

**NOTES TAKEN AT THE
DROXFORD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**
7.30 pm Thursday 20th April 2017 at Droxford Village Hall

Present: 22 residents of Droxford were present. Cllr Barbara Chandler – Chair Droxford Parish Council, Cllrs Mark Dennington, Chris Horn, Colin Matthissen, Janet Melson – Vice Chair Droxford Parish Council, Ann Newman, Roger Huxstep, Sgt Stuart Gilmour, District Cllr Linda Gemmell, District Cllr Frank Pearson and District Cllr Vicki Weston,

1. Welcome

Welcome, apologies for absence and Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr Barbara Chandler welcomed the Conservative candidate standing for election to County Councillor, Roger Huxstep; also District Councillor Linda Gemmell, District Councillor Frank Pearson, District Councillor Vicki Weston and Sgt Stuart Gilmour. Bruce Martin and Andrew Scott from TEK 185 had sent apologies for absence.

The Chair summarized the Council's activities through the year and thanked councillors who had recently stepped down - Nick Fletcher for his hard work on behalf of Highways and with the 'Raise for the Rec' volunteers at the Recreation Ground, also to Penny Gordon for her contribution. She welcomed Councillor Ann Newman to the Parish Council.

The Chair's full report is appended.

2. Parish Reports

Planning - Mark Dennington and Chris Horn reported:

The White Horse Inn - the application was withdrawn, the pub is in the process of being nominated as an asset of community value.

Townsend - SDNP have permitted electrical work following which major work will cease until all planning conditions have been met. The current proposal for foul drainage submitted by the developer is not acceptable.

Uplands - The developer has not reached agreement with SDNPA. Holiday lodges are not unpopular, but there are too many.

The Old Nursery - The hedge has been reduced in height and an ugly fence erected. An application to build has not been received therefore the landowner cannot be forced to paint it.

Highways - Janet Melson reported on noise and speed issues on the A32, measures taken to address traffic flow on Union Lane and Police Station Lane. She thanked Richard Adams for his work on the parking survey.

The Vice Chair's full report is appended.

Finance & Recreation Ground project. Cllr Colin Matthissen reported. The unaudited annual account for Income & Expenditure 206/17 had been circulated. The audited account will be available in May to view on the website.

Footpaths & rights of Way. The annual report has been circulated and put on the website.

3. Annual County Council Report: County Cllr Roger Huxstep's full annual report had been circulated and put on the website.
District Councillors' Annual Reports. Cllr Vicki Weston's full annual report had been circulated and put on the website.

4. 'Lightning quick internet comes to the Meon Valley'. The Speaker from TEK185 Ltd had sent apologies at the last minute.

5. Local organisations

Raise for the Rec group had raised £1939.53 through donations and grants. The Chair of the Droxford Fair Committee announced the theme of the Droxford Country Fair on 3 June would be 'Down on the Farm'. A proportion of 2017 proceeds would go towards 'Raise 4 the Rec' fund raising.

6. Police Report

Sgt Stuart Gilmour said there had been a cut in resources to address motorbike nuisance issues on the A32. The Police cannot provide the level of support to deal with the small minority who give the motorbike community a bad name.

Police time is taken up with domestic violence and visit those identified as medium risk in addition to high risk.

There is a need for support in rural areas as well as city centres. It is a challenge to provide both victim support and maintain visibility

7. Q & A

Parking in Winchester District Councillors were asked why there was no overnight parking near the Winchester train station. Cllr Weston undertook to look into alternative parking facilities beyond 24 hours.

8 Vote of thanks

The Chair thanked all who had taken the time speak or to attend. The meeting closed at 10pm for refreshments.

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APPENDICES

Chair's Summary Report 2016/17

The PC continues in its work to do the best for the village.

As Councillors, we will be providing greater detail on the main areas for which the PC is responsible, so I shall keep this short and summarise our activities, which include:

- Working with the key partners in the Meon Valley to promote broadband coverage sooner rather than later
- Ongoing attendance at Police and Crime Commissioners meetings for crime prevention, motorbike noise
- PC consultations and surveys for car parking within the village and use of the recreation ground
- Ongoing monitoring of Townsend, Uplands
- Engaging in SDNP Local Plan 2
- Monitoring of Alpha House and its potential sale and development
- Monitoring of The Old Nursery site, School Lane and the destruction therein and potential development
- Nomination of the White Horse Inn as a community asset
- Improvement to stiles and footpaths
- Improved communication by way of monthly newsletter and facebook in addition to the website
- Programme of maintenance at the cemetery

The main focus and expenditure this year will be at the recreation ground and to this end we have held comprehensive consultations and surveys with residents in the village. You will probably have noticed that the precept has increased substantially this year in order to fund the work we intend carrying out on behalf of the village. For a band D, the increase will rise from £1.07 pw to £1.62 pw. We shall be installing a small size Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), which will provide a hard surface play area and additional car parking spaces on a needs basis. In addition, we are working on a revamp of the existing car park to create additional spaces within its existing footprint. A recent new installation of a concrete table tennis table is now ready for use at the recreation ground, which has been funded with a mix of grants and precept.

There is an active Raise for the Rec working group, which is in the process of planning fund-raising activities for all ages to augment existing play equipment, match-funded by the Parish Council.

We are grateful for all the volunteers that work on behalf of the Parish Council and ultimately for the village.

Councillors come and go and we are fortunate to recruit very keen and enthusiastic residents. This past year Nick Fletcher and Penny Gordon have resigned and Ann Newman has joined the PC, leaving a shortfall of one, which is open to residents.

We are always interested in listening to your ideas, so do keep them coming. Last year, someone raised with me after the meeting a solar operated, static speed limit reminder which tracks your speed moving through the village. A rough cost puts this at around £2000. It is something worth considering for the future, as at the moment capital reserves are being spent on the recreation ground.

Next project:

- Redesign of Parish Green and looking at car parking in The Square being mindful of the CAAMP report, which advises protection and enhancement of the conservation areas. For consideration once work at the church is complete.

Barbara Chandler
20 April 2017

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Vice Chair's Summary Report – Highways, Roads and Transport

Constraints have not changed in the last 3 years, there is little scope for change concerning A32 matters because fortunately there have not been any serious road accidents. 'No HGV' signs were erected at the entrances to Union Lane and Police Station Lane. Noise from motor bikes on the A32 and surrounding lanes continues to be a perennial problem. The Police & Crime Commissioner (P&CC) in office in 2015 committed to spending on average speed cameras. The current P&CC requires more evidence which his office would facilitate but not fund. The Police have made clear they share residents concern regarding the nuisance factor. Currently there is Parliamentary will to introduce a bill to deal with nuisance issues. George Hollingberry MP introduced a Private Members Bill and held subsequent discussions with the Rt. Hon. John Hayes MP Minister of State at the Dept. of Transport.

The Council is indebted to Richard Adams for his work producing the parking survey from the questionnaire distributed village wide over the Christmas period. The response was disappointing, particularly from the Park where the problem first emanated. 48 parking spaces are needed on a nightly basis, which is less than the number of spaces available. The Council will look in to the survey, but given that HCC Highways do not have any budget it would be unwise to indicate there could be any action soon. The Meon Valley Community Bus service is quite popular on some routes, but the message is 'Use it or lose it'.

Janet Melson
20 April 2017