

## SANDLEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 13 in St.Aldhelm's, Main Rd, Sandleheath commencing at 7-30pm

PRESENT: Chairman - Mr S.Daykin  
Vice-Chairman - Mr R.Fenn  
Councillors - Mr B.Martin, Mr J.P.Stockton & Mr D.Wright  
Clerk to the Council - Mr B.Shemmings

Also in attendance were county councillor Mr E.Heron & district councillor Ms Roxy Bellows plus 17 village residents.

PCSOs Ms Daisy Towers & Ms Tracey Cooper were also in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed all residents to the Annual Parish Assembly & also gave a welcome to the new PCSO Daisy Towers & her mentor PCSC Tracey Coopoe. He added that the PCSOs would be making a contribution to the item relating to community speedwatch

### 1. Apologies for absence

Received from parish councillors Graeme Maynard & Derek Dean & district councillor Ms Ann Sevier

### 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 12

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> May 12 were approved & signed as a correct record of the business transacted.

### 3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman said that the Council had enjoyed a full complement of councillors during the past year & he expressed his gratitude to all members & the Clerk for their support during the year. He said that last year he dwelt heavily on some of the changes within the village, such as the closure of St.Aldhelm's & the potential impact that these could have. Most of the questions that hung over last year remain today. He said that speeding remains a key concern for many residents & is often raised both formally & informally at parish council meetings. Whilst the parish council is not the authority for speed limits or enforcement the council continues to do everything to address the problem hence the presentation by the local community speedwatch team. The village last year joined a key initiative community speedwatch that enables villagers to directly support attempts to ensure speed limits are adhered to. At the moment a number of residents, all councillors, have been police trained in the use of the Speed Indicator Device to be used at approved sites within the village to inform motorists of their speed, with motorists recording excessive speeds being reported to the police who then contact the individuals concerned. This is not enforcement but part of an overall method of dealing with speeding and can be used by police to target their own visits. Following a successful trial the Parish Council committed to the scheme & in conjunction with other parish councils have invested in the SID equipment. In addition to the speedwatch initiative Forres Sandle Manor School have also paid for deployments of a static SID outside their entrance as they are equally concerned about speeding on the edge of the village

The Council also looked at other things to support the maintenance of, and improve highways working with both Hampshire Highways & district council One such item is the modifications to the junction of Main Rd & Scats Lane that will include additional kerbing & wooden posts., the work to start sometime during 2013. The Council have had to prevent some residents who placed large wooden logs & obstacles on the roadside to protect verges or to stop parking as such placements are

a safety hazard. In the latter part of 2012 the Sandleheath Rd between the Alderholt Bridge & Alderholt was closed by for major water replacement works. The road is now open again. Whilst a bit shocked at its size Hampshire Highways installed a new village entry sign to replace the original sign which was stolen. The Parish Council were pleased to see the investment & have therefore changed their plans for investing council monies in a new village sign. We are now looking at a new village sign more central to the village, perhaps on the Common.

The Common remains central to village life & the Council continues to invest time & resources in its upkeep. Because of the change in costs we will not be using the services of the community service workers this year. NFDC continued to provide the cutting service & following the issues of last year we are briefing the mowing team carefully. Whilst the Council can never please all residents the Council believes it does balance the different needs with the current policy of trying to maintain the balance between maintained & wild areas. The Common was used for a number of events during the past year including the Churches Together event in June & the Community Association events such as the "Posh Picnic" & Beacon Lighting to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the village fete in June & the traditional bonfire on 5<sup>th</sup> November. The Chairman & council thank the supporters of the Community Association for their hard work for these events which make such a positive contribution to village life. Many villagers supported the scarecrow competition as part of the village fete though it was upsetting to see the mindless vandalism that spoilt a number of scarecrows to which so much hard work had been put in. Hopefully this will not deter residents this year from participating.

The village shop is among a number of key assets in the community. It was on the market earlier in the year but has now been taken off as it has a new manager. Hopefully the shop will continue to receive the support of the community. The church management has renewed the lease of Hyde Band to use St. Aldhelm's for a further year much to the Council's surprise. The church management have commenced looking at future options for the building and both the Council & Community Association have jointly expressed an interest in making it a community asset.

Another part of the village that may change is the former MoD land on the border with Damerham now owned by QiniteQ. An approach was made by their consultant who was looking at options for the site. The Council have made it clear that the village plan states that it should not be used for housing but returned to a natural state for wildlife in line with surrounding countryside.

The Council has completed the review of the Village Design Statement & this has been submitted to NFDC with the aim for formal reduction. A small number of planning applications have been dealt with this year with no major contentious issues. If the Village Design Statement is adopted by NFDC this will strengthen the approach to planning to ensure development is in keeping with the village.

The Council's financial perspective remains in a sensible position with balanced books & a small reserve. The Council took the difficult decision this year to raise the precept but specifically we in fact held the precept at the same level but this year will get further grants due to the change in local Council funding raising our total income. This appears as a council tax increase but following a number of years of no rise the Council felt this change in funding model & future changes to governance around raising precept it was felt this was the appropriate time to take a modest rise in precept to ensure contained ability to make capital investments. The Council continued its policy of making a small number of grants to specific organisations that make a direct difference to the community namely Fordingbridge First Responders, Fordingbridge & District Day Centre & Rae Stratan Lunch Club/Day Centre. The amounts to these organisations were £180, £60 & £60 respectively.

The Chairman said that it was with great sadness the Council learnt that the Clerk lost his wife in January. He said that Jane would be sorely missed. He then added that the Clerk (Brian Shemmings) had intimated that he would be standing down in September having been Clerk for

two decades. Brian was the ongoing continuity offering fantastic support to the Council. He would be sorely missed & said that his total dedication & support was highly valued by the Council. Brian is now helping to advertise & find a replacement & has kindly prepared a plan to support an orderly transition around September. Once again he thanked the Clerk for all his support over the years.

Finally the Chairman said that the village & community continue to see changes in the village & he thanked the Clerk, parish councillors, district & county councillors for their continued support. The Chairman reminded residents of the AGM of the Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> May at 7-30pm.

4. Matters Arising from Chairman's Report

No matters were raised.

5. Presentation by the Community Watch Team

Cllr Stockton introduced the community speedwatch team namely Cllrs Wright, Fenn & Stockton. In introducing the item he emphasised several points namely:

- a) local volunteers monitor vehicle speeds;
- b) national initiative
- c) it is the community which addresses speeding issues;
- d) all volunteers are trained & supported by the police.

The aims are:

- i) to improve quality of life for Sandleheath residents
- ii) to reduce the speed of vehicles down to the speed limit
- iii) to increase the public awareness

The equipment being used is a Speed Indicator Device (SID). Advice has been given by other local speedwatch teams, particularly Damerham. At the moment Rockbourne PC is currently considering whether or not to make a financial contribution towards the cost of the equipment. It was confirmed that the police fund any financial liability involved. It was confirmed that the locations are approved by the police but the local speedwatch team chose the times & report any activities to the police – details of vehicles which exceed 35mph are taken & records sent to the police who write a warning letter to the driver(s) concerned. The results from Sept 2012 to Apr 2013 show that the vehicles checked during that period totalled in excess of 2000 with 25% doing over 30mph. The highest speed recorded was 47mph. The conclusion is all about driver education. When the police are deployed vehicle drivers will receive points on their licence. Cllr Stockton said there was still a need for volunteers from the village as at present there were only three members of the team and ideally there should be more so as to share the load.

The new PCSO Daisy Towers & her mentor PCSO Tracey Cooper read a statement from the beat office WPC Corinee Irving. The Chairman thanked all for their contribution

6. Any Other Business

The Clerk referred to a fund raising event on the 20<sup>th</sup> April being organised by resident Julie Francis to be held at Burgate School. The Clerk handed 6 tickets to the event to the two PCSOs

The Chairman thanked villagers for attending & closed the meeting at 8-15pm

