

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Oakley held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

Present: Mrs. Blackman (Chairman), Mr. Bullions, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Favell, Mrs. Gavin, Mr. Hall, Mr. Hooker, Mr. Johnson, Dr. Johnstone, Ms. Tofts, Mr. Golding (Borough Councillor), Mrs. Taylor (Borough Councillor), Mrs. McNair-Scott (County Councillor), PCSO Andy Jones, CSPOs Sarah Ratcliff and Ashley White, and Annie Noble (Hampshire Wellbeing Services) . 12 Oakley residents attended.

The Chairman welcomed the residents of Oakley, invited guests and speakers.

**1 Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Law and Mr. Parry, and from Mr. Elkin (Local Planning team).

**2 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 30 April 2015:** The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 30 April 2015, having been previously circulated, were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

**3 Annie Noble, Hampshire Wellbeing Services (HWS):** Ms. Noble explained that HWS is a social enterprise, based in Basingstoke, and is part of the Not For Profit Sector, set up to eliminate social inequalities in health, and to encourage community members to provide support for others. As social care funding has been cut so drastically over the recent years, this is a very important area to cover, and HWS' areas of particular concern are:

1. To rectify a lack of research and consultation about what was actually needed locally,
2. To provide more localised training, and
3. To provide more well-being services.

HWS concentrated on the hard to reach groups, for example disability groups, LGBT groups, ethnic groups and the initial research was funded by Eli Lilly. NHCCG (North Hampshire Clinical Commissioning Group) wanted to develop a 5 year strategy, and HWS were involved in this also. They also carried out mapping around dementia and found there was a gap in service, in that there were plenty of advice centres available but not the services that benefit carers or those living with dementia.

HWS runs healthy living courses, offers befriending training and advocacy training. They have a monthly wellbeing group, and also operate in care homes, as well as in individuals' homes. They match volunteers with those requiring befriending, and Ms. Noble told the audience about a 96 year old who loved playing Scrabble, and how HWS found a young volunteer who also loves playing the game, so they meet regularly and thoroughly enjoy their games.

Wellbeing in terms of mental health is a big issue in Basingstoke including among young people. HWS has created Community Youth Health Champions, who deal with diverse issues such as drugs, sexual health, and emotional wellbeing. There is also a Community Wellbeing Action Group who target those groups as identified in the 2010 Equality Act – including those discriminated against by age, disability, gender reassignment, civil partnership/same sex marriage, race, religion etc. So far 11 groups have been set up, closely working with mental health groups.

Ms. Noble mentioned two initiatives that HWS are currently involved with – The Oral History Project, which is funded by the Heritage and Lottery Funding, and aims to record what health care was like before the NHS. So far approximately 30 people have recorded their interviews which will be stored at the Archives Office in Winchester.

Ms. Noble left information packs about HWS and details of the Oral History Project with the clerk.

**4 Andy Jones, PCSO:** PCSO Andy Jones explained the district priorities were Burglary (dwelling), Burglary (non-dwelling) and Traffic related incidents. Over the past year, Oakley, Deane and Malshanger have together suffered six dwelling burglaries, with Pardown being subject to a jewellery theft, and a burglary in Pack Lane which involved the theft of laptops, tablets, jewellery and the taking of the car parked on the driveway. In relation to the Pack Lane burglary the suspect was arrested, and was convicted and is currently serving a custodial sentence.

One Stop in Oakley was robbed in March, when persons wearing face coverings entered the store in the early hours and forced staff to open the safe. They stole several thousand pounds of cash, and numerous postage stamps. This is still being investigated by the police.

There were 12 reports of non-dwelling burglaries, and again, Pardown was hit hard and suffered three of these incidents. Sheds and outbuildings were targeted and tools were taken. In Malshanger a quad bike was stolen. PCSO Jones advised the audience to register vulnerable items at <https://immobilise.com>

Numerous vehicles have been seized around the village for having no insurance, but these were mainly on the major roads surrounding our area. There were a few reports of vehicles being driven without consideration, and police continue to monitor these.

There were four reports of criminal damage, two of which related to damage to a vehicle.

Mr. Collins (resident) asked PCSO Jones whether the police still support the Smart Water system, where suspects can be viewed under a UV light and it will show if they have handled a particular item that has been subjected to Smart Water process. PCSO Jones agreed that the police still routinely check all suspects under the UV light but do not promote the Smart Water system as the company introduced a high yearly charge.

**5 Sarah Ratcliff, CSPO:** Currently there are 12 Community Safety Patrol Officers in the Borough. Sarah explained that she is not the officer who normally covers Oakley but Daniel White, who is the local area officer was on leave, so she attended on his behalf. CSPO's are employed BDBC, and work with the police although they do not have the same powers. They can communicate directly with BDBC when they are out on patrol, reporting things like potholes, stray dogs etc.

The main focus of CSPO is nuisance crime – reducing antisocial behaviour, such as littering and dog fouling. Their current campaign focus is fly tipping. In the past year they have issued 154 fixed penalty notices, 260 anti-social behaviour

warnings and dealt with a total of over 1500 incidents. Failure to pay the fixed penalty notices on time has resulted in over £6500.00 in fines being imposed on Borough residents.

The most reported concern to CSPO's from Oakley is dog fouling – such reports have increased over 40% in the last year. High visibility campaigns have been carried out in priority locations, and CSPO White is working with the schools, and he wrote an article for the Link magazine detailing the new penalties for allowing dogs to foul. It is important that residents notify CSPO's of any incidence of dog fouling, including the time it happened, and a description of both dog and owner, so that the team can try to attend the location at a time when the offence is likely to recur.

Mr. Collins (resident) asked how to contact the CSPO team, and the clerk agreed to forward the details to him following the meeting. He also asked CPSO Ratcliff about nuisance dogs – specifically uncontrolled barking. CSPO Ratcliff advised that this was an Environmental Health issue, and not something they could assist with.

**6 Chairman's Report:** Mrs Blackman gave a full report of the Council's work during the past year and their plans for 2016. (See separate section)

**7 County Councillor's Report:** Anna McNair-Scott is our County Councillor, and explained that Hampshire's council tax for the next year will be the lowest of any county in England and Wales, despite the axing of the Government's Council Freeze Grant and the imposition of a 2% increase, required to reduce to burden of adult social care costs on the NHS. Hampshire has therefore had to raise its precept by 3.99% this year, which is an increase of £41.40 pa on a Band D property but in real terms is lower than it was 5 years ago.

**Highways** – all budgets are under very heavy pressure and that includes highways, but summer is the time when more work can be done, and the bridge in Oakley Lane has been flagged as needing an extra gully cleansing each year, which will hopefully reduce the risk of flooding after heavy rain. It has been proposed, although not agreed, that next year the soakaway will be either renewed or enlarged, but this is a major work and would require the road to be closed for some time. The Multi User Route continues to be well used, although it does need some repair to the surface and this is still being agreed in terms of budget.

**Libraries** – Councillor McNair-Scott has been part of a group looking at the library services, which have been subjected to some challenging budgetary reductions. There was a major public consultation held between November 2015 and March 2016 to which over 9,500 people and organisations responded. The mobile library service will be withdrawn at the end of June this year, and this decision was supported by over 60% of the respondents to the consultation. The cost per book issue is nearly double that for static libraries. The Home Library Service can be organised for customers who cannot access their nearest library, and free online Library Learning sessions will be offered in community venues for those losing their mobile services. Also, where possible, the local community groups, will be contacted by Library services to see if they could offer transport for residents to

come to a static library. The use of libraries has changed, and will continue to do so, but their importance remains.

**Devolution** – the decision about devolution is still not finalised but there is a worry that this would split the county, if for example the Mayor of Hampshire was based in Portsmouth or Southampton

Mrs. Wassell (resident) asked about potholes, particularly along Trenchards Lane, and Councillor McNair-Scott asked her to send her the details and she would investigate.

Mr. Johnson commented that extra house building puts a greater strain on already busy roads, and Councillor McNair-Scott agreed, but pointed out HCC were not the planning authority and the responsibility for this lies with BDBC.

**8 – Borough Councillor's Report:** Councillor Rob Golding presented his report, starting with comments on the Local Plan. Despite all the requests, the examiner of the Local Plan was unmoved, and the Manydown development would come up close to the Oakley boundary, although there was an opportunity to 'soften' the edge of the development to reduce the visual impact.

Councillor Golding commented on the proposed reduction of the width of Hill Road, in terms of the Land West of Beech Tree Close development and stated he thought it was not likely to be successful.

He thanked the team who worked so hard on the Neighbourhood Plan, and congratulated them on their success.

He reported that BDBC Council tax increased by less than £2 per annum. The central government's reduction in support to homeless people and those with housing needs has meant that the Borough is now more involved in these areas.

The regeneration of Basing View continues, and John Lewis and Waitrose are now open and attracting customers from in and outside Basingstoke. In the wider area of Basing View, there are plans to provide a 'top quality' office building even if no client is yet identified, as this may help to attract new businesses to the area.

The discussion around the potential changes to the **Leisure Park** continue; it could double the amount of space and include a designer shopping outlet and a complete regeneration of the Aquadrome. There are still concerns that it could adversely affect shopping in the town centre.

**Devolution** - Councillor Golding believes that is unlikely that North Hampshire would have an elected Mayor but the decision is expected in June.

Mr. Bullions mentioned the closing of waste disposal sites in Hart and other, when the Wade Road site is already operating at over capacity as the queues are very long at weekends. Would the closure of the tips not increase the likelihood of fly tipping? Mrs. McNair-Scott said that although currently councils cannot charge for waste disposal, if a small charge could be introduced that may mean that sites could stay open longer and therefore reduce the pressure at weekends.

**9 General Questions:** Mr. Clarke (resident) agreed that the Neighbourhood Planning team had done a wonderful job and should be congratulated, but asked if there were plans for a formal thank you. Perhaps a public event to acknowledge their hard work, and success, could be arranged. Mr. Favell pointed out that the

Plan is due to be adopted on May 26<sup>th</sup> so perhaps something could be done after that date? The clerk agreed to add this to the agenda of the next Parish Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

No further questions were asked, and the meeting closed at 9.35pm