

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Martin held on Monday, 18th May, 2015 in the Blandford Hall, Martin commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllr. S. Sampson (in the Chair); Cllr. B. Hapke, Cllr. M. Farmer 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. H. Lawes and Cllr. Edward Heron
2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 12TH MAY 2014.
RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Annual Assembly held on the 12th May, 2014 be approved as an accurate record.
3. MATTERS ARISING: None
4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT
The Chairman presented her Annual Report to the meeting.
The year had been much easier in terms of weather and roads and most of the ditches had now been cleared. Some culverts still needed jetting and this would be done in due course. The Parish Council had paid for the clearing of ditches from the remaining money for the Lengthsman scheme. This had been forced upon the Parish Council because of an underspend arising from a lack of time offered by the Lengthsman and the work had been done rather than lose the money. This work had been done as a one off and in future the clearing of the ditches would remain the responsibility of the adjacent landowner. However, the support and cooperation given by Nick Lock and Roger Densham was appreciated. Roger Densham had kindly offered to lay the pipe across the area of the badger's sett so that the water could flow under the spoil from the sett.
On the planning front the Drove End Farm dwelling replacement was under construction. The Parish Council had not been happy with the addition of an Orangery but the Planning Committee of the New Forest District Council had not been persuaded by the comments that had been put forward at their meeting. After a site meeting at Talks Farm it was felt that a better design had been achieved but the Planning Officers are not yet happy with all of the details. At Sweetapples Farmhouse the retrospective request for external cladding was refused but this cladding has not yet been removed.
The difficulties caused by parking on the Green outside 1 Townsend Lane continued to concern the Parish Council. The District Council have been dragging their feet on reaching an acceptable agreement to allow an access to the rear of the recreation ground. We all hope that the Green can be restored to its original state very soon.
On the Recreation Ground there had been several positive changes through the year;
A dog/litter bin had been installed
A new picnic table provided
Sheep and horses allowed grazing on the previously derelict land
New toddler swings installed.
However, many pieces of equipment were deteriorating and coming to the end of their life and the Parish Council will need to address the purchase of new equipment for the younger children and perhaps some goal posts for the older ones.
There had been some concern about the proposed Music Festival in Martin on the 30th May, 2015 and any resultant noise or disruptive behaviour. The Parish Council was not involved in the granting of the Licence or Policing the event. Whilst it was hoped the event would be

successful in bringing in much needed income to the Club any residents concerned on the night should contact the appropriate authorities namely;

The Police: Telephone 101 (Non-Emergency) or 999 (Emergency)

The Environmental health Officers – New Forest District Council: 0280285250 or 07771259098

The Chairman thanked individual members of the Parish Council for their time and contribution throughout the year:

Janet Richards, as Vice Chairman and for her work on the website and attention to finance including her persistence in the scheme to bring improved local broadband

Wendy Perry, for the considerable amount of time spent on contacting and facilitating the Lengthsman Scheme. Not an easy task

Hazel Lawes, for her watchful eye over the recreation ground and the regular inspection reports which she has carried out.

Bernd Hapke, for his role as Police Liaison Officer

Mark Farmer, who had re-joined the Parish Council following Dan Binn's move out of the Village. Mark has been particularly involved with road safety and especially improving the signage at the junction with the A354.

The Chairman also thanked the Clerk for keeping a professional and experienced eye on Parish Council matters and for his sense of humour.

5. QUESTIONS:

The Chairman invited questions. None were raised.

6. DISTRICT /COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

Cllr. Heron had been unable to attend the meeting.

In his absence his reports were presented as follows:

District Council Report to Martin Parish Meeting

Cllr Edward Heron – Downlands & Forest Ward

Please accept my apologies for being unable to attend this evenings meeting, unfortunately it clashes with the Annual Meeting of New Forest District Council.

I would like to start by thanking the parishioners of Martin for their support in re-electing me to represent them at the District Council, I will do so to the best of my abilities.

Whilst I am proud of the record of the District Council over the last four year, having frozen its share of Council Tax for all four years, despite a reduction in funding from central government of over £3 million, there is still much more that needs to be done and some significant challenges on the horizon.

Over the coming days the Council will be working on its corporate plan. This sets out its priorities over the next four years and will focus on key areas such as supporting the local economy, helping residents of all ages to improve their skills through education, training and apprenticeships and ensuring the availability of homes within the District for local people.

The availability of sites for new employment opportunities and for the new homes required to ensure local people can continue to live and work within the District, are two of the main challenges ahead. Whilst national and local designations, such as being within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, will limit the scope for new development within the Parish, a debate will be required as to whether the restriction on new homes being limited to only those for social rent is sustainable and whether some new open market housing should be considered. I know that there will be strong views on both sides of this debate and one way to ensure that any decision has the support of the majority of local residents is through the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan, which has to be passed by a local referendum before it can be implemented. I am sure there will be much more on this in the coming months.

Some areas of the District Council's day to day business, whilst always looking for ways to save money through greater efficiency, are unlikely to change. The existing weekly kerbside refuse and recycling collections and four-weekly glass collections, for example, will continue unchanged. I would conclude by saying that should the Parish Council or parishioners wish to discuss any of the issues I have raised in this report or any other matters relating to the District Council, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email at cllr.edward.heron@gmail.com by telephone on 01725 518579.

County Council Report to Martin Parish Meeting

Cllr. Edward Heron – Fordingbridge Division

Whilst the majority of the telephone calls and emails I receive from residents tend to relate to highway matters, I thought that for this report I would focus on one of the areas of Hampshire County Council's work, that whilst less visible to many Parishioners, is nonetheless vital.

One of the largest areas of County Council expenditure is Childrens' Services.

Hampshire has earned one of the strongest and most consistent reputations in the country for its quality and effectiveness of its child protection services. That is evidenced by a succession of Ofsted and other indicators, not least that Hampshire was asked by the Government to lead child services on the Isle of Wight in a unique partnership.

Our achievements are based, among other things, on the priority this Council gives to our most vulnerable children, such as those at risk of abuse or exploitation and on the quality of partnership working with other agencies, especially the Police in this regard.

But we will not be complacent, which also why the County Council will further increase its spending on the most vulnerable children by over £12million this year despite the strength of our existing performance and the huge financial pressure we face.

Hampshire Primary Schools' performance is reported as being in the top five in the south east and in the top quartile nationally. In early years' education, the County Council is one of two authorities nationally described as being "the highest performing" for improving outcomes for our pre-school children and ensuring they are well prepared to enter primary education.

Around 13,000 16 year olds in Hampshire sat their Key Stage 4 (KS4) GCSE examinations in 2014 and have achieved impressive results, continuing to outperform the national averages. The school performance tables show that in Hampshire, 59% of students achieved five A* - C GCSE passes, including English and Mathematics. Final performance tables for Key Stage 2 Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) results for 2013 have been released and show that Hampshire's 8364 Schools have built on the very high standards their pupils attain in reading, writing and mathematics, with 2014 results putting Hampshire well within the top quarter of authorities nationally.

7. MATTERS OF INTEREST RAISED FROM THE FLOOR: None

The meeting expressed disappointment that the meeting had not been better attended.

There being no other items of business raised the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm.

Signed:

Date: