

Report of the Parish Assembly 2019

Wednesday 15th May 2019, from 8pm, Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors Lorna Cuthill, Tom Horsey, Hugo Cubit, Matt Heywood
Clerk Susan Turner **Guests** PC Andy Reid, Ward Councillor Onnalee Cubit
Members of the public 14

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Lorna Cuthill welcomed everyone to the Assembly. Apologies received from Robin Best, Jane Komrower, Ward Cllr Paul Gaskell and County Cllr Elaine Still.

2. REPORTS IN BRIEF

2.1 Parish Council

- i. Outgoing Chairman's Report Lorna Cuthill thanked all members of the Parish Council and the parish clerk for their work during the year. David Ellison and Alan Hutton have both recently stepped down from the Parish Council, with Matt Heywood and Hugo Cubitt welcomed as new members. Thanks are due to David Ellison in particular for orchestrating and overseeing the complete refurbishment of the sports pavilion and the improvements in the playground and the village hall surrounds. He put a great deal of effort into his six years as a parish councillor. It has been a controversial year regarding planning. The Parish Council seeks consistently to protect the rural character of the villages and countryside so they may continue to be enjoyed by those from within and beyond the Parish.

- ii. Finance Matt Heywood presented a brief analysis of the Parish Council accounts which are available on the website.

Parish Council income comprises – in the main the Parish Precept which is part of the Council Tax – and various grants and donations.

The Parish continues to receive a grass cutting grant from BDBC for the recreation ground, but other BDBC grants have now phased out.

The Precept request for 2017/18 (and this year 2018/19) compensated for this lost grant funding plus 3% increase – overall 11.87% increase for 17/18 and 11.18% for 2018/19. The Precept request for 2019/20 is a 3% increase to £9,269.

A question was received as to the increase per band D household.

A Precept of £9,269 divided by tax base 293.9 = £31.54 per band D household, ie an increase of £1.11 per band D household for 2019/20

Grants / Donations Thanks are due to the Friends of St Mary's who contributed to the community defibrillator now sited at the Village Hall.

Expenditure This year has seen no major projects and main items of expenditure have been the clerk's salary, grounds and general maintenance, insurance, the Villager, and then finance/admin costs such association membership and audit.

Budget and reserves The financial year 2018/19 was budgeted for an annual deficit of £155.80, in fact ending with a deficit of £313.31 (turnover turnover of £14,065.75) leaving £8,460.19 to take over to 2019/20. This includes the remaining allotment grant fund (£827.26) which continues to be ringfenced.

- iii. Tom Horsey thanked Lorna Cuthill for her service to the Parish Council. As well as being parish clerk for two years, Lorna has served as a parish councillor for 12 years, and for the past six years as Chairman. She has put her heart and soul into the work she does for the Parish and has been prepared to take difficult decisions. Lorna has stepped down as Chairman but will continue as Parish Councillor for the meantime. Hugo Cubitt has been elected Parish Council Chairman for the next 12 months.

2.2 Ward Councillor

- i. Ward Cllr Onnalee Cubitt explained that the Ward Boundary changes will be implemented in May 2020 when elections will take place for all Ward Councillor seats. The rationale is that all Wards should have three Borough Councillors representing roughly the same size of electorate – and this will reduce the total number of Councillors from 60 to 54. Basing Ward already has three Ward Councillors but neighbouring Upton Grey & the Candovers is presently a one-Councillor Ward and so will be divided, with half merging with Basing. The resulting 'Basing & Upton Grey' Ward will lose one Councillor seat overall – and will include Old Basing & Lychpit, Newnham, Mapledurwell & Up Nately, plus Cliddesden, Winslade, Herriard, Tunworth, Weston Corbett, Weston Patrick and Upton Grey.
- ii. Cllr Cubitt also spoke of concern that Basingstoke and Deane will be asked to build a lot more houses. The new Government methodology for calculating housing need is complicated but includes measures of past delivery and of affordability which result in BDBC's housing figures going up while Hart's have gone down. The Local Plan five-year review process is about to begin. It is likely that the Local Plan figure for housing delivery will increase from 850 dwellings per annum to 974, which will increase the pressure of maintaining a deliverable five-year land supply. A call for sites is imminent and new sites may be needed.
- Cllr Cubitt believes there is a huge threat to the Ward from the increased housing figures and the possibility of an 'Eastern Bypass' linking the M3 and M4. The ongoing delay for discussions with Highways England over the proposed MSA at J6 also keeps open the possibility of opening up a new route to development South of the M3.

2.3 PC Reid Report

- i. PC Reid joined the Assembly, hotfoot from Bradley's meeting. He commented that across his beat area, poaching is on the rise and more from devilment he said rather than for profit. Vehicles are driven through crop chasing deer, until the deer are exhausted and then dogs are set on them. In the Parish, he reported that an incident of sheep worrying had been dealt with. It was also noted that the skip by the Village Hall was being used by people to dump their own rubbish; need to raise awareness of this and post notices to discourage.
- ii. PC Reid was congratulated on his High Sheriff's Award (for which he was nominated by Candovers Parish Council). He was thanked as always for his effective policing and level of service to the Community.
<http://www.hiwcf.com/high-sheriff-2018-9-community-awards/>
PC Reid received his award from Mark Thistlethwayte, High Sheriff of Hampshire on Wednesday 20th March at a Reception in The Great Hall, Winchester.
- iii. Police report from 2018-19 - see Appendix I.

3 THANK YOU AND CLOSE

With no further questions the Chairman closed the Assembly at 9pm with thanks to everyone for attending