

# **Binsted Parish Council**

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

### **Unconfirmed Minutes April 9th 2018**

The Wickham Institute, Binsted, 7pm

- **Members Present**

Councillors Ron Neil (Chairman), Claire Fargeot (Vice Chairman), James Isted, John Retallack, Ian Salisbury, Robin Warnes, Geoff Woollen, Clerk, Sue Hodder and Deputy Clerk, Karen Ray.

- **Announcements, Welcome and Introduction**

The Chairman welcomed guests, County Councillor (Rural) Mark Kemp-Gee, Sharron Morton (Head @ Binsted School), District Councillor Ken Carter and the Parishioners. Reference was made explaining the difference between the APM and the AGM. This meeting is for the Electorate of the Parish to engage with the Council.

- **Apologies for Absence**

None

- **Chairman's Report 2017/2018**

- The Chairman opened by commenting that we have two vacancies on the Council.
- Awareness raised to the revamp of the website and thanks given to Cllr Fargeot for her hard work
- SDNP Local Plan, announcement is due next month (May).
- Broadband (Cllr Warnes) Superfast broadband from BT is now available in Binsted and Frith End. Link to be put on website.
- The Parish Council, in the last year, dealt with some large planning applications i.e: The Cedars (permission granted) and Forest Lodge (permission granted)
- Devolution, District Cllr Mark Kemp-Gee to give update.
- Local Government Boundary Commission changes, District Cllr Ken Carter to give update.

- **Chairman Recreation (Cllr Neil)**

- A reminder that the defibrillator is installed under the verandah at the Recreation Ground, Binsted.
- Allotments, there is one vacancy. Please contact the Deputy Clerk, Karen Ray.
- Moles are an increasing problem, now changed contractors.
- Four new picnic circular tables are positioned on the Recreation Ground.
- The gate and kissing gate are now installed at the top of the driveway to the Recreation Ground. This has happened following advice from police and the BPC insurance company following unwanted visitors in Wrecclesham and Holybourne.

- Dog fouling has increased and is being monitored by EHDC enforcement team.
- Preliminary discussion has started regarding potential improvements to the pavilion which has prompted a BPC asset review.
  
- **Chairman Highways (Cllr Salisbury)**
  - Thanks expressed to County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee for his continued support.
  - Recommendation to use roadworks.org for reporting all road/potholes issues
  - The waterworks by Jays Pond has now been completed, but as explained we do not get notified prior to event. They have agreed to return to reinstate the grass verges.
  - Mobile speed signs, sites have been identified and finances allowing, will hopefully be up and running this year
  - Blacknest Bridge, there have been many incidents. Support from our local PCSO and local residents is very encouraging.
  - Operation Resilience, work has started on the A325 with the removal of the cats' eyes ready to plane the surface.
  - Speed on the A325 is still a problem, there has been a massive increase in traffic movement
  - Signage in the villages is an ongoing issue
  - Binsted School - parking area outside is insufficient for requirements and has no pavement. Highways have visited the site and reported back there are no funds. We will continue to seek to address this for safety reasons.
  
- **Chairman Finance (Cllr Fargeot)**
  - The Chairman thanked Deputy Clerk, Karen Ray for her hard work over the year.
  - If you wish to view the accounts anytime please contact the Clerk.
  - A Grants Policy is being produced and will be put on the website. This financial year a total of £5,100 was awarded to local groups/charities.
  - Precept increase is 2.7%
  - Areas of new expenditure going forwards are the redecoration of the pavilion and to move the website hosting to a paid for service.
  
- **Footpaths and Bridleways (Cllr Fargeot)**
  - Thanks were extended to Ian Fleming, Footpath Officer for his work and dedication. Ian regularly walks all of our paths and bridleways and reports any damage or problems.
  - A sample of the new leaflet was shown – aim to produce leaflets for self-guided walks covering nature and history of the areas. We are in the process of submitting applications for funding.
  - Alton Town Councils walking festival this year features 3 walks starting in Binsted.
  
- **Co Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee**

- Thanks were extended to the Parish for their support in being re-elected in May 2017, receiving 70% of those voting
  - Reappointed as Chairman of Hampshire Pension Fund (including all District Councils in Hampshire) valued at £7billion.
  - Reappointed as Chairman of Members Code of Conduct Panel
  - **County Matters:**
  - Council Tax has increased by 5.4% in East Hants-but Hampshire has the lowest Council Tax of all English Counties except Somerset.
  - Central Government Grant to help pay for all County Services is less than half what it was in 2010 and by 2020 it will be eliminated and replaced by allowing us to keep some of our business rates but not ALL our business rates unfortunately.
  - We are now spending over £500 million alone in adult social care a year and keenly await the Government White Paper to be produced this summer to learn how we are to cope with this overwhelming problem and the inter-action with the NHS going forward.
  - Four Councils in England are thought to be under great financial pressure, including Surrey, we are proud that Hampshire is one of the best managed despite the acute cutbacks we have had to make as our Government Grant has been cut to ribbons.
  - **Binsted Matters**
  - Much activity in attempting to bring significant improvements to safety on the A325, particularly the Binsted Road junction, and the Jolly Farmer junction on the Blacknest Road. Fifteen people have been killed in EHDC rural.
  - Constant battle to repair potholes and other Hampshire Highways issues.
  - Possibility of Community Traffic Calming initiative.
  - Binsted School- pelican crossing sought in Kingsley for Binsted children catching the bus.
  - Thanks were expressed to Cllr Salisbury (Chair of Highways) for all his hard work.
- **District Councillor Ken Carter**
    - Cllr Carter updated the Parish on the various Committees he sits on representing the Council.
    - Aldershot is the nearest police station with a front desk.
    - Rowledge “20” - Cllr Carter is liaising with Rowledge Safety Group. BPC were not aware of this project.
    - Back Lane to Forestry Land - Cllr Carter is liaising with a local resident with wheelchair difficulties in accessing the forest.
  - **Binsted School, Sharron Morton (Head Teacher).**
  - The recent building project undertaken has had a major impact
  - The school project is on the history of Binsted.
  - Currently the school has 104 pupils.
  - Offsted report is imminent.

- Next Step: The road outside school has no street lighting and causes serious problems with pupils leaving in the dark in the winter. Fundraising has started for the front entrance but is hindered by the cost of tarmac.
- Sharron extended an invitation for anyone to pop in and have a look around.

- **Forward Plan- Vice Chairman Cllr Fargeot.**

- Cllr Fargeot welcomed everyone for attending, explaining that we are at present conducting a review of the Parish assets and would welcome their thoughts and ideas as to how they can be better used and fulfil the needs locally. A description of each was provided around the room and all were invited to add their thoughts to the list. An online survey was in the process of being completed and would be available shortly to be completed.

- **Parishioners Question Time**

Angela Dunne asked for an update on Speedwatch. Cllr Salisbury confirmed that he had taken Ian Janes HCC Highways around the Parish to identify areas. Seven areas were identified as suitable. They must be in a 40mph or below area.

Keith Ruffell spoke of the excessive speed on the Binsted Road from the Jolly Farmer to the A325. Cllr Salisbury confirmed this is not an area identified but asked people to take evidence of speeding /accidents as much as was possible.

Kirsty Stratton thanked the Council for the progress on the website.

Regarding the Sports Centre it was asked that the minutes be written to allow those unable to attend to understand the Councils response. The Chairman re-iterated the work done by Councillors, most of whom work full time.

Cllr Fargeot explained the process of the minutes and that the draft minutes were signed off at following meeting. It was agreed to add an Agenda item for the AGM "Draft minutes".

Cherry Porter asked if it was possible to link the website to the different pages on Face Book. It was agreed to look into this.

John Matthews asked if the Rowledge Cricket Club Lease could be added to the website along with the cricket fixtures and if the proposed Pavilion extension could be offered up for comments from Parishioners. Cllr

Warnes confirmed nothing will progress until we have had feedback from our Asset review. Cllr Salisbury re-iterated that we need everyones' input.

Tim Winkworth said that the Pavilion improvements were not just for Cricket. He has 7 teams now playing football at the Rec. There is a need to encourage all children to play sport. Cllr Warnes spoke of the need for older children to be accommodated for.

Ben Krempel spoke in support of plans for sport but also for the needs of adults. The facility needs enhancing. There was a suggestion of a possible Assault Course/Trim trail.

Cherry Porter felt that it is a Recreation Ground and not a Sports Ground and that cricket has taken over. Concern was expressed that it was unsafe to go onto the Rec when cricket in progress and that it was not possible to

picnic. Cllr Retallack told how cricket had been played on the Rec since the 1960's.

Rachel Simpson supported Cherry Porter and feels there is a balance that needs to be struck. The cricket takes out a lot of the day starting at lunch through to tea time.

Angela Dunne felt that the questionnaire was a good idea to take to the community.

Cllr Fargeot confirmed that it would go in the Parish Magazine and on the Facebook page. She also re-iterated that comments will be anonymous and will be collated to appear as a holistic response.

- **Chairman's closing remarks:**

The Chairman thanked our guest speakers and welcomed everyone to stay and join the Councillors for light refreshments and further discussion about the BPC assets and survey.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm.