

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 10 MARCH 2016

Present:	Mr John Chiverton	Chairman
	Mr David Goldhawk	Vice Chairman
	Mr Terry Mayne	
	Mrs Mary Mansell	
	Mr Ian Foster	
	Mr Ian Fairbrother	
	Mrs Kathy Wheeler	
	Mr Stephen Cooksey	County Councillor
	Mr Clayton Wellman	District Councillor
	Mrs Jan Russell	Clerk

MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 12 March 2015 were approved and signed as being correct at the meeting held on 12 May 2015.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This last year has been relatively straightforward in as much as no major contentious issues were presented to Council. One significant event to occur in the year was the resignation in September of Mrs. Pat Clare as Parish Clerk; however, we have been fortunate to secure the services of Mrs. Jan Russell and it is my pleasant duty formally to welcome her as our new Parish Clerk while, at the same time, recording my and my fellow Councillors' appreciation of Mrs. Clare's hard work during her term of office. I also take this opportunity formally to welcome Mr. Ian Fairbrother who joined us as a Councillor in June.

Of the various matters regularly exercising Council's consideration, that of Planning has perhaps become the most complex. While taking a practical approach to all Applications and a sympathetic view on the demand for additional dwelling accommodation, Councillors have expressed concern both as to over-development of itself and as to the effect of an increase in village population on the concomitant increase in the requirement for car parking.

The problem of parking in the village was discussed at several Council meetings and submissions were made, principally via Mole Valley and Surrey County Cllr. Stephen Cooksey, for consideration regarding parking restrictions (yellow/white lines, etc.) in the interests of safety, particularly at the Warwick Road/Norfolk Road junction.

The Village Hall's well-being is monitored by Council in its capacity of Managing Agents. Bookings are reported to be steady, with the Hall being in use most evenings. The Cottage continues to generate rental income but considerable refurbishment/maintenance has been carried out and is still required; the Village Hall has sufficient funds to cover these costs. Wicksteeds carried out their annual inspection of the Playground and equipment and reported one or two items as being of medium risk, particularly the safety-surfacing under the see-saw. A quotation of £3,463 (plus VAT) to replace the tiles was accepted by Council and Wicksteeds instructed to carry out this work.

Further works have also been carried out at the War Memorial and favourable comment has been voiced on its much improved overall appearance.

With grants from British Heart Foundation, Mole Valley District Council, the Village Hall and Village Club, Council agreed to proceed with the purchase and installation of a Heart Defibrillator at the Village Hall. It is hoped to proceed to the training of members of the public in its use once the equipment is in place.

The Council's financial position remains sound and responsibly managed. No major project costs are envisaged for the forthcoming year; however, with the probability of substantial expense on Playground equipment repair/replacement arising in the not too distant future, it was decided that Council should build up a modest fund (say approx. £5,000) against that contingency. A precept of £11,500 for 2016/17 is to be sought from M.V.D.C. Meantime, our Internal Auditor, Mr. Pat Casey, has resigned from this position and thus a replacement is to be found.

Council has met its duty to assess public risk in the Parish, to maintain a Risk Register and to report issues to the relevant bodies (M.V.D.C., Thames Water, Surrey C.C.); it has also drawn the attention of appropriate bodies to such matters as vandalism at Bus Shelters and the A24 Subway, Waste Bins, Grass-cutting, etc. Council has also supported a petition to Surrey C.C. opposing its plans to start charging for "DIY non-household waste" and to reduce opening hours at Recycling Centres and has supported English Rural Housing Association's application for exemption from the Government's "Right to Buy" policy.

Via a Council website and a half-yearly Newsletter delivered by hand to every household in the village, parishioners are able to keep abreast of the activities summarized above and of local issues generally.

On behalf of Council, I wish to record my appreciation of the attendance at Parish Council meetings and of the help and advice of Mole Valley and Surrey County Councillors and, similarly, of a Police Officer informing us of local crime statistics.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all my fellow Councillors and to our new Parish Clerk for their support and guidance during the year, and particularly to Mrs. Mary Mansell who I know has also greatly helped our new Parish Clerk get to grips with all that that job entails.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no questions.