

23rd April 2008

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF FAWLEY

	p	Cllr E Holtham (Chairman)		
	p	Cllr M Fidler (Vice-Chairman)		
Councillors				
p		Cllr Mrs M Alderman	p	Cllr Mrs S Courtney
p		Cllr L Dunsdon		Cllr A Glass
p		Cllr B Hall		Cllr R Lewis
p		Cllr Mrs K Lord		
		Cllr Mrs K Matthewman	p	Cllr A McDowall
p		Cllr Mrs S Read	p	Cllr Mrs B Maynard
p		Cllr R A Wappet		Cllr G Smith

In Attendance:

District Cllr Mrs A McEvoy
Cllr Graham Parkes of Waterside Heritage
New Forest District Council Officers Rachel Higgins and Carole Gallagher
Margaret Bernard (Clerk to the Council)
15 members of the public

Apologies were received from:

Cllr A Glass, Cllr R Lewis, Cllr Mrs K Matthewman, Cllr A McDowall

The Chairman, Cllr E Holtham, welcomed those present to the Annual Parish Meeting and introduced members of the Parish Council and guests present.

Appointment of Clerk to the Meeting

RESOLVED: That Margaret Bernard be appointed as Clerk to the meeting.

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 April 2007

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2007 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Guest Speakers:

A presentation by Cllr Graham Parkes of Waterside Heritage: The Holbury Project – Current Progress

Cllr Parkes spoke on the aims of the Holbury Project which undertakes a total evaluation of Holbury, what it is and why. Holbury Manor was an attractive building but had unfortunately been subject to fire damage. The land was in public ownership. The past history of the site went back as far as the bronze age and the Roman periods. It was considered that the ridge south of Langley was possibly part of the network of Roman roads in the southern Waterside.

The village of Holbury dated back to the mid 1100s and around 1300 Beaulieu monks purchased land in the area. Maps and aerial views of the sites were shown. The granary had been used as a museum and a lot of roman pottery found during the three week excavation

undertaken in 2007. The Heritage had also been working with Southampton University in their investigations of the site and there were plans for further excavations during 2008.

A presentation from Rachel Higgins and Carole Gallagher of New Forest District Council on Environmental Protection: Discussion on the draft Air Quality Action Plan for Fawley

The District officers gave an overview of work undertaken in Fawley, with particular reference to the development of a draft action plan, which included distribution of leaflets inviting comments. The Environmental Act of 1995 gave a duty to the District Council to review air quality and objectives and the Environment Agency regulated emissions and set down the objectives and timescales involved. Main aims included the need to consider health effects on vulnerable groups, particularly respiratory illnesses. Monitoring started in 2000 and statistical results in 2006/7 showed lower results and statistics. Source apportionment was needed to identify actual causes, such as industry and shipping, plus investigation into reasons for exceedence, such as strong winds or alignment of stacks and what steps could be taken to improve the situation. A number of options for improvement were under consideration, ranging from 'do nothing' to relocation of industry and including changing of fuel, installation of abatement equipment or changes in operating patterns. The current position was the undertaking of consultation within the area, the formation of a working group, implementation of decisions and continuous monitoring and review. Comments from local residents were invited as an important part of the consultation.

Chairman's Report

What a year.

My first baptism of being Chairman, was after 3 weeks, Malcolm Anderson the Clerk handed me his resignation, I thought, what have I done wrong, but he just wanted to move nearer to his family in Oxford. This started the process of selecting a new Clerk, and we are pleased to have now Margaret Bernard with us.

This year has not been without its hiccups, but at the end of the day the Council has endeavoured to provide a value for money service for the Parishioners. The major issue that have confronted us is to try to and reduce the cost to the Ratepayers of running Gang Warily, this is an ongoing process, and we now have the agreement of the Council to re-locate the Gym which has been our biggest source of income. This is because it is showing its age, and we need to keep up to date with modern equipment, which requires more space. This will re-vitalise it and make it more of a marketable product, and the refurbishment will start next month.

The other major exciting project is the re-development of QE2 Pavilion which was burnt down nearly 5 years ago. This has been a long process and thanks must go to Margaret, Kevin our manager and Lee Dunston for spotting that due to the Clerk changeover a deadline was nearly not met. But everything turned out alright, and we have been awarded a very generous grant from the Football Foundation. I must also thank NFDC, Blackfield & Langley and Fawley Falcons Football Clubs for there support, and last but not least Sacha Nicholls from Hampshire F.A. for his help and support.

An item that has greatly affected the Parish during the year was the tragic death of the Seaman in Church Lane, Fawley in October. Following this and in response to Public concerns we held a Public Meeting in Fawley, and this was followed by two meetings of all the Agencies and a letter drop of a questionnaire to various parts of the Parish was made. This has been analyzed and the Police have been targeting hotspots, unfortunately these

areas change. I would like to say that in my opinion the new regime of the Police of Community Policing is working very well in the short time it has been in existence, after many years in the doldrums when we lost the village bobby.

Following this, we were asked again to sponsor a PCSO which was controversial, not that they do not do an excellent job, but the fact it was double taxation (paying for the Police from another source). We however have agreed to pay £6000 and review it after 12 months. But one thing we must do is call the Police for any incident, if it is not urgent then use 101 or 08450454545, if we do not inform them, then they do not know there is a problem. They may not respond straight away, but it helps to build up a pattern which will be looked at.

The Council has continued to run with 3 Committees, the Amenities Committee under the Chairmanship of Malcolm Fidler, the Public Services Committee under the Chairmanship of Barbara Maynard and the Policy and Resources Committee under the Chairmanship of Lee Dunsdon.

The Main work of these Committees is the running of the facilities that the Council provide.

The Amenities Committee role is the Operation, Marketing and Promotion of our Recreation and Community facilities at Gang Warily, Jubilee Hall, QE2 and Ashlett Creek.

The Public Services Committee is involved in the Provision and Maintenance of our buildings, Open Spaces, Amenity Areas such as Holbury Manor, Play Areas, Play Grounds, Allotments, Bus Shelters, and Seats etc.

The Policy and Resources looks after the Council Finances, Policies, Control of the Fixed Assets, Insurances and also looks after Staffing Matters.

The Committees have quite a heavy workload because of the size of the Parish and the Facilities we provide, and most of the work is mundane acceptance of how we have to manage it, but one statistic worth mentioning is that we looked at and offered comment on just under 200 planning applications during the year, at an average of 8 per meeting. We have also given out 11 grants to support local organisation totalling £2,680.

It is pleasing that we continue to be prudent with our Rate demand. After many years following the loss of the industrial rate, we were top of the list by a wide margin, we are now third from the top, and when you look closer in how much it actually costs to run the Parish we are also third from the top. So we are trying to be efficient, and hopefully our new initiatives will prove fruitful.

We are very fortunate to have a very professional Financial Manager, who keeps us on the straight and narrow with regards to how we spend your money, Pauline Coombes has been with us for many years, and I think this year was one of the first I have seen when the Auditors single out someone and commended them for the efficient way they run the Accounts. I think we are lucky to have her.

Unfortunately our Secretary, Sue, is just leaving us, so we are now in the process of recruiting a Clerical Assistant.

The Centre under the management of Kevin Lobley and his staff have stemmed the downward slide of the Gang Warily balance sheets. But it will take time to turn the tide, so hopefully with the refurbishment of the Gym, and QE2 and its Function room, and better marketing of Jubilee Hall it will all bode well for the future. We cannot afford to stand still, and with the help of Owen Lightfoot of Blackfield & Langley we are looking at a vision for the future. There are pots of gold out there, but Councils have great difficulty in accessing them, where a Sports Club has a better chance, so thanks to Owen who is putting a lot of time and effort into it.

Last but not least we must not forget the Grounds staff and Brian our Maintenance Man, who maintain our grounds and buildings to an excellent standard, even though they have been a man short for most of the year. It was unfortunate that Rick one of our Grounds staff has been very ill in the last couple of years, and had to retire on ill health grounds at the beginning of the year, we wish him well for the future.

We will continue to give value for money. At the end of the day, overall, we do provide more facilities than any other parishes.

Presentation of Chairman's Cup

This year's nomination is someone who works voluntarily for the Council, and probably most of you do not even know it.

When I came onto the Council in 1983, we had a fishing pond at Holbury Manor that was well used, but when you analysed the income you found not many permits sold. So I started checking the pond for permit holders, and it took a couple of years but there was a general acceptance that if you fished you required a permit. Over the years I have tried to get someone else to take it over, and after a few failed attempts, Alan Tucker-Sandy volunteered to take over and inspect the permits.

Over the years Alan has built up a rapport with the kids, so there is less trouble, and has even persuaded 3 unemployed alcoholics who fished down there to pick up there cans and leave them by the dog bin in a carrier bag.

He keeps the area free of litter, and looks after some maintenance of the pond. He has also taken the Gang Warily pond under his wing, and liaises with the Centre and Grounds staff to keep everything working properly.

So I think it is only right that Alan should be recognised for his services to the Parish of Fawley.

Any other matters to be raised by Parishioners

1. Mr P Pearce-Smith MBE requested information on the developers contributions allocated to the parish and why funds previously arranged to pay for a footpath from Calshot to Fawley had ended up providing a cycleway from Hardley to Hythe. Information on what is the total sum of developers contributions held for the parish, where these are held and whether they earn interest for the parish was requested, plus further information on any plans for community benefit. The Clerk was asked to request clarification of available funding from the District Council.

2. A suggestion was made for more local events indicating community spirit and the making of awards in recognition of local people's contribution to the community.

In response it was suggested that the Fawley Fun Day, planned for 10th May at Gang Warily, be recognised as a local event which engaged with local people for this purpose.

3. Residents of Wessex Close expressed their concerns at the installation of play equipment in their locality, without prior consultation.

Members explained that the agreement for this installation had arisen from local residents previous requests. A fence was also to be installed. It was suggested that the provision be reviewed after a period of three months and that this be discussed at a future meeting of the Public Services Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed:.....