

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – BRAMDEAN & HINTON AMPNER held at Bramdean Village Hall 24th April 2024 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Katherine Hawkings (Chairman, Parish Council), four Parish Councillors, Parish Clerk, Cllr Bolton, Cllr Pett and 27 members of the public.

1. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th March 2023 were presented for information.
2. Annual Report of the Parish Council – Katherine Hawkings

I start by expressing my thanks to everyone who has contributed to the villages in the past 12 months but particularly to my fellow Councillors, Matthew Morton, Tony Harding, Chris McCrystal, Anna Cox and Jane Catlin for their work on behalf of the Parish Council this past year. Graham Rothery who had been a Councillor for 5 years stood down when he moved away from the village at the end of last year.

I would also like to thank our Clerk, Brendan Gibbs who has conducted his role as Clerk with great efficiency.

Thanks, must also go to our nominee to Blakes Educational Charity, Hazel Flindt, and to Chris Day our Neighbourhood watch coordinator.

I also would like to thank the volunteers who manage the Speed Indicator Devices which we believe make a difference to the traffic speeds through the village.

I would also like to thank Graham Lunn for his regular checks of the defib and taking the time to log all his checks online.

You may remember that the PC bought the defibrillator on the understanding that the village managed it. It requires regular annual funding and to date this has come from plant sales and contributions. This year a donor has stepped forward who would like to take on the annual maintenance bill for which we are very grateful.

It has been a busy year for the Parish Council We held four ordinary Parish Council meetings during the year, one extra ordinary meeting to discuss planning applications and we held our Annual Parish Meeting last April where we listened to representatives of the National Trust explain their plans for the Hinton Ampner Estate.

Where possible Parish Councillors attended meetings organised by or with representatives of the Environment Agency, Hampshire Highways, and Hampshire Association of Local Councils, Winchester city Council and Hampshire County Council.

Over the course of the year, we have been consulted on thirteen planning applications in Bramdean and seven within Hinton Ampner and one license application. All planning applications are now posted on the Bramdean and Hinton Ampner website under the Parish Council section offering you a link to the SDNP planning portal. This can be accessed by anyone. You can of course also access the SDNP portal direct. A couple of applications have taken up a huge amount of Parish Council time this year and I thank Brendan for his sound guidance and experience. I am asked frequently why the SDNP planning department have not made their conclusions on one planning application in particular. I can only say that it is out of our hands and we wait to hear from them.

This year we have again benefitted from the Hampshire County Council Lengthsman scheme grant funding of £1000. This has meant that we have been able to keep the watercourse strimmed and mown alongside the main road, kept the footpath in Hinton Ampner mown and bus shelters maintained. This scheme is continuing for the next financial year and we have secured the instruction of a new Lengthsman which I hope will work as well as the last one who sadly priced themselves out of the market.

Hampshire Highways have continued to repair culverts throughout Bramdean and Hinton Ampner. The watercourse has flowed very well this year despite a very high-water table. This emphasizes the need going forward to keep the culvert clear in order that the road and surrounding properties are not flooded. I would like to thank all riparian owners who keep their sections of the watercourse clear as this helps with the flow away from the village.

We have spent some more of the Community Infrastructure Levy fund mainly on upgrading the Twist in the Receptions Ground and on a new picnic table.

Bramdean Common has seen its fair share of travellers again this year. Winchester City Council have put 6 notices up dotted around the Common in the hope that this will deter further campervans and travellers. Since they were put up there have been no more reports of overnight stays.

You will have noticed that two of the signs were taken down by someone quite early on and Winchester are looking to replace them.

Fly tipping was bad again but Winchester did eventually clear some of it from the eastern side of the common and more recently were quick to remove more fly tipping in the lanes around Woodlands.

We have planted another Oak tree for the Coronation of King Charles and replaced the late Queens Platinum Jubilee Oak. We also funded Coronation mugs for all children under the age of 16 which were handed out at the Coronation Lunch on the recreation ground on 7th May.

We have had to raise the precept by 3 % which represents an increase of £280. This is to cover the continuing rising costs to the Parish Council whether it be fuel for the mower, maintenance of the recreation ground, office costs, insurance and the Clerk's salary. We have kept it as low as possible and as an indication for you of the rise, a Band rate D property will pay an extra £1.21 per year.

Finally, the Parish Council is here to look after the village in the best way we can and are always at the end of phone if anyone has any concerns or suggestions however it does need to be recognised that P Cllrs are all unpaid volunteers. Parish Council meetings are open to the public and you are always welcome to attend them.

Now I would like you all to help yourself to a drink and sit back down to listen to our guest speaker, Charlie Flindt who many of you will know lives in Hinton Ampner.

I'm sure he will keep us all amused for the next half hour or so.

3. Parish Council Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2024 – Brendan Gibbs

A summary of the budget outcome for 2023-24 (subject to audit) had been circulated to Parish Councillors.

Income

The Precept was £8,830. HCC funding of £1100 was received to engage a Lengthsman (including £100 to administer scheme). A grant of £282.00 were received during the year towards the cost of providing a new bench at the Recreation Ground.

Expenditure

There were no large items of expenditure to report. Administration and Sundries included copying, ink, paper, postage, stationery and telephone.

There was some significant expenditure of our CIL receipts in the financial year 2023-24

£2,640.00 was spent on an ELAN CITY Evolis Vision Speed Indicator Device and fittings.

£6,773.53 was spent on improvements and additions to the Recreation Ground Play Equipment.

£959.83 was spent on improvements the Recreation Ground fencing.

£398.00 was spent as a contribution towards a new picnic bench at the Recreation Ground.

£1,140 was spent on repairs to the pre-existing Recreation Ground Play Equipment.

We therefore have a residue of £472.59 in our CIL fund moving forward.

4. Report of the Recreation Committee

Cllr Hawkings read a report previously supplied by Cllr McCrystal

“I would like to thank my fellow committee members Kashy Hawkings, Tony Harding, Anne Newson, Brendan Gibbs and Adrian Taylor, for their support over the past year. Adrian continues to maintain the Recreation Ground on our behalf to a very high standard.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to convey a special word of thanks to those residents with a boundary on the Recreation Ground that have cut back trees and vegetation to prevent damage to the surrounding fencing or significant overhang.”

5. Mr Charlie Flindt presented some entertaining stories regarding his thirty-eight years spent working on a farming tenancy at Hinton Ampner.

The meeting closed at 9.26 pm.