

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
held on 13th May 2010 in
Headley Village Hall, Church Lane, Headley

Present: David Preedy - Chairman
 Headley Parish Councillors: Tessa Bridges
 Sarah Connolly
 Peter Denyer
 Lisa Guy
 Geoffrey Robb
 In attendance: Gill Riggs - Clerk
 County Cllr. Hazel Watson
 Approx. 60 members of the public

Apologies: Sir Michael & Lady Jane Pickard, George & Pauline Nixon, Phil Phillipou, Sharon Knight, Jane Jenkins.

1. Introduction:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked them for attending and said it was nice to see so many people.

2. Minutes:

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on 14th May 2009 were approved - proposed by Ann Denyer and seconded by John Hills.

3. Chairman's Report:

The Chairman gave an outline of what has been happening in the village during the year and the main initiatives carried out by the Parish Council:-

Change of Councillor

Due to the resignation of Nick Praed, the Parish Council was pleased to recently co-opt Lisa Guy.

Consultations

Consultations have taken place with MVDC on the Land Allocation Plan and the Parish Council submitted its objection to the proposal to include Glebelands.

All bus routes in the area are due to be revised, and the MVDC area review will be carried out in 2011.

Affordable Housing

Following the needs survey and site selection process, MVDC was only prepared to consider one site, which was the playground site, which was not popular with the village. Discussions were opened with the previous owner of the Church Lane nursery site, who was agreeable to releasing a piece of the land for a small number of Affordable Housing units, to which MVDC planners agreed to consider in principle, subject to certain conditions. The site has since been sold and the new owner is unwilling to consider the scheme.

Energy from waste

Due to logistical difficulties, the project has had to be abandoned. Surrey County Council foresees a scheme in the future for the broader use of an anaerobic digester which would almost certainly undermine any local scheme. The information we gained has been fed into a research project at Surrey University.

Clay pigeon club

Discussions have taken place throughout the year with the club regarding solutions to the noise problem and the club has taken a number of measures which are still being worked on, including earth bunds with trees planted over and soundproofing the shooting stands. It is not clear at this stage whether an appreciable difference in noise levels has been achieved.

The club has agreed to join the Parish Council in fundraising for a replacement children's play area, and will be organising a number of events in 2011.

Ballbuster Cycle race

The event has worked with the Parish Council to improve safety of the event and marshalling has been increased to reduce risks. An emergency pothole in Lodge Bottom Road was repaired immediately prior to the event to avoid an accident on that stretch.

Highways maintenance

Pothole repairs and gully maintenance have been disappointing, despite continuous chasing of SCC. Surface dressing is also unsatisfactory. Gateways have been installed, but the use of plastic bollards has been felt inappropriate to a rural area. SCC has removed the road past Headley Court from its gritting schedule, which meant that road, which is also a bus route, is no longer gritted.

Village of the Year

Headley has won a category for the past three years running, and has entered again this year. Prize money from the past three years has been used to purchase a new bench outside the village shop.

Welcome packs

Eight packs have so far been delivered to new residents, and the Chairman asked the meeting to let the Parish Council know if they hear of anyone moving in or out of a property.

Playground

As it is now decided that the play area will not be used for Affordable Housing, fundraising will be commenced later this year for replacement equipment.

Village clean-up day

Another clean-up day has been arranged for 10th July, and it is hoped that a good number of volunteers will come along. The event is being sponsored again by MVDC, with donations being made to a local charity for every bag of rubbish collected.

4. Parish Council Accounts

Copies of the draft accounts for the year 01/04/2009 to 31/03/2010 were distributed to the meeting for information, and these will be adopted by the Parish Council at its' next meeting.

5. Presentation by "PLAY" - the Leigh fundraising committee for a new playground:

Three members of the Leigh "PLAY" Committee gave an interesting presentation on how they went about achieving a new replacement playground for Leigh. The demonstration included photographs and the background details to how the project was started.

It was explained that the group became a sub-committee of the Parish Council; consultation took place with the community, children were consulted; a community day was held to clear the ground; quotations were obtained; letters of support were obtained from local organisations; publicity took place; fundraising events were held. Details were given regarding health and safety, specific requirements etc.

The group explained that the project took three years from start to finish, and that it involved a lot of hard work and involvement but the end result was worth it. The group agreed to send a copy of their PowerPoint presentation for background information.

6. Headley Parish Plan:

The Chairman explained that the Headley Parish Plan expires in 2011 and needs to be updated. This need not be on a full new Plan, but as a number of the original initiatives have now been completed, it needs to be established what the people of the village see as future ideas and priorities. He explained that a committee needs to be formed which will be independent of the Parish Council, and asked for people to consider volunteering.

7. Village presentations:

Police - Dom Lorraine spoke on behalf of Surrey Police and reported the crime statistics for the last three months, which included theft from a vehicle on the heath, tools stolen

from a van on a driveway and a stolen tax disc from a vehicle on a driveway. He reported that the Police have been monitoring speed on the Headley Common Road and in the village centre and that so far some eight tickets had been issued. Dom asked if people could let him know if anything needed his attention, and the Chairman thanked him for attending the meeting.

National Trust - Sue Harris explained that it is a year since the Belted Galloway cattle were introduced to the heath and that they have been very successful. There are now seventeen cows but four are shortly to be returned to Box Hill. The permanent fencing is now in place and the few early teething problems have been resolved. Sue talked about the volunteer groups who work on the heath and explained that a recent group on a volunteering holiday has helped with the clearance of scrub, pond clearance etc.

Various events have taken place on the heath, including a recent pet health check event in conjunction with the PDSA; and Christmas and Easter trails.

Friends of Headley Heath - Peter Denyer explained that this independent charity exists to support the work of the National Trust in maintaining Headley Heath as an asset and for its users. The charity raises funds from membership, issues newsletters and also supports funding of the heath by giving donations which would not otherwise be available for certain projects. A recent bequest has financed the new trail on the heath, and leaflets for the trail are available. Over half of the bequest was used for works on the chalk grassland and on the purchase of new bow saws for the Friday working group. Peter explained that the group is vibrant and active but needs more members.

Headley Heath Riders Association - Nigel Brooks reported that the HHRA works very much in partnership with the NT to upgrade bridleways and permissive tracks. £2,500 per year is spent on maintaining tracks and surfacing and £5,000 is currently committed for improvements. The Association receives donations of cash and land. The Jubilee track has been repaired and maintained and a track created on Oyster Hill to avoid the use of nearby roads. Cutting back greenery and branches for the safety of horses, motorists and cyclists is a priority. Mounting blocks have been installed by the National Trust on the heath at the request of the HHRA.

Gardening Club - Charles Holme reported that the club meets on the third Tuesday in each month and each meeting has either a speaker or entails a visit. Gardening problems and solutions are discussed at the meetings. Events have included a nightingale walk on Bookham Common; Tanners garden walkabout; talks on orchids, the Basingstoke Canal and beekeeping. A quiz was held at Christmas. Graham Boast who is a judge at the Headley Flower Show gave an interesting talk on "how to enter and win". Future planned events include a garden walkabout at Clermont House, and talks on Kew Gardens fushias. Charles advised who the club's committee members were and explained that they currently have 14 members, although all meetings are also open to non-members.

Headley Cricket Club - Michael Pickard was unable to be present and asked the Chairman to report that the club is having a good season with matches going well. The new netting at the edge of the pitch will be removed at the end of the season and has been installed for safety reasons. The club is always looking for new members.

Computer Club - David Preedy reported that the club has now been running for two years, started with an SCC grant for initial equipment; is having another good year and has approximately 30 members. There are two types of class - beginners doing a weekly session, and beginnersPlus doing 5 week sessions on specific topics. A class for "real" beginners has just started. The club had a very successful outing last summer to Bletchley Park and another outing is being planned for this year. A Christmas party is held each year which is great fun.

WI - Tessa Bridges explained that the club has 29 members but needs more, also more speakers. Talks have included the Life of Lady Bailey, and various visits have included Chartwell, Wisley and a walk over a number of London bridges. The group is about fun, fellowship and friends and in the case of Headley - food.

Church - Linda Harknett explained that a lot is happening with the church this year, being its 150th anniversary. Many events are being organised and funds will go towards works to the church spire. Services have included renewal of wedding vows; remembrance of those loved and lost; and there will be a pet service in July. There are plans to extend the churchyard as the existing area is becoming full. Linda explained that funds are always needed and donations are welcomed. The Box Hill church has been operating for 40 years and has a drop-in day with help surgeries.

Angela Deeprise talked about the events taking place this year, including the Beating of the Bounds on 22nd May entailing a 5 mile walk; an evening party at George Nixon's for which tickets are available; and the village flower show/village day. Angela explained that a number of volunteers would be needed for the village day and asked people to come forward. The tea will be provided by the WI.

Angela mentioned a number of future events including Songs of Praise where people can nominate hymns; an event at the cricket ground; a concert; a thanksgiving lunch and a golf day with informal dinner.

Headley Court - Chris Livett gave the background to Headley Court, explaining that all military personnel come to them with any injuries, not just battle casualties. The number of wards has been increased and a new 96 bed ward is planned for the future when an existing building has been demolished. The new swimming pool is now complete and is operational and will be officially opened later this month. Chris explained that there was a loss of productivity during the snow and that Headley Court are planning to purchase a gritter attachment to be used with their vehicles in order to keep local roads open.

Henry Smith Charity - David Preedy read a report prepared by Jane Pickard which outlined the background to the charity and stated that a number of cash grants and vouchers had been given out in November. A number of people with family problems have been helped during the year. The charity tries to keep in touch with what is happening in the village, which is not always easy.

8. Annual village litter pick - 10th July:

The Chairman advised that the litter pick is taking place again this year and will again be sponsored by MVDC who will donate £1 to a local charity of the Parish council's choice for each bag of litter collected. There was a good attendance last year and the Chairman asked for people to join in again this year and make it another successful event.

9. Speedwatch:

The Chairman expressed that the village is still in need of volunteers if Speedwatch is to start up again. He asked if anyone can spare an hour or two per week it would be much appreciated for this important initiative.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m. and invited everyone to stay for an informal drink and buffet. He explained that as the meeting had been quite long, it would be best to discuss issues informally during the buffet, rather than having an open forum.

Signed Chairman

Dated