

MINUTES

40 residents of Droxford were present, members of Droxford PC, County Cllr Huxstep, District Cllr Tony Coates, Cllr Caroline Dibden Vice-Chair Hambledon PC, Jeff Hooper Chairman - Droxford Parish Plan Steering Group and the speaker Cllr Robert Shields – Bishops Waltham PC and Chairman Steering Committee – Bishops Waltham Parish Plan. PC Cath Vollentine and PCSO Owen Reeves (for item 3 only).

1 Welcome

Cllr Barbara Chandler, Vice - Chair Droxford Parish Council welcomed HCC Cllr Huxstep, District Cllr Coates - WCC Cabinet Member for Strategic Housing and Landlord Services, who will step down as a city councillor and Caroline Dibden - prospective conservative candidate will be standing for City election on 22 May. She welcomed the evening's main speaker, Cllr Robert Shields (Bishops Waltham PC) Chairman of the Bishops Waltham Parish Plan Steering Committee.

- 2 Apologies for Absence** had been received from Colin Matthissen, Pietro Acciarri, Barry and Jill Austen, Tim & Terry Crowfoot, Ninian and Liz Stewart, Pauline Tilt, Veronica Attrill, Cynthia Westwood, Chris and Bobbi Garrod, Alison Thomas, Roger Denham and fellow Droxford Cricket Club committee members. Michael Profit had advised he would arrive late. The police arrived at 8.05 pm; Cllr Chandler changed the order of the agenda and invited PC Cath Vollentine to take the floor in order not to detain them.

3 Police update

PC Vollentine introduced PCSO Owen Reeves. She reported that apart from a stolen car, 1 dwelling burglary and a shed break-in, there is no crime trend. It is still a nice place to live and people look out for one another. The main concern is noise and speeding on the A32. Although the Roads Policing Unit is looking at sharing information there is no easy solution. David Neale asked if there was evidence of where the bikers come from. PC Vollentine responded from everywhere, the road is widely promoted among the biking fraternity on Twitter and Facebook. Another resident asked if the 50 mph speed limit had made any difference. Only if they are law abiding was the response. Chris Horn's concern was hare coursing and fly tipping. PC Vollentine said Droxford is part of a concentration of activity – gamekeepers are good at sharing information. The only solution is to catch the perpetrators in the act. She requested fly tipping locations to be emailed to her; the contact at HCC is Andy Murphy. Peter Melson wanted to know what legal limits exist for manufacturers of motorbike exhausts. PC Vollentine said bikers do modify exhausts, and it is difficult to spot visually. Matthew Hill said he was really shocked by the speed of cars coming from Meringtons Garage - at least 60 mph entering the top end of the village. PC Vollentine said there is only one camera car to cover a large area, but will try to increase cover. Speedwatch volunteers cannot carry out surveys on A roads. Jason Toman asked how many times the camera van had been to Droxford. PC Vollentine said high priority routes get 2 visits every 3 months. She suggested contacting Highways to see if they could be of assistance.

- 4 Minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting.** Approved and signed as a true record.
Proposed by Peter Melson, seconded by Matthew Hill.

5 Parish Council Report

Cllr Foster said if anyone has questions to contact him afterwards. The Statement of Receipts and Payments (appended) was self evident, but the way we get the precept altered in 2013. The Droxford portion of the precept increased by 4% (29p per month at Band D). The Reserve is for unexpected expenses e.g. a defibrillator. The new LED street light lamps are anticipated to save about £400 per year. The zip wire is being funded by a grant from the WCC Open Space Fund, from payments by developers to WCC. It will be a valuable asset.

Cllr Chandler reported minimal impact from flooding, except at the Mill House where damage from fallen trees impacted the path along the river bank; an increase in the number of potholes. The Parish had received an extra 2 free days of services (on top of the annual 8 days) from the lengths men. The Cricket Club is looking for new members, as are WWFC Under 14s. Community Speedwatch has not been progressed as no volunteers have come forward. A working group meets regularly and the site is maintained and updated on a weekly basis. Site traffic has doubled over the year to 500 unique visits per month. The Parish Plan steering group set up last September to develop a Parish Plan.

6 Planning Report

Cllr Louise Withers gave a brief summary of 20 building applications and 3 tree felling applications. Contrary to common belief, objection was raised to only 2 applications. Land at the rear of Clematis Cottage and the number of dwellings at Townsend. With Townsend it was quite obvious that the views of the PC were ignored. In March a revised application with vehicle access will be considered in May. Of interest was a letter which came to light, from Adkins (agents for Southern Water) to Odyssey Consulting Engineers written in 2008, stating that the waste treatment works on Chestnut Rise was at full capacity - being built for only twelve residential units. We feel, very strongly, that this would have affected the decisions at

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appeal.

Upland Park - SDNP raised a number of objections. The application had been withdrawn and Eider Homes had held a meeting of their creditors.

Tree felling – Cllr Withers cautioned all trees over 75mm girth in the conservation area are protected and require permission for tree works. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – a new system of fixed planning charges relative to size to be levied on the owner or developer will be introduced in 2015. This is currently £200 per sq meter, a proportion of which will be passed to the Community. Droxford will be eligible to receive 15%.

7 The Droxford Parish Plan

Jeff Hooper – Chairman Droxford Parish Plan Steering Committee said the Parish Plan was up and running. There had been a very satisfactory 60% response to the questionnaire, necessary for the document to carry moral weight in issues in the process of being examined. He explained that while a Parish Plan has moral weight, it will be the Village Design Statement which will be taken into account for material consideration by SDNP when determining planning applications. He announced a workshop on 10th May to display evidence charted, and proposals for action to take to the parish council/WCC and HCC, or community groups. He thought it would be another 6-9 months before the plan was ready to submit to Steve Lincoln at WCC for comment. He extended a big thank you to everyone who had contributed their help.

Cllr Janet Melson, PP steering Committee member, thanked Jeff for his commitment and introduced Cllr Robert Shields – Chairman BW Steering Committee

8 Bishops Waltham Parish Plan

Cllr Robert Shields said the BW Parish Plan had taken up 2 years of his life. He described the lengthy process and how the group intended to work to agree with WCC on the production of Local Plan Pt 2 (LPP2) unless there was disagreement, in which case Bishops Waltham would do a Neighbourhood Plan. Over 40 BW residents were involved in delivering the final product. A vision statement had been very important. The main issues addressed were housing, with a good prospect for offering 1-2 bed flexible accommodation, and employment, preserving existing retail units and social infrastructure being seen as very important. There were community consultations and a 'Design Bishops Waltham Day' with 40 designs and 64 participants involved in selecting sites to develop. The final siting of houses mirrored more or less the Bishops Waltham Plan proposed by WCC. In retrospect, the main challenges were, assimilating all the information, finding expertise, keeping up momentum, publicising progress and dealing with individual concerns and pressure groups e.g., travellers represented 1% of housing needs but 30% of personal pressure. Overall, he considered the BW Plan produced by the residents, for the residents, a very real application of 'localism' and a most fulfilling task.

Janet Melson thanked Cllr Shields and observed what an enormous amount of investment in time and energy the Plan had taken. This is the best example of 'localism' in practice. She invited questions from the floor. There were none.

9 Annual County Council Report

County Cllr Roger Huxstep referred to Robert Shields' presentation and echoed his belief that it was a tremendous example of localism. He touched on employment figures in Hampshire, HCC budget, Broadband 'not' spots, some proposed extra care for the elderly and transport. There is to be a transport consultation for older people. His report had been circulated.

10 Annual Winchester City Report

District Cllr Tony Coates report had been circulated. In addition he commented on fly tipping and upheld PC Vollandine's recommendation of Andy Murphy, a former police officer. He recommended a one-off capital grant be given to the Community Bus Association to help with the purchase of a replacement minibus.

11 Droxford reports.....

The Royal British Legion - Peter Melson said 2014 will be an important year for Droxford for the D-Day commemoration, he announced two RBL events – a lecture by Tony Williams on 12 May on the role of Droxford Station, and a Summer Drinks Party on 6th June at Grenville House. Plus a later event in September, when he would give a talk about the Battle of Mons.

Friends of Droxford Church - John Symes reported on progress to date. A grant of £255,000, mostly for structural repair, had been applied for. The application was considered in March; HLF issued an invitation to re-submit in May. A final decision will be made in September 2014. The application for restoration will only be successful if it can be demonstrated that the Church will be used by the wider community. The success of community engagement will be monitored and measured.

Droxford Cricket Club - Cllr Jason Toman read Roger Denham's report.

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Droxford Scouts - Cllr Jason Toman read Alison Thomas's report.

12 Open Forum

Roz Collins asked Jeff Hooper which census had been used for the Parish Plan. He said the online 2011 Census had been used. Sheila Profit asked Robert Shields about plans for the new Sainsbury at Bishops Waltham. He responded that the reply given by a Sainsbury board member when pressed by the MP was that they intended to meet the terms of the planning application and start this year. An unofficial rumour emanating from the same source is that they don't know what they are going to do.

13 Vote of thanks

Cllr Barbara Chandler thanked Robert Shields for his inspirational account. Cllr Tony Coates was thanked for his help and support representing residents of Droxford at WCC since 2003. She wished him a long and happy retirement. He was presented with a card and plant from members of Droxford PC.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

APPENDIX

Parish Council Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 2014

Statement of Receipts and Payments

There are one or two changes which show on the Statement this year from last year to draw to your attention: On the Income side we received a Council Tax Support grant of £618, which was a new source of income introduced by Central Government.

On the Payments side the figure for street lighting in 13/14 included a late invoice of £474 that related to 12/13.

Cash held

The total cash balance held at the bank on 31 March 2014 was £18,091.

Of this allocated Reserves were £4,916 for the Zip wire, £1,703 for Cemetery Maintenance, leaving unallocated Reserves of £11,472. Historically unallocated Reserves were approximately the same as the annual Precept and intended to meet unexpected expenditure.

Precept

From 1 April this year to 31 March 2015 the Council is precepted £12,250 This equates to £37.57 per year for Council Tax Band D, an increase of £3.45 from last year of 29 pence per month. Council Tax Grant apportioned is £675.

The Council Tax Support Grant

The CT support grant is to compensate for the reduced number of Band D residents in receipt of benefits used to calculate council tax by WCC.

Old formula (used by Precepting Authority to calculate Council tax):

Precept divided by Tax Base equals Council Tax Rate at Band D

New formula

Precept reduced by grant (ie £675 this year)" divided by " reduced Tax Base" equals new Council Tax at Band D.

Statement of Receipts and Payments Account 2013-2014 – see website under Policies & Finance

District Cllr Tony Coates 2014 Annual Report to Droxford Parish Council*

County Cllr Roger Huxstep's 2014 Annual report of HCC to the Meon Valley Division*

*Hard copy only. To obtain please contact the Parish Clerk.