

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
held on 23rd May 2013 in
Headley Village Hall, Church Lane, Headley

Present: David Preedy - Chairman
 Headley Parish Councillors: Sarah Connolly
 Paul Furr
 Erin Sheridan
 Vivienne Williams
 In attendance: Gill Riggs - Clerk
 County Cllr. Hazel Watson
 Surrey Police: PCSO Ivor Williams
 National Trust - Will Frost
 Ride-London - Kevin Nash
 Approx. 45 members of the public

1. Apologies:

Sir Michael Pickard
 Cllr. Jane Pickard
 Cllr. Geoffrey Robb
 Yvonne Stovell
 Jan Curtis
 Paul Marden - Headley Court

2. Introduction:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked them for attending and said it was nice to see so many people coming along. The Chairman explained that there would be three main presentations and that Headley Court was unable to attend. The remainder of village organisations displaying presentations round the walls on their events and progress of the past year.

3. Minutes:

Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on 17th May 2012 were approved - proposed by Peter Denyer and seconded by Tessa Bridges.

4. Surrey Police

PCSO Ivor Williams gave an update on crime statistics for the past five months and reminded residents to be vigilant at all times regarding their property and outbuildings and suggested alarming outbuildings where possible. Ivor advised that residents should consider marking their property with special marker fluid, of which there are three types available - the fluid will remain on culprits and be detectable for three months, which can then be detected under ultra-violet light if arrests are made, and the marked code linked to the property owner. Ivor explained that the police are regularly in attendance and asked to be advised if anybody knows of any problems or issues. The Chairman thanked Ivor for attending and for his and his colleagues' work and involvement over the past year.

5. Chairman's Report:

Past year:-

The Chairman explained that Councillors and Clerk have worked hard throughout the year and gave an outline of what has been happening in the village during the year and the main initiatives carried out by the Parish Council. He also explained that Cllr. Chrissie James had stood down as a Councillor and that Vivienne Williams had been co-opted. The Chairman thanked the other candidates who had expressed an interest in the role and explained that elections will next take place in 2015.

The Chairman explained that some small sums of money from Infrastructure Charges for new builds in the village are likely to be allocated to the Parish Council, and asked people to come forward with ideas on how to spend these.

Headley Court

It was explained that Paul Marden had attended a Parish Council meeting and provided an update on HC. Items have appeared in the press regarding possible re-location to the new National Rehabilitation Centre being planned for the Midlands, which will serve civilian as well as military purposes. It has not yet been decided what, if any, services might be transferred from Headley Court at some stage in the future. The Chairman stated his personal view that it would be a brave political decision to cut back significantly at Headley Court, given the high profile of the Help for Heroes campaign and costs spent on the swimming pool.

Following the killing at Woolwich earlier in the week, the meeting unanimously supported the Chairman's suggestion that the Clerk be asked to write to the Commanding Officer recording our well wishes to all staff and patients at HC explaining that they have the full support of the community.

Playground

Explanation regarding obtaining and registering the new 25-year lease was given.

Olympic cycle race

Much work went on to liaise with residents to ensure the smooth running of the Olympic cycle events through the village.

Parish Plan

The Parish Plan Committee has been working throughout the year and a questionnaire is currently being printed and will be distributed to residents in the next week or so. The Chairman urged residents to complete and return it as quickly as possible, so that a wide range of views and needs of the village can be sought.

Bus Service

Great improvements in the service have been seen since the new contractor, with the service through the village recently being extended to Sundays.

New website

The Parish Council has obtained a new website which has now gone live. The Chairman gave an outline of the functionality of the website and the Clerk will advise residents by email of the website address.

Nursery site, Church Lane

It was explained that a new approach had been received from the owners of the nursery site, regarding a possible proposal for Affordable Homes and a small number of market homes. It was pointed out that it was proving quite difficult to reach agreement between the landowner, the Parish Council and Mole Valley DC of the types of homes acceptable.

Shooting Club

Following pressure from the Parish Council, MVDC has carried out readings on noise levels, but these have been very mixed and MVDC has confirmed that it will not take any action against the club. A number of noise reducing measures have been introduced by the club and the Parish Council is continuing discussions with the club regarding breaches of shooting club guidelines.

6. Parish Council Accounts

Copies of the accounts for the year 01/04/2012 to 31/03/2013 were distributed to the meeting for information and these have been adopted by the Parish Council. The Clerk addressed the meeting and explained how initiatives carried out by the Parish Council have increased considerably over the past few years, which involves increases to the Precept. She explained that she had very recently discovered that Mole Valley Housing Association has without notice decided to cease mowing the grass in the playground, which is an unplanned expense and likely to be a further charge on the 2013/14 precept.

7. Henry Smith Charity

The Clerk read out the report of the charity for the past year, explaining that a successful luncheon was held in April, and that a number of people had been helped during the year with cash grants for various family problems. University students were given contributions towards their books. The charity urges anyone who knows of someone who needs help, to contact Jane Pickard.

8. Presentations:-

National Trust

Will Frost gave a very interesting slide presentation explaining the work of the Trust and its volunteers, and that of the Friends of Headley Heath, explaining that work could not continue without the help of dedicated volunteers. Will explained that restoration and conservation are vital to the survival of the heath, and that the area has suffered too much tree growth over the years. He explained that there are now thirteen Belted Galloways grazing the heath. Will gave details of a number of forthcoming events taking place on the heath and also said he was keen for people to come forward with ideas on improvements, especially to the main car park and approach area.

Ride-London-Surrey cycle event

Kevin Nash outlined the background to the event which takes place on 4th August, explaining that it is intended to be an ongoing event each year as an Olympic legacy, around about that date, but date dependent upon other major events.

Kevin explained how the event would work, about the necessary road closures/proposed opening times etc. and explained that there will be two events, with 20,000 riders in the amateur event over 100 miles and 150 professional cyclists taking place in the second event of the day, with 150 participants. Kevin asked that any residents needing access in or out during the gap between the two events should register this requirement with the organisers.

Leaflets have been delivered to every household living within 400 metres of the event, with a further leaflet planned for July. Leaflets were distributed to those present at the meeting.

Headley Playground Steering Group

Jane Jenkins gave a presentation on progress so far with the playground refurbishment project, explaining that the first stage of the project, which is fencing, gates and stiles, will be installed within the next two weeks. Jane gave an update on grants received so far.

Fundraising continues with grant applications to a number of organisations ongoing, and a number of local events which include a fashion show in the village hall on 13th June and a champagne lunch in the Rector's garden on 21st September, prior to the flower show. Tickets for both events are available from Jane Jenkins or other members of the playground group.

Jane asked for formal thanks to be recorded to Robin Scarry, who has kindly cleared the shrubs on the boundary between the playground and 14A Broome Close, on a voluntary basis - without which the new fencing could not have been installed along that section.

The Chairman thanked members of the Playground Steering Group for their hard work and achievements on behalf of the project.

Other presentations:- Visual presentations were on display around the room from:-

Friends of Headley Heath
Gardening Club
Headley Cricket Club
Headley Computer Club

Headley WI
St. Mary's Church

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45 p.m. and invited everyone to stay for an informal drink and buffet.

Signed Chairman

Dated