

Annual Review, April 2017

Cllr Claire Welland, Chair.

Introductions

Headbourne Worthy Parish Council is made up of seven councillors and a Clerk. Our councillors are currently:

Cllr David Barrow: David works full time, and contributes to discussions on traffic, flooding and emergency planning in particular.

Cllr Christine Clarke-Smith: Christine is the Parish Council's Vice Chair, and also hosts the village's annual Litter Pick.

Cllr Claire Duncan: Claire represents the Parish Council on the Barton Farm Forum.

Cllr Gimma Macpherson: Gimma is responsible for footpaths within Headbourne Worthy, and also managing the Lengthsman who visits every 10 weeks. Gimma also attends the Social Housing working party.

Cllr Jane Rutter: Jane also serves as a City Councillor, and this year has been Winchester's Mayor. Jane edits the Parish Council's newsletter, Village News three times per year. We are very grateful to 3rd Winchester (The Worthies) Scouts for delivering the newsletters to every home in Headbourne Worthy.

Cllr Claire Welland: I have been the Chair of the Parish Council since July last year. I update the website and attend the Affordable Housing working party.

We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor since Harry Whorwood stepped down as Chair of the Parish Council last July. Are you able to attend Parish Council meetings that are held on the second Monday of every other month? Are you aged 18 or over, and a British subject or citizen of the Irish Republic or citizen of a Member State of the European Union or a country that is a member of the Commonwealth? Are you either registered as a local government elector for the parish, or occupied for the whole of the past twelve months as owner or tenant of land in the parish, or is your place of work during the last 12 months in the parish or have you resided in the parish or within 3 miles of it? If you can say 'yes' to these and you are interested in working with your local community, then please contact any of the Councillors or our Clerk.

Clerk & RFO: Jill Judge has been our clerk since September last year. She has already made progress on several of our long-standing initiatives.

Finances

Precept

This financial year, the Parish Council's precept (the money we request from residents via the Council Tax) was £6107. For the following financial year, we have requested a precept of £6455, including £500 to begin a fund for Flood Mitigation in the village.

Grants Given

The Parish Council has a new Grants policy and application form adopted at our meeting on 13th March. This financial year, £300 was awarded to the 3rd Winchester (The Worthies) Scout group.

Grants Received

The Parish Council successfully applied for a grant from Winchester City Council towards the provision of a projector and screen that we will be able to use in Parish Council meetings. The Projector and Screen will also be available for community use. We hope to have the equipment ready for the next Parish Council meeting in May.

Banking

The Parish Council uses Unity Trust for banking. It offers the ability for a Clerk to set up payments, with approval from 2 Councillors. It offers banking services via a cheque book, and also online. Unity Trust began to charge for the account last year. The Parish Council queried whether this was good value for money, and a significant amount of the Clerk's time has been spent on investigating whether an alternative bank can provide us with both online and cheque banking, with the approvals as per the Parish Council's Financial Regulations, for less than we are charged by Unity Trust. At this point an alternative bank has not yet been identified, so the decision has been taken to continue with Unity Trust for the time being.

Planning Applications

This year, the Parish Council considered 13 planning applications. Of these, 3 involved additional residences on the original plot of land, 4 involved extensions to existing buildings, 3 involved new outbuildings, and 3 involved work on protected trees. 10 of the planning applications were permitted. This compares with previous years:

Year	Number of Planning Applications
2009 – 2010	19
2010 – 2011	20
2011 – 2012	17
2012 – 2013	11
2013 – 2014	24
2014 – 2015	17
2015 – 2016	13

Governance

The Parish Council has been working on ensuring that it is compliant with all statutory obligations and guidelines. Our Clerk is studying towards the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). The Parish Council has adopted a Grants Policy, a Health & Safety Policy and an Equality & Diversity Policy. We are also working towards compliance with the Information Commissioner's Office.

Completed Projects

Restoration of the War Memorial

The Parish Council, in conjunction with St Swithun's Church, was tasked with arranging the restoration of the War Memorial in St Swithun's Churchyard this year. Two quotes were obtained, and the work was awarded to Blackwell & Moody. The memorial was restored and a Rededication Service was held on Sunday 7th August 2016. Over £900 was raised locally towards the restoration, including £260 from Barry Pearce's Christmas Lights display on Well House Lane, £435 from a special appeal launched by Cllr Jane Rutter, and £85 from Kings Worthy Primary School. The remainder of the funding was provided equally by the Friends of St Swithun's and Headbourne Worthy Parish Council.

Noticeboards

The Parish Council maintains three noticeboards in the village: at Taylor's Corner, and the corner of Nations Hill and Springvale Road, and at the corner of Bedfield Lane and Springvale Road. Some time ago, the noticeboard at Taylor's Corner was damaged in a car accident. The Clerk arranged for a replacement to be provided.

The remaining two noticeboards were plain wooden board, and were difficult for people to use. A self-healing membrane was purchased and installed on both, making them much easier to use. In addition, paving slabs were installed next to the noticeboard at the bottom of Nations Hill.

Ongoing Events & Projects:

Litter Pick

Every year, volunteers turn up to pick up litter in the parish, and this year was no exception. Christine & Bevis Clarke-Smith hosted again, sending us off with a hot drink and a biscuit. It is always interesting to see the extraordinary items that we find! This year the prize for the most unusual discovery went to Jo & Faye for finding a hair dryer! As always, it is alongside the roads through the village that the most litter is left – mostly chucked out of passing cars. PLEASE make a note of the number plate if you ever see anybody doing this and pass the information to the police or our Parish Clerk.

Bus Stop Audit

In October 2016, Jill Judge and I traversed the village examining all the bus stops and shelters that the Parish Council is responsible for. There are:

Bus Stops: 9

Bus Shelters: 3

Four specific issues were identified, and the Clerk has been actively working to resolve these:

1. A bus stop with a missing sign at Taylor's Corner, northbound towards Kings Worthy.
2. A bus stop at Worthy Down, northbound towards South Wonston, with overgrown hedging making visibility difficult. This was cut back by the Lengthsman.
3. A bus shelter overgrown, full of litter, and with a broken Perspex panel on Andover Road opposite Sir John Moore barracks. The Parish Council provided funds for this bus shelter to be cleared and repaired. The work was completed in December 2016.
4. A bus stop at Worthy Down that had previously had a shelter. A new shelter had been promised by Skanska, the developer at Worthy Down, and had not yet been delivered.

The Clerk has liaised with Skanska, Worthy Down, Stagecoach, Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council and has now reached agreement for the installation to proceed.

Community Emergency Action Plan

Since the most recent flooding event in Headbourne Worthy in the early part of 2014, the Parish Council has been mindful that we should try to keep any lessons learned in case they are needed again to cope with an emergency. To that end, Cllr Harry Whorwood put together a draft emergency plan in the aftermath of the flooding. The plan now needs an update, to address any number of emergency scenarios that Headbourne Worthy may face: indeed we are underneath the flight path into Southampton Airport, and have a high railway embankment in the parish, as well as the M3 on our doorsteps and the A34 flyovers. However, emergency plans also cater for slightly less dramatic scenarios such as power outages, storm disruption, and flu epidemics.

To return to flooding: I have been meeting occasionally with other local Parish Councillors, Cllr Jackie Porter from HCC, as well as HCC staff working on flood prevention strategies. A report will be presented to the Flood Risk & Coastal Development Board in order to apply for funding for larger-scale measures to alleviate the impact of flooding in the northern villages of Littleton, Kings Worthy and Headbourne Worthy.

While these discussions continue, we are using our Lengthsman to keep the culverts, drains and gullies clear where Down Farm Lane meets Springvale Road. We can also report that Hampshire Highways have installed an additional gully in the layby outside Worthy Barn to prevent standing water settling there and they have cleared gullies and weir kerbs along Springvale Road.

Affordable Housing

The Social Housing Working Group comprises Cllr Claire Welland, Cllr Gimma Macpherson, Leanne Smith from Winchester Housing Trust and Mags Wylie from Action Hampshire. The group began in April 2015 to discuss the possibility of providing additional affordable housing within the village, particularly aimed at people with a local connection to Headbourne Worthy. The past year has been spent in engaging with potential residents and building up a picture of the type of housing required in the village. The Working Group reports back to the Parish Council at every meeting.

Footpaths

Gimma Macpherson has taken on responsibility for footpaths within Headbourne Worthy. There are several: those that traverse the village for example across the Watercross Beds and through the churchyard, and the Nuns' Walk which goes through Headbourne Worthy, but where access is limited to Kings Worthy and Abbots Barton for residents. Gimma is also responsible for the Lengthsman, and ensures that paths are cut back regularly, and also that the shared cycle and footway into Winchester has been cleared.

Cllr Jackie Porter and I walked most of the footpaths in Headbourne Worthy in September 2016. This resulted in a couple of issues being identified, some of which Cllr Porter is addressing with Barton Farm & HCC. The footpath between The Dell and Mount Pleasant was seen to be in decent condition but was not listed as a right of way. Headbourne Worthy Parish Council has agreed to progress this with HCC.

Barton Farm

Development on the Barton Farm site continues. The 17 homes developed by Bargate Homes at Barton Farm off Andover Road are now inhabited and within our Parish Boundary. The first homes at the Cala Homes site will be inhabited during April. At some point, Barton Farm will become its own parish or city ward.

The new Barton Meadows Nature Reserve is now in progress. The livestock fencing and gates have now been installed. This autumn, after the final crop is harvested, the area will be reseeded with wildflowers.

Conversations continue regarding footpaths and cycle ways across the site, linking Barton Farm with Headbourne Worthy.

Parish Website & Communications

Our website, www.headbourneworthy.org.uk continues to grow, with new information added. The Parish Council also has a Twitter account which links with our website. We aim to publish on our website all information required of parish councils before the next Annual Parish Meeting.

We welcome other suggestions for methods of communication from our residents.

New Projects

The Dell Play Area

In December 2016, Winchester City Council suggested that the Parish Council might like to take on responsibility for the Play Area in The Dell since it lies within the Parish boundary. In January 2017, the Parish Council discussed the suggestion: Headbourne Worthy currently does not have any public open spaces or play areas. The Parish Council considered the work involved:

- Weekly checks to ensure safety.
- Annual inspection.
- Insurance.
- Maintenance & repairs.
- Replacement of equipment.
- Grass-cutting

We also considered the financial considerations: with the transfer of the play comes a dowry of £17,000. Additionally, the Parish Council has an allocation of £3,690 from Winchester City Council that can only be spent on play equipment. However, this money will need to pay for the long-term maintenance of the existing equipment as well as any new equipment.

The Parish Council agreed that it was in our residents' best interests to take on the responsibility of the play area. Solicitors have been instructed and the negotiations are ongoing.

Village Agent

As part of the Connecting Kings Worthy initiative, the Parish Council has been contacted by Age Concern Hampshire with regard to their Village Agent project: the Village Agent is a community link, a signpost, to the various services and facilities available to older people in their local area: the trusted and well-known 'Go-To' person if you want to know something about what's around for older people. They are not the person who does or runs everything, (although they may be heavily involved) so they won't be the Good Neighbour group – but they may be part of it – and

they will certainly signpost people to it, and the Group to local people. We'll have a presentation on this at our next meeting on 8th May from Age Concern Hampshire. Please do come along if you would like to find out more.

Infrastructure Improvements

In December 2016, Winchester City Council deposited £14,095.37 into the Parish Council's bank account. The sum relates to developments within the parish liable to pay the Community Infrastructure Levy, which commenced in the period 1 April 2016 and 30 November 2016. This money can only be spent on 'the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure' or 'anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area'. According to the Planning Act 2008, this includes:

- a) roads and other transport facilities,
- b) flood defences,
- c) schools and other educational facilities,
- d) medical facilities,
- e) sporting and recreational facilities,
- f) open spaces,
- g) affordable housing (being social housing within the meaning of Part 2 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (c. 17) and such other housing as CIL regulations may specify).

Additional CIL funding may be paid to Headbourne Worthy, as further development occurs within the parish. CIL funding from Barton Farm has already been allocated by the City Council and will not come to Headbourne Worthy Parish Council.

The Parish Council will be seeking the views of its residents as to how best to use this money to improve our community.