

MINUTES OF THE **ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY** OF THE ELECTORS OF EVERSLEY
HELD ON **TUESDAY 19th MARCH 2019** AT 8 PM IN **EVERSLEY VILLAGE HALL.**

PRESENT: Cllr Elizabeth Beckett (EPC)
Anne Crampton (HDClIr)
Cllr Shawn Dickens (EPC)
Cllr Edward Dixon (EPC)
Cllr Colin Edge (EPC)
Cllr Sandra Miller (EPC)
Cllr Adrian McNeil (Chairman)
Cllr Kevin Neville (EPC)
Cllr Philip Todd (EPC)
Mr Ormrod and Mr Fortune (CK200)
18 other residents

ALSO PRESENT: Julie Routley (Parish Clerk), David Simpson (HCClIr), PCSO Nick Greenwood
Vicki Westall & Sarah Reghif (Lead Flood Authority, Hampshire CC)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from:

Cllr Colin Edge
Liam Flannagan-Todd
Andrew Renshaw (HDClIr)
Tim Southern (HDClIr)

1. Cllr Adrian McNeil introduced himself as the Chairman of Eversley Parish Council and welcomed all present to the meeting. The Chairman introduced the Eversley Parish Councillors. He extended a particular welcome to Nick Greenwood, PCSO, Vicki Westall and Sarah Reghif from HCC and Graham Fortune from the CK 200 committee who had kindly offered to speak.
2. This was an opportunity to hear what the Parish Council has been doing over the past year, to hear from the District and County councillors and other speakers and to let the Parish Council know what residents' concerns and priorities were for the coming year.
3. The Chairman thanked all the Parish Councillors for the time they give voluntarily to make life in Eversley that little bit better. He also thanked Julie Routley, the Parish Clerk, for the huge range of work she does to support the business of the Parish Council; and to the Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Nick Robins, for his never-ending willingness to help out.
4. The Chairman also thanked the volunteers for doing such a good job during the year – helping by clearing litter, clearing pathways, tidying, and planting in the parks.
5. On a sad note, he reported that Doreen Wallace, EPC's litter picker, died suddenly last October. The Parish would miss the great work she did to keep the roads litter free; but more than that, everyone would miss her cheerfulness, enthusiasm and can-do approach. He would return to litter picking later in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY DATED TUESDAY 13th MARCH 2018

6. The Chairman explained that hard copies of the minutes were available on the night and they could also be found on the website.
7. No errors were reported, and it was **resolved** that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

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REPORTS ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE PARISH IN THE PAST YEAR

Police Report: PCSO Nick Greenwood

8. Eversley remains relatively trouble free and Hart is the safest area in Hampshire. In the last year there had been 3 commercial burglaries. The 'residential' classification of a property now includes sheds and other buildings associated with that property. 'Commercial' burglaries are farms and businesses. There had been 7 thefts of motor vehicles, most often from Wellington Country Park which appeared to have been targeted; 1 theft of a vehicle outside Blackbushe Car Auctions; 5 other thefts, including 2 from the Kingsley Hotel; 7 instances of criminal damage and 7 of antisocial behaviour - 3 of which involved vehicles.
9. "Operation Rebate" was the priority in the last year that had targeted burglaries from commercial properties in Hart. This focus had resulted in a dramatic reduction in burglaries. Much night-time work had been involved, so there had been less police visibility. The incidents in Lower Common were still under investigation by CID. It was thought that these had links to other robberies believed to have been carried out by the same professional group in this and neighbouring areas. CID's view was that Eversley was not being targeted. PCSO Greenwood asked residents to call the following numbers to report, or if they see, anything suspicious.

Hart - Yateley Neighbourhood Policing Team
Hampshire Constabulary
Emergency: 999 | Non-Emergency: 101

Questions put to PCSO Nick Greenwood:

10. Drug Plants near ESA ESA had reported on 3 occasions that drug plants had been dumped on their property. ESA had met the police on site, but nothing had ever been done. On most nights, there were usually 2 or 3 cars parked in this area, the occupants of which were smoking weed. Concern was expressed that 350 children regularly play football at the site. Nick Greenwood said that the police were trying to trace where the plants had come from, but if they were dead, they wouldn't collect them. Lack of resources meant that everything needed to be prioritised; and in the scheme of things, Serious Acquisitive Crime offences came higher. Nevertheless, he would try to make a visit. The resident added that similar drug-related behaviour was also taking place at Chequers Green car park.
11. Lower Common A resident asked if the incidents at Lower Common included Rycroft Stables. Nick Greenwood said that they believed the events were linked. The residents were at home when the incident occurred, but this was rare.
12. Speeding Traffic, A resident asked why the mobile camera could not be positioned in different parts of the village to deter drivers from speeding. Nick Greenwood explained that the cameras could only be sited at locations where a Police camera van could be safely positioned, but asked residents to suggest alternative locations to the Police.
13. CCTV The Chairman said that the Parish Council was debating the use of CCTV surveillance and wondered how effective the Police thought it to be. Nick Greenwood thought CCTV was beneficial in open areas such as parks, where it proved to be a massive deterrent, but was not as effective on the roadside unless it was on a High Street. His view was that Eversley would benefit from CCTV as it would provide another line of enquiry for the Police. But as North Hants was regarded as a safe area by the police, calls for new technology would only be successful in higher priority areas.
14. The Chairman thanked PCSO Nick Greenwood for his contribution and he left the meeting.

15. Vicki Westall and Sarah Reghif introduced themselves and gave background to the work they do. They are part of a small team who, along with HCC's engineers, investigate and take action to mitigate flooding across the whole county.
16. They were aware that Webb's Corner has suffered from surface water for a very long time and were now working with EPC, HDC and HCC to resolve the problem. Crucial work had been completed, including modelling the volume, flow and drainage of surface water in the immediate locality. The strategy was to attenuate water upstream rather than simply create larger ditches and pipes that would lead to flooding further downstream. The plan of work involved creating an attenuation pond on EPC land, repairing headwalls and making sure ditches and pipes were of a suitable size. The defunct headwall on the bend at Lower Common would have to be rebuilt and protected. Work on the road layout itself at the junction was heavily constrained by available resources and by what highways safety would permit. Given the layout of the bend from St Neot's Road into Warbrook Lane, a "T" junction was not possible, so work would consist of resurfacing the road to facilitate drainage of water off the road and strategic placement of kerbs, signs and road markings. It was anticipated that work would start in Sept/Oct 2019.
17. A resident suggested a new ditch be created by the side of the property called Oaklea. Vicki Westall said that this wasn't needed as attenuation would be effective.
18. A Parish Councillor was very concerned that this programme of work was much less than had been anticipated and that it had been announced for the first time that evening without any discussion with, or agreement of, all the interested parties. He commented that permission would have to be sought from the Parish Council before using their land and emphasised that repair and maintenance of culverts should be part of HCC's regular maintenance programme. He reminded HCC of the much more ambitious works for the road junction that had been previously planned and questioned the benefit of the superficial work that that was now envisaged. A resident asked why it had taken 2 years to get to this point. Vicki Westall admitted that it had taken a long time, but explained that many factors had conspired to slow progress.
19. The Chairman said he understood residents' frustration but was glad the project was now moving forward. Nevertheless, in acknowledgement of the comment made by a Parish Councillor, he thought it right that a meeting of the original project group, chaired by Cllr D Simpson, should meet as soon as possible to discuss the proposed plans. He would be happy with the planned work as long as it could be shown to be sufficient to mitigate flooding. He was disappointed that the plan to reconfigure the junction had been abandoned but couldn't emphasise too strongly that the work on the new road surface had to ensure that surface water did not collect on the road itself and that it was essential the whole road surface was raised sufficiently. Vicki Westall said the surface would be raised and gullies would help drain away surface water.
20. A resident asked about culverts and ditches on private land and what the legal position was. Vicki Westall said that HCC had powers under the Land Drainage Act. They could remind riparian owners to keep ditches and culverts clear and had powers to force them to take action.
21. A resident asked if flooding in general in Eversley could be looked at as this was not the only area that suffers. Areas in the village that needed attention included Chequers Lane/Cooper's Hill and the repeatedly flooding footpath on the Reading Road.

The Chairman said he had raised these problems at the Parish Flood Forum and were on a list for HCC to address. Vicki Westall confirmed that, at the Chair's request, she had written to certain landowners to clear their ditches and culverts.

22. A resident commented that Chequers Lane often floods; and another suggested that this was, at least in part, linked with the now closed quarry on Coopers Hill. The site should have been returned to its original state once quarrying was exhausted, but instead had been left bare and thus added to surface water run-off that leads to flooding further down Chequers and Hollybush Lanes. HCC should compel the gravel company to reinstate the land as agreed in their contract.

23. Vicki Westall said that Coopers Hill was the responsibility of minerals and waste at HCC and would check the position with them. Chequers Lane was on her radar and officers had visited 10 days ago. The entire system is to be investigated using CCTV and follow-up action taken. The Chairman commented that it was good that HCC were now accepting this as their responsibility. The matter had also been raised at the Parish Flood Forum and would make sure it remained on HCC's agenda.
24. The Chairman thanked Vicki Westall & Sarah Reghif for their contributions and they left the meeting.

Hampshire County Council Report: Cllr David Simpson (HCC)

25. Cllr Simpson reported the following issues of direct concern to Eversley:

- He had helped in a small way to get a grant contribution for the 200th centenary celebration of Charles Kingsley's birthday.
- He had helped get Inert to clean up, yet again, the mud and grit deposits on the B3272.
- He had persuaded the Director of Environmental Services at HCC to allocate £100,000 for work to mitigate flooding at Webb's Corner and had also got county officers to investigate flooding at Chequers Lane - in particular to investigate, using CCTV, the condition of culverts and drains that run alongside the roadway.
- Money for the A30/A327 roundabout 4th arm was now available, which he expected would be completed early next year – subject to CEMEX taking certain actions.

26. He went on to report the following wider matters:

- Hampshire Fire and Rescue would be merging with the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue once Home Office Approval was given.
- Street lights have been dimmed to save hundreds of thousands of pounds across the county.
- Hampshire would be taking over road parking charges next April 2020 and would tender for a private contractor to take enforcement action. Potentially, this could mean parking meters appearing wherever double yellow lines exist, but he thought this would be in very few locations.
- The County had some £648 million in reserves, all of which was allegedly earmarked. This figure had more than tripled since 2010, so one had to ask when the projects earmarked would be implemented.
- As Hampshire is the most export-intensive county in England, the Local Resilience Forum had been looking at the impact of Brexit. Amongst many other things, a 5km stretch of the A31, between Winchester and Alresford, had been identified to hold 200-300 HGVs on either side.
- A new Leader of HCC would take up post in May when Cllr Roy Perry, the current Leader, steps down.

Questions put to Cllr Simpson:

27. Street Lights A councillor was concerned about the lights going off in Chequers Green Park. David Simpson asked for an email that explained the problem.
28. Parking on zig zags at Charles Kingsley School A councillor was pleased to hear that there would be a private company taking over parking enforcement and hoped it would help with the parking on zig zags outside the school. Cllr Simpson said he hoped it would improve, but that all schools had the same problem at the same times of day, so resources may be an issue and would have to be prioritised.
29. Road maintenance A resident commented that there had been a good response when a manhole cover on the Reading Road popped out, but that many others were loose as there was no routine maintenance. Potholes were a continuing problem. Cllr Simpson said that potholes had become a national crisis. Responsibility for maintenance of manholes was the responsibility of either Thames Water or Hampshire, depending if they were for water or drainage. He asked residents to report problems when they were spotted.

30. Coopers Hill Closed A resident commented about the road being closed and a lot of mud on the road and hoped it would be clear by the weekend to allow access to St Mary's Church. David Simpson said that the road closure was only for a few days. In terms of mud on the road, he noted that, unlike Collards, CEMEX do not have a wheel washing facility.

31. The Chairman thanked Cllr Simpson for his contribution.

Hart District Council Report: Dr Anne Crampton (HDC)

Finances

32. Hart had to plan every year for worst case scenarios without knowing how much money it would get from the Government until December of each year. This year, Hart would receive £2.28m for the new homes bonus and take about £1m revenue from the leisure centres. Although the reserves looked healthy, Hart had voted to raise council tax by 3% because of unexpected events; but even so, this would only bring in an extra £121,000 as a "cushion".

33. Free parking would be debated by the council in March as a part of revitalising high streets in the District.

The Local Plan

34. The inspector's report had arrived in February. The Local Plan was largely sound except for the Winchfield/ Murrell green new town proposal. The inspector's recommendation to remove the Winchfield/ Murrell Green development was accepted and the local plan was expected to be approved and go for final consultation and adoption early in the autumn. A review of the Plan would have to be conducted in up to 5 years' time.

Bramshill

35. The inspector had allowed two appeals for conversion of the main house into either a single dwelling or offices, but refused permission for all other residential elements. Roughly half the occupants currently living on the site were to be allowed occupation and the advice they had been given was that they should contact their landlord for further information. The planning applications relating to potential development on the site would be assessed on their own merits, in light of the inspector's findings.

Traffic

36. Traffic through the village is an increasing problem. Various options had been put forward such as a bypass, traffic calming measures, cameras, rerouting the designated lorry route and so on. Ranil Jayawardena MP will be coming to St. Neots on 26th April at 6pm to discuss this with the residents.

Leisure

37. The Hart Leisure Centre was proving to be quite an investment and was bringing in revenue for the council. Its membership is increasing and attendances are up month on month.

38. Cllr Crampton said she was on the Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board. She chairs the District forum which will be focusing on the wider determinants of health such as housing, employment and education across the eleven districts. Air quality measures were praised by Professor Knight, an expert in climate change, but he felt that the Board should be doing more on the environment as sea levels were set to rise, so that by 2050, Portsmouth and Southampton could be under water. Therefore, the board would be looking at what local measures could be taken, such as

encouraging electric cars and buses by putting in more charging points. Cllr Crampton had also started a gym class for people with dementia and their carers. *Everyone Active* charge £1 per session and these are held from 1pm to 2.30 pm on Fridays.

Waste collection

39. From Hart's point of view, the change of waste collection from Veolia to Serco was going well.
40. There were no questions put to Cllr Crampton and the Chairman thanked her for her contribution.

CK200 Presentation: Graham Fortune

41. Graham Fortune gave a presentation on behalf CK200 - Charles Kingsley Festival 14-15 June 2019



CK Presentation EPC 19 March 2019[28677].pdf

42. CK200 would welcome support from EPC and residents, be that through donations or volunteering. Details of how to support CK200 are on their website, ck200.live. Tickets for the events were available from the website or from the Village Shop. CK200's hope was that this event would interest young people who might then want to celebrate the next major event which would be the bicentenary of Charles Kingsley's death in 2075.

43. Questions put to Graham Fortune:

CK200

44. A resident noted that although Charles Kingsley is buried in Eversley there is not a statute of him as there is in Bideford. The resident also wondered if there would be a fly-past. Mr Fortune said that CK200 were trying to organise a Fly Past.

Parking

45. A resident asked about parking during the Festival. Mr Fortune confirmed that a local landowner was giving his field for parking.

Eversley Parish Council Report: Cllr Adrian McNeil

46. The Chair, Cllr Adrian McNeil gave a résumé of activity last year. There had been two new appointments this year, so EPC now had a full complement of 8 councillors. He extended a warm welcome to Ed Dixon and Elizabeth Beckett.
47. Litter With the death of Doreen Wallace, EPC did not have a Litter Picker. EPC had made do with a combination of volunteers and the Payback Team, but would need to consider if that was sufficient. It would be helpful to have residents' views, in due course, on the need for a dedicated litter picker.

Planning

48. EPC had commented on a fair number of planning applications for individual or small developments in the Parish. It had also made its views known on the more substantial applications; including redevelopment of the Bramshill Estate, Hart's Local Plan and de-registration of part of Common Land at Yateley Common (Blackbushe). EPC had engaged extensively on planning and wished to thank Cllr Philip Todd for all his work on the Bramshill Appeal and attending the Appeal on EPC's behalf.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

49. EPC had explored the possibility of developing its own NP through two residents, Terry Radford and Leone Brown, who kindly volunteered to do the legwork to see if residents thought one was needed. They organised an Open Day, but despite wide publicity, it was clear that residents did not have the appetite for a NP. In light of this, it was decided to put the NP on hold and revisit it if and when sufficient interest was generated. On behalf of EPC, he thanked Terry and Leone for the planning, extensive thought and hard work that both had put into the open day.

Work of Open Spaces Committee (OSC)

50. The Chair made the report on OSC in place of the OSC Chair, Cllr Colin Edge, who was unable to attend the meeting. This is the only standing committee of the Council. It looks after all the green spaces in Eversley including Chequers Green, Up Green, Centre Green, Cross Green and Lower Common. This year, their work has been directed at:

- Regenerating the pond and surrounding Village Green
- Maintaining the play equipment and Village Greens
- Agreeing safety checks with the Grounds Maintenance Contractor
- Approving a maintenance programme for the play areas, including removal of graffiti, cleaning wooden structures and reducing splinter risks for the users.

51. OSC continued to use and direct the Payback Teams to carry out individual projects such as clearing litter and ditches, cutting back fallen trees and hedgerows, and keeping footpaths clear.

52. EPC would like to thank the various groups who gave financial contributions towards the Pond project including: Tesco Bags for Help, Eversley and Bramshill Trust, LOMEC Trust, HDC and S106 developer contributions.

Speedwatch

53. The Speedwatch team, led by Cllr Sandra Miller, have continued to monitor traffic speeds in the village. The team has noted that the volume and average speed of traffic continues to increase. The Chair was working with District and County councillors to find ways of mitigating this growing problem. One positive outcome was that the MP would be meeting residents to discuss the traffic problem at 6pm in the dining Hall of St Neot's school on 26th April.

54. The Speedwatch team operates about once a week but does need more volunteers to keep functioning. The Chair asked residents to consider volunteering or encouraging others to do so.

Finance

55. Finance underpins the work the Parish Council does. The Chairman wished to thank the Clerk for managing the Parish Council's finances so effectively and for getting a clean bill of health from the external auditor for yet another year. The Precept was increased from £77,126 to £78,977 in line with CPI. Given that the new developments in Eversley will begin to contribute next financial year, the effect should be to keep the precept for each household at about the same level. EPC is always trying to get grants from commercial and charitable organisations to supplement what the Parish Council spends so that more projects can be undertaken.

Elections

56. As 2019 is an election year, the Chair asked residents to contact the Clerk or HDC if they were interested in standing for election to the Parish Council.

Questions/points put to the Chair

57. One resident had done some litter picking around the village and collected 32 bags of rubbish and 2 fridges. This suggested there was a need for a Litter Picker!

OTHER PARISH MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Webb's Corner

58. Cllr Todd was confused by the presentation on Webb's corner as he had thought that HCC, HDC and EPC were all members of the decision group; but the officers had said in their presentation that all decisions had been made without EPC being involved. Cllr Todd believed the EPC land earmarked for flood attenuation would only be one seventh of what would be needed. HCC had not said where the rest would be held; and he didn't understand why they didn't intend to install wider pipes. It seemed wrong to suggest that clearing ditches and fixing headwalls would be sufficient.
59. The Chairman agreed that EPC should explain these points to them and suggested that Cllr Simpson convene a meeting for this purpose. EPC would also request a copy of the modelling report.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

60. A resident felt that EPC should raise again the topic of NP. The Chairman pointed out that a NP required enough people to be interested as it had to be resident-led. As pointed out earlier, the lack of interest following the open day meant that it could not be taken forward at the present time. It was noted that the Local Plan had not allocated any sites to Eversley and therefore all applications not in the Local Plan ought to be refused. However, with the possibility of an early review in a couple of years, this could change this so a NP was still a good idea.
61. Hollybush Lane A resident commented that the hedges and bushes along Hollybush lane were overgrown and leaning into the road.
62. Affordable Housing A resident commented that large 5-bedroom houses were being built, when Eversley could do with more affordable housing. The Chairman said EPC fully supported this sentiment – as evidenced by the comments it had made in response to many planning applications. At the last Council meeting, EPC had agreed to start talks with HARA, Hampshire Alliance for Rural Affordable Housing about whether more affordable housing was needed in the Parish. It was explained that this housing would be under an "Exception Policy", which would mean that Affordable housing would be available for those only with a strong link to Eversley. The point was made that, if residents wanted a larger number of small houses, a Neighbourhood Plan would give the Parish a better chance of getting the development it wanted.

Burial Ground

63. A resident commented about the lack of remaining space in the Burial Ground. The Chairman confirmed that discussions about more land had already begun
64. As there were no other matters, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and for giving up their time to attend. He reminded the meeting that all Councillors' contact details were in the Parish Magazine. Everyone would be welcome to attend next Parish Assembly and meetings of the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 10.02pm.

Chairman.....Date.....

Appendix 1

Police Report

Statistical Overview
Mattingley/Heckfield/Eversley
01/01/2019 – 19/03/2019

Acquisitive Crime:

3 x Residential Burglaries
3 x Commercial Burglaries
7 x Theft from Vehicle
1 x Theft of Vehicle (BCA)

Other crime:

5 x Other Theft (2 from Warbrook Hotel)
7 x Criminal Damage

ASB Statistics:

7 x Incidents of ASB (3 x Vehicle Nuisance)

Current Area Priorities:

Operation Rebate, non-dwelling burglaries
TFMV (Theft from Motor Vehicle) (Developing)