

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF  
BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON TUESDAY 22nd APRIL 2008 AT BROCKENHURST VILLAGE HALL**

Thorold Masefield was in the Chair with all members of the Parish Council present and the District and County Councillors in attendance. There were 46 members of the public present.

**1. Apologies** were received from Mr. and Mrs. A. Foulger.

**2. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman outlined the strategy of the Parish Council in working to make the best advantage of the opportunities that arise, finding solutions to problems and enhancing the village where possible. The College has announced a large redevelopment project and we hope to be able to improve the facilities that are available to the public there as part of it, using some of the developers' contributions that have accrued to the village recently. We are also looking at the possibility of using some of this funding for an area of open space for a nature reserve.

The national cycle network route will pass through Brockenhurst and we have tried to influence the route it takes but so far with disappointing results. Improvements are planned for the watersplash and the designs are on display this evening for comments from the audience.

The perennial problems of noise, parking, speeding, litter and overdevelopment continue. We are trying to extend the 30 mph limit at each entrance to the village on the A337, and the voluntary "20 is plenty" scheme is in place near the Primary School. Parking problems continue to blight some of our residential roads and we are continuing to work with the highway authorities to improve matters. Equipment to monitor aircraft noise is being installed in the village by Bournemouth Airport.

The 150th anniversary of the Lymington line occurs this year and the Community Rail Partnership hopes to run a steam train as part of the celebrations. Grant aid has been given this year to a number of bodies including the Community Responders to purchase the kit they need.

The Chairman praised the councillors for their service to the community and the staff of the parish council for their work, and noted that Mr. Glenton has had to retire after many years. The Churchyard is looking at its best at present and the audience was urged to go to have a look or to attend the Anzac Service on Sunday. Mrs. Place and Mrs. Richardson were thanked for serving the refreshments this evening.

The Chairman requested Mrs. Holding to report on the situation regarding the potential relocation of the National Park Authority headquarters. She reported that two sites have been identified, one in the garden of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel and the other at New Park. As a member of the NPA planning committee Mrs. Holding cannot give a personal view as that would preclude her from voting when the issue comes before the committee. DEFRA will provide the office space and lease it back to the NPA. Once suitable premises have been found and plans drawn a decision will be made by the NPA which will then go to the Secretary of State for ratification. Members of the public were urged to make their views known when the opportunity arises.

**3. Matters Arising** from the Minutes of the meeting held 24th April 2007 - None.

**4. Report by the County Councillor**

Cllr. Thornber confirmed that HCC has defrayed £2000 of the cost of the zebra crossing and that he has added £2,000 from his personal budget of £10,000 towards it. He has also given a grant of £1,000 to the Football Club from that budget. Funding changes are having an impact on the spending of HCC and borrowings are being used to cover this but interest has to be paid.

The Lyndhurst bypass has been closely examined but an inner bypass was not acceptable to the residents. The proposal that we put forward is to be investigated. Cllr. Thornber gave his support to our campaign to have the 30 mph limits extended at Hollands Wood and Tile Barn Lane. He reported that HCC is entering a Carbon Reduction programme. Street lighting is one area where a reduction could be made, perhaps by dimming them or by switching them off between midnight and 5am. Consultation will take place through the Hampshire Now magazine.

## **5. Report by the District Councillor**

Mrs. Holding thanked all who voted in last year's elections. The District Council serves the whole community and has a budget of £75m, the precept having increased by 3.5% this year. It operates on a cabinet system and Mrs. Holding's portfolio has recently changed to cover employment, health and wellbeing. The Forest has recently won three awards for green tourism and 70-80% of our economy derives from tourism.

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

Mr. Purkess reported that the Trust has assets of £878,000, including £153,000 in cash allocated to reserve funds. Recent refurbishments include the kitchen of the Oak Room, the plastering and decorating of the main hall, improved access and resurfacing of the car park which together cost £35,000. The enlarged Craft room and Exhibition Room have increased revenue by 27% over the first full year of their operation. Several grant applications are pending and the clearing of the debt and finishing of the stage will cost £110,000. The village hall is becoming one of the best in the Forest and an appeal for more volunteers was made to help in its fund-raising and management. Several events are planned including the Needlework Fiesta again, a Tea Dance and a matinee. Another calendar will be produced for 2009 by the postmistress. No election is necessary at this meeting as only one nomination has been received. Mr. Burks was thanked for his work as a director appointed by the Parish Council over the last four years. The Trust was congratulated on its work by the Chairman.

## **7. Report of the Bailey Benefice**

The Vicar gave the report of the Bailey Benefice which arises from a legacy. Sixteen people were sent small gifts of cash at Christmas. Some larger sums are available from the Groome Trust and if anyone knows of someone who would benefit would they please let Sue Lynes or the Parish Clerk know.

## **8. Proposal to reduce the speed limit on A337 at Tile Barn Lane and Hollands Wood**

A show of public support for the proposal to extend the 30 mph limits at the A337 entrances to the village would help our campaign for the Village 30 Project. A vote was taken by a show of hands which was unanimous.

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

Mr. Bradley reported that the introduction of the 30 mph limit at Tile Barn Lane two years ago has not reduced the problems there. At the Latchmoor end the speed limit sign is round the corner and it would be better if it were visible from the junction. The verges are getting cut up by vehicles and there are concerns for the safety of groups of young people walking to the Forest from the Tile Barn Outdoor Centre.

Cdr. Budgett asked whether Meerut Road could have 30 mph roundels painted on it to try to slow the traffic down. He reported that a foal was killed there today.

Mr. Wicks stated that he had written to the Lymington Times and had made a presentation to the March and April PC meetings suggesting changes in Brookley Road which would make safety improvements at little cost.

Mr. Hughes asked what the Parish Council thought of the housing in Mill Lane now that it is nearing completion. He felt that the buildings do not comply with the plans and that the suggested name of Vinneys Close is inappropriate.

Mr. Trillo expressed his concern at the high speed of some of the vehicles using Brookley Road. He feels that the limit should be reduced and more enforcement action should be taken. The Vicar suggested that the parking outside the Brock and Bruin should be removed to allow for the extension of the footpath on the opposite side.

A resident of Balmer Lawn Road requested the enforcement of the 30 mph limit in Balmer Lawn Road, particularly as their car had been hit on Sunday.

Cllr. Thornber addressed several of these questions. He will request that the area engineer have a look at the location of the speed limit sign at the end of Tile Barn Lane and will suggest to the Outdoor Centre that Tile Barn Lane is not a suitable route to the Forest for their groups. Regarding the roundels, some roads are not considered suitable for them but enquiries will be made. The plans for the affordable housing at Mill Lane have been compared to the actual buildings and have been found to comply with them.

Regarding the problems of Brookley Road, the College's offer of parking could help to relieve pressure and the Vicar's suggestion will be investigated. A speed check will be requested on Balmer Lawn Road. Mrs. Rollin commented that we are suffering the law of consequences for having so much building in Brookley Road.

Mr. Purkess asked the audience for their guidance on issues such as closing Tile Barn Lane into a cul-de-sac, or restricting turning into Brookley Road from Rhinefield Road, although it cannot be one-way because of the watersplash.

Col. Sweet stated that some practising commoners live on Tile Barn Lane and they cannot get their vehicles along there if it is a one-way system, they cannot get in at the Latchmoor end as it is too narrow.

Mrs. Wicks suggested that the lorries turning round and re-tracing their path after delivering to Tesco are increasing their carbon footprint, and that they should continue down Brookley Road and out via the watersplash. It was pointed out that the lorries have to get back to the A337 by the most direct route.

Mr. Wingate reported that the verges on the Rhinefield Road as far as Rhinefield House are being damaged by vehicles.

## **10. Report from Chief Inspector Gary Cooper**

Ch. Insp. Cooper reported that he has 130 officers on operations, 35 Neighbourhood teams and 19 PCSOs under his control. His officers have to deal with national issues of terrorism and drugs as well as local issues of burglary and speeding, although we have recently had a murder on the Waterside. The carbon footprint reduction can have implications for crime if street lighting is reduced so a balance must be found. Levels of crime have been reduced by 14% since last April, along with a reduction in fires and arson, so there is a lot going right.

The death of the foal reported earlier brings to an end the longest period without an animal fatality in living memory, almost a month. He will ensure our concerns are passed to the roads policing unit in Totton. Two more speed enforcement vehicles have been obtained and will shortly be in use. Most of the speeding drivers are locals who should know better.

Mrs. Wicks asked about the cost of speed cameras and whether they can be used to free up officers for other tasks. Ch. Insp. Cooper replied that mobile cameras are used as a result of intelligence and that criminals tend to use cars themselves. The car crime in the Forest is not generally carried out by local people.

## **11. Report from Fire Officer - read by the Clerk**

As Russ Ferrett was unable to be present his report was read by the Clerk. 99 callouts were received in 2007 but no fatalities or serious injuries were involved. The crew of 14 are

commended for their dedication as the appliance was available 97% of the time which is an immense achievement. Community fire safety now has a higher emphasis with free fire safety checks, information to owners of thatched properties and leaflets for the elderly. Links have been made with Brockenhurst College regarding the Road Safety message.

## **12. Presentation on Recycling - Roger Sired**

Roger Sired of NFDC gave a presentation on recycling. Waste is an enormous problem with one in seven lorries now carrying rubbish. 4.4m apples are wasted each day. Newspapers and magazines can be recycled and back in use within six days. Plastic bottles are used to make fleece jackets and plastic pipes. Textiles can be recycled into stuffing for teddy bears and mattresses. Tetrapaks cannot be recycled here at present but this is being investigated. Mrs. Rollin expressed her concern that items wrongly recycled would result in the whole bag being rejected but this is not the case as the sorting centre can take out the items. It was confirmed that low energy lightbulbs can be disposed of at the local tip as the Marchwood centre can remove the mercury. Batteries can also be taken to the tip for recycling.

## **13. Report from Community Responders**

Wendy Woodhouse and Helen Haynes reported on the Community Responders scheme. There are five volunteers trained at present who live in the village. When an ambulance is dispatched they can be called and can get to you within five minutes. They carry oxygen and defibrillating equipment. Ten or fifteen people are needed to provide 24hour cover. The grant from the Parish Council has allowed them to purchase their own kit although they are using Lyndhurst's spare kit at present until it is delivered. There are collecting boxes around the village for spare change towards the costs and a request was made for volunteers, for fund-raising as well as for training to be a Responder. They were called out twice on Saturday and got to them both within three minutes.

## **14. Presentation from Brockenhurst College Road Safety Team**

Clyde Evans of HFRS gave a presentation on behalf of the College Road Safety Team. The Team aims to help the young people develop their life skills and reduce road accidents as 17-24 year olds are the most at risk. Tesco have supported the Road Safety Day with a grant of £400 and a request was made for a grant from the Parish Council as prize to be awarded when the event is held in September.

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

The Chairman thanked all those who gave their time to come and speak to us this evening and asked the members of the audience to talk to the parish councillors and the people manning the display stands to make their views known.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.