

PARISH OF DUNSFOLD

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Dunsfold was held in the Winn Hall, Dunsfold on Monday May 19th 2014 at 7.30pm.

Present:

Cllr Alan Ground (Chairman)
Cllr Barrie Pople (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Martin Gardiner
Cllr Stephen Hayward
Cllr Roy Enticknap
Cllr Ian Jones

In attendance:

Mrs Victoria Young (Surrey County Councillor)
Mrs Celeste Lawrence (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)
And 60 parishioners

Apologies:

Cllr Rosie Brough

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming those attending. He said:-

This is a statutory meeting so we have to deal with two formal matters items 1 and 3 on the agenda first and then take item 2 after that, and then item 4 contributions from village groups, clubs and societies.

After my report other speakers are going to contribute a few minutes each on their particular topic as follows:-

- Roy Enticknap Chairman of the Parish Council Commons Steering Group will say a few words about the upkeep of the Commons and ponds;
- Barrie Pople will give an update about the plans of the Dunsfold Village School Trust;
- Victoria Young our SCC Councillor;
- Revd Dr Stephen White our parish priest;
- Paul Farrant chairman of the Shop;
- PC Snow standing in for PC James Ansell;
- Annie Wace for the Post Office and as our Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator;
- Jack Woodward for the KGV Sports & Social Club and Tennis Club;
- Oliver Bell for the Cricket Club;
- Clare Gray for the Chestnut Tree Nursery School;
- Hazel Wiltshire for Puddleducks;
- Emma Petch for the Boot Camp.

Then some time for questions and then most important – drinks.

Item 1- The Confirmation of the Report of the Last Annual Assembly held on 19th May 2014. Revd Stephen White proposed and Mrs Annie Wace seconded that the minutes be signed and the Chairman signed these as a correct record.

Item 3 – To receive for Conformation the Statement of Accounts of the Smiths Charity for the year ended December 31st 2013. The Chairman reported that the balance in hand as at 1st January 2014 was £752.23 plus the amount of the 2013 grant of £3600 making a total of £4352.23 available for distribution. Grocery vouchers to the value of £95 exchangeable at Dunsfold Community Shop Assoc Ltd, Dunsfold had been issued to each of 40 villagers. A total of £3492.94 was distributed and £19.50 spent on postage leaving a balance in hand at 31 December 2013 of £839.79. The adoption of the Statement of Accounts for Dunsfold Smith Charity for the year ending 31 December 2013 was

proposed by Revd Stephen White and seconded by Mr Simon Inchbald and carried unanimously. The Chairman signed the Statement of Accounts.

Now on to my Report

For four of us this is the beginning of our 12th year on this Council – the last year of our third four year term – that is Roy Enticknap, Stephen Hayward, Martin Gardiner and me who were elected in May 2003. We have since added Barrie Pople and Rosie Brough.

ROY in May 2003 was beginning his 31st year on this Council, a remarkable record. Apart from Roy the rest of us were newly elected Council members.

At the first meeting in May 2003 I was elected Chairman and almost immediately two important events hit the village, the repercussions of which are still with us. I mention these two because they are examples of what can be achieved by the Parish Council and the village acting together, in spite of the time it sometimes takes to reach a conclusion.

The first challenging event for the village interest in our first week in May 2003 was when Tony and Sue Bowden told the village that they wanted to apply for a change of use of the southern side of the Shop property (then primarily the shop itself) to be converted into a 3 bedroom cottage and the northern side (the Post Office) to remain as the village shop.

The village were supportive and Waverley allowed the change of use subject to the completion of a section 106 Agreement a draft of which was produced by Waverley's lawyers produced.

The Parish Council secured agreement for key changes in that Agreement adding the Parish Council as a party to the agreement and giving the Parish Council the key role if ever the shop was to be sold in creating the entity to buy it for the village. This is what happened 8 years later when Dunsfold Community Shop company came into being and 220 villagers subscribed for shares. The section 106 agreement is still in place so that the Parish Council can have a role in protecting the village interest if ever the Shop Company (heaven forbid!) were to go off the rails.

The second challenging event after our election was when in June 2003 the Governors of St Nicholas resolved to withdraw from infant education and announced in July that education would cease at Dunsfold School the following year. The Parish Council set up immediately Dunsfold School Working Party which successfully presented the case against closure to the Surrey Schools Committee. However the closure was allowed by Adjudicator who accepted the case for the 60 Dunsfold infant places to be transferred to the Governors' school in Cranleigh.

Dunsfold School became empty in July 2004 and two years later the 60 infant places were dropped by St Nicholas. The Diocese applied to the Charity Commission to remove the educational trust purposes from the empty Dunsfold school building. Over the next five years the Commission refused to remove the trust purposes. The Parish Council, villagers, the Dunsfold School Working Party, which latterly has become the Dunsfold Village School Trust together have brought about a strong position to recover the school site for village educational use. The Dunsfold Village School Trust is a company limited by guarantee, registered with the Charity Commission, and has 65 villager members. Any villager who supports the aims is welcome to join.

Barrie Pople is going to say a few words in a moment about the current state of play for the Dunsfold Village School Trust.

I might have added that new Parish Council back in May 2003 also found that the village Nursery school in KGV had closed in the preceding months. The Parish Council were lucky to find Clare Lemieux now Clare Gray to set up a new Nursery school in 2004 the arrangement being to use KGV hall until a permanent home could be found for the school in the School buildings. Clare will give us an update on the nursery school in a few moments.

Dunsfold Aerodrome/Dunsfold Park

Aviation rights

This has produced other examples of what can be achieved by the Parish Council and villagers combining, in this case also with other Parish Council's, to protect the village interest. Three years ago Dunsfold Park asked Waverley to certify that the aerodrome had unlimited and unconditional rights to aviation under the 1951 permanent underlying permission given to Hawker Siddeley to repair assemble and flight test aircraft. Dunsfold, Alford and Hascombe Parish Councils, with the help of funding from villagers, commissioned an Opinion from Leading Counsel setting out why there was no foundation in this claim. Waverley, the Inspector and the High Court all dismissed this claim and last month the Court of Appeal also dismissed it with costs.

Dunsfold Airport Limited

During this last year Trinity College Cambridge bought the company called Dunsfold Airport Limited which owns Dunsfold Park. It is not known why the company is called Dunsfold Airport Limited, nor why it is considered to be an airport, nor what are the buyer's intentions, nor whether it shares the aims which Dunsfold Park has advanced for the preferred option of a significant amount of housing. It remains to be seen what Waverley's approach will be under the new Core Policies for the Local Plan to the Aerodrome being used for housing. The Parish Council have expressed the view that once a small amount of housing on the aerodrome is conceded it will prove to be the thin end of a very large wedge of housing in the middle of nowhere without the requisite infrastructure in terms of transport and services to support it.

Aerodrome Noisy events

The use of the Aerodrome for noisy motor car events continues to plague residents, and to take up time in discussing these matters with Waverley officers. In our view and that of affected residents Waverley continue to fail to monitor and control the number of Permitted Development Right events or the noise produced by permitted and unauthorised events. The prospect of these events continuing for a number of years until a Master Plan for the site is in place is intolerable for residents.

The prospects for housing development in Dunsfold

This is a subject of great importance for the village. There are two aspects: affordable housing and market housing.

Affordable Housing

The survey commissioned by the Parish Council last Autumn from Surrey Community Action showed a need for 30 dwellings from families with Dunsfold connection. It also showed support from villagers for the principle of a further affordable development in the village. We are discussing the consequences of that Survey with SCA and WBC Housing department. The ultimate number of dwellings is likely to be reduced to 15 to reflect experience of the likely take up of available dwellings when a project is completed. Possible sites are under consideration and the whole matter will be subject to village consultation before any final decisions are taken.

Market Housing

Waverley have withdrawn their previous Core Policies under pressure from the Inspector that their estimate of additional housing needed over the next 16 years required revision upwards.

Hitherto the Local Plan impact on Dunsfold from the existing and withdrawn plan was to allow limited development within the village settlement boundaries but to protect the land outside as countryside to be protected for its own sake.

The new position is that for their revised Core Policies Waverley are looking for all villages to make an increased contribution to additional housing required over the next 16 years, and are suggesting that this could be achieved within enlarged settlement boundaries. The Parish Council have said that they accept this in principle subject to village consultation on the details of sites, enlargement of the boundaries, and the type of development provided also that the countryside areas outside the boundaries continue to be protected as now. The following points should be noted:-

- the Parish Council and the village will be consulted and not coerced about future development plans;
- the prospect for the village is for some market housing growth within enlarged settlement boundaries over the next 16 years which will be greater than that over the last sixteen years, which has seen a 10% increase in Dunsfold's housing stock.
- There are merits in such an increase in growth to support services within the village;
- Whilst the village is currently within the AGLV there is a proposal to Natural England supported by Waverley and Surrey Hills that the village should be included in the Surrey Hills AONB. Whilst this may take some time to become fact Waverley also agree that the proposal to cover the village by the stronger AONB designation can be referred to as a material consideration in assessing development.

We have had initial discussions with Waverley Housing Department and their Local Plan Team on all these issues and these will continue over the next few months and will be reported to the village.

Commons and ponds, ditches and verges

These continue to be a major activity for the Parish Council. The amount of grant and Ranger support from Waverley has diminished. However in relation to highway related ditches and verges we are glad to report that funding from SCC for the localism initiative of £5000 was extremely useful last year and is being increased this year to £8000. Roy will say a few words shortly about the upkeep of the common areas.

Parking on the Common

The Parish Council Commons Committee has considered the general topic of parking on the common. Parking has no doubt has become difficult for some properties. However parking on the common is a breach of the byelaws, is unlawful and should be avoided. The Parish Council has decided to look into and follow up all current cases, and will endeavour to deal with them in an even-handed and consistent manner.

Friends of Dunsfold Common

The Parish Council is grateful for the continued support of FODC and the help of FODC members on the Commons Committee.

Council election 2015 and the current vacancy

We do urge all villagers to consider whether they wish to stand for the Parish Council at next year's election in May 2015. Anyone who wishes to discuss what is involved in this is welcome to speak to any of us about it. It is most important that the Council is filled by elected members and that means that at least 8 villagers are needed to stand for the 7 seats.

There is an immediate vacancy for one Councillor and if any one wishes to put him or herself forward for this or to put forward anyone else with their knowledge and approval please let us know.

That's probably enough from me.

Before closing I would like to thank all my colleagues and our Clerk for their work and support during the past year.

Though it may be invidious to do this I would like to pay a particular tribute to our Vice Chairman Barrie Pople who has been a tower of strength in all areas since he joined the Council in May 2007.

I would like now to ask Roy to say a few words about the common areas and then Barrie about the School position on behalf of the Dunsfold Village School Trust.

Village Matters including contributions from various speakers

Cllr Enticknap – Commons Areas

Cllr Enticknap reported that the common had been cut for the summer fayre and would only be cut once this year and that the verges, paths and strimming would be done as required.

Andrew Wright - tree warden – would be listing all the trees on the common area and anything unsafe or dangerous would be dealt with.

£5k had been granted from SCC for the Highways Localism Initiative and the works at Grattons Pond had been partially used in order to have this work complete. In September, the willows in the school pond, at Elm corner and the KGV ponds would be removed.

Petra Billings – Sussex Wildlife Trust – has offered to produce a new commons plan with the approval of WBC and she will also investigate grants to assist in the maintenance of the common.

Cllr Pople – Dunsfold Village School Trust

Cllr Pople reported that in April 2014 the Diocesan CEO had informed DVST on behalf of the Diocese and the Surrey County Council that they were prepared to transfer the freehold of the site to DVST on terms to be agreed. He further added that to that end DVST would be seeking pre-feasibility funding from Locality Trust for the professional work involved in producing a Business Plan, including a QS Surveyor's report on condition, an independent valuation and advice on the offer to be made to the freeholders. And finally, in the meantime the agreement of the freeholders was to be renewed to the work of a village working party to clear up the site and remove the invasive vegetation.

Cllr Victoria Young – SCC

Cllr Young reported that she had completed her first year in office. Roads continue to be a major issue and the country roads were the most heavily used in the country. The winter floods had made the roads even worse.

Superfast Broadband is now in 2 out of 3 cabinets and the rest would be connected by June.

Police Officers Barry Baldwin and Phil Snow

The Police Officers reported that the crime statistics had dropped in the past three years from 61 in 2012, to 115 in 2013 and 21 in 2014.

Revd Stephen White – PCC

Revd Young reported that although there was a small congregation, it was a committed and enthusiastic crowd and that new members were gradually joining. There had been a huge financial turnaround with a deficit in 2011 of £14k, followed by another deficit in 2012 of £15 ½k to a surplus of £3.5k in 2013. The church are organising an event on the 70th anniversary of D Day and on the 8th June a commemoration of those who did not return. He thanked Mence and Ruth Wilkinson for donating a new flag.

Paul Farrant – Dunsfold Village Shop

Mr Farrant reported that in the 2nd year of being a Community shop, the Post Office had been upgraded and in the 3rd year the shop had been refurbished inside with new floors being laid. The Shop Committee would be looking to get some external help with a new shop layout. He asked for volunteers to come forward to help with the running of the shop.

Annie Wace – Post Office and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Mrs Wace introduced herself as the new co-ordinator and reminded the assembled crowd of the non-emergency number of 101 and the emergency number of 999.

Nick Drane – Dunsfold Fire Brigade

Mr Drane asked for volunteers to come forward as the station need a minimum of 13 – 14 members and currently only has 4. Volunteers have to be 18 and live within a 4 – 5 minute response time to the fire station. The station also offers home fire safety visits and will fir free fire alarms.

Jack Woodward – Dunsfold Tennis Club and Social Club

Mr Woodward reported that the tennis club have 70 members. Tennis evenings are held on Friday nights and a coach was provided once a month. Regular BBQ's and tournaments were held and the bar is opened for members to enjoy.

Larry Westland – Dunsfold Cricket Club

Mr Westland reported that the club was successful with a particularly strong junior section consisting of 60 members.

Clare Gray – Chestnut Tree Nursery School

Mrs Gray reported that there are 27 children on the register and 5 members of staff.

Hazel Wiltshire – Puddleducks

Mrs Wiltshire reported that Puddleducks was in its 14th year and can be found in the Nugent Room from 10 – 12 on Wednesday mornings during term time. A thanks was also given to DADS and the Bonfire Committee for the grants given which keep these mornings going and to Sue Vesey to her help.

Emma Petch – Dunsfold Boot Camp

Ms Petch reported that boot camp is held on the KGV grounds in all weather on Sunday mornings at 9am and Wednesday mornings at 9.30am.

5. Questions

What contact was being made with the new owners of the Aerodrome?

No contact had been made.

Mobile phone mast – Mr Drane suggested that a mast could be installed on top of the fire station tower.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....