

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF  
BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 24th APRIL 2018 AT BROCKENHURST VILLAGE HALL**

Pete Wales was in the Chair with all but two members of the Parish Council, the County Councillor and forty seven members of the public present.

1. **Apologies** - District Councillor Mrs. Holding, Parish Councillor Ian Holden
2. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, Pete Wales, welcomed all to the meeting. He reported that patience is needed when trying to get projects to fruition such as SFBB and the repairs to the Butts Lawn Watersplash. Parking problems at the Balmer Lawn Hotel access road were resolved with the help of publicity from the Lymington Times, but the re-painting of the white lines at the school crossing has happened although the lollipop patrol will not be reinstated. The War Memorial and the bus shelter at Waters Green have both been renovated. The Planning Committee has again been busy with over 100 planning applications considered, and over 90 members of the public attending to speak. The Parish Councillors, our Groundsman, Kevin and his assistant Ray, Mary our Clerk and Mina her Assistant were all thanked for their work. The Parish Council has given grant aid this year to many organisations including the RBL, the MUGA, Citizens' Advice and NF Disability Information Service. There has been no increase in the precept this year, which remains significantly lower than the average for the Forest, at £42.49 for a Band D property. The flooding at Mill Lane and Latchmoor has been reduced with the help of Peter Hebard. All Councillors and staff not previously mentioned, the Business Association, Friends of Brockenhurst, Primary School PTA, Brockenhurst Village Trust, and members of the Royal British Legion were thanked for their help with the Remembrance Day Parade, Christmas Fun evening and Pancake Races.

3. **Matters Arising** from the Minutes of the meeting held 25th April 2017

No matters were raised from the previous Minutes.

4. **Report by the County Councillor** - Keith Mans

Cllr. Mans remarked that he had very big boots to fill to follow Ken Thornber. We continue in difficult financial times but there will be no more cuts to bus services and the recycling sites will all remain open. New hi-tech methods are being introduced to help with services for the elderly and measures are in place to reduce the number of children in care as it is very costly. Cllr. Mans has his own devolved budget of £8,000 between his ten parishes, which is used for small grants to support village halls, playgrounds etc. There were no questions for Cllr. Mans from the audience and he was thanked by the Chairman for his report.

5. **Report by the District Councillor**

Cllr. Maureen Holding has given her apologies as she is not well. Cllr. Michael Harris reported that he has now joined the cabinet and is portfolio holder for local economic development, property investment and innovation. Improved broadband and mobile coverage are particular concerns. By 2021 the District Council will receive no government funding at all and other sources of income must be identified. A creative partnership has been established in Film New Forest, which brings around £1m in to the area in hotel and

shop spending etc. There is a proposal to reduce the number of councillors from 60 to 45-47 in five years' time, which will save costs. Cllr. Harris is also a Governor at the Primary School. He was thanked by the Chairman for his report.

## **6. Report of the Nalder Trust**

Mark Böckle reported on the Nalder Trust which has now become a registered charity. He thanked the committee members, Parish Councillors and those who are co-opted, Derek Browne and John Purkess. Mr. Purkess has now stood down and Helen Barnett will be joining the committee. Michael Croker was thanked for his work in registering the charity, and Mary and Mina for the administration work. In due course it is hoped to buy a fifth flat. He encouraged anyone who knows of a person who could benefit to contact the Clerk.

## **7. Report from Brockenhurst Village Trust**

Mike Snell gave a report as Chairman of BVT. The Trust is well supported by a good team of four staff. Big changes have taken place over the last year with the building of the scout hall, the opening of the MUGA and the surfacing of the car park. The Trust meets quarterly and wants to hear from the community with ideas for the use of the plot of land at the bottom of the site. The Trust is becoming more easily accessible to people with its new website and closer links with other village bodies. The Parish Council was thanked for its contributions to the site and its partnership here. It was noted that one of the challenges facing the Trust is to generate more income.

Melanie Edwards then gave a report on the Management Committee of the Hall, which consists of three volunteers and three members of staff who have close links with the community. There are many groups and activities, particularly for children. There is also the Day Centre and the monthly cinema. BVT then carried out the draw for their lottery.

## **8. Update on new PC office**

The Chairman reported that whilst the Parish Council is operating temporarily from within the Village Hall a permanent building is needed and there is no viable option other than building on this site. This is estimated to cost in the region of £140k, of which half is held in reserves. A loan will be required for the balance but the interest rate can be fixed for a long time at a low rate. There should be no need to raise the precept to repay the loan. There is, however, an issue with building over the drains that run under the site, which will have to be resolved.

## **9. Potential Village Sign**

The Chairman reported that we have recently received £50k, in Developers' Contributions for the Watersplash Hotel site, and asked for ideas of what the money should be spent on. It comes with restrictions but even if it cannot be used for the suggested projects the Parish Council would be pleased to know what people would like to have taken forward. A list of ideas is on display and others can be added.

Michael Croker thanked the College students for their interest in the sign project and for their designs. More than 25 were received and ten have been selected from those. There are approx. 4,000 such signs around the country. The potential village sign designs are on display for people to show their preference. The question of where to put it needs to be considered, and three locations have been identified, the junction of Waters Green and

Grigg Lane, near the Watersplash and opposite the College. The cost is expected to be around £4,500.

#### **10. Residents' preferred means of communication**

We now have a new website and John Wingham and Mina were thanked for their work in setting it up. The audience were asked whether they would prefer electronic means of communication such as Twitter and Facebook, or a combined village magazine. The level of take up of the email newsletter has been quite low. A meeting of the various bodies that produce a publication was suggested to discuss whether a combined one could be viable. It was noted that the local Police get a good take up of their Twitter feed.

#### **11. Report from Police Officer, Jason Eastwood**

PC Eastwood was thanked for coming to the meeting, particularly as he is on leave at present. He was pleased to report that crime and anti-social behaviour are both down. His area is New Forest Heart South but he is on his own again now as the PCSO has moved on. A prolific bike thief has been caught and sent to prison. For the first time no crime was reported at the New Forest Show last year. The Beat Surgeries continue on the fourth Saturday each month at 11 am in the village. There are still thefts of valuable items from cars, and people are encouraged to photograph jewellery so that it can be identified if it is stolen. Jason's attendance tonight was much appreciated by the councillors and audience. He was thanked for his work on behalf of the residents.

#### **12. Presentation by Sean Marsh, Forestry Commission**

Sean introduced himself as the NF Estates Officer for the Forestry Commission. His job involves enforcement of encroachments, conservation and the Forest Fringe project. Moving of fences, building works and accesses all cause encroachments onto the forest and they have to be resisted in order not to become established. He offered to take volunteers on a half-day visit with him to gain an insight into his work. A couple of problem paths were reported to Sean for him to pass on to the Ranger.

#### **13. Community Group presentations**

Mike Matthews made a presentation on behalf of the RBL. He thanked the Parish Council for their financial support and Kevin Baker for maintaining the War Graves so well. A very good ANZAC service was held on Sunday with many NZ dignitaries present. The College Army Cadet Force is to be affiliated to the branch. Several events are taking place this year to commemorate the last year of the Great War. He encouraged people to go to see the Poppy Pods at the Tile Barn Centre, which provide free breaks for Service families.

Diana Fletcher reported on the WI, which has just celebrated its centenary. New members are always welcome.

Bronya Szatkowska reported on the PTA. She thanked the Parish Council for their help in getting the white lines repainted and the new beacons at the zebra crossing. The PTA raises and donates £10-13,000 to the school each year. Members of the public are invited to join their events, such as a Car Boot Sale on 7th May. They are also helping at the Royal Wedding garden party and at Brockstock. It is hoped to reinstate the Carnival this year, starting from the village hall and finishing at the Football Club.

Helen Barnett, manager of the Day Centre (known as the Friday Club), reported on their year. They are self-funding and have had a busy year with eleven new members. Their oldest member is 96. They have had visits from the pre-schoolchildren and from a Beefeater, among others. A recent Barn Dance raised £1600 but they have a deficit of £2,000 this year. Their volunteers, many of whom are here this evening, were thanked, as was the Parish Council for its support.

Barbara Ball, Chairman of the Friends of Brockenhurst, reported that the FoB was formed in 1957. It monitors planning applications, and gives grants, as well as supporting village events. They are raising funds towards the new paediatric unit at Southampton General.

#### **14. Questions/comments from Members of the Public**

In response to a question the Chairman responded that the council had decided against CCTV in the village.

#### **15. Chairman's Closing Remarks**

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending and all those who had made presentations, the College and the design entrants, as well as Mr. and Mrs. Nolan for serving the refreshments.

The Chairman was thanked by John Korbey for a very good Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

The Carnival, WI, and information on non-native invasive plants all had displays around the hall.