

**CHANDLER'S FORD PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AT THE VELMORE CENTRE 27 APRIL 2015**

**Cllrs in attendance:** Councillor Atkinson (Chairman), Councillors, Aubry, Boyes (Vice Chairman), Broadhurst, Cox, Duguid, Foulds, Hughes, Jolly, Johnson, Leslie, Luffman, Pragnell, Scott and Simmonds.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received from Cllrs Bicknell, Bull and Grajewski.

**APM 1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 7 MAY 2014**

Following proposal and seconding and on a show of hands these were agreed.

**APM 2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

We are approaching the end of our 5th year – the Chandler's Ford Parish Council was only formed in 2010 and sometimes it is worth reminding ourselves how young we are in terms of Parish Council years!

We have now held our first re-elections and we have welcomed 8 new members to Council – almost half our membership.

It has taken a little while for the new members settle into their roles – and certainly learning the formalities of Council work has been challenging – but we have been ably kept in line by our Parish Clerk, Duncan Murray.

Duncan only joined us last September following a period where we had no full time Parish Clerk. During this time we relied heavily on the services of our Assistant Parish Clerk, Sukey Spurlock, who gave us wonderful support during that difficult period.

Throughout these changes to Council we were continuing to work with Eastleigh Borough Council on the transfer of assets to the Parish – legalities causing delays in completion.

The transfer of the Fryern Recreation grounds and pavilion was completed in September, together with the transfer of the children's play areas. Hiltingbury recreation grounds and pavilion took a little longer with completion only finalised at the beginning of this month.

Alongside the transfer of assets we have been working on the plans for the extension of the Fryern Pavilion including making application to Eastleigh Borough Council for a grant from the New Homes Bonus scheme to enable us to progress this development as soon as we obtained ownership.

We were successful in our application and thus we were able to start the extension in October 2014.

We have been running to plan and we are within our budget – and I am pleased to report that we expect the building to be completed at the beginning of June – and it will then be ready for use!

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We believe this project will bring a much needed facility to the centre of Chandler's Ford for the use of all residents and I look forward using the Pavilion ourselves for Council meetings.

Having taken over these assets not only do we need to keep them well maintained, but we also need to make investment into those assets so we can provide improved facilities for residents now and for the future.

We have already been in detailed discussions with local residents regarding the upgrading of the tennis courts at Hiltingbury, and we are reviewing all play areas to prioritise investment needs- particularly for the replacement of the ridge rider at Fryern. Plans are also being developed to create a pathway along the northern edge of the Hiltingbury recreation grounds to enable a safer route to be used by children accessing the Hiltingbury schools.

Such investment does not come without cost – and consequently we found it necessary on the advice of our Responsible Financial Officer to increase our precept by approximately £20 per annum (Band D rate) – which is less than 40p per week. Our precept is the second to lowest precept in the Borough. The 68% increase rate quoted in various reports appears high, but does not properly represent the reality of the small increase made in our precept charge.

I hope that residents will soon see the results of our investment plans but I want to give them the opportunity to become more involved in those plans, and in our budgeting process, by introducing Participatory Budgeting to the Parish in this coming year.

We continue to provide funding for PCSO's and we value very much their work in the Parish as our Parish continues to be a very safe place in which to live.

We regularly raise issues of concern with the police – particularly those of inconsiderate parking and parking on verges – which we recognise are not life threatening issues, but they do give rise to many complaints from residents. We have supplied the police with 'cards' which can be used to remind those in default of the problems they cause by their inconsiderate parking – and we are advised that this does have some effect. However we would like to be able to make a greater impact in raising awareness of the problems this causes and will continue to work with the police to do this.

Speeding is another concern for many residents and we have worked with the police to support the formation of a Speedwatch team in the area which I hope will bring about more responsible driving along our roads – particularly the busy 'link roads' from Test Valley to the M3.

We take great pride in the appearance of our Parish – hence our strong stand on parking on verges – and I would like to take further actions to improve our Parish – not only by ensuring it is clean and tidy, but also additional planting of flowers/trees to ensure we keep our Parish green. Bulb planting in the Autumn would give us something to look forward to in the Spring!

We have been fortunate to obtain 'Granted to You' funding of £5,000 from Hampshire County Council again this year – which we will match fund – so that we can provide grants

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up to £10,000 to local community associations to enable them to continue the wonderful work they carry out in the Parish.

We will be holding our event this year in June so there is still time for applications to be made!

From previous events we have made grants to the local Girl Guides and Scouts; to Velmore Community Association for their football club, friendship club, art club and luncheon club; to Merdon Junior School for new kitchen equipment for community space; to Chandler's Ford Responders for tracking devices; and to local brass bands for equipment and uniforms.

I am sure there will be equally good causes needing our support this year, making the selection difficult – and I am glad that the 'Granted for You' process gives the decision making to the community rather than leaving it to Councillors!

We are promoting the Fryern Funtasia again this year – our 4th year – I am sure the events staged will be just as exciting and entertaining as in the previous three! Cllrs Hughes and Boyes play key roles in the organisation of this event and I would like to thank them for all their hard work – and hopefully the weather will be kind to us enabling record crowds to attend.

So the date to remember is Monday 4 May – Bank Holiday Monday – exactly a week today! I hope to see you all there!

I would like to thank our officers Duncan Murray, our Parish Clerk, Sukey Spurlock, our Assistant Parish Clerk and Phil Eades, our Contract Maintenance Officer, for all their hard work during the year – and certainly without them we could not function. Phil joined us during the year and has already played a key role in making sure we are compliant with the assets we have taken over – his role will become even more important now that we have ownership of those assets.

I would also like to thank all my fellow Councillors for their contributions to this Parish Council over this year, particularly the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of our various committees. I am very grateful for the support and advice they have given me.

Now that we have ownership of assets I am looking forward in the coming year to working on projects which will enhance those facilities for the Parish. I hope that Councillors will all work together to ensure these projects are fulfilled for the benefit of our community.

### **APM 3. COMMUNITY MATTERS**

#### **Police Update**

In the absence of the police, it was noted that PC Moody had moved to Eastleigh Central.

#### **Community and Local Groups**

No reports were received, it was noted that the Speed Limit Reminder was expected to be delivered shortly.

**AP4 4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None were recorded.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm.

.....Chairman