

COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN (HART)

Draft minutes

Minutes of the 9th Annual General Meeting held at the Crookham War Memorial Hall, Church Crookham, on Wednesday 7th March 2013, commencing at 7.30pm.

There were 32 persons present:

The executive committee members being present were;

| | | |
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| Chairman | James Radley | JR |
| Vice Chairman | Simon Ambler | SA |
| Secretary | Jenny Radley | JRR |
| Membership Secretary | Gill Butler | GB |
| Election Agent | Julia Ambler | JA |
| County Councillor | Jenny Radley | JRR |

Absent executive committee members;

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------------|
| Treasurer | Chris Axam | (apologies given) |
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1. The Chairman welcomed those present, to the 9th Annual General Meeting of CC(H). It was good to see so many familiar faces.
There were 26 people present for the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Chris Axam, Len Porter, Enid Wollett, Daphne Asprey, Mr and Mrs Pryor, Jeremy Keep and Richard Rowley.
3. The Minutes of the previous AGM held on 29th February 2012 were recorded as a true and accurate record. The motion to accept the draft minutes was proposed by Chris Dickenson and seconded by Pat Lowe, accepted by majority vote. No objections.

There were no matters arising that were not covered by later issues.

4. Elections 2012 (results and consequences)
James Radley explained that it had been a momentous year. The elections in May 2012 had shown how people react to the threat of further local development. James had been re-elected to Church Crookham East, John Bennison had been elected to Fleet Courtmoor and Tony Clarke had been elected to Crondall district wards.
5. Topical Updates:

Local Development Framework (LDF)

The Government have changed the guidelines for development and introduced the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This time last year Hart District Council was preparing for their public consultation for the new Local Plan, which included 450 new houses on Grove Farm and more housing at Edenbrook. Since then the election has made a difference with Alan Oliver being elected as an Independent councillor in Fleet West, John Bennison in Courtmoor and Tony Clarke in Crondall, which has altered the balance of the political groups on Hart District Council. There are now 16 Conservative councillors, 10 Liberal Democrats, 7 CCH and 2 Independents (in March 2013). An administration requires 18 members for overall majority, so the current administration needs the support from other councillors. We tried to bring about a concessional Cabinet to run the council but the main party was not willing to accept this arrangement. The council had elected a

Council Leader for a 4 year period, it was considered that it would be more effective to not challenge the leadership with a vote of no confidence but to work for the benefit of the electorate in what can be best described as a constructive opposition. This means that the administration needs to work closely with all the other groups in order to ensure that policies and decisions can get voted through with the backing of the entire council.

The first challenge was to ensure that Grove Farm was removed from the draft Local Plan, but it was important to make sure the housing number was not simply dropped elsewhere in Fleet, but spread more evenly across the district.

The amended draft Hart Local Plan is about to go through to Government and it will have to go through an Examination in Public (EiP) which is expected later in the summer (2013).

Lead members of the group have been working with the planning policy team. The plan for housing growth in this district is being based on Zero Net Migration (ZNM), by which the district is required to provide 236 dwellings each year for the next 15-20 years, which should be enough to accommodate families within the district, a responsible approach, providing a principle for sustainable community.

However, the NPPF seems to be a policy based on housing demand rather than housing need, so there is pressure to provide for people from outside the district. Families are getting smaller and the need for more houses is increasing, especially within commuter distance from London. Developers, many of whom have land interests in the district, claim that the housing figures for the district are too low. They are suggesting up to 600 new houses per year.

James, as the Shadow Planning Portfolio holder is working hard to prove the numbers are robust. So far, the housing quota numbers are close to the South-East Plan numbers, which were found to be unsound because they did not allow for any growth, but there are other constraints in this district that should be taken into account.

James has been working with colleagues from other local councils over the past 7 years, in relation to the impact of development on the Special Protection Area (SPA), which are designated heathland habitats that are protected at European level, principally for the protection of 3 rare species of ground or low level nesting birds. He believes that there is a logical argument to challenge an increase in housing numbers according to impact on the SPA. At present the only way to allow development within 5km of the SPA is for a developer to provide or contribute towards a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG). These alternative green spaces are supposed, in theory, to attract people to use instead of using the SPA, but the authorities have yet to prove that these SANGs will work. The Crookham Park development has a SANG between Quetta Park in Church Crookham and Ewshot, and money is being invested to monitor use of the area and nearby SPA over the next few years. So far the results are inconclusive. It seems that despite providing these attractor sites there are still many people who prefer to use the SPA, so it seems that although the SANGS may provide some appeal for local people there may be a limit to the numbers that will use them. There is also a question about whether SANGs can actually scale, whether they can be expanded and will attract ever more people away from the SPA.

Until there is good evidence to show that SANGS work and can scale, we will defend the case against increasing housing numbers. This will probably be one of the most important arguments at the EiP.

County Matters

Jenny Radley is currently the County Councillor for Church Crookham and Ewshot.

She has been working on issues regarding:

Schools: There are now temporary classrooms at Tweseldown Infant School and Church Crookham Junior School to provide extra school places until the new school building is ready to be opened.

Highways: the new school crossings have been installed on Aldershot Road, Reading Road South

and Gally Hill Road. Further highways improvements associated with the Crookham Park development are being taken forward.

Basingstoke Canal: essential repair works are continuing at the locks in the Surrey section of the canal and also essential bank repairs and stop planks mainly in the Hampshire Section of the canal.

Libraries: re-structuring of the library services have helped to reduce costs with as minimal effect on library opening times as possible

Environment: flooding advice is available on the web-site and new powers given to the county authority to try to make sure support is provided when necessary.

Hampshire County Council provides a devolved grant for each County Councillor to use to support local groups and local people within their county council area. One of the schemes that has been supported is the Blue Lamp Trust, who are able to send out trained advisors who can visit vulnerable local residents if they would like advice about home security and safety in their own homes. Leaflets are available for anyone interested at the meeting, for people who would like to take one for themselves or for a person they think would be interested.

Or contact web-site: www.bluelamptrust.org.uk

Parish Council Report

Chris Axam is a member of Fleet Town Council

Simon Ambler is Chairman of Crookham Village Parish Council.

Church Crookham Parish Council Update

John Bennison spoke as one of the members of Church Crookham Parish Council (CCPC), which was established in May 2010. John joined the parish council soon afterwards.

What a difference a year makes!

There is a now new 5-a-side football all weather football pitch on the Peter Driver site, to replace the original tarmac court. It is proving to be a fantastic success. The bookings for this and the two grass pitches at Peter Driver site are increasing. The one limitation is the size of the car-park, but a 40 space car-park is better than the number in the original plan.

The building for the new 60 bed nursing home on the former Shotts site is due to start at the end of March. It is expected to take a year to build. The developer will also have to drop the power cables on the far side of the site. The cables are to be buried alongside the footway past the north side of the building. The developer will also be building a pavement along the roadside to the front of the new building which will join the footpath on Beacon Hill Road.

Crookham Park: the first occupation on this new major development was in September 2012. There are now about 40 houses occupied. Sainsburys have taken one of the 3 retail units at the Local Centre and have already applied for a license to sell alcohol. The allotments are being prepared and the first ones should be available before the 200th occupation. The allotment site is just off Naishes Lane, near Quetta Park. There will be a 40 space car-park provided for the allotments and for the visitors to the SANG land.

There is also an orchard on the Crookham Park site which was planted by the Gurkha soldiers when they were living there. There are about 100 trees which are being restored with help from parish council members and expert support from Wisley.

Happy to say there are plans for a grass athletics track and maybe a skateboard park on the site. The developer has also provided an 8 space car-park off Sandy Lane for the car-repair garage, in order to reduce the large number of cars parking on the road. It will be exclusively for the use of the garage, and the parish council will be expected to take it over from the developer.

Azalea Gardens has a newly refurbished play park, despite the trials and tribulations of working on contaminated land. This park is proving to be a great success and very popular with local families.

Last, but not least, you are welcome to attend the Church Crookham Parish Council Annual General meeting on the 23rd May 2013 where you can get a full report on what they have been doing.

Rural Villages Update

Tony Clarke provided a report about the area he represents: Crondall, Ewshot, Crookham Village, Quetta Park and Humphrey Park and the new Crookham Park estate. It has been a very interesting year for him, so far.

Please find his report as attached as **Appendix A**.

6. Update from Local Community Beat Police Officers: PCSO Adam Merrick.
PCSO Merrick apologised for not being available to attend but kindly sent a report for the meeting. Please see the attached report at **Appendix B**.

If people want to contact the Police they should call the 0845 045 4545 or ring 101 to report non-emergency issues.

The emergency contact number is: 999

E-mail: adam.merrick@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

The Police can also be contacted on Twitter: Twitter @FleetPolice

Church Crookham Neighbourhood Beat Police web-site:

<http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/my-neighbourhood/northern/hart-and-rushmoor/fleet/church-crookham/>

People can find out what is happening in the local area by using the Crime Report system by computer: www.crimereports.co.uk

The Police hold regular local Beat Surgeries where people can come to see the police officers and raise any concerns. The dates and locations are listed on the web-site for Church Crookham Neighbourhood Beat.

7. Elections 2013- County Council

There will be county council elections on 2nd May 2013.

Jenny Radley is stepping back as County Councillor for Church Crookham and Ewshot and John Bennison will be putting his name forward as our candidate.

Jenny will be applying to become a member of Church Crookham Parish Council to continue her work in the local area.

8. Boundary Changes in 2014

In 2014 there will be changes to all district wards and all up elections. The number of district councillors will reduce from 35 to 33 and there will only be 11 district wards. So there will be 3 members for each district ward. There was a boundary change consultation and a Sense of Place Survey that was carried out previously by HDC to inform the work to determine the new parish councils, and this information has helped to identify the new district ward boundaries. The intention was that there should be elections in each year for each district ward, followed by county council elections, which will cover the 4 year election term. This allows the electorate a chance to vote each year for the person they want to represent them.

Church Crookham will be divided into 2 district wards. One will be **Crookham and Ewshot** and will include the west side of Church Crookham, Ewshot, Crookham Village, Zebon Copse, Quetta and Humphrey Park and Crookham Park. The other will be **Crookham East** which will include the east side of Church Crookham and part of Courtmoor.

Crondall will become part of the Odiham ward.

9. Statement of Accounts

Apologies were given on behalf of Chris Axa who is unable to attend the meeting today.

James Radley provided the report and statement on behalf of Chris.

Please find the Treasurer Report and Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 1st Jan 2012- 30th Dec 2012 as attached as **Appendix C (i) and Appendix C (ii) respectively**.

Membership report: There were 98 members as of the end of 2011.

This has increased to 115 members at the end of December 2012.

The accounts have been maintained at a steady level of funding that has allowed us to operate effectively and efficiently. Income exceeded expenditure by £1.36. This is in part due to the donations from elected members. There has been no major expenditure that required concerted fund-raising but such events may be considered in future if greater levels of funding are required for any reason.

The statement of accounts was put to the membership for acceptance. The motion was proposed by JR and seconded by Geoff Marks. The vote was taken and accepted. No objections.

10. Election of Officers:

Chairman: James Radley proposed by John Bennison and seconded by Pat Lowe
Vice Chairman: Simon Ambler proposed by JR and seconded by Pat Lowe
Secretary: Jenny Radley proposed by JR and seconded by David Harrison
Treasurer: Chris Axam proposed by JR and seconded by John Bennison
Membership Secretary: Gill Butler proposed by Pat Lowe and seconded by Tony Clarke
Election Agent: Julia Ambler proposed by John Bennison and seconded by Barbara Notz

Officers were elected unanimously as proposed.

11. Open Floor Session –Members questions and answer session:

Q. Can you explain more about the car-park opposite car-repair garage on Sandy Lane?

A. The car-park is being provided to the garage owner for a pepper-corn rent in order to relieve the road from having so many parked vehicles. This was part of the S106 agreement, so it is a legal contract and the developer will be passing ownership to the parish council. The present exclusive use of the car-park for the garage owner will hold for as long as the garage needs car-parking space.

Q. What happens if the garage closes?

A. If the garage is taken over as a garage again the car-park will pass to the new owner with the business use. If the business closes the use of car park will be decided by the parish council as the legal land owner

Q. What if the garage is converted into offices?

A. If the nature of the business changes the people who take over could apply to the parish council for a new lease of the car-park. If parking is required for a new business the parish council will decide what to do, but if parking is needed for that site it is likely to be agreed.

Q. With the new 5-a-side football pitch on Peter Driver site next to a building site, is it safe for children to use, especially with lighter evenings as the summer approaches?

A. The building work will only take place during the day between 8am and 6pm on weekdays and 8 until 12 noon on Saturdays. The construction company have asked to use part of the car-park during the day for some of their workmen but the main nursing home site should be safe and secure at all times. There is concern about children crossing Beacon Hill Road and there is a highways scheme being proposed to provide a central refuge on Beacon Hill Road to help them cross this busy road more safely.

Q. It is often not safe to turn right out of Tweseldown Road into Beacon Hill Road.

A. Highways have agreed to minor changes at this junction as part of the Crookham Park highways improvements. If this is not adequate then it may be possible to ask HCC to use some of the S106 highways contribution for necessary highway improvements instead.

Q. There is only one 30mph speed limit sign on roads and no speed enforcement signs.

A. HCC do not allow speed limit repeater signs on residential roads. They do expect drivers to know that they have to follow 30mph speed limit in residential areas where there are street lights, according to the Highway Code.

If there is a problem of excessive speeds on local roads we can ask for a Speed Indicator Device (SID) to be set up to monitor and signal to traffic.

N.B. Bourley Road, which is a military road, has a 40 mph limit and has repeater signs.

Q. Local children have asked for a skate park which could be built on the QEB site, but there is no money provided from this application.

A. The parish council are setting aside money in their budget to build a skate park and they do hope to find a suitable location on the Crookham Park site.

Q. There was a plaque to celebrate the 6 mile race at the Vancouver Empire Games that was given to Peter Driver. Do we know where the plaque is now?

A. The Athletics Club may have the plaque.

In fact there is contribution money for art-work from the Vertu site developer and maybe there would be a useful way to spend the money to commemorate Peter Driver at the recreation site. Suggestion: to approach local art colleges for design ideas. First, need to see if the plaque can be found.

Q. Even with 236 houses per year for the district, how can the necessary infra-structure be provided especially over 15-20 years?

Q. What about schools, hospitals and other infra-structure, especially with 3800 houses in nearby Aldershot as well?

Q. Children from Crookham Park are expected to go to Calthorpe Park School for their secondary education, how are they expected to get there?

A. These questions are about the all important infra-structure that is needed to sustain new development. It is a complicated matter.

In the past the planning authority have taken contributions from the developer as part of the S106 legal agreement to help provide infra-structure for specific and recognised needs, such as highways, education, leisure, affordable housing, SPA mitigation, etc.

The Government are changing the developer contribution from a Section 106 agreement to CIL, Community Infrastructure Levy, which is an amount that will be calculated for each development..

The planning authority can agree a list of major improvement schemes for the district and use CIL contributions to pay for it. The established method of collecting money for S106 schemes is still an option but they can only ask for contributions from 5 developments for any one scheme, so major schemes such as the suggested roundabout at the Redfields Lane /A287 junction would stand very little chance of happening, because it would take more than 5 S106 contributions to pay for it.

Redfields Lane /A287 junction is a growing problem especially for the morning school run, because of the 350 or so pupils who are brought to school by car, a good number from the Farnham direction along the A287, which blocks traffic trying to turn right out of Redfields Lane. Maybe a major developer will come forward and offer to build a roundabout at this location, as part of their planning agreement, but any major development site will also have very significant impact on other infrastructure needs, so how will those be adequately provided?

Provision of necessary infra-structure is a very important issue for us all.

Q. Is there a time limit for CIL?

A. The Hart CIL policy still needs to go through the EiP. There will be a list of projects identified to justify the amount of money being requested. The council could spend money from one development in quite another part of the district. It may not get spent in the area most impacted... Currently S106 money is linked to the specific development, and justified as the need to mitigate the impact of the contributing development. In recent years S106 money has generally been time limited, but at this time we are not sure about CIL, but a time limit to use it is likely.

Q. Tweseldown Racecourse, is it up for sale? There have been some recent articles in the press.

A. The business at Tweseldown is not believed to be up for sale. The land is owned by the MoD who lease out the racecourse site. The company there at present have stopped running their Point to Point events but they still hold many other activities at the racecourse.

Q. Is there a decision regarding a new Leisure Centre which is certainly needed?

A. A working group has been set up at Hart District Council with officers and councillors, and they have spent a great deal of time looking at the options to replace the Hart Leisure Centre. There is likely to be further expansion of the Edenbrook development, which may include a site for a new leisure centre, but there are no decisions as yet.

In fact we would be interested to know how many people here think that this is needed.

Reply: Comments about needing a new centre, the swimming pool is not large enough and swimming lessons oversubscribed.

One of the major issues is how to fund the new leisure centre. The working group have visited several other new centres and there could be funding available from the EU (European Union). Some of the estimates suggest it could cost up to £20 million, but there are lower costing centres. They would need to consider carefully what they need to provide in the centre as well as the outside facilities, but parking is also very important. The site is not far from the River Hart alongside the County Park.

The new leisure centre would need to be a viable business operation and provide funds from the running of it to pay for itself and ongoing maintenance, as well as replacement reserves for future needs. The current Hart Leisure Centre has not been maintained fully over many years and now needs to be replaced, but no reserves have been put aside to cover this cost, so this will be a huge outlay for the District Council. One option, which is being explored, is using a company that can design and build and then run a leisure centre, although the council would be involved in the level of charges, to make sure they are affordable to residents. The company would have to maintain the building and return it, after say 15 years, in the same condition that they took over, so that a new contract can be offered to companies.

The business model will be of the utmost importance, to make sure it balances. They expect to make a decision sometime later this year.

Q. Question about using the Police 101 number to contact the local police officers to report something to them.

A. Will try and find out the shoulder number for the local PCSO, but the latest information and contact details about our local Neighbourhood Police Officers can be found on the Hampshire Constabulary web-site:

<http://www.hampshire.police.uk/internet/my-neighbourhood/northern/hart-and-rushmoor/fleet/church-crookham/>

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming.

Mary Barry thanked Jenny Radley for her work on behalf of the community at Hampshire County Council.

12. Close

The meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.

Please note:

Next CC(H) AGM meeting to be held at:

The Willis Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham,
at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29th January 2014.