

Mapledurwell & Up Nately Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly and Reopening of the Village Hall

Date: 20th May 2011 Venue: Mapledurwell Village Hall Commencing: 8.00pm
Present: Chairman Donald Komrower Vice- Chairman Sam Preece
Councillors: Alan Hutton, Hilary Hossack and Di Coate-Bond. Clerk: Susan Lefley.
Police: PC Andrew Reid Maria Miller MP, Cllr Sven Godeson, Cllr Onnalee Cubitt, And
39 residents and visitors.

1 WELCOME.

The Chairman Donald Komrower welcomed everyone to what the Parish Council believes is the 117th Annual Parish Assembly, since they have been running since 1894. He welcomed Maria Miller MP who had kindly agreed to perform the reopening of the hall, Marcelle Westcombe who had travelled up from Devon and also the folk from Greywell and Newnham. Sven Godeson and Keith Holdsworth were also thanked for attending

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies had been received from Elaine Still, Nickie Cheetham, Mr & Mrs Hooper, Steven Lugg, Lord Malmesbury, Thelma Fredericks, Alison Howard and Mr & Mrs A Komrower.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly on 20th May 2010 were approved as a true record and signed by Donald Komrower.

4. THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

(Read by Mr Donald Komrower) I suppose it's inevitable after 117 Annual Parish Assemblies there will be a degree of duplication from one year to the next. In many ways I find this to be a source of comfort. In a world where people want to show how much change they can foster, in our corner of Hampshire things seem a tad more relaxed. So this is more of an update on last year.

Last year the Parish Council scrutinised some 18 Planning Applications and this year we looked at 25 Planning Applications and 6 Certificate of Lawfulness applications. Of the 25, 7 were granted, 10 refused, 5 withdrawn and 3 are still pending. It is important to point out that although the Parish Council does look through each application and usually make comments, our opinions count for little more than any individual who cares to write in. So it is crucial if anyone feels strongly about an application they make their voice heard with the Planning Department.

The issues from last year included:

1. Yaxley's Land. We did complete the purchase of this $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre of woodland adjoining the football pitch for £4,000 plus legal costs. It meant that we could move the football pitch and car park without having to worry so much about affecting a neighbour's property. We are now cutting the grass closer to these woods and have therefore increased the amount of open space available for football and other users.

2. The allotments had their second year after being in a state of disrepair for many years. Establishing this area again was new for many of us. I believe the users have had a significant amount of enjoyment from it. A fair amount of PC time has been taken up with trying to ensure this area gives opportunity to allotment holders to carry out their activity without impinging on the many others who use this lovely area for walking and relaxation. I would like to thank Alan Hutton and Di Coate-Bond for co-ordinating between the allotment holders and the Parish Council. Just for interest 100 years ago at the Parish Meeting it was agreed that 24 cwt of Guano be purchased to supply the allotment holders with $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt each. Therefore we know that in 1911 there were 32 allotments being used.

3. M3 noise. Another pop back into historical records showing at a Special Parish Meeting in Feb 1965 a resolution was unanimously passed stating, "This Parish Meeting objects to the motorway to the north of Mapledurwell on the grounds of noise to the residents in the immediate vicinity and the disruption of communities to the village and local amenities." Not much change here and I am sure Maria Miller may keen to update us on any possible progress to reduce this. I can assure everyone that the PC is constantly in touch with Maria and others about getting a new quieter surface for 'our' stretch of the M3.

4. I hope you will all agree with me that Sue Turner and others have really made a large improvement to the Villager over the last couple of years. Of course it could be better, but to a large extent that relies on you and I getting interesting items to her and the other news collectors.

5. Getting an interesting and appropriate website for the parish is still work in progress. A few people have volunteered to help Di Coate-Bond with this, but nothing has yet materialised. I am hopeful that after a few more years a new technology will have arrived to supersede web pages!!

6. The PC is still committed to supporting Country Watch and SOLVE in their efforts to stop an unwarranted huge development north of the A30 in the Loddon Valley.

7. Last year we had a presentation from Glenn Peacey from Hampshire County Council about broadband speeds. Not much seems to have changed since then. We will continue to press for our area to get faster broadband. To get a picture of what is going on log on to 'Faster broadband for Basingstoke', and put in your post code. If, like me, you get, "You won't be able to get super-fast broadband just yet" it makes you feel a bit better in the hope that things will improve..... Then fill out the form and get a speed check which confirms what you knew earlier that your speeds are indeed slow - you feel you are now doing something. You can then get a map of the borough showing areas coloured in green that have excellent coverage down to red which are less than 2mb/s. It is nice to know we are not alone as outside the main towns most is red. Interestingly though Preston Candover is lovely and green!!

8. Last year the folk from Hook came to talk about their hopes for getting allotments on Blackstocks Lane. We did push for them to get a formal planning permission so that this field did not become an unsightly area with cars blocking the lane. As it transpired The Hook Allotment Society found space within the Hook area and I believe they are up and running now.

9. So we come to the Village Hall and its surrounds. Last year we had pressed the button for what we called 'phase 1'. This was to redo the car park, open up a new

entrance with better access, move the pitch, get the sports pavilion done up a bit, redo the tennis court surfaces, and make improvements to the play area to get them complying with current health and safety requirements. This we felt would be quite enough for the year, and then when the option to purchase the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre of woodland we thought we should do this at the same time. Just about at the time of last year's APA we became slightly concerned when June Balcombe from Basingstoke and Deane indicated that if we didn't spend the additional money allocated over and above that for phase 1 it could be lost. Not only did we not know how much it would cost to carry out 'Sam's Plan', we were unsure of whether we could get back VAT or indeed how much was in the S106 pot. We had to move swiftly into action, not easy for a parish which prides itself on gaining as much tranquillity for itself as it can! We got in quotes from builders, sorted out how much we had in S106 grants, and ensured a method to recoup the VAT. So instead of moving gently on with one project at a time we were faced with doing the whole lot together. We also wanted to disturb the play-school as little as possible. The decision was to start in the summer and hopefully have it all completed by Christmas, so the term could start in January in the refurbished hall. In the main this is what happened, and my thanks go to Steve Mills and Hugo Cubitt for the diligent way they undertook this work. This is a project that started over 4 years ago after we found out that money in the form of S106 from the developments at the Hollies and Canal Reach was available for community use. We were boldly optimistic. We thought we should go for a National Lottery Grant to supplement the S106 money. The figures went something like this, £135,000 for the S106 money, the Parish Council to find £12,500, the Village Hall Committee £15,000, and a grant from local authorities of £68,485 which left just £481,632 to be applied for! We were all naively perplexed that we didn't get it, but perhaps the world had a different attitude to money in 2007. Keith Irvine did a wonderful job filling out the lottery form. We all miss him enormously. Now some 4 years on with the job done, with a refurbishment and not a new build, the S106 grants came out at about £139,000, the contribution from the Parish Council at £16,400, and the Village Hall Committee at £9,000 making a total cost of some £164,500. Many people from the parish have been involved over the 4 years. I would especially like to thank David Hossack, David Hooper, Jane Komrower, Liz Preece, Bruce Coate-Bond and all those from the Village Hall Committee who have been so helpful. It was, and is, important the PC and Village Hall work closely together because we share a common objective - that people in our villages enjoy the facilities provided. Let's hope future Parish Councils and Village Hall Committees work in such a friendly and constructive way as we have done. One person stands out who from the very beginning has been instrumental in all this happening. He drew up plans, negotiated with the planning department, got quotes, and project managed all the building works. That is, of course, Sam Preece. Thank you so much Sam, on behalf of the whole parish, for all you have done. At this point in the report, Donald presented Sam with a bottle of Whisky and a card. Sam gave a short speech and thanked in particular Hugo Cubitt and Steve Mills for their efforts in the refurbishment.

I would like to finish my report by thanking my fellow councillors for their efforts, good humour and sometimes patience during this year. I would also like to make a special thanks to Sue Lefley, our clerk, who has been wonderful. She is thorough, caring, and very hard working. We are extremely fortunate to have such a talented person on the Parish Council.

The Parish Council will only be effective because we all in our area want it to be so. We are, after all, just volunteers doing the best we can for our community. It relies

on the enthusiasm of us all to make suggestions, offer support and when necessary put our names forward for getting involved.

That time will come next year when elections for the Parish Council come up, and it would be good if we can have a healthy non – political election for new members.

On a more immediate note I understand the Village Hall Committee is looking for a Treasurer. Have a word with Bruce to see whether you could help out.

FINANCE Copies of the unaudited accounts were available at the meeting, and showed the income and expenditure for the year to March 31st 2011 Donald explained that if we took out the income and expenditure relating to the refurbishment and excluded a grant given to the Allotments of £7,852 the parish's income was some £8,400 with spending of around £5,100. Donald also explained that the Parish Council had held the precept for the coming year at £5,200, explaining that the balance at the end of the financial year is £9,322.68, but that there was an outstanding amount which still needs to be paid for the flooring of some £4,600. It is hoped that the Village Hall Committee will agree to pay £4,000 of this with the remainder coming out of parish funds. He also verified the need to exclude an amount held on behalf of the Allotment users so leaving us a balance of some £6,400 going forward as a reserve. Donald also took the opportunity to thank Robin Best for his help with going through our accounts so thoroughly before they get sent to the external auditors.

5. THE POLICE REPORT (Read by PC Andrew Reid)

For Mapledurwell

REPORTED CRIME 2006 11 REPORTED CRIME 2007 12 REPORTED CRIME 2008 20
REPORTED CRIME 2009 9 REPORTED CRIME 2010 18

Sadly reported crime doubled. 18 crimes were reported, however, only 6 in the village. These consisted of a garage broken into with a motor and pedal cycle stolen in Kembers Lane, although a prolific criminal was later arrested. Sadly there was insufficient evidence to prosecute. The village hall was also broken into and there was also a domestic related assault. A garage in Frog Lane was burgled with lots of property stolen and an air pellet as fired through an outer window at a house in Oak Tree Cottages. A motor cycle cover was also stolen from a machine on Tunworth Road. The other reports in the parish included a domestic dispute, three reports of poachers, an injured deer, a suspicious man, an abandoned car which was later found to belong to a new resident in the area; again we have no problems with such calls. We also had a report of a resident receiving an abusive telephone call in the early hours, a neighbour dispute, false burglar alarm activation and an incident of sheep worrying in which suitable advice was given to the dog owner. We also had reports of an Asian man seeking money to buy petrol, a similar scam occurred in the Parish of Newnham. On the A30 nears Conkers, we had complaints of debris on the carriageway and also on the A30 a man was found in possession of a controlled drug (cannabis) and fined. At the Hatch, six cars were broken into and on another occasion, a car was scratched by the use of keys. At the Hollies, 2 cars were also scratched using keys and there was a harassment complaint which resulted in a female receiving a £80 fine. We also received a report of an abusive male, a neighbour dispute, 3 noise complaints and a vehicle obstruction. In June, we had a report of strange noises in the Hollies area; a patrol car checked and found the

offenders to be a herd of cattle. We also had a report that at 2am on an August morning, men with lights were seen looking into holes on the nature reserve at the Hollies, again units attended and found it was staff from the Environment Agency conducting research that can only be done in the early hours. Again, a call made with good intentions, which we have no complaints about. On the industrial park, an assault report was received after a member of staff was pushed by a work colleague.

For Up Nately

REPORTED CRIME 2009 7 REPORTED CRIME 2010 6

The Parish saw a decrease in reported crime, albeit by only one. The crimes of the Parish consisted of a dwelling burglary, which although a man was arrested, there was insufficient evidence to pursue a prosecution. We also had a reported theft of diesel from a parked HGV and a set of registration plates from a car parked in Elizabeth House. The Basingstoke Gun Club was also broken into and whilst no weapons are ever retained at the premises, other property was stolen. We also had a non dwelling break in to a stable resulting in the theft of tack and equine equipment. We ended the year with an assault allegation in the village where a person is due in court. Other reported incidents included a report of a naked man standing on the M3 over bridge; we had two reports of domestic disputes, a false burglar alarm activation, a concern for welfare call, 5 suspicious incidents and people, a sudden death at the Old Folks home, sheep in the road at Blackstocks Lane and 2 neighbour disputes. The Chairman Mr Komrower thanked PC Reid for his excellent work in the parish and the audience gave him a huge round of applause.

6 THE REOPENING CEREMONY FOR THE VILLAGE HALL

Maria Miller very kindly unveiled the new plaque for the reopening of the hall, stating that here was a living and breathing example of a strong community and what a fantastic job had been done.

The Chairman thanked Maria who then fielded a variety of questions.

Alex Wiseman asked her about the progress on the plans for the resurfacing of the M3, which was awaiting a report back from Mike Penning with regard to funding. It is apparently on a 'jobs to do' list but no firm date has been offered. Maria was disappointed that the last tranche of resurfacing did not include the most populated areas, where its benefits' would have most been felt but there had been a mess up rather than any conspiracy to annoy. Maria went on to say she would continue to push for this project to go ahead.

She also discussed other ways that the noise could be reduced. A reduce in speed on the motorway would instantly reduce the noise but the cost of gantries would be prohibitive, also an improvement in tyre design, which would need members of the public to lobby tyre manufacturers.

Volume of traffic is also another issue, which if the proposed increase in housing in our area goes ahead, this would dramatically increase. Another reason to join in the debate on housing numbers.

This moved the discussion on to the large development SOLVE are dealing with and Alan Hutton asked Maria what sense was there in building housing stock on

extremely wet, boggy, bottomless land , leading only to huge problems of subsidence and collapse as and when the ground dries up. He quoted another area where this had happened and where the residents were left to put their houses right. Maria stated she was fully behind SOLVE and that once the green fields were gone, there was no getting them back. Her main concern was with the lack of infrastructure, roads, schools, hospitals, which would be put under immense strain if more houses were built and that the government would not be able to help fund any of these things. She said it came down to house building numbers and how they were generated. Were we really seeing this demand locally and she urged us to question this fully with the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council.

Donald Komrower asked Maria to describe in simple terms what 'Localism' means to us and what we can do to embrace it? Maria said that it was really exactly what we were doing now and it was about decision making being brought down to a local level, with house building as an example. Giving the community what it really wants rather than someone in Whitehall making those decisions. This was going to be a big culture change for Borough Councils.

Roger Booth brought up the issue concerning the consultation process for the Odiham Hospital which is under threat of closure. He doubted the consultation, saying that it was just a box ticking exercise which would not result in favour of the residents. Maria stated how the devolving of power to the G.P's would be a good move and that the sooner we move away from the monolith, which is the Hampshire PCT, the better.

The Chairman thanked Maria for her contribution to the meeting and for her work in the borough.

The meeting adjourned for refreshments.

7 THE HISTORIES OF MAPLEDURWELL & UP NATELY.

Lorna Cuthill, aided by Murray Bywater on the computer, gave a very interesting presentation on the history of Mapledurwell. This was followed by an equally interesting talk on the wills of former Up Nately residents from the year 1590 by Liz Preece. Further information can be found on the Victoria County History website who has researched Mapledurwell, which was selected as the first parish to be published for the New VCH series because of the substantial research previously carried out by Stan Waight, especially on the estate held by Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in Mapledurwell. Visit the website for further information www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/hampshire/work-in-progress/mapledurwell

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and also Jane and Liz for providing refreshments.

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.