

OLIVERS BATTERY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of Annual Parish Meeting held at St. Marks Church Hall, Olivers Battery Road South, Oliver's Battery on the 1st May 2007. 7-30pm to 10pm.

1. PRESENT

Four members of the Parish Council
Eighteen Parishioners
County Councillor Charlotte Bailey
Winchester City Councillors Brian Collin and David Spender
Richard Nolan – Police Community Support Officer
Sam Godbold – Hampshire County Council Accredited Community Safety Officer.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Mrs Norma Goodwin and Mrs Hilary Cope and two parishioners.

Mr Geoff Sharman, Parish Council Chairman, took the chair.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th May 2006 were distributed to everyone at the meeting and were confirmed and signed as correct.

3. GUEST SPEAKERS – RICHARD NOLAN – POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICER AND SAM GODBOLD – HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICER.

The Chairman introduced the speakers who were from recently introduced services provided by the police and Hampshire County Council.

Richard Nolan (Police community Support Officer) explained the role and authority of Police Community Support Officers who focused on engaging with the community and dealt with low level crime, anti-social behaviour and other minor incidents. Police Community Support Officers can in some instances issue fixed penalty notices and spend most of their time out on patrol on foot or on bicycles showing a visible presence. Oliver's Battery is in an area covered by Police Community Support Officers based at Twyford Police Station and can be contacted on the telephone through the usual 0845 police number or through the 101 telephone number which is available for the purpose of low level crime and anti-social behaviour.

Sam Godbold (Hampshire County Council Accredited Community Safety Officer) stated that as part of the County Council's commitment to building strong and safe communities

Accredited Community Safety Officers provided by the County Council are now patrolling streets to combat low level crime and anti-social behaviour. There are five Officers covering the Winchester area who have a distinctive uniform and vehicles equipped with CCTV to collect evidence. The Officers deal with local issues and target hotspots where anti-social behaviour, vandalism, low level crime and fear of crime is highest. The Officers work closely with the police and local authorities and in connection with some matters can issue fixed penalty notices. The Officers can be contacted through the County Council or through the 101 telephone number.

Both Richard Nolan and Sam Godbold dealt with a number of questions raised by parishioners and the Chairman thanked them for their presentation.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the start of his report the Chairman introduced the members of the Parish Council and County and City Councillors who were present and he then referred to activities of the Parish Council during the past year and some proposals for the year 2007/2008. In 2006 a highlight was the events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the parish and in the coming year the arrangement with Hampshire County Council for the regular grass cutting on the Olivers Battery Ancient Monument Site (Open Space) is to continue. In connection with the recreation ground the Parish Council are developing a programme of improvement aimed at increasing the range of facilities for junior sport and in the meantime and following consultation with a group of young people a set of portable goalposts has been installed. With regard to the unmade section of Compton Way which is classified as a bridleway and is currently in a very rough state it is proposed to carry out work to improve the surface in the near future. There have been a number of positive responses to an article in the "Community News" which referred to the possibility of better community facilities in Oliver's Battery and the Chairman requested parishioners to let him have their views on this matter. A Working Party comprising local residents and some Parish Councillors is still working on the preparation of a Village Design Statement and it is hoped that a final draft of such document will be available for consultation in the near future. The Chairman thanked the members of the Parish Council, the Clerk to the Council and Mr Peter Bugg (part time groundsman at the recreation ground) for all their work on behalf of the parish.

5. PARISH ACCOUNTS

The Clerk presented the Accounts of the Parish Council for the year 2006/2007 comprising an Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Supporting Statement. The Accounts showed an opening credit balance of £27622 – 73 and a closing balance in hand as at the 31st March 2007 of £40162 – 84. Details were given in respect of the income and expenditure over the year including how figures in the Accounts were made up and calculated.

6. REPORTS BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND CITY COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Charlotte Bailey presented a written report (copy in Minute Book) which was distributed to everyone at the meeting. This report referred to the planning application now submitted for the proposed South Winchester Park & Ride facility, various highway issues, a portable speed limit sign which is to be used at Old Kennels Lane, local bus services and the services now being provided by Police Community Support Officers and Accredited Community Safety Officers.

In his written report (copy in Minute Book) City Councillor Brian Collin mentioned the land to the south of the current built up area of Oliver's Battery continuing to be designated as country side, action taken about nuisances emanating from the farm in Port Lane and the proposed extension of the Alcohol Exclusion Zone to include Oliver's Battery. Reference was also made to traffic issues including the possibility of some changes at the Bushfield roundabout and the steps being taken to revive the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the parish.

A written report (copy in Minute Book) was also presented by City Councillor David Spender. This report referred to hard standing having been provided at the bus stop in Sunnydown Road, the improvement of the surface of the pavement along a section of Olivers Battery Road South and the provision of a number of new street nameplates in the parish. David also mentioned his involvement with discussions about local bus services and the monthly City Councillor's surgeries for residents held at Badger Farm Community Centre on the second Monday of each month from 6-30pm to 7-15pm.

7. OTHER PARISH MATTERS

Mr Paul Draper expressed concern about the condition of one of the footpaths on the Ancient Monument Site and it was proposed that a meeting with the Hampshire County Council Site Manager be arranged to discuss this matter.

Parishioners also referred to concern about the future of the Sparks site at the rear of the shops and the continuing traffic problems at the junction of Olivers Battery Road South and Badger Farm Road and it was agreed that these matters should be kept under review.

Mr Morris proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Sharman for his conduct of the meeting.