

EWSHOT ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

**THE MINUTES OF EWSHOT ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
HELD ON MONDAY 14 MARCH 2016 AT 7.15 PM IN EWSHOT VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr B Richey (Chairman), Cllr G Bredin, Cllr S Cranstone and Cllr T Wells (Ewshot Parish Council), Alison Ball (Ewshot Parish Council Clerk), Cllr J Bennison (Hampshire County Council), Cllr J Radley (Hart District Council), 12 members of the public

Apologies for Absence

Cllr B Cranstone (Ewshot Parish Council) and Cllr A Clarke (Hart District Council).

County and District Councillors Report

Councillor John Bennison began by introducing himself as the Hampshire County Councillor for Church Crookham and Ewshot. He went on to give the following details relating to key matters for the area:

- Hampshire County Council's (HCC) share of the **Council Tax** would be going up for the first time in six years. It would go up by 1.99% with an additional 2% specifically for adult social care making an increase of 3.99%. This equated to 80 pence a week or £41.40 a year for a band D house, making the total cost for a band D house £1,079.28 which was the lowest county council tax in the country.
- Councillor Bennison was also on the **Fire Authority** which was made up of 19 councillors from HCC. There were great changes going on in the Fire Service following a recent consultation. The nearest fire stations to Ewshot were Fleet and Farnham, and as a direct result of responses to the consultation proposals for equipment at the former had been upgraded to a mid-size engine alongside other vehicles.
- There had been a number of accidents at **Windy gap**, some of which had been serious, therefore a no right turn was going to be introduced.
- Extensive work would be undertaken from the beginning of April for approximately nine months to **replace the water main** that ran through the village. This would cause substantial disruption with road closures, although the majority of the work would be across fields.
- Plans had been ongoing to create a **unitary authority for Hampshire** to develop a power house of the south. Originally this plan involved the unitary authorities (Portsmouth, Isle of Wight and Southampton) and the borough council's in Hampshire but following a Government requirement for the new authority to have a mayor the arrangement had collapsed. Very recently a new proposal had been made public which

involved the Solent authorities applying to become a unitary authority effectively splitting Hampshire in two. This was a very fluid situation and Councillor Bennison encouraged people to follow developments on the local news.

Councillor Bennison thanked those present for listening and offered to answer any questions.

Councillor Jenny Radley introduced herself as the Hart District Councillor for Crookham West and Ewshot, a role that she had been doing for 12 years. She gave apologies for her fellow councillor Tony Clarke who had hoped to attend the meeting but had been tied up at work. Councillor Radley provided a summary of what she believed were the major issues for the area:

- Hart District Council (HDC) were currently undertaking a consultation on a housing options paper which would form part of the **Local Plan** for the period 2011 to 2032. There was clearly concern regarding the housing options particularly in rural areas. Councillor Radley stated how hard the decision was on where to focus new development for the benefit of all. The people of the Fleet and Church Crookham area had seen much development without the supporting infrastructure which could not continue. One of the proposals in the housing options was for a new settlement at Winchfield which, if it went ahead, would include infrastructure including a new secondary school which was desperately needed. HDC expected many responses to the consultation which would all be worked through before a revised proposal would be published for further consultation. HDC hoped to have a Local Plan in place by the end of the year/ beginning of next year. Without a Local Plan the district would be vulnerable to developers being able to develop any land they wanted.
- The army was currently consolidating its training activities with many troops being relocated from Germany, based mainly in the Aldershot area. The **training grounds at Bourley** had been used for recreational activities but the army were now re-directing people away from the training ground and into other areas. This needed to be monitored to ensure a balance was maintained.
- A **planning application** had recently been received for **ten industrial units** on land next to Vertu. Councillor Radley hoped that the Parish Council would be considering this and submitting comments.

Councillor Radley concluded by advising that changes were made to the proposals for Fleet Fire Station as a direct result of comments made during the consultation period, so she encouraged people to continue responding to consultations as it did make a difference. Councillor Radley offered to answer any questions.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman opened his presentation by introducing himself and the other members of the Parish Council:

- Brand Richey, Chairman
- Gary Bredin, Deputy Chairman
- Stephanie Cranstone, Councillor
- Brian Cranstone, Councillor
- Tim Wells, Councillor
- Alison Ball, Clerk

The Chairman welcomed Garry Shelford, who was in the audience, who had been the previous clerk and had retired at the end of September 2015 after holding the position since the creation of the Parish Council in 2010. He took the opportunity to thank Garry for all that he had done for the Parish and wished him well in his retirement.

The Chairman continued by providing an outline of the work carried out by the Parish Council in the last 12 months which broadly fell into three categories:

- **Estate Management** – there had been the ‘business as usual’ work in this area such as maintenance of the recreation ground, hedge cutting and bulb planting. There had also been significant investment with the car park extension, the refurbishment of the tennis court and play area and the acquisition of land at Broomhill.
- **Planning proposals** – the Parish Council had considered 32 planning applications with five where the Parish Council had felt strongly enough to object. The Chairman gave details of some specific notable planning applications.
- **District and County Issues** – the Parish Council had responded to a number of consultations on different matters including the Local Plan and had been involved in projects on highways matters and on the SANG.

In the next 12 months, whilst continuing with business as usual, the Parish Council planned to complete the fencing in the car park, finish marking up the tennis court and complete the new play area. Consideration would also be given to the future use of the land at Broomhill and work would be ongoing with HCC regarding traffic calming in the village. It was hoped that work would begin on tidying up some of the grass verges in the village and perhaps installing some proper passing places.

The Chairman went on to outline some of the challenges that would face the Parish Council over the next year. He reported that he would not be standing in the forthcoming Parish Elections, due to personal commitments. Gary Bredin had indicated that he was prepared to take that role (if elected) and the Chairman invited members of the public present to consider standing as Councillors.

The Chairman provided details of the Parish Council’s finances advising that it had been an unusual year with £96,000 in section 106 money being received and largely spent on the new play area and refurbished tennis court. The Parish Council had resolved to keep the total

precept the same as the previous year which, due to a slight increase in households, would mean a small reduction in the Parish Council element of the Council Tax.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and asked for any questions.

Open Forum

The Chairman advised that this part of the meeting had been set aside for those present to ask questions on any matter. He invited the audience to speak and the following questions were asked:

- Had a final decision been made on where a new settlement would be located? In response it was advised that the current Local Plan consultation identified Winchfield as being the preferred location for a new settlement should this option be selected. Responses to this consultation needed to be submitted by 4pm on Friday 18 March;
- How could builders be held to account and ensure they fulfil promises? In response it was noted that Section 106 agreements were negotiated with developers before planning permission was granted and these were monitored. In large developments such as Crookham Park there were processes in place to ensure money was collected before and during the development and to make decisions on how this money should be spent;
- Were improvements planned at the A287/Redfields Lane junction? The Section 106 Agreement for the development at Watery Lane contained provision for a round-a-bout to be built at this junction.

As there were no further questions the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

The Meeting ended at 8.10 pm

Signed

Dated