

OVER WALLOP PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
8 MAY 2006

Present: Cllrs. Burden, Cleife, Glover, Hewlett, Keightley, Macey, Taylor-Firth, Quick, County Cllr. Michael Woodhall, Borough Councillor Hope and Sergeant Ian Ashbolt. There were 8 members of the public present

Apologies: Mrs Ruth Cartwright

Minutes of APM 2005:

It was noted that the minutes from the last APM had already been approved and that no matters are arising.

Chairman's report:

The chairman welcomed guest speakers and the public who take the time out to attend Parish Council Meetings. He then went on to thank all Councillors for their hard work over the last year. The Chairman went on to give a brief resume of matters arising over the last year.

The playground at Evans Close was vandalised and the council is still sorting out the remaining equipment and the possibility of a shelter for the youth. There are plans to improve the pavilion, in particular for the storage of sports equipment.

The council has exercised tight control over expenditure and the precept for this forthcoming year has been planned to include items needed to maintain the facilities within the village.

The Wallops Parish Hall continues to be a joint responsibility between the parishes of Over and Nether Wallop. Following research with the villagers, the results are clearly in favour of a joint hall either on the existing site, or a new site yet to be decided.

Meetings will continue over the forthcoming year to decide what to do. Cllr.

Keightley wished to express his thanks to all members of the hall committee for their continued hard work.

The parish has experienced serious difficulties from anti-social behaviour and vandalism resulting in considerable damage to property and livestock. Gratitude goes to Ruth Cartwright for co-ordinating the neighbourhood watch and to the local Police. The council is grateful to Mr Christopher Hodgkinson for taking on the role of footpaths officer.

The council has the growing problem of overspill from parking at Grateley railway station which seriously affected parishioners in Palestine. Measures are now being undertaken by the police to stop nuisance parking, while the government have made the provision of additional parking conditional on the renewal of the railway franchise.

Borough Councillor's report:

Cllr. Hope thanked the Parish Councillors for all their hard work over the year. He advised that the council had managed to keep the council tax increase below 5%. The theatre at Cricklade College has been purchased and we will be looking forward to a refurbished venue early 2007. There are plans for a new 4-screen cinema due late 2007. The new alternate bin collection is being implemented and the Wallops will all

be included by the end of the year. The Borough is reviewing the conservation areas, it is hoped that the Wallops will retain its current conservation areas. There have been several redundancies within TVBC due to cost cuts. It is with regret that Cllr. Hope reports on the 2 deaths of villagers over the past month on the roads and his condolences are with the friends and families concerned. TVBC technical services have said that they will consider signs in the village to warn that there are no footpaths and to consider pedestrians on the road. Cllr Hope then took questions from the public. There were general comments with regards to the council tax. It appears to have gone up by more than 5%. Councillor Hope advised that he has been advised that the general increase was at 5% by TVBC, but that the increase is variable depending upon what band the tax is in. There was general bad feeling about the facilities in the Wallops. In Palestine there are no street lights and the roads are in a poor state of repair. The bins are now collected on a bi-weekly basis. Cllr. Hope expressed his sympathies, but with cut backs this is the way of the world generally.

Police Report – Sgt. Ian Ashbolt:

There has been a lot of change in the past year directed by central government. The police grades the calls received and action is taken depending on the priority of the situation and resources available. Emergency calls are dealt with immediately, whilst non-urgent calls are passed to the beat officers and are responded to within 24 hours. The station at Weyhill will soon house the traffic division, which is moving from Portsmouth. The crime rate has decreased significantly, and the Wallops have one of the lowest crime rates in the area. The neighbourhood watch bulletin is produced each week and passed around for people to see and be aware of which sorts of crimes are being committed. A copy of this is passed to Ruth Cartwright. The community police vehicle is in the Wallops the first Friday of the month, and can be found outside the shop at 2pm. anyone wishing to speak to the police can do so here. The police have seen an increase of petty vandalism caused by youths and Sgt. Ashbolt sees the youth shelter as a good idea and will support the parish council on this.

Sgt. Ashbolt announced his retirement from the police force and advised that his replacement is actively being sought at present. Cllr. Keightley thanked Sgt. Ashbolt for all his hard work and commitment to the parish council over the past years.

The question was put to Sgt. Ashbolt about the speed of the traffic in the village and can anything be done about this? The answer is for traffic calming measures, and the parish council would need to contact Hampshire Highways regarding this.

Report – County Councillor, Mr Michael Woodhall

Cllr. Woodhall apologised for arriving late, he had attended other meetings earlier in the evening. He reported that the re-cycling for the county is doing well and we are generally re-cycling more. He thanked the volunteers working for the council and for the local groups including the neighbourhood watch team. He took questions from the public and responded to the problems with the highways. He advised the public that it is good practice for the public to report roads in need of repair to Andrew Milne at TVBC, who has a very good system in place to deal with these enquiries. There was a complaint received about the potholes and soak ways in King Lane. Cllr. Woodhall requested details be sent to him by e-mail so he could follow it up with TVBC. There was a question as to who is responsible for cutting back hedges and branches from over hanging trees. He advised the council should ask the landowners directly to keep the hedges and trees under control if they are over hanging the boundary of their land

and to make people aware that they are causing problems to people walking on footpaths if they do not maintain their trees. With regards to the speed limit in the village, he agreed to walk the village with Cllr Keightley and Hope to see where further signs are needed to control the speed of cars in the village. They will also look at the state of the roads at the same time. The question was brought up about SEERA and why do HCC keep contributing towards this when the public have no right to comment? Cllr. Woodhall advised that they are currently reviewing their position on this, but did advise that they receive help in many ways from this assembly.

Guest speakers:

Pam Quick gave a brief talk on the WI and advised the public and floor that anyone is welcome at their meetings. It is a group for women, but that men are able to come along and listen at meetings if they wish.

Rene Hancock gave a talk on behalf of the Wallops Evergreens. It is a club for the over 50's and is fundamental in keeping relations with the older generation of the village.

Questions from the public:

There was confusion as to what the core development plan was all about. It was confirmed that this is a plan that replaces the local plan. It is to do with planning and the implementation of housing in the area.

The BAS site was discussed, and it was noted that the application had been changed since the council's response to the application. It has been changed to reserved matters and is not a full application.

There has been a concrete plinth put down at the junction of Streetway Road and Lock's Close. It was confirmed by Cllr. Burden that this is for a bus stop.

It was requested that the parish council try to get the Army Air Corp in to speak at a council meeting. The clerk confirmed that she would invite them again.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Sandra Holloway – Clerk 01264 339520