MINUTES OF THE 129TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD

14 MARCH 2024

Councillors Present: Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Helen Corben, Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr Ron Nichols, Cllr Derek Pretty, Cllr John Shepherd (Chair), Cllr Jane Welsh

In attendance:
Carolyn Badman – Office Manager
Members of the public

PM29 Apologies: Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Cliff Morris, Kitty Budden – Local Area Manager, Nigel Patterson - KCC

PM30 Retiring Town Council Chairman's Report
Cllr John Shepherd welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the housekeeping rules.

Cllr John Shepherd noted that the Chair serves a one-year term with a new Chair elected in May. The year seems to have gone quickly, one of the first roles of chair was to present long service awards to Councillors, a role he was very honoured to do as many Councillors give their time for no payment. I was lucky to participate in Eastleigh Unwrapped at Greta Park which will be returning this year. I also attended the Carnival which although not happening this year we hope it returns next year.

As Chair I lay a wreath at the Remembrance Parade and Service which is always well attended. This year also saw a change to the Christmas lights went exceptionally well on the Co-Op Car Park.

As a council there has been lots of work in Full Council on speeding and working with the Police. Highways and Planning looks at planning applications, although as a consultee in the process. This meeting also reports highways defects including potholes the bane of people's lives. Policy & Resources have been focussing on leases and managing the business as usual of the council. Recreation and Amenities Committee are looking at the future planning of open spaces and more recently the football pitches and land at Berrywood Fields. Thank you to all the chairs of those committees and the work they put in.

Thanks to Sarah and the team for all the work that goes on behind the scenes to make everything happen including making sure the chairs have the right notes for these types of events.

PM31 Town Council Financial Report
Cllr Derek Pretty, Chair of Policy & Resources Committee. The Council has to provide audited accounts for the year, they represent the financial activities and are available on the website. The accounts are examined by an auditor before being presented to external auditors.

During Covid it was particularly difficult as we saw the income reduce to nothing and the Council managed on reserves and grants from Eastleigh Borough Council. This

period meant that the council had to look differently at how it operated and has sought to make efficiencies and be more effective. Thank you to the staff for their continued efforts in delivering the extensive services of the Council and achieving the high standard we aspire to.

Over the last 3 years Hampshire County Council and Eastleigh Borough Council have been working to add additional pitches at Berrywood Fields. The Town Council are working to take these on in the next financial year.

Rising costs are making it difficult to replace or upgrade areas, however it is important to note that all play areas are inspected regularly to ensure the equipment is maintained to the highest standard. Thank you to the clerk and the team to make sure that everything is provided in an efficient manner and although we are committing to a fewer number of projects, we will continue to review our activities to ensure best value for money.

PM32 HEWEB Local Area Committee Chairs 2023/24 Report

Cllr Cynthia Garton as Chair of the Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Local Area Committee (LAC) opened with thanks for the opportunity to share some of the successes over the past year this evening.

Itchen Valley Country Park

The exciting works include upgrades to our trail system, the opening of remembrance avenue through our meadows, which is accessible to all. The new play area on the top field is now open. Further improvements are planned for the spring with the marketplace community building, and new toilet facilities including a Changing Places coming online.

Public Art Vision

In November 2023 HEWEB agreed to commission a public art vision for the area. The installation of a piece of art at Snowdrop Place Care Home in Pavilion Road took place recently. The piece of art is going to be loaned to the Chelsea Flower show in May this year, where approximately 155,000 people will get to the sculpture.

Boorley Park Community Buildings

The two buildings offer different sized spaces for the community to hire. Botley Parish Council are also currently in the process of looking at providing a Youth Club there. For information regarding what's on, or to enquire about hiring facilities, please contact Botley Parish Council.

Community & Youth Grants

The HEWEB LAC were delighted to receive a large number of grant applications this year. Ten applications received funding from HEWEB this year and we also introduced a youth only grant application process and have successfully awarded eight grants, subject to final checks.

Berry Theatre

I attended the Christmas show, Father Christmas adapted from the Raymond Briggs book, at the Berry in December and it was absolutely fantastic, and I know it was well attended by lots of people of all ages, who gave really positive feedback. It has been announced that the Christmas show at The Berry this year will be "Theres a Monster in your Christmas Show" adapted from "Theres a Monster in your Book "by the popular children's author Tom Fletcher who is also a member of the band McFly.

Eastleigh Unwrapped returns to Greta Park in Hedge End again this year. It is a brilliant free event with live open-air theatre provided by a diverse range of theatre companies.

Partnership working

Many of the successes that have been achieved in Hedge End, West End and Botley have been achieved through close working with key partners in the area, particularly Hedge End Town Council, West End Parish Council and Botley Parish Council.

HEWEB Councillors continue to meet with the Integrated Care Board to discuss Local Health Provision and how it can be improved for residents.
I am also really pleased to have forged stronger working relationships with the new Eastleigh District Police Commander Chief Inspector Matt Paling and his colleagues in the police. We have continued to highlight Anti-Social Driving and I was pleased to see the police have just recently carried out Road Traffic Operations in Hedge End.

We are also taking a multi-agency approach to address traffic congestion and irresponsible parking during match days at the Utilita Bowl.

PM33 Reports from Local Organisations

There were no reports from local organisations.

PM34 Presentations of 'Serving the Community' Awards

Cllr John Shepherd read the citations for the nominees outlining their achievements and the reasons for the nominations of the award. The winner of the award Sarah House was presented with a certificate and a gift card of their choice.

Sarah spoke about how she took over the lunch club 8 years ago from the person that had been running it for a number of years and she couldn't do it without all of the volunteers that support the club. It is a real surprise to have won this award.

Cllr John Shepherd read the citations for the Youth Award nominee outlining their achievements and the reasons for the award. The winner of the award Sidnie Killen was presented with a certificate and a gift card of their choice.

PM35 Public Questions

A member of the public asked about the parking situation at Deer Park School, it was noted that the temporary car park could be utilised. The Clerk provided a response that the Highways & Planning Committee objected to the planning application at the time due to lack of car parking places. Hampshire County Council own the land and the Phase 2 works at Botley Bypass will be utilising it as a site facility.

A member of the public asked about the parking in general in Hedge End, noting that most of it was limited to 2 hours or restricted.

Cllr Cynthia Garton pointed out that there is free unlimited parking at the former Budgens Car Park in the village. Cllr Cynthia Garton also reported that since Hampshire County Council took parking enforcement back this has been difficult and was easier to manage when EBC managed it. Cllr Cynthia Garton also spoke about the discussions taking place with the Wildern Management Committee to see if there are options for managing the parking at Deer Park School.

Cllr John Shepherd bought the meeting to a close and thanked everyone for attending and congratulated the award winners for their awards.

There being no further business to transact, the Chair closed the meeting at 19.46 hours.