

**REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
17 JANUARY 2006**

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the Meeting.

A reply had been received from HM Probation Inspectorate who will be conducting the Independent Inquiry into the case of Mr Anthony Rice. This stated that the Inquiry would be concentrating on the supervision of Mr Rice rather than on the general use of Elderfield. A Public Report will be available when completed. Cllr Warne confirmed the importance to continue following-up for full response. Radio 4 had expressed an interest in the case to be included in a programme in the context of Lifers and Re-offenders. A response had been received from the Hampshire Constabulary to a request under the Freedom of Information Act, however the information was exempt from public view.

Cllr Zebedee had attended a briefing on the results of the pilot scheme for alternative refuse, recycling and garden waste collection service. There had been a 37% response to the resident's survey questionnaire and a 79% satisfaction rate with the new arrangements. It was felt that concerns regarding flies could be addressed by more effective wrapping of some items. WCC will be initiating the programme District wide during 2006 which will arrive in Otterbourne around October. Green garden waste bags will still be free for the first one issued. The use of these had significantly increased the rate of recycling in the pilot area.

Reported crime was still low for the area. A point of note was neighbourhood awareness and the reporting of strangers behaving suspiciously. Clear descriptions or car registration details are needed for the police to deal with these effectively. The village has been part of an area wide vandalism campaign. The bus shelters at Old Deeds and Otterbourne Hill and the BT phone box at Otterbourne Hill have all had glass panels broken. The litter bin in Cranbourne Drive car park has also been vandalised. CCTV to particular sites in the village is being considered and costs are being examined.

County Cllr Charlotte Bailey was examining the information gathering process for the proposed Park and Ride scheme to ensure that requirements were properly assessed and the end results met best possible outcome for road users, local communities and the environmental aspect. Public consultation with Parish Councils and local people will occur later in the year by newsletters, information campaigns and a website.

Regarding highways, the maintenance of Park Lane is being examined and various potholes, badly fitting drains and concerns with areas of the newly surfaced Oakwood Avenue have been reported. Problems relating to crossing Main Road at the Poles Lane bus shelter were discussed. Highways will be asked to examine the possibility of moving the island refuge when improvements are made to the Poles Lane roundabout.

Plans to relocate Winchester Library into temporary premises while building work on the new library gets underway have been finalised. The Jewry Street Library will close at

5 pm on **Saturday 18 February 2006**. A temporary library service will be run from **Capital House** on the corner of Andover Road, opening on **Monday 20 March 2006**. The Reference Library and Local Studies collection on North Walls will remain open for business as usual. Books out over the closure period may be retained without fine or returned to any Hampshire library.

District Councillor Murray Macmillan reported on changes to the free bus travel and concessionary travel schemes. From 1<sup>st</sup> April free bus passes for off peak travel on busses countywide in Hampshire will be available for qualifying residents. A letter regarding the arrangements has been sent to all concessionary travel users.

A site meeting during the hours of 5.30–6.30 pm had taken place at Boyatt Lane. The conclusion by the HCC Road Safety Officer was that parked cars in this area were acting as a traffic calming measure and effectively reducing traffic speed. Drivers were within the required speed limits and generally proceeding with good caution. A reassessment would be made if the unofficial car park on the Common is closed. Cllr Warne confirmed that a meeting is to be arranged with WCC to discuss this aspect further.

The conifer hedge of No 2 Hilltop Cottages was discussed and Councillors heard the concerns of the owner regarding the unsightly face that would be presented if it was cut back to any further degree. Although now under a twice-yearly maintenance contract it was felt that the hedge had encroached too far over the pavement and restricted the width for access, in particular for pushchairs and wheelchairs. Councillors confirmed their opinion that the hedge should be cut back to the boundary wall and various options for reducing the visual effect of this were proposed. An easement letter giving vehicular access to the front of the property was discussed. This had been issued prior to the 2000 Commons Act and was not lawful.

Regarding Oakwood Park recreation ground, the new Lease had been received from Southern Water and was signed. The new annual rental proposal for Otterbourne Sports Club was agreed and the new Licence will be sent to the Club for signature. The stanchions in the car park are still being followed-up for removal as is the climbing frame with the insurance company.

Mrs J Ayre, Clerk  
20 January 2006

## **REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 21 FEBRUARY 2006**

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the meeting. Following the resignation of Cllr Wilkins the position had been filled by Mr R Oldham who had been co-opted onto the Council.

The Probation Inspectorate inquiry on Elderfield had not yet been published. The 'File on 4' broadcast examining re-offending had given good coverage of the Otterbourne incident.

WCC believed it might be possible to seek a Deed of Variation to permit limited parking on the unofficial car-park on the Common. Further response is awaited. 2004 estimates for the parking-bay proposal on Boyatt Lane were reported as engineering works £31,000 and relocation of services about £20,000.

Council confirmed that cutting back the hedge of No 2 Hilltop Cottages to a height of 6'6" would be acceptable. HCC would be asked to check whether the road sign, partly obscured by the hedge, needs to be moved to the nearby lamp post.

SUSTRANS had advised negotiations were taking place with Southern Water regarding the cycle path route. Work has already started on the Common for this.

Several complaints had been received about persons drinking alcohol and taking drugs at the bench in Sponders Mede. The possibility of removing the bench seat for a limited period would be examined. It was not possible to link the proposed new Williams Garage CCTV with either the Parish Hall or Recreation Ground.

A report advised that the Parish Council would be contacted in May regarding exhibitions and information on the proposed new Park and Ride scheme. The planning application will be around September and will go to WCC Planning Committee before final decision by HCC Regulatory Committee. The importance of looking at the local impact of where the Park and Ride should be sited was stated. The south/west quadrant of the roundabout would be very evident and plans were being drawn up to consider the old Tarmac site. Regarding Highways, Park Lane road surface had been repaired; a stronger repair to the drain at the bottom of Otterbourne Hill had been requested and the clearance of the Poles Lane culverts and ditches was almost complete. A meeting is being arranged with HCC to discuss difficulties in crossing the road at the Poles Lane roundabout and opposite Williams garage.

WCC is currently consulting on its draft Local Biodiversity Action Plan which is being considered by the Conservation Group

The Village Hall pantomime had been very successful. The Committee wished to fund two table/bench units for use in the Open Space area behind the Hall and the Parish Council was examining costs for funding two more. Clearance of the area opposite St Matthew's Church had started in preparation for a restricted-use car park to alleviate parking problems.

The BAA Southampton Airport trials are soon to be concluded in March 2006 and a number of residents had been approached to find out their views on the trials and new routings. A letter giving a statement of established views and facts would be sent to BAA.

The climbing frame in the children's playground had been repaired. Council is still trying to gain removal of the final stanchions in the car park. The renewal of the Lease with Southern Water for Oakwood Park Recreation Ground has been concluded. No response has yet been received from Otterbourne Sports Club regarding the new Licence. An informal meeting had been attended to discuss the Sports Club's proposals for changes to the Recreation Ground but no new proposals had come forward to change the current situation. The renewal of the insurance for the Bill Harris pavilion was agreed. Winchester City Council would be engaged to inspect the children's playground.

The precept for the next financial year was agreed with an increase of 3.02%. The cost of replacing damaged wooden bollards protecting the Common was increasing and alternative means would be examined. Recent acts of vandalism within the village had given rise to several unexpected and wasteful costs including replacement glass side panels for two bus shelters, removal of graffiti, replacement of a litter bin and damage to the climbing frame in the children's playground.

## REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 21 MARCH 2006

The Probation Inspectorate inquiry into the case of Anthony Rice was still awaited and Cllr Warne advised he would follow-up in order to report at the April Annual Assembly.

Seven crime offences had been reported during the previous month. Of particular concern were two dwelling burglaries within the retirement bungalows and one robbery involving theft of a handbag from a pedestrian by the occupant of a waiting vehicle. A presentation by Hampshire Constabulary had been attended where Parish Councils were briefed on the forthcoming changes in policing the local area from 1 April 2006. Twyford Police Station would remain with cover from 8 am – 1 am (2 am on Fridays and Saturdays), but with reduced officer numbers. Hampshire Constabulary appeared to be the victim of its own success in that crime figures had been comparatively low for the County and the number of officers allocated had been reduced accordingly.

Notification of a briefing to Parish Councils regarding the new Park and Ride scheme in the vicinity of Junction 11 of the M3 had been received. A site meeting had been attended by a HCC Traffic Engineer in order to discuss the crossing on Main Road by Poles Lane bus shelter. Two versions of plans are being drawn up by HCC : the first low cost involving moving the crossing point further away from the roundabout and using road markings to increase awareness ; the second higher cost involving the above and also increasing the angle of the bend from Poles Lane to slow traffic. The roundabout had been resurfaced in tarmac to cover the broken granite sets and a white line had been requested to circle the area. The possibility of a 30 mph sign to be painted on Main Road after the roundabout in the southern direction would be investigated.

It was reported that the Southampton Airport Noise Preferred Routing Trials had been extended for a further 6 months to October 2006 but there had not been any significant publicity to announce this. A meeting between BAA and the northern Parish Councils would be requested to discuss the trials further.

Two queries from parishioners regarding the new 'Free over 60 's bus travel scheme from April 2006' had been received. WCC had responded that the scheme would cover travel to and from Southampton and Portsmouth but not travel within the Southampton City area, for example Shirley to Sholing, Bassett to Northam etc. Also the WCC scheme would only cover 9 am – midnight travel. The scheme aimed at improving access to essential services, but it varied from city to city depending on levels of funding received.

The future of Shawford Railway Station was of concern. A shortlist of six operators had been drawn up to run the service which included the Shawford line. It was feared the new franchises would favour the more major routes. The possibility of using Walcon's car park was being examined in order to make Shawford more favourable and in particular to relieve the pressure at Winchester Station. Representation had been made by Shawford Rail Users Group. The Conservation Group had advised Andrew Walmsley, a local historian, of work being undertaken in the village and an article will be published in the June

issue of the Hampshire Magazine. Working parties on Sponders Mede have been arranged from April-August. The Old Barn at the Church Yard, Kiln Lane has been demolished. The village footpath map has been checked and funding for a notice board is being sought. It was feared brushwood left from coppicing in Oakwood Copse would prevent the bluebells from flowering. The AGM would take place 10 May in the Bianchi Room.

The cycle path extension at the top of Otterbourne Hill and on to Thornden School was well underway. The brick bus shelter on the Common had been demolished unexpectedly in order to accommodate this. EBC had agreed the purchase of a new wooden 2-bay shelter and, in order to reinstate this as soon as possible, the shelter on order for Poles Lane had been diverted for use there. Installation will take place immediately after the final tarmac lay of the cycle path. A new bus shelter has been ordered by the Parish Council for Poles Lane. New wooden bollards will also be installed to bridge the gap on the Common left by the old shelter. A formal application for Compulsory Purchase had not yet been received for the strip of Common land north of Boyatt Lane to Penarth House. Cllr Warne agreed to approach EBC to examine the possibility of negotiating purchase prior to this.

The Big Lottery Fund was discussed and it was agreed that this should be applied for when refurbishment of the children's play area at Oakwood Park Recreation Ground takes place, however there was a considerable amount of work to be undertaken first in order to present a good bid. It was agreed that in the interim the Parish Council would work with St Matthew's Church in order to see if funding could be obtained for the special events car park and disabled toilet facilities for the community room. A bid could also be considered for a Boules Court in partnership with the Village Hall Committee at a later date.

The new Lease from Southern Water for Oakwood Park Recreation Ground had been finalised. No further agreement had been reached with Otterbourne Sports Club with regard to the new Licence and rental proposal. Failing agreement or a counter-proposal the matter will be put to arbitration.

The HCC budget for 2006/07 had been set at 4.7% increase due to shortfalls in external funding. A £1.5m increase had been given to Adult Services and a £250,000 increase to the Public transport budget. Schools have also had a substantial increase. WCC budget for 2006/07 had been set at 4.9% increase. Otterbourne Parish Council had been set at 3.02% increase. The glass panels to the two vandalised bus shelters had finally been replaced. Two picnic benches for the Village Hall were agreed from the Parish and four more would be provided by OVHC and the Dyslexia School. The date for the Annual Assembly was agreed for 18 April at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall following the Parish Council Meeting which would commence at 6.30 pm.

Mrs J Ayre, Clerk  
21 March 2006

## **REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18 APRIL 2006**

Chairman Michael Warne advised that the publication of the report on the Probation Inspectorate inquiry into Anthony Rice was imminent and he had given an interview with a reporter from The Guardian. Reported crime for the period was low. The unofficial 'bike track' on Otterbourne Hill by the Reservoir was causing concern as it had developed in size and the number of users had increased. Damage to tree roots was occurring and Cllr Warne agreed to investigate and request HCC Youth Workers to visit.

Cllr Warne had attended the WCC Park and Ride briefing and together with Councillors from Compton and Shawford had stated a preference for the former Tarmac site. HCC had put forward the site off Badger Farm roundabout as the preferred option. A full assessment of both sites and explanation as to why HCC preferred the roundabout site was requested in order to satisfy the community.

Cllr Macmillan had contacted BAA Southampton Airport to arrange the meeting with Parish Councils from the northern villages and it was agreed that Cllr Smith would make a presentation on behalf of the Council. A response to the Parish Council's letter to BAA had been received and clarification on several issues would be addressed at the forthcoming meeting. A meeting with WCC Environmental Team Leader on the BAA Technical Working Group had also been arranged.

Cllrs Warne and Creagh had attended the AGM of the Allotments Association and advised that there was some doubt about the installation of the proposed new toilet. EBC was unable to justify the expense and a decision would be taken soon. The Allotments Association had raised £100 towards deer fencing and a request for assistance from the Parish Council would be placed on the next Agenda.

Following a spell of better weather work had recommenced on the youth facilities site to finish the base for the new equipment. A proposed date for the tarmac surfacing and equipment delivery had been agreed with Monster Play Systems for w/c 24 April. A letter had been received from Otterbourne Sports Club advising that a response to the proposal for the new rental agreement would be received by 31 May. The stanchions in the Recreation Ground car park had still not been removed and a further follow-up would be made. The new height restriction barrier at the recreation ground was being installed any day. Delivery of the bus shelter to Otterbourne Common was still awaiting final completion of the cycle path. A replacement conifer tree at the War Memorial had been planted to be of the same variety as the others.

Regarding planning, Cllr Phillips expressed concern that there had been an increasing number of new build proposals within existing residential gardens. Certain areas had been identified within the Local Plan for development, however it was felt that this increasing trend could lead to the character of residential areas changing. It was felt that the new dwellings often did not work well with the existing property or make best advantage of the complete plot. At the same time caution would be exercised in objecting to reasonable new development and there would be emphasis on improving the character of the new dwellings built. Cllr Phillips had attended the planning training meeting organised by WCC which had been interesting and helpful. Advice that more emphasis would be given to pre-consultation and discussion with the Case Officer would be utilised for further applications of concern.

Mrs J Ayre, Clerk, 18 April 2006



## **REPORT OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MAY 2006**

Cllr Michael Warne was re-elected Chairman.  
Cllr Ian Phillips was re-elected Vice Chairman.

The election of Committee members was as follows:

Finance Committee: Cllr Gray (Chairman); Cllr Smith; Parish Clerk

Amenities and Recreation Committee: Cllr Zebedee (Chairman); Cllr Creagh;  
Cllr Jeffery; Cllr Oldham

Planning and Highways Committee: Cllr Phillips (Chairman); Cllr Dr Chappiti;  
Cllr Jeffery; Cllr Creagh

The representatives to various bodies were appointed as follows:

Winchester District Association of Parish Councils: Cllr Creagh; Parish Clerk

Otterbourne Village Hall Committee: Cllr Warne

Otterbourne Conservation Group: Mrs P Cole

Otterbourne Sports Club: Cllr Zebedee

Otterbourne Allotments Association: Cllr Creagh

Council for the Protection of Rural England: Otterbourne Conservation Group

Ampfield Countryside Heritage Trust: Otterbourne Conservation Group

Board of Governors: Cllr Phillips (until July)

Specific Responsibilities were appointed as follows:

Hampshire Waste Services Liaison Group: Cllr Warne, Cllr Dr Chappiti;  
County Cllr Charlotte Bailey; Parishioners Mrs P Cole and Mrs S Patterson.

Footpaths: Cllr Oldham; Otterbourne Conservation Group

Public Transport Representative: Cllr Zebedee (rail and bus); Cllr Smith (air)

Street Lighting and Highway Problems: Cllr Dr Chappiti

Chairman Michael Warne advised that the Probation Inspectorate Inquiry into the case of Anthony Rice had been published on 10 May and all Councillors had received a copy. An Extraordinary General Meeting had been arranged for 22 May in the Village Hall for Councillors to discuss the report and give an opportunity for Parishioners to comment.

Crime figures within the village were still very low, with seven low-grade offences reported since last meeting. The cycle route along the Common had been completed and the new bus shelter will be installed soon. The bus stop signs throughout the Parish had been replaced as part of an improved information for users scheme in conjunction with the development of the Bluestar bus company. Lack of consultation with the Parish Council, their urban design and placing had caused several complaints. HCC had been advised of Parish concerns and badly placed new signs causing obstruction or duplicate signs will be addressed.

Cllr Bailey reported on the new Park and Ride scheme and had requested height indicators to be placed on both the old Tarmac site and the Badger Farm roundabout site to show the height of the proposed lighting columns. A series of exhibitions have been planned by HCC from 2nd – 14th June at various venues.

Councillors had attended further meetings with WCC Environmental Health and BAA Southampton regarding aircraft trial routings and noise concerns. Representation is ongoing and a meeting is being arranged for Parish Councils from the northern villages to address concerns to BAA in the near future.

A survey of the Users of Parish Countryside Paths has been proposed by HCC on 18 June. Volunteers will be required for two hourly intervals to help Councillors at the survey points.

Several items under Risk Assessment and Management had been completed: the stanchions in the Recreation Ground car park had been removed; the Height Restriction Barrier at the Recreation Ground had been installed; the Children's Play Area Inspection Report had been received giving no immediate concerns except for its aged condition.

A meeting with WCC had taken place to start production of the Village Design Statement and a further meeting of the Steering Group is scheduled on 5 June. It is hoped the VDS will aid Councillors when responding to planning/development proposals. Funding has been withdrawn from WCC and so a lottery grant from Awards for All is being sought, with the remainder being funded from Parish Council reserves.

The equipment and tarmac pad for the youth facilities at the Recreation Ground has been installed successfully with very little marking to the ground surface; final landscaping will take place shortly. Positive feedback has been received regarding the overall design and visual appearance. A litter bin will be ordered. The sign for the Bill Harris Pavilion, stolen some months ago, will be replaced shortly.

A letter of response had been received from the Sports Club to the proposals for renewal of Licence. The Club is still querying the rates proposed by the Parish Council in comparison to the rates/facilities charged by Fleming Park. A final appraisal will be made by Councillors before arbitration. The Sports Club has also written in regard to proposed improvements at the Recreation Ground. These are required in order for the Club to advance into a higher Division and the new proposals follow clarification from the Wessex League and FA. The new proposals include no floodlight requirement for Wessex 2 level; a fixed barrier but with hard standing only required on one side; a reduced requirement for a stand for 50 people; no screening of the ground. The Club also proposed reduction of the playing pitches from two to one and rotation by 90 degrees for the single pitch. The Club will be submitting new plans to the Parish Council for consideration in due course.

The Parish Public Liability and Assets Insurance was due for renewal. Following two quotations Council agreed to remain with Allianz Cornhill as the lesser quote and in view of its claims history. The assets within the Parish have received individual appraisal and several changes have been put in place to ensure cover is appropriate. A Risk Assessment of each asset will also take place over the coming months.

Funding for the deer fencing at the allotments was discussed and, following £100 raised by the Allotment Association, Council agreed to contribute £150 from annual rental received.

The Community Room at St Matthew's Church was also discussed. Proposals have been received to upgrade the room to meet requirements for disabled access and promote greater use by Parishioners of all faiths for Community events and meetings. Funds from the PCC and a grant from WCC would be used for the majority of the works. The Parish Council will make a contribution from funds set aside for the refurbishment of the war memorial which will be postponed until 2007.

Mrs J Ayre, Clerk  
17 May 2006

## **OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 20 JUNE 2006**

Vice-Chairman Cllr Ian Phillips presided at the meeting which several parishioners attended with concerns relating to the recent incident of travellers on the Common and Elderfield.

The travellers had arrived on the Common at 6 pm on Friday 16 June and had been moved on by Sunday 1 pm, however a considerable area had been despoiled during this time. Parishioners who undertook the litter-pick immediately after their removal were thanked for returning the Common to its beauty and an Environmental Health team from WCC finished the clean-up operation promptly on Monday morning. PC Mark Smith was thanked by the Parish Council and several parishioners for his persistence and constructive work in removing the travellers. Aside from his support, Parishioners attending the Meeting expressed concern that the initial police presence had not been stronger in order to deter the travellers from settling. It was also felt that the anti-social behaviour reported by Parishioners had not been acted upon and too much weight had been accorded to the Human Rights of the travellers in disregard of residents. The Parish Council had learnt several lessons. The Common had been partly secured over the weekend and final completion of the remainder was agreed. It was hoped this would act as a significant deterrence. An immediate response was important for any future problems and Cllr Michael Creagh volunteered as co-ordinator for an Action Plan. Parishioners with views on this should contact Cllr Creagh or any other Councillor. The number of accurate reports from Parishioners to the Police describing incidents of anti-social behaviour was important in order to facilitate Police action.

Regarding concerns over Anthony Rice and Elderfield, one letter of response and one letter of acknowledgement had been received to the three letters sent by the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Council would await full response from all parties and the item would be discussed at the July meeting. DS Tara MacKane, Liaison Officer for the Offender Management Unit of Hampshire Constabulary attended the meeting. Seven Officers covered the area from Winchester to Havant. Their role was to identify the offenders, categorise them as to the offences they had committed, decide how to manage them and which additional agencies should be involved. The Unit worked very closely with the Probation services and was responsible for enforcing licence conditions, prevention orders and re-call to prison if necessary. Councillors raised several questions and a meeting was agreed to gain greater understanding of the Parish area with regard future placement of ex-offenders at Elderfield.

Exhibitions had been held over the past fortnight by HCC regarding the proposed Park and Ride scheme. Councillors were advised that the information and questionnaire were available on the website as detailed at the end of this report and the Clerk would collate Councillors' responses for a Parish Council response.

Parishioners should have received information on the alternate weekly refuse and recycling collection scheme being introduced by WCC. Any initial problems regarding this can be reported to the Clerk who will collate the information for report. Traffic complaints or suggestions for improvements to the road scheme on Otterbourne Hill should also be reported to the Clerk and will be passed on to the District Councillor.

Regarding Southampton Airport, a meeting had been arranged on 18 July for representatives of Parishes and Winchester areas affected by aircraft noise in order to produce a combined resolution for Winchester to put to Eastleigh Borough Council under whose Authority the airport falls.

The footpath survey arranged by HCC will be conducted on Sunday 25 June and volunteers were requested by Cllr Oldham to help man the two survey points at 2-hourly intervals.

The accounts for Otterbourne Village Hall had been assessed by a new auditor and it was noted that the quality of the book-keeping was very high. It had been recommended that a prior year adjustment was made of £3600. A healthy income and cash flow was reported.

The Clerk was asked to write to Otterbourne Sports Club regarding several items at the Recreation Ground which were of safety concern, namely, the condition of the training floodlights, goal post against Southern Water fence and the dumper truck. Concern was also raised regarding the state of the fence on the southern border and enquiries would be made regarding its repair.

The final phase of the youth facilities was discussed. It was unfortunate that grassing of the landscaped areas was difficult to complete due to the summer season. This was planned for September and quotations were in progress.

The initial meeting for the Village Design Statement had been very positive and attended by 13 volunteers including two Parish Councillors. Phil Turner had presented the information and would be retained for future consultation. Future dates for the Steering Group would be arranged over the summer prior to workshops in the autumn. Parish Council funding had been carried forward from last year's budget and a Lottery Grant would be applied for.

The Travel Plans for Otterbourne Primary School were discussed. Every school was required to produce a travel plan and the involvement of the Parish Council and Community was encouraged. A Meeting had been arranged for 26 June and Cllr Zebedee volunteered to represent the Parish Council.

Cllr Gray had attended the AGM of Otterbourne Sports Club. A letter had been received detailing the new proposals for the Recreation Ground to comply with Wessex League/FA requirements. This had been copied to all Councillors and would be on the July Agenda for discussion and decision by Councillors.

The Parish Accounts were healthy as the final receipt of the WCC Open Spaces Fund to cover the youth facilities had been received. The expenditure funding the deer fencing for the Allotments Association was ratified as was the expenditure for the works which had taken place over the weekend at the Common.

Mrs J Ayre, Clerk  
21 June 2006

## **REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18 JULY 2006**

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the Meeting held in the Main Hall due to the number of Parishioners who attended regarding the Sports Club proposals and Elderfield.

A police report detailed seven minor offences during the last month. The incursion by travellers onto the Common was briefly discussed. Most of the Common had been secured and the length along Chapel Lane had received repairs to the ditch and bund. Some additional posts were required and this would be carried out during the next week.

County Councillor Mrs Charlotte Bailey advised that the vegetation along Main Rd had been cut back and drains cleared. A workshop on Minerals and Waste had been attended and there were no plans for extension of services from Otterbourne. Consultation regarding Adult Social Care would be taking place in the near future to determine whether the increasingly elderly population of Hampshire should continue to receive the current standards of care, that is, care for those with substantial need as well as critical need.

Cllr Macmillan had chaired an important meeting which brought together the northern Parishes and residents on the eastern side of Winchester in order to reach an agreed resolution regarding aircraft routing and noise. This would be put to Eastleigh Borough Council which is the Planning Authority for Southampton airport.

Risk Assessment issues were discussed concerning the Recreation Ground. It had been established that it was the Parish Council's responsibility to maintain the fence to the southern boundary of Recreation Ground and a meeting would be arranged with Southern Water to agree replacement. The Sports Club had advised that the floodlight to north-eastern corner had an internal support for strength and further bolts were on order to secure the electric boxes. The goal post would be removed by the Parish Council and the long-term presence of the dumper truck would be investigated with a view to removal. It was noted that there were several large cracks to the ground surface and the possibility of filling these would be investigated.

Regarding Elderfield, all three letters sent by the Parish Council had received a response and Cllr Warne had drafted three replies. The response from Langley House Trust had been the most helpful. Councillors discussed the draft letters of reply and following one amendment the letters were approved. Further enquiries would be made with Langley House Trust regarding some form of village representation. Further enquiries would also be made to the Home Office regarding clarification of substance misuse.

Following up from last month's visit, Cllr Smith had met with Detective Sgt McKane to tour the village and outline particular areas of concern and vulnerability. Positive feedback had been received regarding Hampshire Constabulary's changed procedures, resourcing, more comprehensive research and proactive work by the team in assessing placements at Elderfield.

The Parish Council had submitted a response to the proposed South Winchester Park and Ride. Councillors had voted Site 3 (the old Tarmac site) as the preferred option due to better traffic management and environmental reasons. The Footpath Survey of the Parish had been completed successfully and thanks were given to volunteers Andrea Bassett, Valerie Etteridge and Bridget Jackson.

A Steering Group meeting for the Village Design Statement had taken place on 12 July. Volunteers were looking at the different areas and ages of housing within the village. More volunteers are needed to take part and attend the next meeting on 11 September.

The Civic Service has been scheduled for the morning of Sunday 29 October. As the Revd Baird had resigned it was unknown who the Diocese would put forward for the service at present date. It was decided in view of past experience and the early time of the service to offer coffee/tea, sherry and biscuits at the reception in the Village Hall.

The new proposals received from Otterbourne Sports Club were discussed. Over 50 letters of objection had been received and an equal number of parishioners attended the meeting. Cllr Gray put forward the new proposals from the Sports Club and possible ways to implement them with minimum impact on the appearance of the Recreation Ground or current use by parishioners. These included:

- reducing pitches from two to one, retaining the single southern pitch in its current position;
- a strip of hard standing which would continue from the front slabbed area of the pavilion and link with the river walk footpath;
- a fixed post and rail barrier running alongside the hard standing on the southern side of the pitch;
- a covered standing area provided by a wooden veranda extension from the front of the pavilion;
- a removable barrier to the northern side of the pitch as current post and rope.

Councillors discussed the use of the Recreation Ground and the outcome of implementing the proposals for both parishioners and Sports Club. The meeting then closed and parishioners were given an opportunity to speak. It was clear that the large majority of the parishioners wished to reject the proposals. Cllr Gray agreed to approach the Football Association for final clarification as to whether these requirements are needed in order for the Sports Club to continue at the same level of current play.

An invoice for the youth facilities works was approved. It was higher than expected but examination of the quotations received from four other companies showed that the overall price for the works received from P Gunter was still very competitive; the work carried out had been good quality and site management had been very good.

The internal audit had taken place and the financial systems were reported in satisfactory order with no recommendations. There will be an August recess and the next meeting will take place in September.

Mrs J Ayre, Clerk, 18 July 2006



## **REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 19 SEPTEMBER 2006**

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the Meeting held in the Main Hall and welcomed everyone after the Summer recess.

A Police Report detailed incidents from 18 July: 1 burglary at Southern Water compound, 2 thefts from motor vehicles, 1 deception which was an internet crime, 2 thefts including a bulldog, 1 assault - public order and criminal damage, 1 other public order offence. Crime figures are still low. Concerns were also raised regarding reports of disturbance and nuisance at the Sponders Mede bench made by groups of young men. After some discussion, it was agreed to remove the bench seat as a temporary measure.

Regarding the travellers incursion onto the Common of some months ago, works had been completed to secure the boundary with wooden posts. Cllr Warne thanked the owners of Udimore Cottage for a generous donation towards the costs incurred for restoring the ditch and bund along Chapel Lane.

The Civic Service is scheduled for Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30 am in St Matthew's Church and Archdeacon Guille from Winchester Diocese will take the service. The Pantomime for the Village Hall will be Little Red Riding Hood this year. A new commercial dishwasher has been installed in the kitchen.

The Otterbourne Ashes, held between Elderfield residents and members of The Top of the Hill Cricket Club, was attended by several Councillors – The Top of the Hill Cricket Club winning the day.

Eastleigh Borough Council had informed the Parish Council that the toilet on the allotments is about to be installed. The deer fencing has also been installed and a handrail to the eastern set of steps off Boyatt Lane.

The Village Design Statement was reported on by Suzanne Hudson. A Team Meeting had taken place in September. The Committee had looked at the Listed buildings, modern housing, commercial buildings, woodland, boundaries and street scenes, signs and public amenities in the village. The Lottery bid had been drafted and would be submitted. Positive feedback had been received from Otterbourne Primary School regarding participation. Two Workshops are arranged on Saturday 7 October 10 am – 1 pm in St Matthew's Church Room and Saturday 11 November 10 am – 1 pm in the Bianchi Room of the Village Hall. All Parishioners are welcome to come and take part or simply to find out more about what is going on.

County Cllr Charlotte Bailey reported on highway matters and several areas of the village had received attention regarding cutting back. The gas main replacement through the village had received an extension for works through to October. The Waste Transfer Station on Poles Lane had put in a retrospective planning application and many local residents had been contacted to address comments to HCC. A letter from the Parish Council had been sent also. Further information on HGV traffic movements was awaited before decision - to be made on 18 October. A meeting at the Veolia site had been arranged for Councillors and village representatives. Also on Hampshire Minerals and Waste, a potential site had been proposed for gravel

extraction at Highbridge Farm. It was thought the site would prove unsuitable but concerned parishioners should contact the Clerk for further information.

District Cllr Murray Macmillan reported on Southampton Airport. The new Embraer aircraft will arrive in October – it has quieter engines and should show a reduction in overhead noise. It is hoped the majority of carriers will introduce it to their fleet and certainly Flybe will. Significant work had been undertaken with regards routing of aircraft to the North and East of the City of Winchester which has been badly affected by aircraft noise. Important progress to increase awareness of noise concerns outside the airport's 2 ½ mile limit had been made. Eastleigh Borough Council Planning Authority had shown willingness to support Winchester and it was hoped to have a Winchester based document alongside the Eastleigh based document on the airport. Cllr Macmillan was thanked for his work and a further meeting is being arranged.

Regarding bus transport, it was noted that the Bluestar service to Winchester had been reduced from four to three per hour and it was hoped that this would not deteriorate further. The bus shelter at Poles Lane had been rescheduled for delivery later this month due to road works taking place on Main Road.

Following the resignation of Cllr Dr Chappiti in July, the Parish Council had advertised the vacancy for a new Councillor. Four applications had been received and Mrs Suzanne Hudson was co-opted onto the Council. The three unsuccessful applicants were thanked for their response.

Risk assessment issues were discussed concerning the Recreation Ground. The old goal post had been removed, cracks to the ground surface which appeared over the dry summer had been filled and the youth facilities had received new bolts to the grids. It was agreed that if the dumper truck was to remain it should be fenced off. A decision was taken to wait on renewal of the fence to the southern boundary pending further information on the new tenancy of the land. A fire risk assessment of the pavilion will be arranged to ensure compliance with the new 2006 Act.

Further letters had been received from the Chief Constable and Langley House regarding the Anthony Rice incident. A response from the Home Office is being pursued. It was agreed that in terms of follow-up from Hampshire Constabulary and LHT, matters had progressed as far as they could. Councillors agreed that it was important to keep a control check on Elderfield. The regular quarterly report at the March/ June/ September/ December Parish Council meetings with the Project Manager, Julian Perkins, would continue and it was hoped that a further mechanism for contact could also be achieved.

The Sports Club Licence and rental agreement was discussed. Approaches to the District Valuer and Auditor for arbitration procedures had been unsuccessful, however the Hampshire Playing Fields Association had agreed to examine the facilities, costs and new rental proposals with a view to mediation.

There was much discussion regarding the new proposals from the Sports Club for the Recreation Ground. Councillors discussed issues relating to the need for any changes to be made to the ground and also, if changes are to be made, that it was important to set clear limits as to what the Parish Council might offer as sensible changes and

**Continued...**

## **Report of the Parish Council Meeting 19 September 2006 continued...**

useful additions for Parishioners, rather than simply respond to requests from the Sports Club. These included:

- a path extending from the front of the pavilion to the eastern boundary which would serve as a link from the car park for walkers through to the Itchen footpath and would provide a hard standing area for the Sports Club.
- a post and rail fence with meshing below, running alongside the above path on the southern boundary of the pitch and also running along the inside of the conifer hedge on the western boundary. This would encourage walkers with dogs, entering from the main access route and car park and walking on to the Itchen footpath, to use the new path, thereby reducing fouling of the pitch and ground for all users at other times. Many dog owners were responsible and cleaned up after their dogs using the red bin, but it had been an ongoing problem, noted by the Groundsmen. It was felt that the open vista of the Recreation Ground would not be compromised by permanent fencing of these two sides only and temporary fencing could be used for the remainder whilst matches were in progress.
- the reduction of pitches from two to one – the south pitch to be used in its current position. This would lead to a certain loss of revenue but this would be acceptable if car parking problems could be eased in the process.
- a wooden attachment to the pavilion either to the side or the front which could act as covered shelter for any users of the Recreation Ground as well as provide cover for the Sports Club during matches. It was felt that this would not be a visible intrusion, but that before finally agreed, it was important to discuss and draw up plans for the type of structure envisaged, as there were concerns about encouraging gatherings and the noise/disturbance/vandalism associated.

In addition to the above, Councillors held strong opinion that the Sports Club must be encouraged to create better feeling amongst residents and uphold best practice for use of the grounds during matches and training. Such matters to include: more sensitive handling of local residents' concerns relating to curbing bad language, parking problems and clearing away litter/tapes after matches.

It was agreed that the Chairman would draft a letter to the Sports Club, to be agreed by all Councillors beforehand, stating that the above were the limits of the proposals from the Parish Council. The Sports Club would be asked whether the proposals were acceptable before any further discussion would take place to finalise details and obtain final agreement by Council.

It was clear that the proposals would not lead to a precedent for further requirements and the current Clause 8.9 in the Licence Agreement would ensure that any future developments were subject to the approval of the Parish Council. It was also agreed that the proposals would be conditional on a satisfactory outcome to the renewal of the Licence. If the Sports Club did not wish to accept the proposals then they would have the option to continue as at present or find an alternative venue.

Mrs J Ayre, Clerk 19 September 2006

## REPORT OF OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 17 OCTOBER 2006

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the meeting and welcomed Cllr Suzanne Hudson following her co-option at the September meeting. Cllr Warne then formally announced his intention to retire from the Council after the 16 January 2007 meeting and submitted his letter of resignation.

PC Mark Smith presented the Police Report detailing 12 offences within the last period: 1 dwelling burglary which was a distraction type offence, 1 non-dwelling burglary from a commercial premises, 2 thefts consisting of road equipment and milk from doorsteps, 1 assault which resulted in an arrest at a Public House, 1 drugs offence, 2 criminal damages of graffiti, 4 reported missing persons - found safe and well. The dwelling burglary was of most concern as, when challenged, the three offenders claimed they were plain-clothes Police officers. Parishioners are advised always to ask for ID from doorstep callers and decline entry if at all unsure. The alleyway running through the residences of Coles Mede was also mentioned and the possibility of installing lighting is being investigated by the Tenants Association. With regards policing of the area generally, some important changes are due to be implemented early in 2007 with the introduction of the Safer Neighbourhood Policing policy. There is concern as to the effect this will have on the policing and management of semi-rural areas and villages as it is proposed to link these with parts of Winchester City. This could lead to a reduction of policing in villages as the city areas tend to require greater policing resources. It is proposed to include Otterbourne and neighbouring villages with the areas of St Cross and Stanmore.

County Cllr Charlotte Bailey reported on several matters. HCC had been asked to inspect the drain cover and recurrent pothole at the base of Otterbourne Hill with a view to moving it. The clogged drains on Main Road would also receive attention. The possibility of introducing a temporary flashing speed sign is being considered along the stretch of Main Road by Williams Garage. The first meeting of the Winchester Transport Review had taken place at which Cllr Zebedee had represented Otterbourne Parish. The County will be looking at more flexible services – shared taxis, community buses and extended dial-a-ride. An overall saving of 10% is being sought by the County through better targeting of services. The Planning Application for the Poles Lane Transfer Station is due to be heard soon. Parishioners were thanked for writing in with complaints and comments regarding vehicular movements. The proposal from HCC is to place a ceiling limit of 140 in/out movements per day. This is a slight increase, based on a current figure of 112 in/out per day. Cllr Bailey questioned the basis for this figure and intended to ask for a lower level than 140 being imposed. Initial feedback from the Park and Ride consultation had been received. The two preferred sites of Bushfield Farm and the old Tarmac site had scored closely with the old Tarmac site shown to be the community preference. Cllr Bailey also reported for Adult Social Care and announced that the County would not be withdrawing funding from elderly people with ‘substantial’ needs.

District Cllr Murray Macmillan had set up a meeting on 10 November between BAA Southampton Airport and all of the Winchester Districts and Parishes affected by aircraft routings and noise. Cllr Smith would be attending for Otterbourne. The routing trials which commenced in July 2005 would be coming to an end on 31

October, however aircraft will continue flying on the routing trial paths until the consultation process is complete.

A further response had been received from the National Offenders Management Service regarding the Anthony Rice incident and this had dealt with many points raised. Cllr Warne had written back to seek further clarification as to what constitutes an Approved Premises and also with regard the gaps in Mr Rice's records dating back to his custody within HM prisons and the resultant effect on decisions made.

A Workshop had taken place in October on the Village Design Statement. Memory maps of the village had been made noting important amenities and impressions. This was followed by a practice survey of the village taking photographs and examining the surrounding landscape, buildings and materials used and spaces in the village. The project was now at point of starting to draft some copy. The next Workshop is on Saturday 11 November and all new people interested in taking part are welcome.

The bench top at Sponder's Mede had been removed in an effort to deter gatherings of people causing noise and nuisance to local residents. The Council would discuss further regarding its relocation. The work on the toilet to the Allotments had now started and would take several weeks. A planning application had been received for major renovation to the exterior and interior of Elderfield. The improvement to the Listed Building and general maintenance was welcomed. Items for consideration in the 2006/07 budget were requested and these included the replacement of the Recreation Ground southern fence and the Oakwood Avenue bus shelter.

A meeting between members of the Parish Council and Hampshire Playing Fields Association had taken place at Oakwood Park Recreation Ground. The Association had agreed to make an independent assessment regarding the new licence fee proposed for Otterbourne Sports Club. The Sports Club will also attend a meeting with them before assessment is made.

Following the meeting of 19 September at which a draft letter from the Chairman to the Sports Club had been presented to all Councillors, further comments had been received. The draft letter set out the maximum limits the Parish was prepared to offer the Sports Club with regard to any changes taking place at the Recreation Ground. Some Councillors had expressed concern regarding the covered area and it was agreed to alter the draft letter to state that this would be 'a simple canopy at the front of the pavilion'. A further change included an amended paragraph on use of bad language, urging the Club to control their own people in this respect. With these changes the letter was agreed for sending to the Sports Club. If the Club is able to accept the letter as setting the parameters for development, further details could then be discussed. At this point Councillors would decide whether some form of further public consultation is required prior to implementation.

Mrs J Ayre, Clerk  
17 October 2006

## **REPORT OF THE OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 21 NOVEMBER 2006**

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the Meeting. He thanked Councillors who had attended the Civic Service and had written letters of thanks to those who had made it such an enjoyable and successful occasion: the Churchwarden Mrs Jill Aussant and Mrs Rachel Cannon, Mrs Gill McDonald of St Matthew's Social Committee and also The Venerable John Guille, Archdeacon for the Diocese of Winchester.

A report on crime within the village stated that this had been low within the last period. Incidents included two thefts from vehicles outside Public Houses and one distraction burglary. Reports had been received of nuisance being caused by mini-motorbikes which would be followed-up with PC Mark Smith.

County Councillor Mrs Charlotte Bailey reported that following public consultation, HCC had agreed the new Park and Ride should be on the old Tarmac site next to the motorway. A newsletter had been issued and copies will be in Williams Garage. The drains had been cleared on Main Road and a meeting is being arranged with the Highways Engineer to discuss flooding problems still arising on Poles Lane and Norlands Drive. The increasing incidence of 'fly posting' along roadside verges was noted and will be targeted in the future. The Highways Agency is consulting on diversion routes when the M3 is closed or too congested. As Main Road becomes the primary route used at such time Cllr Bailey will ask for re-surfacing with a quiet tarmac. Also that an increased number of diversion routes should be considered. Cllr Smith suggested an integrated plan was required for all highways in the area and that if Main Road is used it needs priority for clear traffic movement. Additional funding should also be requested to ensure road surfaces are maintained to high standard. HCC is examining Strategic Planning for Waste and how all Districts might work together to make efficiencies of scale and cost; how best to work towards sustainable production and consumption and the new infrastructure required to manage our waste.

District Cllr Murray Macmillan reported on Southampton Airport. A meeting had taken place between the Airport Authority, Winchester Districts and Parishes affected by aircraft noise. Progress was continuing on a final report to be submitted to EBC on best permanent aircraft routings. A further meeting with the CAA, Air-traffic Control and technical representatives is being arranged. The BAA Summary Structure Plan had been produced. It had been confirmed that airline Flybe, was committed to introducing the new, quieter Embraer 195 aircraft from January 2007 at the rate of one per month.

The HCC Passenger Transport Area Review revealed that bus industry costs were rising by 9% nationally but government funding to Local Authorities was only rising by 3%. Some cuts were therefore necessary but it was hoped HCC could implement these with minimum effect on services. Solent Blue Line reported that in their first year of the new free travel for concessionary passholders, they had experienced financial problems with how the scheme had been implemented by HCC. South West Trains had been re-appointed franchise holders for the next 10 years to commence February 2007 and from December 2007 Chandler's Ford station will run a direct route to Salisbury.

The Village Hall Pantomime 'Little Red Riding Hood' was well subscribed. Carols will be sung around the tree on 19 December. The new toilet being installed on the allotments by EBC was progressing slowly. Cllr Oldham was appointed representative in charge of Street Lighting and Highway Problems. HCC Highways and an Arboriculturist from WCC had inspected the trees on Otterbourne Hill. Two dead birch trees will be felled and also the tree hanging diagonally over Stoney Chute. A request has been made to clear the footpath and cycleway of fallen leaves. The Woodland Trust visited Otterbourne Wood with Tree Warden, Mrs Philippa Wrightson, and several trees have been marked requiring work. Following complaints of nuisance gatherings it was agreed, with regret, that the bench seat at Sponder's Mede would have to be permanently relocated to Otterbourne Common where it would replace a well-used, but very dilapidated bench.

Several new faces attended the Village Design Statement Workshop on 11 November. It was a very interesting meeting which focussed on landmarks. Groups then examined different aspects of the village including the variety of design and construction of buildings and the importance of open spaces and the roadside scene. Findings were related into draft guidance for future development proposals within the village. Notification has since arrived from Awards for All that the application for Lottery funding had been forwarded for recommendation. A final decision is expected early in 2007. More volunteers are required, to give input from half-a-day to a few hours, in order for this to become a design statement reflecting the community's thoughts and involvement.

A further response from the National Offender Management Service had been received regarding the recent incident of Anthony Rice. Cllr Warne will reply thanking for the reassurances given but stressing that the Parish Council will be keeping a close eye in future. Councillors agreed that reassurances should not be given too much weight as these had been received before and yet Anthony Rice had still been placed at Elderfield. The Rice case should act as a constant reminder to maintain contact and vigilance. A higher level of risk control than the quarterly reports from the Project Manager, Julian Perkins, should still be considered, such as greater involvement with Elderfield. It was important to maintain the strength of interest from Hampshire Constabulary and also ensure that Langley House Trust and the Probation Service were aware that Councillors will make ongoing reviews. It was also suggested that, as Parish Councils are becoming more involved with community safety, Otterbourne should share the experience and knowledge gained from this incident with other Parishes who may have similar establishments.

Representatives from both the Parish Council and Otterbourne Sports Club had met with the Hampshire Playing Fields Association who had agreed to make independent assessment of the new Licence fee. The HPFA were finding it difficult to assess the value of exclusive use of the grounds and pavilion in that it is not shared with any other Sports Clubs. They had proposed the possibility of determining the Licence fee by linking the Sports Club's usage of the grounds/pavilion on a percentage basis to actual costs incurred by the Parish Council. Councillors were concerned that this moved away from the original brief too far and that it could produce a lower fee charged for exclusive use. It could also generate a feeling of ownership of certain areas by the Sports Club which would not be acceptable.

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## **Report of the Otterbourne Parish Council Meeting 21 November 2006 Continued**

The HPFA had also proposed that the Sports Club or Parish Council could increase use of the Pavilion by other groups/societies/individuals to defray costs. Councillors will discuss the matter after further consideration at the next meeting.

Regarding the changes to the Recreation Ground, the Sports Club had responded to say that the limits of development, which were the maximum the Parish Council would permit and on which it might proceed, were acceptable to them. Again Councillors will discuss this response at the next meeting.

The height restriction barrier on the Recreation Ground access road required repairs as the horizontal boom had been damaged making it very difficult to close. Quotations had been sought and an insurance claim would be made for replacement of the boom. Cattle had returned to the southern field adjoining the Recreation Ground and Councillors were again concerned that the fence was too old and broken-down in places to restrain them. Quotations had been received and it was agreed that the Contractors who were currently undertaking the Southern Water fencing would be engaged, as the fence would be of comparable, high standard and strength. Southern Water had thinned the Ash and intended to plant Hazel in Oakwood Copse. There was concern regarding damage by deer and so Southern Water proposed to enclose the copse with deer fencing leaving self-closing gates at the permissive footpaths. A site meeting is being arranged to discuss the proposals further.

Grants for the cleaning of the War Memorial had been investigated, but English Heritage and the War Memorials Trust would not give assistance for cosmetic cleaning. Quotations are being requested and £1000 had been set aside in 2005/06 precept to cover this eventuality. The replacement Thuya tree at the Memorial had died and Councillors were asked to consider for next meeting whether a further replacement was needed or if one or more trees should be removed to re-balance and open-up the site.

The Finance Meeting to set the 2006/07 precept had been arranged for 27 November at 7.30 pm in John & Betty Mobbs Room of the Village Hall. Requests for consideration, in part to be met out of built-up reserves, were put forward. These included the replacement of the Oakwood Avenue bus shelter which was in very poor condition. The levelling and grassing of Common area by St Matthew's Church which was often a target of fly-tipping. Replacement of the three metal Parish notice boards which had been assessed by the Handyman as in poor condition and were not considered in the best places to serve Parishioners. A large, framed Ordnance Survey map of the Village to display in the Village Hall. Community Access Boards displaying walks around Otterbourne. Replacement of the Children's Play Area at the Recreation Ground which is estimated at £30-40,000 and is a large ongoing project requiring grant support.

Mrs J Ayre, Clerk  
21 November 2006

## **REPORT OF THE OTTERBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 19 DECEMBER 2006**

Chairman Michael Warne presided at the Meeting. Following Councillor Warne's intention to retire as Chairman and from the Council after the January 2007 meeting, Councillors were asked to consider the vacancy for the new Chairman.

Cllr Warne had written in final reply to the Home Office and correspondence concerning the Anthony Rice case had closed. Project Manager for Elderfield, Julian Perkins, attended the meeting to make the quarterly report. Planning consent for major repair works to the building had been received. Repairs were expected to start mid February and scaffolding would be security protected for the duration of the works. There was no intention to increase security provision overall. Mr Perkins advised that since the Inspector's Report several recommendations had been made and liaison with the Probation Services and the Police had improved. Four residents had been successfully moved-on recently. A retired police officer would soon join the team at Elderfield. The meeting then closed for questions from parishioners.

A report from County Councillor Charlotte Bailey advised that the Chief Highways Engineer had visited the village and various works had been carried out. The culverts in Poles Lane would be cleared in the New Year to avoid flooding. Several additional works were highlighted by Councillors and these would be forwarded to Highways also. Regarding the new Park and Ride South of Winchester, a meeting had been held to refine details for the chosen site No.3, also known as the old Tarmac site - and a further meeting would be held before the planning application was submitted in the Spring.

District Councillor Murray Macmillan advised that WCC was working to maintain their element of the Council Tax for 2007 at rate of inflation. Concessionary travel was discussed and the possibility of cuts from County to District level caused concern to Councillors as links between Eastleigh/Winchester would be affected. Regarding Southampton Airport, Cllr Macmillan was trying to arrange a meeting in January between the CAA, Air-traffic Control and technical representatives.

There were no new additions to the Risk Assessment list. The tree at Stoney Chute and the logs on Otterbourne Hill had been removed; also the path cleared. The Woodland Trust would be working on trees obscuring the lights around mid-January.

Responding to a request from WCC, a draft timetable for the Village Design Statement had been submitted for inclusion in the Local Development Scheme work programme. Key stages were identified. The pre-production stage had been completed and more volunteers were now required for the draft preparation. It was hoped the VDS would be adopted by year-end 2007.

Cllr Zebedee reported on comments received from Councillors since last meeting on the renewal of the Licence for Otterbourne Sports Club. Two proposals had been put forward. Both proposals were based on the use of one pitch instead of two, up to two training sessions per week and use of the pavilion. The first proposal related charges directly to costs incurred for maintaining the recreation ground and pavilion. The second proposal was based on fixed charge per match as previously put forward to the Club but

reflected the reduced number of matches to be played due to use of only one pitch. Councillors agreed on the second proposal. It was noted that the Licence would need to be changed to state 'use of one pitch only', although the second set of goal posts could remain for residents use. Suggestions were also put forward to encourage the Club to register for reduced rate relief with the Inland Revenue and WCC to offset charges incurred for the pavilion use.

Councillors discussed the letter of response from the Sports Club dated 17 November concerning pitch changes, barrier, covered area, hard standing. Comments included: the use of one pitch could reduce parking problems; any temporary barrier to the northern boundary of the pitch should be removed at end of each game; an opening in the southern permanent barrier should be considered for parishioners as a 'walk through'; temporary hard standing to the northern boundary should be removed at the end of each game; community footpath grants should be investigated for the permanent hard standing to the southern boundary. Having set the boundaries for reasonable development, it was agreed that the next stage was for the Club to make a detailed proposal which could then be considered further.

It was announced that Southern Water had thinned the Ash and intended to plant Hazel in Oakwood Copse. There were concerns regarding possible damage by deer and a proposal to enclose the copse with deer fencing had been put forward. Footpaths with self-closing gates would remain for use by parishioners. Councillors were meeting with Southern Water on site to discuss their plans further. Taurus Garden Services had graded, weed-killed and seeded the area surrounding the youth facilities, however the need for a second weed-kill and weather conditions had meant that the grass had not taken. Re-seeding would take place in the spring.

The War Memorial was discussed with regard to the conifer trees and also cleaning. The Chairman made a proposal to remove one tree to balance the previous one lost to drought. Council agreed and further suggestions included the addition of low box down the steps to form an approach and trimming of the trees to make the Memorial more visible. Three quotations had been received for cleaning of the Memorial and surrounding steps and Roger Drury Monumental Masons of Romsey was selected.

Cllr Gray reported on the Finance Committee Meeting 27 November 2006. Planned expenditure for 2007/08 was £69,265 consisting of annual costs £30,865 and additional expenditure £38,400. Additional expenditure included new Community Access Boards £1,500; new Oakwood Avenue bus shelter £6,000; Common land works £2,500; Pavilion works £1,000; also, setting aside £2,400 for street lighting replacement fund and £25,000 for the new Children's Play Area fund. Expenditure would be met by £26,002 from the proposed precept for 2007/08 which constituted a 1.2% increase on 2006/07; an estimated £4,863 income from rental, interest and other sources and £38,400 from reduction in parish reserves as requested by the external auditor. A reallocation of £20,000 from reserves built-up in the Open Spaces account was proposed to a new deposit account for the Children's Play area fund. Council agreed precept for 2007/08 and proposed expenditure.

Mrs J Ayre, Clerk  
4 January 2007