



BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

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THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK TOOK PLACE AT 7.30PM IN THE LIPHOOK MILLENNIUM HALL, ONTARIO WAY, LIPHOOK, ON MONDAY 31 MARCH 2008

PRESENT WERE: Dr J Tough (Chairman), Mr G Amey, Dr J Carne, Mr M Croucher, Mrs B Easton, Mr N Everett, Mrs A C James, Mr P Jordan, Mr N Newman, Mr P Wilson, Miss N Young (Parish Councillors). Mr S C James (District Councillor and County Councillor), Mrs E Hope (District Councillor), Mr A Groves (Parish Clerk). Nine members of the public, and one member of the press were present.

MINUTES

53/08 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting of Bramshott and Liphook Parish Council. I must tell you that the emergency exits are through the Foyer to the street and through the doors to the Amphitheatre. In case of an evacuation we must assemble on the Village Green. Toilets are through the Foyer.

I bring the very sad news of the death last week of our friend John Carter of High Hurlands. John was a great fighter for rights of way in the Parish and worked with the Parish Council for many years on our efforts to maintain and preserve our bridleways and footpaths. He regularly attended committee meetings and forums dealing with rights of way with many wise words and histories drawn from his research into the ancient byways of the Parish. In recent years he was unable to join us on our annual inspection of rights of way but would always join us at the meeting point to wish us well on our walk. John will be greatly missed in the Parish. I ask you to stand with me for one minute of silence.

The agenda for the meeting is shown on the screen. You may ask relevant questions after each report but you must state your name before your question. At the end of the evening you are invited to join the Council for refreshments in the Canada Room.

54/08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Murray.

55/08.1 Finance and Policy (F&P) Committee - Cllr J Carne

The Committee meets six times a year, on a bi-monthly basis and is responsible for Financial & Policy matters relating to the PC's business. This year the precept is £190,380, equating to a 2.5% increase. This results in an additional charge of £1.26 for the year, on a band D property, which is lower than last year, and the inflationary increases the Council has been subjected to over the last financial year. We are pleased to note that we have one of the lowest Parish Council increases within the District, which we believe reflects the careful planning and budgeting by the Clerk and the Committee. For comparison, you should be aware that the highest percentage precept increase within EHDC is 9 times that of ours. On behalf of the community I would like to thank all the Parish staff for their individual hard work and resourcefulness in maintaining the high standards we have come to expect in this Parish whilst keeping costs to a minimum.

I can report we have a very clear monthly audit process overseen by F&P Committee members in rotation to ensure financial probity, followed by two internal audits carried out by an external auditor, and the Annual Return which is an external audit carried out by the Audit Commission. As part of the Council's policy framework we apply the principle of "Best Value" on all the work we undertake, which includes a quotation or tender process where this is necessary. This is checked and scrutinised by our external auditors. Members of the Parish are welcome to visit the Parish Office to discuss any financial matter, but are requested to give prior notice verbally or in writing to the Parish Clerk of any questions to which you would like an answer.

The Parish Council has a number of "core clients" who receive financial assistance during the course of the year: Bramshott & Liphook Parochial Church Council, Liphook in Bloom, Liphook Marketing Panel, Liphook Carnival, Liphook Lightshow, St. John Ambulance, East Hampshire Victim Support Scheme, Canada Veterans Association (Canada Day), Bramshott & Liphook Preservation Society, Furniture Help Line, River Wey Trust, and Community Magazine.

We contribute £6,000 to Petersfield Citizens Advice Bureau to provide an outreach service in the Parish Office which additionally provides free facilities. This well used service means that parishioners seeking assistance do not have to make the difficult and expensive journey to Petersfield.

We also budget for other charitable or not-for-profit organisations within the Parish, who make one-off type applications to the Parish Council. These are considered on a by-merit basis but guided by a set of rules/regulations. Details are available in the Parish Office.

We are about to install a computer for free use by all parishioners to allow them to access Planning applications, Government, Local Government and charity.

Highways, Byways and Transport (H, B &T) Committee - Cllr J Tough

A large and active committee, though challenging for Councillors as Parish Council's have very limited powers for implementing highway improvements.

HIGHWAYS**The Square**

The block work crossing in The Square near Findlays Florists has been removed, together with the dropped kerbs. Unfortunately people still cross at this area, although there is a safer zebra crossing only a few yards away.

Safe Routes to Schools

We have continued to be involved in the developments following the travel plans for the Infant & Junior Schools. The zebra crossing in Headley Road is installed and a crossing warden is employed there. Satellite parking is being arranged and improvements are planned on Longmoor Road to make it safer for children to be dropped off at the rear access to the schools.

Proposed 30mph Speed Limit at Passfield

Part of 'Village 30' programme. Selected for the first phase of the scheme, but subsequently rejected by HCC because Passfield did not satisfy necessary criteria. The Parish Council are continuing to push for speed reduction measures in this area.

Community Streetlighting Initiative

Under the scheme three streetlights have been installed in Midhurst Road to extend the streetlighting from Hollycombe Close towards Churchers Junior School.

Speed Indicator Devices

The Parish Council continue to press Hampshire County Council for these, particularly for Haslemere Road. Hampshire Constabulary carry out regular speed enforcement initiatives throughout the village.

Headley Road surface

The road surface in Headley Road has not yet been improved, but has currently been given a low priority by HCC. The Parish Council will continue to press for resurfacing.

BYWAYS**Canadian Memorial Underpass**

The Canadian Memorial Underpass was an Alternative Scheme put forward by the Parish Council because the crossing facility for walkers and riders near The Spaniard was to be closed as part of the A3 Hindhead Tunnel. Work was due to be completed in summer 2008, but has unfortunately been delayed due to the discovery of a fibre-optic cable. The Canadian Memorial plaque is lodged in St Mary's Church and will be reinstated when the underpass is complete.

Proposed bridleway at Passfield

Now that approval for additional drainage has been given by Natural England, it is hoped that the work on the section from Waterside Drive to Burgh Hill Road can be carried out.

Exploring Liphook

An illustrated leaflet of walks around Liphook has been produced jointly by the Parish Council and the County Council. This is available free of charge from the Parish Office and the Millennium Centre.

TRANSPORT

Village Bus Service

Last year the District Council agreed to fund the financial shortfall for the village bus service from developer's contributions. AMK, a Liphook based company, was awarded the contract with an accessible vehicle and the service has had increasing numbers of passengers over the past year.

Station Accessibility

A feasibility study into how Liphook Railway Station can be made accessible has been carried out. The project was shown to be feasible by the consultants and is now waiting for developer funding to be available.

Community Transport Survey

The survey is about to be carried out, targeting the outer hamlets and likely dial-a-bus users and will be distributed in the next few weeks. It is distinct from the Parish Survey.

Finally I would like to say how grateful I am to the members of the Committee for their help and support during the year and I would particularly like to thank the Assistant Clerk, Ann Haussauer, for clerking the Committee and for taking care, so ably, of all Parish matters relating to Highways, Byways and Transport.

QUESTIONS

Mrs Greenwood

What is the Transport Survey about?

Cllr Tough

Aspiration to have outer hamlets service. Survey go to all parts of the village and ask if they want a service.

Mr Jordan

What are the realistic prospects of improving the accessibility at Liphook Station?

Cllr Tough

Feasibility study was positive, only problem is funding. Scheme is on the shelf for when funding becomes available. Station should be accessible, and I hope that will be the case. Funding could come from developer's contributions and SWT.

<u>Miss K Clarke</u>	How much is in the Developers Contribution pot and is the money allocated to a specific project?
<u>Cllr Tough</u>	Do not know, but money could be provided for a project from a specific development?
<u>Miss K Clarke</u>	How do we find out how much there is and where it has gone?
<u>Cllr Mrs James</u>	Money for transport goes into an area fund. Details available from EHDC for Transport and Open Spaces. Priority list prepared by Parish Council. (There was discussion on aspects relating to KGV site)
<u>Cllr Mrs Hope</u>	What benefit will the improved access to KGV site bring to Liphook Villagers?
<u>Cllr Tough</u>	More sustainable means for walking from the village to the site, particularly employees. (There was discussion over contributions/improvements and requirements when planning applications, and the contributions that had been made for the site)
<u>Cllr Carne</u>	Could Cllr Mrs Hope (District Councillor) explain what responsibility the District Council has in this respect?
<u>Cllr Mrs Hope</u>	Not here to discuss the District Council, only here to ask questions about the Parish Council and their perceptions.
<u>Mr Hope</u>	Has any consideration been made to policing levels bearing in mind the problems in the last two years, because youths could cause trouble in Radford Park which was at the gateway to the KGV Site and would draw police away from the central areas?
<u>Cllr Tough</u>	Do not think there has. Some concerns in the Midhurst Road Priority Meeting group, but do not think they would see a focus in that area. Have to see what happens in the future. Problems more likely to move to areas like the Station.

55/08.3

Liphook Millennium Centre (LMC) Management Committee-Cllr J Tough

The Millennium Centre continues to attract regular bookings with St. John Ambulance, University of the Third Age, Age Concern, Pilates and dance classes making full use of the excellent facilities. Bookings have remained buoyant and picked up well after the Summer months. This has enabled us to continue to set aside money for the Community Chest which benefits local clubs

and activities as well as making sensible provision for current equipment improvements and future maintenance of the Centre and its facilities.

The Millennium Centre Cinema has proved a great success with an average of 70 people at each showing which is usually on the first Friday of each month with the show starting at 8pm. With a licensed bar, tea, coffee and ice cream available during the interval, the £4 per person (£3 for over 60s) represents excellent value for an evening out at a comfortable local venue. The publicity of the film shows we introduced during 2007 which asked local businesses to display posters in return for ticket vouchers has been only moderately successful and we are thinking of ways in which this initiative can be made more effective.

The Heritage Centre Working Party has now started to meet regularly with real determination to raise the funds, design and to have constructed a Heritage Centre within the Millennium Centre complex for the benefit of the whole community. The Millennium Centre Management Committee welcomes this scheme and will work closely with the Working Party to ensure the successful integration of the archive, records and displays into part of the upper floor of the Millennium Centre.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Donald, Caroline, Wendy and Pat as well as Angela and her team of caterers for making the Centre users welcome and running the place so effectively. I would also mention Tony, Ann and Gina in the parish office whose hard work and commitment towards all things Millennium Centre help to make it such a success. I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors and the Co-opted members of the Management Committee for their support during the past year.

QUESTIONS

Miss K Clarke Could Developer's Contributions be used for the LMC?

Cllr Jordan We were hoping so, but at the recent meeting at EHDC it was made clear that funding for a project such as the Heritage Centre was not possible because the contributions were for Open Space. (There was discussion about the inability to use contributions in this way)

55/08.4 Planning Committee - Cllr Mrs A C James

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen. This is about the fifth year that I have had the pleasure of presenting the year's planning committee report to you. I would like to take this public opportunity to thank, on behalf of parishioners and councillors, Gina Spencer who handles all the planning meetings and deals with numerous requests from members of the public about the ever increasing planning applications that Liphook has to deal with.

I would also like to thank all the members of the planning committee for the hard work and enthusiasm they bring to the meetings. This year we have had four new councillors who have got to grips with this rather complicated

committee, as we still have to abide government policies, which are not always what the public feel are right. So I would like to thank them for learning so fast on the job; and also the “oldies” without whose long experience of planning history in Liphook our job would be much more difficult.

It has been a busy year with about 120 individual applications. Each of these is carefully looked at by a Councillor; site visited and neighbours consulted wherever possible. Their comments are reported to the Committee where interested parties are able to attend to make their comments known. We do listen to everyone and then make our recommendation to EHDC.

This year we have had applications for nearly 400 new dwellings (for example King George Hospital Site, McCarthy & Stone, Retirement dwellings on the former OSU site) as well as the usual extensions, alterations including a telephone box. We were joined this year by Dr Evans as our new tree warden. His wonderful expertise and visual displays has really helped with all the pruning and felling applications.

Several appeals took place this year. Unfortunately we were not successful with the McCarthy & Stone Tower Rd application but did achieve a reduction in the number of dwellings and there was a similar outcome in Longmoor Rd opposite Bohunt School. Sadly these back garden sites are the Government’s ideal location for development, but not necessarily Liphook’s!

The start of the new Development Frameworks is under way. These will replace the current Local Plan so do please get involved if you are interested in the future of Liphook. The consultation documents are on line and available at the Parish Office. They cover Housing, Employment, Transport, Recreation etc.

All local planning consultation is now going electronic and a Parish Council Working Party has come up with a way in which we can continue to give the individual service to all residents that we like to do. So watch out for a new computer in the Parish Office soon.

Finally, I ended last year by referring to the imminent application for a retirement village on the King George Hospital Site and now as you can see work is well under way. Thank you Mr Chairman.

QUESTIONS.

Mr Hope

Do the Parish Council or Planning Committee have a view on the old OSU which is undeveloped as yet, and if the site remains undeveloped in 10 years time because there were no applications, would the Parish Council be prepared to look at alternative types of applications and would they then try and persuade EHDC to accept alternative application and types?

Cllr Mrs James

Parish Council have their current view bearing in mind there is a public inquiry on the applications for a small

Nursing Home, Hospital, and retirement dwellings. Employment was part of the original package and remains that way at present. As for the future, that depends on what applications are made set against the policies in place at the time. (Discussion followed on advertising the site and how the site might be used in future)

Mr Greenwood

Noticed that there seemed to be excavation in the field next to the KGV site behind the Wardens Cottage. Does anybody know what is going on?

Cllr Mrs James

This had already been noted by EHDC. Any concerns should be raised immediately and notified to the Parish Office or direct to EHDC. (There was discussion about what this work might be, and the change to the road layout)

Dawn Hoskins

Is the access to Bohunt Centre site going to remain where it is?

Cllr Mrs James

The Longmoor Road development - it is in between the "in" and "out" to Bohunt School but there are two crossing points. (Crossing points, safety, planning aspects, and Safe Routes to School ideas were discussed)

Mrs Greenwood

Is there a limit to how many retirement or nursing homes there are in the village?

Cllr Mrs James

This was challenged at the planning inquiries. The developers will continue to take this approach which allows residential development.

Mr Greenwood

Does the Parish Council have a view on what the Bohunt Manor site should be used for?

Cllr Mrs James

There was a public meeting and the Chairman of the Recreation Committee would talk about this. Currently for agricultural use. Change of use would be for recreational use only.

55/08.5

Recreation Committee - Cllr Newman

The Committee meet four times during the year, and there is also an annual visit to the Recreation Ground, Radford Park and the Allotments. I take this opportunity to thank all the Councillors on the Committee for their help and support.

Parish Work

In terms of Parish work, this continues to be done by our three dedicated grounds staff managed by the Parish Clerk, Tony Groves. The Recreation

Ground is looking very good at the moment as is Radford Park. The Football Pitch is holding up really well and has benefited from the additional funding allocated last year. I am sorry to report that the Cricket Club are not coming back to the Recreation Ground in the foreseeable future. I think they are awaiting the provision of additional playing fields in the Local Plan which the Parish Council would like to see in the Bohunt Manor area. In October, the Parish Council held an Open Meeting on the use of Bohunt Manor land for sport and recreational purposes. A survey was conducted at the meeting and 80% said they were in agreement with proposals, 16% against, and 4% undecided. The committee will now look at progressing this.

The ground staff continues with the local grass cutting on behalf of the District Council, which is contracted for 9 cuts a year. The Parish Council do another 2 formal cuts and pre-season cuts and extra cuts at the end of the year depending on the weather. In addition the staff cut the grass at Bohunt under contract which helps offset Parish Council expenditure.

The Council have employed a litter picker this year for the Recreation Ground and Village Green between April-September and this has certainly improved the litter situation. We have also put a practice goal post in the Recreation Ground which has been well received and is very popular. The annual work in Radford Park continues and we work closely with Liphook in Bloom who have put up the information signs this year.

Gunns Farm Play Area

It is now up and running following the initiative to reinstate the area.

Allotments

There are 35 plot holders at present and a number on the waiting list. The allotments are looked after by a sub-committee chaired by Councillor Mrs James. The Council are currently working with the District Council to find additional allotments in Liphook, and an East Hants District Council site at Gunns Farm is currently being considered. We are waiting for the District Council to visit the site.

Parish Council Sports Representative

Mr Tony Rudgard continues as our Parish Council Sports representative and keeps the Committee briefed up on all the sporting initiatives and developments in the District. I would add my personal thanks to Tony for what he has done.

Recreation Committee Budget

Budget for 2008/2009 will increase by £6,600 next year. The increase is to cover extra funds for the maintenance of the Recreation Ground and staff costs. Members of the public will notice that the Play Area at the Recreation Ground has recently been repaired.

I would like to thank Peter Terry, Andy Jones, and Rick Bowley for their tremendous work over the last year. They have done a fantastic job and members of the public have commented on that personally to me about this. A plug for Liphook United Football Club. They have reached the final of the

Hampshire Saturday Intermediate Cup, and the match is on Wednesday 30th April at 7:45PM at Hartley Witney.

QUESTIONS.

Mr Jordan

Is the Skate Park facility perceived as being well used and if so what is the maintenance cost incurred each year?

Cllr Newman

Yes it is, and there are initiatives through the Youth Forum to improve and update the facilities at the request of children. This was being looked at, and was ongoing. Could not give you the figure for maintenance but I could at a later date if you contact me. (Discussion on the safety in the area and litter/rubbish)

Dawn Hoskins

Are there any plans to make the Skate Park a safer area?

Cllr Newman

There is continuing dialogue going on with the Youth Forum and police over the safety of children. Always open to suggestions. Rubbish was a common occurrence and we are trying to keep on top of it. (There was discussion over use of the facility, rubbish, safety, and the youth visit to other Skate Parks in the area)

Mr Futcher

There used to be large slide in the area nearest to Malthouse Meadows which was taken down some time ago. Could it go on the Recreation shopping list?

Cllr Newman

Certainly look into that one.

Miss K Clarke

Is there anything being done tackle dog fouling on the Recreation Ground and the Village Green?

Cllr Newman

Something we have looked at, and hard to enforce. (Discussion followed on action that could be taken, enforcement, bins that had been provided, culprits, and involvement of the EHDC Dog Warden)

55/08.6

Parish Council - Cllr J Tough, Chairman

Liphook This last year has been a busy one for the Parish Council. It began with a new council with many new members both elected and co-opted. The new members brought fresh vigour to the Council and involved themselves immediately in its work. I would like to thank all my fellow council members for their support and help during the year and for ably fulfilling their duties as councillors. I would like to thank the Parish Staff for their hard work during the year.

Our grounds staff have kept the recreation areas, the Village Green and Radford Park in a prime condition. We are very fortunate to have these open spaces in the village and to have such an able team to maintain them.

The staff in the Millennium Centre have provided a wonderful service which has undoubtedly contributed to it being busier than ever. While thanking the Millennium Centre staff my thanks must also go to the volunteers who supervise the Centre during the evenings and at weekends.

The Parish Office Staff have kept the show on the road as efficiently as ever. At the front desk our Information Officer, Gina Spencer, continues to deal with enquiries in a most professional but friendly manner particularly on planning matters. In the inner office the Clerk and Assistant Clerk manage the day to day functioning of the Parish Council and its many operations. The Assistant Clerk, Ann Haussauer, is particularly concerned with highway, byway and transport matters and her contacts and knowledge in the field are invaluable. I am always very grateful to her for the efficient and authoritative way she is able to deal with officers and consultants in this field. I would particularly like to thank the Parish Clerk, Tony Groves, for his unstinting support and help over the year, for his guidance, as the legal officer, to myself, other councillors and the Parish Council as a body, and for the sheer amount of work he undertakes for the Council.

I would also like to thank the community for their support during the year and for all the help and assistance that has been given to the Council when required. We must not forget all the organisations and volunteers who give their time freely to the Parish and make it the thriving social community that it is.

The Parish Council has had a very busy year and it has done much in addition to activities reported by Committee Chairmen. The Village Appraisal Working Party has prepared the Parish Survey which is about to be printed and will be distributed to all households in May. It is important that everybody completes and returns the survey forms as the information collected will form a very substantial input to the Parish Plan which we are to hear about from our visiting speakers.

The Heritage Centre Working Party continues to look into the design and requirements of the proposed Heritage Centre and into likely sources of funding. The Heritage Centre is due to be located on the first floor of the Millennium Centre and will provide a home for the Preservation Society's extensive collection of documents and artefacts relating to the history of the Parish. The 'new look' Parish Council Website now contains minutes of all Council, Committee and Working Party meetings together with Agendas. It also contains the Parish Council's Standing Orders and Code of Conduct. The Website carries information about the Millennium Centre and events being held there including the Cinema.

A very useful Police Liaison Forum was held during the year in the Millennium Centre. This has been followed by regular meetings of the Midhurst Road Priority Group attended by representatives from the Police, County Community Safety Team, County and District Youth Teams, Councils and Sainsbury's. The Parish Council has agreed to support the proposal made by the Police for a Dispersal Order around the Midhurst Road area.

The Community Travel Plan for the Retirement Village under construction on the King George V Hospital Site has been studied and commented on. The Parish Council's response stressed that traffic to or from the site must be discouraged from using Hewshott Lane through Hewshott to Hammer Vale and that under no circumstance must this route be taken by the site minibus should it ever be used to access Haslemere.

The Parish Council has been supportive of the Passfield Store and objected very strongly to the closure of the Post Office. The Council is arranging for, and funding, a road sign indicating the Store to be erected at the road side to make it more noticeable to passers by.

I would like to thank you all for attending this Annual Parish Meeting and hope that you will join the Council for refreshments in the Canada Room at the end of the evening.

QUESTIONS

Dawn Hoskins What can the Parish Council do to assist the Passfield Store to receive its grant money?

Cllr S James I am as disappointed as you are over the time this has taken. It has taken some time to confirm the funding for the 61 post offices. I have been talking to officers at HCC and EHDC to move things on. It is a new area for grant funding and all the boxes have to be ticked. I am trying to get it done as soon as possible. (There was discussion over communications and the concern over the shop closing)

Mr Jordan The thanks expressed to the Clerk about his voluntary work at the LMH prompts me to wonder whether there is over reliance on volunteers and should it be accepted that people should be paid in the evening to do that role.

Cllr Tough Something we could consider, and do pay volunteers at the weekend. Do not know that there is a major problem during the week. May consider this at our next meeting.

56/08 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - CLLR S JAMES

EHDC Thank you Mr Chairman. I am delighted to give the report on behalf of your three District Councillors.

It has been another busy year with the renewed inquiry into the proposed South Downs National Park Boundaries; the Whitehill/Bordon Opportunity; the Gales Brewery Regeneration Project in Horndean and the Local Development Framework; to mention just a few of the key issues being addressed.

The Council is heavily engaged in efforts to support the shops which have had their postal services removed by Post Office Ltd. Despite repeated requests PO Ltd refuses to provide the financial data which, allegedly, sustains their decision to close the Passfield PO. Nevertheless the community fights on and I do urge you all to support the shop in any way you can.

We have made an additional £10000 available to each of the four Community Forums for 08/09, so local parish organisations will have a larger grant resource to make applications to at our NE Forums. Last week I was delighted to attend a photo-shoot with Liphook Football Juniors following their successful trip to Malta, which the NE Forum had helped to fund. Staying with the young, a team from Bohunt School performed brilliantly at EHDC's Annual Youth Quiz and it was extremely irritating to lose first place by only half a point.

The budget for 2008/9 was approved recently and, once again, there has been NO increase in EHDC's share of your Council Tax bill. We continue to work to achieve more affordable housing; an improved recycling rate; the elimination of social inequalities; healthier lifestyles and improved recreational provision as well as working with other agencies to reduce anti-social behavior. That concludes the District Report. Thank you Mr Chairman.

QUESTIONS

Mr Futcher

Report in the local paper that Sussex County Council were going to resign from SEERA and not have to pay £31,000 to be eligible to be a member of that quango. Is it possible that HCC would do the same?

Cllr S James

A number of Councils have looked at this. SEERA has great influence on housing numbers for the SE Plan, so there is reluctance to do anything. Councils are unsure of the benefits that membership of the quango brings. Will get more information if you need it.

57/08 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - CLLR S JAMES

Thank you Mr Chairman and good evening Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen. I remain deeply aware of and grateful for the fact that this parish is so well served by its councilors and the parish office staff such that many issues never reach me, as they have been efficiently handled by Tony Groves, Ann Haussauer and Gina Spencer. It is a real pleasure to work with them and I am very appreciative of what they all do.

The East Hampshire HAT (Hampshire Action Team) has set three priorities for its work programme based on the feedback from the listening events which I mentioned last year. The priorities are to address concerns regarding a) rights of way maintenance, b) provision for our youth and c) communications from HCC. Work is underway on all these issues.

During 2008/9, the County Council is planning to spend £1.65 Billion on services for the over 1.25 million Hampshire residents. Apart from schools which are directly funded by Government, the main areas of expenditure are Adult Social Care (£243 million), Children's Services (£146 million), Recreation, Heritage & Other Services (£65million) Highways, Planning & Transport (£62 million) and Waste Management (£48 million). This expenditure, despite £15million of cost savings being identified, requires a 4.5% increase in HCC council tax because we only received a 2% increase in revenue grant support from Government for

08/09 and this will reduce to 1.75% and 1.5% respectively for the following two years; the smallest percentage increase for any county council in England.

Despite these ongoing financial pressures, HCC has been rated “ four star and improving well” in the recent annual Comprehensive Performance Assessment undertaken by the independent Audit Commission and that is no mean achievement.

More locally, I have chaired a number of meetings with representatives from the Junior and Infant Schools, and the County, District and Parish Council to try to address the long-running traffic concerns around the two schools. A number of initiatives are being looked into. The failure to get Passfield accepted into the Village 30 programme was a deep disappointment but road frontage dwellings criteria was simply not met. However I have asked Graham Carter, HCC’s Group Manager for Traffic, to explore other possibilities and Mott Gifford, HCC’s consultants are investigating some speed limit proposals with traffic calming features to achieve a lower speed regime. I will be reporting to the Parish Council as soon as I have further news on this. Remaining in Passfield, I apologise for the on/off situation regarding the footway works. This resulted from a misunderstanding about the consent required for the works. That concludes the report; thank you.

QUESTIONS

Mr Hope Where have the Travel Plans got to and are there any developments?

Cllr S James There is another meeting on 23 April, and a number of suggestions have been suggested. The situation has not gone away and is ongoing (Discussion followed on some of the initiatives and the way ahead)

Dawn Hoskins First I have heard of Passfield not being included in the “Village 30” programme and I am angry about it.

Cllr S James Share your anger, seeking alternative solution, and working on it and trying to solve the problem.

Dawn Hoskins How was there a “misunderstanding” over the work at Passfield, how did it happen and who was responsible?

Cllr S James The National Trust had given consent, but when formal consent was required Natural England became involved. It was not satisfactory.

58/08 PARISH PLANS

Joanna Dixon (Community Action Hampshire) and Chris Paterson (EHDC) gave a presentation entitled “Parish Plans” (presentation notes attached at Appendix 1). This was followed by a question and answer session.

CONCLUSION - This concluded the business of the meeting at 10.10pm.

Confirmed at the meeting held on 28 April 2008

Signed

Chairman