



ITCHEN VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL

(Serving the villages of: Avington, Easton, Itchen Abbas & Martyr Worthy)

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting at Easton Village Hall

April 26th, 2018

Attending: Cllr Andrews, Appleby (Chair), Cllr Langford, Cllr Riley, Cllr Stoodley, Cllr Ward boughton-leigh.

In Attendance: WCC - Cllr L.Griffiths (WCC), Cllr J. Porter (HCC) (from 7.30 pm), plus 11 local residents. A. Weaver (Clerk).

Agenda and attachments were circulated to attendees and placed on Itchen Valley Parish Council (IVPC) website.

Item	Content	Action
18.014	Apologies: Cllr Legatt, Jeffes, Moffatt.	
18.015	<p>Presentation on River Itchen</p> <p>Cllr Appleby (Chair) welcomed Roger Harrison – Vice President of Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust to the meeting to speak about the River Itchen.</p> <p>Roger described his early life in West Ireland before moving to Itchen Stoke and Ovington.</p> <p>He described the decline in wild life in Itchen Valley around the River Itchen over the last forty or fifty years. The former profusions of flies and moths in summer months were no longer seen. Black gnats had almost disappeared. There were no longer any glow worms. Eels had disappeared. Recent counts had shown a decline in the numbers of fresh water shrimps which were now only a fraction of what they had been. Elm trees had disappeared and a similar fate might befall Ash trees if ash dieback, a chronic fungal disease of ash trees, takes hold as it has done in eastern Europe.</p> <p>A recent centennial reenactment of a famous walk USA President Theodore Roosevelt took with Edward Gray, the British Foreign Secretary, and a fellow ornithologist, on 10th June 1910, revealed a sharp decline in bird life. Formerly, snipe, red shank, woodcock, and many others were common but now many are no longer seen. Bird life has declined by almost 50% on agricultural land.</p> <p>For the future, Roger felt many people were now motivated to act on behalf of the environment. Most recently, over seven thousand people took action over pollution from Alresford. There had been successful objections to Southern Water’s proposals to abstract water from the River Itchen. He felt they should find other ways of servicing Southampton’s water needs, from utilizing sea water to sharing reservoirs with Portsmouth, which had plentiful supplies of water.</p> <p>He noted that recent times had seen no significant reductions in pesticides but there was still hope for the River Itchen. River valleys are different. They are not intensively farmed and they recover quickly. He had a real hope that river valleys like the Itchen can be returned to a good state. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust are very important. Environment Agency had some very good committed staff but it has presided over a</p>	

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	<p>significant decline in the environment and so he was skeptical about it leadership. The Environment Agency has no long-term plans for the removal of septic tanks, an issue dealt with in other countries like Germany many years ago. At a local level, Alresford sewage works has no phosphate skimmer.</p> <p>He concluded reluctantly that very little had been to address environmental decline around the Rover Itchen but felt the solution was more public pressure, including pressure on the Environment Agency, to set and deliver on more demanding targets.</p> <p><u>Questions</u></p> <p>A local resident asked about fish farms. Roger felt this was a difficult issue with no clear-cut conclusion readily drawn. However, growing watercress was different. There used to be two crops per annum. Now there were six. As a result, there was much more phosphate fertilizer in the river.</p> <p>Lucy de Lazlo asked what should local people do?</p> <p>Roger felt that to put it in a wider context, living standards were rising everywhere. Across the world there was a decline in poverty and improvements in education and housing. But everywhere the environment is under pressure. And there were big problems here in the UK. There were pockets of good work. South Downs National Park Authority are working well with a conglomerate of farmers to protect the environment. Britain doesn't have a powerful Green party but an answer is to use social media and the internet to marshal people protest.</p> <p>Cllr Appleby thanked Roger for his presentation.</p>	
18.016	<p>Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) of 2016</p> <p>The meeting agreed the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) of 2017. Chairman Cllr Appleby signed the minutes.</p>	
	<p>Reports</p>	
18.017	<p>a) Chairman's Report</p> <p>Cllr Appleby referred to his report (see appendix 1) which covered all the activities undertaken over the previous financial year and agreed to address any questions raised at the meeting. There were no questions.</p>	
18.018	<p>b) Financial Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 – Cllr Riley Chair of Finance & General Purposes Committee</p> <p>Cllr Riley referred to the Accounts for year ended 31st March 2018 circulated at the meeting.</p> <p>This year receipts had increased due to extra funding from Precept and Parish Lengthsman and rent from the football club. There was a full explanation of income variances within the report.</p> <p>This year payments had increased substantially from £38k to £55K. There had been increases due to Clerk's salary payment for additional hours, insurance premium, and health and safety. The largest increase had been due to grounds maintenance.</p> <p>The largest item of expenditure was replacement of the fall matting under the play equipment at Couch Green and Old School Field. Purchase of the Easton Play Tower had now been reprioritized. There is a new order and it will be delivered at the</p>	

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	<p>end of May. Other expenses had included hardening up fences to secure areas from intrusion by travellers.</p> <p>Overall this year, we have spent more than the income received but we did plan for that. We still have a healthy position in terms of reserves. The Parish Council keeps funding equivalent to half the Precept each year as a strategic resource. Other reserves are kept for future commitments. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Easton Play Tower; <input type="checkbox"/> Refurbishment of Notice board; <input type="checkbox"/> Footpath improvements (hoping to attract match funding); <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing improvements to website which will go 'live' shortly. <p>Finally, IVPC recognized that in future, this parish council will need to be more self-sufficient because: council revenue grant is no longer in place, S106 monies received to aid infrastructure associated with new developments has been replaced by a Community Investment Levy from which the parish council receives not a penny.</p> <p><u>Questions</u></p> <p>A local resident asked for more details about grants received. Cllr Riley answered that the best way to consider it was to recognize that grants were no longer received from public bodies but from private bodies, principally Boomtown. Last year, £1K funding had been successfully utilized through local organisations. This year, £5.6K funding has been allocated and awarded to local organisations through a formal bidding process.</p> <p>A local resident asked for more detail about criteria used to determine award of funds. Cllr Riley stated Boomtown funding has specific requirements but must meet local needs. Funds had been spread far and wide to organisations like Martyr Worthy & Easton Cricket Club; Watercress Way; Wild Itchen Valley Verges; etc. and were being utilized very successfully.</p> <p>A resident asked for more details on S137 funding. Cllr Riley stated that this had been spent on Wi-Fi provision at Itchen Abbas & Avington Village Hall.</p>	
<p>18.019</p>	<p>City /County Reports</p> <p><u>WCC</u></p> <p>Cllr Griffiths referred to the large WCC report (see Appendix 2) which had previously been circulated prior to the meeting. She had nothing to add to the report but was happy to respond to any questions now or following the meeting.</p>	
<p>18.020</p>	<p><u>Questions, Answers and Discussion</u></p> <p>A resident raised Boomtown and stated that Boomtown Community Grant did not compensate for the noise, traffic and other problems that have been experienced every year in Avington and Easton.</p> <p>Cllr Porter (HCC) outlined some of the remedies that had been tried or proposed – sound barriers, water filled road barriers, etc. These were examples of mitigating initiatives that should be pursued and developed further.</p>	

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	<p data-bbox="395 136 1177 237">Cllr Appleby felt that there should be more advance thinking anticipating problems that were likely to emerge and developing solutions to meet them.</p> <p data-bbox="395 282 1142 383">Cllr Langford indicated that Environmental Stage 1 Survey accepted by WCC was inadequate for the scale and size of the issues raised as a result of Boomtown.</p> <p data-bbox="395 427 1198 528">Cllr Moffatt emphasized that there were other perspectives on the impact of Boomtown within Itchen Valley which needed to be taken account of.</p> <p data-bbox="395 573 1166 640">Cllr Porter (HCC) highlighted the Dawn to Dusk Activity Day that was scheduled to take place the following weekend.</p> <p data-bbox="395 685 1166 752">There was a discussion and acknowledgement about the lack of publicity for the APM in IV News Community Events.</p> <p data-bbox="395 797 1150 864">Cllr Appleby thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.</p> <p data-bbox="395 864 727 887">Meeting closed at 7.50 pm.</p>	

We started last year with vacancies for two councillors. Since then we have been joined by Chris Jeffes and Alistair Ward-boughton-leigh both from Itchen Abbas. Chris has taken on the task of development of our footpaths working with the Ramblers Association on replacement of stiles with kissing gates. Alistair as an introduction to Parish Council work by being given the task of organising the litter pick.

Once again, we start our new year with a vacancy. Oliver Denniss having left the Valley has resigned. He has been with us for two years and in that time has carried out the major tasks behind the scenes of bringing our asset register up to date, seeing that the various pieces of Parish Council land have been properly registered and that we have assets realistically insured. There is some work still to be completed and Oliver has offered to do this, for which we thank him and all his past work. We wish him and Amanda well for the future.

Details on finance are reported separately but overall our accounts are in good health. Some of the money accumulated over the past few years is now being spent (see reports on open spaces and communications below). On the administration side new internal and external auditors have been appointed and the outcome of their forthcoming inspections is awaited. Work continues on the review of statutory documents which should become easier each year but when new legislation is introduced there is a significant increase in the amount of work required. We have to thank Yvette Riley, her team on the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Alan Weaver our Clerk for a great deal of hard work in these areas.

Planning issues continue and the Planning Committee meets each month as well as being discussed, when necessary, at Full Council Meetings. The Parish Plan and South Downs National Park Policies are used as guidelines. As mentioned in previous reports there are times when we feel little account is taken of our views. It is interesting to note that when talking to councillors from other local parishes they feel the same. When there appear to be breaches of planning the question arises as to whether it is the Parish Council's responsibility to bring these to the attention of the enforcement officers. As an agreed policy this is now done. Continued representations have been made to the South Downs National Park Authority regarding their strategic plan and three parish councillors together with one of our City Councillors and our County Councillor visited their offices in Midhurst. Unfortunately, it would seem that our views fell on deaf ears. Outside the National Park, Winchester City Council have called for SHELAAs and we have highlighted this with local land owners who may have potential sites. It is important to remember that with any development there is a need for local social or affordable housing. When checked earlier in the year there were seventeen cases in our area where an application has been made with this need. Thanks go to Christopher Langford and his Planning Committee for their hard work and vigilance in a difficult area where there is often bound to be a level of controversy.

As can be seen from the accounts there has been considerable investment in our play areas and open spaces. Following a safety inspection of the play equipment new fall matting had to be laid both at Couch Green and the Old School Field in Easton. This has been a considerable expense. It is now in place and should last a number of years. Provision of a new play tower for the Old School Field is now under way and should be installed in the not too distant future. Money has also had to be spent improving the fencing at Couch Green as well as fitting a lockable barrier to the car park. This has been done following several warnings of potential occupation of the fields by travellers. Some may consider this to be unnecessary but to do nothing and then find travellers had moved in is not a wise alternative. One of the most noticeable achievements is the removal of the old changing rooms from the King George V playing field and for free. In the short term we are now looking for a moderate storage container for keeping equipment safe. In the long term there is potential for a project to improve the facilities at this location and three of your councillors have visited other parishes to see what can be achieved. Thanks

go to Yvette Riley, Paul Moffatt, Richard Stoodley and Christopher Langford for their involvement with all the various aspects of looking after our open spaces.

Before they happened discussions were held with the organisers of the two cycling events held last summer. This seemed to have helped as there has not been any significant adverse comment coming back to us. Thanks go to those who volunteered to act as marshals for the event which was fund raising for charity.

Once again Boom Town feature significantly in our year. At the event there were traffic delays on entry and over the Christmas period the organisers put in an application for a new licence which asked for an extra day, a significant increase in numbers and to allow higher levels of noise. With the help of two of our City Councillors, Kim Gottlieb and Lisa Griffiths, and our County Councillor Jackie Porter a "drop in" meeting was held where people were able to speak to representatives of the Boom Town organisers and the City Licensing Officers. It was estimated that in excess of sixty people attended. In agreement with many others we submitted objections; to increasing numbers until it could be shown that the traffic problems of several years past did not continue and to any increase in noise levels. The organisers withdrew their application for the significant increase in the numbers of the public allowed to attend but the new license allowed an increase in the number of staff and the extra day but not any significant increase in noise levels. As is required the land owner has applied for planning permission to go with the new licence. We submitted our recommendation that this should be compatible with the new licence but not in any way exceed it. On the positive side to Boom Town we received a large increase in the funds which are for distribution to local charitable causes. This was due to a change in the method of distribution amongst the local villages by which the Itchen Valley significantly gained. It would be nice to see an overall increase in the generosity of those involved with putting on this event when inevitably there will always be disruption for the local communities, albeit for a relatively short period. The majority of the funds received have now been distributed.

Once again local foot paths and rights of way have been well looked after, as far as time and funds allow, by our lengthsman ably organised by Paul Moffatt. Our thanks go to Paul and lengthsman Mike Ring. Sadly Mike has decided to resign as lengthsman which is a great pity. Unfortunately, although for our parish he has no problem with the organisation of work requirements and schedules some other parishes have caused unnecessary problems. In consequence we are having to look for another lengthsman. Continuing on the highways theme most of our roads compared with some other parts of the county are in reasonably good order. There are exceptions, Easton and its nearby surrounding roads are a cause for concern and have been highlighted with HCC Highways by Jackie Porter and myself. We have also made our views known regarding the Cart and Horses Junction which is still a cause for concern. Although not in our Parish it does affect many residents who are. Having become aware of the proposed M3/A34 link project a meeting was held with a representative of Highways England. Submissions expressing our concerns have been sent to both the consultation website and direct to the representative with whom we met.

One the communication front there are major changes afoot. The Official Parish Notice Board opposite the Village Hall in Itchen Abbas has been taken down to be refurbished. To maintain the integrity of notices, which by law we are obliged to display, one side will be dedicated to official notices only and will be kept locked with designated key holders. The other side will be free for the posting of any other suitable material. Thanks to Steve Andrews for organising this work. On the electronic information side, after a lengthy and detailed selection a new website provider has been found and they are working hard to get it up and running. Having seen some of the preliminary results it looks a considerable improvement on the previous one, more attractive and user friendly. This site is vital to us so that we can, not only provide the information demanded by transparency regulations but also a much clearer picture of the workings of the Parish Council and more besides. Thanks go to our Web Master Jonathan Legat for his time and patience to get this project underway. Having made that point we now come to the opposite end of the spectrum. In May this year the General Data Protection Regulations come into

force. For small organisations like ourselves the official guidelines have yet to be published. The consequence is that many organisations are preparing as best they can. The Parish Council is working to a plan set out by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Alan Weaver our Clerk and Jonathan Legat have been on a GDPR course and your chairman has been to two conferences where this subject has been the main topic. It is not clear exactly what we should be doing and we can only continue on the course as advised. The consequence is that a great deal of time and effort is having to go into meeting a set of regulations which are designed for large organisations but which apply to all and for which official guidance is still awaited.

The problems of waste being dumped seem to be growing. If we know who is responsible we try to speak informally to the party concerned but where this is not possible or there is no likelihood of resolving the matter informally then there is no alternative but to report the matter to the appropriate authority. On the smaller scale litter is still a problem and more than one of us has written on the subject in the Itchen Valley News. We can but keep reminding people and of course holding our annual litter pick. Once again, this year's event was a great success with over sixty five people joining in despite having to postpone it for one week due to the snow. Thank you to Alistair Ward-boughton-leigh and his band of helpers for their organisation, to Paul Moffatt and Alistair's father for collecting up the bags of litter and bringing them to a central point and to all those who participated from the litter pickers to the ladies of the WI who provided coffee, tea and a wonderful array of tea and cakes at the end.

As can be seen from this report it has been a busy year and the next one is just as likely to be the same if not more busy. My sincere thanks to all those who have helped us Jackie Porter, our County Councillor, Kim Gottlieb, Lisa Griffiths and Ernie Jeffs, our City Councillors, and especially, Alan Weaver, our hard working Clerk, Yvette Riley and Christopher Langford who chair our two committees and all our Parish Councillors.

Patrick Appleby,

IVPC Chairman.

procurement of a construction company is proceeding, alongside the operator for the new centre. Permission to go to the market was agreed some months ago for construction, and approval for operator procurement will be sought at the June meeting.

City Council announces purchase of Coventry House, Barfield Close

WCC has announced a decision to purchase Coventry House, Barfield Close from Vaultex UK Ltd. This was purchased through the Strategic Asset Purchase Scheme (SAPS) and will, in the future, allow this site to be redeveloped to create further parking on the edge of the City and be able to take advantage of the Park & Ride service or pedestrian routes to travel into central Winchester.

Trade Waste Action Plan

WCC is working to tackle unsightly trade waste bins in the City centre – with some positive early results in Hammond's Passage - a problem area in terms of this issue, being cleared and deep cleaned. Growing concern from residents, visitors and the business community that trade waste was spoiling the presentation of the historic city centre WCC has worked closely with Winchester BID, Hampshire County Council, businesses and waste collection companies to find more acceptable storage arrangements for their waste. WCC has made previously unused space in Middle Brook Street car park available for business to store their bins.

Winchester Criterium and Cyclefest 2018

Winchester Criterium and CycleFest is back for its sixth year on **Sunday 10th June**, bigger and even better for 2018 - supported again by Hargroves Cycles. The event is widely regarded by riders and fans as the best of its kind and takes place in the heart of the historic City centre.

Entries are now open for those wishing to race in the Criterium with categories ranging from juniors to elite. In addition this year, CycleFest will offer brand new activities and stalls on The Broadway and Abbey Gardens - from Hargroves Cycles Roller Racing and arts & crafts to face painting – something for everyone!

For more information please contact info@winchestercriterium.org or visit www.winchestercriterium.org

Eighteen71 Café receives silver accreditation for excellent accessibility

The Eighteen71 Café has been awarded silver accreditation from Winchester Area Access for All (WAAFA) which is a scheme assessing accessibility in Winchester area. WAAFA is dedicated to improving general access and wheelchair access conditions for people with physical or sensory impairments in the Winchester area. Staff play a huge part in this and training is implemented in a way that goes above and beyond to help those who may need it more.

Station Approach Development

The Station Approach exhibition for March 2018, Broadsheet, Public Realm Strategy and Masterplan Framework are all available for viewing on the WCC website

(<http://www.winchester.gov.uk/projects/5741/station-approach>)

Although the formal consultation period has closed for the March exhibition, comments may be contributed at any time, for feeding into the project as it progresses

at stationapproach@winchester.gov.uk

Consultations

- **Parks and Green Spaces Visitor Survey**

Closes 30 Nov 2018, Opened 1 Dec 2017

Contact : Landscape & Open Spaces Team 01962 848 533 slord@winchester.gov.uk

Why We Are Consulting

Your views on our parks and green spaces are important to us and help to inform how we manage these spaces in the future. WCC want to know what you think about our parks and green spaces and how we could improve them. You can fill out this survey for as many different sites as you wish, but please refer to only one site per survey.

<https://winchester.citizenspace.com/landscape-open-spaces/parks-and-green-spaces-visitor-survey/>

Feedback

- Central Winchester Regeneration Draft Supplementary Planning Document

A week-long touring exhibition was held between 10 – 15 January 2018 which enabled people to see the latest materials and meet the architects JTP and Council staff in a range of locations including Alresford, Bishops Waltham and Winchester. The exhibition display was also available to view in The Brooks Shopping Centre from 12 December until 8 January 2018. The draft SPD were also available to be viewed at local libraries in Winchester, New Alresford, Bishop's Waltham, Waterlooville, Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford, Fareham and Romsey from 11th December 2017.

210 responses from members of the public, local businesses and statutory stakeholder groups. All submitted responses are available to view on the WCC website and we are continuing to review the feedback and incorporate it into the final SPD where relevant. Proposed amendments will be presented at a public IPG meeting on 14 May ahead of a Cabinet meeting to agree to adopt the SPD in June.

- Tree Planting 2017/2018

WCC invited residents to view proposals for a tree planting programme for 2017/2018. A downloadable document was published online on Winchester City Council's Citizen Space portal where residents were asked to comment by contacting the Tree Team by phone or via email. The consultation was open to the public from 6th January to 2nd February 2018. Residents indicated WCC should aim to plant more trees within the City/District. Comments from the public will be considered during planning for the tree planting programme for next season and we are aiming to increase our planting numbers over the coming years. The planting process has to be carefully planned by our Tree Officers in order to ensure we're diversifying our tree stock and not planting in inappropriate places.