

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Stroud held at Langrish
Primary School on Tuesday the 31st of March 2015 at 7pm.**

01.15 Present: Cllr David McKinney (Chairman). Guest Speakers – PCSO Tria Gibbs and PCSO Tobey Mason of Hampshire Constabulary, Megan Streb of SusTrans, Robert Shields of Bishops Waltham Parish Council and District Cllr Nick Drew.

Also present: 41 members of the public including parish councillors. Mrs Elisabeth Foulston (Clerk)

Apologies: County Cllr Vaughan Clarke, Ron & Mary Allen, Joyce Perry and Helen Bradley.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending and for the good turnout.

02.15 The approval of the minutes of the annual parish meeting held on Monday the 1st of April 2014. The minutes from the meeting held on the 1st of April were agreed as correct, then proposed by Cllr Dave Paul and seconded by Cllr Chris Snow and signed by the Chairman.

03.15 Chairman's Report – Cllr David McKinney (See attached appendix). The Chairman also gave further information regarding the upcoming elections and how residents could apply to be parish councillors. A member of the public asked whether there had been any further developments regarding affordable housing and the Chairman confirmed that the Council were in the very early stages of discussion with another landowner and also that the landowner involved in the original discussions would be addressing the Parish Council at their next meeting in May and anyone would be welcome to attend this. Rural Exception Sites, 70/30 affordable housing and potential opportunities such as a village hall were also discussed.

04.15 Hampshire Constabulary – Community Speedwatch

PCSO Gibbs has undertaken some research into the issues on the A272 and over the last 12 months there have been 3 accidents between West Meon and Petersfield, none of which were speed related. The safety camera is in Stroud at least twice a month and there have been 26 speeding tickets of which 6 were Stroud residents. 1 vehicle was seized in that period. A member of the public queried the times that the camera was in attendance and PCSO Gibbs confirmed this was at various times including rush hour and school start and finish times. Police motorbikes are also in attendance on other times. There are only a couple of places within the village where it is possible to place the safety camera but it does act as a deterrent.

PCSO Mason introduced Speedwatch which can only happen within a 30mph zone. It is looked after by the local police Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) but is led by communities. It is used to increase public awareness and reduce death and injury. The community picks the roads to be patrolled and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams checks these roads and will also be with the Speedwatch teams on their first few patrols. The cost

of Speedwatch is approximately £2k but funding is available from the Police Crime Commissioner (up to £1k), County Cllrs, Community Grants and Parish Councils. Equipment provided (e.g. high visibility jackets) unfortunately can't be shared with other communities. There has to be at least 6 volunteers (who are vetted) and 3 people at a time on the road who will take details of speeding vehicles which will be input to the police database – no fines will be issued but educational letters are sent. The data will also give the police further information into particular vehicles speeding, times etc. The next step is to set up a Speedwatch meeting (with the Safer Neighbourhood Teams involved) to decide on a Coordinator, Treasurer and volunteers. Literature and contact details were left with the Clerk.

Further discussion followed concerning beat officers, flashing lights on the road when people are speeding, double white lines, signs written on the road, gateways/rumble strips, school patrols and removal of all road markings apart from at crossroads and corners. Cllr Burges and Mrs A Snow have been in discussion with Highways about the various options and it is looking positive for the next financial year although nothing has been definitely agreed.

PCSO Gibbs suggested signing up for Hampshire Alerts which will send notifications of any crimes in our area.

05.15 SusTrans – Active Travel

Megan Streb is based in Southampton and has been looking into community engagement for speeding issues, for example, a bumper sticker scheme for village residents and trackers fitted to cars for cheaper car insurance. In respect of cycling and cycle paths, SusTrans have a Schools Officer who instigates ideas such as 'bike breakfasts' and 'walk to school once a week'. Another SusTrans officer (Nick Farthing) has recently been looking at a Petersfield to Midhurst cycle path so would be able to assist with infrastructure and suggestions for funding. Other ideas include a Travel Survey for the school or village residents, a commuter challenge and a group ride to catch a particular train but ensure that walkers are included in ideas too. Bike Doctors are available where people can bring their bikes along to be checked and could also include a second hand bike sale. Cycle Training can also be arranged. A Work Places Officer will soon be based in Petersfield. Further information on SusTrans will be added to the Parish Council website.

06.15 Bishops Waltham Parish Council – Cycle Paths

Robert Shields has been working on setting up a cycle path (for cyclists, riders and walkers) between Bishops Waltham and Botley following a disused railway line to link the South Downs Way to the coast as the current route is dangerous. They have had various issues including dealing with 20 landowners, a sewage works and crossing a railway line or bypass. Identical lessons could be used in setting up any cycle path within Stroud and suggestions included: -

Have a strategy and context

Divide the plan into bite-size chunks

Involve a broad spectrum of stakeholders (Bishops Waltham's project has included 3 Parish Councils, Hampshire County Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, The Ramblers, The British Horse Society, Cyclists Touring Club etc.)

Keep the landowners talking

Approach senior executives of any organisations involved

Plan for alternative routes

Think about funding

They started with approximately 14 people on the committee, currently there is 7 and they are always looking at alternative solutions to keep the enthusiasm going as the project continues.

07.15 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Nick Drew covers a large area for East Hants and has responsibility for the Portfolio for Communities and also works on grants. There are various grants available including a Cabinet Fund, Rural Leaders Grant and grants towards local community activities.

Council tax is not being increased this year and the District Council is committed to supporting Parish Councils. EHDC has also recently approved funding for 3 more PCSO's.

Cllr Drew suggested asking East Hants Press Relations Team for advice on cycle paths and the EHDC Planning Team for any planning and compliance issues. The new rules regarding litter picking were discussed and this is currently a work in progress. Cllr Drew also mentioned Farnborough Airport and the Sheet railway crossing (views on this issue can be shared with Network Rail or the Parish Council) and a new Powertrack app for phones which gives information on power cuts.

There are currently no athletics clubs in East Hants and Cllr Drew said he was looking for coaches if any of the residents were interested.

Cllr Drew ended by thanking the Parish Council for all of their support for the village.

08.15 Report from County Councillor (see attached appendix)

The Chairman read this report and also confirmed that Stroud now has superfast broadband.

Following this report the Chairman then made a presentation to Cllr Snow who would be standing down from the Parish Council after nearly 21 years at the upcoming elections. Cllr Snow was a founding member of the Parish Council in 1994 and has been on every committee, been Chairman and has worked extremely hard on behalf of the village and has seen a great deal of change over the years. The Chairman thanked Cllr Snow for all of his hard work and support.

09.15 Committee for Future Annual Parish Meetings

The Chairman confirmed that the Annual Meeting was for the Parish and asked whether any residents would be interested in forming a committee (along with members of the Parish Council) to meet around October each year to plan for the next year's meeting. If anyone would like to do this then please contact the Chairman or Clerk.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Chairman: _____ Dated: _____

Clerk-E Foulston