

MINUTES OF THE LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD ON 13TH MAY 2024 HELD AT THE PARISH ROOMS, LOCKERLEY

Cllrs. Present: Cllr. Len Arthur, Cllr. Peter Funnell, Cllr. Jane Waller (Chair), Cllr. Joanne Young

In attendance:

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King (Hampshire County Council)
Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston (Test Valley Borough Council)
Members of the Public

1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None recorded.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr. Tim Coomer

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None recorded

4. TO RECEIVE THE RETIRING CHAIR'S REPORT

The retiring Chair for the municipal year 2024/2025 gave the following report.

Throughout most of the last 12 months we were a council of only 4 members. Four councillors and no clerk, but we were fortunate in having Alex Walker, the clerk from East Dean to attend all our meetings and to record the minutes. We had 5 councillors for a while and 5 councillors again now. The difference that makes, serves to remind us that a full council of 7 is still our objective. The appointment in February 2024 of Kevin Glyn-Davies as our Parish Clerk was a master stroke. His experience and expertise has been a life saver and freed us up to concentrate fully on the work of councillors without having to complete the administration as well.

Maintenance and routine tasks in the parish have been completed. The playground has been popular in the fine weather. It is inspected annually by RoSPA, the equipment is monitored weekly and the grounds and facilities are maintained regularly. There are still concerns about the access road and the lack of a footpath. A reduction in the traffic speed limit is to be proposed. The Parish room had become shabby and underused. It has now been cleaned, renovated and decorated and is now an attractive venue for smaller meetings and activities. The Lockerley Band use the room as their base and the Parish Council meetings are held there once more. Other small groups of parishioners are also using the facilities. Our Lengthsman Shane Ling has completed all scheduled tasks to a very high standard. The clearing of the bourne along the Dunbridge side of Butts Green was most impressive. Cross country footpaths have also been cleared, (Pains Hill Farm and Shackell's Lane). The hedges on Lockerley Green bridge, the Parish Room and the Memorial Hall have had their annual cut, the public benches were washed and oiled in May and the grips in Newtown were cleared to reduce flood waters.

Michael Eastwood, our groundsman has responsibility for all the public owned greens: Lockerley Green; the playground; The Glebe Field; Butts Green; Oval Green; and Tote Hill Common. He arranges his schedule according to the weather and always works

LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES – 13 MAY 2024 – CONT'D PAGE 2

sympathetically to the needs of wildlife and wildflowers. He helped to plan the “Nectar Bars” that are being left this summer to support the insect life on some of our greens.

Attendance at our meetings has been good, but we would always be pleased to see more members of the public attending. Both our TVBC Councillor Alison Johnston and County Councillor Nick Adams-King attend as regularly as they can. Their input is always appreciated. In January, Corinne Davis-Cooke, our HCC Community Ranger came to talk to us about the management of our footpaths. Since the drastic reduction in the number of employed maintenance teams in Hampshire they are now successfully building teams of volunteers in some areas and training them to undertake many of the clearance tasks. Something for us to consider.

Lockerley Parish Councillors have also attended additional meetings across Test Valley which are helping to build links between neighbouring parishes. Some are social sharing groups other are for practical purposes, awareness raising or training. Two meetings presenting the Test Valley Draft Local Plan 2040 were attended. The building programme in Test Valley is already well advanced and the number of homes still required in the central, rural area are very few. A small number of affordable homes are all that most villages require.

The Pan Parish River Pollution Forum, (PPRP) is a river water monitoring programme initiated in Houghton, extended into neighbouring parishes but hopefully being extended further into other parishes who wish to take part. The Community Resilience Forum shared their plans and practical solutions to deal with all levels of accidents and disasters. Again, links and sharing of equipment and facilities between parishes was stressed.

We remain optimistic that our two councillor vacancies will soon be filled. We are in a better position this year than we were last year.

5. TO READ AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – 15 MAY 2023

Members unanimously RESOLVED the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 15 May 2023 and the Chair signed the Minutes as a true and correct record.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCILLORS AND HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King gave a thorough and very detailed presentation on his County Councillor work with Hampshire County Council, which was warmly appreciated by members and the public in attendance. The full details of his presentation are available on the Lockerley Parish Council Website: www.lockerley-pc.gov.uk

Borough Cllr. Alison Johnston equally provided a thorough and detailed presentation on her Borough Councillor work with Test Valley Borough Council. The full details of her presentation are on the Lockerley Parish Council Website: www.lockerley-pc.gov.uk

County Cllr. Nick Adams-King and Borough Cllr. Johnston both paid tribute to the Chair of the Lockerley Parish Council for having maintained a functioning parish council over the past year in difficult circumstances.

**LOCKERLEY PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
MINUTES – 13 MAY 2024 – CONT'D PAGE 3**

7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

None received.

8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Members agreed that the parish council should continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis on the second Monday but meetings will start at 18.00 hours.

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None recorded

There being no further business to transact, the Chairman closed this meeting at 18.50 hours.