

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL HINTON PARISH MEETING 2018
Held at The Village Hall Hinton Martell Wednesday 23rd May 2018

Present:

Cllr S Wathen (VAPC)

Ms J Bull, Mr D Carrington, Mrs J Carrington, Mrs J Crawley, Mr A Curtis, Mrs E Curtis, Mrs D Frost, Mrs H Kendrick, Mrs J Knott, Mrs S Snook, Mrs J Wharfe, Mr M Wharfe

Introduction and Welcome

Cllr Wathen opened the meeting at 7:00pm and welcomed everyone to the Hinton Parish Annual Meeting. He summarised the position of Hinton and surrounding villages in relation to The Vale of Allen Parish Council and outlined the current status of councillors and clerk. Cllr Wathen explained that he occupies one of four seats available to Hinton Parish and encouraged enquiries from anyone interested in joining the council. A list of councillors and their responsibilities is posted on noticeboards and available on the Vale of Allen Website.

1. Apologies

Apologies had been received from Mr Chris McKay.

2. Minutes of AGM 10th May 2017

The draft minutes of last year's AGM had been posted on noticeboards prior to the meeting and copies of these were issued. The minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Items on last year's minutes have been followed up during the last year:

- A **village questionnaire** was issued to gain opinions and views on a number of topics and results of this were issued in July last year. Anyone wishing to see these results again, please contact Cllr Wathen.
- The **telephone kiosk** continues to be renovated and will be ready for use as a lending-library later this month. Community Heartbeat can help us install a defibrillator but this will take time to organise. Any volunteers willing to take on the admin for this would be very welcome.
- The **Horseshoes fingerpost** has been renovated using original materials and in traditional style. It is effectively reinstated as a traditional Dorset fingerpost. Many thanks to the team of volunteers who helped me with this – Joe and Isabel O'Rourke, Ben Davies, Pete Eaton, Alan Butcher and Roger Bond of Normtec in Shillingstone.

- Hinton Parva now have their noticeboard – thanks to Mark Goodwin for making it. This board now needs installation. Any offers of help with this will be greatly appreciated.
- We do now receive advance warnings of organised cycle rides – these are posted on the notice-boards.
- We continue to pursue the 20mph request but this remains low on a list of priorities for East Dorset.
- Our clerk continues to press for better bus-route management on Uppington Hill.

4. Report by District/County Councillors

There were no other councillors in attendance. Cllr Wathen issued copies of a report supplied by County Councillor Mr Steve Butler.

5. Vale of Allen Report

From April 2019 our current County and District councils will cease to be. **There will be two unitary authorities** - Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and the rest of Dorset. There will be a great deal of re-structuring of departments and services. How this re-organisation will impact on us remains to be seen.

Local authorities now receive less money from central government. However, **the cost of adult social care is escalating** alarmingly. We are all living longer and there is increased demands on resources and services for the elderly. 28% of the population of Dorset is over 65 compared to 18% nationally. Costs for childrens' services is also rising. The pressure of these costs and lack of funding from central government go some way to explaining why our council tax has increased.

It is likely that other services will come under pressure. Spending on smaller, local issues - our roads, potholes, verges, pathways etc. is likely to get less. Like it or not, we are going to have to do more for ourselves. **Parish councils are going to have to work harder and will have more responsibilities for decision-making concerning some local services previously covered by district and county.** We are going to have to work closely with other villages and parishes if we are going to work out best value approaches to cope with things like our hedges, verges, pathways etc.

This is why its going to be more and more important to have as many voices as we can to represent our parish. If anyone has an interest in being involved please contact Cllr Wathen, or the Parish Clerk, to find out more. **Hinton needs more councillors.**

In addition to issues already mentioned:

- **Courses and seminars** this year have included Planning Training, Housing Surveys and Affordable Housing, Budgets & Precepts, Rights of Way Liaison and Data Protection Updates.
- **The Vale of Allen has a website** where information about our village – including up and coming events can be viewed. To add anything to this please contact Cllr Wathen or the clerk.
- The ***dorsetforyou* website** continues to be a very useful facility for reporting minor issues and getting something done about them There has been successful action taken on verge-cutting, fly-tipping, drain clearance, pothole repair, tree clearance and hedge-trimming. Remember **anyone can get onto this website to report issues**. Planning applications can be viewed and a host of other sections provide information and advice.
- **Our War Memorial** – a lantern cross with sculptural details designed by Frederick Charles Eden - is now a Grade 11 listed monument. If anyone wants a copy of the details describing this please contact Cllr Wathen.
- Cllr Wathen is seeking funding for **repair to the fountain** which is desperately in need of re-rendering. The quotes so far received for this repair circa £3600. There is currently about £650 available in fountain 'reserve'. Cranborne Chase AONB and the HLF have been approached for help.
- A **Grit Bin** is to be situated at the bottom of Uppington Hill. If winter traffic proves the need a second bin can be pursued if needed and positioned further up the hill.
- **Rights of Way and Pathways** – Last year the Countryside Development Officer informed us that funding was available to help improve our rights of way and pathways. Hinton asked for improvements for a number of our pathways but response is slow. A meeting earlier this year at Avon Country Park explained Rights of Way and the need to form volunteer groups to help maintain, improve or reinstate pathways and bridleways. **The Dorset Green Spaces Team is very keen to develop groups of volunteers to take on local projects**. They can provide equipment, training etc and will work with groups. Please contact them if you would like to be involved.

- **Planting on Grass Verges – DWT** contacted councils to explain that they were experimenting with different techniques to manage grass verges – reducing the number of cuts, raking out cuttings, reducing soil fertility and allowing the development of wild flowers. A number of residents showed interest in being involved with this project. Following up the idea with DWT it seems we are on our own with this one. However, a couple of experiments are in process in Witchampton and Long Critchel and the council is putting some funding aside to develop this project. We may be able to try out a few experimental patches along our own verges.
- **Protection of Verges** – There are concerns about verge destruction by vehicles, **fly-tipping and general disregard for the environment**. If you spot any issues please inform Cllr Wathen, the clerk or **report via *dorsetforyou***.
- Interestingly, the spate of very wet weather this year has brought up some unusual **archaeological artefacts** in fields and verges. Pieces of pottery, flints, brickwork, bottles etc. A local enthusiast **Di Hankin** is keen to collate these so if you find anything you think might be of interest please report it to **Di – 01258 840622**.
- Related to the above an aide-memoir with useful contact numbers was issued.

Questions, Comments and Requests

Mrs E Curtis requested a copy of the war Memorial Report – Cllr Wathen to supply.

The issue of dog-waste bins and fouling of pathways was discussed. Mr A Curtis highlighted the problem along Emley Lane. Mrs Curtis asked if more signs could be provided to encourage dog-owners to take more responsibility for disposing waste. Cllr Wathen to pursue.

Mr M Wharfe asked how Hinton is represented and if the council had money to allocate. Cllr Wathen explained how more councillors for Hinton would increase our presence in meetings and how the council was allocated a precept to spend on local needs. Funding for our fountain maintenance, grit bin, fingerpost materials are examples.

Mrs S Snook asked if Mr Matt Thorne had been approached to survey and provide a quote for the fountain repair. He had suggested the fountain's last rendering had not been completed to a high enough standard. Cllr Wathen was also unsure the last renovation was done well. He explained he had spoken to Mr B Davies, also keen to pursue renovation of the fountain, who was approaching Mr Thorne to ask his advice and if he was prepared to be involved.

Mr Wharfe asked how specifications for the fountain were being obtained. Cllr Wathen explained quotes were being sought from local builders and these quotes would be submitted to the council for analysis. Mr Wharfe repeated the need for specifications linked to the work. Cllr Wathen asked if Mr Wharfe could help obtain these specifications to support the project. Mr Wharfe said he could do this and agreed to help.

Mr Wharfe disputed and objected to the view that the last rendering of the fountain was not completed to a high standard. He had been part of this project and assured the meeting that the work carried out was of a high standard and had lasted for ten years. Cllr Wathen, not in a position to have knowledge of previous work, accepted this objection.

Mrs Wharfe asked if daffodil bulbs were to be planted along verges entering the village. Cllr Wathen was not aware of this although some bulbs have been planted in one or two banks near the kiosk. If funding became available it might be possible to explore and organise some group activities when bulbs/seeds could be planted. The experiments at Witchampton and Long Critchel will be monitored.

Mrs J Crawley asked about the number of hours involved in a councillor role. Cllr Wathen explained that the minimum and usual commitment was a two-hour meeting once per month. Following up issues from these meetings added more hours. Some months can see an increase in number of meetings, courses can be attended, projects can demand additional time. However, this is a voluntary role and the councillor remains in control of his/her hours.

6. Planning Report for 2017/2018

Cllr Wathen issued a summary of planning applications for the past year.

It is very rare for the Parish Council to object to a planning application and it almost always support our residents. Planning is not obliged to consider our views but we hope they do most of the time.

Do remember if anyone is submitting planning applications the papers will come to the Parish Council and your councillors have to present your plans. If you want to submit a particular point of view contact your councillor to help him/her represent your viewpoints.

Remember - if you see your planning coming up for discussion you can attend the meeting and submit comments yourself.

7. Fountain Report – Chris McKay

Copies of Mr Chris McKay’s fountain report were issued. This report did not contain any reference to future renovation as this is a recent idea in very early stages. To discuss ideas and launch this project Cllr Wathen will meet with Mr McKay on his return from abroad.

8. Any Other Business

The Parish Council is keen to get young people involved in community matters. Cllr Wathen intends to ask the council to validate certificates that can be presented to young people who have helped the community. There was support for this idea.

The meeting closed at 7:50pm.

Minutes approved:

Cllr S Wathen

Date