

WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 23RD MAY 2022 IN WHITSBURY VILLAGE HALL

Rural Crime

The Chairman welcomed PCSO S May to the meeting. PCSO May apologised for not being able to attend in recent years due to covid and staff shortages. He presented the total crime figures for Hampshire and then the local area. Crimes in the Downland Ward have increased from 145 in the previous year to 160 in the last year, but this is 10% better than in Hampshire overall. There have been 18 crimes reported in Whitsbury in the last year, 2 of which are very recent. Mr Cobb-Smith asked what is being done about the local crimes. PCSO May said action is being taken but he cannot give any more details. It is good there is an active Whatsapp group but it is important that all crimes are reported either using 101 or through the Police website. Mr Husher asked if number plate recognition technology is being used in rural areas. PCSO May said there are issues about who has access to vehicle data and often criminals use false plates. For better security he recommended stronger locks, louder alarms and more security lights.

1. Attendance Register, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllr G Thompson (Chairman), Cllr C Harper, Cllr H Sutton
Apologies: Cllr D Bellini, Cllr G Dominey, Cllr E Heron (HCC and NFDC),
In Attendance: Mr and Mrs Ambrose, Mr S Cobb-Smith, Mrs R Dewitt, Mrs K Edwards,
Mr S Husher, Mrs J Inman, Mrs J Kinsey, Mrs J Knibbs, Mrs C Thompson,
Mr E Hale (Clerk)

No Declarations of Interest.

2. Minutes from Parish Assembly held on 24th May 2021

These were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Annual Report by Chairman

The Chairman, Cllr G Thompson, gave his Annual Report:

1. As ever it is my pleasure to start by thanking all those who help to enable our village to function as well as it does. First off all our elected officials - Edward Heron, our District and County Councillor, my fellow councillors with a special mention to our very efficient Clerk, Edward Hale and a big thank you to the Harper family for all they do, mostly beneath the radar, to keep our village safe and looking so beautiful. Importantly I should also thank the many many volunteers who give their time freely to so many aspects of our village. It is always invidious to single out individuals but I would like to make a special mention of the person who runs the village website, chairs the village show and the village plan team and is also involved in running our jubilee celebrations - I am of course referring to Steve Husher.

2. At this time last year I said we looked forward to a resumption of village social events, our Village Show returning, progress on broadband and mobile coverage, progress on reducing speeding and an update of the village plan. Social events have been severely curtailed although a

very well received monthly coffee morning is held in the Village Hall and thanks to Paul and Annette our pub goes from strength to strength. Our Jubilee celebration in just under two weeks' time looks like being a legendary day. The Village Show had to be cancelled but does return on 6th August. Hooray! Virtually no progress on broadband and mobile coverage but as we'll hear in our meeting later significant progress on the Village Plan and potentially on the long standing problem of speeding traffic.

3. We have a significant number of new residents in the village and Nigel and Sheree Cumming have updated the Welcome booklet to support Sheree and Sara Locock as our official 'welcomers'

4. Our environmental group 'Whitsbury World' has sponsored a number of initiatives including rewilding verges (more on this in our meeting) a little free library and plant and food swaps.

5. A very substantial collection of clothing and other essentials was organised to support refugees from the war in Ukraine largely down to the efforts of Juliette and Oleg.

6. Our seasonal village newsletters get better and better - particularly well received are the reports from the farm, stud and trainers.

7. During the year a substantial donation was received by the village in memory of Jim Dyer and it was decided to await the outcome of the village plan before deciding how best to use it.

4. Annual Financial Statement by Clerk

The Clerk summarised the Accounts for 2021-22 as follows:

The totals in the bank accounts had increased from £11,675.27 in April 2021 to £12,601.25 in March 2022. This was an overall increase in the balance of £925.98.

The only income for the last year has been the Precept of £2,200.00 received from NFDC.

The total of all expenditure has been £1,274.26, which only comprised nine cheque payments.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Edward Hale 25.05.22