

MINUTES OF THE PARISH ASSEMBLY 2024

Wednesday 15th May 2024, 7.30pm, Mapledurwell & Up Nately Village Hall

Present – Parish Councillors Hugo Cubitt (Chairman), Suzanna Horsey, Kevin Rafferty, Colin Robertson, Alison Stent; Clerk Susan Turner; Guests PCSO Andy Jones, Ward Cllr Onnalee Cubitt.
Members of the public 25+

7.30pm CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME TO MEETING

Apologies received from Tom Horsey, Footpaths Warden Martin Carfrae, Village Hall Chairman Tim Lewis.

1 PCSO Andy Jones report

Basingstoke Rural South Area: Andy has 50 Parishes to cover; taking on Mapledurwell & Up Nately, Newnham and Old Basing has been offset by relinquishing other parts of his area, formerly rural but now developed with 8K or so houses and so part of Basingstoke town. This is a win-win for us and as far as Andy is concerned. In big scheme of things, things are very quiet here and in Newnham.

Local issues though with Byways centred on Five Lanes End. The police do have vehicles for byways, but have to be careful with them, not able to race like those unlawfully using the lanes – and though Police have offroad vehicles, they still have road tyres.

Noted the spate of tools being stolen from allotments last year thankfully abated.

To raise a general issue which is becoming and more common. Young people being asked for compromising images of themselves and then blackmailed. This is involving thousands of people who are often too embarrassed to come forward.

One report of a dog bite – a dog behaviour order issued.

Noted lot of work people in vans the Country Hotel – theft from vehicles?

As often discussed, the issue of reporting crime. Call 999 for a live incident which requires immediate attendance. Otherwise the number to call is 101. Ok 101 has its good days and bad days; as an alternative online reporting does work wonderfully well. We ask the public to report, to please tell us what going on. Computer programmes and websites also have their frailties but it's not hard to bear with the system and submit a report. For files, they need to be uploaded in a proper way, virus and data protection checked.

Question raised in relation to an Operation Galileo incident. Andy not have details but does appreciate difficulties with number of untrained officers, and when urban officers attend a rural incident. Constant feedback is appreciated, thank you.

PCSO Andy Jones left the meeting with the thanks of the Assembly.

7.40pm CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2 Chairman thanks to the Parish Council and all volunteers

This a newly elected Parish Council team following uncontested elections: 2024 is an Local Election year for Mapledurwell & Up Nately.

Tom Horsey stood down prior to the elections. Tom has been with the Parish Council before all of us, much appreciated that he stayed on and supported us.

The Vacancy was advertised, in the *Villager* and website, via social media. Our thanks to Suzie Horsey for stepping forward.

Tom will stay as Chairman of the Up Nately pond committee.

Thanks to all others who take on non-councillor roles: Martin Carfrae as Footpaths Warden, Colin Robertson as Tree Warden.

3 Our Parish Lengthsman scheme gives us £1K worth of man-hours in the year. Over the last two years we have put them to best use, clearing grips around the Parish, cleaning signposts and repairing the bus stop (just in case).

Please let us know anything else in terms of Village Upkeep you feel needs doing.

- 4 Planning** There has as always been a variety of planning applications put forward, all recorded in the *Villager*.
One application dismissed at Appeal is particularly worthy of mention because the Inspector made a point of citing the importance of the rural Gap separating the Village of Mapledurwell and the developed area beyond the Motorway.
As part of the Local Plan Update Reg 18, the Parish Council applied for a designated local Gap between Mapledurwell Village and the M3.
BDBC Council Leader Paul Harvey and Cllr Andy Konieczko came out to a Parish Council meeting in November and gave a fascinating and informative insight into the workings of the Local Plan Update.
The Friends St Mary's did an amazing job of organising the clearing of the Mapledurwell pond and replacing the liner, the work undertaken by local landowners and within a tight budget. Noting the prominent life ring.
Tennis courts Good news that the Parish Council has some funding toward the resurfacing, will be getting on with that shortly. Regular cleaning and sweeping does make a difference.
Feedback from some members of the Assembly: 'Yes, we use the courts a lot... the court nearest the trees is the worst. If resurfacing, any chance of replacing with a new court on the side away from the trees?'
- 7.45pm UPDATES FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS
PARISH CLLR KEVIN RAFFERTY
- 5 Parish Council Finances** Last year a budget deficit of c£3.5K, this year a budgeted surplus of near £2K though finished with a deficit of c£2.5K mostly because the VAT refund didn't come in within the year. This does mean the budgeted deficit for next year should translate into a corresponding surplus. The Parish Council seeks to make best use of available funding while balancing the budget and maintaining a reasonable reserve. The bank balance at year end 2023/24 = £6,056.93
- 6 Playground** receives regular inspections including an official annual Rospa-certified Inspection required by insurance. (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.)
We do have a list of maintenance work to be scheduled: Replace section of timber around the bark pit, refill the bark pit; Replace parts of the picket fence, various fence posts, the gate and latch. Have replaced the latch as many times as there are screw holes, time to hand over to contractor to probably replace the post and maybe the gate.
- TO RECORD THANKS – The new picnic bench was provided courtesy of a Community Grant from Ward Councillors.
Question re issues of dog poo, and dogs signs on the playground gate. A. There were two small signs on the gate which users of the playground removed. Once the maintenance works done will replace with larger signs.
- 7 Public rights of way** Martin Carfrae is Footpaths Warden; I do a lot of walking and so can take a supporting role. No questions or issues raised re the paths.
PARISH CLLR ALISON STENT
- 8 Village maintenance** If you find anything that needs doing around Village or around the Village Hall grounds please let us know. Anything relating to Highways, particularly potholes, please log on the HCC website.
PARISH CLLR COLIN ROBERTSON
- 9 Coronation tree** Planted a Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia Cordata*) as a Coronation tree in the Village Hall grounds, awaiting a plaque.
- TO RECORD THANKS to County Councillor Elaine Still who granted funding from her devolved budget for this and new fruit trees at the allotments.
- 10 Village Hall orchard** Having taken over role of Tree Warden from John Maclean – to relay a message: 'We have the commemoration fruit trees in the corner of the grounds at the far (M3) end of the tennis court. There has been a lot of apple blossom and hopefully will be no late frosts this year: Scrumping invited!'

11 Allotments and Chalk stream

Allotments plots are all taken at the moment but no waiting list and potential for change. Please if interested for now or in the future let me know; always good to know how we can plan ahead. Has been some more Willow coppicing and some works to take down storm damaged branches and dead wood. All the resulting brash ended up in the chalk stream to create new banking. This last year have planted four more fruit trees, Damson, Cherry, Medlar, Quince to add to previously planted Greengage and Crab apple.

Resident beekeeper is hoping for a better year after losing hives last year due to late very cold spell and snow. Continued thanks to Colin Trussler who mows the allotment paths. The Chalk Stream is looking well at the moment, some more (native) tussock grasses purchased with CIL money.

12 Flood management in Frog Lane has been interesting, with more water running through the allotment channels than previously ever remembered. Rodding culverts has been a favorite task but they all and allotment channels have been running at capacity.

Waterside have been building two new houses, the site foreman saying they will be looking in the summertime to reinstate the verges; in common interest to improve the area.

Question from public – If it is possible to have no parking signs in Frog Lane. The road verges are a wreck and the road muddy. A: Will look at again once building works have finished, this will make a difference.

A 'THANK YOU' from member of the Assembly: 'Looking through minutes, it's evident the Parish Council has achieved much.'

8pm WARD COUNCILLOR PRESENTATION

13 Ward Cllr Onnalee Cubitt is currently Cabinet Member for Major Projects & Regeneration.

The Independents had a successful Local Election increasing their number of seats along with the Liberal Democrats. Council doing what supposed to for the borough common good, putting community first; goal is rebuilding trust, renewing democracy and restoring faith.

Having been portfolio holder for a year, found how frustrating it can be. So much want to do, try to pull all the right leavers which don't then connect to the goals wish to achieve.

Frustrating but don't go to politics for an easy life. Paul Harvey is outstanding leader, couldn't do more to support councillors, Cabinet full of bright people, noting in particular Andy Konieczko who is running Local Plan update. So a good place but a lot of challenges.

Re the Reg 18 consultation, there has been a lot of factually inaccurate information put out, particularly on social media regarding housing numbers. Have been testing the law, the message from KCs and minister that emphatically BDBC does not have constraints or exceptional circumstances which will result in a reduction in housing numbers, the whole country faces equivalent challenges.

Re education, roads, fire, police, we cannot enable these facilities, these are County matters outside our remit, we have work out a way through.

Prior to Reg 18 consultation, BDBC fell short of required five-year land supply as not built out strategic sites. One good thing Gove did was the NPPF amendment requiring a land supply of four years once reached published Reg 18 draft with sufficient allocated sites. BDBC just achieves this so that does help improve the weight of our housing policies.

Looking to Manydown, if have to build, at least let's build houses and deliver communities that work on all levels. At the moment, on many fronts across the borough, knee deep in consultants' documents, officer reports, but implementation not happening. For Manydown North, signed heads of terms in October, very heavily negotiated, not yet finally signed off. HCC has 50% of the option, they are the infrastructure provider.

Sheena Grassi from Litchpit is our newly elected Ward Councillor. Together with Kate Tuck from Old Basing the three of us cover our ward with Onnalee's focus on the rural parishes. Thank you to everyone who voted in the Local Elections.

8.15pm Presentation from the Basingstoke Canal Society: the route of the Last Five Miles.

8.55pm CHAIRMAN'S THANKS to Canal Society and all who attended. *Meeting closed.*

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