

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY 2023

Wednesday 24th May 2023, 7.30pm, Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall

Present – Parish Councillors Hugo Cubitt (Chairman), Kevin Rafferty, Colin Robertson, Alison Stent; Clerk Susan Turner; Guest Ward Councillor Onnalee Cubitt. Members of the public 14

Apologies Tom Horsey, John Maclean, Martin Carfrae.

### 1 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked all for attending, and gave tribute and special thanks to John MacLean for his work as Tree Warden for the Parish.

Thanks also to Parish Council colleagues, Kevin Rafferty, Alison Stent, Colin Robertson and Tom Horsey, for everything they do for our community, to Martin Carfrae our invaluable Footpath Warden, and also to our Parish Clerk. We have a great team at the moment and I am delighted will all be staying on the Parish Council for at least another year.

### 2 Chairman's notes on the past year

Highways We mapped the grips alongside the roads (Kevin and Alison did most of the walking) and we are working on a programme with our Parish Lengthsman team to keep them all clear. I am glad to say the Lengthsman scheme will continue into 2023/34, with the annual funding staying at £1K.

Mapledurwell fireworks was cancelled this year, and for the foreseeable future, mostly due to concerns about animal welfare. There have been suggestions for an alternative bonfire event. These Parish events are important for community spirit.

The Village Hall Committee came out force after COVID, organising some great events including the fantastic Jubilee event which was so well attended. The event began with the Jubilee tree being blessed by Matt Bianchi our vicar and ended with the beacon being lit. All a huge success and to remind everyone that Up Nately won the Tug of War! The committee also recently organised the Coronation Big Help Out 'Rubbish Event' where we managed to collect over 40 bags of rubbish from what I thought were our pristine verges. One or two rather surprising items were found and the afternoon ended with a BBQ. A huge thank you to all the Village Hall committee. It's great to see some fun events coming up.

Planning As always we have had an interesting year, there have been lots of different applications; perhaps the most significant application refused was a Planning in Principle for six houses in the paddock at the north west end of Tunworth Road, and dismissed by the Planning Inspector who cited the importance of this area of rural landscape.

'The introduction of residential development in this location would fundamentally undermine the site's countryside character. Notwithstanding the retention of the perimeter hedgerow, it would give rise to an urbanising effect which would diminish its rural credentials. The development would also eradicate the important gap in built form on the approach to the village, which would fundamentally alter the sense of rurality within this aspect of the village.'

### 3 Short updates from Parish Councillors

Kevin Raffery on finance and playground

Alison on village hall grounds

Colin Robertson on the allotments and chalk stream – and now our Tree Warden

- Finances have benefited from some CIL (community infrastructure levy) funding; the Precept increase per household for this year was calculated to be about 3.5%.
- Playground continues to be maintained, regularly checked and annually inspected.
- The football Pavilion has received maintenance work and been painted.
- Small leaved lime tree *Tilia Cordata* chosen for a Coronation tree
- All allotments are fully occupied with a short waiting list.
- An addition allotment cleared by the Community Payback team who seemed happy to work here despite bad weather at the time. Some local comments re the portaloo.
- Our tenant allotment beekeeper, did very well in his first year.

- We are working to improve the biodiversity of the allotment area; starting to planting fruit trees – Quince trees do well boggy ground.
- Much appreciation to Colin Trussler who keeps the allotment paths maintained and has done for many years; to Rod Warner for his assistance with standpipes, and to Ward Councillors for their Community Grant contribution towards the additional water butts.
- Chalk stream – continuing with work rewilding, re-wiggling the river. Focus still on the central island with more planting to do but avoiding nesting season. Thanks to County Councillor Elaine Still for her grant contributions towards the planting. Will creat a better nesting environment, recently seven ducklings and a couple of moorhen chicks.

**4 Brief from Village Hall Chairman on energy efficiency measures**

Most will know the Village Hall received a grant (via HCC’s Parish & Town Council investment fund) for insulation, new air con / heating system and energy efficient lighting. Will be looking to redecorate over the summer – then the outside will need painting. Also thanks to Ward Councillors for their Community Grant contribution towards a projector.

**5 Canal society – unable to attend.**

**6 May local elections** Congratulations to Onnalee Cubitt on her re-election as Ward Councillor (Independent). Onnalee is now portfolio holder for Major Projects and Regeneration, her message that it is crucial to progress with Manydown.

Following the May elections (and the three Basing & Upton Grey Ward Councillors becoming independent) the Conservatives have lost their overall majority in Basingstoke & Deane. The political composition of the Borough Council’s 54 seats is now:

Conservative 23; Independent Forum 12; (eight B&D Independents, one Green and three independent councillors); Labour 10; Liberal Democrat 9.

A new coalition administration was voted in at 18 May Full Council meeting – of Independents and Liberal Democrats, supported by Labour. Cllr Paul Harvey (Basingstoke Independents) is now Council Leader; with Gavin James (Liberal) as Deputy.

**7 Issues raised by the public**

Speeding This is a minority of drivers across the spectrum, irrespective of destination or age. Need a civil conversation about treating county lanes and all road users with respect.

Industrial scale burning at Little Tunnel Bridge There is a waste licence in place to bring in material to burn. Advice for all to report on BDBC website re environmental health.

*Assembly closed the meeting at 9pm with thanks to all*

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