshouses Trust for many years and will retire in November.
- 3.2 She explained that there two main committee meetings per year and a meeting to approve the annual accounts. If a flat becomes vacant there are interviews for a new resident.
- 3.3 Residents (not tenants) pay a weekly maintenance towards the cost of running the Almshouses – other utilities costs are their responsibility. There are 14 flats – 2 with double bedrooms – they are unfurnished but do contain a cooker and fridge.
- 3.4 Communal washing machines and dryers are provided in each block.
- 3.5 There are 8 Committee members. The Clerk, Alex Pickup does an excellent job and the main administration is done by her.
- 3.6 Residents no longer have to be elderly to apply for an almshouse but they must be needy.
- 3.7 Mrs. Kay is also retiring from being a trustee of the Crondall/Crookham Welfare Trust.
- 3.8 A Trust dating from the 1800s, which originally provided fuel for needy villagers from Crookham, Crookham Village and Crondall.

- 3.9 Today it is a cash donation. Last year the payment given out just before Christmas was £40.
- 3.10 There are 6 recipients in Crookham Village.
- 3.11 At a meeting in November it is decided on the sum to be given and then a visit to those people eligible to check details.
- 3.12 Again, not an onerous job but a very rewarding one.
- 3.13 The Chairman again expressed his sincere thanks to Mrs. Kay for the many years she has given to both charities and asked residents to consider whether they might wish to undertake these positions.

4. INFORMATION ON YOUTH PROJECTS

- 4.1 The Chairman said that occasionally complaints are made about young people roaming the streets. The Parish Council is keen to engage with these young people and has agreed to fund a project with Hampshire Youth Service.
- 4.2 The project we have agreed to fund is a photography project which will engage with young people for a whole week. The theory behind this is that the young people will form a nucleus from whom we can then gauge what they would like to engage in.

5. UPDATE ON PARISH BOUNDARY REVIEW

Covered under the Chairman's report.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting for 10 minutes. The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 9.10 pm and invited Richard Gwynne to put forward his proposals for item 6.

6. REDUCTION OF TRAFFIC SPEED ON CRONDALL ROAD.

- 6.1 The Chairman produced a slide showing the trial traffic calming which had been installed for almost 2 years and which had been rejected by residents at a public meeting. The Chairman advised that speed figures had not increased much since that date.
- 6.2 Mr. Gwynne addressed the meeting. He explained why he had asked for this to be debated tonight and was heartened by the numbers of neighbours he saw in the audience. He believed he had the support of the majority of the village. Since moving in he had noticed the dynamics of the road had changed – there are a large number of children now living in the road. Since 2000 1896 homes have gone up in Elvetham Heath and now 300 homes in Hitches Lane. He had noticed an increase in traffic on the road.
- 6.3 The 2001 census shows that we can expect 2,327 vehicles to use Crondall Road. He wants to make it clear that he is only concerned with slowing the traffic down in Crondall Road not trying

- to reduce the volume.
- 6.4 He detailed several incidents in which he or his family had been involved. He said stats must be taken at face value. He said it had been established in 2003 that traffic calming is required and we need to arrive at what we want to see installed.
 - 6.5 Miranda Longshaw addressed the meeting. She advised she had been a resident for two years and said that the traffic volumes were very high. She said her car is regularly t-boned exiting the driveway. Traffic officers are saying that vehicles are travelling far too fast for conditions on the road. She believed that the 7.5 tonnes restriction is regularly transgressed.
 - 6.6 Brian Whyatt addressed the meeting. He had written to HCC in 2001 and was appalled that nothing had still been done. He said that the traffic calming had regularly been driven into because drivers are going too fast. He referred to his SID information which showed that 6,000 vehicles out of the 9,000 noted over a 10 day period were speeding. He was very concerned at the possible loss of human life – pets had died on the road and he did not want to see someone die before something is done.
 - 6.7 Graham Plumbe addressed the meeting. He explained that there had been a long long battle with HCC and the Police. He explained how the narrow vote had been arrived at which had led to the removal of the build-outs which he said were very very dangerous. There had been an extension to the speed limit further out of the village and there had been a 40 mph limit which had led to having to move the 30 mph further into the village up by the canal bridge. There had been 23 accidents in 23 years.
 - 6.8 Mr. Whyatt asked why we could not put traffic lights which could operate when the speed is being exceeded.
 - 6.9 Cllr. Appleton asked the meeting to please all stick to the 30mph limit when they use roads in other parts of his Ward.
 - 6.10 A lady asked if we could have pinch points installed as were in Church Lane, Dogmersfield. She believed that these worked and pushed more traffic into Crondall Road which has no pinchpoints.
 - 6.11 Cllr. Ambler said at all our meetings with Highways there is a general policy that Hampshire do not install fixed speed cameras.
 - 6.12 Miranda Longshaw said the reason Hampshire do not like fixed cameras is that they prefer mobile cameras.
 - 6.13 Cllr. Davies said something which might be considered is countdown signs – there is one at the Chalk Pit as you come into Odiham.
 - 6.14 The Chairman said there were some good ideas coming from the floor and while the problem hasn't changed the volume of traffic

- has increased. He invited other thoughts from the floor and advised we would have to go back to Officers with some ideas.
- 6.15 A lady asked whether it was possible to extend the 30mph out to the 40mph. Cllr. Jackson said the system does not permit a 30 mph abutting a non restricted road, so that residents should be aware that to extend the 30mph limit to Zephon Common Lane would also mean moving the 40mph limit out to, perhaps, Two Ponds. He also asked residents whether they were prepared to accept more signage in the Conservation area.
- 6.16 Cllr. Bennison advised that speed through Crondall village was also an issue and a traffic calming scheme have been put in and then taken out again because residents were opposed to it. The latest attempt in Crondall is for the Parish Council to purchase its own speed sign which can be moved around the area – Hart will fit it to various poles around the village. He thought this might be a route which Crookham Village Parish Council might wish to explore.
- 6.17 Chris Hannah said from what was being said tonight it would seem that the dynamics of the road have changed and it is worth re-addressing the issue.
- 6.18 Further debate came from the floor. A request was made that something be done to enlarge the rose bed at the Crossways in order to slow down traffic.
- 6.19 Cllr. Crawley addressed the meeting – he explained how the trails had been conducted and that such a public meeting, as tonight, had rejected the traffic calming. He then went to the graph slide and explained how few vehicles were actually exceeding the speed limit.
- 6.20 Graham Plumbe said we do need advice from the experts and this should be sent to Crondall Road residents showing what was possible and what was not.
- 6.21 Another resident said he was concerned very much at the narrowness of the top of Brook Hill. Cllr. Jackson explained how the Parish Council had endeavoured over the years to provide a footway down the hill but there were landowner issues which prevented this.
- 6.22 Cllr. Davies asked that Council consider purchasing a machine which would measure the weight of the vehicle and would show how many HGVs were using the road and then get the Police to enforce against them. He also suggested putting large white rocks on the verges.
- 6.23 Cllr. Jackson asked whether rumble strips would be acceptable. The general feeling was that these would be objected to.

6.24 Cllr. Hall advised that people putting rocks on the verges should ensure that they were legally covered and that the rocks were on their own land.

6.25 Residents wanted to know what the timescales would be and the Chairman explained that this would be on the next Agenda of the Parish Council meeting in May.

The Chairman said he was pleased at the very large turnout tonight as this would give weight to the Parish Council when it seeks to address the issue with Hampshire Highways and our County Councillor.

7. CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAD BEEN RECEIVED.

None received.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Graham Plumbe said there had been a long history of trying to get something done about footpath 14 and its very muddy condition – which at a site meeting with an HCC officer had been rejected and advised it was passable. Mr. Plumbe said he had since received an email from Phil Allen saying exactly the opposite.

8.2 Mr. Plumbe then went on to talk about the flooding issues and the discharge from Zebon Copse and possible discharge from new developments. A planning consent has been given for a BUPA facility on Redfields Lane and he wants the Parish Council to ensure that the developers carry out improvements works to prevent further flooding.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm when the Chairman thanked everyone present for attending.