

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF FROXFIELD AND PRIVETT

HELD ON THURSDAY 4th APRIL 2024 AT FROXFIELD VILLAGE HALL

Present: Members of the Parish Council, Cllr Teresa Brown, Cllr John Ellis, Cllr Phoebe Hiscock and Cllr Vanessa Christie. In attendance: the Clerk and Cllr Russell Oppenheimer

1. The Vice Chair of the Parish Council, Cllr Teresa Brown, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. She announced that apologies were received from Cllr Rymer, Cllr Norman, Cllr Doyle and Cllr Drew.
2. **The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting** held on 13th April 2023 were approved and signed.
3. **Reports on Caulfeild Bequest and Love's Charity. Appointment of Trustees of Caulfeild Bequest and Love's Charity.** Representatives of the two charities were not in attendance. The councillor's agreed that the Trustees could be appointed at a future meeting of the parish council and the reports approved.
4. **Chairman's Report and Financial Summary Cllr Teresa Brown**

In Cllr Rymer's absence it falls to me to give the Annual Report.

Again, another busy year. As you will all be aware each Parish Councillor has an area of responsibilities, descriptions of these can be found on the website. Thanks to all the Parish Councillors for the work they put into these areas, and for making the meetings run smoothly and efficiently. They each give up a lot of their spare time for the parish.

Many thanks to Cllr Rymer for acting as our chairman and for the way he keeps us all in order.

I think the website has been much improved this year and is more user friendly. Thanks go to Cllr Christie and Helen Marsh our Parish Clerk for making the improvements and keeping it updated. The website is also one of the sites that now houses the monthly Parish Magazine. There is an events page for all parish events and links to other village organisations.

The (CFI) Community Funding Initiative & Speedwatch on the C18 and High Cross Lane is still work in progress, but we should be seeing the benefits of all the work done in the coming months. In the past year Cllr Pitman, and Cllr Rymer have been working on this together with HCC and Alastair Macadam.

Our verges - I'm pleased to report that after our two-year trial period of taking over the responsibility of the cutting from HCC Highways, they have agreed that we carry on for another year. We have received several good comments from residents about the cutting regime since we took it on. For the last two years we

have been in receipt of a County Councillor grant from Cllr Russell Oppenheimer towards the cost.

Our Parish Councillors have attended various meetings during the year. Including, planning, BOATS, and Nature Recovery. Vanessa has attended EHT&PC meetings.

Litter - as in previous years litter continues to be a problem, particularly on the C18 and the A32. Our District Cllr Nick Drew can often be seen, together with Cllr Rymer, donning their yellow high viz vests while litter picking on Stoner Hill. Thanks so much to them for giving up their weekends to make the area look better. Thanks also go to the Privett Pickers for the work they do on the A32

We are lucky to have Cllr Nick Drew and Cllr Russell Oppenheimer as our District and County Councillors. We maintain a good working relationship with them both and they keep us informed on District and County events. Cllr Drew helps with our planning and enforcement issues in following up with EHDC when needed. Cllr Oppenheimer takes the flack on the state of our lanes and follows up our requests with HCC Highways.

Our lanes, and in particular Wheelers Lane are still work in progress. We look forward to the better weather hopefully it can be sorted. We should also be getting a 'not suitable for sat nav' sign at both ends of Wheelers Lane.

Fireworks and Bonfire Night again in 2023, - not something that I attend but I have heard that it was well attended successful evening thanks to a team of Parish Councillors and Froxfield Village Hall committee members and other helpers. (Sorry I can't name them all)

Always working away in the background is Helen Marsh our Parish Clerk. Many, many thanks to Helen for always having the answers to queries, writing our minutes, which isn't always an easy job, and for keeping on top of the finances and keeping our policies and procedures up to date.

And finally, thanks to the residents of our two villages for keeping us informed on any issues as they arise.

5. **Report on Planning Applications:** Nineteen planning applications have been dealt with over the last year, ranging from tree felling to fairly large extensions, and replacement buildings.

These are often dealt with by a separate planning committee, very efficiently led by Cllr Rymer. We are grateful to the volunteers on the planning committee, Annie Bower, Rick Giles, Jenny Grant, Shirley Pitman, Doric Tong and Barry Topping. Also, the Parish Councillors who have joined them. Three Parish Councillors need to be present for decision making.

The comments and decisions from the Parish Council together with the final outcomes can be found under planning on the EHDC website.

6. County Councillor Russell Oppenheimer's Annual Report. Cllr Oppenheimer reported that:
 - a. He had been pushing Hampshire Constabulary hard to resolve the speeding situation on C18. He had, also, been in communication with Police Commissioner Donna Jones and Inspector Tester.
 - b. He has regularly chased Highways regarding the CFI.
 - c. The work to Wheeler's Lane has had to be held back until the lane dries out.
 - d. He is to meet the Trustees of the Village Hall to see whether the CC can help.
 - e. The Local Transport Plan for Hampshire has been adopted which shifts the emphasis away from vehicles to walking and cycling.
 - f. A list of grants has been published. Grants for this parish have been £1000 towards the verge cutting and £1000 towards Froxfield Village Hall Floor.
 - g. He recommends the Community Transport Toolkit on HCC's website for Parish Council's to assess the local needs.
 - h. Cllr Oppenheimer continues to plug away with the BOATs to prevent vehicles damaging the surfaces.

7. East Hants District Councillor Nick Drew's Annual Report;

Another annual meeting, it seems to be going quicker especially with the huge amount of activity in Froxfield and Privett. I would like to thank all the work of our Parish council in supporting this community despite some members being in and out of hospital a number of times in the last 4 months. I would also like to thank all those other members of the community who do so much for us all such as Rob for the village hall, Susanna for the drop in, Mark Stanley for the many trees he quietly clears away after storms, Joanna of course and the Church Wardens, Howard in the Post Office, Horticultural club members as well as so many of you helping with the clubs, litter collection and helping your neighbours. It is these voluntary kindnesses that allow our parish to grow.

From EHDC view we have had success with grants and events over the year but the two best remembered experiences for me are the Christmas parcels to the elderly and of the summer fayre 'Dog show' which I judged – I look forward to the same this year. We have had success in Privett in difficult planning but not in Froxfield, so more work required there. We also require more work on speeding on C18 and BOATS.

I would ask residents to be mindful of damages to roadside curbs at this time of year as many residents have shared evidence of considerable erosion/damage.

8. OPEN FORUM There were no members of the public in attendance.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm.