

Annual Parish Meeting of the Oliver's Battery community

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at St Mark's Church Hall,
Oliver's Battery Road South, Oliver's Battery

<u>Present</u>	<u>In attendance</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Cllr Blundell	16 members of the public	Cllr De Liberali
Cllr Kirkby	County and District Cllr Warwick	Cllr Leigh-Jones
Cllr Gaster	District Cllrs Laming & Brophy	
Cllr Leach	Clerk – B Gibbs	

Item		ACTION
1	Welcome	
	Cllr Kirkby welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting of the Oliver's Battery Civil Parish.	
2	Minutes of 2022 Annual Parish Meeting	
	AGREED as a true record.	
3	District and County Councillor Annual reports.	
	<p>Cllrs Warwick, Laming and Brophy introduced themselves to the meeting. Cllr Warwick spoke about the following items in the HCC Annual Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Leader Cllr Rob Humby held discussions with central government on plans for a Pan-Hampshire County Deal, with the aim of investing in Hampshire's economy and improving the lives of all residents and communities across the area by decentralising key decision making and funding. • Hampshire County Council's Adult Social Care service offers a range of care options to help our residents after a stay in hospital and help them settle back home. • More than 97% of parents in Hampshire have been offered a place for their child at one of their three preferences for a secondary school in September 2023. • Hampshire Forest Partnership has continued to make great strides towards our target of planting one million trees by 2050. • From 1st April 2023 the County Council will take back traffic management (lines and signs!) from the district authorities. • As confirmed in the government's Spring Budget, the County Council will receive £5,954,400 to tackle the issue of pothole repairs. Please report road issues at hants.gov.uk. • The outcomes of the Task and Finish Group on the introduction of 20mph zones has been published. There are a number of recommendations in the report including community support before introducing 20mph zones more widely. • Funding to Parishes for the Lengthsman Scheme will continue for the coming financial year 2023/24. The Lengthsman scheme is a good example of successful joined-up government in Hampshire. • The devolved Councillor Grant pot is for projects or events across the Winchester Downlands Division was opened on 1st April for Coronation grants and will open again for other applications on 1st June 2023. <p>A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.</p>	

	<p>Cllrs Laming and Brophy spoke about the following topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bushfield Camp development proposals. • The emerging Winchester District Local Plan. • Bus services in Oliver's Battery and Badger Farm. <p>A copy of their report is attached to these minutes.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>The Winchester Repair Café.</p>	
	<p>Rebecca Hare, Ali Cochrane and Hannah Henshaw introduced themselves and spoke about the Winchester Repair Café.</p> <p>They said that members of the community have seen a gap for a repair café in the city, fixing anything from clothes to electrical items and everything in between.</p> <p>As a result, they have clubbed together to bring Winchester Repair Café to the starting line. Before the café begins monthly repair sessions, at its venues in Badger Farm and Winnall, the charity is registering interest and seeing what the people of Winchester need help fixing.</p> <p>Winchester Repair Café is hosting two information drop ins, coinciding with Winchester Green Week. The first session will be held on Sunday, September 25 at Unit 12 in Winnall, the second at Badger Farm Community Centre on Saturday, October 1.</p> <p>The purpose of the meetings is to justify that there's a demand for a repair café in Winchester, find potential funders and volunteers as well as understanding what it is that people need repaired or want to learn how to repair themselves.</p> <p>It is hoped that the repair café will help the people of Winchester to become more sustainable. Rebecca, Ali and Hannah have a range of expertise and community ties with Ali being the centre lead at Badger Farm Community Centre and a parish councillor with experience in the charity sector. Hannah is currently working for Action Hampshire and Rebecca has a diverse background in software, teaching and now gardening.</p> <p>In addition to people being able to fix their belongings, including items such as clothes, toys and furniture, the project aims to reduce social isolation by providing a space for people to chat, learn and enjoy tea, coffee and cake together.</p> <p>Rebecca, Ali and Hannah have circulated a questionnaire to people in the Oliver's Battery area, where 80 per cent of respondents saying that a Winchester Repair Café would be useful.</p> <p>Hannah, said: "The questionnaire and information sessions will help us prove to potential funders that there is a need for a repair café in Winchester."</p> <p>"Currently, there are lots of organisations where you can take specific items to be fixed and we don't want to take away from these businesses."</p> <p>"What we'd be offering is a more general repair café to which people can bring an array of items to be fixed by volunteer repairers. We'd also hope to offer the opportunity for people to learn how to make their own repairs, providing skills to use in the home for many years to come."</p> <p>Initially, the charity hopes to host monthly repair cafés at both Badger Farm Community Centre and Unit 12 beginning in early 2023. A volunteer session will take place before the new year to set the expectations of what's needed and allow the repairers to have a say in how the café is operated.</p> <p>From the Badger Farm area, the organisers have already received nearly 20 repair volunteers and are optimistic this number will increase from the information sessions and by broadening their outreach.</p>	

	<p>Rebecca said: "We're very hopeful but equally realistic. We're starting in Badger Farm and Winnall but we're very much open to expanding to other areas where there's a space or demand for it. It will be a hub for everyone wanting to create a more sustainable planet."</p> <p>The repair café is currently a subcommittee of a registered charity and has a website, Instagram and Facebook set up. Following the information sessions, the community organisation will look for funding revenues to cover the costs and public insurance.</p>	
5	Oliver's Battery Sustainability Group	
	The Clerk ran through a PowerPoint presentation of the work of the Sustainability Group. The report is attached to these minutes.	
6	Chairman's Report	
	<p>Cllr David Kirkby presented a report from the Parish Council to the meeting</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Your Parish Council (PC) is pleased to present its report on the year since the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 3 May 2022. For those who do not already know, the PC have a new Clerk, Brendan Gibbs. Brendan is very experienced and we are fortunate to have him as Clerk in Oliver's Battery.</p> <p>Unfortunately, in February Cllr Jim Omand had to resign but we have a new Cllr, Tony Gaster.</p> <p>The roles on the PC are as follows:</p> <p>Chair: Cllr David Kirkby Vice-chair: Cllr Connie Leach Planning: Cllr Rona Blundell Recreation Ground Repairs and Maintenance: Cllr Simon Leigh-Jones Recreation Ground Project: Cllr Connie Leach Newsletter: Cllr Tony Gaster Link to Events Working Group: Cllr David Kirkby Link to Sustainability Working Group: Cllr Rona Blundell Link to Handyperson Group: Cllr Simon Leigh-Jones Tree Warden: Cllr Tony Gaster</p> <p>The PC needs your help. We must once again apply to Winchester City Council (WCC) to have Texas Field and Yew Hill Butterfly Reserve listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Unfortunately, the PC must demonstrate the land's community use every five years, otherwise the land will lose its status.</p> <p>Five years ago, many residents helped the PC by sending in photographs of Texas Field and Yew Hill Butterfly Reserve, together with personal statements of their experience and the benefits to themselves and others and completed a survey.</p> <p>These contributions became part of the weighty bundle of evidence which the PC presented to WCC in support of our nomination. Even though the landowner fought the application right up to the First Tier Tribunal, we were successful and this land was listed as an ACV.</p> <p>The PC now must apply again and need evidence of current and intended future usage that can be used to convince WCC that Texas Field and Yew Hill Butterfly Reserve needs to remain as an ACV.</p> <p>It's not too late if you have not already completed and returned the survey (available at https://www.oliversbattery.info/news-and-updates/) or emailed personal statements and any photographs, including aerial photographs, demonstrating current and recent usage of the land (email Cllr Connie Leach on constance@leach154.plus.com).</p>	

Examples of use across the land, rather than just around, are particularly helpful.

Recreation Ground

The recreation ground is not just for recreation, it is also a social space for people to gather, meet, play, and talk and continues to be well used and valued by residents.

Priorities have been identified for this year, which include more benches, bins, changes to the football pitch, new native hedging and individual trees. Increasing the number and diversity of trees and the variety of hedge planting, will help to boost biodiversity and sustain species, including pollinators.

The Recreation Area Satisfaction and Potential Improvements survey proved very helpful in identifying priorities.

Further work on maintaining the recreation ground included replacing timber bollards and various parts of play equipment, as well as sundry repairs and general maintenance.

New signs have also been installed.

Planning

The PC has continued to review planning applications within the parish and submit formal representations to WCC planners.

Following pressure by Cllr Blundell, orange notices of planning applications are now displayed more consistently by WCC. Without the orange notices it is often not apparent that a planning application has been submitted.

We must all remain vigilant as work is not always carried out in accordance with what was approved. For example, on Oliver's Battery Road South the builder demolished the whole building when there was only approval to extend it. Cllr Blundell reported this to WCC, who required a new application. However, work is proceeding without formal planning permission.

Unfortunately, the drawings provided for household applications very often do not provide any context of the impact on the street scene and the finished building can dwarf adjacent buildings.

Another simple example is non-compliance with conditions is no planting around the extension to the Dentist. Again, this was reported to WCC by Cllr Blundell.

The PC have engaged with WCC regarding the emerging Local Plan. Extracts from SHELAA Sites survey to Adrian Fox (WCC Strategic Planning Manager) on 31 May last year.

We have worked hard to keep local residents advised on developments with the emerging Local Plan, particularly by email to the Contacts List, including guidance how to respond to the draft Regulation 18 Local Plan (Reg 18 LP) consultation.

The Bushfield Camp consultants have re-arranged a presentation for the PC meeting on 6 June, where they can provide a summary of the consultation and be available to answer questions.

The PC will continue to work with the other local parishes to develop suitable responses and help shape the next stage of the emerging Local Plan.

Newsletter

The response rate to the Future of the OBPC Community Newsletter Survey was relatively low (less than half of responses to SHELAA survey). However, almost all responses confirmed they 'always' read the Newsletter, so there is a committed readership. The numbers "always" reading the Badger Farm & Oliver's Battery

Community News (BF&OBCN) was almost as high.

A very high proportion of responses wanted a hardcopy, at least respondents are committed to a hardcopy. Although there was a range of responses to frequency of publication, 2 months was most popular.

Discussions have taken place with the editor of the BF&OBCN to ensure a more co-ordinated approach is adopted. For example, timing of the publications will not clash and the PC has agreed to buy half a page of advertising space in their 3 editions per annum to publicise Oliver's Battery diary dates in colour.

With a new editor, this is an opportunity to develop a new vision, building on good work done in previous years but with more community involvement, including any groups and businesses who have a base in Oliver's Battery. Also, stories or articles, from young and old.

The Newsletter will be prepared in colour and continue, at least in the short to medium term, to be printed in black and white, with a colour copy available on the PC website.

Volunteer Groups

The PC has three working groups.

The Events Group identifies and organises community events, for example the King's Coronation picnic on the Battery and the Easter Egg Hunt, which were both outstanding successes. We are looking forward to the Scarecrow Competition and the Christmas Tree event.

The Handyperson Group undertakes regular and ad-hoc maintenance tasks within the parish, including applying anti-slip stain treatment to play equipment, stain to benches and installing barrier tape to temporarily close off areas. They will be involved in removing overhanging branches in preparation for the new hedging at the recreation ground.

The Sustainability Group is the newest group and you will be hearing more about them in their presentation, including the recently purchased thermal imaging camera.

Benches

Two picnic benches have been recently installed adjacent to St Marks Hall, in a joint venture with Re. Vive Café; just in time for the prolonged dry weather!

Environment

The Lengthsman continues to undertake regular work around the parish, as directed by the PC, such as clearing paths and cutting back vegetation.

Finance

Attached to a budget control report, which is a summary of the receipts and payments of the PC for the year ended 31 March 2023, showing a comparison with the budget set at the beginning of the financial year. The main income is the Precept, which forms a component of your council tax.

Communication

The PC is keen to develop types of communication that provide opportunities to send out information and news quickly and efficiently. To this end the PC has a Contacts List with over 130 residents. Any residents wishing to be kept up to date on specific or general local issues by email are encouraged to complete the Consent Form on the PC website using the following link

www.oliversbattery.info/parish-council-business/policies-and-procedures/

	<p>(Printed copies are available upon request).</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>The PC is the first tier of local governance and will continue to seek to represent the interests of the community as a whole.</p> <p>David Kirkby Chair, Oliver's Battery Parish Council</p>	
7	Close of meeting	
	The meeting closed at 9.24pm.	