MINUTES OF THE 126TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD

16 MARCH 2021

Councillors Present: Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Lucy Jurd (Chair), Cllr Dave Kinloch, Cllr Ron Nichols, Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr John Shepherd, Cllr Jane Welsh

In attendance:
Dr Nigel Paterson – Kings Community Church
Brett Athow – Operations Manager
Carolyn Badman – Office Manager
Members of the public

PM8 Apologies: Cllr Helen Corben, Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Tonia Craig, Cllr Keith House, Sgt Stuart Jackson

PM9 Retiring Town Council Chairman's Report
Cllr Lucy Jurd welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the housekeeping rules given that we are doing this slightly differently this year since we are online. Normally the Mayor of Eastleigh would be invited to present the awards but given the restrictions and limited awards these will be presented by the Chair.

It has been a privilege to serve the community for two consecutive years. The circumstances were less than desirable but it has been an honour to serve the community especially through this last turbulent year and seeing the community come together to support those who are in less fortunate positions.

There were some highlights to the year including helping Father Christmas with the switch on of the Christmas Lights, an event now forever immortalised on video thanks to the COVID situation and modern technology.

We were unable to hold the usual Remembrance parade in November, however, I was invited to lay the remembrance wreath on behalf of the council.
I'd like to thank the staff and especially Sarah, our town clerk, for the help and support they have given me over the last two years.

PM10 Town Council Financial Report
Cllr Derek Pretty, Chair of Finance and Administration Committee.

Every year the Audited Accounts as presented to you at the Annual Parish Meeting. They represent the financial activities of Hedge End Town Council during the fiscal year ending 31st March 2020.

They show the income and expenditure of the Council and have been subject to scrutiny by our own accountant and auditor, and then presented to independent external auditors for final approval and comment. Approval was received and the certified accounts subsequently presented to, and approved, by Full Council.

They represent the financial activities of this Council throughout the year 2019/2020. They are prepared by the Town Clerk who is the Responsible Financial Officer. These accounts are available on the Hedge End Town Council website.

Sarah joined us at the beginning of 2019. She spent much time going through the accounts to ensure that we were receiving best value for money on goods and services. Also, to make sure that we were invoicing monies that may have been owing to us but which may have been overlooked. This has resulted in several changes to contracts with suppliers of services in particular. We also decided that we would become a paper free council, and this was instigated at the beginning of the year and has proven to be a success.

As you are all aware the Council is responsible for providing a number of services. These include in particular Sports and Playing Fields, Play areas, Community Buildings, Allotments and Cemetery. These can be expensive if not maintained and it is our Operations Manager and his Ground staff that we must thank for making sure that this is done.

The preparation of the recreation areas and playing fields require a lot of care and attention and it was necessary to purchase a new sit-on mower in order to this. This was a significant cost but our equipment is always well maintained and is only replaced when needed to achieve the standards we require.

Traditionally we have always tried to upgrade one of our play areas each year, but we were unable to do this due to some overspend on play areas in the previous year. However, it is important to note that all of our play areas are inspected on a regular basis to make sure that the equipment is always maintained to the highest standards.

Several years ago, we began a programme of additional maintenance of our buildings to ensure that they are kept in good order. This continues to be on-going and works are scheduled to community buildings as and when identified.

In the previous year it had been decided that responsibility for managing The Old School House (HEYCA) building should revert to the Council. This we were happy to accept and after a survey, and support from the HEWEB local area committee, we decided to take a short-term loan to bring the building back to good order which involved overhaul of the roof and for redecoration internally and externally. This has been completed and is a credit to those involved.

The costs mentioned previously were all budgeted for but as always there will always be some expenditure which hadn't been foreseen. These included 2 additional elections and works securing our open spaces against illegal encampments. In particular Greta Park and the Drummond Centre car park.

In conclusion, our Town Clerk and her team continue look at ways to provide local facilities in a more efficient manner, and although we are committing ourselves to a

fewer number of projects, we will continue to review our activities to ensure best value for money.

PM11 HEWEB Local Area Committee Chairs 2019/20 Report
Cllr Cynthia Garton in her third year as Chair of the Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Local Area Committee (LAC) started her report with reference to the Covid Crisis. Paying tribute to the many local people and NHS who have helped others within the HEWEB area. She also expressed her deepest condolences to those that have lost loved ones due to Covid.

Cllr Garton then ran through some of the notable achievements:

Itchen Valley Country park. I Appreciate the tranquillity of the park and have received many messages of thanks for keeping the facility open. Cllr Garton would like to add personal thanks to the staff and to add congratulations to the achievement of the green flag for the 12th year in a row.

Woodhouse Lane, Cllrs voted to approve the construction of 3 grass pitches an artificial sprots pitch and an extension to the facilities. This will accommodate Hedge End Rangers.

Hatch Farm in West End, enjoyed opening the new play area with Cllr Rick McDonald, Chair of West End Parish Council. Consultation on the skate park has commenced.

Wildern Swimming pool roof and spectator seating, the impact inside and outside if stunning and the swimming environment has been enhanced. The community facilities at Wildern School are first class and the activities that have been developed are innovative. The Council enjoys a good working relationship with Wildern Academy Trust and this is important as the trust now overseas three schools within the HEWEB area.

Cllr Garton went on to speak about the Key Partnerships:

CCG Partnerships – would like to thank members of the groups for attending especially since the increased pressure they have been under recently.

Police – regular meetings have been held with Chief Inspector Marcus Cator to discuss local issues.

HEWEB youth partnership, has met recently and a new committee will look at the development plan. The youth committee have been delivering initiatives across the HEWEB area.

HEWEB recently approved funds for Turnpike, Drummond and upgraded facilities in the town centre along with other non-Hedge End projects.

20 new litter bins have been funded as well as street name plates and the flower towers in the village centre.

Boorley park play area consultation, the winning contractor has been appointed and is ready to install the equipment.

Parking sites are prioritised for traffic orders and traffic studies have been commissioned around local schools such as Berrywood and St James.

The committee deals with more than planning applications however it has approved planning applications of the old Homebase and the clubhouse at the Ageas Bowl. Equally it has refused applications such as Sovereign Drive and Precosa Road and land to the south of Maddoxford Lane.

Work could not happen without local partners. Cllr Garton thanked the Area Manager and Assistant Area Manager. The area manager has taken up a new post and from the 1 April 2021 and we will welcome our new area manager.

PM12 Reports from Local Organisations

Dr Nigel Paterson presented a report from Kings Community Church, Kings Church and a full copy is attached.

Cllr Jurd thanked Nigel Patterson for his comprehensive report and noted that it was very good for Hedge End having the KCC.

PM13 Presentations of 'Serving the Community' Awards by the Chair of Council

Cllr Lucy Jurd read the citation for the winning nominee outlining their achievements and the reasons for the nominations of the award. The winner of the award Mike Glenn was earlier presented with a silver salver, chocolates and a gift card.

Mike thanked everyone for the award noting that this was one of the few occasions he was lost for words.

PM14 Public Questions

None recorded.

Cllr John Jupe thanked Cllr Lucy Jurd for everything she has done over the last two years in the difficult circumstances.

There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 19.50 hours.