

OCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Assembly

The Annual Assembly of Ockley Parish Council was held at Ockley Village Hall on Monday 8 May 2017 at 7.30 pm.

Councillors present

Mr R Herbert Chairman
Mr B Thorne
Mr D Thomas
Ms J Page
Mrs L Hogarth
Mrs L Fletcher Clerk

Also present approximately 20 parishioners.

Apologies had been received from:

Mr S Figg, MVDCouncillor V Michael

Mr G Lee-Steere and SCCouncillor H Clack had stated they would be late (but did not arrive for this meeting).

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly.

1. Minutes of meeting held on Monday 9 May 2016

These minutes had been circulated to councillors and had been made available to those present at the meeting. They were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman.

2. Chairman's report 2016/17

The report highlighted the following:

Scott-Broadwood C of E Infant School

There had been major issues regarding the Ockley base of the school. The Governors had put forward a proposal to consolidate the two bases on to the Capel site. A formal consultation had been undertaken. SCC was expected to come to a decision regarding the consultation in May/June. The parish council had objected to this proposal for the following reasons:

- a) the impact it would have on the community of Ockley
- b) it was felt that insufficient marketing of the school had been undertaken
- c) not enough notice of the issues facing the school had been given. Although information had been given four years ago some members of the community were not aware of the issues.

Neighbourhood Development Plan - once again progress continued to be slow

The major reason for this lack of progress was regarding a planning application at Stane Gate, Stane Street. The application had been refused - an appeal submitted. A public inquiry was to be held on 23 May. No affordable housing had been included within the proposed development - if it had been then the parish council may well have supported the application. Until a decision had been taken regarding this development then the plan cannot be taken forward. On a positive note discussions had been held with a number of landowners in the village regarding housing.

Affordable Housing Development at the Village Hall

There were issues regarding the affordability of the buildings for this development.

Revised proposals were being drawn up for discussion with the Parish Council before going back to MVDC.

Car park at Ockley station

The planning application had been approved for 30 parking spaces on the east side of Station Approach. There was a delay with progress as an easement regarding access was awaited from Network Rail.

Footpath on the Green

This was to be re-surfaced later this month - getting rid of the ruts and bumps.

Drainage on the Green

A number of meetings had been held with councillors, SCC, Southern Water. Issues had been identified and are to be resolved.

Thanks to:

- a) fellow parish councillors and clerk for all the time that they had given to parish council matters during the year. And - many thanks to the Chairman, Richard Herbert.
- b) Speedwatch team who were out during the summer 2016
- c) village green maintenance team led by Ant Broadbent
- d) Ockley Society for all the events that they bring to the village

3. Question time

4. Any other business

The Chairman (RH) opened the meeting to all:

footpath on the Green - W Goddard asked whether consideration had been given to lengthening the footpath so that it went further up to the village hall.

RH replied that this had been discussed but it had been decided that it was safer to cross the A29 where the footpath currently finished.

BT 'phone box by The Inn on the Green - C Gurney asked that this 'phone box be removed. It was currently not in a good state (smelly, displaying inappropriate notices). I Spruce stated that last year she had complained to BT about the state of the box and it had been tidied up. It was noted that the two BT 'phones in the village were currently under review.

The Clerk was to contact BT to ask whether the box could be removed / tidied up.

footpath from the garage towards the centre of the village - C Gurney stated that it was not safe to walk along the footpath on the east side of the A29 as the hedge was encroaching on to it. The Clerk was asked to contact the owners of the hedge to ask if it could be cut back.

area of rough ground in the area of the Old Hatch property - C Gurney reported that this area was increasingly being used as a car park - some cars being left for periods of time.

GL-S/JL-S would be informed.

VannFest 2017 - a number of parishioners expressed their concern with regards to the proposed event - noise levels, number of people attending the event, access. RH stated that it would have been useful to have heard about issues arising during the previous event.

Notification of the proposed 2017 event had been given in the newspaper and signs posted in the vicinity of the event. The parish council had not been individually notified. MVDC is required to take government legislation into account when decisions are made.

Representations had had to be submitted to MVDC by 5 May 2017 (the parish council had submitted a representation). The application would be discussed by the MVDC Licensing Committee.

stiles - W Goddard stated that she had contacted SCC regarding repairs to a stile on the footpath between properties Belmont and Cleveland (by the Old Bakery). She had been informed that this was the responsibility of the landowner. The Clerk was to contact SCC to

enquire as to how this should be followed up. It was noted that the SCC Countryside Access Team's budget was limited.

footpath on Elmers Road leading to the A29 - D Dendy reported that this footpath could not be used as the adjacent hedge (The Laurels) had become very overgrown. Pedestrians had to use the grass verge which was not appropriate for those with pushchairs or for all during wet weather. The Clerk was to contact the owner of the hedge to ask that it be cut right back.

village of Ockley - C Gurney expressed concerns about the state of the village. She felt that it was no longer a thriving village, there was no village atmosphere compared to other villages in the area. Pubs had closed, there were issues with the school, church, sports clubs were struggling.

RH agreed with these comments and said that the Neighbourhood Development Plan was trying to help with these issues.

A general discussion followed with the following points being raised:

- a) there were things happening in the village - often events were not supported
- b) perhaps popular events could be extended and additional sessions held at different times
- c) events were advertised in the parish magazine but not all parishioners got the magazine
- d) communication therefore should be through other channels as well
- e) if events / activities didn't appeal to parishioners then other groups could always be set up
- f) activities on The Green, Ockley Society events, were always popular and brought people together
- g) it was agreed that there was 'a summer of opportunity' for people to get together to get the community together, keep the village alive, new initiatives could get people together.

RH stated that the parish council would have a discussion about these concerns but that all villagers would have to play a part to restore a village atmosphere.

It was noted that a meeting was to be held on 18 May 2017 regarding the future of the village school.

The Chairman closed the Annual Assembly for 2017 at 8.20 pm.