

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018

MINUTES

Monday 16th April 2018 at 19.30 in Crondall Church Rooms

- PRESENT:** Cllr C Dorn (Chairman)
- Cllrs D Argent, C Bryant, T Evans, C Hebborn
- APOLOGIES:** Cllrs N Lambert, S O'Connor and M Seary - Crondall Parish Council
- Cllrs K Crookes and S Gorys - Hart District Council
- Noel Coloe – Parish resident
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs M Harris - Parish Clerk
- Cllr J Glenn – Hampshire County Council
- 45 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.35pm and ended at 9.10pm

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the councillors and members of the public in attendance. He outlined the plan for the evening.

PM 1/18 Minutes of 10th April 2017 meeting

The Minutes were proposed for acceptance by Cllr Glenn seconded by Dee Wall and **AGREED** as an accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

PM 2/18 Matters arising from the Minutes of 10th April 2017 meeting

There were no matters arising.

PM 3/18 Presentation

Councillor Dorn introduced Wing Commander Steve Bell the Chief of Staff from RAF Odiham who gave an engaging talk on the Chinook Force in the RAF's Centenary Year'.

Wing Commander Bell talked about RAF Odiham and its importance as a local employer employing over 2,000 people, with a wish to involve and employ more local people. Odiham is one of two homes for the Chinook Force which maintains a constant readiness, with one aircraft on standby at all times. Chinooks have over recent years been involved in a wide range of activities including in Afghanistan as well as providing assistance at times of natural disaster in the UK and abroad. The Chinook Force are constantly seeking to become operationally more effective in order to respond to increasing demands from around the world. In order to do this pilots must maintain their skills and training especially those related to low-flying and flying at night. Wing Commander Bell explained that at Odiham they are well aware of noise issues for local residents, especially as the E/W approach for landings means that Crondall sees Chinooks quite often. In order to try to reduce the noise of the aircraft over Crondall and surrounding areas a significant amount of pilot training is now taking place on simulators, with low flying training over military training areas. There are currently an average of 124 movements a month compared with Farnborough Airport at 1,957 per month. Today number of young people keen to join the RAF is impressive, support for the French in Mali is planned and the Chinook Force is ready for the future.

Wing Commander Bell also spoke briefly about the RAF's 100th anniversary celebrations including the Flying Display Team, a flypast down the Mall (scheduled for 10 July) with 100 aircraft and other displays around the country.

Wing Commander Bell answered a number of questions in relation to the cost and design of the Chinooks. At £25m each they are a quarter the price of a Lightning jet and based on a design over 38 years old. New Chinooks purchased today will be expected to keep flying until 2060. Boeing are constantly improving them and being made of metal they are easily patched and repaired!

In response to a question Wing Commander Bell said that there was a review taking place looking at a number of RAF bases but that there were no plans for Odiham to close in the short-term. He advised that Chinooks from Odiham can fly as far as Cyprus but for longer distances they are placed in an Antonov transport plane.

Wing Commander Bell was thanked for his engaging and lively presentation with a round of applause.

PM 4/18 Chairman's headlines

Cllr Dorn explained that the Parish Council does its best to get involved in village issues however he pointed out that it has limited resources and powers. He hoped that sometimes the Parish Council could be persuasive but they certainly didn't have a magic wand.

Cllr Dorn thanked Cllr Argent for painting the back wall of the Church Room to enable projection to a larger size. He hoped this and the new projector would afford people a better experience. Cllr Dorn introduced councillors and their specific roles and welcomed Cllr Therese Evans who was elected just before Christmas. He thanked Cllr Lambert for his work on Planning for a number of years and stated that he had now moved over to Roads and Traffic.

The Chairman highlighted various significant matters for the village during the past year. Of particular significance was the recent consultation on the Hart Local Plan and the Council's support for Winchfield Parish against the development of a new 'settlement'. This and the Crondall Neighbourhood Plan, which is progressing well, will give more confidence in our ability to manage development locally. We await the results of the Broden Stables Appeal to which the Parish Council objected as being 'not the right development in the right place'. Fly tipping and pot-holes are issues which constantly get complained about and over which the Parish Council has no jurisdiction. Cllr Dorn urged people to report these online using Fix My Street.

For the future Cllr Dorn reminded people of the upcoming Ward election on 3rd May. Significant progress had been made on the Crondall Neighbourhood Plan which was now with Hart for screening before coming back to the village for consultation later in the year. The Council had budgeted in 2018 to clean the War Memorial, re-point the Burial Ground Wall and place new signage and gates. With respect to 'flooding' the Environment Agency has now agreed that Crondall should be a 'flood focus village' and it is hoped this may lever expertise and resources.

PM 5/18 Clerk's Report

The Clerk outlined her role and reported business as usual. She pointed out the Events Calendar on the Parish Council's Website and requested local organisations to send in their events for inclusion.

PM 6/18 Reports by Lead Councillors

The Planning and Neighbourhood Planning Reports were presented by Cllr Dorn. The lead councillors for Estates – Cllr Bryant, and Finance – Cllr Argent, gave their reports for the year. Cllr Bryant particularly congratulated the Council's Groundsman on the quality of his work. All the reports are detailed on the attached Power Point presentation..

Questions

Drone Flying

A query was raised regarding Drone flying on the Farnham Road Recreation Ground. The Clerk confirmed that this was undertaken by insured responsible adults who paid the Council to use the facility.

Tennis Court

It was confirmed that Crondall Parish Council owns and manages the Hook Meadow Tennis Court. The questioner expressed the view that the hire fees were too high. The Clerk felt that they were in line with other similar facilities. She reminded those present that the court had been refurbished last year and that the fees income contributed only a small percentage towards the costs of that.

Poplar Trees

A question was raised about the suggestion that succession planting should be made for these magnificent trees. The Clerk advised that a professional tree survey had suggested that the poplars were coming to the end of their lives and as a consequence a row of young trees should be planted about 3-5m from the current trees. A number of suggestions were made about how this could be achieved which the Clerk will follow up.

Flooding

A number questions relating to flooding were raised, in particular behind Ashely Close and down Redlands Lane. Cllr Dorn reiterated the work that had been done with Hart to try and resolve these issues. A local Parishioner had recently done a lot of work clearing drains on Redlands Lane for which he was congratulated and Cllr Dorn was working with Hart and a local landowner to try and improve the situation at Ashley Close, however things moved slowly and it was very frustrating. Another questioner asked why with all the water coming off the fields the pond was virtually empty? Cllr Dorn explained that this was its role, local residents had cleared it so that water could now flow freely onwards towards the River Hart.

Roadworks on Dippenhall Street

There were a number of comments about the three way traffic lights on Dippenhall Street. It was unclear why these were necessary and no-one present could advise on an answer. It was assumed they were temporary and would soon be removed.

Seat for the Bus Shelter opposite the school

It was brought to council's attention that a number of older people wait here for their bus and that rather than sit on the 'salt bin' it would be nice if they could have a seat in the shelter. The Council agreed to see what they could do about this.

Barn at the end of Croft Lane

Cllr Dorn advised that a planning application for this site would be discussed at the next Council meeting on 30th April.

Potholes

Cllr Argent encouraged people to report these, taking pictures and also measuring and reporting on the depth.

Cllr Glenn raised a vote of thanks to the Parish Council for all the work they do for the village. The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and encouraged them to keep up to date by reference to the Parish Council's website. He invited them to stay and chat to councillors over a drink and a nibble.

Signed as a true record dated

2019