

NORTH WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Alan Purkiss

Clerk: Bernadette Wheller

11 Ramsholt Close, North Waltham, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG25 2DG

Tel: 07766 783031 Email: clerk@northwaltham-pc.gov.uk

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 22nd April 2014, 8.00pm, Rathbone Pavilion

Chairman: Rob Cooper

Present: Julie Newman, Sara Thomas, Geoff Chapman, Allison Spyer (Clerk),
Cllr Anna McNair Scott, Cllr Andrew Finney, PC Barbara Bradley, Trish Wyatt (School Governor).

- 1 Apologies for absence**
Adele Stevenson, Peter Waggett, Cedric Cochrane, Keith Evans (Charity of William Batchelor), Cllr Diane, Cllr Rob
- 2 Minutes of 2013 meeting**
The Minutes of the previous year's meeting had already been accepted and signed as correct. All arising matters have been dealt with during the year or are covered in the following reports.
- 3 Parish Council Chairman's Report**
Rob Cooper presented his annual report, summary of which is attached as Appendix A.
- 4 Financial Report**
Allison Spyer reported the audited accounts for the year ending 31.03.13 were available for inspection. A summary report of the accounts by is attached as Appendix B.
- 5 Address by Borough Councillors**
A summary of the Borough Councillor Report by Andrew Finney is attached as Appendix C.
- 6 Address by County Councillor**
A summary of the County Councillor Report by Anna McNair-Scott is attached as Appendix D.
- 7 Charities Report**
A summary of the Charities Report by Keith Evans is attached as Appendix E.
- 8 School Governors' Report**
A summary of the report given by Governor Trish Wyatt is attached as Appendix F.
- 9 Police Report**
A summary of the police report is attached as Appendix G.
- 10 Meeting open to the public**

Signed Date

APPENDIX A – SUMMARY OF CHAIRMANS REPORT

Thanks to everyone for coming including our guest speaker, JONATHAN MOSELY.

Parish Council meetings are open to public, so please feel free to attend, this is an opportunity for locals to air views. We have had a few people over the last year, in particular following up the Situation in Barley View.

I would like to start by discussing some of the items that were raised by members of the public at recent meetings to the parish council:

The roads once again are not great with pot holes regularly appearing potentially causing accidents and damage to cars, however Peter Waggett is keeping track and has recently met with Cllr Anna MacNair Scott to discuss the issues and will up-date at the meeting in May. Many thanks to Cllr MacNair Scott for meeting with Peter and walking round the village again. After a similar meeting last year North Waltham was approved for Operation Resilience 2013 and various stretches of roads in the village have been resurfaced.

We would like to welcome two new Councillors they are Geoff Chapman and Cedric Cochrane bringing the PC to full strength , we were also joined on the Council last year by Steph Howe who after several months had to step down due to work commitments, her involvement was greatly appreciated and we would like to thank her. Thanks also go to Parish Clerk Allison Spyer and all the current Councillors (Adele Stevenson, Peter Waggett, Sara Thomas and Julie Newman) for their continued hard work.

Localism Act, Building houses in North Waltham

[Referendums/Neighbourhood areas still something that may happen?

[Objection to Kennel Farm and nearby wind farm

Phone Box is now owned by the Parish Council and we are going to have it repaired. Various ideas suggested for it are a book share or potentially housing a defibrillator. However we will welcome any ideas from Villagers.

There was an open meeting between Basingstoke and Dean BC and North Waltham regarding the coppicing issue between Barley View and Meadow Rise. This situation is still ongoing and an update meeting is in the pipeline.

Buses, the PC recently advertised that the borough council were doing a local bus survey and residents were advised to complete the online survey we have also encourage the village to utilise the busses - lose it or use it? There was no reply from the schools we approached with regards to setting up a service from the village to their schools although subsequently some now have appeared to.

Still looking at Funding for projects including fitness trail with the Village Trust and the Pond with is a focal point of the village. The PC will be investing its own money as well to improve that area.

With the WWI Centenary taking place this year, the PC voted through the motion to install a memorial bench down at the pond and to replant the fallen tree. A grant application was sought from HCC to fund this and was approved.

North Waltham finished fourth in VILLAGE OF THE YEAR, The Fox pub won highly commended. There was some stiff competition this year.

Finally I am happy to report NO INCREASE in the precept!
Once again thanks!

APPENDIX B – SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORT

I have a full copy of the Audited Accounts for the year ending March 2013, if anyone wishes to view them at the end of the meeting. You will have in front of you copies of the Accounting Statement for the year ending March 2014 summarising income and expenditure.

On the sheet attached you will see the proposed budget 2013/2014 vs actual spend 2013/2014 plus projected spend for 2014/2015. The precept for 2014/ 2015 has been kept the same at £10,100.00

	Proposed Budget 2013-2014	Actual Spend 13/14		Projected Spend 2014/2015
Clerk's salary & expenses	£ 4,282.00	£4136.00	96%	£4504.00
Clerk's telephone	£ 500.00	£19.00	4%	£150.00
Chairman's Allowance	£ 20.00	£0.00	0%	£20.00
Petty cash	£ 100.00	£100.00	100%	£100.00
St Michael's PCC	£ 1,265.00	£1265.00	100%	£1265.00
Village Trust	£ 3,920.00	£3755.00	95%	£3755.00
Insurance	£ 390.00	£358.00	91%	£390.00
Audit fees - T Marsh	£ 175.00	£200.00	114%	£250.00

Audit Commission Fee	£	162.00	£100.00	61%	£200.00
Subscription	£	390.00	£260.00	66%	£406.00
Rathbone Pavilion hire	£	200.00	£200.00	100%	£250.00
Garden competition	£	100.00	£77.00	77%	£100.00
Pond	£	1,000.00	£306.00	30%	£1000.00
Bus shelter	£	100.00	£0.00	0%	£100.00
Training & Clerk's Conference	£	300.00	£0.00	0%	£300.00
Office Equipment	£	300.00	£70.00	23%	£300.00
Local Council Review subscription	£	20.00	£0.00	0%	
Travel expenses	£	150.00	£0.00	0%	£150.00
Stationery/printer cartridges	£	180.00	Petty cash		£180.00
Anti-virus software	£	70.00	£70.00	100%	£0.00 paid for two years
Miscellaneous		£200.00	£200.00	100%	£200.00
Environmental maintenance	£	200.00	£0.00	0%	
Speed Limit Reminder	£	600.00	£0.00	0%	£600.00
Website	£	50.00	£0.00	0%	£50.00
	£	14,674.00	£11,116.00		£14,270.00

Precept for 2013-14 set at £10,100.00 plus annual grant from BDBC of £1100, plus grass cutting money of £1720.00. We also received two other grants totalling £900.00 and a VAT refund of £112.00 giving total income of £13,932.00.

APPENDIX C – SUMMARY OF BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT – ANDREW FINNEY

It has been an interesting year in Basingstoke and Deane dominated by issues surrounding the Local Plan process, and while this might still be unresolved there will be no immediate impact on the Village – access/egress from Basingstoke. However despite the local plan issues residents surveys reveal a high level of satisfaction with the local council.

The top issues remain safety and cleanliness. There has been good progress on Basing View and a new junction for Black Dam but most importantly, no increase in Council Tax!

Locally there are still problems with getting local roads surfaced due to budget constraints and high level of repairs required across the County. The newly introduced 55A bus service has been a success and is to be increased as pilot at some point in the near future. Andrew Finney also acknowledged the frustration felt with regards to the Barley View / Meadow Rise Coppicing issue and the lack of communication from officers despite Councillor Involvement. Communications have since improved but work will still need to be carried out over the coming year.

Lastly localism and community empowerment is still high on the agenda, however this is a work in progress.

APPENDIX D – SUMMARY OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – ANNA MCNAIR SCOTT

Appalling winter weather and the effect on our roads, with potholes filled only to reappear. We have set aside money to continue a major programme of works which includes some plans for North Waltham and I have spent time in the village with HCC officers.

Care for the elderly: As I'm sure you are aware, the demographics are changing and we can all expect to live for much longer, and we realise the importance of effective planning to meet the inevitable needs that will arise and to afford this. We aim to enable older people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible, and we give free care advice and 6 weeks social care for those recovering from injury or an operation so that a decision to admit someone to residential care isn't taken too quickly. We have developed 'extra care' housing – a step up from sheltered housing with 7 day a week 24 hour coverage and already have over 500 now with plans to build more than double that number and the object of these is to encourage and enable older people to live as independently as possible. These measures are partly because we know that that is what people want, but also because, looking ahead, provision of this kind will be more affordable.

Rising birth rate and greater demand for primary phase schools: after years of decreasing birth rates, they are now increasing and on top of that people with young families are moving into the county notably from London but from other places too. This means more school places and we plan to provide 8000 more across the county.

Energy: this has become increasingly expensive – anyone who uses oil will know how much it costs, and I'm sure all are familiar with the arguments about alternative sources such as wind farms, anaerobic digesters and solar panels. We were given money by government to carry out a major insulation campaign and I hope there are people here who have been able to take advantage of this. There's something else that is about to happen and that is a community switching scheme that should cut fuel costs for all who take part in it.

Economic pressure: we have had to save money as grants from central government have reduced. This we have done with a voluntary redundancy scheme and more efficient procurement and management structures. We may have reshaped services but most importantly not cut them and as you may already know, we haven't put up council tax.

APPENDIX E – SUMMARY OF CHARITIES REPORT – KEITH EVANS

Village Charity has £1820.79 in the kitty having spent £200 around the village in 2013. Incomings were £121.61 of which £120 were the proceeds of a card party and the rest bank interest. The total in the Village Charity accounts at end 2013 was £1820.79. At end 2012 the figure was £1898.95.

APPENDIX F – SUMMARY OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS REPORT – TRISH WYATT

This academic year has seen North Waltham Primary go from strength to strength with the best results ever. The number of pupils on roll remains around 145 with only small fluctuations as families move in and out of the village.

The teaching staff at the school has remained stable with the only change being Miss Fealey becoming Mrs Grice after her Wedding here in North Waltham in February. The other significant staff change was the retirement of Mary-Ann Chadwick at the end of the school year. After 28 years as admin officer Mary-Ann was very much the face of North Waltham Primary, an integral member of the school. We knew we were going to have a tough job replacing her, but were very lucky to have to choose between some very strong candidates. The new admin officer is Carol Hollyman, who has had a very steep learning curve but has fitted in well and is doing a fantastic job.

The school has always been very fortunate to have several very committed members of the local community acting as volunteer helpers. You will no doubt have heard that this year Mrs Hobb's contribution to North Waltham Primary was recognised in the New Years Honours List and she was awarded a British Empire Medal. Mrs Hobbs has been volunteering at the school for 18 years, helping with listening to reading and times tables and many other invaluable jobs. It is fantastic to have her efforts appreciated and our congratulations and thanks go to Mrs Hobbs and all our volunteer helpers.

The school buildings and grounds have had a lot of work done this year with all the outside of the school being painted, the fascias being replaced and new windows in the courtyard being fitted. A trim trail has just been completed in the field with money raised by the Friends of North Waltham. The willow dome built last summer, is now beginning to grow and should look great in a weeks time. In February a working party consisting of parents, governors and staff completed a lot of internal painting and staining.

Other highlights of the last year include a visit to the House of Commons, a trip to the Royal Opera House to see Carmen and a trip to the British Museum. This years charity that the children chose to support is Penn House, which they raised money for by holding a produce sale after the harvest service. The school continues to maintain strong links with St Michaels church, and the children participated in two workshops run by the church at Christmas and Easter.

The children take part in a wide range of sporting events, working closely with Brighton Hill School. They have a huge range of lunchtime and after school clubs, with many of the lunchtime clubs being run by the children. This year cookery club and scratch club (computer programming) have been particularly popular.

The school governors would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, children, parents, volunteer helpers and friends who all work so hard to make North Waltham Primary such a good school.

APPENDIX G – SUMMARY OF POLICE REPORT – PC BARBARA BRADLEY

Burglary

North Waltham had 2 dwelling burglaries this year, one at Yew Tree Road in which jewellery was stolen and one at Flowepot Cottages in which entry was gained but nothing was stolen. A burglary dwelling in Steventon has been linked to a series throughout the County.

Due to an increase in dwelling burglaries throughout Basingstoke rural patrols were carried out on a regular basis with dedicated vehicles from the Roads Policing Unit carrying specialist equipment and crewed with local officers targeting travelling criminals. This showed good results with arrests being made and good intelligence gathered.

Anti-Social Behaviour

There are no hotspots that I am aware of regarding anti-social behaviour in the village. In the main calls reported in North Waltham village have been in relation to vehicle nuisance. A local young man was riding an off road motorcycle on the road and private land in the village. House to house enquiries revealed several witnesses who were prepared to give evidence which identified the youth. He was subsequently interviewed and given a special warning relating to the anti-social use of vehicles which gives police the power to seize it should he be found committing further offences. I'm pleased to report that no further incidents were reported.

Speeding

Speed enforcement is not carried out in North Waltham village due to a speed assessment showing that the village does not meet the criteria for police directed speed enforcement.