

Parish of Hamble-le-Rice

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th March 2016
IN HAMBLE VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL, HIGH STREET, HAMBLE-LE-RICE AT 7.00 PM**

Present:

Cllr Ian Underdown - Chairman
Brendan Gibbs - Clerk to the Council
Mrs Jeanette Symes – Assistant Clerk to the Council
Mrs J Panakis
Sgt Mark O'Hanlon
Mayor of Eastleigh Jane Welsh
Leader of Eastleigh Borough Council Cllr Keith House
Chair of Local Area Committee Tonia Craig

In Attendance

42 parishioners

The Chairman welcomed everyone to Annual Parish Meeting and introduced himself as the Chair of the Parish Council.

Brendan Gibbs was also introduced as the Clerk to the Council.

TO RECEIVE AND CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 11TH MARCH 2015

Prior to the meeting the minutes of the last year's Annual Parish Meeting were distributed.

Mr Brian Knapp proposed, Mr Mike Atkinson seconded and IT WAS RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 11th March 2016.

TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF HAMBLE-LE-RICE PARISH COUNCIL:

The chairman gave his annual report as follows:

As this is the last year of this Council's term of office, I will follow the usual convention of summarising its work over the last four years and will focus in greater detail on this year's activities and achievements. The election for a new Parish Council is at the beginning of May and I would encourage as many as possible who have an interest in our village and making it a better place to live to offer themselves for election.

For the election of this Parish Council in 2012, there were 16 candidates for the 12 positions on the Council. Suzy Hamel and Belinda Masters were elected as new Councillors joining former Councillors who were re-elected.

Subsequently, Belinda Masters did not take up her position on the Parish Council and Michael Davies was co-opted to replace her. At the end of the first year Ben Curtis, who had been Chairman, resigned as a Councillor due to work commitments and there was an uncontested election when Simon Hand joined the Council. Eliot Easterby also resigned from the Parish Council at the beginning of 2014 and Sheelagh Cohen was co-opted to replace him from three applicants.

For most of the period of this Council major planning issues have been at the forefront of its business. Although not in the parish, the Council responded to many along Hamble Lane which would greatly affect Hamble residents quality of life, particularly access to our village.

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Despite strong representations the Public Inspector's report on the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan was published in June 2013 and unfortunately confirmed that gravel extraction from the Hamble Airfield site would be in the adopted plan. We are now waiting for a formal planning application where the Parish Council will endeavour to get conditions to protect local residents during the work and some public gains. The mineral plan states that it should be restored to a combination of grazing, nature conservation, open space, public access and woodland.

Subsequently the former airfield site has been identified as an option for development in the Borough Council's Emerging Local Plan, but more about this in detail later.

Eastleigh Borough Council's Local Plan 2011-29 was rejected by a Government Planning Inspector due insufficient housing, particularly affordable homes. This has led the Borough Council to start work on a new Local Plan for the period 2011-2036 and the lack of a current Local Plan has left the community vulnerable to developers putting forward sites for new large housing developments.

Another Planning Inspector allowed a planning appeal from the developer for 150 dwellings west of Jurd Way, after the County Council withdrew its objection regarding transport issues. One of the most contentious applications is for 225 residential units plus a 70 unit extra care facility adjacent to Hamble Station, that will greatly affect the local parishes. It was refused by the Borough Council and we are now waiting an appeal decision from the Secretary of Estate. A development for 150 homes at Berry Farm and 182 dwellings on the Car Boot Sale site at Bursledon have gain planning permission. An application for 80 dwellings at the corner of Mallards Road has recently been refused by the Borough Council.

In Hamble, despite many objections, permission was given to demolish the 'Harrier' public house to be replaced by 26 retirement apartments for older people to be known as 'Folland Court'. The Borough Councillors who made the decision said it was one of the toughest they had ever made with the loss of a community pub. The owner had made it clear it wanted to sell the pub and could build a large convenience store there without change of planning permission. The Councillors faced the prospect that this would undermine the viability of the existing shops at Coronation Parade.

The Royal Southern Yacht Club and Royal Air Force Yacht Club gained planning permission to improve their waterfront facilities by constructing what is now known as the Prince Philip Yacht Haven. The Parish Council objected to this as it would restrict public access, particularly for small boat users and it would affect public assets. The clubs offered a five year indemnity to protect the public hard should erosion occur as a result of the development.

Two applications for an extension to the Hamble Public Jetty from the Harbour Board were refused due to strong objections from a wide range of river users and local people.

The Parish Council has always believed parents within the village should be able to send their children to Hamble Schools, but the September 2014 intake was oversubscribed at Hamble Primary School. The Council supported the parents and made strong representations to the County Council regarding this situation. There was an initiative to set up a 'Free School' to overcome the problem but it became apparent that it would not be able to be achieved. This led to the highly unsatisfactory situation of children from Hamble having to attend schools in Bursledon and Sarisbury Green, having driven pass the Hamble School they wished to attend.

The Parish Council agreed a new lease with Hamble Squash Club and Hamble Sea Scouts. This enabled the Sea Scouts to leave their former building at the Bartletts Recreation Ground and build a new boat workshop adjacent to their headquarters at the Hamble Lane Community Facilities site. As the old building was at the end of its life it had to be demolished and the site returned to a grass Recreation Ground.

The Eastleigh Southern Parishes Men's Shed has set up in Hamble and the Parish Council provided the group with a grant to help them with their initial set up.

An initiative to replace 'end of life' street lighting with more efficient lights was undertaken in the parish and Hampshire County Council was complimented on its efficient and smooth implementation. This

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involve the replacement of 322 complete units (columns and lanterns) together with a further 246 lantern head replacements. Particular care was taken with the lights in the village Conservation Area to preserve its heritage.

The London Olympics gave Hamble a Gold Medal Cyclist, Dani King. This resulted in Hamble having its own golden post box in the Village Square and the naming of the cycle path alongside Hamble Lane as the Dani King Cycleway. Lovers Lane footpath has been upgraded to allow cycles to use it as well.

To mark the Olympics a Hamble River Games was organised which featured swimming, canoeing, sailing, running and rowing. It was such a success it has become a biannual event and more information will be given later in this meeting.

The same year as the Olympics, Hamble held its own Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. There were a number of events involving many village groups, including the TS Mercury Old Boys. In 2014 Hamble organised a 70th anniversary D-Day ceremony on Hamble Quay.

The Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust has provided a Memorial for the former Hamble Airfield at the College Playing Fields to recognise its importance in aviation history.

The Parish Council is responsible for many of Hamble's assets and since taking over one of these, Westfield Common, our groundstaff have made considerable efforts to make improvements to the paths, car parks, litter bins and open spaces. During this period Aron Clay one of our groundsmen left for a promotion job at the Borough Council and Steve Uden was appointed and has joined the Parish Council team.

On the Hamble River Foreshore a seat designed and made by artist Tim Norris and financed by Borough Council's Public Art fund, was installed and it has become a popular feature on the Foreshore.

In 2012 the estuarine Parish Councils formed the Hamble River Valley Forum to work together to seek to improve the Parish Councils and public's representations regarding the river and its valley, as well as giving local users groups who are not already represented in the Harbour Authority, a forum to express their opinions and concerns.

During 2013-14 Hamble Parish and Borough Councillor Malcolm Cross was made Mayor of Eastleigh. During his term of office he raised £20,000 for his chosen charities – Marie Curie Cancer Care and Eastleigh Young Carers.

Hamble Lifeboat had an agreement with the Parish Council and planning permission to build a new Lifeboat Station on the Foreshore. These lapsed and as sufficient funds could not be raised to implement its original plans, another planning application was made and a new Building Agreement drawn up for a less expensive building. The Parish Council agreed to give £70,000 to provide better public toilets. The Harbour Board provided £70,000 towards the provision of boat users showers and the Borough Council gave £50,000 towards the building costs. The rest of the funding was to be raised by Hamble Lifeboat and after being given assurances that sufficient funds were available to successfully complete the project, it was given permission to demolish the Public Toilets and to start the construction of the new Lifeboat Station. An update of its progress will be given when reporting this Council year.

At the 2015 election Hamble gained a new Borough Councillor, Elizabeth Lear, and a new Member of Parliament, Mims Davies. I was elected as the Parish Council's Chairman and retiring Chair of the Council, Suzy Hamel, was thanked for her work over the last two years. Suzy Hamel remains Hamble's other Borough Councillor

Consultations have taken place regarding the Local Government Boundary Commission's Review. This related to County Councillors and Borough Councillors electoral districts boundaries. Eastleigh Borough Council Electoral Review proposes a reduction in the number of Borough Councillors from 44 to 39 and some electoral districts boundary changes which will include our local area.

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Planning

As part of the Eastleigh Borough Emerging Local Plan 2011-2036 a very important consultation has taken place that could have major implications for Hamble. The Borough Council consulted on an 'Issues and Options' document and others to inform the preparation of the Local Plan, particularly locations for new development.

Hamble Airfield was one of eight options for development that the Borough Council had identified. It indicated that it could provide for up to 600 dwellings, and 10,000 square metres of employment floorspace along with an area of open space. The Parish Council devoted considerable time to compile a comprehensive response to this consultation on the village's behalf as to why it is not a viable option. It received much positive feedback about how it informed local residents of this important consultation and the help it had given with its guidance how to respond.

A planning inquiry regarding the proposed development by Hallam on land next to Hamble Station for 225 residential homes took place last summer and the Parish Council made strong representations along with its neighbouring authorities. Rather than the Planning Inspector making the decision the Secretary of State has been asked to recover and then determine the appeal. This decision was expected at the beginning of December but still has not been received. The major concerns regarding this development were the impact it would have on the local gap and countryside, its poor relationships to existing settlements and highway constraints.

Representatives from the Parish Council have met with officers from the Borough Council to discuss the use of developer contributions, arising from the 'Harrier' development, to improve the Coronation Parade area. The results of the consultation of residents in the area were feedback to the Parish Council. Most of the feedback indicated that parking was the primary concern of local residents. The Borough Council is undertaking a feasibility study into how to improve parking in the whole area, but unfortunately due to the limited funds available this would not involve any major re engineering.

The Council has considered 65 planning applications so far this year, including some of the previous mentioned ones along Hamble Lane.

Foreshore and river

The most significant thing affecting the Foreshore this year has been the construction of the new Hamble Lifeboat Station and Public Toilets. At this meeting last year Mr Roger Harding, Chairman of the Hamble Lifeboat Trustees, stated that the project was planned to be complete by the end of May 2015. Despite being given a number of other revised completion dates, such as August, November and December, the Lifeboat Station and new public toilets are still not complete and ready for use.

The Council signed a Building Agreement with Hamble Lifeboat to give them permission and full responsibility to undertake the construction work, hence has had no control of its progress or delays. This included handing over part of the Foreshore to enable the six month building programme to be completed. The initial delay was due to a number of separate contracts being agreed with specialist contractors, rather than award the full building project to one contractor as originally intended. The Parish Council has met all its commitments to this project and none of the delays can be attributed to it. In fact the Council is still owed money from Hamble Lifeboat for work it initially agreed to undertake on behalf of them, particularly related to demolishing the Public Toilets.

The Council has received many complaints from parishioners, visitors and local businesses regarding the lack of Public Toilets and the effects on them. Due to this the Council has had to provide temporary toilets on the foreshore during busy periods and will need to continue this until the new toilets are completed to a standard that the Parish Council can take them over. This necessitated extra unanticipated funding from the Council above the money it has already contributed to the new lifeboat station.

54

Also the delay in the project meant the dinghy park permit holders displaced to enable the construction to take place, were not able as promised to take up their spaces at the end of May and subsequently these small boats owners could not use them from the Foreshore last season. The Parish Council apologises for this, but as stated previously this has been out of the Council's control. This has also resulted in a significant loss of income to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has regularly met with Hamble Lifeboat representatives to receive updates and to offer assistance to overcome the problems. The public bodies that have contributed £190,000 to this project are disappointed that it is not completed as expected. They have met recently to discuss how to address the issues to achieve their original goals as soon as possible and to ensure the public gets value for its money. Since the end of last year Steve Emery has taken over responsibility for overseeing the project on behalf of Hamble Lifeboat. He has been working conscientiously to solve the problems and we will work with him to achieve a successful outcome.

Last summer the police were proactive regarding preventing swimming at the Hamble Public Jetty, which is against the Bye Laws and dangerous. Due to this last year there was very little anti social behaviour around Hamble Public Jetty, particularly the annual problem of youths swimming in the prohibited area. The Parish Council would like to thank Phil Davenport, Hamble's PCSO (Police Community Support Officer), for leading this initiative with PC Arnold.

Representatives of the Blue Star Cafe, now renamed the Beach Hut Cafe, have shared information about their future plans, particularly the provision of river trips this year using a 12 seat pleasure craft. This is in response to complaints last year that there was no river trip boat available as required under its lease.

The new Harbour Master, Jason Scott, met with the Parish Council Chairman and Clerk to introduce himself and to find out the Council's views regarding the river and has subsequently worked closely with the Council on a number of matters.

The River Hamble Mooring Holders Association sent a letter to the Harbour Master and copied to the Parish Council informing of safety concerns regarding Hamble Public Hard as a result of a change in the tidal flow due to the construction of the Prince Philip Yacht Haven.

All the public landings on the river in the parish are annually used by a Councillor and this is recorded in the minutes for use in the future if required.

The Hamble River Raid continues to be a successful event run from the foreshore and the Council sought an update from the organisers about the structure of the company which controls it and how the funds are distributed. It was good to see the Rowing Club and other individual rowers using the foreshore, as well as Hamble River Sailing Club's water sports activities with the youngsters as part of the Borough Council's 'Summer of Sport'.

Recreation and open spaces

Hamble Club Football Club has been very successful recently as the result of a new person investing in the club. As well as success in the football league, it has also enabled the club to build a sports pavilion with changing room & club area at the Parish Council's Community Facilities site off Hamble Lane. The club has also approached the Council about providing a new 50 person stand. The football club is about to sign a new lease with the Parish Council regarding these facilities.

Representatives from Folland Sports & Social Club and the Bowls Club attended Council meetings to inform the Council about the non renewal of their leases with GE Aviation, hence their concerns for their closure. The Parish Council is working with others to retain sporting facilities such as these for the benefit of the village.

The Parish Council has reviewed its provision of cricket facilities and considered an appeal from one of the cricket teams. Over the years the Council has developed a policy for sports, including cricket, to provide sports facilities, with Hamble teams having priority and to provide for outside teams if economical

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viable and this was not detrimental to parishioners. The Council allowed the appeal after being given assurances of the cricket team's use and that more Hamble residents would be involved.

Mount Pleasant Recreation Ground and the College Playing Fields were used for 'Park Sport & Summer of Sport 2015' during the school summer holidays.

Annual meetings are held with the Council for Sports Users, Foreshore Users and Allotment Holders. The Allotment Holders' Association continues with its pleasing progress to improve the facilities, particularly work undertaken in connection with its National Lottery grant to fence the allotments that has been very successful. It is now undertaking bulb planting at the allotments and the Council has agreed to match-fund the Association's costs.

The Parish Council commissioned an ecological survey of the flora and fauna at Westfield Common to help support its management plan for this area. At the same time a tree survey has been undertaken of all the trees in the Parish Council's estate. Hamble's PCSO, Phil Davenport reported that since the barriers have been erected at Westfield Common car parks, there has been substantially less fly tipping there and on the beaches. The Council is in the process of providing information board about Westfield Common.

All the rights of way footpaths in Hamble are walked to inspect them and a report given to the Council to enable any problems to be addressed. As part of the Hamble River Valley Forum, a Rights of Way & Footpaths working party has been set up, which I chair, that includes all the Parish Councils in the valley from Bishops Waltham to Hamble. Its aim is to work together to improve the footpath network within the valley particularly waterside routes. Its work has been very successful and has included the Ramblers Association and Borough and County Council officers.

Finance

The Council has decided to maintain its precept (Council Tax for Hamble) at the current level for 2016-17, hence no increase. Throughout the four years that this Council has been in office there has been no increase in its precept and it has also been able to build up its reserves. Today the Parish Council is in a good financial position with good reserves and money set aside for forthcoming projects such as renewing and centralising its Groundstaff storage. The earmarked £70,000 for the Lifeboat project was paid on time at the agreed stage payment points.

The Council continues to support and make a financial contribution towards the provision of its PCSO and HYPE (Hamble Young Persons Experience). There is some uncertainty regarding the County Council's level of funding for HYPE in the future, a service that reaches 400-500 young people every month. To maintain the service over the last few years the Borough Council and the three Parish Councils have been contributing funds but there is no commitment for ongoing funding indefinitely. To enable plans to be made for the next financial year by YMCA who operate the service, the Parish Council has agreed to grant £10,000 for 2016 17.

The Parish Council continues to make a grant to maintain the War Memorial and the Church clock and if there is any remaining it goes towards maintaining the Churchyard. This year it has also awarded grants to the Hamble Parent and Toddler Group, Sail 4 Cancer and the Hamble Community Sports College to enable it to provide a community event, Hamble Aglow. A grant was given to the Mercury Area Residents Association towards its annual clean-up day. We continue to fund our own travel tokens scheme for the infirm in the village. This is an example of one of the ways we try to balance the work we do for the young and the elderly.

The external auditors have been pleased with the Council's finances, how they are managed and the Clerk's efficiency in providing the information for them. We thank our Clerk, Brendan Gibbs, for his contribution to the Council's good financial position.

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General

The police regularly attend Council meetings to update Councillors. The Council has investigated involving local industries in helping fund PCSOs in the parish and the work of Special Constables in our area with Senior Officers. Our local policeman, Mark Arnold, is very proactive in providing information to the parish, particularly through project Kraken and the Neighbourhood Alert Scheme. The Council is also very pleased to have Phil Davenport as its PCSO who is doing excellent work for our village.

Great concern was expressed by parishioners about the closure of Barclays Bank, the last existing bank in the village and on the peninsular. The Parish Council met with representatives of Barclays Bank to express its concerns regarding the closure of its bank and the special circumstances relating to Hamble. It made strong representations on its own behalf and parishioners, especially how it will affect other organisations, the elderly and those without internet banking. Barclays Bank agreed to work with the Council to ensure a smooth transition, including to have a representative at the Hamble Village Market to provide advice to parishioners.

A very successful and well organised Hamble Valley Food Festival took place on the foreshore last September, which included a wide range of local producer stalls, chef demonstrations, children activities and craft stalls some with workshops. Due to this success it has been agreed to hold two more this year on 23rd April and 3rd September.

The Council has been in regular contact with officers and elected members of the County Council regarding the deteriorating condition of the cobbled area of the Lower High Street, particularly the area adjacent to the Royal Southern Yacht Club. This has been unsightly for Hamble's visitors and residents over the last two summer seasons. As can now be seen, work is being undertaken to rectify this and will be ready for the new summer season.

For many parishioners it is the small items that are important when they contact the Parish Council through its office. Items such as the disabled and parents with buggies not being able pass along the Hamble House Gardens path due to the overgrown hedge or use the path at the end of the southern quay due to parked cars. Some of these take longer to resolve as we would wish, especially if it is not the Parish Council's responsibility. I am pleased to report that the County Council has arranged for the hedge to be cut back and the Parish Council has installed a bollard to prevent parking and allow free access to the path. Another success is the restoration of the access to the waterfront walk around Hamble Point and thank you to MDL for providing a better access than before. Last year appreciation was given regarding preserving our heritage by restoring the gate on the Village Green. The Parish Council understands it is judged by parishioners by how it deals with these small items, just as much as how it addresses the much larger ones.

I would also like to thank all the employees of the Parish Council, both in the office and on the ground, for all their work over the past year. Last April our Clerk, Brendan Gibbs, was elected as Chairman of the Hampshire Society of Local Council Clerks. At the end of last year the Parish Council was sad to say goodbye to its Assistant Clerks, Lorraine Smith and Jackie Bevis, who have served the Council admirably over many years. The Parish Council thanked them for all their work for Council in a most professional way and wished them all the best for the future. I am pleased to report Jackie has agreed to continue her excellent work as editor of the Village Magazine. Jeanette Symes has been appointed as the new full time Assistant Clerk.

Finally, I must especially thank my fellow Councillors, particularly Vice Chairman Simon Hand, for their support in the past year. Councillors are unpaid and work towards making our village a better place to live, despite at times encountering difficulties. Many thanks to them for their time and work on behalf of the community.

Some parish councillors will not be standing for re-election this May and one of them is Bill Pepper who has been a Parish Councillor for 49 years. Bill joined the Parish Council in May 1967 and for many years was a Borough Councillor. As a result when he retired as a Borough Councillor, he was made a Honorary Alderman of Eastleigh for his long service and the Mayor presented him with a badge and

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inscribed certificate. Bill has done much good work for the village outside of his Council duties, particularly for the elderly such as a hospital car service driver and providing day trips for them with funds he raised through bingo sessions. He has also arranged many community events.

Thank you Bill for all your good work for the community over many years and our best wishes for your future.

The Chairman invited questions from the public but none were raised.

Cllr Keith House thanked Cllr Underdown for a comprehensive and interesting report.

TO RECEIVE REPORT FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Sgt Mark O'Hanlon gave a report regarding the work of Neighbourhood Policing Team and he answered questions from the parishioners.


TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE ORGANISERS OF THE HAMBLE RIVER GAMES

A presentation was delivered by Suzy Tomson one of the organisers of the Hamble River Games explaining the event and how it has developed in to a very well supported water sports event. She provided information about the plans for this year's Hamble River Games.

The Mayor of Eastleigh, Jane Welsh, thanked the speakers and talked about her time working at Barclays Bank in Hamble and her fond memories of the village. The Mayor then talked about her civic role, fundraising activities and the good causes she was supporting. To close the meeting The Mayor proposed a minute's silence in remembrance of Mr David Dawes who had recently passed away. Mr Dawes had given a great deal of support to the village and its community during his role as public relations officer at BP Hamble.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay behind for a chat and refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm


12 April 2017