

**A MEETING OF THE ANNUAL ALLBROOK AND NORTH BOYATT PARISH MEETING
WAS HELD ON 27 APRIL 2011
AT OTTERBOURNE VILLAGE HALL AT 7PM**

PRESENT: Councillor Wall (Chairman), Councillor Mrs Symonds, Councillor Smith, Councillor Hawes, Councillor Sollitt, Councillor Cossey and Councillor Calder.

1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN

Councillor Wall welcomed members of public present to the first Annual Parish Meeting for Allbrook and North Boyatt.

Councillor Wall advised that the Annual Parish Meeting was not a Parish Council meeting, but a meeting of the electors of the Parish. Every English Parish must a Parish Meeting by law (Local Government Act 1972, s13(1)).

It was an opportunity for the Parish Council and organisations within the Parish to report on their activities during the year. It was also an opportunity for residents to ask questions and provide feedback to all those groups.

Councillor Wall explained the different levels of local government. In Eastleigh, there were three tiers of local government: Parish, Borough and County Council. Each tier of local government had different roles and responsibilities.

Councillor Wall welcomed the different Parish organisation representatives, PC Knight, County Councillor Thomas and Martyn King, to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apology for inability to attend the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Mrs Evans.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. REPORT FROM THE POLICE

Councillor Wall welcomed PC Knight to the Annual Parish Meeting.

PC Knight, Eastleigh Central Safer Neighbourhood Team, explained the structure of the Police Force and the existence of two PCSO's in the Parish: Kirsty Paice and Mike Higgins.

Current issues noted were the kebab van and the discovery of the cannabis faction, both located on Twyford Road. Overall the crime levels in the Parish were low, but there was a risk of an increase due to the warming weather and lighter nights.

PC Knight informed the Parish that the Police had increased the number of foot patrols in the Parish, especially on green areas. Councillor Calder noted that several members of the public had noticed an increase in Police visibility, which was appreciated. Councillor Wall advised that this presence would increase with the PCSO's, which, as of April 2011, the Parish Council partly funded.

A member of the public informed PC Knight that there was some unsocial behaviour on Torre Close, resulting in rubbish being deposited on the green areas around the close. PC Knight

informed the Parish that he was unaware of the unsocial behaviour problem in Torre Close and advised that incidents need to be reported to the Police. He also encouraged members of the Public to inform the Police of any shops/ bars that sold alcohol to persons under the legal drinking age.

Members thanked PC Knight for attending the Parish Council meeting.

5. REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR WALL

Councillor Wall informed the Parish of the activities of the Parish Council over the last year. The Parish Council was formed on 1st April 2010, holding its first meeting in June 2010. Since then they had adopted a strong structure of standing orders and financial regulations, to assist in the running of the Parish Council.

In November 2010, the Parish Council employed a part time Parish Clerk, Carly Grainger. Councillor Wall encouraged members of the Public to use the Clerk as the first point of contact for the Parish Council. The Parish Council also had a website which provided information regarding the Parish Council, its Councillors and meetings.

Meetings of the Parish Council had been held in a number of different locations inside and outside the Parish. The Council now alternated the venue of their meetings between Otterbourne Village Hall and Crestwood Community School. The Parish Council were always happy to receive alternative suggestion of venue locations. The two scout huts in the Parish were discussed; however the lack of space and dates meant they were unsuitable for Parish Council meetings.

The Parish Council set its 2011/12 budget back in November 2010, with the basis that there was no increase in the precept. Due to special expenses and the formation of the Parish Council, there was actually a small decrease in the overall total of council tax paid by residents of Allbrook and North Boyatt. The Council reiterated its commitment to no increases in the Parish Council precept and continued financial prudence.

Councillor Wall explained the Parish Council's intention of increasing the devolved services and responsibilities from Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC). The Parish Council was in the process of transferring the two Parish allotments from EBC to the Parish Council. Once the Parish Council owned the allotments, the Parish Council would set up a meeting with the allotment representative to discuss the future management of the allotments. It hoped, in time, to also increase the services provided. Councillor Wall noted the Councils reluctance to take on too much too soon, as the Council wanted to provide good quality services which were financially viable.

Councillor Wall reminded the Parish that the Parish Council also had £30,375.85 at its disposable. The money was raised through developers contributions in the Parish. EBC held the money on behalf the Parish Council, however the money had to be spent on particular things, such as the development of children's play areas. The Council planned to assign this money to particular projects in the next financial year. Members of the public were encouraged to suggestion projects for this money.

Councillor Wall reiterated to members of the Public that the Parish Council was not the planning authority, which was the responsibility of EBC and in some circumstances, Hampshire County Council (HCC). Current planning applications were discussed, as well as potential planning applications, such a Nightingale School. Members of the Public were advised that they should express any concerns, during consultation periods.

Councillor Wall concluded that the Parish Council had inevitably taken some time to set up, but was now fully operational. The Council wanted to hear from all parish residents about any issues concerning the Parish. The Parish Clerk was the best point of contact for the Council.

6. REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR THOMAS

Councillor Wall introduced County Councillor Thomas to the Parish meeting. Councillor Thomas was elected as County Councillor in 2009. Since becoming a County Councillor, Councillor Thomas had found it to be a steep learning curve. Councillor Thomas sat on the Audit Scrutiny Panel at HCC.

Councillor Thomas outlined some key facts about HCC. HCC's budget was in excess of £100 million. The funding of the County Council came from a range of sources, but mainly from Council tax, as 90% of council tax funded the County Council, with only 10% going to Borough or District Councils. HCC was responsible for a range of different services, such as education, social services and highways.

Current issues discussed were the improvements to Twyford Road and cuts to the Sure Start centres. The Parish was advised that the Cabinet had agreed a reduction of one third to the funding of Sure Start centres, which equated to £3 million. It was felt that this reduction would permanently alter the existence of Sure Start centres, which would never be the same again. Members of the public raised their concern over the reduction. Councillor Wall noted that the reduction in their funding could lead to more cooperative working between different organisations, such as community schools. Councillor Thomas noted that other County Councils in the country had ring-fenced the funding for Sure Start, and some Councils had even increased their funding (Dorset County Council). Councillor Thomas would provide an update on the status of Sure Start centres for the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council in May.

Councillor Thomas advised the Parish that he was allocated £8,000 grant which he was able to donate to projects or organisations in the area. The money must be used for capital purposes only. He encouraged members of public and the Parish Council to contact him if they would like to discuss this.

Councillor Wall thanked County Councillor Thomas for attending the meeting.

7. REPORT FROM AN ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Councillor Wall welcomed Mr Martyn Park to the meeting. Mr Park was the representative for Broomhill Allotments. Mr Park advised the Parish that he, and other Allotment representatives, were appointed by Eastleigh Borough Council to be a representative. The role was voluntary.

Broomhill Allotments had 105 plots, which were all occupied. There were over 300 people on the waiting list for an allotment plot. The waiting time was approximately 3 years. As well as plants, allotment holders were able to keep chickens and rabbits.

Mr Park advised the Parish that people in Chandlers Ford were eligible for an allotment plot. This had caused some unrest among those with a plot and those on the waiting list.

Councillor Wall advised that the Parish Council was currently in the process of transferring the 2 allotments in the Parish from EBC. Once the Parish Council had ownership, they would arrange a meeting of all allotment representatives to discuss the future running of the allotments. The Parish Council had a firm commitment not to raise prices and to improve the

running of the allotments.

8. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public had no other topics to discuss.

9. DATE OF THE NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

April 2012

10. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 25th May 2011 at 7pm in Crestwood College

The meeting ended at 8.30p.m.

CHAIRMAN