



Minutes of the HVA Annual General Meeting

Held in the Holybourne Village Hall 12 October

The Chairman, John Bound, opened the meeting with apologies for absence from David Tomlinson and Tom Yendell of the HVA committee, Mike Roberts of the Holybourne Cricket Club and Stephanie Bennett of the Holybourne WI.

Over 40 members attended the meeting. The list of attendees is available on request from secretary.HVA@holybourne.com or in hard copy from Nick Cane – 01420-86282

HVA: John Bound opened the meeting and reviewed the purpose, membership and scope of the HVA and reminded the meeting that *all residents of Holybourne are members* and that the HVA represents them as a consultee on planning matters. HVA meetings are held in the Village Hall at 8 p.m on the second Tuesday of each month and all are welcome to attend.

Planning: John then presented planning activity for the year, explained that there had been no major issues of general impact on the village and that he felt that a number of improvements in the Onyx recycling site had been driven by the HVA. Onyx remains a potential issue and the HVA is keeping a watching brief (e.g. on light pollution). He then introduced David O'Donnell (EHDC Councillor) to talk about the planning process.

Planning process: David O'Donnell explained that in principle everybody has a right to build and the council's role is to ensure that this is done properly. 88% of planning decisions are delegated. If there are only 1-4 complaints against a planning request it will be handled locally; if more then David decides which should go to the planning committee for review. The debate is led by the local councillor. Only if there are a large number of issues is any public speaking allowed.

Factors involved in the decision are: Government Policy and the Local Plan. In Holybourne we have a *Defined Settlement Boundary* within which in-fill building is acceptable, however this will be constrained by Conservation Area rules. The centre of Holybourne is a conservation area, within which planning is very tight – e.g even significantly pruning a tree without approval can result in a fine of up to £2000. Chris Everett explained that the HVA had opted for a settlement boundary some years ago to avoid building outside the existing area. David further explained that if there is a 'Village Design Statement' this will also be taken into account. Anyone can create one of these and assistance is available from the council/councillor should one wish to do so. David agreed to send a map of the settlement boundary and conservation area to the secretary for onward distribution and display on the village web site.

David's final message was that all planning requests should start with a discussion with the neighbours in order to avoid conflict.

Post Office: John Bound reported that the HVA had supported the effort to protect the Post Office from closure by stopping it being reclassified as Urban. This had failed but external factors, the closure of the Anstey Road Post Office by Tesco, had resulted in its retention. David Edwards thanked the villagers for their support on both this and the Lottery machine and explained the plans for significant enhancements to the Post Office and the shop in the coming weeks. There will be a Grand Opening of the new shop on November 6 at 10 o'clock.

Pond: John Bound reported on action taken by the HVA through a sub-committee to improve the pond. It has now been decided to set up a 'Friends of the Pond' group under the auspices of the HVA and volunteers are required to participate. Richard Cutts said that silt is flowing into the pond rapidly and action is needed now.

Nick Cane undertook to set up an inaugural meeting as a matter of urgency. Volunteers with internet access please e-mail pond@hollybourne.com or call Nick Cane or John Bound. Nick Cane pointed out that the Friends would take decisions and act on them without further canvassing of opinion but reporting back to the HVA.

Magazine: Chris Everett reviewed the progress of the Magazine. It has been a lot of work but very rewarding with very positive feedback. The magazine is also making some money for the HVA. Chris thanked a number of key individuals (Simon Stannard-Powell, Maggie Simmons, Simon Caddy, David Tomlinson, John Honnor and Janet Cane) and encouraged more participation and contributions. John Bound thanked Chris himself for his outstanding efforts in making it so successful.

Website (Holybourne .com) John Bound and Dave Budd (Webmaster) reviewed the progress on the website which has been entered into the Hampshire Village Website competition. It receives about 150 visits a month and contains information about the village, minutes of the HVA, directions from anywhere to Holybourne, What's On and a 'Have Your Say' discussion forum. Anybody can ask for a Holybourne.com e-mail id (personal or organisational) and email will be re-routed from the Holybourne id to the ISP email address; the Holybourne email address will stay the same even if you change ISP or if the organisation changes players. There is a small charge for this, Q&As and all other details are provided on www.hollybourne.com . Any other Holybourne id questions then please contact webmaster@hollybourne.com.

John Bound pointed out that the HVA realises that lots of villagers do not have the internet so the minutes and other relevant information are posted on the Village Noticeboard outside the White Hart.

Treasurers Report: Dennis Nason is retiring after 10 years as Treasurer. The whole meeting expressed their thanks for his support. The HVA is a very low cost organisation with £344 in the bank. A donation (not reflected in the accounts) of £350 was received at the AGM from the Alton Music Festival.

Have your say:

- Barry Lawrence asked about Onyx. John Bound replied that there are no plans for trains, and no plans for an incinerator. A maximum of 130 trucks a day are expected. Onyx have made a substantial donation to the Village Hall fund.
- John McLean suggested that there should be a village picnic next year, perhaps associated with Trafalgar Day. John Bound agreed that the HVA would pursue this but that volunteers will be required.
- John Mclean also asked about the apparent reduction in train noise and it was thought to be a result of the new trains. Chris Everett suggested that the HVA write to South West trains expressing our appreciation.
- Antoinette Hokway mentioned that Darren and Anna Hooker had taken over the running of the Queens Head and are keen to integrate with the village.

Elections: Chris Everett, Dennis Nason, David Andrews, Roger Dobson, Marcus Pilleau and Paul Fitzgibbon are retiring from the committee. John Bound thanked them for their many years of support for the village and the HVA.

The following were then elected by a show of hands:

- John Bound and Tom Yendell – re-elected. Proposed by Nick Cane, seconded by Karen Bennett
- Vicki Kemp – proposed by Karen Bennett, seconded by Steve Downes
- Lynn Kelly – proposed by Olwen Edwards, seconded by June Macdonald
- Ben Kemp – proposed by James Bull, seconded by Chris Everett
- James Bull – proposed by Steve Downes, seconded by Karen Bennett

This concluded the HVA business and there was a break for a few minutes followed by an excellent talk by Jane Hurst on the subject of ‘What is Neatham?’

What is Neatham: Jane traced the origins and history from the Doomsday Book to the present day with examples of people, architecture and lifestyles over the centuries. Jane has recently been running classes on researching local history at the village hall.

The meeting finished at about 10:15 and it was followed by the opportunity for social interaction over a few drinks and some excellent food.