

**MINUTES OF THE LONGPARISH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE  
COMMUNITY HALL ON MONDAY 22 MARCH AT 7-30PM.**

**PRESENT**

Parish Councillors: Jeremy Barber (Chairman), Chris Dewbury, Christopher Duxbury, Phil Harris, Jonathan Frere, Karen-Marie Dinesen. Tony Humphrey (Clerk)

TVBC Councillor Jim Neal; HCC Councillor Andrew Gibson

Parishioners: Maggie Barber ,Mary Jo Darrah, Graham Darrah, Phil Wood, Ed Gairdner, Barbara Duxbury, Neil Rouse, Alex Foggo, Helen Mehaffey, Ross Hanley (Police), John Scott, Terry Hemming, Wendy Ellicock, John Ellicock , Jenny Jolliffe

**10/01 APOLOGIES**

Canon Martin Coppen, Christian Dryden, Phil Harris, Toby Cooper, Natasha Rouse, PC Richard Jewell

**10/02 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 11 MAY 2009**

The minutes were received and accepted by parishioners, and there were no matters arising.

**10/03 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising

**10/04 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

See Appendix A for Jeremy Barber's report

**10/05 ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 2008**

Copies of the Accounts and a Financial Report were distributed. See Appendix B

**10/06 HCC COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

See Appendix C for Andrew Gibson's report

**10/07 TVBC COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Councillor Jim Neal reported that the approved Airfield development was better than the original Tesco scheme as there would be fewer lorry movements but still the same number of employees.

He was pleased that after a lot of effort that the extended 30mph speed limit for the village was being implemented.

TVBC are looking at better ways of communicating within the Borough and there should be developments within this area over the coming months.

HCC have over-ruled TVBC in regard to the development of a metal recycling facility on the site of the public house at the Bullington Cross junction. In Mr Neal's opinion the scheme should not go ahead because of access on this busy junction.

**10/08 SCHOOL REPORT**

See Appendix D for Helen Mehaffey's report

**10/09 COMMUNITY HALL**

See Appendix E for Maggie Barber's report.

**10/10 VILLAGE HALL**

See Appendix F for John Scott's report

### **10/11 PLAYGROUP REPORT**

See Appendix G for Ed Gairdner's report

### **10/12 POLICE REPORT**

Ross Hanley reported that this was a safe Parish in which to live and gave the following statistics of reported incidents over the last 12 months:-

Assaults 2

Criminal Damage 2

Poaching 3

Rowdy Behaviour 1

Burglary 2

Fraud 2

Theft 1

### **10/13 PARISHIONERS COMMENTS**

Mary Jo Darrah asked for an update on the Trout Farm and the caravan. The Chairman advised that the matter was still on-going. The Inspector had looked at the wrong question and it was still uncertain how the matter would be resolved.

Mary Jo Darrah gave special thanks to the Chairman and the Council for all their hard work.

### **10/14 CLOSURE**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm and refreshments were served.

Appendix A

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE APM 22 MARCH 2010**

### **Introduction**

1. This report covers the period since the last APM in May 2009. It has been another very busy year; nothing particularly out of the ordinary but there's a great deal of routine work simply to keep the show on the road on planning, open spaces, footpaths, communications and so on. I'd like to begin by thanking everyone who contributes to that work.
2. We need also to record thanks for support from the Test Valley Association of Parish Councils, the Hampshire Association of Local Councils, Test Valley Borough Council and, in particular our local Test Valley Councillor, Jim Neal who has managed to attend many of our meetings and our new County Councillor, Andrew Gibson, who has also managed to attend many of our meetings despite a very busy schedule.
3. We had two vacancies at the start of the period. Karen-Marie Dinesen and Jonathan Frere joined the Council to fill them. Jo Clear retired in November. She served on the Council for over 8 years and contributed significantly to our discussions. We have just co-opted Natasha Rouse to fill the vacancy. Our three new Councillors bring a wide range of skills and experience which will be of considerable benefit to the Council.
4. A major change is that our new Clerk, Tony Humphrey started on the day of the last APM. Tony has a quiet sense of humour which makes it a pleasure to work with him. He has settled in well; it is not easy for someone who lives outside the village to get up to speed. Tony is embarking upon training for the Certificate in Local Council Administration which will be very useful both to him and to us. It is a key to the Council getting Quality Parish Council status.
5. One thing Tony has been working on is the parish Council 'to do' list. He is gently but effectively persuasive in emails and on the telephone so I hope the number of outstanding items (many of which are down to me) will soon start to come down.
6. Handing over the parish records to Tony was a daunting task as they were considerable in volume. I'd like to thank Mary Jo Darrah who spent a long time with me in the village hall sorting them out. We hope we have saved all the important papers and given them to Tony or lodged them at the County Archives Office in Winchester. A considerable amount, well over a hundredweight, I estimate, has gone for recycling.

### **Open Spaces**

7. One of the Council's main functions is to administer open spaces in the village. We don't have a chairman for the committee at present and the work has continued on a somewhat ad hoc basis but we are managing by splitting up the work.
8. Andy Smith has taken on responsibility for the playground. Our thanks go to him and to Martin Hulme who has helped with various jobs. Also to Laura Wearn who has taken on the job of inspecting the playground.
9. Our three bus shelters have been overhauled and repainted.
10. Thank you to everyone who turns out to support the village clean up days, to Raymond Brown Group who provided us with a large skip, to the Plough and the Cricketers for their hospitality afterwards and, of course to Jenny Jolliffe for organising them. The next one is on Saturday 24 April. Thanks are also due to everyone who

keeps our village tidy throughout the year by picking up litter and clearing up after their dogs.

11. Every three years we ask contractors to quote for our maintenance contracts. This was year three so I'd like to thank everyone who took the trouble to quote. We have given the contracts for the cemetery, the village hall car park and the playground to Clive Kent. He has made a really good job of the cemetery for some years and it is good to see the work going to someone from the village.
12. Thank you also to David Gould for administering the cemetery as Clerk to the Burial Board and to Paul Knipe for his work on the pocket nature reserve on The Common.
13. The football field has been mowed regularly and the fence mended. This year we have had a team using the pitch which is good news. Their rent helps pay for the maintenance and they have marked out the pitch and painted the goal posts. The pitch is also used by the school children for their running club.
14. Our working group on water management has established contact with the Environment Agency. We hope this will lead to better co-ordination of work on river management by various owners and prevent a recurrence of June's flooding at the Cleeves and the adjacent cress beds. We joined with other Councils to oppose plans by Southern Water for work to the sewer at St Mary Bourne as it did not represent a long term solution and included pumping of raw sewage into the River Test. The upshot was that the plan was withdrawn and the Environment Agency have given reassurances about pumping into the river. Unfortunately this means that tankering is still a major issue.
15. We have established contact with the Land Registry with a view to registering the title of the various bits of land the Council owns.

### **Footpaths**

16. We have around 20 miles of footpaths and we are lucky that landowners in the village generally take their responsibilities for footpaths seriously and look after them well. Some of our footpaths are regularly maintained by volunteers who have adopted them. Particular thanks go to Alan Clear, Graeme Francis, Paul Knipe, Martin Lampard and Matt Beale who are regular volunteers and to Phil Harris who has just adopted footpath 32 which goes over the hill at the back of North Acre. I know Martin Lampard, who chairs our footpath committee would like other people to adopt paths.
17. Thanks also go the County Footpaths team and to the other volunteers who keep our paths clear. In particular this year the County Team have cleared the blackthorn which had encroached onto footpath 4 from the Cleeves to Britwell Priors.
18. The second edition of our footpaths leaflet is going down well. It has been great to see our paths being used by people clutching it. Particular thanks go to Martin Lampard and Phil Harris who have waymarked the Riverdance Walk and to Phil Wood who put staples into the surface of the bridge near Longparish House to make it less slippery.
19. Footpath 11 from that bridge over the water meadows towards Upper Mill became controversial because Mr Woodhouse has enclosed the path with a barbed wire fence which does not include the whole of the raised causeway on which the path ran. The surface has deteriorated significantly as a result. During discussions with both me and Peter Watson our HCC Footpaths Ranger, Mr Woodhouse undertook to raise the whole of the surface of the area now enclosed to the level of the causeway should that become necessary. We consider that it has become necessary and have asked him to put the work in hand.

20. Mr & Mrs Tacchi's new path from Britwell Priors to Tufton was opened last year. Most of the permissive path to complete the walk back to Hurstbourne Priors is now open and we hope the rest will open shortly. Taken together with existing paths this will make an excellent new long circular walk.

### **School**

21. We have had regular contact with the school during the year and reports from Helen Mehaffey, Chair of the Governors who will be giving a separate report today.
22. One point which has concerned us is the admissions policy and we are grateful to the governors for consulting us on the matter. The way the system operates means that some children who live in the village are not able to use the school although a majority of the children using the school are not from the village. We made representations jointly with Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council but they appear not to have led to any significant change. I hope our new County Councillor may be able to help get the rules changed.
23. The school consulted us on their travel plan and I hope they found our comments useful. The exercise led to the school improving the surface of the Village Hall car park which is very welcome. Thanks go to the governors for funding the work.

### **Roads**

24. Christian Dryden, our Parish Lengthsman, continues to press the highway authorities to repair and improve our roads. The recent bad weather has played havoc with roads all over the county. Andrew Gibson has introduced a log for roads problems which I hope will make the process both easier and more effective. A good test will be the passing place on Southside Hill which he visited last week.
25. Christian's lobbying for the 30 limit to extend to Southside Farm and Forton was successful. Well done! The new limit should be introduced in the next month or so and the Council has decided to take the opportunity to promote a programme of educating users to improve road safety. We hope it will be possible to work with the school on this.
26. We were not so successful in persuading the county to take on our one street light and have eventually, at their insistence, had to enter into a twelve page PFI contract for its maintenance which has, of course, gone up in price.
27. A special thank you goes to the members of our 'Adopt a Road' scheme who quietly make sure that their bit is kept clear of rubbish.
28. The recent cold snap highlighted the need for grit bins and we hope that the County will help get some for North Acre.

### **Transport**

29. Public transport has been a regular item on our agenda this year and I'd like to thank Phil Harris for his work.

### **Communications**

30. The Council uses three main ways to communicate with the village. We pay for a copy of Hill and Valley to be delivered free to each household, there is a huge amount of information about the village on our website at [www.longparish.org.uk](http://www.longparish.org.uk) and there are six notice boards.
31. David and Fiona Gould do a great deal of work on the website. David has re-organised and greatly improved the way in which Hill & Valley and Parish Council

minutes are published. That sort of behind the scenes work doesn't show but is very valuable. Thanks very much

32. I'd also like to thank Mary Jo Darrah who edits our Hill & Valley pages. Brief reports of all Council meetings are included in Hill and Valley.
33. The Council and the Church jointly organise a successful new villagers' event. This year's event will be on Wednesday 12 May. If you have new neighbours please bring them along.
34. Mary Jo has also been working on a new edition of the village handbook.

### **Planning**

35. One of the main functions of the Council is to comment on planning applications. I'd like to thank Christopher Duxbury our chair of planning and everyone who has contributed. Christopher has done a great deal of research into the planning rules which has helped us considerably in putting together our comments.
36. People often decide to alter their property soon after they move to the village. A copy of the Village Design Statement is issued to all new householders and this has, I'm sure, influenced some plans.
37. The Council has considered a large number of applications and, where possible, has worked with applicants to modify them where it has felt they might be improved. Where necessary we have attended TVBC planning committee meetings to explain the Parish Council's views.
38. We contributed to a review of the Longparish Conservation Area and the new policy was adopted by the Borough Council last summer. We have also discussed new proposals for 'village envelopes' and held an open forum for parishioners. We think it likely that the concept will have only a modest effect on our village and will keep parishioners informed as ideas develop.
39. With the support of the Test Valley Association of Local Councils, we have asked TVBC to let us see pre-application advice and achieved small but significant improvements in the procedure.

### **Village Hall**

40. You will hear separately from John Scott who chairs the Village Hall Committee and leads the working group on refurbishment. This is a major issue as the hall is an important part of village life and legally the Council is the tenant of the village hall. We have managed to secure letters of comfort about the lease which will help with grant applications. The Council has recently decided to engage a quantity surveyor to scope the refurbishment work. This will enable contractors to quote and again assist with grants. This is a long slow process but we hope that the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the hall this year will be marked by significant improvements to make it warm and welcoming. Particular thanks go to John and the members of his working group including Christopher Duxbury who represents the Council.

### **Longparish Community Association**

41. The Longparish Community Association is one of the main outcomes of the Parish Plan. The Parish Council provides some financial support for their work with older citizens and children. Thanks go to Christian Dryden who is the Parish Council rep on the committee. The LCA is thriving and has provided a wide variety of events for the village including coffee mornings and running races, and live entertainments in the Village Hall and the Community Hall. In June there is to be a repeat of the successful Midsummer fun day.

42. KidzZone, our LCA youth club has fortnightly meetings. At the other end of the age spectrum, the LCA Recycled Teenagers have had various successful trips in the last year. Thanks go to everyone who helps. Volunteers are always welcome.

### **Conclusion**

43. Working on the village handbook has led me to muse about what has happened since we published the first edition in 1999. There have been considerable changes. Back in 1999 we had

- No Village Design Statement
- No village website
- No Parish Plan
- No footpaths leaflet
- No Community Association – KidzZone, Recycled Teenagers
- No Community Hall, new classrooms, staffroom and purpose built playgroup
- No Skate ramp
- No pocket nature reserve
- No adopt a path or adopt a road volunteers
- No footway from the village hall car park to the school to school
- No footpath to Whitchurch

Since 1999

- Under planning we have dealt with various new commercial buildings and activities including two waste transfer stations, a woodchip plant, a shooting school and a large new barn. We have dealt with lots of new extensions to houses but we have only had one new house.
- We have overhauled the admin of the Council which is now mainly done by computer. Our committees all have terms of reference and work effectively.
- The Ash Burn rest and grindstone have been refurbished
- We have experienced a 100 year flood but still have no new sewer. However the pump house has been improved
- We have had 3 major house fires and the waste transfer station has burned down twice!

44. I could go on but I've already gone on long enough

45. I'd like to thank everyone who has turned out to support the work of the Council to maintain and improve our village.

46. And may I thank all the Councillors and the Clerk for their hard work during the year and for the support you have all given to me. In particular I'd like to thank Tony Humphrey, our Clerk and Christopher Duxbury who is Vice Chairman and has done a huge amount of work behind the scenes. The team has worked well together. Thank you.

Jeremy Barber  
Chairman  
22 March 2010

Appendix B

**Longparish Parish Council – APM 22 March 2010  
Financial Report**

At this meeting we look at what happened in the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009.

You should have a [copy of the accounts](#). The figures we are interested in are those in the right hand column headed 08/09. The left hand column shows the figures for the previous year for comparison. They are net of VAT. They have been approved by the council and by our internal auditor and external auditors. This year we had a new internal auditor, Eleanor Greene, who was recommended by HALC. We were impressed by her thorough work.

The total income was £18,090. The main item is the precept of £15,000. The precept is the amount the householders of the village contribute via the council tax to the running of the parish. The other main items are interest; mostly on money the council has saved towards replacement or refurbishment of the village hall, a donation from the village hall towards the cost of the container, and cemetery fees.

The expenses totalled £11,358. General administration £1,919 is mainly insurance. The amount is much lower as it normally includes the Clerk's wages but our Clerk, Paul Jarrett was unwell throughout the year and did not claim anything. Our thanks go to Mary Jo Darrah who covered much of his work as a volunteer. Open spaces £4,262 is the cost of maintenance of the cemetery, the playground and skate ramp, the football field (where we installed a new field gate), the village green and the pocket nature reserve, and some small items like the running costs of our street light. Communication includes a free monthly copy of Hill and Valley to each household plus costs relating to our village website, the village directory and the reception for new villagers.

The difference between the income and the expenditure is the operating surplus of £6,732. After taking account the transfer to the Village Hall Fund and savings towards the replacement of playground equipment, the balance on the general account increased to £12,917

The balance on the Village Hall Fund rose to £46,999 because of interest received.

The next three pages are explanatory notes.

The state of the Council's finances was healthy for the year we have just looked at. Another year has nearly passed and I can confirm that the state of the Council's finances remains healthy. This is due in large part to careful planning and management of our finances for which I'd like to thank our finance committee which prepares budgets and generally oversees our finances.

I will be pleased to answer any questions.

Jeremy Barber  
Chairman

<b>Income:</b>	<b>07/08</b>	<b>08/09</b>	
Precept	15000	15000	
Interest on deposit with HCC	2447	1767	
Allotment rents received	30	36	
Cemetery fees	472	707	
Donations	1266	580	Note 1
Grants	526	0	
Handbook sales	0	0	
Miscellaneous	450	0	
Total income for year (A)	20191	18090	
<b>Expenditure:</b>			
General administration	3576	1919	Note 2
Capital expenditure	0	0	
Open spaces	5324	4262	
Elections	28	0	
Allotment rents paid	72	0	
Communication	691	615	Note 5
Village Hall	2766	1080	
Sponsorship	0	100	Note 12
Parish Plan - implementation	3486	3382	Note 6
Total expenditure for year (B)	15943	11358	
Net operating income (A-B)	4248	6732	
<b>General fund</b>			
Balance at beginning of year	9151	8452	
Add net operating income	4248	6732	
Less			
transfer to Village hall Fund	4447	1767	
transfer to playground equipment fund	500	500	
Balance at end of year	8452	12917	
<b>Balance sheet as at 31 March</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors (VAT)	1067	1824	Note 11
Bank balance	8293	6501	
Deposit with HCC	46824	54591	
Total (C)	56184	62916	
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors (D)	0	0	
<b>Net assets (C-D)</b>	<b>56184</b>	<b>62916</b>	
<b>Represented by</b>			
General fund balance	8452	12917	
Village hall fund balance	45232	46999	Note 7
Playground equipment fund balance	2500	3000	Note 8
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>56184</b>	<b>62916</b>	

## **Supporting statements relating to the Council's accounts for the year to 31 March 2009**

### **1. Donations received £580**

Donations from the Village Hall Committee towards the cost of the container.

### **2. General Administration £1919**

The amount is substantially lower than last year because the Clerk was unwell and his duties were covered by a volunteer.

### **3. Assets**

No assets were acquired or disposed of.

At 31st March 2009 the following assets were held:

Cemetery

Common land at Gravel Pit, The Common, Southside Road

Common land, former sandpit at Larkwhistle, Nun's Walk

Common land, chalk pit by Vale Farm, Nun's Walk

Playground equipment (insurance value at June 2009)

Swings	1638
Slide	2887
Whirling platform	3369
Tyre climber	480
Play frame	1925
Bouncy elephant	1590
Safety surfaces	15915
Skate ramp (including Matta safety surface)	21375
Youth shelter	3575
Wok roundabout	1584

Other assets (insurance value at June 2009)

3 bus shelters (Forton, Plough, Shop)	8203
Seats (Forton, church, cemetery, playground)	2430
2 Picnic tables (playground)	1624
Ashburn rest	5709
Notice boards	576
(Forton, shop, cemetery, 3 bus shelters)	
Cemetery and recreation ground fencing	5062
Stone cross B3048 near church	2502
War memorial in cemetery	3849
Grindstone near Ashburn Rest	270
Stocks outside church	556
Special photograph albums	274

Other assets (estimated replacement cost)

Horticultural tools (Parish Paths Partnership)	1,000
Office equipment filing cabinets	150

### **4. Leases**

During the year the following tenancies were held:

Council as landlord: none

Council as tenant

Landlord	Property	Annual rent	Repairing
Middleton Estate	Allotments	£36	No
Middleton Estate	Playground	Nil	Yes
Middleton Estate	Football field	£50	No
Middleton Estate	Village Hall Car Park	Nil	Yes
Church	Village Hall	Nil	Yes

## 5. Advertising and Publicity

The council pays

- a contribution to enable a copy of the parish magazine, Hill and Valley, to be delivered free to each household in the village and
- for the running costs of the village website [www.longparish.org.uk](http://www.longparish.org.uk).

During the year the Council spent the following sums on advertising and publicity

Donation to Hill and Valley	375
Website	0

This expenditure is included in communications £615.

## 6. Parish plan implementation £3,382

This includes grants of £1,740 to the Community Association and £1,642 on the work of the facilitated group looking at affordable housing.

## 7. Village hall fund £46,999

The council has saved towards replacement or major refurbishment of the village hall. The Hampshire County Council Treasurer's Department invests the fund on behalf of the parish council. During the year interest of £1,767 accrued to the fund.

## 8. Playground equipment fund

The Council has earmarked a further £500 towards major repair or replacement of playground equipment bringing the total to £3,000.

## 9. Basis of Accounts and Rounding

The figures are exclusive of VAT which the council is able to reclaim. Figures in these accounts are shown to the nearest £1.

## 10. Borrowings

At close of business on 31st March 2009 the Council had no outstanding loans.

## 11. Debts outstanding

At the end of the year £1,824 was due to the Council in respect of unclaimed VAT repayments.

## 12. S137 Payments - Sponsorship

The Council's limit during the year ended 31 March was £3,160. Council gave £100 to young gymnast Amy Jones towards training and kit expenses.

Appendix C

**Date: 22th March, 2010**

## **Hampshire County Council (HCC) Report - Test Valley Central**

The 23 Parish Councils which compose Test Valley Central have had some common problems. These are listed as follows:

- **Highway maintenance.**
- **Gritting.**
- **Footpaths clearance.**
- **Lengthman.**
- **Grants**
- **Transportation**

### **1. Highway maintenance.**

There is considerable concern for the state of the roads at the moment. The situation is that before Christmas we were getting on top of road repairs but subsequently the snow and cold has really devastated the road and we are now focussed on catch-up. This is a national problem but only a systematic approach will let us get back on top of the situation which we hope to do over the next month. I have also received complaints from PC Chairmen regarding the poor quality of the repairs to the roads, citing that many pot holes filled recently already need refilling.

Virtually all the Parish Council's have similar highway issues which are predominantly as follows:

- Desire for Speed restrictions within the extended village
- Holes in the road caused by wear and tear and now snow
- Erosion of the roads edges
- Passing areas on narrow roads
- Flooding
- Bridge repair and maintenance

We have produced a Project Log of the jobs that need to be done in each of villages however this is taking a back seat as we try to catch-up after the appalling weather. I am having regular meetings with Highways and touring the villages to ensure that our concerns are being addressed.

### **2. Gritting**

There is a commitment from Ken Thornber, the Leader of Hampshire County Council, to invest in new grit boxes across the County. I have put a case for 200 boxes of rock salt which will be scattered around the 23 villages in Test Valley Central. The Leader has allocated £600,000 of funding for this purpose however under EU regulations we have to go out to open tender for the bins. This process will take a few months. The Parish Councils have been asked to list all the locations for boxes that they require. A copy of the form for the grit box locations is attached. We are hoping that the boxes can be financed by HCC but this is not yet certain. It is also important to think about theft of the rock salt from the boxes and theft of the salt boxes themselves, all of which happened this winter. The security issues will also be discussed with the Parish Councils.

The form asks you for the following :

- number of bins required
- exact location for each bin.

At the County Council meeting last week we were all asked to make our bids for boxes. There is a definite benefit for our Parish Council's as Parish Councils are the best vehicle to apply for boxes. In built up areas individual residents cannot ask for bins but have to do it via their local Neighbourhood watch and these applications will be difficult to co-ordinate.

The target is to have everything finalised by the summer so we are prepared for next winter.

Please bear with us on this subject and ensure that I have the completed form with the number of boxes and locations.

### **3. Footpath clearance**

There have been a number of local initiatives to clear footpaths including using young offenders who have been very effective in Chilbolton. We are however looking at greater support from the HCC team but there are limited resources. Hence we will need to look for local village solutions.

### **4. Lengthman**

The Parish Lengthman project is a scheme to provide additional funding for general work around the village that can be definite by the Parish Council. There are 10 Villages involved in the scheme which, if successful, will be spread out across the County. The Lead Parish is Stockbridge and the other villages involved are, *Chilbolton, Wherwell, Leckford, Stockbridge, Longstock, Broughton, Houghton, Mottisfont, Lockerley and Michelmersh & Timsbury.*

The attached Lengthman attachment provides details of the scheme.

The total budget is £10,000 and that will mean around 45 hours of work per Parish Council. This may not seem a lot but at 4 hours per go means 10 different half days of work. The scheme will be administered by Fiona Talbot.

I apologise to those village's not included but the details of the scheme were set out before I was elected and cannot be changed at this point.

### **5. Grants**

I am please to say that I have had many requests for the Devolved budget of £10,000. I have granted money to most of the villages and there is still some money available which I will be transferred into the next financial year.

### **6. Transportation**

I have been appointed Chair of Hampshire Action Teams and one area where I am keen to invest is in the informal transportation systems to get old people to Hospital and arrange shopping trips to Andover and Romsey. We are currently carrying out an audit of all the transport in the villages and would be grateful for additional feedback.

***Andrew Gibson***

***Hampshire County Councillor***

***Test valley Central***

Appendix D

School Report for Longparish C of E School 22/03/10.

SCHOOL

This past year Mrs. Foggo and her staff, supported by the Governors, have continued to work together in the stated aim of delivering the highest possible standard of education to all children in a supportive and caring environment within a community setting.

During a recent categorisation visit by our School Improvement Partner she concluded that the school was performing at a high level. She also agreed with Mrs Foggo that we are well placed to deliver the new Primary School Curriculum to be introduced in 2011. This will aim to ensure that children develop key skills to learn effectively, take responsibility for their own learning, whilst developing the skill to work well with other people as this approach to delivering education is already well established within our school.

The School role stands at 107.

The School received 45 applications for the 2010 entry to Yr. R. All 15 places for September Yr R have been confirmed. 13 of this number are from within catchment. The balance of local/out of catchment is changing across the School.

During this year we have had four appeals. A joint hearing for three of these occurred on the 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Three of these appeals were upheld.

It is worth noting that in responding to both Parish Councils anxieties regarding our ability to enrol catchment children throughout the academic year, out of catchment siblings were given a lower categorisation. This is causing some distress within families of existing pupils.

Many extracurricular activities are on offer. This term these have included, Knitting Recorders, Orchestra, Art, Gymnastics, Hockey, Running, High Fives and Cheerleading, the Team Elite Multi-Sport Club for KS1.

We are very grateful for the support given to the School Staff by Jeremy, David Gould and others within the village.

Our monthly Senior Citizens lunches continue and Mrs. Foggo has been discussing the possibility of commencing Senior Surfers IT lessons with this group. Hopefully these will get underway soon.

We would like to see more villagers attending our regular acts of worship held in the Church.

We are greatly indebted to the support of our FOLS. In addition to subsidising school visits and the pantomime performance they donated £3,000.00 towards the upgrading of the school library.

Playgroup continues to use the school twice a week and the school playground each week. The liaison continues between playgroup leaders and YrR teachers. A playgroup representative attended a Maths inset day on 12/3/10.

#### BUILDINGS.

You are only too well aware the building work for our new staff room, toilets and group work area took an unacceptably long time. I am pleased to report that this work has now been completed to our satisfaction and is in daily use.

There have been problems with the existing roof this winter and a considerable number of leaks occurred during the past winter. We are currently awaiting costings for replacement.

You will also know that Oliver Coleman arranged to have Village Hall Car Park surfaced recently which is of great benefit to all.

The outside door to the ICT Suite is now installed.

The Gazebo has been completed and is much used.

The library has been refurbished and £7,000 has been spent in upgrading books.

#### COMMUNITY HALL

We are grateful that Maggie continues to chair the management committee and for the work it carries out on behalf of the governors.

Further work has been carried to improve the heating and an immersion heater was installed in an effort to overcome the hot water problems. This will not be fully tested until the summer when the heating is turned off.

The alarms have been re-sited and locks changed to facilitate use of the toilets by the church.

The soundfill system is in place in the hall and available for community use.

Hopefully this report will demonstrate the work that goes on within the school year and reassure all that the main priority of Mrs. Foggo, staff and Governors is to continue to deliver the highest quality of education to all children in a safe environment within our community.

Helen Mehaffey

Chair of Governors

March 2010

Appendix E

**09/1 LONGPARISH COMMUNITY HALL**

**09/2 REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 22 MARCH 10**

I have been chairing the management committee of the community hall for the last year and have also been administering the booking system on behalf of the committee since last July.

Our committee of Jonathan Evans, Gina Snowden, Patrick Beresford and Sheila Borlotti has been working very hard behind the scenes to make this lovely hall more accessible to our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them. Gina has recently stepped down so we have a vacancy. So if there is anyone who would like to join us and help take our work forward I would be delighted to hear from them.

The number of bookings is slowly increasing as word is passed on of the beautiful facilities available.

Last summer a small gate was installed in the fence opposite the fire doors which allows easy access to church meadow. We are very grateful to Middleton Estate for facilitating this. The gate has been used on various occasions and made life much easier.

In December the hot water tank was replaced with a large one which has an immersion heater. This is to enable the school to meet its obligation to store hot water at 60C and so ensure that hot water is available at all times for all users including the school and the playgroup.

Our committee intends to work closely with the village hall as it starts its refurbishment project which we fully support. We feel that the two halls complement one another and are not in competition.

Please do contact me if you want to book the hall or if you wish to discuss anything about it.

Maggie Barber  
Chair, CHMC

LONGPARISH PARISH COUNCIL AGM

22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2010

VILLAGE HALL REPORT

1) OPERATIONS

Little or no maintenance required during the very cold winter. No issues reported at the recent committee meeting. New cleaner seems to be working out OK and bookings remain regular with the same organisations (clubs and groups).

I attended a Village Halls Conference earlier in the month. It was useful and there are a couple of issues that the committee should address, including trustee status. Any 'committee member' who takes part in a meeting is deemed to be a trustee and therefore automatically has responsibilities and liabilities. I suspect that they are not aware of them, but will follow this up and present to the VH AGM. There is also a potential H&S issue relating to children that we need to cover off, in terms of hall bookings.

2) REFURBISHMENT PLANS

The plans are progressing, albeit slowly. We have held an open day for (4) builders in December which went well and led us to consider appointing a quantity surveyor. We held a competitive tender, and presented results and recommendations to the Finance Committee. The Parish Council have endorsed our recommendations and subject to references have agreed to fund a quantity surveyor to provide an overall estimate of the likely cost, to create a schedule of works for us to use in a tender competition for building works and help us appoint a suitable builder. Understanding the refurbishment costs will enable us to both determine the scope of the refurbishment we can afford and to apply for the appropriate level of grant funding. In the last 48 hours I have received 'glowing' references, one written, and one verbal to be confirmed in writing. We intend to appoint Robert Jackson Associates from Southampton to carry out this work. The two references were from projects which involved older buildings including a church extension and a hotel and clubhouse re-build.

The lease has only 4 years to run before we can negotiate an extension. Attempting to negotiate the extension earlier puts both the diocese and us at some risk of a significant change in terms. The issue that the diocese had with the charity commission has been resolved. We have been able to compromise on the lease extension issue by an exchange of 'comfort' letters with the diocese. Thanks to Christopher for engineering this.

We have lost the opportunity to take advantage of a 50% grant to install Solar PV cells on the roof as it has become time expired and although we applied for an extension they would only extend it for a further month. James Field, who engineered this grant and has provided us with technical expertise, is taking up an appointment in the US for 12 months or more, so we will miss his contribution. Thanks also to Graham Healey for his wise council in relation to the building side of things.

We are now aware two additional risks that need to be considered and they involve the possibility of there being asbestos based products in the building and the lead water pipe may need repair/replacement.

I have access to some professional expertise re surveyors from Hampshire County Council (also a Longparish School Governor) and some grant application expertise.

The next stage of the project is to formally task RJA with the QS work and I will be meeting with Robert in the next week or so. They intend to sub-contract part of the work to an associate architect which will be useful later on in the project. Once RJA have delivered then we can conduct the builder tender exercise and start the grant application in earnest. I have requested someone to lead the grant application side but to date have had no volunteers. If anybody has the time and is willing to get involved then I would be grateful if they would contact me.

3) CENTENARY

Approved at Parish Council Meeting held on 12 April 2010

The hall is 100 years old this year. There appears to be a consensus that we should celebrate this in some way. It would be great to have achieved some part of the refurbishment by the time of the celebration, which we think should be scheduled for some time in September, to give us the maximum chance. We are collecting any historical stories and facts so that we will be able to 'paint the picture' of the last 100 years so if you have any information or photographs which you are prepared to share can you please let Gina know.

Many thanks.

Any questions?

John Scott  
Chairman, Longparish VH.

## Appendix G

The PlayGroup is registered with Ofsted to take 48 children (24 in the morning and 24 in the afternoon). We will meet this maximum number in the Summer Term. The September intake is looking good but we do not have the complete figures yet. We have had 8 enquiries from Hurstbourne Tarrant/St Mary Bourne parents as their playgroups have had to shut down and we believe through lack of facilities and numbers. We are indeed lucky with our facilities and it is our floor space that limits further growth.

Our constitution states that we are to hold at least one terms expenses in our bank account and I am pleased to report that we can readily meet this and have sufficient 'cash in the bank' that we can support the excellent ideas, visits and trips that Claire Nash and her team put together. This does not mean that we can be complacent.

I took over the role as Chairman of the Play Group at the AGM in Oct 09. This served as an excellent opportunity to review our the PlayGroup's current practices, policies and procedures. From this we established that there was no indemnity Insurance for the Committee and we reviewed all our Insurances and adjusted them to ensure they are 'fit for purpose'. I also decided that all the members of the committee should have a job description and role so they could understand their role in leading and managing the PlayGroup. As Health & Safety is of paramount importance, especially in a PlayGroup, I will be creating a new Officer's role to be the focal point on all Health & Safety matters. If we get this area wrong we could have long lasting damage to the PlayGroup.

### **Areas of Concern**

**Funding** – whilst we have sufficient funds in the bank, we cannot be too complacent. We are awaiting to hear from form this government and potentially the next the proposed changes to funding. Rather than being done solely on the number of children at the PlayGroup, they will also be looking at flexibility and facilities. Therefore, at this stage it is unclear whether we will receive the same or less funding. Our current funding is from 3 sources:

- Government/DCSF – paid at £4.00 an hour for a maximum of 15 hours for all children 3+
- Parents – for all children under 3 and for those children requiring more than 15 hours. I have increased the hourly fee up to £3.25
- Fundraising – I am conscious that continual fundraising can be a drain on the village and therefore we are focusing on one main event a term

**NVQ Level 6** – We await further confirmation from this Government on the requirement that all PlayGroup's are to have a staff member trained to NCQ Level 6 in education by 2012. This is of real concern as this level would allow an individual to teach in Reception and therefore enjoy all the benefits of working in the State sector. It is unlikely the PlayGroup could lure, let alone afford a NVQ Level 6 staff member to remain in the PlayGroup. My recent discussion with an Ofsted member is this could be changed to a regional NVQ Level 6 coordinator but as it stands this has not been considered by the DCSF and we await a decision. However, this could be an area where we may have to lobby as this could cause significant problems for us and our future.

Approved at Parish Council Meeting held on 12 April 2010

Finally I would like to extend a huge thank you to Claire Nash and her team for their tireless efforts maintaining a fantastic PlayGroup which thrives as our neighbouring PlayGroups close. Also to the village itself who provide valued support to us. We ask that they maintain their support as we are nurturing the future of the village.