

**Minutes of the 36<sup>th</sup> Awbridge Annual Parish Assembly  
held in Awbridge Village Hall, Romsey Road SO51 0HG  
on Thursday, 27th May 2021 at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Seven parishioners

**In attendance:**

Parish Councillors Nick Adams-King,  
Peter Allen, David Coggon, Grahame  
Jackson, Angela Shepherd

**Apologies:**

Parish Councillor Kelly Seymour,  
TVBC Councillor Gordon Bailey, HCC  
Councillor Roy Perry

**Minute taker:** Ian Milsom, Parish  
Council Clerk

**1. Welcome & apologies for absence**

Councillor Grahame Jackson chaired the meeting and ran through the order of the agenda. Apologies received as above.

**2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2019**

Copies were circulated, and it was proposed that the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. **RESOLVED.**

**3. Local issues**

The following issues were raised by parishioners:

- Blocked Culverts. Various locations were mentioned. Blockages causes ground water to spill onto roads. In winter this freezes and creates a hazard to traffic. Responsibility for clearing culverts was discussed and it was agreed that this be checked with Hampshire County Council (HCC).
- Blocked ditch adjacent to Springfield estate. This to be reported to HCC.
- Footpath by Hansards  
A request for a new step was made at the Annual Parish Assembly in 2019. The minutes record that the Lengthsman was to look into. No action seems to have followed.

The Parish Council explained that Hampshire County Council (HCC) would not sanction this due to the poor line of sight when stepping down on to the roadway. However, will ask HCC to look at it again.

- Planning Application - Roke Manor Quarry Extension  
A parishioner representing the concerns of residents who live on the boundary of Awbridge Parish at Salisbury Lane and Salisbury

Road outlined the plans to expand quarry excavations close to their homes. Through noise, dust, and light pollution, this will have considerable adverse impact not just for those living near the site but over a much wider area.

The fields on this site are divided by historic hedgerows with mature oak trees, protected by Tree Protection Orders all of which will be destroyed.

Councillor Nick Adams-King advised that Awbridge Parish Council will be objecting to this planning application. Likely that the other two parishes affected will also object.

Although the public consultation period for this planning application expires on 11 June 2020, comments will be accepted by Hampshire County Council after this date. Members of the public can submit an email objection with reasons, quoting application reference 21/01274/CMAS, site reference TV226, to [planning@hants.gov.uk](mailto:planning@hants.gov.uk)

- Planning application 20/01448/FULLS Proposal of three houses with detached garages and package treatment plant; provide a car park and graveyard extension for All Saints Church.

A parishioner commented on the above application. Church Lane residents have no problems with the aims of All Saints Church. Objections are directed towards the developer. Earlier discussions about this application could have prevented much of the animosity this application has created, and the Parish Council must shoulder some of the blame for this.

Councillor Grahame Jackson responded by briefly outlining the Parish Council's involvement at every stage of the application, and the public discussions of the proposal at a number of meetings of the Parish Council.

- **Parking at Cowleas Cottages**  
Councillor Adams-King advised that after six months of pursuing improvements to parking at Cowleas Cottages, Aster Housing Association have withdrawn support. It is understood that this is due to an issue of prime responsibility, with Aster wishing Hampshire County Council (Highways) to initially approve the scheme.
- **Land at Saunders Lane.**  
Councillor Jackson informed the Assembly of plans for the Parish Council to take responsibility for the maintenance of this area of Highways land. It is proposed that the land be cleared in preparation for planting of shrubs and plants.

#### **4. Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP): Where we are and how you can help.**

Councillor Nick Adams King explained the context of NDPs, how they work, and how they can provide greater protections from unwanted and unsuitable development. Parishes with an NDP are entitled to a greater proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies (25% as opposed to 15%).

Action Hampshire, a county-wide voluntary sector organisation, are about to carry out a housing needs survey in Awbridge on behalf of the Parish Council. Analysis of data from the questionnaire will provide an evidence base of what respondents feel the parish should look like over a timescale of 15-20 years, and their views as to the mix of local housing across tenures, sizes, and affordability.

The Parish Council will engage the services of a specialist consultant to write the Awbridge NDP. This will be at minimal cost to the Parish Council as there are government grants available to support the creation of NDPs. Timescale for completion of the NDP is around two years.

To ensure the widest possible community input to the Awbridge NDP, the Parish Council will look at organisation an event to explain the process and to encourage the formation of focus groups to consider in detail different elements of the plan.

#### **5. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): What is it and how should we spend it?**

Councillor Grahame Jackson explained that CIL is a levy on developers to fund the additional infrastructure requirements resulting from residential and commercial developments. CIL monies are deposited with Test Valley Borough Council, who pass on a percentage to Parish Councils to use on smaller scale improvements to community infrastructure. As mentioned at item 4. Above, Parishes with a NDP receive an increased share of CIL (25% as opposed to 15%).

Councillor Jackson advised that CIL monies paid to the Parish Council had recently been used to part-fund improvements to the sound system at the Village Hall. Planned traffic calming measures around the village will also be funded from CIL.

There was a brief discussion about other uses of Parish Council CIL monies. Improvements to local broadband delivery was raised. It was suggested, however, that there are other more appropriate sources of funding available for this.

#### **6. Reports, followed by questions and answers.**

Councillor Adams-King gave a PowerPoint presentation capturing how Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) had supported communities over the past twelve months and throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. Key points included:

- Foregoing £500,000 in revenue from parking charges to enable people to shop in Romsey for themselves and neighbours.
- Continuation of refuse collection service utilising staff from across the spectrum of TVBC departments.
- Providing shelter for the street homeless during the pandemic and successfully ensuring that no one ended up back on the streets.

Two parishioners present thanked TVBC for all their hard work, and for funding Awbridge District Volunteer Support Group.

A representative from Awbridge Neighbourcare thanked the Parish Council for their financial support.

Wearing his Hampshire County Councillor hat, Councillor Adams-King encouraged parishioners to report potholes to him.

#### **7. The Parish Lengthsman: Use him or lose him**

Councillor Jackson explained the role of the Lengthsman and the types of jobs he can tackle and encouraged parishioners to use this service by contacting the Parish Clerk or any Member of the Council.

#### **8. Summary and close**

Councillor Jackson summed up the evening and called the meeting to a close at 8.50pm