

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**  
**held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in**  
**Headley Village Hall, Church Lane, Headley**

Present: Peter Denyer - Chairman  
 Headley Parish Councillors: Tessa Bridges  
 Sarah Connolly  
 Sharon Knight  
 In attendance: Gill Riggs - Clerk  
 Dist. Cllr. Daphne Ladell  
 County Cllr. Hazel Watson  
 Gerrie Van Saasen - SCC Highways  
 Robin Rees - Fulcrum Connections  
 Approx. 20 Headley residents

Apologies: Parish Councillors David Preedy and Geoffrey Robb; Wing Commander Steven Beaumont (CO Headley Court); Yvonne Stovell.

**1. Introduction:**

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

**2. Minutes:**

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007 were approved - proposed by John Hills and seconded by Sarah Connolly.

**3. Presentation by Fulcrum Connections:**

Robin Rees gave the background to the work of Fulcrum, and discussed the feasibility of connecting mains gas into Headley. He explained that installation would cost approximately £250,000 - £300,000, and that there would be up to a £500 "switching fee" granted per property, and possibly more if switching from electricity or LPG. Other discounts are also available, and could total £800 - £1,000 per property. The installation costs quoted are based on around 150 - 200 properties being connected. Industrial properties would pay more because of higher usage, which would reduce the costs to households. Installation costs include everything from mains to meter.

A question was raised regarding price comparisons between gas and other products, and the Parish Council agreed to look into this. It was also agreed that Fulcrum would establish whether any government contribution would be available i.e. funding from the EU.

Fulcrum will prepare information leaflets giving full details of what is involved and costs, and these will be distributed to all households with either the PCC magazine or the next Parish Council newsletter.

**SCC Highways:**

Gerrie Van Saasen introduced himself as the Local Highways Manager, advised that he had taken over from Geoff Wallace on a one-year secondment, and had been in post for five weeks. He agreed that a number of issues were outstanding, and that he would be looking into them all.

Gerrie reported that the legal procedures on the 40 mph signs had been completed, and promised that the signs would definitely be in place this year, although he could not state a definite date. He was not aware that any objections had been raised. He also said that the gateway sign drawings had now been completed, and the gates would be in place as soon as funding allowed, but hopefully in the near future.

Gerrie said he would be available after the meeting to discuss any other issues of concern.

#### **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman said that it had been an unusual year, with five new Councillors in post who have settled in well. He gave an outline of what has been happening in the village during the year, and the main initiatives carried out by the Parish Council:-

##### **Village of the Year**

Headley won the Building Community Life section of the VOTY competition last year, and a £200 prize. It has not been decided what this will be spent on yet, and he asked everyone to let the Parish Council know if they have any suggestions.

##### **Community Liaison Forum**

MVDC set up a pilot Community Liaison Forum last year, and asked Headley and Leatherhead North to pilot the two schemes. Headley's has been very successful, and has involved SCC, MVDC, and the Police. A number of initiatives and work have been completed as a result of the forum, and the last of the meetings is due to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

##### **Police**

Communications with the Police have improved tremendously, with PC Dom Lorraine now attending the Parish Council meetings, keeping them informed of what is happening, and with regular updates on crime statistics.

##### **Headley Court**

There is greater communication and involvement between the Parish Council and Headley Court now, and Chris Livett attends most PC meetings. Headley Court invited the Parish Council on a tour of the premises during the winter, which everyone found thoroughly interesting. The Chairman said the village was very grateful for Headley Court's involvement with Headley, especially at such a busy time for them.

##### **Affordable Housing**

Surrey Community Action has completed the survey and produced a report, which identified that there is a need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> phase scheme. A walkabout to identify all possible sites has taken place, and a report of these sites is now in the hands of the MVDC planners to agree which sites can be considered and taken forward.

##### **Highways**

40 MPH speed limit signs and gateway signs are still to come, as discussed by SCC Highways. Some resurfacing has been carried out recently, with more top dressing and anti-skid surfacing promised for the near future.

##### **Speedwatch**

This has not taken place due to lack of volunteers coming forward. The Chairman urged people to come forward for this important task, to help reduce the speeding problems through the village. Sarah Connolly reported that someone had recently come forward and offered to become involved.

##### **Parish Plan Actions:**

Many initiatives have taken place, including the new computer club, and the gardening club.

##### **Newsletter**

The Parish Council now produces and delivers a newsletter three times a year to all households, which keeps everyone informed of what is happening.

##### **Village clean-up day**

The first has taken place, a lot of litter was collected but the turnout of volunteers was disappointing. It is hoped that more people will get involved next time.

##### **Broadband**

This is being progressed by Parish Councillor Nick Praed, and a number of options are being considered.

##### **Resurfacing of M25**

Attempts to obtain a quite surface through the MP have failed, due to Highways budget cuts. It is felt that a concentrated approach between Headley and other

locally affected villages needs to be made, through a petition. It is too big a job for the PC to undertake alone and the Chairman asked for people to come forward to take the project on.

#### **Clay pigeon club**

The PC is still pursuing the nuisance issues with the club, and meetings with the club have taken place. Enforcement is being progressed through MVDC, but their progress is slow. The club has promised to introduce a number of noise reduction measures, but so far little difference has been noticed.

#### **Village Day**

The village day was very successful last summer, but regrettably there are insufficient volunteers to run it again this year. If anyone would like to get involved next year, please come forward. The Gardening Club has organised a flower show with some other events on 26<sup>th</sup> July this year, and it is hoped that as many people as possible will come along, and will put entries into the show.

The Chairman thanked everyone who has helped to keep the village and activities going.

### **5. Report and Accounts of the Henry Smith Charity**

The Chairman outlined the background to the charity. A report was circulated to the meeting, and the Chairman read out the financial position for the year. He also thanked the Trustees for their work over the year.

### **6. Parish Council Accounts**

Copies of the draft accounts for the year 01/04/2007 to 31/03/2008 were distributed to the meeting for information, and these will be adopted by the Parish Council at its' next meeting.

### **7. Village presentations:**

Headley Computer Club - George Nixon was pleased to report that funding had been obtained from SCC via Cllr. Hazel Watson, and that 6 laptops, a printer and a projector had been purchased. The club is now up and running and has a beginners' class and two intermediates' classes, both of which have had their first meetings. The club has 31 members in total. George thanked members of the Committee for their work.

Headley Women's Institute - Tessa Bridges reported that the club continues to thrive, although membership is now down to under 30, and new members are desperately needed, especially younger people. This year the club celebrates its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but there is concern that it will not reach 100 unless new members are found. The year's meetings have seen some excellent speakers, there have been a number of outings, and the art group has been very active. This is a busy year for social events, because of the 90<sup>th</sup> celebrations, and on 13<sup>th</sup> June there will be a special event with an auction and a jazz band, to which everyone is welcome and it is free.

Gardening Club - Michael Moth spoke on behalf of the club, reporting that it has now been running for a year, and is very successful. The club meets monthly, and there have been some very interesting talks by amateurs and professionals. The club welcomes new members, and the topic for the next meeting is 'nutritious foods from allotments'. Michael thanked Jane Jenkins for her work as secretary.

Headley Cricket Club - Sir Michael Pickard spoke on behalf of the club, and was pleased to announce that the club had been runner-up in the Best Kept Cricket Club competition last year. The club is financially sound, but is short of players. Fixture cards are available in the village shop, and fixtures are also on the website.

Friends of Headley Heath - Peter Denyer reported that a generous legacy had recently been received, which will be spent on improvements to the heath for wildlife and visitors. Lots of work has been done on the heath, and there is a volunteer's working party which meets at the main car park every Friday at 9.15 a.m. The group is always looking for new volunteers, and as there is a variety of work carried out, and you do not need to be physically fit.

## **8. Open Forum**

The meeting was advised that there had been a planning application for two large houses on the Dobbie's nursery site, and that the Parish Council had objected to the application. The PC would possibly approve a scheme of smaller houses, if it included affordable housing.

The Secretary of State has now approved the application for the fencing of Headley Heath, and this is expected to take place during the autumn of this year.

There was no other business, and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m. and invited everyone to stay for an informal drink and buffet.

Signed ..... Chairman

Dated .....