

Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting of the Chavey Down Association

held on 17th May 2019

at St Martin's Hall, Church Road, Chavey Down

Present: Committee Members: Ivan Parr (Chairman), Adrian Hoare (Treasurer), Tracey van Oeffelen (Secretary), Eileen Biggane and Jordan Masters; Invited guests: David Parkin (Chairman of Winkfield Parish Council and Annemarie Edwards (Clerk of WPC), Geoff Paxton (Parish Councillor), Borough and Parish Councillors: Cllr Dorothy Hayes, Cllr Nigel Atkinson, Cllr Moira Gaw; Police Community Support Officers: Magda Molenda, Lucia Watkinson and Gary Clarke; David Tanner and Fidelma Tinneney and 31 members and residents.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 57th AGM and informed everyone regarding the emergency exits, a reminder regarding payment of subscriptions and the requirement to sign in.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received by Colin Yates (Vice Chairman, CDA) Judy Maslen, the Heaver family, Zoe de Sousa.

2. Welcome

The Chairman (IP) welcomed all the guests, members, new members and residents.

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman advised that this year's focus for the committee was as the previous year i.e. planning, traffic and informing residents.

Planning

The Chairman said that there appeared to be less planning applications going through this year but what was apparent and a concern to the committee was the amount of multiple applications being received where a developer applies for a certain number of properties and then on receiving permission, then attempts to increase the number of properties which will lead to overdevelopment.

He said that he was pleased to see that there had been some key decisions that were in our favour i.e. Westwood House in Swinley Road. This had been called into the planning committee by a Councillor but fortunately was declined due to the concern regarding traffic, outside of settlement, and the effect on the green gap and countryside. Cllr Dorothy Hayes (DH) advised that this planning application, if granted, would have meant that 64 TPO'd trees could have been removed.

IP said that this is why the Winkfield Neighbourhood Development Plan is so important and he invited Nigel Atkinson (NA) to give an update on this. NA explained to the members that the Neighbourhood Development Plan sits under the Borough's Local Plan. He said that the committee was formed in 2015 and that the committee remains largely the same. He reminded members that a questionnaire had been published asking residents for their views on what they wanted in the Neighbourhood Plan and the majority indicated the preference for small site developments. A further questionnaire was sent out to search for small sites. NA advised that unfortunately the only sites that were submitted were not suitable as they were outside settlement/in the countryside, therefore the Winkfield NDP will not be making any recommendations for small site development. NA advised that the committee were working towards their pre-submission plan to the Borough. The next step would be local consultation, exhibitions to obtain residents feedback. This would then be incorporated into the plan and it would go to referendum. The timescales for completion is early 2020.

Alison Phillips mentioned that she had received notification from the Borough that the Whitegates development was going to Appeal on 11th and 12th June and asked if we were still opposing this as this was a totally unsuitable proposed development as the lane (Long Hill Drive) was not suitable for this amount of traffic, the lane floods on a regular basis and it is a very dangerous junction which has numerous accidents. Cllr Dorothy Hayes advised that she would be attending this Appeal for the 2 days and will be going on site visits with the Inspector.

Traffic and Speeding

IP said that traffic and speeding in the village was a key concern to residents and whilst we had been successful in getting the speed limit reduced in Long Hill Road from 40 mph to 30 mph it was apparent that many people do not adhere to this. In particular, there was huge concern of rush hour traffic speeding through the narrow roads of Church and North Roads. The problem had magnified considerably since the roadworks at the junction of the London Road and Long Hill Road with the removal of the roundabout. People were becoming frustrated with the wait so used these roads as cut throughs and unfortunately having discovered these, are continuing to use them. IP said it was important in our aim to address the speeding, HGV usage and traffic issues that residents continue to provide evidence. This year we had appointed a Traffic sub-group to concentrate on the issues. He asked that residents email any incidents to the Chavey Down Association email address. Annemarie Edwards (AE) asked that Winkfield Parish Council also been informed as they are also keeping a record of evidence. DH said that it is absolutely vital that we have evidence to support our claims and concerns. She asked that where possible residents take a note of the incident including registration numbers, vehicles, time of day, etc. David Parkin said that twice a year WPC have a meeting with the Borough to discuss issues and whilst he recognised that there needs to be a period of settling down as drivers get used to the new road junction, he will be meeting with Neil Matthews, Head of Highways, to discuss. Neil Matthews, Highways, BFC, was unable to attend this meeting, but DP would ensure that IP and the CDA committee would be invited to attend this meeting along with WPC representatives. He also advised that mobile speed cameras had been purchased with WPC paying one-third of this and said that some residents had received speed watch training. He mentioned that it was difficult however to get proper readings where there are cars parked which obstruct the cameras.

Melanie Steer (MS) from North Road asked why the traffic at the junction of Long Hill Road and London Road had gone to 4-way and said it was like sitting at roadworks every day. This meant that people were deliberately avoiding the junction and using local roads. DP said that residents needed to bear in mind that the Borough has a long-term strategy. He was asked if the reason for this new junction was due to fatalities at the roundabout. DP said that there hasn't been a fatality at the roundabout, but he was aware that there were more accidents on this roundabout than any other in the Borough. MS said that the design of the junction was not logical, particularly with the lanes merging as cars cross at the traffic lights.

The Community Police Officers were invited to speak and residents were advised that they had recently trained a few volunteers for Speedwatch and that it was still very new with a few teething problems. Magda Molenda agreed that parked cars could affect results but that cameras could be put on lampposts and residents could perhaps move their vehicles for the duration of a particular operation. They mentioned that they are still looking for volunteers and said that they are running another 1-hour training session on 30th May in Binfield. Frank van Oeffelen (FVO) said he would like to volunteer. The Community Police Officers asked if the residents felt that there were any specific roads that they needed to target and were given Long Hill Road, Chavey Down Road, Priory Road, Church Road and North Road. Geoff Paxton and the Police Community Support Officers said that if someone is caught driving 36-41 mph in a 30 mph zone, they will receive a warning letter in the first instance. If they are caught at 41 and over it will go to court as will any repeat offenders. They said that previous equipment was not recognised in the courts system but this equipment was.

Sandra Welland (SW) asked why we did not have North Road going one-way in one direction and Church Road one-way in the other. IP said that if this was so, this would only exacerbate the rat run situation.

SW said that it would be useful to have a mirror on Sandy Lane as it was lethal trying to exit this road. DH said that she would pick this up with the Borough and AE said she would pick this up with WPC.

FVO asked for an update from the Police on the amount of car crime recently experienced in the area. He said this was a real concern to residents. Gary Clarke responded by saying that there was a particularly bad night about 10 days previous where 7 vehicles were targeted. However, he said that regretfully these people had not locked their vehicles. Residents and the Police advised that Priory Road, North Road, Osmans Close, Carnation Road, Chavey Down Road, Church Road had all been affected. The Police advised that unfortunately there was no CCTV coverage. They mentioned that in addition to cars, vans

were being targeted and tools taken, but recognised that it isn't always possible to empty a van each night. They advised that a group of people from Reading were involved in the break-ins, along with another recent group from which there had been 3 arrests. They recommend that people mark their tools and equipment, install dash cams (which provide good images and have motion detectors), use battery-operated shed alarms and park up close to another vehicle so they can't open the doors and park where it is light. The police also advised that there had been a number of high value keyless cars being targeted.

It was mentioned that people are plug jumping, particularly during rush hour when traffic is backing up along Long Hill Road. It would be useful for the Police to be present at that time of day, but it isn't any use if they are easily seen so they need to be further up North and Church Roads. The Police agreed that they would do this. David Tanner (DT) mentioned that Ascot Priory had several incidents of youths walking through Ascot Priory grounds and there were rumours of drug dealing in the forecourt area. A window had been broken and youths were going through a broken fence into the recreation ground.

SW said that fly tipping was an ongoing problem for Sandy Lane and explained that recently someone had completely blocked the lane with rubble, which residents had to move to be able to get out of the lane. It was asked if it was possible to get a camera installed there and AE said that she would look into this. The Police said a covert camera would work. DH said that again we need to have evidence, but residents said that they fly tip in the early hours so are not seen. The Police said they could not recall an incident being reported but residents said that that this is because they report to the Council. It was suggested that residents should report by phoning 101 or online so the Police have a record of this. AE said that WPC are happy to report on behalf of residents and she would ensure that the Police were copied in on this. GP said that often people don't report as they think other people have done it but it's important to do as it may be that other people haven't reported it, so it remains there for several days. FVO said that he was really impressed with the Borough and their prompt response and said that he had noticed a very large pothole on Long Hill Road at 7.30 in the morning and when he returned some 2 hours later it had already been dealt with.

Richard Meaton reported that it was concerning to see that if you look at online mapping systems that Church and North Roads are shown as one-way. TC said that people think they are one-way and often tell her off when she is travelling along those roads, but it tends to be those who are not residents.

IP invited people to write down any other concerns or issues at the end of the meeting for the committee to take away for consideration.

Heritage

IP said that the committee are proposing erecting a sign in Sandy Lane showing the heritage of Old Mill Ride. We had received £207 from BFC recycling scheme and we are looking to raise further funds and get quotes for the sign. SW asked if it was possible to get a bin near there. AE said she would investigate.

Dates for your diary

IP reported that this year's Family Carol Service at St Martin's Hall had be provisionally booked for 14th December 2019.

Memory Garden

IP said that the memory garden needed some volunteers to help with the weeding. DH said that Continental Landscapes had offered to donate wood chippings and would help get this back into order. This offer was gratefully received and DH was asked to thank them on behalf of the association. DH will contact Adrian Hoare to arrange.

Thank you's

IP thanked the current committee for their work this past year, John Thorpe for auditing the CDA accounts and Graham Townsend for his work on the committee last year, and also thanked the volunteers of the Church Road Traffic Group. IP thanked Monica and Dave Whiting for running the bingo club. He said they are always happy to receive donations for raffle prizes and the money raised goes towards paying for the annual summer outing.

Thank you to Tina Chapman for organising the summer outing which last year saw 30 residents going to Swanage. TC said that this year the outing is booked for Thursday 27th June and would be to Weymouth. The coach leaves Scotts Mews at 9 am, with a stop for coffee on the way, arriving in Weymouth for lunch and the afternoon. The coach leaves Weymouth at 5 pm and there is a pub stop on the way home. They are back in Chavey Down for 8 pm.

IP invited NA, as our new Borough Councillor, to speak. NA introduced himself as a resident of Winkfield Row, church warden at St Martin's Hall and on the Parochial Church Council, helps Mary Knight look after and run the church hall, on the Winkfield NDP steering committee, and a Parish Councillor. NA thanked everyone for voting him in and said that he is passionate about the area in particular the fact that it is a green and rural area and one which we want to maintain as that. He said he is very approachable and invited residents to let him know of any issues and concerns and he hoped he would be able to help them.

Remembrances

IP mentioned the sad death of Les Paul; a man who was passionate about the community, and always cheerful and chatty. He also mentioned Rose Dalton of North Road who with her husband Dave, raised over £1m towards Cancer Research.

Ascot Priory

David Tanner (DT) and Fidelma Tinneney (FT) were invited to give an update on Ascot Priory. FT gave the residents a short history of Ascot Priory and advised that the original nuns from the Priory worked alongside Florence Nightingale in the Crimean War. FT advised that they are currently registered to have 39 beds but generally have 35 people. The accommodation is quite basic, with some of the rooms being old nuns cells and the property really needs to be updated to provide the proper level of care that we would all like to receive or that we would wish our families to receive and to make the accommodation really fit for purpose. The challenges are that it is a listed building and there are TPO's on the whole site, and it is a green belt buffer. The trustees of the Priory have indicated that they no longer wish to have the property and wish to sell. DT and FT wish to continue to provide a residential care home for people on this site and therefore in order to do so they need to make their proposition viable. The plan would be to remove the old buildings built in 1936 and replace with a new building with en-suite accommodation. The retreat centre would go, St Gabriel's which has a big room would be opened up into a big community space, the Church would remain sacrosanct as the purpose for Ascot Priory was care and prayer. They propose to extend St Christopher's. There would be a glass area to link the old buildings with the new building to show a definite divide and the design would ensure that all would have a view out onto the courtyard or onto the beautiful grounds, with large open floor to ceiling windows. No trees will be removed and there will be no extra traffic. They also propose a Puddleduck Nursery commencing January 2020 and discussed the positive benefits of the elderly mixing with young children and vice versa. They will start to consult on this in June 2019 with a view to the planning application being submitted in August 2019. DT said that he had been involved with Ascot Priory in excess of 30 years along with his family, but for them to be able to buy it they need to make the priory viable so need a 20% increase in volume.

4. Approval of the Minutes of 56th AGM

Proposer Sheila McCoy, Seconder Carol Craythorne. All in favour.

5. Treasurer's Report

AH distributed the accounts. There being no queries on the accounts AH asked for a proposer, Graham Townsend and a seconder, Frank van Oeffelen. All in favour. AH asked for approval to appoint John Thorpe as auditor for the coming year. All in favour.

6. Formal proceeding for the Appointment of Committee

Appointment of Chairman

IP stood down as Chairman in order to start the appointment of the Chairman and committee. AH said the committee proposed IP to be appointed as Chairman. Seconded by Monica Whiting. All in favour.

Appointment of Vice Chairman

Colin Yates was proposed by the committee and seconded by Graham Townsend. All in favour

Appointment of Secretary

Tracey van Oeffelen was co-opted into the role of Secretary last year from Ruth Timbrell due to her ill health. The committee proposed Tracey van Oeffelen as secretary, seconded by Alison Phillips. All in favour.

Appointment of Treasurer

The committee proposed Adrian Hoare as Treasurer, seconded by David Tanner. All in favour.

Appointment of committee

The committee proposed Eileen Biggane and Jordan Masters as committee members, seconded by Graham Townsend.

Proposal to the alternation of the Rules

"The committee may co-opt additional members to act in an advisory capacity. Their period of tenure will be reviewed annually at the meeting immediately following the AGM. Those members may occasionally be invited to attend committee meetings but it is not a requirement of their role."

Proposed by the committee. Seconded by Frank van Oeffelen. All in favour.

7. Recycling

DH asked to give a recycling update. She advised that new trucks were coming in July 2019 and that there may be a food waste facility. She congratulated residents for working hard to ensure the waste was going into the correct bin thereby increasing the recycling. She advised that BFC still aren't able to recycle glass and that there is an ongoing challenge with supermarkets selling food on black trays which cannot be read by scanning machines. If they used white or clear packaging this could be recycled. A resident asked about the garden sacks and the need to phone up to book collections. DH said that the trucks don't know where to pick the sacks up without being notified and the previous arrangement was uneconomical.

8. Winkfield and Ascot Good Neighbours Scheme

Monica Whiting asked to speak about the service that Winkfield and Ascot Good Neighbours Scheme provided to elderly and vulnerable individuals by providing transport to hospital and other medical appointments avoiding the need to incur expensive taxi fees and people having to travel alone. The scheme has been running for 25 years' but they need some volunteer drivers. The drivers are paid at the HMRC rate of £0.45 per mile. The drivers need a clean driving licence, be in good health and reliable and friendly. If anyone is interested, please contact Monica Whiting.

9. Winkfield & Warfield Cycle Ride

DP said that the W&W Cycle ride is being held on 23rd June and is a 10-mile route. It is part of the 125 years' celebration of Winkfield Parish Council. People can apply online if they wish to enter but they are desperate to get volunteers for the day; marshals or other volunteers. Please contact Annemarie Edwards, David Parkin or anyone else in the WPC office.

10. Ascot Ward Parish Councillors

DP reported that there are 2 vacancies for parish councilors in Ascot Ward and asked if anyone would consider putting themselves forward. It is important that residents are represented by someone in their own ward. If anyone would like to find out more information, please contact WPC or David Parkin directly and he would be happy to discuss with them.

11. CDA Committee

IP put out a plea for more volunteers to join the Chavey Down Committee as we desperately need additional members and it would be a shame if this was disbanded after 50+ years. If anyone is interested, please speak to a member of the committee. IP also thanked TVO for the newsletters and thanks to those who deliver. He asked for volunteers to deliver to Locks Ride and DH volunteered.

12. Change of Day for AGM

IP reported that there had been discussed as to whether residents would prefer a weekday evening for the AGM such as a Thursday or would prefer to continue with a Friday. 17 members voted for a Friday with only 3 for an alternative weekday evening. Mary Knight mentioned that it may also be difficult to change due to other hall commitments/bookings.

13. Social event

IP asked residents to consider if they would like a social event either towards the end of this year or next year. If anyone has any suggestions and/or are happy to help organise, please contact the committee or email the association.

14. Any other business

Graham Townsend pointed out that westbound aircraft leaving Heathrow used to fly across Winkfield Plain but now often fly over Chavey Down every 3 minutes. He understood that there were plans for them to fly south of Cheapside in Ascot. He asked if the committee had any information about this change. This would be considered at the next committee meeting.

Trees on Long Hill Road

Tina Chapman mentioned the overhanging trees near Catherine Lodge on Long Hill Road. Can the Borough get this done? DH suggested we should contact Chris Turrell.

Silvertrees, Birch Lane

DH said that this appeal had been dismissed.

Land for sale on Harvest Ride adjacent to Birch Lane

DH expressed her concern that this strip of land was being sold by the Borough but advised that no planning permission for development will be granted due to the trees on the land.

IP thanked everyone for attending and said that the evening would conclude with a showing of the Winkfield video and cheese and wine. Thank you to Eileen for preparing the refreshments.