

NORTH WALTHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Geoff Chapman

Clerk: Allison Spyer

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MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 19th April 2016, 8.00pm, Rathbone Pavilion

Chairman: Geoff Chapman

Present: Cllr Adele Stevenson, Cllr Peter Waggett, Cllr Sara Thomas, Cllr Sally Evans, Cllr Mark Dinning, Cllr Judith McGinley & Allison Spyer (Clerk). County Cllr Anna McNair Scott, District Cllr Stuart Frost, Malcolm Knight (Village Trust) & Keith Evans (Charities)

1 Apologies for absence:

Andrew Jones (Police) & Trish Wyatt (School).

2 Minutes of 2015 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 Address by County Councillor

A summary of the County Councillor Report by Anna McNair-Scott is attached as Appendix A.

4 Parish Council Chairman's Report

Geoff Chapman presented his annual report, summary of which is attached as Appendix B.

5 Financial Report

Allison Spyer reported the audited accounts for the year ending 31.03.15 were available for inspection. A summary report of the accounts by is attached as Appendix C.

6 Address by Borough Councillors

A summary of the Borough Councillor Report by Stuart Frost is attached as Appendix D.

7 Village Trust

A summary of the report presented by Malcolm Knight on behalf of the Village Trust is attached as Appendix E

8 Charities Report

A summary of the Charities Report by Keith Evans is attached as Appendix F.

9 School Governors' Report

A summary of the report given by Governor Trish Wyatt is attached as Appendix G.

10 Police Report

A summary of the police report is attached as Appendix H.

11 North Waltham Neighbourhood Planning Group

Presentation on the North Waltham Neighbourhood Plan

12 Meeting open to the public

Signed Date

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

Hampshire's council tax next year will be the lowest of any county in England and Wales. This is despite the axing of the Government's Council Freeze Grant and the Government authorising county councils to raise Council Tax by 2% to pay for additional provision for adult social care and so ease the burden on the NHS. The Government settlement just before Christmas came as a considerable shock as there is normally some consultation so we know roughly what to expect but this year there was none. Fortunately, we had set aside a grant equalisation reserve but this reserves is now used up. However, after representations to government, we received a £9 million grant earlier this year so we now do have some reserves – very important given our total budget of about £1.9 billion per year. After 6 years with a stand-still of Council Tax in the county, Hampshire has to raise its precept by 3.99% this coming year. This is an increase of £41.40 on a Band D property - or 80 pence a week. In real terms, after inflation is taken into account the Hampshire tax is still lower than it was 5 years ago.

Needless to say, budgetary pressures have made things even more difficult and inevitably our Highways department is yet further stretched so it's difficult to get work done unless there are safety issues. However, we are continuing with Operation Resilience and, as ever, summer is the time for highways work so if you have specific urgent issues please get in touch and I will do what I can.

I have been part of a group looking at the library service which is subject to challenging budgetary reductions. Some of you may be aware of the major public consultation over 11 weeks between November and March to which over 9,500 people and organisations responded. It was reported in the media that smaller libraries would be closed and this is not the case, but the mobile library service will be withdrawn at the end of June this year. Part of the consultation was about the mobile service, and the proposals were supported by over 60% of the respondents to the consultation. The justification for this is based partly on inefficiency resulting on technical IT problems and vehicle breakdowns – the fleet is reaching the end of its leasing arrangements and would be very expensive to replace. Also over 100 of the 250 stops have fewer than 4 customers and the cost per book issue is nearly double that for static libraries, and over 25% of mobile users also attend a static library. However, the Home Library Service can be organised for those customers who are unable to access their nearest library, and free online Library learning sessions will be offered in community venues for those losing their mobile service. Where possible the Library Service will develop links with voluntary sector groups that provide community transport to help people access their local library, and there may be other opportunities too. Our plans for the libraries are about more than just saving money – library use has changed considerably and the service needs to respond to this notably by bringing all libraries' IT systems up to the level of the best and enabling libraries to be used for community purposes. We're also looking at ways of keeping libraries open without the presence of staff – many of the responses from the consultation referred to limited hours and the importance of extending them.

APPENDIX B – 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 air their views and ask questions of the Council.

For the Parish Council the year started with the elections in May. While the election for North Waltham Parish Council was uncontested all the seats were filled with three new councillors with Mark, Sally and Judith joining myself, Adele, Sara and Peter on the council.

The election rather quickly followed by the largest planning application the village has had in recent years when finally received the Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust submitted an outline planning application for the new Critical Treatment Unit and related facilities. Despite the Parish Council submitting 22 pages of comments along with 107 other objections being submitted Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council voted to approve the application, however the Trust is now awaiting reports for various stakeholders with regards to funding, so we are still non the wiser as to if and when the development will go ahead.

On the subject of planning, after rather lengthy process Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council recently received notice that, pending some modifications, the draft Local Plan had been adjudged to be sound. Therefore, it is anticipated that following a full council meeting on 26th May that it will be adopted and thus form the development plan for the borough and will guide development in the period up to 2029 and provide the framework for Neighbourhood Plans.

The pending adoption of the Local Plan is good news for the future of the North Waltham Neighbourhood Development Plan which work began on at the start of the year, but more on that later.

In early October I attended the award ceremony for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Village of the Year competition at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. At the presentation The Fox won award for the best community

Pub, which given the volume of quality country pubs across Hampshire is something to be very proud of. The village as a whole was highly commended in the village of the year competition.

The annual garden of the year competition was this year won by Kevin and Carol Rowe of Church Farm Close, with Bill and Julia Preston of Longfield Close in second place and Peter and Heather Cove from Well Close taking third. The prize for hanging baskets went to Jan Peterson of Old Barn Close.

In November it was brought to the attention of the Parish Council that Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council were entering a program of reviewing all the Conservation Areas within the borough. We have been informed that North Waltham is in the second wave of the assessment process, but at this time no formal timescales have been set.

In February this year it was announced that Stagecoach had taken over the running of the village bus service moving from the 55a that previously ran to the new number 16, with a revised timetable running three days a week with two journeys on a Wednesday. And you may have noticed we have some shiny new bus stops in the village, a couple at locations that weren't even known to be bus stops! Even so in this day and age of cutbacks and car centric travel we all agree that is good that BDBC went to great lengths to make sure the villages the south west of Basingstoke still have a bus service.

APPENDIX C – SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORT

		2015/2016		
Inflation Rate (%) (Applied to entries with *)		2		
Category		Budget	Actual	
		£	£	%
Clerk	Salary	£ 4,138.00	£ 3,614.88	87.36%
	Expenses	£ 150.00	£ 432.91	288.61%
	Home Working	£ 216.00	£ 216.00	100.00%
	Telephone & Broadband	£ 500.00	£ -	0.00%
Chairman's Allowance		£ 20.00	£ -	0.00%
Inland Revenue			£ -	0.00%
Petty Cash		£ 100.00	£ -	0.00%
St Michael's PCC *		£ 1,288.00	£ 1,288.26	100.02%
Village Trust	Grass Cutting	£ 1,937.00	£ 1,937.00	100.00%
	Grant *	£ 2,075.00	£ 3,830.05	184.58%
S.137		£ -	£ -	0.00%
Insurance *		£ 400.00	£ 395.76	98.94%
Audit	Internal	£ 250.00	£ 230.00	92.00%
	External - BDO	£ 200.00	£ 100.00	50.00%
Subscriptions		£ 290.00	£ 272.00	93.79%
Rathbone Pavilion hire		£ 250.00	£ 200.00	80.00%
Garden Competition		£ 200.00	£ 115.46	57.73%
Assets	Pond Renewal	£ 1,000.00	£ -	0.00%
	Pond Maintenance	£ -	£ -	0.00%
	Bus Shelter	£ 100.00	£ -	0.00%
	Phone Box	£ 200.00	£ -	0.00%
	St Michael's Green	£ -	£ -	0.00%
Training		£ 300.00	£ 335.00	111.67%
Office Equipment		£ 300.00	£ 290.83	96.94%
Travel Expenses		£ 100.00	£ -	0.00%
Stationery		£ -	£ -	0.00%

Software	£ 70.00	£ 49.99	71.41%
Website	£ 200.00	£ 121.18	60.59%
Communications	£ -	£ -	0.00%
Misc *	£ 204.00	£ 1,199.00	587.75%
VAT	£ -	£ 159.50	#DIV/0!

TOTAL	£ 14,488.00	£ 14,787.82	102%
Budget Variance		-£ 299.82	
Year on Year Variance			

Income

Precept	£ 10,423.00
Limited General Grant	£ 1,100.00
Council Tax Support Grant	£ 409.00
Grass Cutting Grant	£ 1,937.00
VAT Refund	£ 231.77
Other	£ 939.82
Miscellaneous	£ 1755.00
Total	£ 16795.59

I have a full copy of the Audited Accounts for the year ending March 2015, 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 2016 summarising income and expenditure. You will see the proposed budget 2015/2016 vs actual spend 2015/2016.

The Precept for 2015-16 was set at £10,423.00. We also received an annual grant from BDBC of £1100, plus grass cutting money of £1937.00 and council tax support grant of £409. North Waltham also had a VAT repayment of £232. In addition, we also received a grant from HCC for £500, a donation from the Village Plan Group of £432 and bank interest of £7.76 giving us a total income of £15,040.00. The miscellaneous item is a re-imburement for an overpayment made to the Village Trust in year.

The precept for 2016/ 2017 is £10,794.00. The increase covers a 1% uplift of St Michaels PCC, Village Trust & Insurance costs and salary budget line increase of £144.00.

APPENDIX D – SUMMARY OF BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT – STUART FROST

At last, after five years staying the same, Council Tax has had to rise but by only 2% which translates to just under £2 a year for the average family and is still one of the lowest Council Taxes in the country. The decision follows the announcement of a reduction in central government funding. It is hoped the extra income will help to protect frontline services, finance plans to support homeless people and ensure that Basingstoke Festival continues.

Last month the Council Plan and budget was passed. Finances *have* been under pressure but remain in good shape.

There is a planned regeneration of the Leisure Park in the pipeline. Plans include a new aquadrome, dual use ice rink and events arena, a sport centre with velodrome and an extreme sports facility. There will also be a children's activity area and a designer outlet shop.

APPENDIX E – SUMMARY OF VILLAGE TRUST REPORT – MALCOLM KNIGHT

Our AGM was held on 28th January and attendance was significantly greater than last year; after the formal proceedings, we had an informal discussion over wine and nibbles which was very useful. During the year, the Parish Council elected to take up the two positions reserved under the Trust Deed and at the start of 2016 Hannah Faust joined as a representative of Pre-School. I (Malcolm Knight) have been re-elected as Chairman for 2016.

Denise Liddiard has kindly agreed to serve as our Honorary Treasurer and has now taken over administration of our finances. We again ran the Big Lunch last June, which was well-attended and has become established as a regular summer event bringing villagers together. Although there was some exceptionally heavy rain in the morning, it dried up after an hour and attendance was good in the circumstances, with children especially enjoying themselves with tug-or-war, races, bouncy castle and football. This year, we are combining the Trust's Big Lunch with the annual Church fête and are holding the joint event on 12th June, which also coincides with the weekend designated for the celebrations of the Queen's 90th birthday. In November we ran a Rolling Supper which was very successful and raised £417 for Trust funds. In December, the Trust assumed responsibility for the visit by Father Christmas to the Pond on Christmas Eve - another popular event.

We arranged repairs to parts of the roof of the Rathbone Pavilion and fitted a new sign on the end facing the car park. To alleviate the storage problem, we have installed an additional shed behind the garage and transferred infrequently-used Trust equipment into this, thus freeing up more space in the garage for the Pavilion's regular hirers.

One of the two benches in Cuckoo Meadow has been refurbished with new hardwood; the other bench is damaged beyond repair and will be removed. We are continuing to assess the merits and scope of converting the tennis court to multi-sports use and received a presentation from the Borough Council on their experience of such resources. In the meadow we have ordered a set of mini-goal posts; the pitch is due to be marked out and the posts installed during this month. We will then remove the lower full-size post which has corroded. We are also evaluating the installation of a concrete table-tennis facility (~ £2760), which we understand will require planning permission.

The Play area remains subject to weekly inspections by Basingstoke & Deane BC officers as well as regular visits by the Trustees and an annual inspection by an independent examiner was due in the 1st quarter of 2016. Last year, we fitted a new monkey-bar in replacement for the original item and recently we had to remove the tyre swing from the multi-unit as its bearing had failed and it was deemed unsafe. We are currently looking at replacing the wooden train/tractor unit which has rotted, will refurbish the flat swings and have requested a quotation for repairs and realignment of parts of the fencing and barriers.

The website, shared between the Village represented by the Parish Council and the Trust is now well established and a weekly News alert has been instigated whereby villagers signing up can automatically receive an e-mail every Tuesday with the latest news on the Village's activities. Several local businesses have approached us about advertising their services on the website and this has just started. To assist our forward planning, and obtain data to support any future applications for funding, in May we will be distributing a questionnaire to every house in the village asking for views on current usage and future developments of the Trust's facilities. The response should help us develop our forward plans.

APPENDIX F – SUMMARY OF CHARITIES REPORT – KEITH EVANS

Rev Julia Foster, Margaret Carter and I continue to be the Trustee Committee for the Charity. Margaret completed the 23rd year as Trustee in 2015 and we splashed out on well-deserved flowers for her. The charity is registered with the charity commission and I submit the paperwork every year. All available from me if you wish to see it.

At the end of December 2015 we had £1696 in our two accounts, (£1674 December 2014). This includes interest of £2.98 and a Christmas donation of £20 from a household in the village. We later had a donation of £74 from the Village Trust and Mrs Lucy Henry after the collection taken when Santa Claus made a visit to the pond on the 22nd December. This will show in the 2016 accounts. Our thanks as ever to all concerned.

The charity made no grants in 2015 although at one stage we put aside £300 for a case – this was eventually not needed. We have already made a grant for 2016 to the Junior Youth Club. We remain open to requests from both individuals and village organisations for helping both young and old in accordance with our original purposes. I refer anyone who wants to know more about the original charities (which date back to the 18th century) to the Parish Magazine of November 2015 and my excellent article!!

APPENDIX G – SUMMARY OF SCHOOL GOVENORS REPORT – TRISH WYATT

North Waltham Primary School continues to provide education to many of the children in the village. The school this year has under gone a few changes and there are a number in the short term still about to happen.

First of all, Rob Cooper is now the Chair of Governors, succeeding Trish Wyatt who continues as a Governor. The school wishes to thank Trish for all her efforts whilst Chair.

Mrs Faulkner has decided to retire at the end of the summer term after being at North Waltham Primary School for over 26 years. Mrs Faulkner tried to retire last year but luckily we were able to persuade her to stay for another year. Naturally we are thankful for all her efforts as both a member of staff and Governor, and hope she has a very happy retirement.

After 14 years Mrs Cornwell has also decided to leave teaching at the end of the summer term and will enjoy a slower pace of life in her new home in Dorset. We wish Mrs Cornwell all the very best in her new home and would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication during her time at North Waltham.

Mrs Heffy will be leaving North Waltham at the end of this academic year after 12 years as a teacher in Ash class. She has already moved to a new home in Hereford. Mrs Heffy has made a valuable contribution to the school over the years through her dedication and professionalism and will be truly missed. The whole school wishes her well in her new home and whatever she decides to do next.

Whilst the staff leaving has been a challenge, it has been handled expertly by Mr. Maidment, the Head teacher, with a well-managed recruitment strategy. We have successfully recruited for next September already, and therefore the school is in a very strong position going forward despite some of the current educational problems. We are therefore pleased to announce that two newly qualified teachers have been recruited for September - Miss Shubrook and Miss Gardam cannot wait to get started in their new classes.

The school is currently enjoying record numbers of pupils. As a result of this, a number of changes are planned to accommodate the growing popularity of our school. Having reviewed the current houses planned/being built and attended meeting with developers hoping to build further homes on this side of Basingstoke (including some areas within the school's catchment areas), and the time lines for any new schools being built, it is likely the school will continue to operate at capacity for some time.

Given the number of children coming from outside of the village, the School and Governing team are working proactively with a couple of pupils who are trained Junior Road Safety Officers to look at ways of reducing the number of people dropping off with cars at the school gates and to increase safety. This includes car sharing, or parking on volunteer's drives and walking to school from there. The school is also the proud owner of a new Minibus that brings children from the local villages to school.

The Friends of the school continue to work hard to contribute funds to the school, through a variety of events including Dad's Camp, the Christmas Fair and annual Quiz. Their work is very much appreciated by the school and the pupils.

The school continues to over achieve in sports. After two terms, the school is currently third, out of all the schools in Basingstoke, in the Schools Sports Medal Table. Considering the size of the schools we are competing against, this is a fantastic achievement. Well done to all the children who have represented the school so far.

One of our pupils has gained a scholarship to White Lodge Ballet School (Royal Ballet) in Richmond. We are all very proud of what she has achieved and wish her every success in her endeavours.

The school was already investigating the pros and cons of academy status, and this will evolve into preparing for the now mandatory adoption. There has been a lot of opposition to this plan, so it is possible there may be changes to it – only time will tell.

We would like this opportunity to thank all those teaching and working at the school for their continued hard work and professionalism.

Robert Cooper, Chair of Governors.

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

District Priorities remain as:

1. Burglary Dwelling
2. Burglary Non Dwelling
3. Traffic Related Incidents

Over the past year for the village of North Waltham has suffered one dwelling burglary. Which was very recent and occurred at house on Mary Lane. The circumstances of this unfortunate incident are. On the 4th of April between 1450 & 1500 hrs persons have entered the house and conducted an untidy search. Items confirmed to have been stolen are a quantity of Euros and watches. Three person said to have ran from the address witnessed by a neighbour, described as male with their faces covered up. Police have made a possible link to a vehicle described as a silver saloon car. Enquiries are still being conducted and I will update via monthly newsletter / Hampshire Alert when deemed necessary. There have been no reports of non-dwelling burglaries in the village I am glad to say. Eight vehicle related incidents reported which consisted of one vehicle seizure due to no insurance. Six reports of vehicles driving in a dangerous manner, one issued with a fine for no Tax. There have been two reports of criminal damage. These being damage to land / crops which involved a vehicle driving possibly involved in hare coursing. The other was damage to a taxi at the Wheatsheaf Hotel. The taxi driver did not wish to make a formal complaint. It's worth noting Oakley has suffered 12 burglaries both dwelling and non which is in very close proximity to the village. 5 non dwelling in Dummer. Please remain vigilant and report anything untoward.