

Annual Assembly Minutes

24th March 2015

Attended by 11 Parish Councillor, 3 Borough Councillor and 16 Members of the Public

6034 OPENING REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Good evening everybody, let's get our little Annual Assembly underway. First of all, thank you so for coming out this evening, I'm sure you'd much prefer to be at home, tucked up, warmer. So let's try and keep this short and concise, to the point. I'm asked and obliged to point out to you that in the event of an emergency, our fire exit is through the doors you came in and the toilets are also out there. So if you'd just like to make a mental note of that, thank you.

Thank you very much for coming and without further delay I think we will continue with our agenda.

So on our agenda, if we could approve the minutes please of the annual assembly held last year on the 6th May, can you remember it? There are copies at the back of the room as well, but we also have it up on the screen if that is assisting people.

If we can take that as read.

Proposed by Parish Councillor Robert Ellison and seconded by Parish Councillor Ajay Nehra

Thank you

Moving on we go into a series of reports from local bodies and firstly I can see that we have the co-head teacher of Charters School is here to present a report to us.

6035 REPRT FROM THE CO-HEADTEACHER OF CHARTERS SCHOOL, MARTIN PARKER

Well that's very kind of you, thank you.

Good evening ladies and gentleman. My name is Martin Parker, I'm the other co-head teacher, the other chap Richard, who was here last year, has slightly less hair than me, but as you can see I haven't got very much either!

I'll give you a brief report on how the school has done over the year and some of the issues facing us which we think are relevant to the local community.

We've had an interesting and I would say on the whole a successful past year. Obviously we're very proud of the achievements of our students. I'll talk a little bit more about their examination success in a moment, but clearly the one thing that did put us on the map was that fact that Martha Collison was in The Great British Bake Off and did very well. I think the nice thing about that is that she is a lovely girl, she is one of our team of head girls and I think that the way she conducted herself really was as important as the success she had in the competition. I think for us that's an important aspect of one of the things that we try to do at Charters with our moto of Unity, Respect and Excellence. It's not just about making sure that they get the best possible grades, it's trying to develop the whole person. And on that note, Richard will have told you last year about a scheme that he came up with called The Edge. Which he put together in consultation with the CBI examination boards and it's really a qualification to reward students and acknowledge them and give them a level of award for their employability skills. For things like communication, initiative, resilience, leadership.

It's a qualification that he designed, it got the backing of a lot of organisations, and it's now being dispersed throughout the country. There are 150 secondary schools signed up for it. I really think that this is a big thing. He actually went on a visit to see Lord Young at 10 Downing Street, about this, because the Government for a long time have been looking for some way of rewarding those skills that are additional, but just as important as the examination results. I think that Charters is at the forefront of developing this qualification, this award. Our students are busily signing up, but it rewards them for things like taking part in charity events on a regular basis within the community. Rewarding them for showing leadership around the school, for taking groups of parents around, running a club all year. It's a good award and it eventually culminates with the students at the highest level, having to face a panel of local employers, to talk how the scheme has helped them to develop. So it's a

substantial award, we're very proud of it, and keep your ear to the ground about it. It's called The Edge. We're very lucky, a parent who's involved with a local company, Baxter Storey, are the school sponsors for this.

So that's really it in terms of that major development, but examination results once again in 2014 were excellent. Our GCSE results for years have put us in the top form in state schools in the country, but in the last two years we've had a step up in our A level results, which we've wanted to improve, so this year we are inside the top 25% of school, in terms of the progress students have made at A level, and that compared with private school, selected grammar school, sixth form colleges, so we're really achieving at A level now. That was our goal to get our A level results up to the same level, and obviously every year we send students off to Oxbridge and to the Russell group universities. So in terms of the basic core curriculum we're doing well.

We have some challenges coming up though. We are find it increasingly difficult to employ teachers in certain areas such as maths, physics, chemistry and some of the modern foreign languages. Because there aren't as many of them out there and they get quite nice inducements from some areas, financial inducements, and there is only a certain amount that we can do, and of course the cost of living is high around here. That's the main thing is the cost of housing and accommodation. So a real issues. We've started tentative talks with the local authority about the idea of possibly providing some cheaper form of accommodation for people who are the key workers needed in some of the public sector areas, and obviously we hope that that will progress, but that at a very early stage.

That's a problem for us because we've got lots of students who want to do maths at A level and go on and follow the sciences, but we're struggling to employ people for those jobs. This year we've had to go abroad, to get teachers and bring them in. And that's not always an easy solution, because for a start when you recruit them you're doing it on a telephone conversation, not seeing them teach in a classroom, which is what we really need to see them do with appointments. So that's an area for us.

This other big area which is a problem for us, and we talked about this with our governors last night, is the financial situation that the schools face. Obviously there has been cuts to the public sector funding, and understandably Schools have to take their share. The Government have talked about protecting the schools budget. That's not quite correct. Sixth formers are funded at a lower rate now, round about £4000 per student, compared to £5700 in 2010. And for a school like ours with 450 in the sixth form, that's a lot of money that we've lost over that period. So we've lost money in terms of the basic budget given to us by the Government, but this year we've got increased costs. Obviously there has been a freeze on pay awards, but there are pay awards for teachers and for the 120 associate staff who work in our school, that's support people and clerical staff and so on, there has been a pay increase for those people.

And also we as employers have to pay additional contributions to teachers pensions, which we didn't have to pay before and additional contributions to the general national insurance. So we've got some big funding issues to face in the coming year. I think for the first time it's going to effect the breadth of the curriculum that we offer and some of the additional things that we've offered that have made Charters the school it is, so there are going to be some really hard decisions with the governors at the moment, we're looking to make substantial cuts on our budget, but to do it on a way that we're not going to water down what we offer, but it's going to be very tough for us.

With that in mind to try and be a bit more creative, we've recently employed two development officers, this is an idea from the private sector. They have development officers to work with the Alumni, to try to win bids for finances, to try to raise funds from interested individuals. And we've got two people in, Lynn Stacey and Alan Carr from the community, we're trilling out this idea, to see if we can bring in additional funds for the school which can be used for the benefit of the young people's education. So we have that mission as well.

So those are some of the challenges, perhaps the most high profile thing that has happened over our challenges is around admissions. We have been really making the case, we've been active about publicising the fact that there are more young people and families in this area, and there are going to be even more, and we are the biggest and the only state secondary around here. We're already chocker block. We did warn that this year, that not all the families that our in our catchment area would get in on the projected figures, and that what's happened. On the first run through there are seven families who have not been able to get a place at Charters School. We and the Governing Body, Spike will know this, have said that we are really open to the idea of expanding the school, to go from say 240 to 270, but we can't do that without extra finances to put the building

and infrastructure in place, the extra classrooms and so on. So that something which again we are in discussion with the local authority. And I know, I think that they would like us, they're proposing to look into the idea of doing that by 2017, but there are still many discussions to take place before that happens.

So that's where we are as a school. We're in a good situation, but there are tough times ahead and we're going to have to manage to process well. We have good relations, we feel, with our local community. We do feel that you can see that some families, some young people are under pressure now a days, you will have heard reports in the news about mental health issues with young people is now greater than its ever been. There is if you talk to the police about the idea, that as students do, it's a fact of life that they get involved with illegal substances. We're actively trying to always help with this issue. You'll be interested to know that we're employ a full time school councillor, we've got several youth workers to help tackle those issues. We have a family's support advisor to help families as well. These are the additional things as well that might be under threat, as the finances get more tight. But there we are, that's where we are as a school.

I'm happy to stay, I know that you've got a tight schedule, but I'm very happy to take questions about anything if I can answer them now or come back to people.

The Chairman

That's lovely. Does anyone have any specific questions that you'd like to ask?

Q1 - Yes thank you chair. I have a question about the academy status. I'm not quite sure what that means. Are you then able to extend your catchment outside the area or how does it work?

MP – Right, well yes what we can do is, you can do that at any time; you can expand the amount of numbers and extend your catchment area. If you do that you have to go through a consultation process, but that is available to any school to do that.

Q2 – I just wondered with your fund base with your development officers. What sort of thing, how can you raise money? Presumably you can't charge parents for extracurricular, well what can you charge?

MP – You can actually, we try not to charge for extracurricular, but if there are certain things, like we have to bring a coach in and we have to pay, then obviously we have to pass that cost onto the parents who might want to do that. The sort of things you can do, there are various educational grants, and various charities of which we've benefited from, charities in this room, that you can apply to for specific things, so there you might well do that. They will foster the Alumni, so for example, our old caretakers bungalow was refurbished, at a cost of £50,000, and that was money given by an ex student. So you try to... you don't want to go to your Alumni and say 'here you are, can you give us all this money?' But we're building up and having Alumni events, but clearly there are benefits that they might be able to find in terms of getting money for specific projects.

Q2 – And are they're more infrastructured about things?

MP – Yes I think that it's wrong to go to parents and people to ask for money to keep the day to day running the school, because that's what the government is supposed to do, provide money for that, so it's just for those add on and additional things, that might be buildings and so on.

Q2 – Yes, thank you.

Q3 – How many children have been accepted into the school from outside of our boundaries? Because you said that seven in the borough or from within our catchment area haven't been able to get in, so are any children from outside the area being accepted in the school or...?

MP – Well, no the way it is at the moment it is only people from inside the designated area, but then there are priorities then given to students stated special needs, they might or might not be within the borough, but I'm not aware looking at the figures that there is anybody from outside the designated area. But obviously if you've got more people in the designated area then places, then obviously there are various ways of distinguishing them.

Q4 – Is it true to say that a significant proportion of students come from outside the Borough?

MP – Yes, some from Bracknell Forest, but not from outside the designated area, sorry. Yes that's right, there will be some from Bracknell Forest, that's always traditional been the case, but that is within the designated

area. And as you know the governors have been consulting on an admissions policy, which removes that as a priority criteria, about feeder schools.

Q1 – So can I ask a follow up question? Now we know the designated area includes the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead and Bracknell Forest. You mentioned that you were in discussion with a local authority for funding. Is that both local authorities then or what?

MP – Well we've been to RBWM, because we receive funding for our buildings, traditionally comes from there and they're asking us to expand. We've talked about the idea, we met with met with Councillors from Bracknell Forrest to talk about the idea that we are going to eventually have more people applying for the school in the designated area than there are places. We've have those discussions, but we haven't actually gone and talked about funding yet.

Q1 – I'm still slightly confused Madam Chair, so when you say that you've talked to local authorities for funding for expansion, you've only talked to the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead?

MP – Because, in terms of the way, even though we're an academy now, the money is given centrally by Government and the factors and the way its directed to the school mean it comes from RBWM. That the way it's done.

Q1 – Right, thank you.

AS – I'm sure that you can continue with questions for Martin.

MP – I'm very happy to if they'd like to give me an email on that, we can discuss it further.

AS – Anyone else have any questions for Martin? No, thank you very much.

MP – Thank you very much and apologies for going. The things I've said, I've left some reports on the table at the back if you'd like some.

AS – Right OK, I'm just going to skip quickly through the agenda, to bring an item forward as I have another attendee here who needs to attend another meeting. So I'm going to ask Mrs Karen Clements to present a report to us from the Sunninghill Fuel Allotment Trust, which is now I think know by the more friendly name of the Sunninghill Trust.

6036 REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUNNINGHILL TRUST, KAREN CLEMENTS

Well thank you for inviting us along this evening, my name is Karen Clements. I think we've missed a couple of meeting in the past so I thought that I would just take a couple of minutes to give everyone who doesn't know what the trust is about, just a very short overview.

Lots of history, the trust has been going since 1870, originally it's to give fuel and provide allotments for the poor people in the area who reported to date of 1980 something, with that little blue document at the top, that basically underlines everything that we do as a trust. Basically our aim is to relieve hardship, improve conditions of life and support educational facilities and any other charitable issue that comes our way.

So what's new? We've changed our name. We are The Sunninghill Fuel Allotment Trust trading as The Sunninghill Trust, so we've not actually changed we've just brought the name up to date. We did that because we're not really about fuel and allotments any more. We are about being a charity. We try to actively promote local awareness of the charity. We've found that not many individually are coming forward asking for funding, so we've now got a website, we've put the posters up, we have the cards that are around in Libraries and Dr's surgeries and so on, and coming soon we are going to be embracing modern technology. Because the problem we've has is that because we're all volunteers and part-timers we not in an office all the time waiting to get peoples calls, so we're going to have a new voicemail system that will ping the voice mails to emails so that more than one member of the trust can look at it at a time, which means that we'll be able to respond more quickly, which I think has been a issues that we've had in the past.

Looking at the grants for 2014/15, we're not finalised our books yet, so I can't give you exact numbers, but we have distributed over £100,000 this year. Almost half of it went to different individuals and there are a couple

of really chunky grants within that. The rest of it went to the usually charities in the area, such as the Ascot Day Centre, The Thames Valley Hospice, we gave a little chunk to the refurbishment of Tarabid.

Educational and Spots, we call that subs and trips, we give that to kids in the area who can't afford to go on school trips or can't afford their sports fees or whatever, we help out with that. We also partly fund the Volunteer Burro and there is lots of local stuff in there.

The trustees themselves, there are five of us in total. Stephen the vicar is one, there are two that are appointed by the Parish and two that are co-opted. I'm one of the co-opted trustees, I've been part of it now for two years and just became chairperson recently. We meet four times a year, but we are in communication weekly if not daily if we're busy. What we do is we go out and visit people who request grants, so we see why they need the money. We're not able to fund anyone where they can get the resources from anywhere else, so for example social welfare or from the health service or whatever. We also have someone working for us called the Bogwarden, and they aren't full time either, so it's quite difficult to keep on top of them and we also lend professional support. A lot of what the trust does involves use of accountants and lawyers and so on, so we make sure that we have that expertise.

The overriding responsibilities of the trustees are, we're responsible for the management of the land and the capital to ensure the future of the trust. We've been going for over a hundred years and we still want to be going in another hundred years from now. And also we distribute the surplus income. So that any interest we get from our investments on an annual basis. And so its those two overriding things that govern everything we do.

And I just wanted to make a point of saying thank you to our trustees that are leaving, Nigel Green and Gary Morris. They have been working as volunteers for over the last eight years, but they've both got individually unique skills that have kept the trust in safe hands. Nigel knows everything about everybody, he knows every footpath, he knows every ditch, which has been fantastic. And Gary's got his own no nonsense way of doing business that's kept us all on track. So I just want to say that we'll miss them, particularly their inappropriate sense of humour that has kept us all smiling and they leave some very big boots to fill and we would like to work with you in helping to get the right people with the skills we need. Thank you.

If anyone has got any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

Q1 – What does the Bog Warden do?

KC – It's a lovely title isn't it! It's one of those historic titles. He basically helps clear the ditches and keeps trees in check and things like that. He's the land management person.

AS – Any other questions for Karen? No. Thank you so much Karen.

KC – Sorry I've got to run, but my daughter it's my daughters end of term concert this evening, and I've already missed too many!

AS – Lovely, thank you very much indeed. So now we return to our Agenda. We'll now hear a presentation from Sargent Martin Littlewood on local policing issues.

6037 REPORT FROM SERGEANT MARTIN LITTLEWOOD

Presentation sounds very grand! I've made a few notes though. Hello I'm Martin, Marin Littlewood I'm the sergeant in charge of your local neighbourhood team, just up the road in Ascot. My team is quite small, but perfectly formed! I've got two police officers, Peter Bullett and Martyn Withers and I've got my two community support officers Melita and Andrew Sin. Pete, Martyn and Melita have been there since the day I think, they've got a wealth of experience. I'm a relative newcomer, I've only been there 18months, so I'm still quite wet behind the ears.

The update on the news, breaking news is that Martyn is actually going to retire at the end of the month, he done 26 years, a lot of it at Ascot, so he does have a wealth of knowledge and obviously we are going to miss him. I guess it a good time for me to acknowledge the great work he has put into Ascot over the years. Things move on and we are in the process of recruiting a replacement obviously that is still ongoing so I can't give you a

name, but they will be joining us shortly so hopefully there won't be too much of a gap between Martyn going and someone else joining.

This year has been an interesting year, we've moved back into the Police Station, just before Royal Ascot in June. I don't know if you were aware, but it was shut for six months while the whole place has been gutted and been refurbished, which has been an improvement and it is now a really nice place to work. It's a nice place anyway, as it's in Ascot, I've come from Maidenhead & North before, so Ascot is a very good place to work anyway, but having a new police station makes it a joy really. It's nice, new clear, so always a winner. So we've been back there since June. A slight down side was we've now lost the front counter services, which is part of the police budget saving policy. We've already heard from Martin this evening about the cuts in schools and the pressure on finances. I guess I'm quite lucky from where I'm sitting, I don't have to worry about budgets and that kind of thing, but the front counter went and it's now staffed by volunteers and is being called, quite grandly, a Police Information Post. It's basically, volunteers, we've been recruiting, I've been putting adverts in various places, so we've have a few people coming forward to fill the gaps so we're now open four days a week, four hour on a Monday and two hours on Tuesday through Thursday. It's not brilliant, but it's better than it was and again I'll repeat that if anyone wants to volunteer to come and help us, then you're more than welcome, just drop me a line.

Ok so what have we been doing in the last year, well our priorities, we did a public consultation exercise, with the help of David Hilton, who's in the audience here, he's chair of the NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) who we work closely with. There was a public consultation exercise and the priorities out of that are pretty similar with what's we had for the last few years really, they are burglary, vehicle nuisance, we pull all three things together to make a headline of vehicle nuisance, and the last one is anti-social behaviour. You won't be surprise to know that since Neighbourhood policing has been out there and these consultations have been happening all over the country, we're not really any different to anywhere else in the country, the same sort of things always come up to our notice.

Good news on burglaries, they are down 10% on last year and last year was a really good year, so we're making quite a lot of progress on burglaries. We did have a blip around Christmas, we had quite a few burglaries around the A30, but that's stopped now, so that's good. I haven't got any good news from Thames Valley Police haven't actually prosecuted anyone with regard to that, but most of our burglars actually come from across the border. The most recent person to actually be charged with burglary in Ascot actually come from Surrey and is in prison in Surrey, so burglaries are down which is good. Non dwelling burglaries are also down, they're down 46% which is really good. A cynic would say that there aren't any garages left to break into, but in fairness there has been a big positive step and a local gentleman was actually caught on Friday, so watch this space and we'll publish what happens when the court case is over.

Vehicle nuisance is another priority identified in the NAG. Pete Bulett is my main man on Speeding. You may or may not have seen him out on the London Road towards Bracknell at the weekend with the Sieve as we call it. Which is basically if we get a report of speeding in a particular area we really do need to know.

We have this device which basically flashes people and indicates if there's speeding. We do that as a first step, see what issues there are, then Pete goes out with the gun and will actually prosecute if they do it again. This might appeal to you, so if you've got issues if you think there's a problem, give us a call and we'll have a look at it.

We can run what's called a speed watch process, which I used to do in my old area in Maidenhead. Which is basically when we get members of the public out volunteering to work and record details. It's a process where you can send letters out to speeding motorists asking them not to speed. We don't usually do that in Ascot, but if anyone feels that there is a need and wants to help that's again something that the team can go out and do. As I say that last thing is enforcement, we do it on a regular basis now, Pete's been putting together operations every month or so now. We often work with Bracknell as well, we're actually doing some speed enforcement work with them at the moment, so if you'd had a ticket recently I do apologise, but that's what happens!

What else are we working on? Vehicle nuisance, we got some issues with noisy cars at the moment, which is really work in progress. We have some complaints about cars racing around on the Winkfield Road and making noise late into the night and things, also Sunninghill High Street, that sort of thing, that's work in progress. Again any issues, we always here, we ought to know so please do shout us.

Last but not least still under that category, the things that keeps being brought up by local people is people using mobile phones on the road, again we're running monthly operations with that. Unfortunately we regularly catch in a two hour stretch, we regularly catch about 12 people using their mobile phone, so the message doesn't really seem to be hitting home at the moment, but we'll keep doing it!

So that what the local team have been working on. Obviously you're not just policed by the local team, we've covered by the team at Windsor and when we're not here there is normally a double group of cars working out of the Windsor area but also currently in the Ascot area, so any issues, any problems, just pick up that phone and hopefully they'll be able to get someone here pretty quickly.

Last but not least, I suppose on a slightly wider policing level, our chief constable is moving on at the end of the month, I don't know if you were aware, he's moving onto the National Police Chief's Council, which was previously ACPO, so watch this space in terms of direction, but I think that his deputy is in line for his spot.

That's all we've been doing locally. If you've got any questions and queries and dare I say it complaints. Yes that lady behind, Sir I'll come back to you.

Q1 – Just a quickie about the police helicopter activity. We did have some last week, which lasted for about half an hour at about 3am at night, and it was very disturbing. We rang up Thames Valley Police, to try and find out what was going on and they said that they couldn't tell us. But I did notice somebody on the 'Street Life' website found out what was going on. I just wondered how often this tends to be used? Because it was actually a real nuisance at that time of night.

ML – What was the problem, did they tell you?

Q1 – They said that someone, a lady had gone missing and they found her eventually all in one piece.

ML – Yeh. Well it's nice to know that. I think that if somebody is deemed to be a high risk missing person then there tends to be a helicopter will come out even at that time of night.

If it wakes you all up, I apologise, but they are ultimately looking for someone who is, I don't actually know the case so it would be wrong to say, but I would think that they were at high rise.

Q1 – We do get the odd one, there was someone missing from the health unit at Heatherwood, a long time ago.

ML – Right.

Q1 – But obviously it a problem when it happens at that time of night.

ML – We obviously do lots of thing other than what is just normal policing type stuff, and that's one of the things, we spend an awful lot of time looking for missing persons. And if they've been graded as high risk then they're a danger normally to themselves rather than anybody else, then an awful lot of man power goes into that. Don't assume it was that case, and that's why there was a helicopter.

ML - If you've not getting any information out of Thames Valley Police, then best thing to contact the neighbourhood team directly, that's what we're here for. We're your local team, we're on email, I'm on an email. We might tell you that we can't actually tell you, but we'll probably tell you exactly what it is to be honest, it's not a secret most of the time. You can dial 101, which is this mythical call centre somewhere up north, but best if it's not an emergence, just drop an email and we'll let you know.

Q2 – I was pleased to see your chaps out on Saturday morning I think it was on the London Road with their meters, but they were in the wrong place, they were outside Gainsborough Drive. Now Gainsborough Drive and the associated areas, the only one of the areas as far as I'm aware that hasn't got a 20 mile limit on it, every other road has. Now can you tell me please tell me why? It may not be under your jurisdiction I don't know, but Gainsborough Drive they drive up and down there like lunatics, and tonight I had to take evasive action because there was a car coming. Now I know they are local people the back, I accept that. But can you tell me why there isn't a 20mile limit on there? I know they'll probably ignore it, anyway, but at least you feel safer with it on the ground.

ML – The pretty quick answer, no I can't tell you why that isn't on there, I don't know the legality around putting in a 20 mile an hour limit on. I would foresee that it's a Highways issue. The ones that are responsible for the roads are the Highways department to put that in.

Q3 – But the council would, after consultation with police in appropriate circumstances, put in a 20 mile an hour limit. However, in the past we've had complaints about people speeding on Gainsborough Drive and the police went out with a gun there and did catch people and they all lived in Gainsborough Drive and Sutherland Chase. So those people if you put a 20 mile an hour limit on there are not going to take any notice of it. So the worst of them were caught, but they weren't from outside.

ML – If you want to see me afterwards, and give me some details. As I say any information we can relook at it.

Q4 – I suppose that this will come under the band of antisocial behaviour. What's your policy regarding youths who are smoking drugs locally?

ML – They're committing offences and they'll be dealt with.

Q4 – What do you find they're using?

ML - Cannabis is that normal sort of thing, but there is a quite clear policy, which you work up. It starts at a low level and work your way up, but its formal policy and you work your way through it and if people are caught with drugs.

Q4 – So if we're aware of it happening...

ML – You need to let us know and obviously like any information, the more specific and relevant and current it is the better.

Q4 – Is that a 101 then?

ML – Emailing me is probably the easiest way. You can 101, but it just a easy to drop me an email, obviously its confidential so if you want to leave details, we can speak to you, get back to you and you can tell us more.

Q5 – This issue is for local parish and police and it is parking on a Saturday for football matches. I get most complaints from residents who can't park because they're blocked by people who are attending the matches are parked all the way around the corner up to the church. And I regularly do ring 101 to see if we can get someone out to ticket those people, because it is really bad, especially going up to that bend and it is an accident waiting to happen. Can you perhaps, when there is a football match going on down there, get some people out and issue some tickets so that the message will soon get over?

ML - The parking enforcement is split between the borough and the police. If people are parking on the pavements and are blocking the pavements, that's a police issue, if they're on double yellow lines that a council issue. But we can look into that.

Q6 – I just wondered if there is a generic email for Ascot Police Station.

ML – Yes there is. Its ascotnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk, it just tripped off the tongue! And if that's wrong, I'm sure its right, but if it's wrong, my email is martin.littlewood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Q6 – And the ascot one will be accessed by anyone who is on duty will it?

ML – Yes, that's picked up by all members of the team. Thank you very much.

AS – Thank you so much. Rights it's me. So we now have a presentation from the Parish Council to let everyone know what we have been doing over the past year.

6038 THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (as attached as Appendix 1)

AS – We're now going to receive reports from our Borough Councillors. Who's going to be first? Thank you, Lynda Yong.

6039 REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR LYNDA YONG

Good evening everyone, I thought that I would start with an update on the hospital as I'm deputy organiser for health for the Borough, I attend every possible meeting regarding health that I can. So firstly I'd like to encourage you to join me at Frimley Health Trust. It's really important to become a member. You get sent this leaflet with everything that's going on with the trust. They have a membership of 23,511 people; they do not have very many people in this area, in Windsor and Maidenhead, because they weren't allowed to take membership over from Wrexham, so it's really important for people to join us. So Frimley has staff of 8888 people, there are 150 hospitals in the UK and the CQC has just finished its first round of inspecting all these hospitals. Frimley was the only hospital rated outstanding, so we are really lucky to have this hospital trust as well as Heatherwood and Wrexham. Wrexham is going to be inspected again by the CQC possibly in October this year.

So the money that Frimley got, we've already got, £6m was spent on a new roof at Wrexham, which was leaking badly, there's £2m for a car park, which residents will know is really important that you can park when you get there. There has been £16m spent on a new CT scan at Wrexham and the rest is being spent on A&E, maternity and other small areas. So at Heatherwood, the mental health unit is going to be taken over and enhanced with operating theatres and new beds and some £50m will be spent on the project ahead of the time.

So Frimley are looking to recruit staff with values, they're looking for shared vision; they're looking for strong capable leadership and engaged workforce. They're looking for organisational design, clear roles and accountability and I tell you this because it's quite important. Because this year for the first time Wrexham had no ambulances queuing up for A&E, and with A&E work increased by 13% that's a remarkable achievement. How did they do that? Because there has been a change in culture. The hospital is now consultant led and Frimley put in 10 consultants who were in charge of 10 areas, and this has brought this very promising start when Frimley took over. So basically in January when we were having problems with ambulances queuing outside A&E, 30 consultants turned up to work. That has never happened before. So Frimley have gone in really strong and it's actually now winning dividends for our local residents who will get the benefits.

Frimley have public meetings every month in different areas. The meeting tonight is at Legoland, so unfortunately I can't be there to find out any updates, but please go, they're on the back here (leaflet) and find out what is going on in your local area.

We also have another public forum I attend regularly once a month, which has become a very constructive group for health issues in this area. It's called the Community Partnership Forum. This group meets once a month and is attended by CCGs, Borough Reps, Health Watch and a number of other groups. This Thursday they are discussing End of Life Care, with the hospital and the hospice, and they talk about this particular pathway and discuss ways to improve it. So if you're interested, or if you know anybody, please get them to attend.

Our councillor allowance this year has gone to provide AD's in this area, for those who don't know these are Artificial Defibrillators. There is one installed in Charters Leisure Centre and another is going to be installed on the wall at South Ascot village, by the chemist and on the wall of the old dragon shed building in Sunninghill. And we're just waiting for the new tenants to move into that building so that we can have them placed on the outside of that wall. So any members of the public will be able to use those. So basically you dial 999 and they give you a code.

This issue of mental health was raised by Charters. Some people in the borough, and I've taken it very seriously, it was announced by the Government that a large amount of money has been specially allocated for children's mental health. At a recent meeting that I went to with the King's Fund, a spokes person for NHS England informed us about the issues around children's mental health were known about 15 years ago, so to me that's just unacceptable, but hopefully this issue will slowly start to be resolved.

On Charters Leisure, a big piece of work is happening around facilities. This will include community use, the enhanced facilities around the leisure centre have proved extremely popular. We live in an area where 60% of our residents are affluent, they can afford the private memberships of leisure facilities in this area, but we need to do more to provide the facilities that are low cost or free for those residents who cannot afford this luxury. The Borough and the Paris I know are looking at way to provide this low cost and free facilities for local residents. We are also looking into providing a safe cycle route to Windsor, but that takes time, so I do apologise, we have something called a crown estate that we have to negotiate with.

Recently, residents cannot have missed the new installed platforms in South Ascot village, thank you to David Hilton and Peter Comber. I have to say that I actually was not in favour of these at the start, I was not convinced and residents wanted it and now as I walk through the village every day I can actually see that its working, I can see the cars slowing down through the village. And the last issue there is that Network Rail have finally cleared the drains that go under the railway bridge, so no more flooding. It did take ages for the Borough to get them to do that.

And we also can announce that we will be starting work soon on the roundabout by the Berystede Hotel. It's been a long time coming, but it is going to happen this year.

Finally that Borough has announced a Council Tax cut of 2.1% it leads to a reduction in real terms over six years of 13% and it is on a sad note that it has not been reflected in the Parish Precept. A substantial increase of 3.5% which is disappointing. I hope that the Parish can justify this increase to our residents. Thank you.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR DAVID HILTON

Thank you for those of you who don't know me, I'm David Hilton, Councillor here and I represent the Ward of Ascot and Cheapside.

I'm going to leave Peter to talk about the good things that the Council has done this year, and there's a lot of it. I'm going to talk about just three issues. The first is aircraft noise the second is planning because I always talk about planning and lastly the state of the footpath that's just across the way.

The Heathrow departure trials that started last year have caused more complaints than any other issue that we've ever had in the ten years that I have been a Councillor. At a public meeting held in the Racecourse in September 2014, Heathrow, NATS, which is the National Air Traffic Service and the CAA agreed that from the 12th November, they would revert to the pre-trial departure routes. However many residents, including me, have continued to complain. We saw aircrafts in the sky and we were disturbed by the noise. And I wrote to the chief executive of the CAA, NATS and also John ??? at Heathrow arguing that they had not kept their promise. So after months and months of denials, on Tuesday, Heathrow and NATS issued a press release saying that NATS have made a procedural change in June 2014 and that explained the increase of noise across Ascot and North Bracknell. So that's alright! But I don't think it's alright. Firstly Heathrow owe residents an apology for the insulting accusations that they were 'imagining' this additional noise. But I've other concerns. I'm going to mention just two, because they do go on. If this change had been made in June 2014, which is what NATS asserts, I'm absolutely convinced that residents who were accepted at that time, would have complained in exactly the same way that they've continued to complain, but there is no evidence of complaints. And furthermore, the admissions of the department do not explain the complaints that have been coming in from Sunninghill and from Windlesham and Bagshot. Now I'm not a conspiracy theorist, but I think that this is a well-orchestrated exercise in trying to protect Heathrow from the criticisms which in my opinion it rightly deserves. As I say it's not surprising that residents, including me, don't trust what Heathrow are saying. And I will continue to work with Adam Afrye, our MP, who has been writing to the Minister and the authorities of these organisations, to gain a full understanding of what has happened.

However, we have mechanisms we put in place to insure that residents are not fobbed off by Heathrow and NATS again. I have been invited to visit NATS, facility in Swanic, by their Director of Operations, so I will be going with a Council Officer with the intention of getting a greater understanding, but I think that this issue is going to continue to run and run.

The second thing, planning. I have praised the Neighbourhood Plan in the past and I praise it again today. The Neighbourhood Plan has made a real difference to local planning. Neighbourhood policies are considered by our planners and they also given due consideration by the Planning Inspectorate at appeal. Locally after the last nine appeals that I looked at two were allowed but seven were dismissed, so about 75% were dismissed. Across the borough as a whole I think that the number of appeals that are won, or success rate of appears dismissed, is nearer 45%. That is totally down to the Neighbourhood Plan, the work that was put in by the people who created the plan and all those people in the community who contributed to the Neighbourhood Plan. So the process was worthwhile and the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group continues to comment on planning applications, write to the planning inspectorate and attend planning appeals is also helpful in containing the worst excesses of these developers.

Now I'm very supportive of the rejuvenation of Ascot, which is included as a feature in the Neighbourhood Plan. There have been a number of meetings between Councillors and land owners and slowly, they are learning that whatever proposals they make, must conform to the spirit of the work undertaken by the Princes Foundation in consequence of ????. The Council has no interest in the land, and in order to make sure that we have a seat at the table with developers I have made an agreement that the Council will continue to up to 50,000 hours in the pre development phase. It is important that the Council helps drive this forward, because I think only if the Council is involved in it, will we get what residents actually signed up for.

Station footpath. The Station footpath was closed eighteen months ago and I have been fighting to get it opened ever since. You may think that this has taken a long time, but working with Network Rail and South West Trains, big organisations whose interest in matters of that grade, things take time. Now we met with Network Rail and South West Trains at the borough office in March I think it was, and excuse the pun, but we are now somewhere down the track. At that meeting there was an acceptance by Network Rail and South West Trains that they would be quite happy to offload the liability, which is what they're worried about. Because someone slipped over and broke their leg and as a consequence sued South West Trains and as soon as that happened they closed the foot path. So where we are at is that we have agreed and very short formal contract with Network Rail that they will actually remove the land from South West Trains lease and that agreement will turn the path into a public right of way. The last issue at the moment is an argument over the ownership of the last eight meters of the path as it comes into that little car park area which is used by many race goers. The Crown Estate say that they own that piece of land and Network Rail say that they own it and I don't know when they're going to sort that out because neither of the registered that land with the Land Registry. I hope that they're going to sort it out quickly, but frankly I don't care if it isn't sorted out, provided that the Crown Estate allow the same access that Network Rail have in the past for people to walk over that last eight meters. I can't promise a date as to when this is going to happen, but when it does happen I have money in next year's budget, if I'm re-elected as a Councillor, to put lights onto the path, so that they path can be used throughout the night as well as through the day.

I'm happy to take any questions.

Q1 – Can I ask a question in relation to the aircraft noise and fighting that we've had over recent times with the trials as you suggested the changes that are taking place? What co-operation is taking place between the councils of Warfield, Winkfield, this parish, Sunningdale and Windlesham?

DH – There is no cooperation at parish level, however there are groups of people who are activists, who I've been contacting in Egham, Windlesham, over the border in Winkfield and we communicate. And a lot of those people have become members of Heathrow's recently formed, community noise forum and I'm the borough's representative on that. But a Borough Officer will go with me to Swanic and all of us are sceptical as to what's been said and whether it is actually the real reason.

Q1 – Thank you

Q2 – I noticed a leaflet come through the post about Heathrow saying how fantastic the extension will be. I notice they had a survey of all the parishes and the survey had not included Ascot, Sunningdale and around, so they are do a very limited statistical survey to prove that the support of the actually changes. Who has been on those surveys? Because at the moment they are showing 77% + support on those surveys.

DH – You can come up with any numbers you like with those if you choose the right questions. I know that Richmond ran a referendum and so did Hillingdon and both of those recommended that there wasn't a third runway. I asked the Borough to run a referendum, but they decided not to do it on the grounds of cost and proximity to the forthcoming election. I think that the government need to wake up to the fact that people will simply not accept the sort of noise nuisance that a third runway will bring.

Q3 – I'm not sure if this is relevant for you, but I'm going to ask anyway. I've got a question about the two sets of pedestrian traffic lights on the road by the Racecourse. Why are they not Pelican lights? The amount of time that you spend sitting there waiting while nobody's crossing is just unbelievable, it really can't help the traffic flow.

DH – I know. I have taken that up with the Borough Officers time and time again and the argument is that those lights are there to allow horses to cross the road, so the traffic has to stop for a longer period of time. Of course

the irony is that on race days they turn the off and control them manually. But I will undertake to take that forward.

Q3 – There aren't many horse that want to cross to use the Library though are there!

DH – No! But we are really trying to promote our Libraries and they are now open for longer and there are now more libraries.

Q3 – To me the issue is that personally I feel very bad if I press that button that the lights change, so what you do is you try to cross without doing it.

DH – Yes what happens is you press the button, if there's no traffic you cross the road and then the lights change and then the traffic stops. I do agree that it is quite stupid, so my wife will make sure that I deal with that issue. So thanks for bringing that up

AS – And now I'd like to invite Mr Peter Comber

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR PETER COMBER

Good evening everyone, I'm slightly 'demob' happy because I have decided not to stand for re-election so this will be my last report to this assembly.

I think that you've heard from Linda and already from David the incredible amount of work that they have both done in their different areas of responsibility. I mean David organised the aircraft conference, which was the largest attendance I think that we've ever had in this borough. I think that there were over 1200 people there and Linda has done a fantastic job on health issues which are really important to us all personally. And she has been a real tiger I can assure you on health work, so I take my hat off to my fellow ward councillors who work incredibly hard.

I've got transport with my patch, and as a new boy I didn't realise what a bed of nails that would be. Because we try to share our responsibilities so we don't duplicate efforts. So let just briefly run through what I've done over the last four years, because this is my swan song as it were. In Sunninghill High Street, which is a real challenge, work was completed on pinch points which has helped to significantly stop speeding traffic. You may ask how one can speed through Sunninghill, but it is quite remarkable how people do, do it, and what you forget is that it is 20mph through there and some people do go at significantly higher speeds. We have the evidence that since these pinch points came in speeds have come down quite significantly. Blood pressure has risen though in many cases, but I don't have any sympathy for the motorist at all, my prime concern as a ward councillor is safely of the residents. I've seen many occasion of where 4x4s have tried to mount pavements and almost run down pedestrians which is quite frightening. Again Linda has highlighted South Ascot together with David Hilton they have introduced new speed restrictions there. There is still a work in progress, more signage is still to go in to make it more visible. But this is in direct response to resident's requirements and I think with a bit of bedding down there is a significant improvement there. Again designed to reduce speed because that is the number one priority.

I've worked quite closely with Peter Deason on quite a number of areas, particularly on parking, which is what I came in on, and I'm so pleased that we've got Bouden Road done, because the first thing I did was Bouden Road carpark and I said to the leader that I'd like to get things moving so that we could finish off before I end, and we've got it, so the Bouden Road carpark looks really nice now. We've got sufficient parking there as well as School Road car park as well.

You've heard about the new roundabout by the Berystede, there has been a long battle, but I think that will make a significant improvement to what is really a very dangerous road, it's almost like a speed trap. I actually live on the London Road in Sunningdale and I is also a bit of a speed trap to me. The barriers go up and it's like to greyhounds have been let loose, they go roaring down the road, and that's a little bit like Devonish Road, you

go up there, straight road, but there are lots of children walking to school at certain times too, so it is really a very dangerous pair of pathways, so if nothing else that will be a big improvement there.

On the High Street, there is no easy answer to this and whatever you do is going to cause upset somewhere or other, but there have been increasing amounts of traffic through there and also where the road becomes gridlock. I've seen it is quite an amazing site, so I've had quite a number of discussions with officers and we're working on a consultation plan which we want to run through with Peter Deason when its ready, the officers are very busy as you might expect, but when it comes through its going to be slightly controversial because it is going involve some loss of parking on the High Street, but depending on what people think, it is designed to slow though by creating more break points through.

At the moment if you see a gap you've got to pretty much race it down to the school if you're lucky, you've then got to pause there and wait to go through and at the other end its exactly the same. So there are a lot of points where you meet and nothing happens and someone eventually has to back away, so its just trying to look at that. So that's somebody else's challenge.

The other thing that we're trying to do is some traffic calming measures at the bottom of Rise Road, which is another racing area. When you come down the hill, I don't know about you, but I find it difficult to realise what speed I'm going at sometimes from coming down that hill, so that's been delayed deliberately until after all the works been finished at Lynwood. There no point in getting all this in place and then it all being churned up by Lorries, so that's been deliberately held back.

And the other thing is I was very surprised to hear that there was no 20mph limit outside schools. I have friends who live in America and they are shocked, its almost a criminal offence there, so with the support of my fellow councillors we've battled it in the council to introduce this and I'm very pleased to say that it's been introduced Borough wide, not just here. It is advisory and we do ask the Police to try and enforce it, but it is advisory. But it has been introduced right across the Borough for all schools, so I think that's something and I'm personally very proud of it.

My biggest regret is that not one centimetre of cycle path has been put in, in the four years, which I think is just appalling actually. Linda has worked tirelessly to try and get this fabulous scheme available linked from the LookOut through to Windsor. We are battling hard, but we are running up against brick walls with the Crown Estate and whatever, but we are still working hard on that. I think that there is now a greater recognition in the council that we need to do more sustainability like cycle paths, and we've head the Headmaster speak about Charters School. Do you have any children that cycle to Charters School do you know?

Reply: Two.

PC: Well there were six at my last count. There are 1700 pupils and how many staff, but it is pretty shocking. I as a parent wouldn't let my children cycle to school because its too dangerous. That roadway and path are a real challenge, but there are ways that we can get more cycle paths through it and the thing that frustrates me, is the officer says, 'we can only introduce it is it's a safe cycle path', so I say 'well what is the alternative, letting them do the dangerous cycle path, which is on the road?' So I don't understand that but I'm really unhappy that not 1cm have been added. I do you know where the only place we have a cycle path in the south? There is a 20 yard stretch in Ascot, that's it! I'm pretty appalled by that frankly but hopefully there will be some vigour on that during the next administration.

Just on other matters quickly, one thing that we voted on as a council is to pool our discretion grants, so Linda has mentioned the AD unit, its already saved one life, and one is a huge result and I think that is a fantastic thing and down to Linda. You've heard about the skate board down at Victory Fields, so there is a lot of projects that we as Councillors have been battling to get more money invested in the South. I think that it has been neglected and we've been far too vocal in the last administration trying to get money spent here. Charters Leisure, which is another one of Linda's pet things, it is a fantastic facility now. It was an embarrassment before. I took a photograph where there was a huge hold in the matting, where people could have caught their foot and there'd be an injury. But now it looks fantastic. I would really encourage people who can get there to go and use the facility. It is already a victim of its own success because its already being so well used that it's overdue for another expansion, so that is something else that we can hopefully carry through to the next administration.

David has mentioned already about the Neighbourhood Plan, well I think that is again a phenomenal achievement and I commend everyone who works on that. This is so important for our area and I sit on the planning panel and they don't always make good decisions, but I think that we now have some stuff that helps us make good decisions, because we are bound by planning laws and now the Neighbourhood Plan is planning law, it wasn't before. I think it's the eighth one in the country, but it is still the only one in the borough and I can tell you that we are very proud of what you've done. It helps keep the area the way that we want it. We can't keep development out, we can't be 'not in my back yard' I'm afraid that not going to happen, but we need to be able to control where that development takes place and how it takes place and that is why it's so important to us.

The final thing is I must share Linda's last comments. You know we fought hard in the council to keep council tax low, in six years we cut it every year for the last six years. What's this Parish done? its raised it every year. Now I think that hopefully with Peter Deason's new oversight, you know this is resident's money, spend it carefully, we try to do that on a Council wide basis so I think that the Parish can do the same.

Thank you Madam Charmin I'd just like to end by saying that I've really enjoyed my experience as your Ward Councillor. You have a tremendous battery of good citizens I'd call them, who volunteer and give up so much of their time. Thank you.

AS: Thank you. Are there any specific questions?

Parish Councillor Peter Deason asked about parking on Ascot High Street, there has been a huge increase in parking in side streets and said that he urged a holistic approach to parking and traffic management.

Q2: Yes can I just make a point on your cycle tracks. Which is important, I understand, but until central government make everybody use them if they're available, because London Road has a wonderful cycle track, but excluding the 'head down, bottom up brigade' you've got people riding bikes in the road when there is a perfectly good cycle track, they just don't use them. And the amount of near misses I've seen on the London Road between Ascot and Bracknell you can clock endlessly. Until this happens in central government, whoever they happen to be, to make it mandatory, that if there is cycle track to use it, other yes its fine to have a cycle track, but otherwise you're wasting your money.

Q3 – Can I just make a point about that? Because I do know Sunninghill very well and you have to have a certain standard of cycle track and I would say that, that path is not safe its uneven, there are lampposts in the way, there are all sorts of small obstructions which are dangerous, so that could be why they're doing it. They're very keen to get a cycle track.

Q4 – There is also an issue of continuance, because you get a cycle path for a few hundred yards and then you lose it, so that's no good to cyclists. If you've got a mountain bike, then you can take a hit fine, but on a normal bike you can't.

Linda Yong – I'd just forgot to add about the AD that David Hilton has arranged to have outside Budgens as well, so there will be four locally, which I forgot to mention so I apologise.

AS – Perfect, Ok. Thank you all so much. On now to apologies for absence that have been sent to us from two of our Borough Councillors, John Storey and Duncan McBride, neither of whom could be with us here this evening, but echoing the good news that our Borough Councillors have been working on.

So moving on to the next item on our agenda. We've received some reports to the council for our charities. We've already heard this evening from the Sunninghill Fuel Allotment Trust and I've received apologies this evening from the Sunninghill Parochial Charities, so that leave us with the Ascot Fire Bridge Trust and David again.

6040 REPORT FROM DAVID HILTON – CHAIRMAN OF THE ASCOT FIRE BRIGADE TRUST

Last and lease! The Church Parochial Council have never in my experience presented to this particular meeting, despite that fact that they have an obligation so to do. Anyway The Ascot Fire Brigade Trust. We are not about to change our name and anyone who wants to have a potted history of what the Ascot Fire Brigade Trust is all about, see me afterwards.

Our accounts are out, so if you look at the accounts you will see all the organisation annual summaries including who we have given money to. So any questions on that please see me afterwards.

So we continue to support older and younger people in the community. If you look at the accounts you will see that we support Charters School. We heard from a poverty stricken Martyn earlier on saying that they need all the money they can get. But it's not so much that we're supporting Charters School, but what we are doing is supporting the very many young people in our community that study at Charters School and we are supporting things in the art department, in the dance department and also in sport.

This year we're going to restart our sports bursaries which is to promote excellence and a bursary worth £1000. But what we're going to do is have one £1000 which we use to mentor 30 what they call 'gifted and talented' young people in sports. And Chris Pie, one of the trustees will be joining the staff to pick, hopefully from that thirty, the three young people who will get bursaries of £1000.

We are not wealthy, we have £30,000 of assets, and it's not our money it's the communities' money, to give away as grants, so if you have a need or you know an organisation that has a need, we will consider all requests for grants, just write to me. But thanks very much indeed, it's such an honour to be able to administer all this and give money to the people who need it most. Thank you.

6041 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

For anybody to be able to submit questions to the Borough and Parish Councillors about matters of local concern. The floor is open. Yes lady at the back.

Q1 – Do professional dog walkers have to be licenced in this area? And if so does anyone check on what they're doing? I go for a walk with my dog through the fields and sometimes in the woods and there are professional dog walkers who have as many as six or eight dogs, sometimes they're not on leads, and that looks like a pack, which can be intimidating for a single dog to walk past; and I was just wondering if there is any way that they are checked?

LY – Yes this is something that we are looking at. This is a problem not just locally but all over. One of the things that we're hoping to do is put dog furniture on Allen's Field, which is the area for dog walker to go and walk, to try and encourage people to take their dogs there and exercise them.

I are also discussing with the Parish about putting up a fenced area, so that people can let their dogs off the lead there. It is a real issue when people have packs of dogs to just let them off is not acceptable, and some people have had accidents. So there does need to be a lot more guidance and we are looking into this and thank you for sharing your concern.

AS – Thank you. I did see some other hands go up earlier, does anyone else have a question?

Q2 – Yes I have a question. The new rules on Planning all about devolving planning to the Parish Councils. Can I ask what is the Parish Councillors view about this?

AS – Certainly you can and I'd ask Barbara Hilton the Chair of our Planning Committee to respond.

BH – Thank you! Yes we did look at the devolving of planning to parish councils and it's really a big decision, as on certain planning applications, not large planning applications, but house extensions and garages things that are not particularly difficult to deal with or controversial. But it was felt at the time we didn't know how much administration we're going to need. We do get an awful lot of applications, sometimes we get twenty applications at one meeting and we just don't feel we can cope with that. If you're administering that you've got to actually send out information to residents and there is all sorts of admin stuff that you'd have to take on and we just felt that we really couldn't take that on at that time. We may well revisit it, because I know the Borough are anxious to pass it onto us, but that's the big decision because it is an enormous undertaking.

DH – I would advise that there is a real opportunity for the Parish if they do take it on.

BH – Yes I can understand that and when the new Planning Committee reconvenes I'm sure we will be discussing it again.

AS – Is there another question?

Q3 – Yes I would like to mention Heathrwood roundabout and in the local rag a few weeks ago there was a suggestion that there was going to be flags, fountains and horses up there. Which I understand is no longer, but I would suggest that if, and it's quite right that there should be a memorial to the horses that fell during the First World War, no question about it and it should be in Ascot. But I think that Ascot Racecourse should be the place where we put the horses. There is plenty of space out there where you've got a large memorial, the War Memorial itself is up the road and it would be very nice to have alongside the war memorial there a memorial for horses somewhere in that area. Certainly not on the roundabout because that roundabout is a death trap at the best of times and I just think that the Parish Council should keep their eye on this one to see if there is any truth in the thing that the actual proposal is going to be pursued any further.

AS – Would any of the Parish Councillors like to respond?

BH – Yes I would like to say that there has not been a planning application received, and the original one as withdrawn, so there is no application for a war memorial as such that is still on the drawing board.

LY – Can I just say that David has done a huge amount of work on the aircraft, but I actually got a letter from Adam in response. So if anyone would like to read his response from the chief executive it is available.

AS – OK. Thank you very much. Can I just let you know and our Parish Clerk and Assistant Clerk have worked very hard to provide us with some refreshments. So at the back is food and drink for everybody to say thank you for attending this event this evening. So please do stay and have a glass of wine or a soft drink and we can chat about the things we been doing and read the various reports that have been offered to us. So thank you this meeting is now closed!

Appendix 1

Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report for the Annual Assembly 2015

Sunninghill & Ascot Parish Council is here to directly address issues which are of concern to the local community. We have a vital role to play in the provision and management of local services to our Parishioners and are always looking to improve local amenities where funds permit. The Parish Precept that appears on your Council Tax Bill is used to run the affairs of the Parish and maintenance of its resources.

We are unpaid volunteers and want to give our time, knowledge and skills to benefit the local community. We do this as a cohesive whole and also through two Committees: Planning and Leisure & Cultural.

The Planning Committee

The Parish Planning Committee, led by Councillor Mrs Barbara Hilton, acts in an advisory capacity, providing advice to the Borough on planning applications. Our Parish Councillors form a dedicated team and meet every 3 weeks to discuss applications in a timely manner. These meetings are open to the public and the Parish Councillors are working hard to lobby the Borough, to ensure new developments comply with the Neighbourhood Plan, with some success.

I should briefly mention the Heathrow Flight Trials. Although we have no jurisdiction over our airspace, we have listened to Parishioners concerns and elevated these to the Borough.

The Leisure & Cultural Committee

The Parish Leisure & Cultural Committee, led by Councillor Robert Ellison, meets regularly to review maintenance and enhancement of Parish facilities. These include children's play areas, recreation grounds, the Cemetery and Allotments.

Our biggest change in 2014 centred on reducing the costs of maintaining our Parish assets through our grounds maintenance operation. We now employ a firm of contractors to look after our sites, whilst we ensure that safety and grounds maintenance standards are met.

We continued to augment our services through the use of various lines of funding for local projects and as a result have extended the skate park at Victory Field Recreation Ground, added adult fitness equipment and rejuvenated the playground at South Ascot Recreation Ground. Separately, the Racecourse has now restored the children's play equipment which was removed when the new Grandstand was built.

A lovely "Garden of Reflection" has now been completed at the bottom of the cemetery which offers a new shelter and seating and is an area for quiet remembrance and reflection.

We have increased the amount of Allotments available to Parishioners and have awarded the Allotment Shield to what was judged to be the "best" allotment in the Parish.

Other activities have included the Summer 'Fun in the Sun' play scheme, community clear-ups and bulb plantings at South Ascot and Victory Field and provision of floral displays in the planters and hanging baskets throughout the Parish.

General Activities

Turning to general Parish Council activities, we sponsor two major community events: the Sunninghill Victorian Street Fayre and Party in the Park at the Victory Field recreation ground. These were two successful family events in 2014, supporting local traders whilst raising awareness of the area. As a direct result of these initiatives, funds in excess of £10,000 have been donated to local charities and worthy causes. It has to be said that the Council has found its resources stretched, in terms of manpower and administration over the past couple of years in running these two major attractions, so we have reluctantly taken the decision to alternate these two events for future years.

The Future

So, now turning to look at the future, we are seeking to work more closely with The Sunninghill Trust and as the Parish Council appoints two of its Trustees, we are in the process of interviewing prospective candidates.

Thanks to the diligence of our Parish Clerk, we are continuing to secure an increased level of Section 106 funding to assist us in enhancing the facilities at each of our leisure areas. The largest of these funding projects is a long awaited replacement Pavilion at Victory Field, and we will be progressing this project in the coming year. In addition, we plan to continue to update the play equipment throughout our parks.

Our Planning Committee will continue to embrace the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery Group, the Ascot Rejuvenation group and SPAE) and is extremely grateful for the ongoing input from these bodies.

Councillor Peter Deason has taken on the role of Head of Finance and is exploring ways of streamlining our budgets whilst ensuring we can continue to effectively deliver maintenance, upkeep and improvement across our areas of responsibility.

As you know, Heatherwood & Wexham Park Hospitals are now incorporated into the Frimley Park Trust and we will monitor plans for the Heatherwood site and are inviting the Trust to provide us with updates on the provision of medical care at the site.

Please visit the Parish Council's web site and relatively new Facebook page. These incorporate items of news, together with agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings. You are welcome to attend these meetings and to call in at the Parish Office, located beside the Durning Library in Ascot High Street, opposite Car Park 3, if you have any queries or concerns. Our Clerk Liz and her Assistant, Jayne, will be pleased to welcome you.

Our thanks go to the many volunteers who have given up their time to help us over the past year. Finally, I would like to thank our local Borough and Parish Councillors who have all played a part in trying to improve the facilities and services in our area.

Thanks go to Councillor Margo Duffield who is not choosing to stand for re-election this coming May and special thanks go to our former Chairman, Councillor Jeffrey Yong, who devoted over 30 years to volunteering for his local community. His service will be missed and we are indebted to him for his tireless work and leadership over such a long period of time.

Allison Sharpe
Chairman, Sunninghill and Ascot Parish Council