



Sherfield Park Annual Parish Meeting
Held at Sherfield Park Community Centre
at 7.-00pm on Friday 10th May 2019

	<u>IN ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>APOLOGIES</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Cllr. Bowyer	✓		
Cllr. Gordon		✓	
Cllr. Vaux	✓		
Cllr. Goodenough	✓		
Cllr. Alvares	✓		
Cllr. Rouse	✓		
Cllr. Beattie	✓		

Minutes were taken by S Vaux, the Parish Clerk.

Approximately 60 members of the public, including Borough Councillors Paul Miller & Laura Edwards.

Agenda Item	Issue	Actions
1.	<p>Introduction and Welcome</p> <p>Cllr. Bowyer the outgoing Chairman welcomed all those attending.</p> <p>Highlights of the year mentioned in her report were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the Parish Office; • Croudace, the developer is nearing completion of the adoption process; • Basingstoke and Deane will now increasingly be responsible for maintenance of the Parish's open spaces. <p>She also thanked the Councillors, who are all volunteers, and the Clerk for their efforts, and explained that the Parish is simply the first level of local government, with The Borough and Hampshire County Council having much greater powers.</p>	
2.	<p>Planning report:</p> <p>Cllr Vaux (Vice Chair and Chairman of the Planning Committee over the last year) explained that the Parish has no direct powers as regards planning applications, but that it is a consultee for all planning activities locally.</p> <p>She advised that of the applications received all but two were for extensions to homes within Sherfield Park, all but two of which have been granted. The others involved requests for the Parish's</p>	

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	views regarding access to the planned development in Upper Cufaude Farm and the redevelopment of Chineham Centre. Only two applications were turned down by the planning authority.	
3.	<p>Finance Report</p> <p>Speaking on behalf of the Chair of Finance, Cllr Gordon, Cllr Vaux reported that for the third year in a row the Parish precept has been virtually unchanged. Despite this, we have been able to complete construction of our own Parish Office, and paid out grants to local organizations worth £11,000, more than double the previous year. The Council also plans to increase grant disbursement to around £15,000 in 2019-20.</p>	
4.	<p>Section 106 Projects</p> <p>FITNESS TRAIL – Cllr Will Rouse reported about the submission made to BDBC seeking Section 106 funds to develop an ecologically appropriate Fitness Trail and Outdoor Gym Pods. Residents are welcome to contact the Clerk for details</p> <p>FLOWER PLANTING – Cllr Herbert Goodenough advised that after identifying appropriate areas within the Parish, the Council hopes to use Section 106 funding to enhance biodiversity and amenities as more open spaces are adopted by the Borough. A map showing the plans can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.</p> <p>PICNIC BENCHES – To encourage residents to spend more time outside when the weather is good, Cllr Vaux explained that the Council is hoping to acquire and install picnic benches at appropriate spots throughout the Sherfield Park development. The Clerk can again let residents have a match showing the proposed locations</p>	
5.	<p>Other Matters</p> <p>Following the recent decision by the Government Planning Inspector to grant leave to a leader of the Traveller and Gypsy community to develop a pitch on land that he owns on the north side of Dixon Road, Cllr Paul Miller, one of our Borough Councillors, and Chairman of the Development Control Committee at BDBC gave the people present an update on the issue and answered questions. Particular issues highlighted were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the owner’s initial applications had been rejected by the Borough, their appeal had been upheld; • Before construction can start there are 8 pre-conditions, several of which are particularly onerous, to be met. The owner has 3 years in which to fulfil these conditions; • The most challenging pre-condition is the requirement to undertake a detailed contamination study of the land; and if that shows contamination issues; • To carry out expensive land amelioration, including probably the removal and making safe of munitions; • The Borough has an “Enforcement team” whose role will be to 	

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	<p>ensure that all the preconditions are met;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Borough still has the right to appeal the Inspector’s ruling to the High Court. A decision to do this will be made by end June. Issues to be considered include the probability of success vs the cost of such an action; • The Councillor advised that the Borough will update Parish Residents as soon as a decision about an appeal has been made. <p>Questions/Comments from the floor included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doubts about the likely ability of the enforcement team to control the activities of the owners; • Should clean-up be required who pays? Answer – The owner • Can the owner appeal against the conditions imposed by the Inspector? Answer – No. • Members of the community are frustrated that issues that they have raised about the proposed development appear to have been ignored by the inspector and BDBC. Cllr Miller said he would like to see what concerned citizen have available; • What might happen regarding the “Valuation Blight” that might result from any development? • Why was the owner not forced to replant the unlawfully cut trees? Answer – This is not a BDBC matter, but the responsibility of the Forestry Commission. BDBC is as frustrated as residents on this issue; • Residents suggested that both the MOD and BDBC should be held responsible for the situation; • Residents felt strongly that BDBC should purchase the plot from the owner to allow it to be restored to forestry, and not be used for people to live there; • The establishment of a SPV was suggested to pressurise and assist our councillors to get the Borough to undertake a High Court Appeal; • Why are there no traveller pitches elsewhere in the Borough? Answer: Developers are supposed to install them but are reluctant to do so and procrastinate, something BDBC are unable to influence; <p>Overall it was strongly felt that the Borough had failed to consult properly with local residents and had failed to utilise information that might have prevented the present situation developing.</p>	
4.	<p>Reports from Outside Bodies/Pubic matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Miller also commented on problems with the light sequencing at the Red Man and Tesco roundabouts has been seen to be inappropriate in heavy traffic and accidents are predicted to increase. This has been escalated to the Highways Authority; 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents expressed concerns about the reduced street lighting during the “Small Hours” of the night, which appears to have led to an increase in break-ins and vandalism. Residents were told that their concerns should be expressed in writing to our County Council representative, Elaine Still at her Hampshire County Council e-mail address, which can be found on line or can be furnished by the Parish Clerk if requested; Concerns also were raised about the volume and speed of traffic using Sherfield Park, especially Rockbourne Rd, as a cut through from Bramley, Vyne Park and the Chineham Business Park, and it was suggested that the Borough doesn’t appreciate the problems caused by allowing this to happen. Cllr Miller said that he believes that part of the problem exists because not all of the roads have yet been adopted from Croudace and that until this happens HCC, the highway authority cannot impose changes to traffic flows. Residents were however advised that the Parish Council is planning to install monitoring equipment to provide statistic evidence that can be used to argue for changes. The County and Parish representatives have already met with an HCC traffic officer and advised them of the problem, and the Parish Clerk was asked to follow up on this. 	
5.	<p>Closing Comments Cllr Vaux who replaced Cllr Bowyer as Parish Council Chair on 8th May then thanked Cllr Bowyer for her many years of public service to the Parish, Sherfield on Loddon and the Borough, and for helping to place the Parish Council on a firm footing.</p>	

The Meeting was closed at 9.00pm

Signed by Chair.....