

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015

MINUTES

Held on Monday 13th April 2015 at 19.30 in Crondall Church Rooms

PRESENT: Cllr C Dorn (Chairman)
Cllrs D Argent, C Bryant, E Groslin, C Hebborn, N Lambert, M Roberts

APOLOGIES: Cllr I Fortune CPC, Peter Hall member of the public

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs M Harris - Parish Clerk
Cllrs K Crookes, S Gorys and J Kennett – Hart District Council
26 members of the public and PC P Franks

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and ended at 9.30pm

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the councillors and members of the public in attendance. He then welcomed David Turver the Guest Speaker from the We Heart Hart Campaign who spoke on 'How we can develop a better Local Plan'.

PM 1/15 Minutes of 19th May 2014 meeting

The Minutes were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Dorn, seconded by Cllr Argent and **AGREED** by unanimous vote of those present and voting as an accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

PM 2/15 Matters arising from the Minutes of 19th May 2014 meeting

There were no matters arising.

PM 3 /15 A better Local Plan?

The speaker outlined what Hart DC (HDC) had done so far towards the creation of a Local Plan. He reminded those present that Hart's previous plan had been rejected as it failed to demonstrate adequate 'duty to co-operate' with neighbouring boroughs. The speaker stated that HDC's current Plan (which is in development) is based on a Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) which states the need for approximately 7,500 new homes in the period to 2032, of which 3,500 have already been granted planning permission.

Mr Turver reminded those present of the Site Allocation consultation which had taken place recently which resulted in 550 responses, with a marginal preference for a non-site specific new settlement, however this consultation had made no reference to the risk that Hart may be required to take up to 3,100 'overflow' allocation from Surrey Heath and Rushmoor.. Following the consultation HDC voted that Winchfield be identified as the site for a new settlement.

Mr Turver pointed out that by building a new town Hart would be forced to take the 'overflow'. He questioned whether HDC has a vision for its new Local Plan, having stated in 2013 that it wished to preserve the countryside and its rural villages it was now considering a new town of 5,00 dwellings in the heart of the countryside (only 1,800 – 2,400 of which were needed for the Plan), so contributing to urban sprawl.

We Heart Hart plan to challenge HDC on a number of the assumptions and figures used to take forward their Plan, including the SHLAA figures, their job growth assumptions, the flawed consultation process, a perceived large infrastructure funding gap, failure to meet the

needs of an aging population and the environmental impact. They will put forward an alternative plan based on brownfield sites.

We Heart Hart believes that at present HDC's Plan is piecemeal, it relies on low density of 30 dwellings per hectare with no systematic identification of brownfield sites and no recognition of the many vacant retail premises. Mr Turver believes there is a better way to create an acceptable Local Plan. This includes building to a higher density of up to 120 dwellings per hectare on existing urban sites. This would create more customers for the urban shops, an environment more suited to the needs of the elderly and reduced infrastructure costs.

Mt Turver and his colleagues answered questions from the floor. In response to the question 'What can we do?' Mr Turver made the meeting aware of a petition currently running to pressure HDC to reconsider and undertake further consultation. He invited those present to pick up a We Heart Hart leaflet and to apply pressure on HDC.

Mr Turver and his colleague were thanked for their thought provoking presentation; the slides from which are attached to these minutes.

PM 4/15 Chairman's headlines

The Chairman gave his headlines for the past year. He took the opportunity to thank his fellow councillors for their diligent work during the year pointing out that there had been no changes in personnel during the year.

The Chairman highlighted the recent opening of the refurbished play ground on Hook Meadow which was by far the largest project that the Council had undertaken in recent years. He was pleased to report that a number of very positive responses had been received from families using the area. Also on Hook Meadow the Council had reached an agreement with Stepping Stones Nursery to allow them space for an outdoor classroom which was well used.

The Chairman made reference to the other work of the Council during the year, in particular the positive work of the Crondall Flood Action Group in bringing together villagers and responsible agencies to tackle local flooding issues, causes and risks. Work was progressing to minimise the infiltration of ground water into the sewer as a result of which there were no elevated sewer levels during the past winter. Surveys of the River Hart were also undertaken to identify areas where debris may have built up, with the responsible owners asked to address the issues identified.

The Council had worked hard to try to save the bus service to the village but were advised that it was not viable and as such the company would not entertain its continuing. Dog fouling in the village remains a concern which the Council are planning to tackle with a renewed campaign involving the Hart Dog Warden.

The Chairman acknowledged local concern about the Old Parsonage Meadow (OPM) site and outlined the work of Council in meeting with the potential developer (as advised by HDC) to hear his proposals. No planning application has been received to date. The Council is soon to develop a Conservation Area Monitoring Group which will include taking forward concerns about the current state of OPM.

During the year the Council had tidied up its formal relationships with the cricket, bowls and football clubs and had updated the burial regulations to bring them in line with European legislation. Work was continuing in trying to speed the availability of super-fast broadband in the village.

The Chairman highlighted the Council's new website where we do our best to share information. He thanked the Clerk for keeping the website up to date and displayed the trophy the Council had won for having the best Parish Council Website in Hampshire in 2014! The Chairman requested parishioners with an opinion on the Council's performance to share it with them.

PM 5/15 Reports by Lead Councillors

The lead councillors for the Playground Project – Cllr Groslin, Planning – Cllr Lambert, Estates – Cllr Bryant, Finance – Cllr Argent, Speed Indication Device (SID) – Cllr Roberts and Broadband – Cllr Hebborn gave their reports for the year which are detailed on the attached Power Point presentation.

Cllr Hebborn took the opportunity to establish how many of those present were interested in the possibility of super-fast broadband if it were made available at cost. There was significant interest.

Questions, Discussion and any other items of village business

The floor was opened for questions and discussion.

PM 6/14 Congratulating Council on the provision of the new playground a villager who also represents the Greywell and Odiham Cricket Club (which is the default team for Crondall youngsters wishing to play cricket) alleged that the Council was not sufficiently supportive of young cricketers from the village. His club was charged to play cricket at Crondall which he felt to be unsupportive of these young people and in contrast to the large sums spent on the playground. It was explained that CPC charges Crondall Cricket Club £600 per year for the use of Hook Meadow, at approximately £10 per match (involving 22 players) this was felt to be reasonable, any additional charges made to Odiham and Greywell were those levied by Crondall Cricket Club (who maintain the Crondall wicket) and should be taken up with them.

PM 7/14 A question was raised about the on-going costs of health and safety for the playground. The chairman explained that the Council's Groundsman undertakes weekly checks as part of his routine work. He has received training in how to do this. Once a year the playground receives a full health and safety inspection from a ROSPA qualified inspector, the cost of this is budgeted at £100. The Council also has a small annual budget for replacement parts.

PM 8/14 Concern was expressed by a member of the Village Hall committee about the use of the Village Hall toilets and car park by visitors to the new playground.

In regard to car parking Councillor Groslin commented that the playground was designed for the local community and that it was hoped that in time most people accessing it would be local and would come on foot. It was possible that there were 'visitors' from further afield at present as the playground was proving a great attraction, however Council was confident that the number of visitors would fall away in due course as the novelty wore off. There was some discussion about a previous proposal to create parking along the edge of Hook Meadow by 'piping the ditch' in front of the second hedge. This had been some years ago and it was unclear why it had not been pursued at the time. The Chairman explained that due to problems with parking for cricket and other events he had sought to allow some car parking on Hook Meadow but that this had been rejected by Council who wanted to keep Hook Meadow 'green'. It was agreed that parking would be placed on the council's agenda for a future discussion.

It was stated that the Village Hall toilets had been left 'in a mess' after the previous weekend and that this could not be allowed to happen when the hall was hired for a private function. Cllr Groslin apologised that a mess had been caused and it was suggested that a message about the lack of toilets would be posted on the Council's website, including that the Village Hall toilets were not to be used. Various suggestions were made from the floor regarding the provision of portaloos or building a toilet on site. There was little support for the suggestion of portaloos. Council were reminded that the one left by the Hook Meadow gate after the playground refurbishment should be removed. The Clerk undertook to do this.

PM 9/14 The issue of dogs running loose whilst their owners were in the play area was raised. The Chairman advised that council were in discussion with the Dog Warden regarding a renewed campaign to get people to manage their dogs and pick up after them.

PM 10/14 PC Franks took the opportunity to introduce himself and advise those present of the new staffing structure for the Police in Hart. The Police website gives details of the beat teams, Crondall now falls into Hart Rural South. In response to a question PC Franks advised that Hart Rural South comprises himself and 2 PCSOs. PC Franks advised people to use the 'Your Voice Counts' link to state what their priorities are for local policing, at the present time 2 of the 3 had been identified as speeding and burglary non-dwelling. A question was asked about fly-tipping, this should be reported to the police (with evidence of vehicle numbers etc. if available) and to HDC, who would arrange clearance.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and invited them to stay and chat to councillors over a drink and a nibble.

Signed as a true record dated

2016

Annex A – "We Heart Hart" presentation

Annex B – Crondall Parish Council presentation