

Curdridge Parish Council

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Thursday, 5 April 2018
on the rising of a brief Planning,
Highways & Licensing Committee
Meeting starting at 7pm in the Billiard
Room at the Reading Room

In attendance:

Cllr Kevan Bundell (Chairman)

Cllr Eric Bodger (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Joanne Furby

Cllr Rory Kemp

Cllr Lynne Newton

Cllr Sian Townsend

Cllr Steve Wallin

Jenny Whittle (Parish Council Manager - PCM)

Cllr Vivian Achwal (District Councillor)

Cllr Roger Bentote (District Councillor)

Cllr Roger Huxstep (District Councillor)

9 members of public

1. Chair's welcome to Parishioners and Guest Speakers

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members of the public to raise any matters that were not on the Agenda.

A member of the public raised the fact that the new bus route through Curdridge was not acceptable as the bus now totally bypasses Curdridge; not only does it now miss Lockhams Road where several residents use the bus, but the alternative bus stop in Curdridge Lane is unsuitable, as it is very dangerous to get to and use. It also inflicts on passengers having to stand on a muddy verge and being made wet when cars pass by, as the road immediately next to the bus stop floods. Added to this the bus would no longer stop at the Plantation and so the resident living here now has to walk to Curdridge Lane or Chapel Lane anyway.

The PCM advised that George Hollingbery MP had visited and had recommended that Cllr Huxstep liaise with HCC about the possibility of HCC's financial contributions given for this bus route specifically being diverted to the Curdridge section of this bus route, so that HCC then gained powers to control this section of the bus route. The resident felt that Cllr Huxstep

should also liaise with Kevin Ings who is very good. The Chair asked Cllr Huxstep for an update. Cllr Huxstep advised that HCC are currently investigating this possibility. Cllr Humby recommended that Cllr Huxstep liaises with Peter Shelley (and possibly Kevin Ings) regarding George Hollingbery's recommendation, to encourage the bus company to alter its route, as public safety is a concern. **ACTION: CLLR HUXSTEP.**

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Townsend would be late.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 20 April 2017

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 20 April 2017 were received and noted.

4. Brief presentation by Cllr Rob Humby, Hampshire County Council

Cllr Humby advised that he had previously been a District/County Councillor for Curdrige, but due to boundary changes was now in a different area. He advised that he now oversees Highways at Hampshire County Council, which covers quite a wide range of areas, as covered in a film he then showed of his department's work : He also spoke, on the following;

Roads – there are 5,300 miles of road within Hampshire and HCC team are on call 24/7 to deal with emergencies arising. HCC receives 100,000 road enquiries per year and has to prioritise their workload. They are working hard to deal with potholes, which have been worsened by the snow experienced and they have a new contractor (Skansa) and a new machine, which should improve matters. To put things into perspective the Government invested £100M into pothole repairs in 2017-2018 and of that sum HCC only received £3M, even though the snow cause in excess of £10M damage in Hampshire. This was in addition to £40M of damage caused by flooding in 2014. Even so Skansa have been given a target to catch up with pothole repairs by June 2018. HCC have also become very strict about adopting roads and will now only adopt roads that are in good order;

Transport – where the County Council is working to improve public transport and links.

Minerals Waste – HCC is working to improve recycling, but has a very limited budget that is forcing them to make very difficult decisions, including cuts to services, such as recycling centres. However, HCC has made several prosecutions for fly tipping, which is acting as a deterrent to those who are now fly tipping. With regard to mineral and gravel extraction HCC works with companies to ensure that proper measures are put in place to mitigate the adverse effects of extraction and redevelop the sites to benefit the environment afterwards.

Other projects overseen by Highways include:

Road safety initiatives;

Older Driver Scheme – driver training and assessment;

Delivering infrastructure and infrastructure projects;

Protecting heritage and historic sites;

Protecting wildlife and biodiversity;

Supporting the community, businesses and the economy and general prosperity;

Developing new community centres;

Supporting tourism, which benefits businesses and economy in the area.

Cllr Humby then invited questions.

A members of the public queried why, if HCC do all these things, they cannot get the roads alone in order. Cllr Humby reiterated what he had said previously regarding roads.

Another member of the public raised concerns about the inferior road drain covers being installed along the A334 Wickham Road and the fact that they are constantly breaking and having to be replaced, which is not at all cost effective and the road repairs around them is also inferior. Cllr Humby advised that they are working to address this matter and things should improve vastly now they have a new contractor.

Cllr Humby explained that HCC have 210,000 drains/gullies in Hampshire and can only clear half of these each year. However, they are now installing a new technical monitoring system, which can monitor the water and silt levels in each drain, so that HCC can direct their resources to the worst affected areas. They have also purchased a machine that can monitor the road temperatures for gritting purposes, so that likewise they can direct their resources to the areas most severely affected.

Joanne Furby requested an update on the Botley Bypass. Cllr Humby advised that although all of the funding is now hopefully in place, HCC are unable to give a timescale for when the works will be completed.

The Chair thanked Cllr Humby.

5. Brief presentation by David Picton-Jones in relation to the proposed redevelopment of the Reading Rooms

David Picton-Jones from the Reading Room Management Committee introduced himself. He advised that the Reading Room used to be two charities, but more recently was converted to a Charity Incorporated Organisation and was one of the first in the country. He said that the management committee (like HCC) is also faced with some very difficult decisions, as one of their assets (the Reading Room building) is in an extremely poor state of repair. It is also operating at a significant loss and so they are having to do additional fund raising events in order to keep it operating, even though it cannot be maintained in a good state of repair, as the roof and foundations are a huge problem and any building work on the building attracts 20% VAT also. The management committee's concern is that eventually insurance companies will not insure the building, due to health and safety and public liability. He said that it has now come to the time to think tough and do the brave thing. Rather than keep repairing and trying to make good this current asset, they need to think about the long term future and providing an alternative community facility that will last for future generations. Users of the facility always say what a fantastic asset it is with good car parking and the lovely recreation ground.

David advised that having had surveys carried out on the Reading Room building. Professional surveyors advise they cannot do anything with the building. Consequently, the management committee have been looking at various alternative options, including demolishing the Reading Rooms building and redeveloping the site (including the car park) with houses, to raise funding to build a new community centre in Skinners Field next door. The committee would of course safeguard the Cricket Club and Scout & Guides Groups' facilities and would consult all parishioners prior to implementing such redevelopment.

An update regarding the Planning Appeal on 25 April 2018 relating to the Oak tree in the car park was also given. Following further surveys it appears that this tree might be able to be saved with tree works being carried out and if this is the case the Appeal could be avoided.

The Chair thanked David Picton-Jones.

6. Brief presentation by Mags Wylie from Action Hampshire giving an update on the proposed Affordable Housing Project within Curdridge

Mags Wylie introduced herself as the Rural Enabling Officer working with HARA, which is a multi-agency group working to provide lower cost housing to rural areas for people on low incomes. This scheme was set up in response to the increases in property prices. She advised that they were currently working on various projects in the area, including Shedfield, Waltham Chase, Wickham and Swanmore. It was felt that Curdridge is ideal for this scheme as the average house price is £317,000.

Mags advised that HARAHA has drafted two variations of a scheme to develop a site of 8 houses (5 local authority rental properties and 3 joint ownership properties), using land adjacent to St Peter's Close on the Botley Road under Winchester City Council's Rural Exception Site scheme. These houses would only be allowed to be rented to people with a connection to the parish and anyone purchasing under Joint Ownership would never be allowed to own more than 80% of a property and must sell on to someone with a connection to the parish. As advertised in the recent Annual Parish Newsletter a drop-in event was held last week at the Reading Rooms, which was very successful. More than 45 people attended, with most generally wishing to register a personal interest or an interest on behalf of family members. The next stage is to collate all of the response received and then return to a parish council meeting with the draft proposals using the information gained.

Mags left some consultation questionnaires, together with pre-paid envelopes and invited anyone interested to respond to this consultation, as all comments would be helpful.

The Chair thanked Mags.

Members of the public were concerned whether this development on this land would allow for the site to be further developed in the future. The Chair advised that this land was only being allowed to be developed as a Rural Exception Site for affordable housing and therefore, under current rules, would not lead to any further development, unless it was for additional low cost housing, which would have to go through the formal consultation process again.

7. To receive a written report from Hampshire Constabulary

PCSO Stephanie Slater was unable to attend this meeting, but have provided a written report of crime statistics within Curdridge, against last year's figures:

	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>
Anti-Social Behaviour	7	5
Assault	8	N/A
Burglaries from dwellings	2	1
Burglaries from sheds etc	6	4
Criminal damage	5	5
Driving complaints	2	0
Public Order cases	2	6
Road Traffic Crashes	4	8
Suspicious incidents	14	N/A
Thefts	10	18
Thefts from motor vehicles	3	5
Thefts of motor vehicles	3	1

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor, together with a brief Q&A session

Councillor Huxstep gave the following report:

Last May, the council welcomed Councillor Graham Burgess as our incoming Chairman. His theme for this municipal year is the armed forces and veterans of Hampshire. Hampshire has the largest number of serving members of the armed forces, as well as veterans. He hoped to raise their profile at every opportunity in what they do and what they have achieved.

Cllr Burgess has been in local government since 1998 when he was elected to Gosport

Borough Council to represent Lee on the Solent. He joined HCC in May 2013, representing Lee on the Solent, Grange and Rowner (the Lee electoral division). He served as mayor of Gosport in 2005/2006, he has been deputy leader of Gosport Borough Council since 2009. Councillor Elaine Still, county councillor for the Loddon division, was appointed vice chairman of HCC. Also, the 4-yearly county election took place. The make-up of the council changed significantly with all 10 UKIP councillors losing their seats. As a result, the Conservative group increased from 45 to 56 members. The Liberal Democrats numbered 19 having gained 2 seats. Labour lost 2 seats and now have 2 members. The Independents went from 2 to 1. Councillor Roy Perry was re-elected as Leader of the Council.

General Election 2017

The county elections gave way to the snap general election, the turbulence of which remains with us to date in the wake of the Brexit referendum. Seventeen of the 19 parliamentary constituencies in Hampshire, including Portsmouth and Southampton returned Conservatives. Of these, one is a secretary of state, 4 are ministers, 2 are chairmen of parliamentary select committees and 1 is parliamentary private secretary to the Prime Minister. Furthermore, Alan Mak, MP for Havant formed the All Party Parliamentary Group for Hampshire to include the Isle of Wight. Its chairman is Ranil Jayawardena MP for North East Hampshire. HCC provides the secretariat for the group. With this parliamentary group and the bevy of Hampshire MPs in government the county council is well placed politically, to lobby on issues affecting our region as well as national interests.

Brexit

Brexit has been prominent in government business and devolution has slipped down the agenda but not forgotten. The county council is still intent on keeping Hampshire together. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, Sajid Javid has given assurances that no re-organisation of local government in Hampshire would take place without the agreement of HCC.

County Council's 2018/2019 Revenue & Capital Budget.

The councils budget setting for 2018/19 has been a big issue for officers and members to grapple with; given the £140m that had to be saved to balance the budget. Savings proposals in the autumn led the Cabinet to explore further, all viable options to revise the budgeting for community transport, school crossing patrols and household waste recycling centres. Alternative proposals have been identified and with additional council tax flexibility the savings attached to the above services can be withdrawn and will also allow a £2m reduction in the bus subsidies saving. The council tax requirement for the County Council for the year beginning 1st April 2018, has been agreed to be £608,175,704.00. This will result in a Band D property's county council tax for the year beginning 1st April 2018 being £1,200.96. This is an increase of 5.99% on this financial year's tax. It comprises the new referendum threshold of 2.99% and 3% which is specifically for adults' social care. You may recall that the council froze council tax at its 2010/11 level for the following 5 financial years but for 2016/17 the government discontinued the council tax freeze grant on the assumption that councils would apply the 1.99% increase they were allowed to do without a referendum. For this financial year, 2017/18, as indicated above an extra 3% was allowed, to be ring-fenced for adult social care costs so the increase then was 4.99%. Had the 2010/11 council tax been raised in line with the RPI, then for 2018/19 level it would now be set at £1295.48, an extra £94.52. If in addition, the 1.99% increase had been applied over the same period, including the extra 5.99% for 2018/19 the Band D tax would have risen to £1352.47, an extra £151.51. So, although there will be an increase in council tax it is well below that which would have been expected

with inflation and the council applying the allowed 1.99% rise annually. So, the budget is not only balanced but is to provide for the increase in demand for our services. To meet the continuing increase in demand for services we need to improve what we do and to utilise capital schemes to help reduce revenue expenditure as far as possible. The increased demand in adult social care means more residents being looked after in their own homes, and in our residences. Recently we have committed another £26million to provide 90 more units for adults with learning disabilities in Basingstoke, New Milton, Aldershot, Eastleigh and Fareham and the first of these comes on stream shortly. The increased demand in children's services, apart from 18,000 more school places, means more looked after children being cared for, and an increase in asylum seekers. Some Children need a safer place, those with severe learning difficulties can find a haven in the purpose-built houses we have made for them. Those who need family intervention will be helped by the increase in children's social workers we are budgeting for - more social workers for children, not fewer. This year it is met by increasing their budget by £9.5 million to allow also for the increased demand for Home-to-School Transport. A one-off amount of £7.6 million was needed for 2017/18. We have used our Capital programme to increase investment in Libraries, Country Parks, and outdoor centres. Some £17 million thus far has been committed. This will improve the visitor experience and bring in more income, making them self-sustaining instead of a revenue cost. In the Highways department we now receive over 100,000 enquiries per year. That is ongoing, so we need more, not fewer, electronic methods of dealing with it. And, as housing and population increases, waste disposal is increasing too. This means more household waste and less commercial waste in our energy plants thus reducing the income stream. So, we need to recycle more, and it is important to fund the Household Waste Recycling Centres, not to reduce their capacity. We have revised the PFI financing on our street lighting contract, so that over £1 million per year in savings has been produced for the Highways Department thus reducing the need to find savings in waste recycling centres. A review of our longer-term future capital needs noted the urgency for a number of schemes to be added to our capital programme. The longer-term requirement is assessed as some £440 million. £218 million for Invest-to-Save Schemes, £133 million for stand-alone schemes and some £55 million for the Schools Programme. The Invest-to-Save Schemes are part of a very clear strategy to produce short stay hubs for Adult Social Care for re-abling clients before they return to their own homes. We shall remodel much of our nursing and residential estate to cater for increasing instances of dementia. The stand-alone schemes involve a number of infrastructure additions, for example an enhanced material's recovery facility. They must be based on a beneficial business case as must each of the Invest-to-Save Schemes and those business cases will be forthcoming in due course. Our innovative investment in energy saving projects has already saved £29 million and will reduce our targeted carbon levels by nearly 40% now, not in 2025 as we originally envisaged. So, we are setting a new target of 50% by 2025 which we would raise to 55% if it proves feasible to replace all our street lamps with LED lights. And, we are working on that possibility. We are leading the way in providing for electric car charging points. We are ourselves now owners, and we shall save more than £200,000 per year on fuel costs for the investment of an extra £1million in electric cars over diesel. We are investigating Battery Storage technology to reduce further our energy bills as well as help with carbon reductions for a better environment. Although we have taken advantage of the cost benefits of PV we are mindful that the Energy Performance Projects relating to our buildings provide a 7-times better return on investment, so we continue to concentrate on that.

Conclusion

Hampshire County Council at year end still levies one of the lowest council taxes in the country; with a balanced budget, while striving to become ever more efficient and effective at delivering good services.

Cllr Roger Huxstep, Member for Meon Valley Division, Hampshire County Council 5 April 2018

9. To receive a report from the District Councillors, together with a brief Q&A session
Councillor Bentote gave the following report on behalf of himself and Cllr Achwal:

Since becoming Winchester City Councillors for Shedfield and Whiteley Ward in May 2016 we have involved ourselves with many local people and local issues. Whilst there have been many successful outcomes we have become increasingly frustrated by the seeming lack of support from Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council in responding to the needs of local villages in this ward.

Of major concern is Curdridge which finds itself in the middle of many new housing developments and increased use of its roads as major through routes. People travel from Denmead, Soberton, Newtown, Swanmore, Bishops Waltham, Waltham Chase and Wickham through Curdridge to get to Southampton and beyond. Over the past few years, and still ongoing, many of these villages have seen many new housing developments. The new developments at Whiteley, Boorley Green and Botley are all on the border of Curdridge and will generate much more traffic.

Whilst the developers and local authorities have spent time to ensure that most of these developments have in place suitable roads and cycle and footpaths this does not extend to looking at already established communities like Curdridge. Curdridge Lane is a favoured route for residents of Waltham Chase, Swanmore and eastward. It is a narrow lane with no footpath anywhere beyond Waltham Chase. There are signs at the Waltham Chase end about the unsuitability of the road for heavy vehicles but not at the junction with the B3035 Bishops Waltham-Botley road,

In Curdridge drivers from Waltham Chase have two options for continuing their onward journey towards Botley a) Lockhams Road -again a narrow road with no footpath but also about 40 houses and another 40 houses on the adjoining Gordon Road. 40 mph on this road is dangerous. b) continue on Curdridge Lane but divert on to The Plantation - again no footpath, narrow road, verges destroyed by heavy lorries, 20 houses and 40mph limit.

People cannot safely cycle or walk on any of these roads.

The two major roads coming from the East are the A334 and the B3035. Through Curdridge the speed limit on the B3035 is 40mph but this is often exceeded as we can personally report from helping Curdridge residents with their speedwatch. Where pavements exist, they are largely overgrown and reduced in width making access for push chairs very difficult. Requests to restore adequate path width earlier this year have gone unanswered until recently.

The speed limit on the A334 through Curdridge is 50mph but there is a bad accident record at its X road junction with Reading Room Lane and Outlands Lane. We understand that at an inquest of a cyclist in 2015 the judge endorsed the view that the junction was extremely dangerous. Also, where the A334 meets the B3035 is a black spot. (two recent accidents around Christmas). Again, the footpath needs to be kept clear of overgrowth.

North Whiteley is to be developed and its residents are to be provided with a new road cycle way and footpath to take them from their homes into Botley via A3051. But nothing is planned to help Curdridge villagers.

Just south of Curdridge lies Curbridge- no footpath here on the busy A3051 nor any that we can see being planned within the North Whiteley plans although Curbridge is going to be swallowed by the development.

To the North of B3035 residents of Wangfield Lane (another narrow road with no footway) are aware of increased traffic from Boorley Green. When the Botley bypass is under construction this traffic on Wangfield might well increase.

One might think that Whiteley as a relatively recent new town would have few issues but aside from the acknowledged traffic problems into and out of Whiteley there are significant problems with both broadband provision and mobile phone coverage. Needless to say, there are also many complaints about these matters in all the villages.

Winchester City Council is committed to spending lots of money on projects within the city but little elsewhere. Hampshire County Council is responsible for the bigger picture but villages like Curdridge and Shedfield seem too small to be of any significant input.

Residents in this ward pay their council tax and deserve to have their basic needs met. We have written to Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council chief executives with all these problems asking them to pay rather more attention to requests for action from us. We shall continue to press for answers and action on behalf of you, the residents.

Winchester City Councillors Vivian Achwal and Roger Bentote

Councillor Huxstep gave the following report:

Fly Tipping. Winchester City Council has achieved a 100% success rate in fly tip prosecutions. The council has been actively looking to reduce fly tipping in the district and has demonstrated its zero-tolerance approach to fly tipping.

Air Quality Action Plan for the City Centre. The Air Quality Action Plan has nine high impact core actions aimed at improving air quality and working towards meeting the relevant air quality objectives within Winchester district.

Parking in Winchester. A strategy for parking has been developed to help people to find the right parking solution for their visits and the needs of the environment including air quality, relating to the Air Quality Action Plan.

Council Strategy 2018-2020. A revised council strategy has been instated; supported by four principles: making the district a premier business location; developing quality housing with a balanced range of tenures; protecting and enhancing our unique environment and delivering services that encourage residents to lead healthy and fulfilling lives.

Safer Communities. A partnership approach has been established between Winchester City Council's Community Safety and Neighbourhood Services Team and the police and others as part of the Community Safety Partnership to deliver a range of actions that reduce crime and disorder.

Local Plan for the Winchester District. The local plan passed its following its successful Examination in Public and the incorporation of modifications, the Winchester District Local Plan Part 2 – Development Management and Site Allocations (LPP2) was adopted by the Council on 5 April 2017.

Housing Plans. Winchester has responded to the Government's housing plans, ambitiously by planning to double the number of homes it is building in the next three years. The affordable housing

scheme nears a major milestone as one of the district's largest affordable housing schemes in Winchester, the Chesil Lodge, a new Extra Care scheme which will provide 52 homes for people aged 55 and over, is nearly completed.

Central Winchester Regeneration Project. The Supplementary Planning Document 'Vision for Central Winchester Regeneration Area' has been drafted following input from the local community. The draft SPD was presented to the public in November and the formal consultation period started in mid-December until early February. Details on the outcomes will be published shortly.

Homelessness. The council has scooped a Gold Standard award for local homelessness services. Winchester City Council has become the first council in Hampshire and only the fifth in England to receive the Government's prestigious 'Gold Standard' award in recognition of its work in preventing and tackling all forms of homelessness.

Business Support. A new business support service for Winchester City Council has been set up for a two-year period from 1st June 2017. The business support service will provide training, networking, one-to-one advice sessions and mentoring tailored to the needs of businesses located in the Winchester area.

Winchester Car Club. There is now an opportunity for signed up members of the car club to hire a car on an hourly basis for local, short journeys. This can be especially useful for business people who need to attend meetings away from their base, without needing to pay for a pool-car that is infrequently used.

Winchester Sports & Leisure Centre. Plans for the centre are forging ahead and some of you may well have seen an artist's impression of what it might look like in today's edition of the Hampshire Chronicle?

Disabled Adaptations. Council is investing £1m on disabled adaptations and has agreed to double its spending on adapting residents' homes, helping them to remain independent and in many cases making sure they can return home from hospital more quickly.

Tenant Satisfaction. 91% of tenants are happy with the service they receive council. Council tenants in Winchester will see their rents reduced by 1% next year.

Business Rates Relief. The council has consulted local businesses on rate relief following government changes. The council has been awarded £900,000 from central government to help local businesses struggling with changes in their business rates bill.

Cabinet Meetings. Winchester City Council Cabinet meetings have taken to the road. Every

other cabinet

meeting is being held in a different location around the district for this municipal year.

Living Wage Foundation Measures to tackle Winchester's Affordability. Winchester City Council is one

of only four authorities in the south east of England to be accredited by the Living Wage Foundation thereby

influencing the council's social and community policies.

Winchester Station Approach. New opportunities are part of the vision for Winchester Station Approach

following a stakeholder workshop which drew upon local insight for new employment and leisure options.

Winchester City Council Website. A new look for the council's website has been implemented in the hope

that it is more user friendly and easier to navigate and access. <http://www.winchester.gov.uk>.

Strategic Asset Fund. £15m has been added to strategic asset fund to support future council services.

Councillors ratified a plan to increase Winchester City Council's ability to invest in strategic assets that can be

used to boost the organisation's income and support local services.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Winchester's residents have helped keep the air ambulance

flying by raising a staggering £24,000 for the service by using council clothing recycling points around the

district to turn their unwanted clothing, shoes and textiles into cash.

Kerbside Glass Collection. Such a service is being considered for Winchester by the council, but no firm

decisions have been made to date.

Winchester District: Traveller Plan. Development planning document's consultation has closed with 97

published responses. The aim is to adopt the plan later this year.

District Cllr Roger Huxstep, Member for Shedfield & Whiteley Ward (incorporating Curbridge, Curdrige and Shirrell Heath) - 5th April 2018

10. To receive the Annual Report of the Parish Council Chairman

Councillor Kevan Bundell, the Chairman, gave the following report:

Thanks to all our Parish Councillors for all their time and hard work on a voluntary basis.

Particular thanks to Kevin Bull and Joanne Furby, who have now stepped down as Councillors.

Kevin brought a new set of skills and knowledge to the Council which we much appreciated.

Special thanks to Joanne, who has been a Councillor for ten years and whose incisive contributions and support I have valued very much.

Welcome to our two new Councillors, Steve Wallin and Sian Townsend.

Thanks to the voluntary Litter Picking Group for all their hard work on behalf of the parish and to Joanne for organising it.

Thanks to the voluntary Speedwatch Group for all their hard work on behalf of the parish and to Lynne Newton for leading it.

Thanks also to our District/County Councillors for taking up issues with WCC, HCC and our MP on our behalf. They have worked hard on our issues and their contribution is much appreciated.

Projects etc:

As ever, the number one issue in the village is Traffic - our initiatives in in this regard have included the new Village Gates; the Curdridge Lane/Lockhams Rd junction and Speedwatch. We are reviewing the deployment of our speed limit reminder sign in view of its age and the costs associated with its deployment throughout the parish.

Cemetery/Church Car Park repairs - thanks to Cllr Huxstep, our County Councillor, for the grant donation for the repair and re-surfacing of the cemetery car park entrance tarmac. The work will hopefully be booked in the next school holidays to avoid causing too much disruption to users. The PC is also planning to carry our further necessary repairs to the car park surface and drainage and is putting money aside for that purpose.

Thanks to Eric Bodger for leading on the Boorley Green development issues, particularly the impact on Wangfield Lane. We are particularly aware of how dangerous its junction with the B3035 is.

Thanks to Lynne and Peter Newton and to Rory Kemp for opening up the Pound. We hope that parishioners will now find it a good place to sit and rest - as well as to watch the traffic hurtle off the B3035 and in to the Plantation.

Thanks to Kevin Bull and Lynne Newton for the safety repairs to the Cricketers Pond barrier and for the savings made to the PC by their efforts.

A new fence has just been installed at the Allotment/Recreation Car Park. The old one fell down through old age.

Affordable Housing - We have been working on this since about 2010 and we are pleased to report that the project has now reached the stage reported to us earlier by Mags Wylie. The recent Drop-in showed that there is substantial need and support for an affordable housing scheme in the village.

Our thanks to John Clements for his grounds maintenance services for us for the last few years. We have now contracted a new, local grounds maintenance company to look after our properties around the village. We have also applied and are hopeful that grant funding will be obtained from the HCC Parish Lengthsman scheme. We will then have a part time Lengthsman to deal with at least some of our minor footpath and highway issues. HCC will provide £1000 and we have allocated some additional funds in order to cover the work we anticipate will need to be done.

Finally, our thanks to Jenny Whittle, our Clerk, who works constantly to run the PC and its business. She is the boss who keeps us in order and prevents us from doing things we might like to do but mustn't. . . . ! She also maintains the PC Website. This is the place to go for reporting such things as potholes, flooding and fly-tipping.

Reminder - there will be Parish Council Elections on the 3rd of May. In the interests of democracy, please put yourself forward, or encourage others to do so.

11. To receive the Annual Statement of Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017, together with the Audit Certificate for the year 2016-2017

The PCM explained that parish councils have a legal duty to have their accounts audited by an internal auditor and external auditor to protect against fraud and to ensure that spending is monitored and in accordance with powers. She advised that the audited Annual Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 contained the following figures:

Balances brought forward	£ 59,834.00
Annual Precept	£ 30,981.00
Total Other Receipts	£ 3,692.00
Staff Costs	£ 11,134.00
Loans Interest/Capital Repayments	£ 0.00
All Other Payments	£ 17,624.00
Balances Carried Forward	£ 65,749.00
Total Cash & Short Term Investments	£ 65,749.00
Total Fixed Assets (plus other long Term investments & assets)	£125,642.00
Total Borrowings	£ 0.00

The Clerk also advised that the Precept set for the financial year 2018-2019 for the parish is £46,277.00 and that there is currently a sum of nearly £52,000 ear-marked from accumulated reserve funds for projects within the parish. These projects include road safety projects, improvements to the Cemetery Car Park, a contribution towards the Botley to Bishops Waltham Trail (when finalised) and an ongoing annual contribution towards the minibus replacement fund, together with various grant funding and several other smaller projects.

9. Questions from Parishioners

There were no further matters arising.

10. Closing address by Chairman followed by refreshments and an opportunity to talk informally with your area Councillors

The Chair thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, which was then closed.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.