

ALLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**29 September 2010****Otterbourne Village Hall, Cranbourne Drive, Otterbourne****(7.00 pm – 8.45 pm)**

PRESENT: Councillor Wall (Chairman); Councillors Hawes, Smith, Mrs Sollitt and Mrs Symonds

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Cossey)

32. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Symonds declared an interest as an allotment holder in agenda item 6 (Broomhill and Lincolns Rise allotments).

33. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following matters were raised in this session:

Play area facilities: Enquiry as to position on request from young local residents for the provision of play area/sports facilities etc on land near Torre Close. Noted that the land is owned by Eastleigh Borough Council who currently have no available funds. However, the Parish Council will consider the proposal in the context of the proposed tour of the parish.

Parish Council publicity: Further reference to need for additional notice boards, particularly in the Boyatt area, and publicity for parish council meeting dates. Noted and agreed. It was also suggested that local parish magazines (e.g. Otterbourne & Allbrook and St Peters) could be used for parish council articles.

Meeting accommodation: Further discussion on lack of meeting facilities in the parish. Otterbourne Village Hall was to be used for the time being but a resident enquired about available facilities at Crestwood School.

Bus services: Repairs to a vandalised bus shelter in Broadlands Avenue were long outstanding. Agreed, Clerk to pursue.

The bus stop opposite The Paddock was obscured by overgrown hedge and in need of cleaning. Resident advised to pursue with Councillor David Airey, EBC portfolio holder for Transport and Streetscene.

Former Rookwood School site: Enquiry about the future of this site. It was noted that a previous development scheme had not progressed following the withdrawal of Government funding. The County Council had agreed not to use the premises other than for its present Eastleigh College use for at least a further three years

Litter facilities: Comment on need for dog bin repairs around Torre Close and requirement for litter bins. Agreed, Parish Council to refer matter to the Eastleigh Local Area Committee.

34. MINUTES

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 August 2010 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

35. MATTERS ARISING

Minute 26 (Children's Play Areas): To be considered as part of the proposed parish tour. However, there were funding issues and the frequent reluctance of residents to accept play areas near their properties.

Minute 28 (Planning Matters): Application F/10/67590 (Land at Saddlers Close) had been refused. Application O/10/67643 (Land adjoining Penarth House, Otterbourne Hill) would be considered by Eastleigh LAC in October.

Minute 30 (Appointment of Permanent Parish Clerk): The appointment had yet to be confirmed but Ms Alix Passey Brown was attending this evening's meeting as an observer.

36. BROOMHILL AND LINCOLNS RISE ALLOTMENTS

Diane Hunter and Martin Dawson from Eastleigh Borough Council presented a report on the administrative arrangements for allotments in the parish. The process for the transfer of legal ownership of the allotments to the Parish Council was now underway.

The report gave details of plot numbers and plot sizes and referred to the waiting lists of two years and seven years for Broomhill and Lincolns Rise respectively. Ms Hunter suggested that, in view of the relatively large capacity at Broomhill, the Council might wish to work closely with Chandler's Ford Parish Council in terms of allocating plots. Members also raised questions on matters relating to insurance, equipment and maintenance.

There was particular concern about the current cost of the service provided by the Borough Council which was only partly offset by limited rental income. It was noted that these costs included Borough Council overheads and that the Parish Council had the opportunity to administer the service itself at lower cost. In this context it was agreed that Ms Hunter would supply details of the allotment representatives to facilitate discussions on future service provision.

Members also noted that the Borough Council had agreed to increase annual rents for all allotments remaining in its ownership from £5/square rod to £8/square rod.

AGREED that no increase be applied at this time in respect of the Broomhill and Lincolns Rise allotments.

37. NAME OF PARISH COUNCIL

Members considered a report of the Interim Parish Clerk on this topic.

The report referred to the request of a local resident for the name of the Council to be changed to reflect the inclusion of the northern part of Boyatt in the parish. Inclusion of this area had not been envisaged when a parish council had originally been proposed. It was noted that, at the request of the Parish Council, the Borough Council could change the parish name at its discretion.

Residents at the meeting commented that there was a higher proportion of properties in Boyatt as opposed to 'Allbrook' which therefore justified a name change. There was also a need to bring the disparate parts of the parish together.

AGREED that a request be made to Eastleigh Borough Council for the name of the parish to be changed to 'Allbrook and North Boyatt'.

38. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

A report of the Interim Clerk referred to the need for a Council publication scheme. The report was accompanied by a model scheme, published by the Information Commissioner's Office, and a Guide to Information showing items of information relevant to this Council.

AGREED that the Council adopts the model scheme set out in appendix 1 to the report and the guide to information set out in appendix 2.

39. MEMBER TRAINING

Further discussion took place on member training which could be provided by County Councillor Chris Thomas.

It was agreed that the focus should be on general training, covering parish council functions/responsibilities and financial matters. The format and content of HALC training events would be a good guide. Training would appropriately be organised as an evening event, lasting no more than two hours, and possibly held at the Borough Council offices. Code of Conduct training could be separately organised by EBC.

It was AGREED that the Chairman would liaise with Councillor Thomas on a suitable training programme.

40. TOUR OF PARISH

The Chairman agreed to arrange a date for a tour of Allbrook parish by Council members.

41. CORRESPONDENCE

Hampshire Association of Local Councils AGM: The Council had been invited to attend the HALC AGM on Saturday 23 October 2010 in Winchester. The meeting would consider proposals for a substantial increase in affiliation fees for 2011/12, particularly if the present grant funding from HCC was withdrawn. AGREED, that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman attend the AGM on the Council's behalf.

Victim Support: Members considered a letter from Victim Support seeking grant aid. It was agreed that the Council required a grant policy before being in a position to grant applications.

AGREED that the Clerk be asked to report on a suitable grant policy for the Council.

Eastleigh and District Association of Parish and Town Councils: The Council had been invited to attend the AGM of this Association on 30 September 2010 in Botley. Regrettably, no member was available to attend.

42. FINANCE MATTERS

Payments: The Clerk tabled a list of cheques drawn on the Council's bank account for various approved expenditure items.

AGREED that the following cheques be endorsed:

Cheque no

001	Hampshire Association of Local Councils <i>Membership fees, 2010/11</i>	£336.00
002	Community First <i>Insurance premium, 2010/11</i>	£273.10
003	Hampshire Association of Local Councils <i>New Councils seminar (one attendee)</i>	£23.50
004	Chandler's Ford Methodist Church <i>Meeting accommodation 18, 19 and 25 August</i>	£108.75

Developers contributions: The Chairman reported that, in conjunction with Councillor Thomas, he would be investigating the availability of section 106 monies applicable to Allbrook from relevant developments in recent years. However, it was unlikely that any significant sums would be available.

43. PLANNING MATTERS

Planning application O/10/67643 (Land adjoining Penarth House, Otterbourne Hill): The developers were organising a further public exhibition on this application and were willing to provide a repeat presentation to the Parish Council. Members were asked to advise the Chairman if a further visit to Knightwood was required.

The Chairman reported that, in the event that planning permission was granted, areas of woodland and open space would be transferred to another party for future maintenance. A commuted sum would need to accompany the transfer before the Parish Council could consider accepting the land.

Pitmore Close development: The Chairman referred to a consultation event being held by First Wessex at Velmore Chapel on Wednesday 13 October 2010, on a proposed re-development scheme to replace sub-standard properties at Pitmore Close.

44. LOCAL POLICING

A member of the public enquired about arrangements for local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). The Chairman reported that there were seven such posts in the former non-parished area of Eastleigh, four in Chandler's Ford and three in Eastleigh. These were part-funded by Eastleigh Borough Council. However, Police funding for the posts was likely to be withdrawn which could result in Allbrook Parish Council being asked for financial support for this service.

It was also noted that there was a need to use the 101 service to report unsociable behaviour and other incidents to the Police in order to have them recorded.

45. MEMBER ROLES

The Chairman suggested that it would be useful for the future operation of the Council if members developed portfolio roles. For example, individual members could adopt responsibility for topics such as planning and allotments etc.