

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Martin held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 in the Blandford Hall, Martin commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr. S. Sampson (in the Chair); Cllr. D. Binns, Cllr. B. Hapke, Cllr. H. Lawes, Cllr. W. Perry and Cllr. J. Richards

Mr. E. Macknamara (Parish Clerk) (Members of the Public.)

1. APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Edward Heron
2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013.  
RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Assembly held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 be approved as an accurate record.
3. MATTERS ARISING:
  - Church Clock: The Church Clock had been repaired and was now working as normal.
  - Basketball Hoop: The Basketball Hoop had now been installed at the Recreation Ground.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman presented her Annual Report to the meeting.

At the Annual Meeting last year the concern was to keep the Precept to a reasonable level with the unexpected prospect of having to replace the broken clock mechanism situated in the Church Tower. The Parish Council was jointly responsible with the Parochial Church Council and the cost of repair was estimated to be £2000 or more which was quite a daunting prospect. However, fortunately Roy Shepherd had bequeathed money for the Church and his family wished for it to be spent on restoring the Church Clock. The process of installing and fine tuning has been a long process and at times frustrating but the final costs will be paid at the Parish Council Meeting this evening. We all hope that residents are enjoying hearing the clock striking once more. We are all grateful to Roy and his family for this generous gift.

The Parish Council has been eager to install a further piece of play equipment on the Recreation Ground and a basketball hoop has now been purchased. This will be installed shortly on the site of the Rhino Half Pipe. We hope that our older children will enjoy using it. Thanks go to Iain Giles for pursuing this matter and overseeing the purchase and installation. In the same area it is lovely to see the blossom on the fruit trees in The Community Orchard. Let's hope for a decent summer to enjoy this new Village amenity.

This year the Parish Council have been taking part in a new venture, the Speedwatch Scheme. There have been 3 or 4 sessions and as a result several speeding drivers have received letters from the Police and further sitings will result in prosecution. As a Council it is felt that this scheme is important and have the option to share costs with other Parish Councils in the scheme. The support given by Phil Tandy, Chairman of Damerham Parish Council and his guidance on this scheme has been appreciated.

Earlier this year work was started on a Resilience Plan in case of severe emergency when the normal Emergency Services might not be available. Thanks were given to all who had responded with offers of help and the information would now be collated. Let us hope that such an emergency doesn't happen.

During the year the Lengthsman Scheme has been in place whereby each Parish Council gets £1000 to spend on small public maintenance tasks within the Parish. The money is provided by Hampshire County Council and Fordingbridge Town Council administers the scheme. It

has been cumbersome and difficult to manage and it is disappointing that each Parish could not appoint a local person to carry out this type of work.

Planning issues have been relevantly quiet but after many years of wrangling the site of the derelict cottage at Drove End has now got permission to rebuild which hopefully will be an improvement and provide a new home for somebody.

The roads and ditches have suffered greatly with the extreme weather this winter. I have been working with the Highways Officer to approach landowners to clear ditches before next winter sets in and hopefully deal better with any excess water that might accumulate. Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Parish Council who quietly deal with a number of different aspects of Village Life. Each Councillor has an area of responsibility so thanks to:

Gary Blandford-Hull who regularly inspects the Play Area

Janet Richards for maintaining the website

Iain Giles for overseeing the Lengthsman Scheme

Suzanne Spreadbury for police liaison

Bernd Hapke, Wendy Perry and Janet Richards for their support with the Speedwatch Scheme

Thanks were also given to the Clerk for his support.

5. QUESTIONS:

The Chairman invited questions. None were raised.

6. DISTRICT /COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

Cllr. Heron had been unable to attend the meeting.

7. MATTERS OF INTEREST RAISED FROM THE FLOOR: None

There being no other items of business raised the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.25pm.

Signed: .....

Date:.....