

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 13 MARCH 2014

Present:	Mr John Chiverton	Chairman
	Mr David Goldhawk	Vice Chairman
	Mr Tim Gamblen	
	Mr Terry Mayne	
	Mrs Mary Mansell	
	Mr Stephen Cooksey	County Councillor
Apologies	Miss Caroline Salmon	District Councillor
	Mr Charlie Hill	

MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held on 15 May 2013 were approved and signed as being correct at the meeting held on 10 July, 2013.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

First of all, may I thank my fellow Councillors for extending to me the privilege of succeeding Mr David Goldhawk as Chairman of the Parish Council. This was a hard act to follow after Mr Goldhawk's many years of meritorious service in that capacity. I must also express my gratitude to Councillors and our Parish Clerk for their support and forbearance during the year, but especially to Mrs Mary Mansell who has frequently lent her experience and knowledge of Village life to help me navigate my way through, for me, the uncharted procedural waters of Chairmanship.

It was with regret that, in July 2013, we received the resignation of Mr Vic Mansell as a Councillor. I should like to record the Council's appreciation of his contribution to the work of the Council over the years, not least his being largely instrumental in securing adoption by English Heritage and a Grade II listing of the War Memorial.

For some years, Council has been concerned as to the deterioration in the condition of the War Memorial. It is therefore with immense satisfaction in this WWI centenary year that, owing to a very generous donation by Mr George Sturt and the obtaining by Mr Stephen Cooksey of a Surrey County Council grant, Council is at last in a position to carry out essential maintenance and upgrade. This will comprise cleaning of the Memorial, repairs to the surrounding path and steps and for complete renewal of the railings. Meanwhile, Mr Terry Mayne, one of our Parish Councillors, is undertaking research into names on the Memorial with a view to his findings being included in our web-site and possibly a booklet.

The Village Hall has also been the subject of deliberation by the Council in its capacity of Managing Agent and we did agree to make a donation of £2,000 towards the cost of maintenance and repairs. Happily, via the good offices of Mr Peter Bray, a Trustee of the Hall, its financial position is much improved; also, the Steward's Cottage now generates regular rental income and Hall bookings have increased. It was comforting to be formally

advised by Mr David Kingham, Chairman of the Hall Trustees, that Parish Councillors would not be liable for loss, damage or personal injury sustained in the Hall unless they had acted unlawfully.

Wicksteed's December inspection/risk assessment of Playground equipment revealed no items deemed to be high-risk but it was decided that Wicksteeds should be asked to carry out their inspection in June rather than December as that would provide a clearer picture of the condition of playground equipment. It was agreed, however, that Council should build up a modest reserve against equipment renewal costs. The broken bench in the playground has recently been demolished and replaced by a new one, free of charge, by Mole Valley District Council.

A number of local Planning Applications have been carefully considered and comments/objections expressed to Mole Valley D.C. and/or Surrey C.C. where appropriate. A noteworthy subject of our objections has been that of Swires Farm's repeated applications to carry out Open Windrow composting at Henfold Lane. More recently, Council has lodged objections to the proposed developments and their impact on Green Belt at Beare Green and North Holmwood.

Council's finances have been responsibly husbanded over the course of the year but anticipated costs in 2014/15 have obliged us to request an increase of £400 in our Precept, to a figure of £12,500. We are grateful to Mole Valley D.C. for their grant towards the cost of maintaining open spaces in the Parish.

The Parish Council endeavours to keep Parishioners informed on local issues, and Council's involvement, by a half-yearly Newsletter distributed to every household and via a new web-site with links to other relevant organizations.

I should like to express thanks to our local Mole Valley D.C. and Surrey C.C. Councillors for their attendances at Parish Council meetings and for their valuable advice and support. Last, but by no means least, the attendance at Council meetings by members of the local Constabulary, informing us of crime statistics and offering knowledgeable advice on crime protection, road safety, etc. is much appreciated.

As a footnote, I would just mention that there is still a vacancy for one Parish Councillor and I'm sure that Mrs Pat Clare, our Parish Clerk, would be delighted to hear of or from any interested applicants.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

There were no questions.

Mrs Mary Mansell thanked John Chiverton for being Chairman this year as it has not been the easiest of years.