

# HYDE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 at 7.15pm in the Memorial Hall.

**Present:** 15 members of the public, Cllrs McKenzie, Potter, Sevier (Chair), Tully & Woodley; Cllr Heron; DCllr Dow, 4 speakers (Lauran Wilder (PCSO), Dai Morgan (Neighbourhood Watch), Julie Melin-Stubbs (Better Boundaries), Richard Bastow (Hampshire Highways) & Martine Coatham (Clerk).

### 1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present and thanked them for attending the Annual Parish Meeting of Hyde Parish Council.

*Item 8 was taken first to allow the PCSO to leave the meeting due to work commitments.*

### 8. Police Report/Neighbourhood Watch

PCSO Lauran Wilder was introduced as the new team member for New Forest West.

Figures were circulated showing crime rates in the area and county – overall recordable crime in New Forest West is down by 25.26%, with only 8 incidents recorded in Hyde over the past year.

Incidents of note/updates: the dog incident in Stuckton – the police currently have a suspect; there have been recent convictions for wildlife offences resulting in community service; there have been two counts of fly-tipping in Hale with convictions pending.

Reminder given of the Beat Surgery which takes place once a month at Hockeys Farm Shop – dates are on the parish website. Lauran reminded everyone to report non-urgent issues on 101 – information provided by the community is vital.

Lauran was thanked for her support and presentation.

Dai Morgan noted that the scheme had been in existence for seven years and currently sends messages to 347 registered members with information about incidents and local events. In the past year there was 49 messages sent (approximately 1 per week). Information is shared with the local police – and the local knowledge is also shared with the police. Please do encourage your neighbours to join the scheme – it provides a wonderful community service and links residents to local information. The scheme is GDPR compliant. Dai was thanked for his hard work.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Arigho and Andrew Briggs.

**3. The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017** were agreed and signed as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Dow, seconded Peter Dowling, all in favour.

### 4. Accounts 2017 – 2018

Copies of the Accounts for 2017-2018 were distributed. If anyone would like to see the full accounts please contact the Clerk, the Clerk noted that the accounts are now posted on the Parish website. The accounts are being audited by the internal auditor appointed by the Council (IAC). Residents did not raise any questions.

### 5. Chairman's report 2017 – 2018

Copies of the written report and of the accounts are appended to these minutes. Cllr Sevier presented a short version of the report.

## **6. New Forest Land Advice Services: Better Boundaries Project**

Julie Melin-Stubbs gave a presentation of the Better Boundaries Project – outlining the history, funding and project areas. The project forms part of a wider scheme to offer sustainable advice and encourage wildlife conservation. The aim is to link up fragmented sites and reintroduce wildlife corridors (a decline in hedgerows due to poor management and replacement by fences has had a detrimental effect on wildlife). The funding was to restore 4000m of hedgerows and the Western Escarpment zone was selected. Hedgerows have been re-laid, coppiced, pollarded and re-planted within 9 landholdings. It is now almost complete. More funding is needed to continue the work.

Julie also provided a synopsis of the other projects – Working Woodlands, Natures Stepping Stones, and New Forest Rural Skills – and welcomed questions from the floor.

Julie was thanked for her interesting presentation.

## **7. County Councillors Report (to include Parish roads)**

Cllr Heron noted his concern about the state of the Parish roads – being “the worst in his area”. It was noted that out of the £1.8 billion budget the Highways, Economies and Transport budget is only £140 million (the majority of the funds providing Health & Social Care, Childrens Services and Education). Of this budget, £60 million is allocated to rubbish disposal. So the County Council do not have an unlimited pool to play with. The transfer of contracts from Amey to Skanska have had some impact on services as staff were not transferred and therefore recruitment had to take place.

Richard Bastow (Highways Manager for the area) noted that the weather over recent months has added to the poor state of the roads but plans were in place to address the outstanding issues. Buddle Hill has been resurfaced and a ditch installed – markers have been installed to help protect this essential drainage channel to prevent the road deteriorating rapidly in the future. Similar work is programmed for Hern Lane once the ditches are no longer filled with water. Crews are out fixing potholes. The main issue is due to the shallow nature of our parish road network – these roads are not engineered like the main strategic road network. Currently there are pothole “busting” teams using different materials in an attempt to seal the potholes and prevent water reaching the foundations.

Questions were invited from residents and concern was noted with regard to the flooding near Popes Lane in North Gorley (affecting one property on a regular basis), the track (which is adopted by Highways) from the chapel at Frogham Cross to Pentons Hill and the junction of Hern Lane with Ringwood Road. Solutions were discussed – including reinstating an open ditch along the road towards Popes Lane, a visit and works will be planned for the track, and the junction of Hern Lane is planned for review to resolve the grating becoming permanently blocked. It was noted that it was difficult to put a time-frame on works as the weather often influences what can be done – and whether staff are deployed to other areas (for salting, etc). Concern was raised that the reporting system was one-way and Mr Bastow noted that the Council are working towards a system using robotics to achieve this (to save resources).

Cllr Heron and Richard Bastow were thanked for their reports.

## **9. Consideration of matters raised by the electors of the parish of Hyde and affecting the parish.**

- The Members presented an idea to the electors for consideration – a project for the coming year – “Pride in your Parish” – personal pride within our parish towards the environment, recreation, community and wellbeing. The project was in the early stages of development. Cllr Sevier asked for a show of hands in support of the project and it was agreed that the council should take the project forward during 2018.
- An elector raised whether an event or memorial was being prepared to commemorate the 100 years after the end of the war (WW1). It was noted that work had been done on documenting those who lost their lives and was available online and on display at the hall – an event was

planned in Fordingbridge (where the War Memorial is). An event in Hyde would be the responsibility of the Memorial Hall Committee.

- It was noted that the Emergency Plan would be reviewed during 2018.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm, refreshments afterwards.

**CHAIRMAN**.....**DATE**.....

DRAFT