

**MINUTES OF THE 121ST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD
30TH MARCH 2015**

Councillors Present: Cllr. Margaret Allingham, Cllr. Sheila Baynes (Chairman), Cllr. Helen Corben, Cllr. Cynthia Garton, Cllr. Derek Pretty, Cllr. Jane Welsh

In attendance:

Borough Councillor Rupert Kyrle

PM1 Apologies

Cllr. Paul Carnell, Cllr. Daniel Clarke, Cllr. Val Houghton, Cllr. Keith House, Cllr. Bruce Tennent, Cllr. Ray Worley.

PM2 Welcome to the Worshipful The Mayor of Eastleigh, Cllr. Tony Noyce

The Mayor of Eastleigh took this opportunity of thanking the Town Council for the kind invitation to attend this meeting and stated it was a pleasure to be in attendance. He reported that it has been an exciting and pleasurable mayoral year and an absolute privilege meeting diverse people from different walks of lives.

PM3 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly of the Meeting of 27 March 2014

The Minutes were unanimously agreed and the Chairman signed them as a correct record.

PM4 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting of 27 March 2014

There were no matters arising.

PM5 Retiring Town Council Chairman's Report

The Retiring Chairman gave her report. She reported that it was a privilege to be the Town Council Chairman for the past year. She highlighted particular memorable occasions such as the annual remembrance day parade, Cricket Camp remembrance, 70 years since the D-Day sailings, Berry Theatre productions (commemoration of World War 1 with biographies of War Memorial names and forbears of Wildern pupils) and Oliver. It was reported that the Town Council purchased one of the ceramic poppies 'Blood swept lands and seas of red' at the Tower of London.

On 21 March, the area where still-born babies were interred was dedicated in a service with members of Churches Together led by the Vicar of St John's and a plaque inscribed 'For all babies born asleep 1932 – 1983' was unveiled. Improvements to the Town during the past year have included the cycle/walkway across Greta Park and on to the Superstores. Defibrillators have been purchased for placement at the 2000 Centre, Greta Park and the Bowling Club (courtesy of the Hamble Valley Rotary Club).

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 30 MARCH 2015
MINUTES – Cont'd Page 2

The Town Council has refurbished the tennis courts at Woodhouse Lane with a new key fob entry system whereby 4 people for the sum of £30.00 per year will be able to book a court on-line. Fees for the hire of the courts is currently being discussed and the Town Council is advertising for a coach. Finally, the Chairman thanked the groundstaff, office staff, Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk for their hard work and thanked all the retiring Councillors.

PM6 Town Council Financial Report

Cllr. Derek Pretty made the following statement:

'I am pleased to advise you that our financial accounts for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2014 are available on-line. They have been subject to strict scrutiny by our own auditor and then presented to independent external auditors for final approval and comment. Approval was received and the certified accounts presented to, and approved, by Full Council.

As I say, they represent the financial activities of this Council and their accuracy is the result of the continuing efforts of our Responsible Finance Officer, or Town Clerk as we all know him. He presents the figures to the finance and administration committee every month for approval and the members of that committee are able to scrutinise them and ask questions where needed. It is by this means that we have been able to maintain the tight financial control that has been required over recent years. These accounts are always available on the Hedge End Town Council Website.

We continue to provide services for which we are responsible in particular sports and playing fields, play areas, community buildings, allotments and cemetery. These could be expensive if not maintained and it is our groundstaff that we have to thank for making sure that this is done.

I am sure you will all be aware of Solar PV and the FiTs' that are available. This Council decided that it would install these systems on our buildings where suitable. These are now regularly returning substantial income as well as having the additional benefits of 'free' electricity to use during the daytime and our 'carbon footprint' would be reduced.

We continue to support Youth Services in conjunction with other partners.

In conclusion, although we are committing ourselves to a number of projects, I am able to confirm that our precept for 2015/2016 will be the

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 30 MARCH 2015
MINUTES – Cont'd Page 3

same as last year. A zero % increase achieved by the careful financial management and controls of the Council and staff'.

PM7 HEWEB Youth Council Report

Donna Brewer provided an update to the Box and the Youth Partnership. She reported on the participation of young people within Hedge End Carnival, the further development of The Beat Box Music Studio, successful trips/parties for young people – recreational opportunities, healthy living workshops including: internet safety, mental health, cyber bullying, tattoos and piercings, self-harm and many others.

There has been a major development of a junior youth programme to run alongside the seniors and the Box has seen an increase in numbers to the Junior Group.

The Friday Night Project at The Box has seen increased numbers to an extent that has resulted in a waiting list. There is a full curriculum of activities and events and the programme aims to increase confidence and life skills for group members. The Box members have created an FNP chill space thanks to a Rotary Club donation. Donna Brewer proceeded to outline The Box grants and funding highlights and reports on The Box staffing. She outlined The Box 'training and development' strategies and gave details of the numbers of attendees.

PM8 Borough and County Council Reports

Cllr. Rupert Kyrle gave his report on the HEWEB key issues for the Hedge End, West End and Botley (HEWEB) Local Area Committee in 2014/2015.

'This year a substantial amount of the Committee's work has been involved with planning applications. The Committee has considered 14 applications during 2014/15. The most controversial applications were for Sovereign Drive when 110 people attended the Committee meeting; Dog Kennel Farm which was debated for 100 minutes and most recently, Land off Bubb Lane. Several planning exhibitions have been held by the Council most notably for the Hatch Farm proposals in November 2014 and the Moorgreen development brief in late January 2015.

With an increasing pressure to build more houses, the importance of the Committee's work has never been greater. This will continue in 2015 and beyond with applications for previously unallocated sites being submitted by developers and more appeals against the Committee's decisions for refusal, being forecast.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 30TH MARCH 2015

MINUTES – CONT'D PAGE 4

One of the highlights of my year was to present grant cheques to local community organisations. The presentation evening is also a celebration of the many activities which are organised by volunteers who give up their own time to help others. These grants were mainly awarded to pre-schools, arts/sports and social clubs and groups for older people.

The Committee also received another significant report concerning the HEWEB Youth Council's recommendations for grants to young people's organisations such as the scouts and explorers. I was delighted that Joshua Buckle, the Chair of the Youth Council presented this report to my Committee this year.

I am pleased to inform you that this Committee has agreed to allocate £4000 from its revenue budget for the funding of next year's youth grants. This Committee continues to support the employment of the HEWEB Youth Worker and the Youth Partnership which is going from "strength to strength".

The service level agreement with Hedge End Town Council and Wildern School to support the Teenage Drop in Centre (TADIC) has also been renewed for 2015-16. Evidence provided by TADIC showed that 81% of clients live in the HEWEB area.

Our other Council partner is West End Parish Council which operates the hugely successful Youthouse facility at Moorgreen Recreation Ground. The Community Games event in August was also well attended and my Committee has recently approved some funding for this event in 2015.

The [D.@rt](#) Centre continues to offer a varied programme of activities. The Centre has been successful in applying for grants from this Committee and in particular I was pleased to support the new venture called Wordplay – a celebration of all things book related! Wildern Leisure Centre celebrated its 35th anniversary in 2014 and this Committee was able to grant fund the purchase of anti-wave lane ropes and swimming coaching provision.

Little Owls Woodland Pre-school is our new OFSTED registered outdoor facility for three and four year olds based at Itchen Valley Country Park. It gives children the opportunity to learn about trees, animals, building dens and cooking over fires in a wonderful woodland setting. This Committee provided funding of over £20,000.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 30TH MARCH 2015 MINUTES – CONT'D PAGE 5

My Committee has funded a new car park on the edge of Dowd's Farm in Hedge End. With the creation of 23 car parking spaces, this caters for visitors to the park and parents with children at Wellstead School who wish to park and stride. The car park at Hedge End Train Station has been extended by 38 spaces.

The Greta Park pedestrian and cycle route was completed in 2014 and provides a route from Turnpike Way through the Town Centre and beyond to the retail units in Hedge End. The Park and Stride scheme at Wellstead School has been established and the current scheme at King's Copse will be re- launched in April. Cycle provision has also been improved at the train station with the addition of 23 cycle storage spaces.

Botleigh Bridge in Hedge End is undergoing repairs with estimated costs of £11,000. Earlier in the year, an access route was improved in Allen Road leading to and from Watts Road after a request from a resident.

The Man of Trees sculpture was funded by this Committee and it was unveiled in November 2014. It is situated in the High Street and marks the beginning of the West End Heritage Trail. The public art projects for the shelter at the Crematorium and the life sized cricketers at the Ageas Bowl are nearing completion.

This Committee approved funding of £360,000 for the extension of the boxing and fitness facilities at the Ageas Bowl. Working with the Poseidon Boxing Club and Hampshire Cricket in the Community, this project is due for completion in late summer and will be a great addition to this sporting hub in West End. We have worked closely again with the local police on issues such as the Christmas light display in Greyhound Close and anti - social behaviour concerns. I would also like to thank the local Community Speedwatch and Street Pastor teams

We have invested in 9 flower planters for the 3 main town centres in HEWEB. This funding will also be repeated in 2015 as residents inform us that they appreciate the visual impact. We have also planted thousands of bulbs in the area with the help of our partners and these are in flower at the time of writing. This Committee has also allocated over £4,000 to upgrade the planting on 2 major roundabouts in Hedge End.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 30TH MARCH 2015
MINUTES – CONT'D PAGE 6

PM9 Reports from Local Organisations

Brief reports on activities undertaken during the past year 2014/2015 were received from a number of local organisations in attendance at this meeting.

PM10 Presentation 'Best Cultivated Allotment' Awards by the Mayor

The Worshipful The Mayor of Eastleigh, Cllr. Tony Noyce, presented the annual allotment awards for 2014/2015. He presented certificates for highly recommended allotment cultivation together with the annual shield for the best cultivated allotment for Spring Field and that of Kanes Field.

PM11 Public Questions

A member of the public expressed his views on the enforcement scheme in operation at the village hall and felt this was distinctly unhelpful for local businesses who may be struggling in the current difficult economic climate.

A representative from the Village Hall Management Committee gave a brief explanation as to the policy of introducing enforcement charges in the car park.

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.10 hours.