

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF FROXFIELD AND PRIVETT

HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH APRIL 2018 AT 7.30PM AT FROXFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Present: Cllr J Ellis (Chairman), Cllr P Doyle (Vice Chairman), Cllr R Moss, Cllr D Rymer, Cllr D Redding and Cllr M Povey. In attendance, County Cllr Russell Oppenheimer, District Councillor Nick Drew, Mrs H Marsh (Clerk) and 17 members of the public. **Guest Speakers:** Mr Simeon Leiserach and Mr M Luke (representative of the Caulfeild Bequest and Love's Charity)

1.18 Welcome & Apologies: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. **Apologies** were received from Cllr Madgwick and Mrs Brenda King

2.18 Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday the 6th of April 2017 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3.18 Report on the Caulfeild Bequest and the Love and Beckford Charity. Mr Martin Luke gave a report on the accounts of the Caulfeild Bequest and the Love and Beckford Charity (Appendix A & B on Pages 4 & 5.) For the Caulfeild Bequest he re-iterated that the capital is invested and only the interest spent on discretionary gifts. The Chairman thanked Mr Luke.

4.18 Chairman's Report and Financial Summary. The Financial Summary for the year-end to 31st March 2018 was distributed to all present. The Chairman, Cllr John Ellis thanked the Councillors for their hard work throughout the year. He thanked Cllr Rymer for diligently preparing and presenting each planning application to the Council. He also thanked Cllr Drew for providing the Council with frequent advice especially with regard to our interface with EHDC and he thanked him for all his generous donations to community projects, most recently being the security cameras at the Post Office. He also thanked Cllr Oppenheimer for representing the parish at county level and for chasing up road repairs, verge cutting and vehicle speed monitoring. The Chairman gave a review of the Parish Council's achievements throughout the year:

Byways The parish council with funding from HCC's small grants scheme carried out another phase of works to Green Lane and Ridge Top Lane at a cost of just under £7500.

Playground / Recreation Ground / Cricket Club The Parish Council has carried out playground maintenance, repairs and weekly inspections and new climbing frame nets are due to be installed shortly.

Roads The Clerk contacted Hampshire Highways on 15 occasions to instigate repair work to roads and is pressing for High Cross Lane and Stony Lane to be resurfaced.

Defibrillators The Chairman praised Howard Bevis for raising sufficient sponsorship to be able to buy 2 defibrillators for the village.

Lengthsman The lengthsman has carried out ditch clearing and will continue the good work.

The Post Office The Chairman thanked Cllr Doyle for the advice and time he gave to advance the Post Office application. With his guidance and with funding from the Parish Council and Cllr Drew there is now a permanent full time post office in the village.

Planning Cllr Rymer reported that the Parish Council had considered 28 applications this year. He urged villagers to comment on applications as the Parish Council's comments only counted as the equivalent of one vote.

5.18 Broadband Cllr Doyle gave a brief history of the work he and Cllr Redding have done to improve broadband speeds throughout the parish. He gave a special mention to Ronald Graham-Clarke who had put pressure on Glenn Peacey over the years. Cllr Doyle introduced the speaker Mr Simeon Leiserach who has recently taken the lead.

Mr Leiserach gave an interesting insight into his efforts, jointly with Cllr Oppenheimer, to put pressure on HCC and BT to install fibre optic connections to most properties in the parish; he added that the cause was greatly aided by the assistance of Rt Hon MP Damien Hinds.

7.18 County Councillor's Annual Report – Cllr Russell Oppenheimer gave a brief update on HCC matters:

a) HCC is expecting to receive £3m of the Government's £30m pothole fund.

- b) Although the Council tax was increased by 5.99% the CC has developed technology to cut costs and this technology is itself proving profitable as other counties are purchasing it. The increase will ensure important services are maintained such as school crossing patrols, tips and community transport whilst continuing to look after the most vulnerable people in society. HCC has strong reserves of £500m.
- c) Cllr Oppenheim is on the National Park Committee. The Local plan has been recommended to the Secretary of State. This is a landscape and environment led plan with a 50% affordable housing rule. The Government is embarking on a 70-year review of National Parks, focusing on economy and transport.

8.18 Open Forum

Questions related to the treatment facility for septic tank sludge pre-application, Ragmore Farm.

- 1. A near neighbour of Ragmore Farm raised concern over the planning application for a treatment facility for septic tank sludge. The resident said that 200m of Ragmore Lane are, at present, flooded with slurry. Cllr Rymer explained that this was a pre-application enquiry and comments would not be taken. If it becomes a full application, at that stage, the residents and Parish Council would comment.
- 2. A second resident voiced agreement with the first and added that Green Lane also suffers from a swimming pool of slurry.
- 3. A third resident supported these comments and added their concerns that Barnet Side Lane and Claypit Lane were small and inadequate roads for the potential high increase in traffic and the associated noise.
- 4. A fourth resident pointed out that 100 tons per day of slurry required a large lake with huge bunds and will put nitrates into the soil. They too were concerned that the roads will not take any extra traffic.

Questions regarding broadband.

- 1. A resident commented that their postcode and five other houses and a unit was not in scope but would be prepared to group together to for community fibre partnership. Cllr Oppenheimer responded that it was a postcode lottery and the Universal Service Obligation was the Government's answer. He added that a collection of neighbours could get together to form a Community Partnership that should be match funded. Information can be found on the Community Fibre Partnership Website.
- 2. A resident from Claypit Farm Barns asked for a list of the 'In-Scope' postcodes to be published in the parish magazine. The Clerk to action this.

6.17 District Councillor's Annual Report – Cllr Drew reported:

- a) Cllr Drew extended his thanks to the Parish Councillors.
- b) EHDC did not increase the Council Tax this year and are committed to reduce the tax when affordable but not to reduce services. Revenue schemes and investments in buildings have been implemented to replace grants.
- c) The Boundary review of EHDC wards, designed to improve democracy by addressing the disproportionate amount of residents in each ward. Sheet will replace Stroud in the Froxfield and Steep Ward. Priors Dean will join Hawkley. Cllr Drew argued against these changes
- d) Cllr Drew urged residents to comment on planning applications and compliance; with enough views registered he is able to insist that an application goes to committee.
- e) He commented that it is lucky that there are so many people in Froxfield who volunteer to pick up litter. It is worth noting that the litter picking company makes more effort where there are volunteers. He asked if the hotspots could be reported as ways of improving the litter picking was being considered.
- f) Cllr Drew has this year given a generous grant to the Rosemary Foundation
- g) Cllr Drew, on behalf of the village, thanked Cllr Doyle and the PC for their part in supporting the PO.

Questions comments to Cllr Drew

- 1. A resident remarked on the amount of noise and speeding from motorbikes. Cllr Oppenheimer responded that there was no budget in County to reduce speeding bikes. He agreed that it was time to have police car presence and he offered to see what he could do.
- 2. A resident said that off road bike convoys were causing destruction to BOATs, deliberate damage had been done to the triangle at Old Stoner. Cllr Oppenheimer said that seasonal Traffic Restriction Orders were being reviewed and the House of Lords Select Committee is looking at simplifying and reforming the TRO process.
- 3. Cllr Drew was informed that a resident had been asked to stop picking up rubbish on Stoner Hill.
- 4. A resident commented that dumped road signs and road cones should be picked and not left lying on the verge. Cllr Oppenheimer asked if these incidents could be reported on the Hants Roads website.

The meeting ended at 8.55pm