

**NOTES taken at the
CORHAMPTON & MEONSTOKE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
7.30pm Wednesday 12th April 2017 at the Meon Hall**

Present:

Parish Councillors Bruce Horn, Rowena Hyder, Jane McCormick, Jerry Pett - Vice Chair Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council, John Shaw and Sue Walker.

County Councillor Huxstep, Sgt Stuart Gilmour, Za Rowe, James Morrice and Rosemary Hoile.

Phil Butler, Jill Horn, Malcolm Hyder, Barry Gittins, Ann Gittins, Nell Gibson, Shelaine Green, Sheila Kenyon, Michael Moody, Michael Peagram, Quentin Whitfield, Rachel Whitfield.

1. Welcome and apologies

Jerry Pett chaired the meeting in Patrick Rowe's absence due to illness. He announced a slight change of order to the meeting and welcomed Janet Melson as the main speaker. The subject of bonfires would be discussed in the Open Forum. Apologies had been received from Patrick Rowe, Chairman of Corhampton & Meonstoke Parish Council, District Councillors Laurence Ruffell and Amber Thacker, Bruce Martin and Andrew Scott from TEK185 Ltd.

2. Annual Parish Council Reports:

Finance: Copies of the unaudited Statement of Receipts and Payments had been circulated. The parish portion of the Precept for a Band D property had increased from £39.91 per year in 2016/17 to £41.03 for the current financial starting 1 April 2017. £3000 had been set aside for capital projects for the current financial year.

Capital Projects – car parking - Jerry Pett: At the March full council meeting the Council had considered proposals to improve parking near Corhampton Post Office Stores drawn up by HCC Highways. HCC recommended Options 1 and 2 for 5-6 spaces at a cost of £22,500 (Option 1 £8000 + Option 2 £14,500). HCC was looking for a significant contribution from the Council and shop owner to add to HCC's budget of £13K. The Parish Council took the view that feedback would be sought from residents attending the annual parish assembly. Residents present agreed that:

1. The scheme would address wheelchair access to the ramp obstructed by cars parked on the pavement outside the shop.
2. Alleviate some existing parking problems in Millside.
3. The shop is a great community asset.

Asked if the developers' contribution could be used towards the cost Cllr Pett responded that Houghtons Yard and Vernon House site developer's contributions had been ring-fenced for other works by the SDNP planning authority. The proposed highways work is subject to due process and requires an ecological survey along the verge. It was accepted that the consensus was in favour of a Parish Council contribution, to be agreed once full financial information was available from HCC.

Planning – Jerry Pett. The PC only passes comment if the community expresses concern. Called in cases included Houghtons Yard, Vernon House and the extension to Bridgemoor. The effect of applications being called in led to a year's delay in development of the Houghton's and neighbouring sites but resulted in a reduction from 27 to 18 dwellings, thus minimizing the impact. There has been no change in access, the top half is accessed via de Port Heights, the bottom half through the gap created by demolishing part of Vernon House. On balance, it was felt that the shift to SDNPA being our Planning Authority has been a good thing. The Planning Report is appended in full.

Affordable Housing - Za Rowe. Community Action Hampshire had identified need for affordable housing for people with local connections. There was a successful Open Day on 23 March at Bridgemoor attended by everyone who had put their name down for a house. There are strict rules about house allocation on 'Exception' sites, restricted to those with a local connection.

A32 Matters (Or does it?) – Sue Walker. We have been working with several other Councils to address how to overcome noise and speeding. Last year a technical solution was supported subject to funds being available by the former Police and Crime Commissioner (P&CC). The new P&CC appears not to prioritise rural issues and has withdrawn his support. George Hollingbery MP had asked the Rt Hon John Hayes, Minister of Transport to look into scientific techniques used to measure and identify noisy vehicles which can be used at a local level. He will look at the reportedly successful techniques used by the West Sussex police, who record the registration numbers of those flouting the law. Initiatives to improve driving techniques have been suggested by the biking community. Discussions are ongoing with the Police to establish their operational stance for the summer. A Bikers Event has been advertised to be held in Bishops Waltham on 14 May.

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A Q&A session ensued regarding signage and minorities (successful in West Sussex), Loomies Café (anxious for the biking community not to have a bad name, engaged with the Police), lorry speed at night (good road design can reduce speed – note West Meon). A petition was proposed by a local resident. Cllr Walker agreed petitions are successful but need co-ordinating.

Allotments – Rowena Hyder. WCC handed the allotments over in March following 10 years of protracted negotiation. All the allotments have been taken and a waiting list started which is open to residents of Corhampton and Meonstoke only. The Allotment Association is headed by Phil Butler.

Jerry Pett thanked all the speakers for their single minded pursuit of solutions over many years.

3. Open Forum

Q. What is the Parish Council's position on persistent smoke pollution arising from bonfires? There had been one a day for the past 9 out of 10 days. Where there is dense housing, a greater number of people are affected.

A. The law does not prohibit bonfires, the only option is to take the educational approach. Advice will be circulated on alternative methods of green waste disposal, as well as means of minimizing the disruption from bonfires. Quentin Whitfield had already submitted an article to The Bridge Magazine and supportive material would be placed on the PC website

Q. Gravel on A32 from the Vernon House development.

A. Jerry Pett agreed to look into planning conditions and contact the developer if necessary.

Post-Meeting Note: *this issue raised with the Developer who agreed to re-brief the Site Manager to ensure compliance with wheel washing requirements, particularly in wet weather. A De Port Heights resident commented that the Site Manager appeared to taking a robust line with sub-contractors on issues such as attempted 'outside hours' deliveries. The PC will continue to monitor the situation*

4. Jerry Pett introduced Janet Melson who had been invited to talk about The Role of the Street Pastor.

Janet related how the Street Pastors contribute to the safety of streets in 214 towns and cities worldwide, including Portsmouth since 2007. They aim to provide a reassuring presence caring for those vulnerable as a consequence of the 'night economy' and the long term homeless who inhabit the streets. Volunteers work a 4 weekly rota, wear a uniform, (baseball cap or beanie) and often do not clock-off until 4 a.m. Situations can only be dealt with as they arise; there can be complex problems requiring intervention by other agencies. They free up valuable Police and NHS time, estimated between £13m - £15m annually by stepping in before too much alcohol becomes a medical problem. Club and pub doormen also enlist their help. Their role is preventative and they must be non-judgmental. They dispense flip-flops and metallic thermal blankets and are often thanked. She concluded by saying how villages in the Meon Valley are blissfully free of the problems witnessed on Portsmouth's streets.

Jerry Pett commended the terrific initiative of the street pastors. Residents commented on the brave work they undertake.

5. Jerry Pett conveyed Bruce Martin's apologies and summarized where TEK185 Ltd stands to date:

Businesses in St Clair's Farm are now receiving the new fast internet solution. The offer has been extended to communities of Droxford and Soberton. Discussion with the Diocese to enable rollout to Meonstoke and Corhampton is proving lengthy. They are in advanced discussion with Exton Park Vineyard regarding installation of a mast to extend coverage further. The domestic end user cost will be a one-off set up of £175 + VAT and £50 +VAT per month thereafter which includes a license from the telephony platform so that all existing telephone infrastructure can be dispensed with. Business set-up cost will be £245 + VAT and £75 per month thereafter to include a license from the telephony platform. To register interest email meonvalley@tek185.com. The Chair reiterated the PC's view that it did not advocate any particular solution but was keen to ensure that competition resulted in better deals being available to all Parishioners.

6. County Cllr Roger Huxstep's full annual report is appended. James Morrice expression appreciation to Roger Huxstep and HCC for a grant of £14,000 grant which funded 20% of repairs to the roof of the Meon Hall.

7. Police Report

Sgt Stuart Gilmour regretted lack of progress addressing motorbike nuisance issues on the A32. A small minority give the motorbike community a bad name. The Police are not in a position to provide the level of support

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people want and expect. He paid tribute to the Street Pastors for contributing to saving police time for them to investigate criminal activities. There were victims of rural burglaries in High Street, Meonstoke and at the Corhampton Post Office Stores. It is known the perpetrators are from Basingstoke and use the road network to go to places where people are less aware of security measures. Much police time is taken up with issues around domestic violence now that officers visit those identified as medium risk in addition to high risk. The vulnerable need support in rural areas as well as city centres. There is a challenge in providing both victim support and maintaining visibility. Warnford has identified a 'green lane' problem and hopes for a Traffic Regulation Order to be imposed.

Q. Who funds cameras and are there other options?

A. £150K for survey and cameras at 3 locations. The previous P&CC ring-fenced funds. The new P&CC requires evidence it would solve the problem, but at the same time does not see it as a priority. Another option is a noise suppressing road surface which is not something the Police can do in isolation from other agencies. Educating young riders to use the correct gears in certain conditions has been suggested by the biking fraternity.

8 Vote of thanks

Jerry Pett thanked all who had come to speak, councillors, co-opted members and residents for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

The Statement of Receipts and Payments can be seen on www.candm-pc.gov.uk

PLANNING REPORT

The usual flow of Planning Applications received, but many simply for uncontentious tree work within the conservation area. South Downs National Park Authority now the Local Planning Authority, although most cases delegated back to Winchester planners. The PC only passes comment where it believes there a strong consensus within the community that an application is flawed in some way, and that flaw is contrary to the Local Plan.

Several major cases in the past year have been 'called in' by SDNPA, notably the developments at the Houghton's Yard and adjacent sites, and the affordable homes development extending Bridgemoor. Whilst this had the effect of protracting the negotiations on each of these, the final outcome was reasonably positive for our community.

In the case of Houghtons/Vernon, the number of homes proposed at one stage was significantly reduced down to the 18 currently under construction;

At Bridgemoor, the SDNPA was concerned to ensure that this was the right location – notwithstanding that this had already been decided after exhaustive discussions with Winchester CC.

But although the SDNPA planning process has had plenty of teething troubles, the Park planners appear to be true the aims of the Park and being more robust than Winchester in ensuring that development is appropriate to this part of the park. Specifically, through the first stage of their new Local Plan process they've already removed the presumption of consent for infill development from Meonstoke, designating the main part of the village as "countryside" for planning purposes; that part of Meonstoke that they choose to identify as Corhampton, which has its own planning envelope within which consent is presumed, is to have that envelope reduced.

So, although a rather mixed review for the SDNPA planners we believe they're heading in the right direction and have been keen to engage, and are appearing to listen to, Parish Councils.

**Jerry Pett
12 April 2017**