

Sunningdale Parish Council

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held on 25 March 2015 at 7.30pm at Sunningdale Park

1. Attendance: Christine Bateson, Sayonara Luxton, Louise Hill, Carol Glazebrook, Barbara and Richard Gibbs, Sonya Lippold, Eileen Ufton, Joan Abson, Sheila Yamahoglu, Mike and Judy Rimell, Dick and Joan Brightwell, Wendy and Jon Backhouse, Priscilla Delisle, Rosie Deane, Thelma Haworth, Gordon and Sheila Williams, Peter and Kaye Stanaway, Jane O'Kill, Colin Cole, Warren Taylor, Patrick Griffin, Mr and Mrs Humphreys, Kate Webb, Anne-Catherine Buxton, Rosemarie Nash, Nick Dawson, Richard Pilgrim, Sue Cooke, David Uffindell, Martin Littlewood, Keith Cameron, Evelyn Hatch, Faye Maynard, Jacqueline Hilton, Peter Holroyd, Paul and Pat Ayers, Brian King

Apologies: Robin Booth, Valerie Bather, Lynn Bustard, Chris & Barbara Arden, Martie Brett, Ruth Bovill, Nancy Dove, Roger Mills, Richard Pelly, Tracey Ranson, Phyllis Sexton, Lee Shrimpton, Victoria Smit, John Upperton, Aileen Boaler, Pamela O'Brien, Rosie Swaine, John Upperton

2. Minutes of the APM 7 May 2014. The Minutes were approved and duly signed.

3. Chairman's report.

Looking back on the last year there has been a lot going on in our Parish and your councillors have been busy representing your views, identifying the needs of the Parish and finding ways of resolving issues. Our team of councillors are committed to all they do on your behalf and willingly give a lot of time and are proactive to the needs of Sunningdale.

Councillor changes: David Lupton had resigned. Ray Coogan had joined Council for a short time. Councillor elections take place on 7 May and those interested are encouraged to put their name forward for the Council.

Finance: We were able to keep the precept for 2014/15 virtually unchanged from last year. The precept for the next financial year is £87,460. The Village Hall operations will (now) be renting the office space formerly used by the Police. Council's financial position is sound and we continue to keep our costs down whilst maintaining the high standards expected. Council is able to use S106 developer's contribution for major projects which last year included an additional pergola for sports users and a new tennis refreshment chalet just being completed. The Chairman mentioned the continued arrangement for Heathermount boys who do work experience at the Rec, which enables their skills and confidence to grow.

Other projects are the **cycle shelter** at Holy Trinity School installed last summer, with funds from RBWM, the parish council and participatory budget of our Borough Councillors. **Telephone box** in the Chobham Road which is now a thriving community book exchange.

Council scrutinises all planning applications, listening to comments from applicants and neighbours and makes judgements according to Neighbourhood Plan policies and saved Local Plan policies. We attend and speak at Development Control Panels and at planning appeals to represent your interests.

New Medical Centre. We along with so many in our community were disappointed that the planning application for a new medical centre at BEN Lynwood was rejected at Development Control Panel last July for failing to satisfy Green Belt and the Neighbourhood Plan policies. Very Special Circumstances must be demonstrated how, by building, the benefits delivered to the community clearly outweigh any harm caused and that this facility could not be provided in any other location. The Parish Council has actively engaged with the Borough, the doctors, BEN Lynwood and NHS England and the Patients Forum of Magnolia House, to enable a fresh planning application that meets the criteria for a successful outcome.

Council continues to keep a watching brief on the proposed DERA development and the impact it can have on our village, notably the movement of heavy lorries down the Chobham Road. We keep a watching brief on Heathrow aircraft flight paths trials and procedural changes over our area. Mention was made of the new parking arrangements in RBWM car park undertaken to safeguard the vibrancy of the retail sector of our village. Some shops are changing: The Old Pound House will become Home Entertainments. The Wonderful World of Golf and Corals have closed. Waitrose is here in Sunningdale for the long term.

Community Events. Christmas Celebration - a new committee of councillors in association with the Traders Association ran last year's very successful event which was greatly appreciated by the public. Circus Normandie – came in 2014 and returns this year from 15 to 17 May. Forthcoming events: Flower Festival Holy Trinity – 31 May. BEN Vintage and Classic Vehicle Rally and Lynwood Fete – Saturday 4 July. The Carnival – Sunday 13 September.

The Chairman thanked all the volunteers who contribute so much to the life of our village, notably the Adopt a Street litter picking Teams, those who look after the flower beds, the Book Exchange, those who deliver the newsletter and the wonderful volunteer who has rebuilt the Parish Council website. We thank you for the support you give. She concluded by thanking the 2 staff, Anne and Graeme.

4. RBWM Councillors Christine Bateson and Sayonara Luxton

They spoke of what they had achieved for the residents of Sunningdale.

- RBWM has cut Council Tax successfully for the last 5 years, including a cut of 2.1% in 2014/15. But services had not been cut back.
- RBWM now provides Out of Hours Service for a range of Council functions when our offices are closed, with powers to stop tree cutting, planning Enforcement and Late Night Noise and Dangerous Structures.
- They continue to actively engage with Aircraft Noise from Heathrow and are campaigning for a new runway at Gatwick instead of Heathrow.
- RBWM has increased the recruitment of special constables in collaboration with the Thames Valley Police.
- RBWM continues to have a weekly Bin Collections (others Local Authorities have gone to a two weekly cycle)
- We have secured £500,000 from RBWM for Charters Leisure Centre to refurbish and build better facilities.
- As of April 1st RBWM will have a Full Time Fire Station at Ascot
- Ensured that extra money has been allocated /spent on:
 - the roads in Sunningdale e.g. Station Rd.

- extra street lights as requested by the Parish Council and residents,
- upgrade the footpath from Recreation Ground to the station
- installed quality railings in the shopping area and removed many unsightly old railings
- contributed towards a new Cycle Shelter at Holy Trinity School
- secured funding for new Christmas lights for Sunningdale
- Changed the system in the Sunningdale Carpark so that businesses and our shoppers can park near the shops. Also releasing more parking spaces on the A30.
- Chobham Road – looking at ways and means of reducing heavy traffic along Chobham Road, and installed disabled parking bays.
- We support new medical facilities to be built for our residents of Sunningdale.

5. Reports from Pamela O'Brien, Headteacher, Holy Trinity School, Sunningdale

Holy Trinity continues to be a thriving, popular school with 215 pupils currently on roll. The school had a successful Ofsted inspection in March 2014, with an overall effectiveness judgement of 'good'. The children have been involved in numerous sporting fixtures between other local schools and sporting events organised by Charters school. Various private companies provide specialist clubs and activities. The school continues to offer a range of additional clubs including art and music which means many of our pupils are around before and after the school day.

The school has embraced the new curriculum and children have been on a variety of school outings such as Hampton court, Windsor castle and the Tower of London.

The school is continually grateful to the PTA who continues to work extremely hard raising significant funds for the school children. Thanks were given to the Parish Council for the donation of the bike sheds which is fully utilised by the pupils and improved cycling to school. Thanks to the Durning Library for the kind donation of funds to increase our reading materials.

6. Report from Richard Pilgrim from Charters School

The Co-head spoke of the outstanding year for Charters School. The school is more popular than ever with 545 requests for places in Year 7 and pupil admission number is 240, likely to rise to 270 from 2017 if funding can be secured for necessary classrooms and utilities to be able to manage this increase without threatening the quality of education provided.

One of their notable successes was Martha Collison's appearance on the BBC's 'Great British Bake Off' series where she reached the quarter final stage. She is a superb ambassador for the school. The development of Character Education is at the forefront of the priorities. They have pioneered 'The Edge' in which students choose to undertake a series of activities to development leadership, organisation, initiative, resilience and communication. "Our belief is that the development of life skills drives academic success". This is borne out by the excellent exam results, 82% 5+ A-c grades at GCSE and exceeding previous records at A-levels, putting the school in the top 25% of schools nationally including sixth form colleges, selective grammars and independent schools.

Their challenges – recruiting teachers especially in the sciences, and funding. "Even in a school like ours, it will be impossible to maintain the subject choices and staffing ratios which we have come to expect when we are looking to find over £550k"

7. Report from Martin Littlewood, Thames Valley Police.

Martin reported on the continued decline in crime in the area. He reported that Sergeant Martyn Withers will be retiring at the end of March but is being replaced so that the team

covering Sunningdale will continue to operate at the same strength. Police speeding checks continue to be undertaken. The cuts have however impacted on the Police Station in Ascot which as an information point is manned by volunteers. The public are invited to bring any issue to the attention of the Police.

8. **Guest Speaker: Christine Weightman “The Origins of Sunningdale: Broomhall Priory”.**

There followed a fascinating talk on the original priory, its extensive land holdings and wealth at one time but ultimately its decline under Henry VIII, and the transfer of all the lands to the Crown and later to St John’s College.

There being no questions, Cllr Dawson thanked Christine Gadd for all that she had done for the Parish Council over the year and presented her with flowers. Thanks were given to Sunningdale Park who had hosted the meeting and provided generous refreshments for all the guests.