

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT 7.00PM ON THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2009  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, VILLAGE WAY, CRANLEIGH

During the first fifteen minutes of the meeting members of the public with a legitimate interest in the parish were able to ask questions relevant to the work of the council. There were no members of the public and one member of the press in attendance. The Clerk, Pauline Whitehead was present.

Cllr BA Ellis \* (Chairman of the Council)  
 Cllr BH Cheesman\* (Vice Chairman of the Council)  
 Cllr B Arendell\*  
 Cllr C Baily  
 Cllr J Bainbridge\*  
 Cllr Dr V Dawes\*  
 Cllr Mrs JE Dodd\*(arrived late and tendered apologies)  
 Cllr Mrs P Ellis\*  
 Cllr Mrs M Foryszewski\*  
 Cllr D Gallacher\*(arrived late and tendered apologies)  
 Cllr Mrs R Hurtleley\* (arrived late and tendered apologies)  
 Cllr K Reed

PRESENT\*

1. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were AGREED and signed by the Chairman as a true record subject to one amendment: - delete 'Annual' from the heading on page 4072.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

The Council accepted apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr C Baily and Cllr K Reed.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that any changes in member's interests should be notified to the Clerk so that appropriate action can be taken. There were no declarations of interest.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Dr Vivienne Dawes to her first Council meeting following her co-option. Cllr Ellis expressed his thanks to Cllr Bainbridge for raising and lowering the Union Flag to mark National Armed Forces Week which ran from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009. He also thanked the many members of the public and Councillors who attended the Primary Care Trust (PCT) co-design meeting in Guildford to support the proposed new hospital on the Paddock Field site in Cranleigh. As a result of the meeting the PCT have met with the Cranleigh Village Hospital Trust (CVHT) to progress the plan to have a hospital in Cranleigh with fourteen beds, free at the point of entry.

The Assistant Clerk retired on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July and had been presented, on behalf of the community and Council with a barbeque. Mrs Scully had expressed her appreciation for the gift.

Work has commenced on the improvements to Cranleigh Leisure Centre and a timetable of works is available. The Chairman and Clerk had attended the Town and Parishes Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> July to hear responses to two questions put by Cranleigh. One question related to the Compensatory Grant which is an agenda item later in the meeting, and the other to Waverley's view on devolving responsibilities to parishes and an understanding whether funding would be transferred with such responsibilities. Waverley was responsive to the idea of

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devolving responsibilities to Parishes on an individually negotiated basis and this may be pursued.

All members are welcome to attend the quarterly Town and Parishes meetings. Other topics covered at the Town and Parishes Meeting included participatory budgeting and the reduction in opening hours of the Locality Offices from the beginning of November 2009.

*(Cllrs J Dodd and D Gallacher joined the meeting)*

The Parish Council had received positive news regarding funding towards the repair of the War Memorial. The recently elected County Councillor for Cranleigh, Cllr Jonathan Lord proposed a grant of £2,000 at the recent Waverley Local Committee and this had been agreed. A further £2,500 has been secured from the War Memorial Trust towards the full cost of the repair of £6269.61 (excluding VAT which is recoverable). The balance will be taken from the War Memorial Bank Account held for this purpose by the Parish Council. The work will be completed in readiness for Remembrance Sunday. The Chairman observed that the Parish Council had assumed responsibility for the War Memorial in the absence of any other authority taking the lead and members acknowledged this.

A meeting to discuss the Local Development Framework and Housing Options was held at Waverley on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Those who attended considered a range of housing options for the Waverley Borough for the period from 2006 to 2026. Waverley will be expected to provide an additional 5,000 houses within that period and the proposed options indicating where the houses might be built will be subject to public consultations later this year.

The Chairman had been saddened to hear of the death of Mrs Dorothy Staats who had served on Cranleigh Parish Council for a number of years. He expressed condolences to family and friends.

NALC were running the Council of the Year competition with a deadline for entry in November and the Chairman suggested that if members were interested in putting Cranleigh forward it might be prudent to form a small working party to progress the application.

Finally a skateboard event had been scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> August between 11am and 4pm at the Cranleigh Skate Park to which everyone was welcome.

#### 5. QUESTIONS

There were no questions from members of the public living or working in the Parish.

#### 6. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Chairman of the Committee presented the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009 and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009, these were RECEIVED. The Committee Chairman asked for questions but none were posed.

#### 7. MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE/ CEMETERY COMMITTEE AND VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Chairman presented the Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting, Cemetery Committee and Village Hall Committee Meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009, these were RECEIVED.

#### 8. FINANCIAL MATTERS

The final expenditure list for June 2009 of £59,115.81 and the expenditure list for July 2009 amounting to £21,253.49 was presented to the Council by the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and AGREED.

The Committee Chairman noted that cheque 6956, £2075.00 for tree surgery at Snoxhall had been included in the budget.

The agenda referred to the Financial Report to the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2009, however, the figures to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were available and the Council AGREED that it would be more prudent to examine these.

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Members AGREED the Financial Report to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 and noted the explanation for greater expenditure than anticipated at this time of the year. The Chairman of Finance and General Purposes explained the

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additional expenditure associated with unforeseen emergency items which could potentially cause an overspend of round £5,000 on the 2009/10 budget. This, coupled with the fall in interest payments on savings could see the shortfall in the budget rise to around £10,000.

9. COMPENSATORY GRANT

The Parish Council had received a letter from the Head of Finance and Performance at Waverley Borough Council dated 30<sup>th</sup> June indicating that the full review of the Compensatory Grant which had been announced in February 2009 would not take place at this time. Due to pressures in Waverley's budget it is very likely that a cash freeze will be necessary on compensatory grants in 2010/11. The outcome of this is that the compensatory grant paid in 2010/11 will be no more than the 2009/10 amount which is £42,840. The Parish Council were invited to give comments on the position by 10<sup>th</sup> August.

Members noted that there was no original written agreement for compensatory grant entered into but that it was a 'gentleman's agreement', therefore there were no clear terms on which the compensatory grant is paid, however, they were deeply concerned that the Compensatory Grant should be frozen at the 2009/10 level and totally disagreed with and disapproved of the proposal. The cost of providing our own recreation facilities have increased over the 2009/10 period and the Parish Council will be forced to pass the additional costs on to the community. Members requested reassurance from Waverley BC that they would not be increasing their costs for recreation as otherwise the communities which are allocated compensatory grants will be paying twice for their recreational facilities. Members noted Waverley's restricted finances, but felt that as Parish Councils are the only tier of Government that are not capped they were pushing additional costs for services onto local taxpayers. Members also noted that a cash freeze on the Compensatory Grant would potentially increase the 2010/11 precept by a significant percentage in a similar way to the 2009/10 precept which increased by 7.9% of which only 1.3% was due to running costs.

The Council AGREED that the Chairman and Clerk should respond to the letter and include these comments.

*(Cllr Mrs Hurlley arrived during this item)*

10. EMERGENCY GRANT APPLICATION BY CRANFOLD JOB SEEKERS CLUB

Members considered a grant application by Cranfold Job Seekers Club for £480 towards a new computer. The computer was urgently needed to access job information which had been previously sent by paper copy. Members acknowledged the excellent work undertaken by Cranfold Job Seekers Club and supported the application, however, they felt the specification of the computer chosen was overstated for the task required of it and that a computer of a lower specification could be purchased for a reduced cost. The Council AGREED to grant £300 towards a new computer.

11. CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR

Members noted that Dr Vivienne Dawes was co-opted at the last meeting. The Declaration of Acceptance was signed on 26<sup>th</sup> June and Cllr Dr Dawes has joined the Planning Committee.

12. RAIL LINK TO CRANLEIGH – GUILDFORD THE ATOC REPORT

The Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) report 'Connecting Communities - Expanding Access to the Rail network' (June 2009) had been e-mailed to all Councillors. The report puts forward the recommendation that the feasibility of reopening the Cranleigh to Guildford rail link should be reviewed following an initial viability study of several rail lines throughout the country which put Cranleigh into the top twenty category.

Members generally supported the initiative; however, they welcomed the proposal put forward by the Chairman to work with Waverley Borough Council to invite ATOC to speak to Cranleigh and any other Parish Councils who may be affected.

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The Council felt that whilst the return of the rail link to Guildford would bring many positives and opportunities, there were other considerations which may affect the character of Cranleigh. These included an influx of housing and development, the loss of trade to local businesses as the journey to Guildford was made more accessible and the need for increased car parking within Cranleigh. Footpaths which run adjacent to the

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Down's Link and which had been lost due to lack of use had the potential to be reopened so that the recreational route of the Down's Link would not be lost.

13. VILLAGE SIGNS

Members considered a draft design for the Cranleigh road signs on the three routes into Cranleigh submitted by the Cranleigh and Semur en Auxois Town Twinning Association and drawn up by Ringway. Members were disappointed that the word 'and' had been omitted between Vallendar and Semur; the spacing and lettering of the design was unattractive; and that the British flag had been omitted from the sign. Members were also concerned that the twinning signs donated by the German side of the Cranleigh Vallendar Friendship Group would be discarded and that the new signs would cost in the region of £1,000.

The Chairman volunteered to revisit the existing signs, and see if additional signs, mounted below and complementing the existing Vallendar signs, would be more appropriate. This could also reduce costs and allow the retention of the existing Vallendar signs.

The Council AGREED that the Chairman should work on an amended design in consultation with the Clerk and the relevant groups.

14. VISIONING

Members considered a report by the Clerk following a 'Visioning' meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

The Council AGREED the vision statement that "Cranleigh is, and will continue to be, a vibrant place in which to live, work and play".

The Council AGREED to give their comments to the Clerk on "What we want to promote" and "How we are going to do it", so that this could be collated and passed back to Mrs Bott for comment before being ratified at the next Parish Council meeting.

15. RECREATION REPORT

Members noted the recreation report circulated with the agenda. Following positive news about grant funding of £9,945 from Waverley Borough Council for the purchase of the Bloqz, it was AGREED to incur expenditure of £1,400 on groundwork for this piece of equipment. The grant was secured by the young people of Cranleigh who identified that the Bloqz unit fulfilled the outcomes they wanted in a survey carried out by Waverley Borough Council. The Chairman of Finance and General Purposes noted that events arranged by the Rotary Club of Cranleigh and the action for Cranleigh Play Park Association working in partnership could produce funds to cover this.

PCSO Sherwood is arranging a one-off event at Snoxhall on 12<sup>th</sup> August when there will be a tug of war, music and food. The following day there will be a skateboard competition on Cranleigh Skate Park to which all Councillors have been invited.

The Chairman, Clerk and Grounds Manager were to meet with the new Chairman of Cranleigh Active to establish a working relationship and to explore funding for sport in Cranleigh.

16. PARISH BUSINESS

There was no Parish Business.

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17. CORRESPONDENCE

The Parish Council RECEIVED Correspondence List A to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and List B to 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

A letter had been received inviting a Parish Council representative on the Local Committee (Waverley): Cranleigh and Eastern Villages Transportation Task Group. Cllr Bainbridge confirmed that he would be willing to continue with this.

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18. REPORTS

The Chairman advised all Councillors that Waverley Borough Council's list of meetings and Surrey County Council's Environmental Update were available on their respective websites.

19. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

**It was resolved that the Press & Public be excluded from the Meeting during item 20 in accordance with section 100A (2) and (4) of the L.G.A. 1972 and Standing Orders 55(c) and 55(d).**

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at 7pm.**