

FARRINGDON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

Minutes of the 122nd Annual Village Meeting held in
Farringdon Village Hall on Wednesday, 6th April 2016.

In attendance: Twenty nine members of the Public, seven Parish Councillors, County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee, HCC Head of Strategic Planning Mr Chris Murray, HCC Flood and Water Investigations Officer Mr Paul Prowting, PCSO David Nops, Mr Patrick Fuller on behalf of the Village Magazine & Allison Spyer, Parish Clerk.

1. Introduction from Cllr Clive Elderton, Chairman Farringdon Parish Council:

CE welcomed all to the 122nd Annual Village Meeting and emphasised that it was not a Parish Council Meeting. He made particular mention that it was good to see representatives from HCC, Hampshire Police and neighbouring parishes and thanked the PCC for allowing us the use of All Saints once again. The Meeting provided the opportunity for all to have a say.

2. The minutes from the 121st Annual Village Meeting, held on 1st April 2015, were confirmed as a correct record of events and signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.

3. Update Briefing on the A32 Flood Action Group (FAG), Presented by Chris Murray and Paul Prowting of HCC:

CM & PP briefed the Meeting on the roles and responsibilities for flooding and water management matters within Hampshire and an update on the actions taken since the last major flooding in the area, which caused homes to be inundated and the closure of the A32. A copy of their powerpoint presentation is attached at addendum 1. The briefing was followed by a lively question and answer session with considerable frustration being expressed over the lack of progress. It was evident that with the work required to develop costed engineering options, and obtain funding, any solution was unlikely within three years. Assurance was given by Cllr K-G that a meeting of the A32 FAG would be convened very soon.

4. HCC Report from Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee:

- Hampshire's children services department is one of just 10 in the country rated as good and the only County where the leadership is rated as outstanding. Hampshire has specifically prioritised child social care and added £12.5million to that budget whilst the capital programme for new schools and building improvements is the largest ever at £248 million. At secondary age over 98% of children get into one of their top 3 choices. Examination results are above the national average and 84% of primary schools are rated as good or outstanding.
- Funding for Youth Services has been safeguarded for this year.
- Funding for short breaks for children with disabilities also safeguarded for another year and £1.8 million added back by Councillors.
- There are more extra care places for the elderly, targets increased from 500 extra to 700 extra places plus new build provisions for young adults with disabilities.

- £28 million of public investment putting us on target for 95% coverage of superfast broadband across the country with plans being developed to help the final 5% in more remote rural areas.
- Road users have voted Hampshire roads maintenance top in the country.
- Hampshire's country parks, through successful lottery funding and capital funding from HCC will get an extra £15 million investment making them even more attractive with more modern facilities and attaining commercially viable, while the New Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) has successfully taken museums and galleries out of Council funding, making it easier to attract lottery and other money for these great facilities.
- Hampshire now has the lowest council tax precept of any county whilst services are rated as good or outstanding.

5. EHDC Report from Cllr Tony Costigan, presented by Clive Elderton on his behalf:

- It has been a quiet time in Downland Ward.
- Farringdon PC received a grant towards the cost of new Parish noticeboards.
- A key area of activity has been the EHDC devolution bid along with Solent, Havant, Southampton, Eastleigh and the Isle of Wight Councils. There were objections from a small number of Hampshire, Conservative MPs. **Chairman's Comment** : It is of concern that local consultation will not be made.
- There has been a 2% reduction in Council Tax and EHDC is the only Council at first or second tier to have reduced its Council Tax.

6. South Downs National Park Authority report from Mr Chris Paterson, presented by Clive Elderton on his behalf:

The SDNP are working up their own Plan which will be finalised and launched by the end of 2017. It will supersede the SDNP/EHDC Joint Core Strategy and will include revised and far tighter (smaller) policy settlement boundaries. **Chairmans Comment:** It is of concern for a Parish like Farringdon that sits astride the SDNP/EHDC boundary that their respective policies appear to be diverging and becoming less coherent and coordinated.

7. Hampshire Police Report from PCSO David Nops:

Farringdon has one of the lowest crime rates in and around Alton. The majority of reports concern shed, garage break-ins and minor domestic incidents. He was aware that road safety and speeding traffic is the main concern in the area. A local Special Constable devotes a lot of time to monitoring traffic speed around Farringdon and catches at least two speeding motorists a month and the occasional motorbike. There is in addition an unmarked traffic car operating in the area.

8. Parish Council Report from Chairman Cllr Clive Elderton:

- Welcome to the new clerk since December last year, Ms Allison Spyer.
- Masseys Folly sale completed and proceeds of approximately £380k are currently being held in the Village Hall Charitable Trust account.

- The Village Hall Charitable Trust AGM was held in January at which the the VHMC was dissolved (subsequently endorsed by the Parish Council in March) and a Working Group appointed with agreed Terms of Reference agreed to develop and take forward plans for a new Village Hall.
 - Routine planning applications continue; of most concern during the period was the appeal by owners of a field on Crows Lane against the EHDC refusal to grant planning permission for their latest proposal for 14 dwellings on the site. The appeal was not upheld.
 - In light of the recent risk of flooding we have initiated work to produce a Farringdon Emergency Plan and will be seeking community support in due course.
 - The PC continue to communicate with the parish via Farringdon Net, F Biz, Village Magazine, the PC website and the three Village Notice boards.
 - Finally, valedictory; sincere thanks to all in the village who oil the wheels and work so hard on behalf of the community organising the social events including running over 60's Christmas dinner, progressive supper, lent lunches, tennis tournaments & the fabulous Folly parties; for Phyl Watts and the green fingered members of horticultural society, to Denise & Chris Maughan who tend our War Memorial rose gardens and the gang who volunteered recently to "Clean for the Queen" and others who routinely and without prompting litter pick around the village. For Patrick & Di Fuller, John Pryne and the Village Magazine team, Bob Stephens our one man Farringdon Biz, Douglas Shewan who does so much to keep us informed via Farringdon net which has transformed village communications and to Bob Chase who has being running our local NWS. Unsung heroes one and all - Farringdon owes you a huge debt of gratitude.
9. Finally, finally, thanks to our local County Cllr, Mark Kemp-Gee for his support nto your Parish Councillors for all their efforts on your behalf.

10. Financial Statement presented by Cllr Clive Elderton:

Financial statement is attached as addendum 2. Note some £28,000 is held ring fenced for community works and relates to the s106 payment following the Shirnall Meadow development.

11. Farringdon School Playground Report from Mr Tim Charrington, presented by Clive Elderton on his behalf:

The Farringdon School Playground Trust rents a "land locked" area of meadow in the heart of Upper Farringdon and receives an income of some £800 per year. The Trust exists to support young people (under 22 years of age) from Farringdon and Newton Valence and currently there is some £2.5k available for potential grants. Please bid direct to TC.

12. Village Magazine Review from Editor Mr Patrick Fuller:

The joint Chawton and Farringdon Village Magazine is, in essence, a privately run, not for profit enterprise run by four local volunteer's individuals for the benefit of the two villages. It is totally self-funding from advertising and also pays for the cost of the Chawton village web site, the Farringdon web site and has made donations in the past year to the

cricket field bridge at Chawton and the cost of the coach to take the Farringdon children to a Christmas pantomime. The Magazine will include any contribution free of charge which is not for commercial benefit (those are charged). PF seeks contributions from villagers and stated he was always open to receiving suggestions as to how to improve the magazine. The magazine is believed to be the only one within a large local radius which is delivered free to all households.

13. A New Village Hall for Farringdon, Report from Peter Durrant:

- The Folly has not been abandoned or sold on by the purchasers; architects have completed a consultation plan with the neighbours of the folly and attended 2/3 site meetings with SDNP Planning. One week ago a plan was submitted to SDNPA for approval.
- The Village Hall Charitable Trust exists solely to meet it's Charitable Purpose which is to provide a Village Hall. As such the proceeds from the sale of the Folly are ring-fenced and have been supplemented by the local community benefit deed (from the Solar Farm development) from income generation activities of the local social group.
- Any new VH has to be sustainable and the Working Group would encourage as much feedback from the village as to what is needed and wanted.
- The Working Group has been formed to formulate and deliver a plan and comprises core members as follows: Peter Durrant (Chair), Gary Oakley, Anne Charrington (rep PCC), Andy Partridge and David Horton. Additional members with enthusiasm and specific experience or skills are sought to reinforce the team. Contact PD for further information.
- Three viable potential sites for the VH are under review by the Working Group.
- Feedback was invited from the Village.
- After questions from the floor PD confirmed that whilst the PC have about £400,000 available this will be insufficient to cover the cost of both land purchase and build. Fund raising therefore remains essential through various grants and direct fund raising means. Potential fundraisers would be welcome on the Working Group.
- If there is no local support for a new hall or a suitable, affordable site cannot be found, then the Charity Commission would influence to what other appropriate purpose the funds could be put.

14. Open Session:

There was one question from the floor; Q: 'Why do we have to wait so long for potholes to be filled'? A: Unfortunately this is all down to resources. HCC will come and patch temporarily in severe cases and David Williams spends a great deal of time on this issue. The PC continue to press Hampshire Highways for action.

15. Closing remarks:

Thank you for your contribution. There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

- Thursday, 21 April 2016

Signed as a correct record of events

Name

Date

Addendum 1 - Summary from HCC briefing - see powerpoint distributed under separate cover.

HCC role in Flood Management

Environment Agency formed in 1996 whose role included preventing flooding and pollution incidents. It was the lead authority in flood risk management until the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) was enacted. HCC's involvement in flooding prior to the FWMA was limited to its function as the Highways Authority the FWMA placed a number of new duties on the County Council in its new role as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) including a duty to investigate significant flood incidents.

HCC is the Lead Local Flood Authority - 'co-ordinating body' for range of Flood Risk Management Authorities responsible for managing risk of future flooding from:

- Groundwater - caused when heavy or prolonged rainfall makes the groundwater table rise above its normal level;
- Surface Water (rainfall) runoff, which flows from, or over, surface e.g. roads, roofs and patios; and
- Ordinary Watercourses, which are smaller, non-main rivers and water bodies, including streams, ditches, drains, cuts, culverts, dikes, and sluices.

Flooding in Farringdon - key issues

- Proximity of infrastructure, housing & businesses to groundwater flow routes
- Discontinuity and lack of maintenance of existing ordinary watercourses (ditches, culverts, pipes) to manage surface water (a number of riparian landowners involved)
- Potential impact on downstream communities from any planned changes

Actions by HCC to date (1)

- Report of the state of watercourses from Lower Farringdon to A31 (completed in Oct 2014);
- Walk through of Lavant stream and meeting with county & parish councillors and MP to discuss way forward (July 2015);

- Review of historic documentation and flooding reports from Environment Agency and others;
- Review of highway works previously undertaken in 2001/02 and whether they have improved flood management.

Actions by HCC to date (2)

- Commissioned 3 technical reports on modelling and socio-economic impact- awaiting socio-economic report (July 2015);
- Hosted a multi-agency meeting to ensure Environment Agency (main river) and Thames Water (sewerage) issues are captured (Oct 2015);
- Held initial meeting to work-up brief for feasibility study in costed improvements for flood water management (March 2016).

Next steps

- Feasibility study on the conveyance of surface and groundwater from south of Lower Farringdon to Chawton and beyond (Spring/Summer 2016).
- Report evaluating socio-economic impacts from the flooding (Summer 2016).
- Report from Feasibility Study with costed options (Autumn 2016).
- Aim is to produce a sensible scheme or suite of measures to reduce flood risk.
- Funding challenges.

Reporting flood/water problems

We receive reports of flooding from a variety of sources. The more information we receive about the impact will help us decide how to prioritise the investigation.

How to report: Online form: www.hants.gov.uk/flooding, Email: fwm@hants.gov.uk or Phone: 01962 846730.

Addendum 2

FARRINGDON PARISH COUNCIL: Financial Report 2016

PRINCIPLES

- The PC is limited in the reserves that it can hold at any one time.
- The PC has a duty to ensure that all known and forecast liabilities can be met.
- Forecasting is based on past expenditure and best estimates of future liabilities. It is by its very nature not a precise science.
- Accurate forecasting and in year management is a corporate responsibility.

- The risk, on the one hand, of precepts being frozen and, on the other, reduced funding from central Government, especially, for local services, is very high.
- We should always seek to obtain best value for money and to avoid cost wherever and whenever possible.
- We should seek to identify and fully fund that which is essential and not seek to necessarily do the same for that which is only desirable.
- We should seek to spend to save when appropriate.
- We should always be open and transparent in our financial dealings.

| Financial Year | Precept | Spend (rounded up) | Remarks |
|----------------|---------|--------------------|--|
| 2013-14 | £30,000 | £24,000 | Precept set following comprehensive review of financial management and forecasting against known liabilities including disposal of Massey's Folly. |
| 2014-15 | £40,000 | £39,000 | Precept set to accommodate rising costs of disposal of Massey's Folly. |
| 2015-16 | £36,000 | £25,000 est | Precept set following risk reduction measures (principally salaries, office services, village maintenance (dilapidations) and possible legal fees. |
| 2017 | £36,000 | - | Precept set in recognition of future reduced Local Govt funding, restrictions on increasing precepts and forecast requirements. |

2015/16 Financial Statement

| | Current statement - credit | 2015/16 Income |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Treasurer's Account (incl Shirnall Meadow maintenance) | £58,239.00 | Precept £35,455.00 Council Tax Support Scheme £79.00 |
| Business Instant Access (Contingency & MF sale expenses) | £28,333.00 | Community Benefit Deed (Solar Farm) £25,000 |
| Total | £86,572.00 | Total £60,534 + interest |

Detailed Expenditure 2015/16 to date

| 15/16 Budget | | Spend | % | 16/17 Budget |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----|--------------|
| Salaries | £ 12,480.00 | £ 5516.00 | 44% | £ 10,000.00 |
| NI & PAYE | £ 1,723.00 | £ 837.00 | 49% | £ 1500.00 |
| Staff Training | £ 370.00 | £ 117.00 | 32% | £ 500.00 |
| Staff Expenses | £ 800.00 | £ 282.00 | 35% | £ 800.00 |
| Subscriptions slcc | £ 126.00 | £ 0.00 | - | £ 0.00 |
| Payroll Costs | £ 300.00 | £ 200.00 | 67% | £ 300.00 |
| Gratuity (Pension) | £ 650.00 | £ 150.00 | 23% | £ 300.00 |
| Telephone Communications | £ 80.00 | £ 20.00 | 25% | £ 80.00 |
| PC Software etc | £ 300.00 | £ 51.00 | 17% | £ 100.00 |
| Office 365 | £ 487.00 | £ 372.00 | 76% | £ 400.00 |
| Printing and Postage | £ 350.00 | £ 59.00 | 17% | £ 350.00 |
| IT equipment (Capital cost) | £ 100.00 | 0 | - | £ 100.00 |
| Office Equipment Maintenance | £ 200.00 | 0 | - | £ 100.00 |
| Insurance | £ 800.00 | £ 681.00 | 85% | £ 800.00 |
| Hall Hire for Parish Meetings | £ 480.00 | £ 185.00 | 39% | £ 500.00 |
| Councillor Training | £ 1000.00 | | | |

FARRINGDON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Allison Spyer

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|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| | | £ 460.00 | 46% | £ 800.00 |
| Web Site maintenance | £ 360.00 | £ 143.00 | 40% | £ 250.00 |
| Grass cutting | £ 5,500.00 | £ 3495.00 | 64% | £ 5500.00 |
| General Village Maintenance | £ 2000.00 | £ 56.00 | 3% | £ 2000.00 |
| Playground Inspection | £ 100.00 | £ 79.00 | 79% | £ 100.00 |
| Dilapidations (Reserve Account) | £ 3,105.00 | 0 | - | £ 3105.00 |
| Village Hall Grant for Running Costs | £ 0.00 | £ 374.00 | 374% | £ 0.00 |
| Grants (other) | £ 500.00 | £ 503.00 | 100% | £ 500.0 |
| Village Plan Implementation | £ 1000.00 | 0 | - | £ 1000.00 |
| Proposed Village Hall | £ 0.00 | 0 | - | £ 500.00 |
| Legal Fees (Parish Council) & Bank charges | £ 1000.00 | 0 | - | £ 1000.00 |
| Audit Fees (BDO and Wettone Matthews) | £ 680.00 | £ 435.00 | 64% | £ 750.00 |
| HALC Etc Membership & Subscriptions | £ 414.00 | £ 394.00 | 58% | £ 450.00 |
| Councillors Mileage | £ 400.00 | 0 | - | £ 400.00 |
| Chairman's Allowance | £ 250.00 | £ 120.00 | 48% | £ 250.00 |
| Contingency | - | - | - | £ 3,100.00 |
| Total | £35,555.00 | £14,524.00 | 41% | £35,535.00 |