

NORTH WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Geoff Chapman

Clerk: Allison Spyer

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 21st April 2015, 8.00pm, Rathbone Pavilion

Chairman: Geoff Chapman

Present: Adele Stevenson, Peter Waggett, Julie Newman, Sara Thomas, Allison Spyer (Clerk),
Cllr Anna McNair Scott, Cllr Stuart Frost,

- 1 Apologies for absence**
Keith Evans (Charity of William Batchelor), Trish Evans (School Governor)
- 2 Minutes of 2014 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**
Geoff Chapman 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 31.03.14 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 Stuart Frost 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

Welcome to all and thank you coming along to the APM. Parish Council meeting are open to the public so feel free to attend and make the most of the opportunity for locals to all their views and ask questions of the Council. Over recent months there have been some changes in the council. Unfortunately Rob Cooper and Cedric Cochrane had to step down from their roles on the PC, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank them and let it be known their contribution is to the council is greatly appreciated. As the forthcoming election has been declared as uncontested we will see three new councillors joining the Parish Council, so I'd like to welcome Judith, Sally and Mark and look forward to working with them. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all the present Councillors and the Clerk for their efforts over the last 12 months. As everyone knows 2014 was the centenary of the start of WWI with a number of events around the country to commemorate the events of 1914. As part of these North Waltham installed a memorial bench next to the village pond as a token of commemoration for those in the village and wider community that made the ultimate sacrifice. Also as part of this year's Hampshire Village of the Year competition, North Waltham was awarded a 1st place in the WWI Commemorations category at the for the excellent exhibition held in the church by the NWSAD Historic Society. Finally the old BT phone box is back to looking its best after a new coat of paint and being re-glazed. The next stage is to find a new use for it, allowing it to become a useful asset for the community, so any suggestions welcome.

Over the last 12 months there has been some much needed improvement to the roads in and around the village most noticeably with the resurfacing of a substantial section of Maidenthorne Lane, and a number of potholes on Mary Lane being filled in. However there are still a number of issues most noticeably down Popham Lane, by The Fox and Steventon Road. Unfortunately, after a period of consultation the Hampshire County Council chose to cancel the running of the No.55 bus route that supplied North Waltham and Dummer. However, Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council still provided the No.55a that runs 3 times a week and it is presently under review to improve its service for the residents of the local communities in response to the removal of the No.55 route. After lengthy period of consultation with both residents and Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council the planned coppicing work between Barley View, Burydown Mead and Home Mead has finally taken place. After the re-planting Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council now look to enter a regular cycle of maintenance that will hopefully is to the satisfaction of the residents. The year in partnership with the North Waltham Village Trust the Parish Council launched a new community website with the aim of providing focal point for communication, news and information about the community for the community. Special thanks have to go Allan Hawkey for his contribution and efforts with regards to establishment of this much-appreciated resource. The forth coming year is going to present a number of challenges to village, notably the potential hospital, cemetery developments and the various impacts of and Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council's emerging local plan. The Parish Council aims to be a strong advocate for the community on all of these issues, representing the wishes of its residents and order to allow the village to grow and develop without losing any of the character and quality of life that North Waltham prides itself on.

APPENDIX B – SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORT

I have a full copy of the Audited Accounts for the year ending March 2014, 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 2015 summarising income and expenditure. On the sheet attached you will see the proposed budget 2014/2015 vs actual spend 2014/2015 plus projected spend for 2015/2016. The precept for 2015/ 2016 is £10,423.00

	Proposed Budget 2014-2015	Actual Spend 14/15		Projected Spend 2015/2016
Clerk's salary & expenses	£4282.00	4125	99%	£4288.00
Clerk's home working allowance	£216.00	216	100%	£216.00
Chairman's Allowance	£20.00	20	50%	£20.00
Petty cash	£100.00	100	100%	£100.00
St Michael's PCC	£1265.00	1313	104%	£1288.00
Village Trust	£3920.00	3755	99%	£3830.00
Insurance	£390.00	393	101%	£400.00
Audit fees - T Marsh	£175.00	200	114%	£250.00
Audit Commission Fee	£162.00	120	75%	£200.00
Subscription	£270.00	221	82%	£290.00
Rathbone Pavilion hire	£250.00	200	80%	£250.00
Garden competition	£100.00	159	158%	£200.00
Pond	£1000.00	0	-	£1000.00
Bus shelter	£100.00	0	-	£100.00
Training & Clerk's Conference	£300.00	£135.00	45%	£300.00
Office Equipment	£300.00	0	-	£300.00
Travel expenses	£150.00	0	-	£100.00
Stationery/printer cartridges	£180.00	0	-	£184.00
Anti-virus software	£70.00	70	100%	£70.00
Miscellaneous	£200.00	1647	823%	£204.00
Website	£50.00	205	409%	£200.00
Phone Box	-	-	-	£200.00
Communications	-	-	-	£300.00

On the sheet attached you will see the proposed budget 2014/2015 vs actual spend 2014/2015 plus projected spend for 2015/2016. The precept for 2015/ 2016 is £10,423

Precept for 2014-15 was set at £10,100.00 plus annual grant from BDBC of £1100, plus grass cutting money of £1720.00 and council tax support grant of £373. North Waltham also had a VAT repayment of £112 and an additional £100 from the village of the year competition giving a total annual income of £13,505.00

The miscellaneous item is over budget due to the telephone box refurb and the new memorial bench.

APPENDIX C – SUMMARY OF BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT – STUART FROST

In Feb The Council passed this year's budget. The finances of the Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council (BDBC) are in excellent shape. As before the BDBC Council Tax precept is unchanged for the sixth year in succession. It is an interesting statistic that our council tax (BDBC precept) is the 6th lowest in the country, but yet our spend per head at ninth, is one of the highest in the country. That demonstrates good financial management. Unemployment in Basingstoke is below the national and regional average with new businesses arriving here to lower these figures further. These include Network Rail, John Lewis and Waitrose. So last month we had a very upbeat council meeting, with very little of substance that the opposition could grasp hold of.

Just a couple of Borough wide headlines:

- The hanging Gardens of Basingstoke are a national feature for us to be proud of with the roof gardens of Mountbatten house in Basing View having been given Grade II listed status.
- A partner firm has been appointed to assist in redeveloping and regenerating the Leisure Park. The plan is to introduce zones, revamp the Aquadrome and to include a market square and restaurants.
- With work progressing on the Black Dam roundabout, government cash has now been earmarked to improve Brighton Hill roundabout, thanks to Enterprise M3.
- Progress continues on the improvement of the Top of Town with new street furniture and grants to improve shop fronts and with the appointment of a specialist manager to deal with the markets. There are plans for a French market and an Italian market along with a drive to rid the streets there of chewing gum.

One of the main purposes of the local plan is to allocate land for housing development over the next 14 years out to 2029. As a result of initial comments by the Planning Inspectorate the cabinet decided to increase the yearly housing number by 100 dwellings to 850. The extra land to be included in the plan to cover most of the increase is at Hounsome Field, which is adjacent to Kennel Farm near the A30 just beyond Kempshott and Beggarwood. This is, of course again on the west side of Basingstoke, where the majority of housing in the plan is allocated. Objections have been recorded to the overall Local Plan, specifically the extent of the Manydown proposal and the inclusion of the Golf Course, which we shall pursue when the official Examination in Public arrives in the autumn. If there are no further delays, the plan is due to be adopted in the spring 2016 and we shall all be very relieved indeed when that happens and we can stop fighting developers who are taking advantage of our lack of allocated sites.

Beechtrees development in Oakley. The mass development of a conservation site just to the south of the centre of Oakley was successfully rejected at a recent meeting of Development Control (DC). I understand that DC's decision will be appealed by the developer, by which time the Oakley Local Plan will hopefully be in place and adopted, which will give further reasons for rejecting this development.

The Planned Acute Hospital Unit at J7 M3. The planning application has been submitted and I urge people to look at the application closely. I strongly advise that in order to gain traction with the DC committee that any objections are made on planning grounds only, as it is precisely these matters only that the committee can take into consideration.

North Waltham Local Plan. I understand that this is something that is being considered by the Parish Council and once in place it can be adopted by BDBC to help prevent unwanted development. I urge you all to support your Parish Councillors by actively participating and volunteering help when asked.

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

There's no secret about the reduction in the grants from central government to local authorities and the County Council has had its share of cuts but is now well on its way to having saved its third £100 million. We've achieved this through a major voluntary redundancy programme, and measures such as joint arrangements with other authorities both within and outside Hampshire – for example we now share our IT Services with Oxfordshire County Council, and the Police Headquarters is being moved to a County Council owned building. There has also been some welcome support from Central Government towards the considerable costs of making good after the 2013/14 winter, and a £5 million reward for not raising Council Tax, but finding ways of making savings on revenue spending isn't getting any easier.

There are demographic pressures too – the birth rate is rising, more houses are being built and there is an increase in families moving from London and other cities to Hampshire. There is particular pressure now as you may well know with the allocation of school places happening at the moment. In response to the figures, the County Council has embarked on its largest ever capital investment programme for schools - about £250 million for new build, extensions and improvements.

The Council is also investing in other capital projects – more Extra-Care housing to meet demographic pressures at the advanced end of life, road improvements, faster broadband particularly in rural areas and, on a smaller scale, is installing energy-saving measures in many of its buildings. Another initiative the County Council has taken, together with Winchester City Council, is to form the Hampshire Cultural Trust – a new independent charity for museums, galleries and other visitor attractions across the County which was launched last month.

One anxiety in this time of austerity is that the quality of County Council services will be affected, and we had some welcome reassurance earlier this year with the results of a new inspection regime for Children's Services authorities – one of only a handful given the highest rating of 'good', and the only County where the leadership is rated as 'outstanding'.

Perhaps - most significantly as it affects every householder in the County – Council Tax has been frozen again for the sixth consecutive year.

APPENDIX E – SUMMARY OF CHARITIES REPORT – KEITH EVANS

Committee is comprised of Revd Julia, Margaret Carter and Keith Evans:

£1673.05 in the bank. Interest this year was £2.24 - our only income. £150 spent in the village last year. Another £150 was agreed by the committee and held available but was not subsequently called upon. It has been quiet year all round!

APPENDIX F – SUMMARY OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS REPORT – TRISH WYATT

Report from North Waltham Primary School 2015

It has been yet another successful year at North Waltham Primary. The numbers on roll remain at around 146 and are set to rise slightly next year, the school remains popular and the results for both progress and attainment remain above the National average.

The teaching staff has remained the same this year, but there has been some changes to the Teaching assistants. The Governing body has also remained stable this year with, only Mrs Faulkner stepping down as staff governor after over twenty years in the position, and being replaced by Miss Walker.

The staff have worked extremely hard this year implementing many new government initiatives, a new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy has been introduced and is working well. All staff and the SEN Governors have received training. The new national curriculum has been introduced and a new assessment system has been devised. In addition to these major changes across the school the admin staff have had to deal with a new purchasing system, which has caused major problems for all schools across Hampshire.

I cannot praise the staff highly enough for how hard they have worked this year to successfully implement all these changes and continue to maintain and improve standards of progress and attainment for all the children.

The governing body has undertaken full Governing body training on the latest Ofsted framework and in September will be re-constituted in accordance with government guidelines to streamline all government bodies to improve efficiency and make sure that recruitment of new governors is more skills based.

The school has continued to work hard this year on reducing the traffic congestion at the beginning and end of the school day. One of the governors accompanied two of the children on a Junior Road Safety Officer training day and we have set up a school travel team with the two JRSO's and governors, staff and parents and the work we have done has been recognised by HCC travel team. We are the first school in the Basingstoke area to attain the bronze award in the Sustainable Transport Accreditation and Reward Scheme (STARS).

During a visit to the school this year Sir George Young, was very impressed with the standard of the children's work and said, "The staff and governors should be very proud of what they had achieved at North Waltham Primary". I totally agree with him and would like to thank all the staff, children, parents, volunteer helpers and governors for all the effort that they put in to making North Waltham such a great school.

APPENDIX G – SUMMARY OF POLICE REPORT – PCSO 13301 ANDY JONES

Between 01/04/14 & 01/04/15 a total of 590 incidents were recorded on Basingstoke South Rural. This includes The Candovers, Upton Grey & Oakley, Steventon, Deane, Popham, Oakley, Malshanger and Wootton St Lawrence. The village of North Waltham alone had 70 approx reported incidents between the above dates.

There have been many adjustments within Hampshire Police service making the force more streamline losing the beats and having them replaced by neighbourhoods. As part of these changes a survey was sent to households throughout Hampshire and residents asked as to what their local priorities should be and the outcome of this is shown below.

Burglary

North Waltham has had 1 dwelling burglary between 1st Apr 2014 – 1st April 2015; The dwelling burglary was an address in Cold Harbour in which a number of personal items and a sum of cash had been taken.

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.

Burglary Non Dwelling

2 of these have been non dwelling premises, one at the crematorium on Stockbridge Road where an untidy search was done but nothing was taken. One at Folly Farm which had 5 chain saws stolen.

Traffic

Oakley speedwatch team were out on the 31/03/2015 from 08.00 hours to 09.00 hours on the Andover Road in Oakley

Results

5 - 1st time offenders