

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL
OTTERBOURNE VILLAGE HALL – 19 MARCH 2013 AT 7.30 PM**

2093

Present: Cllrs Jones (Chair); Acton; Doherty; Stansbury; Barton-Briddon; Kelly

In attendance: County Cllr Charlotte Bailey; District Cllr Jan Warwick; Mrs P Wrightson;
Mr R Emery; Mrs K Mantell; Dr K Smith; PCSO Michelle Wilkinson;
Mr Jeremy Higgins (Pro Vision); Clerk

1. **Declaration of Interest:** None received

2. **Correspondence:** Folder passed to members for circulation during the month.

3. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Reeves; Cllr Stirrup; District Cllr Mike Southgate.

4. **Minutes of the Meeting**

To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 15 January 2013

Minutes previously distributed to all Councillors. Proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Barton-Briddon, seconded Cllr Doherty and approved for signing by the Chair.

To approve the Minutes of the Finance Meeting 11 February 2013

Minutes previously distributed to all Councillors. Proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Kelly, seconded Cllr Doherty and approved for signing by the Chair.

5. **Action Points and Matters arising on the Minutes and not discussed elsewhere**

All matters had been actioned or would be discussed during the meeting.

6. **Police Report**

A report had been prepared by PCSO Michelle Wilkinson. There had been 7 incidents arising from 15/01/13 to 19/03/13: five reports of suspicious behaviour; one report of anti-social behaviour; one report of theft of lead from St Matthew's Church roof.

7. **Elderfield Report**

A report had not been received.

To email the Project Manager for a report to forward to all Councillors	Clerk	16 April
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8. **Potential new housing Development – to receive initial presentation by ProVision**

The new WCC Local Plan policies MTRA3 and CP4 enabled development on exception sites outside of the village boundary subject to community support. The site proposed comprised a field of 1 hectare (2.5 acres) to the east of Main Road owned by the Lovegrove family. It was hoped a new highway off Coles Mede roundabout would provide access to minimize loss in the tree line. 20 dwellings were proposed of which 70% would be affordable housing as either rental or shared ownership. The density would be approx. 30 dwellings per hectare, similar to the remainder of the village, comprising 2-storey dwellings, probably six detached properties with the remainder semi-detached or terrace. One acre of the land would be made available for community use. Initial proposals were for more open space play area at the centre of the village or to create additional allotments. Further suggestions for use would be welcomed. Investigation into the Roman Road would be made as part of the development scheme. There was no timescale. Mr Higgins thanked the Parish Council for receiving his presentation. The Chair advised the proposal would be examined further and a survey undertaken in order to determine if it received community support.

To examine taking the proposal to the village in a survey	Cllr Acton	
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9. Open Session for Parishioners

A note was made about the amount of litter on Kiln Lane as the litter pick had ended at the village boundary. Also that discarded drink cans were still being found within the village.

To request further litter pick of Kiln Lane and also Poles Lane and Otterbourne Hill west side	Cllr Jones	16 April
To take forward a litter pick of the village by Elderfield residents	Cllr Acton	16 April

10. County Councillor's Report

As Attached. Matters of note:

Old Churchyard: Cllr Stansbury reported there was concern that the current access allowed potential misuse by bikes as the previous barrier and hedge had been removed.

Drains: Cllr Jones requested help from Cllr Bailey in following-up with a request to complete drains not attended to.

To email Peter Eade advising problem at Churchyard and requesting some form of new barrier to prevent access by bikes.	Cllr Jones	16 April
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11. District Councillor's Report

As attached. Matters of note:

Local Plan Part 2: the WCC consultation was open until August. There were no target levels of housing for MTRA3 areas, but it could be worthwhile responding in order to reinforce the Parish Council's position. Cllr Acton advised there was concern regarding potential for alteration of the settlement boundaries and developments added to LP1 by the Independent Inspector. Cllr Warwick offered support in attending a meeting with OPC and WCC if wanted.

To respond to WCC reinforcing the Parish Council's position regarding settlement boundary and development.	Cllr Acton	16 April
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12. Report of Representatives to Various Bodies

Allotments

The theft of some greenhouse glass and compost had been reported to the police. The waiting list for the allotments was approx. 24 of which two-thirds were Otterbourne residents.

Otterbourne residents received priority listing.

Neighbourhood Watch

A January meeting had been held. More co-ordinators were required. An email would be sent to the Clerk with the specific areas needed for mention in the parish news.

Conservation Group

A number of trees had been planted in the Churchyard. There was no further action to report on the Sponder's Mede project. The ongoing dumping of garden waste onto land adjoining Sponder's Mede by some of the residents of Cranbourne Drive had been reported again. It was advised that the Cranbury Estate had agreed to the Parish Council contacting residents.

To issue a letter to those residents concerned, requesting that the practice ceases and the area be cleared of any previously dumped matter.	Clerk	16 April
General cutting-back of vegetation within property boundaries in the village: To re-draft follow-up cutting back letter and make mention in Parish News.	Clerk	16 April

Sparrowgrove and Oakwood Copse Conservation Trust (SOCCT)

Cllr Doherty had agreed to be the Parish Council's representative. Proposed by Cllr Acton, seconded Cllr Barton-Bridson and approved by Council.

Airport matters

A report on the Airport Consultative Committee Meeting 21/12/12 had been received from Dr Keith Smith, representative to the Winchester Air Group. Several members from the Eastleigh district which was covered by the current 106 agreement had spoken against the need for a separate Winchester district agreement. It was possible for Winchester to take this forward with the Airport and reach separate agreement outside of the Consultative Committee and this would be discussed with the Portfolio holder for WCC. The next meeting was in April when a further update would be made. Dr Smith was thanked for his efforts and report.

13. Report of the Finance and Administration Committeea) Parish Accounts and Cheques for Payment

As attached.

b) End of Year Forecast – to receive budget forecast to 31/03/2013

An end of year analysis had been copied to all Councillors. Total expenditure was currently within budget, but could finish at +1% over budget. This allowed for c/f of £2500 for the youth facilities project and £800 from the Jubilee fund. Total income was -1% under anticipated income, but £1450 available from reserves had not been drawn. A different layout of the accounts for presentation at the Annual Assembly would be examined.

To finalize accounts and draft for approval by the Finance Committee	Clerk	6 April
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c) S137 Donation to Sparrowgrove and Oakwood Copse Conservation Trust (SOCCT)

£400 had been set aside in the 2012/13 Precept as a donation to spend on tools. Proposed by Cllr Kelly, seconded Cllr Jones and approved by Council.

To issue with accompanying letter	Clerk	6 April
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d) Governing Documents

Item 3 of the Finance Minutes 11 February 2013 refers.

The documents had been copied to all Councillors for review with recommendation by the Committee for adoption.

- i) Code of Conduct: Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Kelly and approved for adoption.
- ii) Standing Orders: Proposed by Cllr Jones, seconded Cllr Kelly and approved for adoption.
- iii) Financial Regulations: Proposed Cllr Kelly, seconded Cllr Jones and approved for adoption.
- iv) Publication Scheme: Proposed by Cllr Kelly, seconded Cllr Jones and approved for adoption.

To email to webmaster for updating on the website	Clerk	6 April
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e) Investment of Parish Funds

Item 4 of the Finance Minutes 11 February 2013 refers.

i) Annual Investment Strategy: The document had been copied to all Councillors for review with recommendation by the Committee for adoption. Proposed by Cllr Kelly, seconded Cllr Jones and approved for adoption.

To email to webmaster for placing on the website	Clerk	6 April
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ii) to approve investment of £25,000 on 12 month deposit and balance of £11,532 on 3 month deposit in a Co-operative Guaranteed Investment account at next maturity date.
It was considered the 3 month amount would be sufficient to cover unexpected emergencies.
Proposed by Cllr Kelly, seconded Cllr Jones and approved by Council.

To re-invest at next maturity date	Clerk	25 April
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f) External Audit

Item 9 of the Finance Minutes 11 February 2013 refers.

The Committee had reviewed all requirements to approve Section 2 Statements 2-9 of the Annual Return at end of year with recommendation for full Council approval.

To Agenda for April PC meeting after completion of the Annual Return	Clerk	11 April
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14. Report of the Recreation and Amenities Committee

a) Oakwood Park Recreation Ground

i) Maintenance Contract – Proposal to approve annual maintenance contract with OCS Cannon. Item 7 of the Finance Minutes 11 February 2013 refers. Proposed by Cllr Acton, seconded Cllr Jones and approved by Council commencing 1/4/2013.

To instruct and inform contractors accordingly	Clerk	asap
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ii) Play Park and Youth Facilities – report on play gate accident and annual inspection.

An accident had occurred to a child involving the rebound of the gate when pushed open at speed. It had been confirmed that the gate conformed to current national standards and was operating correctly within guidance limits. Nonetheless, it was important the Parish Council responded appropriately: new signs had been placed on the gates advising parents to supervise children through the gates. The gate suppliers and manufacturers had been asked for advice to help reduce the risk of injury. It was hoped additional padding to the main vertical bar could be added and as no commercial product was available a DIY solution had been installed.

The annual independent inspection for the play area was carried out at the end of February and the inspectors report was awaited.

Ratification of expenditure of £80 plus VAT for the signs to the play park gates:

Proposed by Cllr Doherty, seconded Cllr Barton-Briddon and approved.

iii) Football pitch and Pavilion – to discuss condition of ground and pavilion maintenance.

The poor state of the training area had been noted and discussed with the Club. They had rolled the area and assessed it as adequate for a once weekly training session for the remainder of March. Due to bad weather, a backlog of matches existed and would require at least one evening match per week until end of season. Various maintenance tasks on the pavilion had been noted would be addressed in the next financial budget. The Club had requested any work to be undertaken out of season in June. Works to be completed by the Handyman included leveling the slabs to the rear and painting yellow lines around the ramps. The HR barrier had been returned with new markings and painting would be completed soon.

iv) WCC Open Space Strategy and introduction of new Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) – to agree proposals for use of funds for submission to WCC and Compton & Shawford PC.

The Open Space fund would be closing with the introduction of the CiL in December 2013 and funds would need spending before April 2015. Council agreed to submit the following list of proposed projects to WCC for completion within the current Open Space strategy: Play: Youth Facility redevelopment as priority. Play/Sport: outdoor table-tennis table, outdoor fitness equipment, Boules court. Sport: Elderfield cricket pitch legal and professional fees. Council agreed to submit the

Youth Facilities project to Compton & Shawford PC for potential help with funding which they might consider. A preliminary cost had been obtained for this project subject to further quotes and amendment of specification.

To submit Open Space Strategy proposals to WCC	Clerk	16 April
To submit Youth Facilities project to C&S for consideration	Clerk	asap

v) Hedge work at entrance – to discuss and approve work proposed by resident No 29 Oakwood Avenue on the corner of the recreation ground had requested to cut back the trees adjoining his property and to plant a Hawthorn tree in replacement. Council agreed subject to: the trees for cutting being clearly marked and approved beforehand; the trees being removed to ground surface level with no stumps remaining; the trees to the side of the property in the gap between the HR barrier and fence to remain; the work and replacement tree to be at the owner's expense and liability.

To draft letter to owners of No 29 advising agreed terms	Clerk	16 April
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vi) Application for use of ground – to approve use by the PCC on 30 June 2013
St Matthew's Church had submitted an application for use as similar event to 2012. Council approved use as per application with request that local businesses be given as much notice as possible regarding the short disruption of access to Main Road.

To confirm to PCC: Dick Oldham	Clerk	16 April
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vii) PCSO penalty notices for dog fouling offences (additional item)
The PCSO had confirmed that a ticket with accompanying fine could be issued to any dog owners who did not clear-up after their dog from a public place. Council agreed this as an additional measure for controlling the problem.

To follow up with HCC for tickets to be available to PCSO	Clerk	16 April
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b) Common – update on Red Lane parking, bund, damage and refuse collection
The new sign was in position. Cllrs Jones and Stirrup had met with residents and a new collection point for refuse bins had been agreed with the three occupied residences commencing 4 March. A request to HCC had been made to deposit more hoggin on the lane when available. The bund reinstatement had been agreed by Biffa and a meeting re. bund damage on Chapel Ln.

To follow up again with Biffa on bund reinstatement and meeting	Clerk	16 April
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c) Open Spaces Areas

i) Maintenance Contract – Proposal to approve annual maintenance contract with Taurus. Item 7 of the Finance Minutes 11 February 2013 refers. Proposed by Cllr Barton-Briddon, seconded Cllr Jones and approved by Council commencing 1/4/2013.

To instruct and inform contractors accordingly	Clerk	asap
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ii) Tree/Hedge Work – *Proposal for expenditure of up to £240 for removing dead Oak branch.*
The branch overhang the footpath and presented risk. Three quotations had been received. Instruction of Davis Tree Care proposed by Cllr Acton, seconded Cllr Kelly and approved.

– Proposal for expenditure of up to £385 for work to Kickabout hedge

It was understood reduction of the hedge had never taken place. It was extending into the grounds of the neighbouring property. Three quotations would be reviewed. Some urgency was required prior to the bird nesting season. Proposed by Cllr Acton, seconded Cllr Jones and approved by Council.

To instruct and inform contractors accordingly	Clerk	asap
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iii) Greenacres Drive – update on transfer of land to WCC and access form Oakwood Park. WCC had confirmed that the transfer of ownership had been agreed and was awaiting the legal work to be completed to formalize the position on the land. The position of the originally planned footpath linking to the recreation ground was under investigation. A site meeting with Southern Water had taken place and the Surveyor was checking the Land Register. Some residents of the properties backing onto the SW field had expressed objection to a footpath and had queried the intended position of it.

To report to Council on investigation by SW and way forward	Cllr Acton	16 April
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d) Elderfield Cricket Pitch - update on completion of planning permission for Kiln Lane access. Planning permission had been granted by WCC subject to an agreed tree protection plan and Highways detail for the entrance. The Cricket Club was progressing quotes for the tree protection plan and aimed to have proposals completed by end of March.

To progress with Cricket Club	Cllr Acton	16 April
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e) Street Amenities – request c/f of £170 into 2013/14 budget for bus shelter and notice board. Proposed by Cllr Acton, seconded Cllr Jones and approved by Council

To c/f to 2013/14 budget for works	Clerk	6 April
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15. Report of the Planning and Highways Committee

a) Applications and Decisions – as attached.

Case No 13/00208/TPO: No comment

To submit comment to WCC	Clerk	asap
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b) Local Plan Part 2

Cllr Acton advised that in order to respond to LP2 a survey of the village would be advisable. There were two options: use of free software which would be restricted in what it could cover and results obtained; use of software on a year's license for a more sophisticated survey encompassing examination of a greater number of topics pertaining to the village at cost of £230. A grant would be explored to cover this cost. Council agreed the cost of £230 would be worthwhile. Response to WCC LP2 was required by August 2013.

To take forward survey using the £230 software	Cllr Acton	
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c) Land between Meadowcroft Cl and Greenacres Dr – update on meeting with land owner.

Cllr Jones attended the meeting and agreed status of land as privately ownership. The land owner advised a number of Pine trees were unstable and needed removal. It was agreed the Parish Council would not object to future application to remove the leaning trees.

d) Laurel hedge and land – report on ownership of land and to discuss options for hedge.

The land on which the hedge stood, plus the remainder of the Cranbourne Drive opens spaces

land was unregistered. A letter had been sent to the Cranbury Estate requesting transfer of **2099** the land. Regardless of ownership, the land was the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain. The hedge was not part of the original planting scheme and could be removed as there was a small wall and fence behind it. This would enable better access to treat any remaining Knotweed. The area could be grassed or planted with something less fast growing.

To liaise with Rose Cottage regarding removal of hedge and Knotweed problem and advise Clerk regarding instruction.	Cllr Acton Cllr Jones	16 April
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e) Main Road Crossing Point – report on meeting with HCC to examine options. Cllr Jones attended a meeting on 5/2/2013 with Damian Walsh of Hampshire Highways and County Cllr Bailey. It was agreed the crossing point should be opposite the footpath leading from Meadowcroft Close. A central island was not feasible due to the turning requirements for HGVs entering Williams Garage forecourt. Should this change in the future, an alternative arrangement would be considered. A compromise solution was explored resulting in a proposal for a dropped curb with four bollards marking the crossing point.

To forward with HCC	Cllr Jones	
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f) Highways

Blocked drains – Cllr Bailey had been asked for help with follow-up. Southern Water had advised they had cleared the drains at Sponder’s Mede.
 Motorway resurfacing – Steve Brine MP had advised the south Winchester length of motorway was not scheduled for work until 2020/2022 which would be the earliest for consideration of a low-noise surface. The Parish Council had confirmed its support for this project.
 War Memorial – the working party had met three times and was currently awaiting quotes for cleaning the monument and improving landscaping.
 Lengthsman Scheme – HCC had confirmed the scheme would be continuing for a second year.

To progress War Memorial works with working party	Cllr Jones	
To work with HCC as shared Lead Parish or handover to another Parish	Clerk	16 April

16. Risk Assessment and Management

Community Emergency Plan – It was agreed the Annual Assembly Newsletter would request information on any potential new volunteers or services to be added to the Plan. The current Individual Volunteers would be checked to ensure current status.
 No other items reported.

To contact residents regarding confirmation of current status within the plan	Cllr Jones	21 May
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17. Any other business from Councillors

i) The Church Warden had reported that the PCC had secured funding from Viridor Credits to complete the fund required for renovation of St Matthew’s Church turret.

To contact Warden and establish need for the Parish Council S137 donation	Cllr Jones	16 April
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ii) Request for Annual Assembly newsletter reports

To email Councillors with Annual Assembly newsletter report request	Clerk	asap
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18. Date of next meeting: 16 April 2013 at 6.30 pm in the Bianchi Room of the Village Hall followed by the Annual Assembly at 7.30 pm

Report of the Finance Committee 19 March 2013

a) <u>Parish Accounts stand as follows</u>	£	£
	Current Statement Balance	Last Statement
Lloyds TSB Treasurers	11,140.81	12,082.87
Co-operative Bank Current Account	0.60	0.60
Co-operative Investment a/c 12 mth to 26/04/13 @ 2.156%	15,000.00	15,000.00
Co-operative Investment a/c 3 mth to 25/04/13 @ 0.593%	<u>20,596.32</u>	<u>20,462.13</u>
Total Balance	46,737.73	47,545.60

Interim Cheques for payment 19 February 2013 from Lloyds TSB Treasurer's Account

2698	Mrs M Gaines – bus shelters January	106.98
2699	Mrs J Ayre – salary January	715.94
2700	Mrs J Ayre – office and travel expenses January	81.90
2701	Petty Cash	<u>50.00</u>
		954.82

Cheques for payment 19 March 2013 from Lloyds TSB Treasurer's Account

2702	Mrs M Gaines – bus shelters February	106.98
2703	Mrs J Ayre – salary February	715.94
2704	Mrs J Ayre – office and travel expenses February, Land Registry Fee	83.30
2705	HCC – play park gate signs	45.60
2706	HMRC – tax and NI for employer and employee Jan/Feb/Mar	156.90
2707	Taurus Garden Services – maintenance Cranbourne Drive October	140.00
2708	Cllr W Jones – Chairman's Allowance	<u>23.00</u>
		1271.72

Interim Cheques for payment 31 March 2013 from Lloyds TSB Treasurer's Account

2709	Mrs M Gaines – bus shelters March and April	213.96
2710	WCC – dog bins Oct-Dec	295.00
2711	SOCCT – S137 donation	400.00
2712	Cllr W Jones – expenses	<u>41.86</u>
		950.82

Planning Matters February 2013

Applications and Closing Dates for Comment

Case No. 13/00046/FUL 22 February	St Mary's, Main Road, Otterbourne New vehicular access (Resubmission) Objection on grounds of traffic safety and disruption to roots of a mature tree with TPO
Case No. 13/00037/FUL 8 March	Hilbre, Park Lane, Otterbourne Demolition of existing garage; two storey side extension and second storey rear and side extension; new dormer window and roof lights. No comment

Decisions

Case No. 12/02531/FUL	Hecton Farm House, Main Road, Otterbourne Workshop and two bay car port. Application refused.
Case No. 12/02580/FUL	6 Waterworks Road, Otterbourne Single storey rear extension Application withdrawn
Case No. 12/02427/LIS	Otterbourne Manor, Kiln Lane, Otterbourne Waterproofing the basement; replacement of windows on the south side of the property and the basement Application permitted.

Planning Matters for Consideration 19 March 2013

Applications and WCC Closing Dates for Comment

Case No. 13/00208/TPO	2Oakwood Close, Otterbourne Sequoia – crown lift to 3 m and remove large south limb. Red Cedar – crown lift to 3 m
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Decisions

Case No. 12/02594/FUL	44 Cranbourne Drive, Otterbourne Single storey rear extension. Application permitted
Case No. 13/00046/FUL	St Mary's, Main Road, Otterbourne New vehicular access (resubmission) Application refused
Case No. 12/02434/TPO	Arnage, Norlands Drive, Otterbourne 1 no Lime Fell Application refused
Case No. 13/00005/TPO	Arnage, Norlands Drive, Otterbourne 3 no Limes Fell Application refused

Appeals

Case No. 12/01551/FUL	30 Coles Mede, Otterbourne Two storey extension over existing garage and study
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Report to Otterbourne Parish Council from County Councillor Charlotte Bailey 2013-03-19

Highways

There has been another sweep of Main Road to try to clear most of the mud and grit brought down the hill by the rain. Many of the drains still need clearing out again.

Kiln Lane entrance to Churchyard

There is a meeting in April between the Highway Authority and the landowner to discuss the finer details of work to remove the walls and to reinstate the verge. Once that is agreed a contractor will be employed to do the work with as little disruption as possible.

The Meadow Room Project

I am looking forward to the grand opening of the Meadow Room project tomorrow at Otterbourne School. This has been a mammoth task and I was particularly pleased to provide funding for the storytellers chair and for the stained glass window which the children designed.

Lengthsman Project

The Lengthsman pilot project has been very popular and the recommendation to continue for my parishes in the Downlands division and in fact to extend it to other parish areas has been approved by the Executive member. The Parish Council will continue to have some control over getting small jobs done in the area.

Hockley Cycle and Pedestrian Path

The grand opening of the Hockley link to the National Cycle Path scheme took place on Tuesday 26th February and the cycle cavalcade was led by Danni King our Hampshire gold medalist. It is already proving popular with walkers and cyclists. The County will be carrying out surveys on use to see if a controlled crossing can be put in at the Bushfield roundabout.

Have Your Say Grant Fund

A new grant is available for any grassroots community group, including schools and churches, to help improve the local environment and strengthen the community. Grants will be for up to £1,000. Once all the applications are in they will be advertised on the WACA (Winchester Area Community Action) website so that everyone can vote for their preferred projects. Winchester County Councillors hope that this will encourage more participation and allow smaller groups or even individuals to progress good ideas. The deadline for applying is March 25th and details are at www.waca.org.uk/haveyoursay

Honour a Promise Appeal

The Upper Itchen Valley Society has been working towards erecting interpretation boards at the site of the First World War Morn Hill transit camp which supported millions of servicemen on their way to the Front. They also wish to have a stone memorial in central Winchester. Their funds have been boosted by £6,000 from HCC and £3,000 from WCC.

The 'Big Switch'

The County Council is working with other local authorities across Hampshire to set up a 'collective energy switching service' which will enable gas and electricity consumers in the county to combine their purchasing power and get a better deal on their bills. If two per cent of the 760,000 households in Hampshire sign up this would give a combined purchasing power of just over 15,000 customers, enabling the negotiation of greater discounts on their behalf. Clearly, the more people who sign up, the more negotiating power HCC will have. Customers could save in the region of £60 to £200 on their energy bills by participation in collective switching which will be of particular benefit to those in fuel poverty. More details about the scheme and how people can register will be announced at the beginning of April 2013.

Winchester District Councillors Report
Otterbourne Parish Council meeting 19.03.13

Hockley Viaduct - The official opening ceremony took place on the 26th February. This started at the Guildhall followed by a long procession of cyclists led by Olympic Cyclist Dani King closely followed by children from Compton All Saints School. Councillor Southgate as Winchester's Cycling Champion joined the ceremony and the ceremonial ride linking the City Centre with the South Park and Ride. It is an excellent example of co-operation between a number of organisations, the City and Hampshire Councils, Sustrans, and The Friends of Hockley Viaduct. The next challenge is some form of traffic control at the Bushfield Roundabout and the route through Compton and Otterbourne.

Cycle News - Winchester City Council has organised a Bike Event for 23rd June. This will include a procession across the Hockley Viaduct finishing at the Park and Ride where it is hoped various events will be available. Following on the success of the Olympic Cycling the Council is looking into the use of the South Park and Ride on a Sunday for some form of cycle circuit training. A new cycle map is currently being produced for Winchester Town centre, colour coded to highlight easier from more difficult rides.

Council Tax - At the Council Meeting on the 21st February a zero increase for Council tax was agreed for the 2013/14 year. This has been achieved without significantly reducing core services whilst largely maintaining grants to essential voluntary groups in our area. The challenge going forwards is how to maintain low increases once the Government completely withdraws its current 1% support". At the same meeting the Council also approved the Council House Support Grant details as previously circulated.

Helping the Local economy - The City Council recently organised a well-attended seminar for local businesses and entrepreneurs. The purpose was to raise the profile and attractiveness of Winchester as a business opportunity to support commerce, visitors and jobs.

Barton Farm - The City Council has established a Barton Farm Forum to ensure the development is to the highest possible quality and the necessary support infrastructure is provided including roads, footpaths and cycle ways for both new and existing residents.

Local Plan Part 1 Winchester City Council's Local Plan Part 1 has been found 'sound' by a Government Planning Inspector one of only a handful across the country since the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework in March 2012. This is the long term strategic plan for development within Winchester District, and includes the strategic vision, objectives and the key policies needed to achieve sustainable development in the Winchester District to 2031. It identifies the amount of development, broad locations for change, growth and protection, including allocating strategic sites. This followed several years of preparation with extensive participation and public consultation, including the award-winning "Blueprint" exercise. As previously reported we are now moving into the detail of part 2 of the local plan.

Winchester in Bloom - is part of the national initiative to brighten up communities with floral displays. It is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers in conjunction with Winchester City Council. Historically, the annual competition has centred on businesses and residents of just the Town but this year there is a proposal for each parish to run its own "**Parish in Bloom**" competition with the winners in each category going through to the district final. At the moment the City Council is trying to gauge interest and would like to hear from any parishes who would like to participate. <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/planning/winchester-in-bloom>

District Councillors Jan Warwick and Mike Southgate 18.03.2013.