

## **EWSHOT ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

### **THE MINUTES OF EWSHOT ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON MONDAY 9 APRIL 2018 AT 7 PM IN EWSHOT VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Cllr G Bredin (Chairman), Cllr B Cranstone, Cllr E Jennings, Cllr A Taylor and Cllr T Wells (Ewshot Parish Council), Alison Ball (Ewshot Parish Council Clerk), Cllr J Bennison (Hampshire County Council), Cllrs T Clarke and J Radley (Hart District Council), 9 members of the public

<b>Apologies for Absence</b>
None.

<b>Minutes</b>
It was agreed to sign the Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly held on Monday 9 April 2017 as a correct record.

<b>County and District Councillors Report</b>
Councillor Jenny Radley introduced herself as the Hart District Councillor for Crookham West and Ewshot and advised that this would be her last meeting as the representative for the district as she would not be standing for election in May. She would, however, be joining Church Crookham Parish Council. She stated that it had been a privilege to serve the residents in the area.
Cllr Radley advised that whilst she would not be a district councillor she would still continue to work on the traffic calming efforts particularly as money was available from the QEB site development. There had been a misunderstanding between the QEB Steering Group and officers at HCC about traffic priorities in the area and she hoped to continue to be involved in this. There was still much work to be done to mitigate the impact of the development. There were also concerns about Naishes Lane and the on-going battle to get it closed to through traffic.
Cllr Radley had met with the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) who were responsible for the military training lands on Bourley and Long Valley. The DIO had been installing new fencing around part of their military training area to the north of Bourley Road for safety and security. At this meeting assurances were given that the area would be kept open to the public when not in use by the military. At each gate in the new fencing there would be a flip sign containing details of when the area would be open and closed. It would be made as clear as possible when the area was closed, including alterations to existing signage which contained too much information.

Officers at HDC were currently looking at the responses to the Regulation 19 consultation on the Local Plan. It was hoped that the Local Plan and consultation responses would be submitted to the Secretary of State early in the summer and then it would go onto the Planning Inspector. There had been some slippage in the timeline due to the Government delay in releasing the National Planning Policy Framework but HDC were very keen to move the process on.

A planning application had recently been received for the old Vertu site on Beacon Hill Road. This would result in a substantial change and would need careful consideration. The site crossed over into Church Crookham Parish Council and Cllr Radley suggested that a combined response may be a good idea.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Radley for her updates and for her service to the area. He expressed appreciation for all that she had done for the local area and to help the Parish Council in its work.

Councillor Tony Clarke, Hart District Councillor for Crookham West and Ewshot, reported that he had nothing to add to Cllr Radley's updates but that he would endeavour to attend Parish Council meetings now that Cllr Radley would not be in attendance.

Councillor John Bennison, Hampshire County Councillor for Church Crookham and Ewshot, began by summarising the previous year:

He reported that at this time in 2017 the elections at HCC were looming and he was successful in being re-elected for another four year term. At that election UKIP lost all their seats, the representatives for the Labour party were reduced from four to two and one independent lost a seat. This resulted in 17 seats for the Liberal Democrats, two for Labour, one independent and the rest Conservative. Following the election there had been changes to the representatives on committees. Cllr Bennison had previously been on the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority but due to proportional representation had lost his seat. He was now on the Economy, Transport and Environment Select Committee; the Culture and Communities Select Committee; the Member Development Group and the Basingstoke Canal Authority.

As part of his role as the HCC representative for the Church Crookham and Ewshot Division, Cllr Bennison attended the parish council meetings for Church Crookham Parish Council, Crookham Village Parish Council and Fleet Town Council as well as Ewshot Parish Council.

Cllr Bennison advised that on 1 August 2017 a new contractor had taken over responsibility for highways works on behalf of HCC. Amey had lost the contract after seven years and the tender was won by Skanska. It had taken a while for the change to bed in but thing now seemed to be working well.

Councillor Bennison was currently involved in six drainage schemes, none of which were in Ewshot. Three of the schemes had been completed and there were three more to go.

Work on Bourley Road was ongoing. This was a military road that HCC would not take on as it was not up to an acceptable standard. Following a threat to close the road, likely putting unacceptable pressure on surrounding roads, extensive works were being undertaken to bring the road up to a standard that would allow HCC to take responsibility for it. There had been lots of work on this behind the scenes, with HCC asking for various bits of military land to carry out other highways works, but it seemed this was all finally coming to fruition. It was anticipated that the work on the road would be finished at the end of April or beginning of May after which HCC would adopt the road.

The traffic order bringing in the left turn only at Windy Gap had only been in place as a temporary measure and this had come to an end. It had been agreed to make it a permanent restriction with the exception of cyclists. There was likely to be further work at this junction with eventually the installation of a roundabout or traffic lights.

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

The Chairman thanked Cllr Bennison and asked that if there was a delay in the opening of Bourley Road that this be advertised.

### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman opened his presentation and handed over to Cllr Wells to give a summary of the Parish Council's financial position.

Cllr Wells advised that the Parish Council had maintained a 0% increase in the precept for households as it had the previous year. This had resulted in a small increase in overall income due to some additional homes being built.

The Parish Council had worked hard during the year and had completed a number of projects, which the Chairman would highlight, and this had resulted in the expenditure of some of the Council's reserves. The Parish Council was setting aside money each year for a future refurbishment of the play area and the tennis court. This would be ongoing to build up enough funds to cover future costs. A number of projects had been identified for 2018/19 costing approximately £14,000.

He concluded by advising that the Parish Council was in a very good position, with many projects coming in under budget in the last year.

The Chairman went on to provide an outline of some of the work carried out by the Parish Council in the last 12 months:

- The project to install CCTV at the Village Hall had been completed and had proved its worth, with one incident almost resulting in prosecution and a reduction in anti-social behaviour by vehicles;

- The fence at Broomhill had been repaired following damage by a fallen tree branch;
- A new kissing gate had been installed at the play area to stop children running out into the car park;
- New rubber matting had been put in the play area with more still to do;
- A new bench had been built and put up on the recreation ground. Cllrs Bredin and Cranstone had built this and it was very robust;
- The embankment slide in the play area had undergone some changes following concerns regarding entrapment issues. The side panels had been replaced, it had been repainted and new rubber matting had been installed;
- Two Christmas trees had been purchased and put up at the Village Hall and the Church;
- 27 Cherry Trees had been purchased and the majority planted;
- Following a recommendation by the Country Alliance height barriers had been installed at the Village Hall car park and at the vehicular entrance to the recreation ground;
- The gates at the pedestrian access to the Village Hall had been replaced. These had been built by a local carpenter who had also recently built two new noticeboards.

The Chairman went on to detail some of the projects the Parish Council intended to concentrate on during the coming year:

- More planting and re-instating the verges;
- Carry on with the lengthsman scheme;
- Change of contractor for the grass cutting;
- Improvements to the surface at the entrance to the car park;
- Installation of the new noticeboards at Doras Green and Badger Way;
- Work to address highways concerns;
- Improvements to the area at the junction of Tadpole Lane and Church Lane, around the white sign;
- Consideration of the future of the bus shelter which was now very tired looking.

Cllr Bredin thanked his fellow councillors and volunteers across the village for all that they had done. He thanked Cllr Taylor for the planting he had done through the village.

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 only issue raised related to dog fouling on the common.

**The Meeting ended at 7.33 pm**

**Signed** .....

**Dated** .....