

# STEVENTON PARISH COUNCIL

## **MINTUES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** **HELD IN THE PARISH HALL ON WEDNESDAY 15<sup>H</sup> APRIL 2015**

### **Present at the meeting**

Councillors - Mr John Smith (chairman), Mr Geoffrey Mann, Mrs Anita Bown,  
Mr Jeffrey Dodgson, Mr Michael Everton-Browne

Also present: 12 Parishioners.

**Apologies for absence** – Linton Hall Davis, Julian and Sally Pilcher, Marilyn Wright

Mr Smith took the chair and opened the meeting at 8.05pm

### **Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting dated Wednesday 30th April 2014 were read individually, approved and duly signed by the chairman.

Proposed by - Mr Jeffrey Dodgson

Seconded by – Mrs Christine Smith

### **Matters arising from the minutes.**

None

### **CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2014 - 2015 ( MR JOHN H SMITH )**

Over the past twelve months the Parish Council has met on six occasions. Our councillors have dealt with a variety of issues including planning applications, village maintenance work and a number of projects involving the Roads and Highways department from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

During the year we reviewed seven planning applications on subjects including tree removals within the conservation area, developments to domestic properties, a petrol station illuminated signage request and monitoring the progress of the Deane gate public house plans.

Throughout last summer and the following winter period there has been much growth in our roadside hedges. Following consultation with landowners, we were able to get these areas including some particularly prominent bramble patches cut back. We are most grateful to Graham Hazel and Phillip Sykes for some very prompt remedial work here.

The stiles on Footpath No 7 finally gave up the struggle to stay upright and once again we are most grateful to Graham Hazel for installing smart new gates as very welcome replacements.

Also included village maintenance was the clearing out of our two main road runoff ditches. This was carried out by the highways department with some help from Tom on the Ditch outside Patience Close.

Finally, tree surgeons were engaged to raise the crown and clear out the mass of risers on the lime tree at the village triangle. This was done to prevent the lower branches from hitting delivery vans and coaches. Also to let more light through to the cottages nearby.

The council have had an on-going struggle to get a satisfactory replacement signpost installed at the crossroads with Steventon lane and North Waltham lane. Following an accident with a large van the original post was replaced on the little green triangle, but was destroyed a day later by a large articulated truck who was reversing after failing to pass under the railway tunnel.

The council sent a second proposal to the Highways department suggesting that a new signpost should be installed up on the adjacent bank and the green triangle, now destroyed and churned to mud, should be surfaced over. So far we have got the second new signpost installed in the safer location.

It is our hope that, in the future we may get some effective warning signs put up to prevent large trucks from trying to negotiate low railway tunnels.

Before closing this report I would like to make known an approach by Deane parish council to join forces with Steventon. The reason given being to form a stronger team to fight off any future plans by BDBC to build around our villages. We welcome comments on this issue before replying to Deane.

Finally a thought for the future. With the prospect of the new hospital being built on our doorstep will Ashe park lane become a "ratrun" for traffic coming from north of our village and looking for a quick route through to their appointments.

Lastly, a big thank you to all the Parishioners who have helped us over the past year, my councillors and their wives, Julian Pilcher for auditing our books, Chris and her neighbourhood watch, Mr Nick Harley for cutting the grass on the triangle and to Rachel Cheesman and her team for the flowers in the tubs, Marilyn and Paul for keeping the village singing and "Susie and co" for their panto efforts.

Thank you also to those of you who show an interest and turn out to support your Parish Council.

John Smith ( Chairman )

### **Treasurers Report (Mr Jeffrey Dodgson)**

Jeffrey Dodgson presented the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 which showed a Bank balance of £908.21. Jeff wished to thank Mr Julian Pilcher for his help with preparing the accounts for submission to the Audit Commission. The Borough Grant of £1100 has been sufficient to cover all outgoing council expenses. Jeff also reported that this year the audit commission charged £78, but from now on as we are a small parish the Audit Commission will no longer charge us for submitting the accounts.

### **Planning Report (Mr John Smith)**

Details of planning were covered in John Smith's chairman report (see above)

### **Report from the Parish Hall Committee (Mr Geoffrey Mann)**

This year has been fairly quiet for the village hall, the nursery school has continued to be the main user of the hall, albeit with reduced numbers of children and we hope they can continue to operate at this level.

The BDBC changed their policy on refuse collection this year and introduced charges, these had been put in across the board for all sizes of public buildings and we had to negotiate to reach a level at which we could afford to keep the bins! We now have monthly collections, and our neighbours have kindly allowed use of their bins should we need.

We had a leak to the main roof adjacent to the kitchen block which was repaired and caused internal dampness to the ceiling. This was repainted. A small heater was purchased for the store room in the hope that this would eliminate the dampness in this room. It seems to be working well and has meant that the dehumidifier is no longer required and this should aid to reduce the heating costs.

The entire committee was thanked for their work in keeping the village hall a mainstay of village life. The current committee has been in place for over 10 years and would welcome new members, especially those who use the hall regularly as part of the village social life.

## Neighbourhood Watch Report 2014- 2015

This year, once again I am pleased to report that there has been very little criminal activity in our law abiding and peaceful village - long may it last. Most cases reported seem to be in Oakley, Overton and a few in North Waltham. These are usually concerned with anti-social behaviour and thefts from houses, gardens, outbuildings or cars.

I was recently sent a questionnaire which I forwarded to everyone in the village to fill in. This was to assist the police in setting the policing priorities for the coming year. I hope some people were able to complete it.

There have recently been changes in our local rural policing and the boundaries.

We are now the Basingstoke Rural South Neighbourhood, which has been created to align with local ward boundaries for improved partnership working with the local authority. It is made up of Whitchurch, Overton/Laverstoke & Steventon, Oakley & North Waltham and Upton Grey & The Candovers wards.

**Brian Adams** is the police Inspector responsible for the Basingstoke and Deane rural police officers and PCSOs and he assures us that this does not mean a reduction in the number of officers in the teams. They will all be based from Tadley Police Station and will continue to work day and late shifts seven days a week in two teams. They will supported by 24 hours a day response teams, CID and custody, based in Basingstoke; the Roads Policing Unit based in Whitchurch; and other specialist police teams that will assist with serious incidents or pre-planned operations. They also work very closely with the Safer North Hampshire Community Safety Team.

**Barbara Bradley** has now moved to Beat 7, which is the Kingsclere area.

Our area (Basingstoke Rural South) is now led by **Sgt. Shaun Stinson**

Assisted by PCSO **Piers Ambler** and PCSO **Andy Jones**

Please continue to report any unusual incidents, strange faces or cars in the area. Please take car/van registrations if possible. If you do not report criminal activity, it may be wrongly assumed that our area is crime free and is not in need of police resources.

The best way to report something is to call 101, the non-emergency number.

### **Contacting the police -**

Ring 999 to report an emergency

Ring 101 to report a non-emergency

To contact **Shaun Stinson**, who covers our beat -

Ring 01256405323

Email - [shaun.stinson@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:shaun.stinson@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

### **Tadley Police Station,**

Mulfords Hill,

Tadley, Hampshire,

RG26 3HZ

Tel: 101 Internal: 625-147

Email - [Basingstoke.Rural.Police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Basingstoke.Rural.Police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

Christine Smith (Neighbourhood Watch)

## Any Other Business

During the year Steventon Parish Council had been approached by Geoff Law, The Chairman of Oakley and Deane Parish Council asking whether Steventon would like to join Deane as a Parish Council, and Deane would break away from Oakley. He was proposing this partly due to the recent developments planned at Oakley, and that perhaps now Deane had more in common with Steventon than Oakley. The Parish Council had discussed this at previous meetings, but through the subject open to those present at the APM for their views. After a short discussion, it was suggested that the Council go back to Geoff Law for further consultation and discussion to see exactly what would be involved should the two Parishes decide to merge. Those at the meeting were open to the idea, but wanted to know how it would benefit Steventon. Mike Everton-Browne wished his objection to this idea to be noted.

John Smith, as Chairman, had received a letter from British Telecom asking if the Parish Council would like to buy the phone box. A few years ago a similar approach was received, but BDBC refused the request as they said it was a feature of the village and as there were no other phone boxes it should remain in case of emergencies. John Smith has replied that we would like to buy the phone box, and the matter now goes back to BDBC for a consultation. We wait and see!

A Parishioner raised the subject of Pot Holes - this remains a hot topic at council meetings, and the Council do all it can for the holes to be repaired. The BDBC web site allows for anyone to note a pot-hole just follow the link.

A question was asked about the cross roads sign. Most residents will be aware that lorries try to access Overton along Waltham Lane only to find a low bridge. In reversing they have destroyed the sign. This has been replaced and relocated on the corner of the crossroads. The council have written to Hampshire Highways division requesting new bridge signs for foreign drivers who do not understand the present sign. We can only wait for their response, but will be monitoring the situation.

A Parishioner asked about the recent flooding along Waltham Lane. It seems that BDBC have not been along the lanes this year to dig out the ditches to allow the water to drain away. The Council will attend to this matter during the coming year.

Geoffrey Mann after 30 years of service on the Parish Council has decided to retire. John Smith expressed his thanks, on behalf of all residents of Steventon, to Geoffrey for all his hard work on the Parish Council. A presentation will be made later in the year. Geoffrey thanked John for his kind words.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.06pm with coffee and biscuits.