

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Chidham and Hambrook Parish held in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 24th April, 2014**

Mr. Cliff Archer, the Chairman of the Parish Council, took the Chair. He welcomed the parishioners, and introduced members of the Parish Council and the District and County Councillors. The minutes of the previous year's Annual Parish Meeting, held on 25th April, 2013, copies of which had been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

The Chairman then reported on the work and activities of the Parish Council during the year. It had been a busy year in the Parish, with fifty three planning applications, seven of which were major applications, having to be considered and comments forwarded to the District Council. The Parish Council provided representatives to attend meetings of the Chichester District Association of Local Councils, the District Council's Bournes Forum and the Friends of Maybush Copse.

The Parish Council had constructed a Parking Area outside the Churchyard, repaired the Hamstead Meadow fence and reinstated an arterial ditch after a major bank collapsed. Parish Council Newsletters had been distributed to all homes in the Parish, including that part of Southbourne Parish that had newly joined Chidham & Hambrook Parish. The Chairman thanked the Newsletter's editor, Councillor Collins. The new part of the Parish had brought 20 street lights under the care of the Parish. During the year, the Parish Council had also used its access to the District Council's New Homes Bonus fund to help the Village Hall Committee build a new Terrace and install double-glazed French Doors and windows on the Hall's south elevation. Speed Indicator Devices were planned for Broad Road.

Councillor Danni Novell had resigned during the previous year and the Chairman thanked her for her work on behalf of the Parish Council. He also welcomed two new Parish Councillors, Ina Littlefield and Barry Leighton, who had been co-opted during the year. The Parish Council had purchased the red BT Telephone Box located outside the Old Post Office and had decided to appoint a Parish Ditch Warden. The Parish Council Precept for 2014/2015 was £25,000, compared with that of £15,000 for 2013/2014.

Councillor Collins gave details of the Neighbourhood Plan which was being drawn up by a Working Group of 14 people, comprising some parishioners and some Parish Councillors. Work on the Plan had been delayed by the boundary change, but had now started. A Government grant of £7,000 had been received to cover some of the costs of the Plan. 70% of the survey forms sent out had been returned and the data received was being analysed to produce the first draft Plan. Once a draft Plan has been produced, seen and agreed by parishioners, it will be submitted to the District Council, before being examined by an Inspector.

Councillor Leighton spoke about the boundary change which involved transferring 229 properties in Nutbourne East from Southbourne Parish to Chidham & Hambrook Parish. A bench will be placed in Maybush Copse to commemorate this long-awaited transfer.

The Chairman gave details of the steps being taken to improve the drainage on the Chidham peninsula. One major item was to increase the size and number of culverts draining water from the catchpond. This would not eliminate all the problems but, combined with ongoing ditch clearance work, would reduce them. Application is being made for grants from WSCC's Operation Watershed fund to cover some of the costs.

Mr. Stephen Johnson gave details of the activities and much hard work by many people at Maybush Copse to transform it into a "country park" compared with the waste ground it had been previously.

Mr. Jason Lemm, our Police Community Support Officer, was unable to attend but had reported that there was a low level of crime in the Parish. There had been 10 minor incidents in the last 12 months, the most serious being the discovery of a cannabis factory.

Mr. Myles Cullen, one of our two District Councillors, said that the past year had been a challenging and testing one, because of the cuts, and he warned that there were more to come. He spoke of the new District Plan which had been approved by the full District Council for submission to the Inspector. Financial support had been given to victims of the flooding in various parts of the District. He spoke of the problems caused by gypsies and travellers occupying sites unlawfully, and of meetings with Government Ministers about those problems and what action the Police could or should be making.

Ms. Sandra James, the County Councillor, thanked all the volunteers for their efforts. She was trying to persuade the District Council to give more recognition to Neighbourhood Plans so that they carried greater weight when countering planning applications. She recognised that huge savings were required by both County and District Councils, but these should not be at the expense of services.

The visiting speaker, Mr. Richard Austin, ~~the~~ Chichester Harbour AONB Manager, spoke about the Harbour Management Plan and the ongoing challenges facing the Conservancy, ranging from the increasing number of boats seeking moorings to the worsening quality of the water in the harbour. He was thanked by the Chairman for his interesting and informative talk.

Mr. Archer thanked the County Councillor, the District Councillors, Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their support and efforts throughout the year. He then thanked the parishioners for their attendance at the evening's meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.21 p.m.

Chairman  
23rd April, 2015