

Minutes from the Annual Assembly held on 22 March 2017 at the Saints Pavilion, Ascot United Football Club, Winkfield Road, SL5 7LJ commencing at 7.00pm.

12 Parish Councillors and 19 Residents attended.

An announcement was made regarding health and safety matters applicable to the meeting.

6680 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained the purpose of the Annual Assembly, the Parish Council funding base and the structure of the Parish Council. She informed those present that the Parish Guide for 2017 had been published and went through the agenda for the meeting.

6681 The minutes of the Annual Assembly, held on 22 March 2016, were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

6682 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 works to enhance bio-diversity at Tom Green's Field, the re-surfacing of pathways at the Blythewood Nature Reserve and works to the multi-court and tennis courts at Victory Fields, the proposed extension to the skate park at Victory Fields and the planned introduction of play panels at Blythewood. The role of the Parish Council in local planning applications was also explained with the responses on significant developments and the Borough's Local plan touched on, as were the finances and grant giving process. The upcoming 2017 Summer Party was advertised and the 2016 Victorian Street Fayre highlighted as a success.

The Chairman finished the presentation by thanking those involved with the Parish Council for their time and support.

6683 The Chairman then asked to receive a report from Borough Councillor Julian Sharpe 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 Sharpe began by updating those present on the status of the Borough's draft Local Plan, stating that the responses to the consultation were being analysed by the Borough. He then asked those present to respond to the campaign regarding the Third Runway at Heathrow, stated that the ward Councillors were responding to the development at Heatherwood Hospital, were involved with the consultation and consideration of congestion and parking in Sunninghill and the school's expansion programme. The opening of the footpath from the British Rail Station to Ascot High Street was considered a success. The Chairman thanked Councillor Sharpe for his presentation.

6684 The three charities within the Parish were then invited to provide an update on their activities. Councillor David Hilton began, as Chairman of the Ascot Fire Brigade Trust. He stated that the Trust spends approximately £30,000 a year on helping individuals and local good causes within the Parish, using receipts from the rental of the former Fire Station in Ascot. The grants given ranged from the provision of a mobility scooter to support for students at Charters School. This year a new charity, SportAble was being supported to assist those at risk of inclusion in sports to become engaged. Councillor Hilton asked those present to write in with requests for funding and inform others to so do.

A presentation was then received from Wayne Phelan on behalf of the Sunninghill Trust. He explained the Trust's aims, its structure, objectives, income and expenditure, noting that the Trust was 200 years old. Mr Phelan informed those present that the Trust has appointed a new Trustee and were looking to appoint a Clerk and that the Trust hoped to continue to improve its administration, community engagement and land management. He cited the current sewer works in South Ascot, the undertaking of a tree survey and the Trust's involvement within the Sunninghill Victorian Street Fayre as examples of their recent activities. Mr Phelan confirmed that the Trust was not looking to sell off any of its land for the foreseeable future.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hilton and Mr Phelan for their presentations.

The Clerk informed the Assembly that a representative of the Sunninghill Parochial Charities had sent their apologies.

6685 The Chairman then opened the floor up to a Question and Answer Session.

Anne Martin asked about the latest situation regarding the regeneration of Ascot High Street. Councillor David Hilton replied, in his capacity as Deputy Lead Member for Ascot Regeneration. Following a contentious public meeting and a resultant petition objecting to the removal of the South side of Ascot High Street from the Green Belt, a series of workshops had been set up to consider key aspects of the regeneration in detail with local stakeholders, with the petition being considered at a forthcoming Borough Council meeting.

Diana Tombs asked if housing numbers were known and Councillor Peter Deason added that there was concern that the predicted numbers were higher than that set out in the original Prince's Foundation's vision as set out in the Ascot, Sunninghill & Sunningdale Neighbourhood Plan.

Lynda Deason asked who was responsible for clearing dog fouling within the Parish. Borough Councillor Lynda Yong replied that the Borough was and that local Community Wardens were actively tackling such fouling through the use of spray cans to identify and 'shame' perpetrators.

Councillor Charlotte Herring asked if there was going to be a consultation on parking in Sunninghill. Borough Councillor Julian Sharpe replied that there was to be a consultation on parking permits and consideration of revised proposals following the consultation on measures to reduce congestion in Sunninghill High Street.

Anne Martin asked how many more children would be enrolled following the expansion at Cheapside Primary School and would this be sufficient to meet demand. Councillor Julian Sharpe replied that there would be one extra class per year and Councillor David Hilton replied that this would meet current demand and projected demand for some years. The extra class would also allow for single age group classes.

Next the Chairman asked Mr Martyn Parker if he wished to make a statement on behalf of Charters School as a Co-Headteacher. He did so and informed those present that the school would be taking in an additional 30 children per year from 2018 and that building works were planned to accommodate this increase in pupil numbers.

Thelma Haworth asked if thought had been given to an emergency access route within the Blythewood Estate in conjunction with Winkfield Parish. Councillor David Hilton stated that he would look into this.

Finally Sergeant Martin Littlewood informed the Assembly that from 1 June the police were being re-organised and that he and Police Constable Peter Bullet were being moved to Windsor and Maidenhead. Two Police Community Support Workers would cover Ascot and the Sunnings.

No further questions followed.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Refreshments followed.

Councillor Allison Sharpe, Chairman