

# **DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of parish electors of Hannington Parish, Hampshire 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**

The meeting was held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at the Village Hall, starting at 7:00pm.

The Parish Council was represented by Cllr Robert Finlayson (Vice Chairman), Cllr Janusz Hertz, and Cllr Oliver Larminie, thereby giving the public accountability for all the actions of the Parish Council over the past twelve months.

Chris Pottinger (Parish Clerk) attended, as did Borough Cllr Donald Sherlock and seven residents.

Apologies were received from Parish Cllr Simon Taylor (Chairman), Parish Cllr Clare Kinnear and County Cllr Rhydian Vaughan.

The meeting was therefore quorate, minimum of two persons required.

**In the absence of Cllr Simon Taylor (Parish Council Chairman), the meeting was chaired by Cllr Robert Finalyson (Parish Council Vice Chairman) in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 Sch. 12 section 16 (3).**

**It is a requirement under LGA 1972 Sch. 12 section 19 (1) that minutes of the meeting must be taken. The Chairman asked if anybody present would like to take the Minutes. With no volunteers, the Parish Clerk agreed to take the Minutes. The Clerk presumed all those present were electors, and would only ask for the names of those present if the meeting called for a vote on any matter.**

The Clerk confirmed that Public Notices of the meeting had been posted on the Parish Council website, and that an email had been sent to residents a week in advance of the meeting via the Hannington email network (Barbaramail). These notifications included the following list of matters that were likely to be discussed, namely;

1. **Repair and maintenance of the footpaths** incl. use of the £1,000 eligible from Lengthman's Scheme,
2. **Superfast Broadband...** 'Coming to a house near you'?
3. **Village Green...** parking and damage, dog fouling
4. **Unadopted roads to the South and West...** maintenance
5. **Snow Plan...** 'lessons learned' from the 'Beast from the East'
6. **Flood areas** on Hannington Road, Nr North Oakley, and, on the road from Ibworth to Hannington
7. **Progress on proposal to upgrade** FP 7106a behind Michaels Field **to a bridleway**
8. **Vacancy for Parish Councillor** with effect from May 2018.

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**

The draft Minutes of the previous year's meeting had been circulated 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 and had been posted on the new Hannington Parish Council website in advance of the meeting. A copy of the DRAFT Minutes had again been attached to the Public Notice of this year's Meeting.

**DECISION: the Minutes, as drafted and circulated, were adopted at the meeting, with no amendments.**

The Clerk quickly went through the Minutes identifying 'ACTIONS'. He updated the meeting on their status. There were no 'Outstanding Actions' from the Annual Parish Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

The Chairman then opened and asked if there were any other items that those present wanted to discuss. As there were none, the meeting to discuss each of the items.

1. **Repair and maintenance of the footpaths** incl. use of the £1,000 eligible from Lengthman's Scheme,

### Bertha's Lane

Cllr Hertz gave an update. He informed the meeting the Parish Council had received confirmation from HCC Highways Dept that the full £1,000 that had NOT been spent by the Council in 2017/18 could be rolled forward into 2018/19. He explained that the work undertaken by Tim May, Kingsclere estates, had been very well received. The Clerk was asked to record the thanks of residents for the work he had undertaken.

The clearance of undergrowth and ivy on mature trees along the Lane had been undertaken by the Lengthsmen. This work was in anticipation of the HCC Highways arborealist to investigate the state of the trees and to recommend and agree what further tree work was necessary. The intention had been for the Lengthsman to be employed to undertake much of this work on behalf of the Parish Council. However, to date, the BDBC arboreal consultant had not visited the site. This work is planned to be undertaken in 2018.

Cllr Hertz also gave an update on the progress made to upgrade Bertha's lane from a footpath to a bridleway (see minute 7 below).

### Status of Footpaths in general

Cllr Hertz said that a minimum of 25% of the Lengthsman's resources must be used for repair and maintenance of footpaths. He drew attention to an area of 10ft wide by 30ft long of the BW7110 bridleway adjacent to Halves Wood about 75 metres from the junction with BW7112 that has dire problems caused by standing water and then horses hooves; even in the summer. Cllr Hertz was planning to contact Tim May and ask if he had any spare 'hard core' that could be put down and levelled. Pat Sarsfield-Hall advised the meeting that unless a suitable 'terran' was laid first,

the hard core would simply be trodden down, and in a short period of time the problem would 're-surface'. Pat said that he had a suitable length of terran that could be used. The meeting thanked Pat for his generosity.

### **ACTION: Cllr Hertz and Pat Sarsfield-Hall**

#### 2. **Superfast Broadband...** 'Coming to a house near you'?

Cllr Hertz gave a summary of his understanding of the latest situation regarding the upgrading of Broadband in Hannington village. He explained that the planned local road closure by BT between 14<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> May is for the installation of a fibre cabinet designated Kingsclere 8 for 'superfast' broadband to the village. The planned outcome is for the new cabinet to be sited near Money Penny Cottage with cable routes installed for both power and BT cable connectivity. Superfast Broadband may therefore be available to Hannington residents within the following 3-4 months.

He explained that the new Superfast Broadband service would still be delivered from the fibre cabinet to resident's houses using the existing copper cables as at present. Residents would NOT have their road/pavement/driveway dug up! When the 'fibre' service becomes available it would simply be a matter of contacting your service provider, signing a new contract and the change being made by BT Openreach.

In response to a question from residents, Cllr Hertz said that information can be found at HCC website <https://www.hampshiresuperfastbroadband.com/> as to the status of superfast broadband at a particular postcode. He encouraged residents to '*Register their interest*' and Hampshire County Council would then email them as soon as the superfast broadband service becomes available at their postcode.

Cllr Hertz stated that this initiative would only benefit residents in Hannington Village and would not roll out to the other four satellites of Plantation Hill, North Oakley, Ibworth and White Lane at this time. The Parish Council would continue to press the HCC Superfast Broadband Programme for options for the supply of superfast broadband to these areas once superfast broadband had been delivered to the village.

#### 3. **Village Green...** parking and damage, dog fouling, and Millenium Stone

There was substantial discussion on the damage caused to the village green by large vehicles and by ad hoc parking. On (somewhat rare) occasions, when the vehicle owner was known, the costs of remedial work had been 'recovered'. Unfortunately, in the majority of cases the identity of the person whose vehicle had caused the damage was not known.

The meeting concluded that the 'balanced' approach by the Parish Council, where sturdy 'short, telegraph poles' were inserted by Pat Sarsfield-Hall was probably as far as the Council should go at this time.

### Dirt etc. on road

A resident drew attention to the dirt and mud that was building up one of the un-adopted roads, and that there was substantial puddle on one of the corners of the village green.

**ACTION:** The Parish Council said it would look at the status of the road surface, and see what action, if any, it would take.

### Dog Fouling

It was the general consensus that the state of the village green with regards 'dog fouling' had improved recently. However, there was a note of caution as the number of dogs on the village green tended to increase in Spring/Summer.

The meeting agreed with the Parish Council that the best way to proceed was for the Clerk to re-issue a statement to residents that dog fouling is an offence, and is illegal with a substantial financial penalty. The statement from the Clerk would also include a link to the BDBC website for the public/residents to report such incidents. The statement would also be posted by the Clerk on the HPC website.

**ACTION: Clerk**

### Lambing season

Though not directly related to the village green, the meeting recognised that 'uncontrolled' dogs continued to be a real problem to farmers, especially at lambing time. The Parish Council would re-issue its previous warning including that farmers have a legal right to shoot a dog if it is considered to be worrying his sheep!

**ACTION: Clerk**

### Millenium Stone

A resident suggested that the Millenium Stone on the village green would benefit from a clean. Pat Sarsfield-Hall said that he may have the appropriate 'cleaning agent', and would try it out on a small portion. If it works, the Parish Council would arrange for the stone to be cleaned.

**ACTION: Pat Sarsfield-Hall and Parish Council**

## 4. **Un-adopted roads to the South and West...** maintenance

Despite not having a need to use the un-adopted roads, the Parish Council (as a frontager) explained that it had created an Earmarked Reserve that would be sufficient over time to meet its financial obligations to contribute towards the repair and maintenance of the two un-adopted roads to the South and West of the Village Green. The Chairman is in the process of writing to those residents and frontagers

that make use of these two roads (to gain access to their properties) with regard to *their plans for funding* their portion of the maintenance liability.

The Parish Council said that it was looking for a 'voluntary commitment' by the residents. Cllr Hertz said that although the two roads were un-adopted, the Highways Authority could, if deemed the state of the road was a Health and Safety risk, undertake the work and seek to recover its costs from the frontagers.

In this context, a resident drew attention to Section 207 of the Highways Act 1980. Unfortunately, as there is no Wi-Fi access in the Village Hall, the Clerk was not able to access the relevant Section and so discussion was not possible on the implications of this Section. However, for information purposes, that Section of the Highways Act 1980 is reproduced below.

**Section 207: Provisional apportionment of expenses.**

(1) In a provisional apportionment of expenses of street works under the private street works code, the apportionment of expenses between the premises liable to be charged with them shall, subject to the provisions of this section, be made according to the frontage of the respective premises.

(2) The street works authority may, if they think just, resolve that in settling the apportionment regard shall be had to the following considerations:—

(a) the greater or less degree of benefit to be derived by any premises from the street works;

(b) the amount and value of any work already done by the owners or occupiers of any premises.

(3) The authority may—

(a) if they think just, include in the apportionment any premises which do not front the street, but have access to it through a court, passage, or otherwise, and which will, in the opinion of the authority, be benefited by the works, and

(b) fix, by reference to the degree of benefit to be derived by those premises, the amount to be apportioned on them.

5. **Snow Plan...** 'lessons learned' from the 'Beast from the East'

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had written to HCC Highways, on behalf of the Parish Council, to get information on the role of local farmers with regards to snow clearing and, in particular, which farmers were sub-contracted by the County Council, and which roads were they designated to maintain. The response from HCC Highways had been very disappointing... saying they could not provide the information as it would be in breach of the Data Protection Regulations! Without this information, the Parish Council is unable to identify and publicise priority routes into and out of the village and its four satellites. The County Council were also not willing to enter into any two-way communication with the Parish Council in an effort to identify problem areas as they developed, or to work to prioritise key through routes.

Richard Lloyd and his son briefed the meeting on the problems he had tried to deal with from 4pm through to 11 pm in attempting to keep the roads into Hannington clear and to help vehicles with problems on the A339.

We also heard from Pat and Pippa Sarsfield-Hall on their stalwart activities especially in trying to pull stranded cars out of snow drifts and, together with neighbours and The Vine, providing overnight accommodation for six stranded drivers!

Information obtained so far by the Parish Council is that:-

\* HCC Highways pay a 'retainer' to around 270 'sub contractors' across the County. These people can be called out by HCC Highways in an emergency; like the one we had recently. Some are supplied with a snow plough to fit onto their tractor.

\* one of the Hannington 'farmer/sub contractors' has withdrawn from the scheme. The Parish Council cannot find out what impact this has had on designating or allocating roads within the Parish,

\* in the latest incident, 'farmers/local contractors' were transferred from their 'designated local routes' to help with the main roads.

HCC Highways have advised the Parish Council that rather than liaise with the Parish Council, 'residents' should use the HCC Highways emergency website to report problems! This may be problematic for drivers stranded in cars around Hannington as there may not be a mobile 'phone signal!!

A great 'Vote of Thanks' to Richard and his son, to Pat and Pippa, to Mandy at The Vine and to all the Hannington residents who gave so willingly of their time to help not only friends and neighbours; but '*in the true spirit of Hannington*' provided essential help and support to people they have never met... and will probably never meet again.

**ACTION: Parish Council** to continue to try to get the information from HCC Highways as to which roads within the Parish are designated for clearance by their 'local sub-contractors'. If necessary, by submitting a formal request under the Freedom of Information Act.

6. **Flood areas** on Hannington Road, Nr North Oakley, and, on the road from Ibworth to Hannington

Cllr Hertz outlined the successful resolution to the flooding of Hannington Road near North Oakley. This involved the Parish Council working closely with BT Openreach, HCC Highways and the team at North Oakley Farm.

An email from a resident in advance of the meeting asked the Parish Council to try to resolve the ongoing problem with flooding on the road from Ibworth to Hannington.

## **ACTION: Parish Council**

### 7. **Progress on proposal to upgrade** FP 7106a behind Michaels Field **to a** **bridleway**

Cllr Hertz informed the meeting that the relevant documentation had been submitted to HCC. He said that the request would benefit from further evidence submitted by 'witnesses/users' over the last 20 years...in support of the application. It was likely the request would take TEN YEARS before it was activated by HCC.

**ACTION: Clerk** to write to residents asking for their written submissions to be sent in to HCC.

### 8. **Vacancy for Parish Councillor** with effect from May 2018

The Clerk informed the meeting that Cllr Simon Taylor had told the Parish Council that he was sorry but other new commitments meant he would be resigning as a Parish Councillor with effect from the May 2018 meeting.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he would be liaising with BDBC on seeking a co-option for a new Cllr... any volunteers?

The next Election of Parish Cllrs is in May 2019. Being co-opted for the year to May 2019 would give any volunteer/co-optee a good opportunity, over the remaining twelve months to see what the role of the Parish Cllr entails, and whether he/she would wish to continue for the next four-year term commencing in May 2019.

**ACTION: Clerk**

## **VOTE OF THANKS to the Parish Councillors**

Mr Webster proposed a 'Vote of Thanks' to the Parish Councillors for their hard work; noting that their labours are 'unpaid'. He suggested that the small number of attendees at the Annual Parish Meeting, and the lack of criticism on the key issues, clearly showed that Hannington residents must think that their Parish Councillors are 'doing a good job'.

His proposition was carried unanimously by those present.

There being no other matters to discuss, the meeting closed at 8:13pm