

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ALLBROOK AND NORTH BOYATT
PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 24 APRIL 2013
AT CRESTWOOD SCHOOL
(7:00 pm - 8:20 pm)**

PRESENT: Councillor Wall (Chair); Councillors Betts, Freemantle, Hawes, Sollitt and Symonds

Also in attendance: County Councillor Thomas and PCSO Izzard

1. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Wall welcomed members of the public present to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. He advised that the Annual Parish Meeting was not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting of the electors of the Parish. 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 welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR CHRIS THOMAS

County Councillor was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman and due to having to attend another meeting locally was asked to speak first.

Councillor Thomas advised that the Twyford Road improvements would be started this year after 4 years of consultations by Hampshire County Council. He reported that £400,000 had been found through Developer's Contributions that were to be used to make improvements to slow traffic down and to deter HGV's from using Twyford road. The final details of a planned crossing were also being negotiated with the land owner and this would hopefully be completed in the summer holidays, which was felt to be the least busy time during the year.

Councillor Thomas reported that if there were any issues with potholes that residents should advise him or the Parish Council in order that the County could be informed. He also referred residents to the website www.fixmystreet.co.uk but agreed that this wasn't always available. If street lighting was too bright or too dim they could be turned up or down but residents would need to inform the County Council in order for this to be enabled.

Councillor Thomas advised that mobile libraries had been discontinued and the County tried to shut Eastleigh library on a Monday during an efficiency savings exercise. Due to the Registrar's office being based in the library it was felt that this needed to be available Monday to Saturday.

Eastleigh Museum was now being run by One Community who were based there and the running costs of the museum were being shared between Hampshire County Council and Eastleigh Borough Council. The new arrangement had been working well and had brought more people into the Museum.

The Energy Youth Centre was still open and being used, however funding had been drastically cut. The SureStart Childrens Centre's had also had their funding cut and were only offering statutory services.

A member of the public asked how long it would take the County Council to fill a pothole after they had marked it. There was one on Allbrook Hill that had been marked 2 months ago and nothing had been done to repair it. There was also an issue with a pothole outside the Scout hut and on in Penshurst Way. County Councillor Thomas said that he would email the Highways department at the County to highlight the issues raised by residents. He advised residents that if the County Council had been informed of a problem on the highway residents could claim for damage to their vehicles.

A member of the public asked whether there was any likelihood of the buses being cut in the area. County Councillor Thomas replied that there were issues with buses across the County however the best way to keep the buses going was for people to use them. He advised that Eastleigh Borough Council was the biggest sponsor of subsidised bus routes in the County.

Councillor Symonds whether the Parish Council could be advised of any tickets being issued in the laybys on Allbrook Hill. County Councillor Thomas would email her that information. A member of the public reported that due to the 2 hour waiting zone that had been installed at the layby the parked traffic had now moved to the smaller roads nearby.

Councillor Wall thanked County Councillor Thomas for his attendance at the meeting.

3. REPORT FROM THE POLICE

PCSO Sam Izzard reported that there had been very few incidents to report, however there had been a CD player stolen from a car and a car with no registration plates had made off without payment from a petrol station. There had been one anti-social behaviour incident in Consort Road.

PC Laura Broadhurst who had recently joined the Safer Neighbourhoods Team would attend the next Parish Council meeting.

The Team were currently formulating a plan to deal with the anti-social behaviour plan over the summer months when evenings were lighter and

the weather should be warmer. She advised that in the warmer weather residents needed to ensure their car windows were closed when not in use and to keep sheds locked.

A member of the public asked whether anything could be done about a 7 ½ tonne van that continually parked in an awkward position near to the allotments. PCSO Izzard agreed to investigate the issues and would come back to the Parish Council with any options for moving the vehicle on. The Chairman advised that the Police would only get involved if it was causing an obstruction and that Eastleigh Borough Council would only get involved if any restrictions were being breached.

PCSO Izzard confirmed that the Community Speedwatch team would be patrolling the Pitmore Road area in the next couple of weeks.

Councillor Wall thanked PCSO Izzard for her report.

4. REPORT FROM THE FIRE SERVICE

The Chairman advised that Fire Officer who was due to attend the meeting had given his apologies that day and would hopefully attend a future Parish Council Meeting.

5. REPORT FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL'S CHAIRMAN

The Chairman started by thanking the Parish Councillors for their efforts in the last year. There should be 8 Parish Councillor's but due to some being unable to attend and some choosing to leave there had been two recent co-options. He welcomed the two new Parish Councillors, Councillor Freemantle and Councillor Betts and asked members of the public that if there was anyone else interested in becoming a Parish Councillor to advise the Parish Clerk.

Councillor Wall went on to advise residents of the recent rise in the Borough Council Tax. He advised that the Borough Council were not taking any more money than they did last year, however the way in which special expenses were calculated had resulted in some Parishes paying more and some paying less. Unfortunately Allbrook and North Boyatt were one of the Parishes paying more. At residents request the Chairman had written to the Borough Council and was awaiting a reply. He confirmed that he had asked for a breakdown of the areas that were being maintained and exactly what Allbrook and North Boyatt were being charged for. Once this information was received the Parish Council could investigate the possibility of doing the work themselves to get better value for money. The Chairman advised that he would present the reply to the next Parish Council Meeting.

The Chairman then went on to explain the situation with the Eastleigh Borough Local Plan. Due to the County Council withdrawing a significant area of land for development the Borough Council's Local Plan was being

reworked. A 258 page document was in progress and there would be an opportunity for the Parish to comment throughout the summer. He advised that the Parish Council remained in exactly the position and did not accept light industrial units at the top of Allbrook Hill or 25 houses in Boyatt Lane. He informed residents that the Allbrook Action Group (AAG) were to come forward with a robust plan for the Parish. Councillor Symonds added that there had been the AAG would consult with the Parish Council and residents on the options they came up with. Councillor Wall advised that there were traffic engineers that felt there was no traffic or parking issues on the Allbrook area. Members of the public disagreed with this and felt that there were issues with both traffic and parking. Councillor Wall suggested that the Parish Council would write to the Borough Council to oppose the Local Plan and to support the traffic situation being rectified in the Parish.

6. REPORT FROM THE ALLOTMENT SITE REPRESENTATIVE

David Ward gave the meeting a presentation on the allotments. He advised that a year ago the allotments were transferred from Eastleigh Borough Council to the Parish Council. They were beginning to understand the daily costings and figures involved in running allotments but there were still the unexpected expenses that were unknown. There had been issues with flooding resulting in 5 plots being taken out of use. A contractor had been to the site and dug several test pits and was now convinced that digging trenches would solve the flooding issues. He advised that they would continue to collect data and come back to the next Parish Council Meeting with three tenders. After purchasing a mower for £800 and approximately £200 per year being spent on petrol the Site Representative's now mowed the grass themselves which would be a saving year on year as it used to cost £1600 for 8 mows per year. He reported that a year ago there were 100 people on the waiting list and this was now down to 30 people. This was largely due to the effect of the bad weather last year. On the advice from Eastleigh Borough Council the use of carpets had been banned at allotment sites due to the toxic plastic in them. A successful campaign had taken place and all but two plots had moved the carpets and filled almost two skips. A plot holder's guide had also been produced in the last year and a grant for the use of Photo Voltaic Panels was being investigated by the Allotment Officer.

Councillor Wall thanked David Ward for his report and congratulated him on the success of the allotments to date.

It was also reported that there was to be an Open Day on Sunday 11 August 10:00 am – 4:00 pm all were welcome to attend and refreshments would be available.

A member of the public asked whether the allotments would ever be self-sufficient and asked for the cost of the allotments to the Parish Council to date. The Chairman advised that the allotments would never be self-sufficient as the produce was not sold. It was also a requirement for

Councils to provide allotment sites for residents. The parish Clerk would bring the figures to the next Parish Council Meeting.

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public asked questions throughout the meeting and there were no separate issues to discuss.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 22 May 2013 at 7pm in Crestwood School.

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