

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
Held on Tuesday 19th April 2022 at 6pm at
The Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury

Attending: Cllr Adrian Eyre, Cllr Caroline Hubbard (Chair), Cllr Sue Robinson, Cllr Caroline Smith, Cllr Mike Thomas, Cllr Bobbie Torkington, Cllr Keith Mans (HCC)
Karen Cramoysan (Clerk), 0 Members of the Public

Apologies: Cllr Caroline Smith, Cllr Clive White, PCSO Richard Williams

The meeting was opened by the Chair and the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th May 2019 were approved.

Talks were given by;

Keith Mans – HCC – This is the first Annual Parish Meeting that Councillor Mans has attended for the past 2-3 years.

Hampshire is the 3rd largest County in Britain comprises of 1.4 million people. It has 5,400 miles of roads, 74 schools with 138,000 pupils, 52 Academy's with 38,000 pupils. 10 residential care homes for young people, 18 care homes for the elderly, 24 household waste recycling centres of which 96% of the waste is recycled or reused and 5 country parks. It receives a 2.4-billion-pound budget from Government and this is spent on education, support for vulnerable people and roads. Hampshire has the lowest level of Council Tax in England, which has only increased by 1.99% this year from last year. 100 million pounds have been spent on school buildings, 136 million on roads/bridge structures and 95 million has been spent on improving school buildings. The County were given a 30-million-pound grant from the government to install solar panels and improve insulation in schools. This should make a difference to the heating costs over the next 2-3years.

Climate Change - The County has reduced its own 43% footprint and will further reduce by 2023.

There will be a wind farm sited off the Isle of Wight.

Councillor Mans has a budget of £8,000 which can be offered to Parish Councils through the County Councillor Grant Scheme. If the Parish Council wish to apply for a grant, then please let him know and apply via the HCC website.

Councillor White asked Councillor Mans when Ashdene Road and Wood Road would be resurfaced under Operation Resilience. Councillor Mans explained that the County had run out of money and it would be done soon.

The Chair thanked Councillor Mans for his attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Local Groups

Ann Arscott - Foxhills Junior and Pre-school – The Junior School has recently had a very good Ofsted report. Covid was a very challenging time for schools. The Headteacher will be retiring in the summer. This is the last week of consultation about turning the Infant & Junior Schools into a federation they will be staying as two separate schools, but with the same headteacher. If it is successful they will need a new governing body. The pre-school is also doing very well.

Andy Austin – Ashurst & Colbury Community Group – The group has been doing weekday and weekend walks. They start Litter Picking soon with New Forest District Council along the A35 Ashurst to Lymington Road. Previous litter picks in the past 3 months generated 20 bags of rubbish. The latest project is the adoption of Ashurst Railway Station public areas, the building are owned by a company in London. South Western Railways gave the group a grant of £250 and this is to go towards repair/replacement of the shelter on Platform 1, seating, raised planting beds and a mural depicting four seasons of the New Forest. The group was set up 15 years ago and they are keen to work with the Parish Council on community matters. Through the Parish Council, the group are sometimes able to obtain extra funding. During the Covid lockdowns in 202, the whole community pulled together to help residents that were shielding.

Brian Pass – Longdown Dairy Farm – 2020 was a difficult year for the farm with Covid restrictions. Visitor numbers had to be restricted with staggered entry times. The farm shop was well supported by locals during the many lockdowns. Brian asked if the Parish Council would help support the farm's request for a crossing from the car park over to the farm and also to contact HCC regarding a

30mph limit along this section of the road. Councillor Mans asked to be copied into any emails sent regarding this.

Totsplay - Clare Hampson – The group runs sessions that include baby massage, yoga, sensory play, relaxation, and bubble play. It is a chance for local mums to get together and find friendship.

New Horizons – Marian Quantrell – The group was set up 7 years ago and comprises of widows looking to make new friends, be independent and have a more active social life. Meetings are held between 2:30-4pm on the first Monday of the month. They currently have around 20 members, but new members welcome to join them.

Ladies Probus – Marian Quantrell – Unfortunately, membership to this club is down as people have lost confidence since Lockdown. The group used to be only open to professional/business ladies but is now open to any female that wishes to join. They meet at the Happy Cheese pub in a private room and there are speakers at each meeting covering a wide range of topics. The group currently have speakers booked until their September meeting.

Ashurst Guides – Ruth Dingley - Meetings are held on a Tuesday night at Colbury Scout & Guide hut. In each group there are a range of different age groups and they learn different skills; geocaching, camping, making fires, cooking etc. During Lockdown, they all met via Zoom and did cooking at home. This term, all groups will be carrying out a litter pick at Colbury Memorial Hall.

Rainbows – Age 4-7 meet from 5-6pm

Brownies – Age 7-10 meet from 6-7:30pm

Guides – Age 10-14 meet from 7:30-9pm

New Forest Rotary – Clive Rutland – Rotary International was founded 100 years ago and their mantra is 'Service above Self'. Members give something back to the community. New members are also welcome and the group meet weekly. Recent projects have included visits to Care Homes and running bingo sessions, taking residents on outings. The group contributes funds to water aid, shelter boxes and locally to Brockenhurst Gateway, Minstead Lodge, Honeypot, and the Waterside & Southampton Homeless charity. There are currently 60-85 people living rough on the streets.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm.