

Minutes from the Annual Assembly held on 22 March 2016 at the Saints Pavilion, Ascot United Football Club, Winkfield Road, SL5 7LJ on Tuesday 22 March 2016 commencing at 7.00pm.

12 Parish Councillors and 27 Residents attended.

An announcement was made regarding health and safety matters and the filming and audio recording policy applicable to the meeting.

6359 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained the purpose of the Annual Assembly and the structure of the meeting.

6360 The minutes of the Annual Assembly, held on 24 March 2015, were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

6361 A presentation was received from the Parish Council Chairman and Parish Councillors regarding activities during the past year and future plans. This presentation covered the Leisure Committee's activities, such as the installation of new play equipment and improvements to the allotment site, the proposed new Pavilion at Victory Field Recreation Ground in Sunninghill and a project to enhance bio-diversity at Tom Green's Field, which lay at the back of Victory Field. The role of the Parish Council in local Planning Applications was also explained, as were the finances and grant giving process. The 2015 Summer Party was highlighted as a success and the 2016 Victorian Street Fayre advertised, with a call to residents for local entertainers. The Chairman finished by stating a desire to enhance the 'Pride in the Parish' such as through the provision of hanging baskets, with the support of Ascot Authority. She thanked her fellow Councillors and the Parish Council staff for their efforts during the last year.

6362 As many of those in attendance had expressed concerns in advance of the Assembly about the proposal to introduce charges for the Borough run public car parks in the Parish, the Chairman called on Parish Councillor Peter Deason to explain the Parish Council's position on parking and congestion within Sunninghill Village.

Councillor Deason stated that he and Parish Councillor Robert Ellison were working closely with the Borough Councillors and Borough Officers to provide an holistic approach to the problems experienced by residents, visitors and businesses in Sunninghill.

The Chairman then asked to receive a report from Borough Councillor Lynda Yong on behalf of the Borough Councillors for the two wards within the Parish, the Ascot and Cheapside Ward and the Sunninghill and South Ascot Ward. Councillor Yong began by informing those present of her involvement with the plans for Heatherwood Hospital, with a meeting to be held shortly regarding the new hospital with the Chairman of the Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust, to which all the Borough Councillors would attend. She was committed to a proportion of any new housing built being made available to injured military personnel, in recognition of their service to the Country and in accordance with the Hague Trust. Councillor Yong stated that a new round-a-bout was to be built by the junction of the A329 and Silwood Road, that a new dog agility area was being created, at the end of March, in Allen's Field, South Ascot and that the newly appointed Borough Community Warden, Steve Saunders, was increasing his patrolling and identification of dog fouling. She updated the meeting on the work done by Councillor David Hilton regarding the data received from the Heathrow Air Trials and read out a statement from him on the Ascot Rejuvenation project, which was due to start in 2018, following public consultation and the planning process. Councillor Yong stated that plans were in place for the development of Charters Leisure Centre, to include a swimming pool, and that a third artificial defibrillator was to be located on the wall of the chemist's in South Ascot. All the Ward Councillors were keen to extend the cycle paths within the Parish, from Windsor to Ascot and Sunninghill to Sunningdale, as well as to improving the footpath network, as set out in the Borough's Local Plan. She was aware of resident anger regarding the proposed car park charges and she was lobbying to delay their start until the completion of the road works in Sunninghill High Street. It was understood that trials were to be undertaken by National Grid in April, with the main works to be carried out in August. She assured residents that the Borough Councillors would work toward mitigating the problems of parking and congestion in Sunninghill.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Yong for her presentation.

6363 A presentation was then received from Wayne Phelan on behalf of the Sunninghill Trust. He explained the history of the Trust, its structure, objectives and finances. Mr Phelan informed those present that the Trust was in the process of appointing a new Trustee and Clerk and that the Trust hoped to enhance its administration, community engagement and land management. He noted the overlap of activity with the Parish Council. Mr Phelan ended by stating that the Trust could only spend its surplus income of approximately £100,000 per year, with the highest percentage of grants going to the sick and elderly, but that individual grants could also be awarded, subject to an application process. The Chairman thanked Mr Phelan for his presentation.

The latest accounts were received from the Ascot Fire Brigade Trust, with copies available. Accounts were awaiting from the Sunninghill Parochial Charities.

6364 The Chairman then opened the floor up to a Question and Answer Session. She asked all those who were representing businesses in Sunninghill to raise their hands and all those who were residents with concerns about the parking charges to then show their hands. As this was a significant percentage of those present, the Chairman called on the traders in Sunninghill to appoint a spokesperson to make a statement on their behalf.

Mr Jeremy Davies did so, as Chairman of the Sunninghill Chamber of Commerce. He expressed concerns about the lack of consultation from the Borough over the car park charges and the negative impact the charges would have on businesses within Sunninghill, coupled with the forthcoming National Grid works. Mr Davies's concerns were endorsed by Mr Beverly Williams, a local businessman, who added that congestion and inappropriate parking were adding to the problems of residents and customers within Sunninghill. Councillor Yong asked that individuals take photos of cars parking illegally, such as on zigzag lines, and to send them to the Community Warden. The Chairman asked Sergeant Martin Littlewood to comment on this and he stated that such parking was a criminal offence.

Mr Williams went on to ask why the Borough were introducing parking charges rather than encouraging shoppers to Sunninghill in an age of ever increasing internet shopping. His sentiments were endorsed by the traders and residents present. Mrs Janet Campbell stated that white lines in Kings Road were often ignored; Mr Sean Kyne asked that any consultations on parking and congestion were made widely available to the public, such as through an open public meeting. Mrs Campbell noted that recent traffic surveys had been carried out during school holidays and that Sunninghill High Street was often congested, with drivers uncertain at the Kingswick Drive pinch point. One resident asked what would happen to business parking in Sunninghill and Councillor Deason replied that thought was being given to issuing Business Parking Permits. Mr Williams called for two hours free parking. The Chairman then concluded this part of the meeting with a request for support from the two Borough Councillors present in addressing the residents and traders concerns.

Next she asked Mr Richard Pilgrim if he wished to make a statement on behalf of Charters School, Sunningdale, as one of the Co-Headteachers He did so and informed those present about the School's Community Vision, which would focus on cycle ways, the development of their sports centre, an emphasis on the 'STEM' subjects, which would involve building a new science and maths block and an onsite crèche for staff. He invited those present to visit the school and to take a copy home with them of the School's Community Blue Print.

No further questions followed.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Refreshments followed.

Councillor Allison Sharpe, Chairman