



BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK PARISH COUNCIL

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THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF BRAMSHOTT & LIPHOOK TOOK PLACE AT 7.30PM IN THE LIPHOOK MILLENNIUM HALL, ONTARIO WAY, LIPHOOK, ON MONDAY 30 MARCH 2009

PRESENT WERE: Mr B Hope (Chairman), Mr G Amey, Mr M Croucher, Mrs B Easton, Mr R Evans, Mrs A C James, Mr P Jordan, Mr N Newman, Ms J Poole, (Parish Councillors). Mrs E Hope (District Councillor), Mr A Groves (Parish Clerk), Mrs D Hart (Asst Clerk). Cllr I Dowdle, Ms D Gardner (EHDC). Seventeen members of the public and one member of the press were present.

MINUTES

46/09 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting, and reminded people about mobile phones, and the emergency exits.

47/09 WHITEHILL AND BORDON ECO TOWN UPDATE

The Chairman introduced Cllr Ian Dowdle and Ms Daphne Gardner from East Hampshire District Council (EHDC). Ms Gardner gave a presentation "The Opportunity that is Whitehill-Bordon" (a copy of the presentation slides are attached at Annex A). Cllr Dowdle conducted a question and answer session supported by Ms Gardner.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Dowdle and Ms Gardner for the presentation.

48/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Tough, Cllr Wilson.

49/09 ANNUAL REPORTS – COMMITTEES AND PARISH COUNCIL

49/09.1 Finance and Policy (F&P) Committee - Cllr Mrs James

The F&P Committee meet every two months and is made up mainly of the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the individual Committees. Every month an audit is carried out and overseen by members of the Committee on

rotation, to ensure financial probity. This is in addition to two internal audits, carried out by an external auditor, and the Annual Return which is an external audit carried out by the Audit Commission. I can report from the auditors that the Parish Council officers demonstrate their understanding of Local Government Financial account practice and legislation and maintain a high standard of record keeping. Members of the public are welcome to visit the office to enquire about any financial matters, but it would be helpful to have prior notice of any questions so that the appropriate answers can be collected.

The Parish Council has a lot of core clients that receive grants. These are local organisations such as Liphook in Bloom, Preservation Society, River Wey Trust. We also budget for one-off grants to other good causes and projects within the Parish and these are considered by the Committee, usually after a very good presentation by the applicants. This year, we had a good cause when Liphook Bowling Club wanted new high fencing, with the hope of keeping “flying missiles out”.

The largest grant is given to the C.A.B., but I am sure that in the climate we are at the moment this is much appreciated by everybody and it is an important organisation and very important to maintain its presence in Liphook. Having reviewed the budget this year on several occasions via each committee it came back to the F&P Committee and was then agreed by the Council. The precept this year is £195,958, an increase of 3.14% from last year. We will have to be very careful again next year as we have another Parish Council election which will cost approximately £9,000. Thank you Mr Chairman.

QUESTIONS

Mrs Hoskins. How did the election cost £9,000?

Cllr Mrs James. We questioned this and asked EHDC for a breakdown. We normally put money aside each year, and the election normally coincides with the other elections and we only have to pay a proportion of the costs. There are two halls which have to be hired for a long period, ballot papers have to be issued, the electorate of 6000 people notified, and there are postal votes. It is an expensive process. It might have coincided with the European elections and saved us money, but legislative time frames have to be met.

Mr Heyes. I believe twenty people signed to call an election. I am disappointed that for one vacancy that some way could not be found for someone to stand without an election, especially as local government is being squeezed. The twenty people who signed should think about that.

Cllr Mrs James. Only ten people are needed to call an election. That is democracy. It is unfortunate for the purse strings, but everybody has the right to stand and it is unfortunate we have had two elections. There would be many more people signing if we could not have an election. That is my answer.

Highways, Byways and Transport (H, B &T) Committee - Cllr R Evans (on behalf of Cllr J Tough)

The last year has been an eventful one for the Highways, Byways and Transport Committee, with projects worked on for many years coming to fruition. I am very proud of these achievements and am sad not to be able to tell you of them myself as I am unfortunately away working on a Road Safety Project in Saudi Arabia.

During last summer Temporary Speed Limit Reminders were deployed in Haslemere Road between Erles Road and Stonehouse Road, and the Parish Council is pressing for these to be deployed on other roads around the Parish in the future.

Under the Village 30 Programme the Committee pressed for a 30mph speed limit through Passfield. This was refused but we continued to press for a lower speed limit and the County Council proposed a combination of 40mph along Headley Road and 30mph on the side roads. The Committee agreed to this and it will be implemented in the near future.

A Community Transport survey was distributed in the outlying hamlets of the Parish and an amazing 50% of the questionnaires were returned. A survey of client organisations in the Parish such as Age Concern, the Peak Day Centre and the Surgeries will be carried out to complete the picture. Then it should be possible to see whether there is a demand for Community Transport in the Parish.

In September, the Canadian Memorial Underpass on Bramshott Common, under the A3, was declared open by Lt Col Walker of the Canadian High Commission, assisted by myself. This was an alternative scheme, put forward by the Parish Council as part of the consultation on the A3 Hindhead Improvement Scheme and confirmed by the Public Inquiry, to replace the bridleway crossing of the A3 at The Spaniard, which would be closed as part of the Scheme. This was the first element of the Hindhead Improvements to be completed and opened. It links both halves of Bramshott Common, split by the A3, allowing walkers, cyclists and riders to go from one side of the Common to the other in safety.

The Parish Council, represented by myself, has been active on the Infant and Junior School Travel Plan Group, which has been guiding the County Council in implementing the Schools' Joint Travel Plan. So far the following elements have been implemented: a zebra crossing has been installed on Headley Road; the crossing facility on Haslemere Road has been improved; the place where children walking to and from school cross Longmoor Road at the bottom of Westlands Hill has been made safer with signing, dropped kerbs and non-slip road surfacing; the pavement outside the schools has been widened to make it safer; satellite parking at the Catholic Church is being trialled with some success; satellite parking is also planned at the Church Centre. The possibility of running a walking bus from the Church Centre and possibly one from the Rec and the Library Car Parks is being considered.

The Committee is currently pressing the County Council to consider more traffic calming and management measures to reduce traffic speeds on Haslemere Road, Portsmouth Road, and Headley Road and on Midhurst Road to the south of the railway bridge.

The Parish and District Councils are working to identify Developers' Contributions towards the cost of making Liphook Station accessible. A scheme identified by the Committee to access the down platform by means of a ramp from Midhurst Road was shown to be feasible by the consultants Mott Gifford, making it available and eligible for Developer Funding.

The Committee has been pressing for some time for the disgraceful condition of Headley Road to be improved by the County Council. At long last, work on the Headley Road has been completed and perhaps my one compensation for having to be in Saudi Arabia at this time is that I missed the chaos that I fear this must have brought to Liphook.

I would like to thank members of the Committee for their forbearance, the County Council Engineers for their valiant efforts to keep traffic in the village moving; our County Councillor Sam James for supporting the efforts of the Committee at County Hall, and I particularly thank the Assistant Clerk, Diane Hart and her predecessor Ann Haussauer, for managing the Committee and for providing an important link between the Parish and the Highway Authority. I am also grateful to Rob Evans for presenting this report to you tonight.

QUESTIONS

Mr Young. I would like to compliment the contractor who did the work on the Headley Road for completing it in a few days and also for the diversion system.

Mr Keen. Not the case if you live in Bramshott. It was chaos.

The Chairman. A County Council matter.

49/09.3 Liphook Millennium Centre (LMC) Management Committee - Cllr B Hope

I offer grateful thanks and appreciation to the office staff in the Millennium Centre, including Mrs Caroline Benham and Mrs Wendy Moore and also the Facilities Supervisor, Donald McCulloch. Much of the success of the Millennium Centre can be put down to their helpfulness and welcoming approach.

The Millennium Centre continues to be popular and well-used by a wide range of local community groups, individuals and organisations. We also have an encouraging number of clients who hold regular conferences and meetings in the Millennium Centre and they are always very welcome.

After a number of initial meetings and discussions, Youth Drop-in Sessions are now being held in the Main Hall once a month and have been for some months with great success. We would certainly like to see this continue. There has been

an increasing attendance at the regular Youth Meetings in the Main Hall, at which activities are provided. Meetings are normally held on Mondays. It had been decided by the Parish Council to contribute to the cost of the meetings and that therefore there would be no charge to the group for use of the Hall. The age group of attendees is 11-17. Also more volunteers would be welcome to assist with activities.

The Cinema evenings each month have been successful. All the films that have been shown have been carefully selected and therefore were all of a high standard but some were understandably more popular than others. 'Mamma Mia!' was a tremendous success with two showings, one of which was sold out and the other almost sold out. 'The Duchess' was also extremely popular and almost sold out.

A number of small grants have been made under the Community Chest Facility during the year, in line with the policy of returning some of the income for the benefit of the community groups. The amount available this year may be a little less due to the increasing costs of running the hall including utility cost which we all know have increased. Groups in receipt of grants this year have included the Church Group, Childminder Group, and Hanover Residents Association.

A hot drinks vending machine was installed this year as a trial but has not been used a great deal so we are not sure yet whether this will stay.

49/09.4 Planning Committee - Cllr Mrs A James

Good evening Ladies and Gentleman. I would like to take this public opportunity to thank, on behalf of parishioners and councillors, Gina Spencer who handles all the planning meetings and deals with numerous requests from members of the public about planning applications and inquiries that Liphook has to deal with. I would also like to thank all the members of the Planning Committee for the hard work and enthusiasm they bring to the meetings. This year we have had several new councillors who have got to grips with this complicated committee, as we still have to abide by government policies, which are not always what the public feel are right. So I would like to thank them for taking on the onerous task of dealing with some large, and at times, difficult and controversial applications. It has been another busy year with about 100 individual applications. Each of these is carefully looked at by a Councillor and I think that we are the only Council that goes to look at every application. There are site visits and neighbours consulted wherever possible. Their comments are reported to the Committee where interested parties are able to attend to make their comments known. We do listen to everyone and then make our recommendation to EHDC. We would like to thank the members of the public who take the trouble to attend these meetings and thank them for their co-operation and politeness; there have not been any disgruntled people who have attended the meetings. This year we have had an application for 116 new dwellings at Silent Garden and 20 dwellings alongside the railway line adjacent to the Beaver Industrial Estate. The Silent Garden application, which we objected to, went to Appeal and I would like to thank Cllr Jordan, for representing the Parish Council at the appeal who did an admirable job and who

we are lucky to have on the Planning Committee. I would like to thank Dr Evans, the volunteer tree warden. His expertise and visual displays have really helped with all the pruning and felling applications which are important to local people. All local planning consultation is now electronic. New equipment is available in the Parish Office so that plans can be viewed and officers will help you if you do not know how to use equipment and print out applications. I am happy to answer any questions.

49/09.5 Recreation Committee - Cllr Newman

The Committee meet four times during the year, and there is also an annual visit to the Recreation Ground, Radford Park and the Allotments. I would like to thank all the councillors on the Committee for their encouragement, help and support during the last year, which has been greatly appreciated.

Parish Work

Our three dedicated grounds staff continue to carry out the Parish work under the management of the Parish Clerk, Tony Groves. The Recreation Ground and the club areas have been maintained to an extremely high standard. I am aware that there have been problems with litter and “dog poo”. I am afraid we are unable to provide a 24 hour service, but the ground staff and litter picker do their best to keep these areas clean and we make regular reports to the Dog Warden at EHDC. Should you have any information on “offending dogs”, please contact the Parish Office.

The ground staff continue with the local grass cutting under contract with EHDC, and we are currently in discussion with them over the reviewed and updated contract. The annual work in Radford Park continues, and we are still working closely with Liphook in Bloom, with whom we hope to work even more closely in the future. We have a project due to commence shortly to improve the area around the Malthouse Meadow Car Park.

Bohunt Manor

We have started discussion with the owner of Bohunt Manor to look at the provision of land for new Sporting and Recreational facilities. This we hope will lead to new Football and Cricket pitches and facilities to go with it, and we will in the coming months be consulting with the clubs. We will also look at how we can help support the Football Club in the short to medium term, so that they can continue to develop and progress until the time that they have their new facilities.

Allotments

At present there are 36 plot holders and there are 44 on the waiting list. The allotments are looked after by a Sub-Committee, chaired by Councillor Mrs James. Mrs Ann Haussauer has been appointed as the Allotments Representative to provide a link with Mrs Di Hart, the Asst Clerk, who has responsibility for the Allotments. The Council have decided to take over the EHDC site at Gunns Farm to provide more allotments. A site visit has been made and we are awaiting re-opening discussion with EDHC about the transfer.

Parish Council Sports Representative

Mr Tony Rudgard continues to be our representative and keeps the Committee briefed up on all the sporting initiatives and developments in the District. I would like to thank him personally and from the Committee for his continued undaunting support and advice.

Recreation Committee Budget

Budget for 2009/2010 will increase by £4,792 next year. The increase will help cover the extra funds for the maintenance of the Recreation Ground and playing areas and staff costs.

And last but not least, I would like to thank our ground staff Pete Terry, Andy Jones, and Rick Bowley. Finally thanks to Gina Spencer, Di Hart and especially Tony Groves. We do all work on Recreation as a team and that is the only way it works and everybody plays their part. Thank you Mr Chairman. I will do my best to answer questions.

QUESTIONS.

Mr Rudgard

The Football Club will be going up a league next year and I expect the Parish Council will be considering how to accommodate the additional requirements for going up a league.

Cllr Newman

Thank you.

Mrs Hoskins

Last year Passfield residents had to organise their own litter picking, and we had ten volunteers and managed to fill 30 black bin liners with rubbish. I noted that there were some workers sitting for over an hour outside the store and they said were allowed ten minutes to do the litter pick of the area. Could you comment on that?

Cllr Newman

Do you know who the litter pickers were? (The Clerk asked where the litter was being “picked”; Mrs Hoskins said that it was along the verge. The Clerk asked Mrs Hoskins if she could tell him the date and details so it could be looked into.)

49/09.6

Parish Council - Cllr B Hope, Vice-Chairman (on behalf of Cllr J Tough, Chairman)

Unfortunately I am unable to be with you at the Annual Parish Meeting this year as my work has taken me to Saudi Arabia. I am grateful to Cllr Hope for presenting my report for me.

This last year was one of great sadness for the Parish Council with the sudden death of Cllr David Murray. David had become a mainstay of the Parish Council and we all miss him very much.

There were changes on the Council, with councillors leaving and new councillors joining, and in the Office with the arrival of a new Assistant Parish Clerk, Diane Hart, following the departure of Ann Haussauer. Ann was a great asset to the Parish Council and it was very sad that she felt she had to leave. We were very fortunate in having been able to appoint Diane as her replacement and she is very welcome.

I would also like to welcome new councillors, Cllr Rob Evans and Cllr Jackie Poole, and to welcome back Cllr Barry Hope, who were elected to the Council during the year. I am grateful to John Carne, Nikki Young and Nick Everett, who left the Council during the year, for their contributions while they were in office.

I would like to thank all my fellow council members for their support and help during the year and for ably fulfilling their duties as councillors. I would particularly like thank the Parish Staff for their hard work during the year.

Our grounds staff continue to keep the recreation areas, the Village Green and Radford Park in a prime condition. We are very fortunate to have these open spaces in the village and to have such an able team to maintain them. The staff in the Millennium Centre have provided a wonderful service which has undoubtedly contributed to it being busier than ever. While thanking the Millennium Centre staff my thanks must also go to the volunteers who supervise the Centre during the evenings and at weekends.

The Parish Office is open daily and provides an important service to the Parish as an information centre and vital point of contact. At the front desk our Information Officer, Gina Spencer, deals with enquiries particularly on planning matters. In the inner office the Clerk and Assistant Clerk manage the day-to-day functioning of the Parish Council and its many operations. The Assistant Clerk, Diane Hart, is particularly concerned with highway, byway and transport matters. I would particularly like to thank the Parish Clerk, Tony Groves, for his unstinting support and help over the year, for his guidance, as the legal officer, to myself, other councillors and the Parish Council as a body, and for the sheer amount of work he undertakes for the Council.

I would also like to thank all the organisations and volunteers who give their time freely to the Parish and make it the thriving social community that it is – the sports clubs and the voluntary organisations such as Age Concern, the Carnival Committee, LIDBA, U3A, the Scouts and Guides, and many, many others. I would particularly like to mention Tony Rudgard who, amongst many things, is our representative on the Sports Council and Dr Mike Evans, the Parish Tree Warden.

The concept of the Heritage Centre is being progressed by the Heritage Centre Working Party which is now in the process of identifying; and applying for,

funding. The Heritage Centre is planned to be on the first floor of the Millennium Centre and will provide a home for the Preservation Society's extensive collection of documents and artefacts relating to the history of the Parish. They have had a very favourable response from the various clubs and societies within the Parish, expressing their wish to see a Heritage Centre, and in which they can participate in terms of making their records and artefacts available to the public in general. The feedback from our recent Parish Survey has suggested that 38% of households support the creation of a Heritage centre and would be active users of such a facility.

The Parish Survey was carried out during the year. This was an enormous project carried out by the Village Appraisal Working Party, involving the preparation of the questionnaire, arranging its distribution, entering the information onto computers and now carrying out some basic analyses. There were 3,900 questionnaires issued and of that number just over 40% were returned, which is a very high response rate for such a survey. My thanks go to the members of the Working Party for all the work they have put into this (taking over 200 hours to record data alone which was all conducted on a voluntary basis) and in particular I would like to mention one member, Kate Everett, who took on much of this work, including setting up the survey booklet, arranging the printing, developing software and doing a great deal of data entry.

The next step is to carry out a thorough examination and analysis of the data and produce a summary paper to be made available through the Parish Office, and to provide informative insight to the opinions in the Parish for a Parish Plan team to progress further.

The Parish Council continued to participate in the multi-agency Midhurst Road Priority Area Group meetings which, following the success of the Dispersal Order around the Midhurst Road area last summer, became the Youth Facilities Action Group. This agreed to try out Youth Drop-In Meetings in the Millennium Centre to be held monthly and these have since proved successful. As a result, a Youth Club is now being established as an independent organisation in the Parish with a Management Committee. We are now looking for volunteers to help with the Youth Club and the Management Committee, and ask anybody who is interested to contact the Parish Office.

The Parish Council website has expanded and is now a key medium in the Parish Council's Publication Scheme. In addition to notices, and minutes of meetings it now includes all the appropriate components of the Model Publication Scheme as approved by the Information Commissioner, and adopted by Parish Council in November just passed.

The Parish Council continues to be a major service provider in the Parish with the Parish Office, the Recreation Grounds, Radford Park, the allotments and the Liphook Millennium Centre. The Parish Office has had over 7,000 visitors this year – people making enquiries, calling about concessionary fares, visiting CAB, and contacting the District Council and the Housing Association and many other things. The Millennium Centre has been very popular and well used this year, with an increasing number of events and conferences being held there. The

monthly Cinema continues to be popular and well-attended – there were two showings of Mamma Mia!, one of which was a sell-out and the other almost. Thank you all for attending this Annual Parish Meeting – I am sorry I was not able to be with you - and hope that you will join the Council for refreshments in the Canada Room at the end of the evening.

50/09 EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL - CLLR MRS E HOPE

Planning

There have been some changes to planning processes within EHDC. Parish Councils can now speak on all planning applications and their opinions will be welcomed and encouraged. The residents will also be encouraged, and have the opportunity, to have their say and give their opinions even if those views differ from the council's point of view. EHDC are keen for all Parish Councillors to gain more knowledge of the new planning processes by attending one of several training sessions that are available to them.

The Silent Garden Appeal has now been allowed for 116 dwellings. It was the first on a list of reserved sites throughout the East Hampshire area and this appeal result will have significant ramifications for the other reserved sites, such as The Causeway in Petersfield and Lowesly Farm in Liphook.

Permitted Development Rights have now been introduced, in October, and are applied differently inside and outside AONB area. These allow for certain development and some building works to go ahead without the need for planning permission providing they meet the rules and guidelines. However some of these new rules and guidelines are difficult to understand and I would suggest people seek advice from the Planning Department at EHDC if they need to. There are also a couple of leaflets, as were made available at the Community Forum the other week and on the website www.planning.portal.gov.uk

Bramshott Place Village

This is the new retirement village of which phase one is now virtually complete and comprises 48 units. 20 are sold and the next phase begins in May with 24 cottages of which 18 are sold. The outside of the Clubhouse will be completed in May, but not fully completed until September.

North East Area Community Forum

This has been very busy this year with many presentations made by various groups from around the area. Grants awarded have included Liphook Light Show and Liphook Bowling Club and lots of grants have gone to groups around the area.

Dispersal Zone.

During the summer of 2008 a dispersal zone was put into place around Midhurst Road in Liphook. From this a joint group was formed which included Dr John Tough, Local Police Officers, Community Safety Team from EHDC, Jan Scard from the County Youth and Liz Panton from EHDC and myself. We met with some of the Liphook young people to consider how best we could meet their needs in Liphook. After a number of meetings we finally

arranged some youth evenings at the Millennium Centre. It has now grown in strength with Liphook now having a youth club of its own. All of the formal processes are being carried out with regular meetings continuing into the future supported by local volunteers and youth workers. There is a need for more volunteers.

DPPO

A Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) is being considered for Liphook. DPPO's are areas where the police, the Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) and the Accredited Community Safety Officers can tell people drinking alcohol in that area that they must stop drinking and hand over their alcohol. This is a discretionary power so a couple enjoying a glass of wine with a picnic for example would almost certainly be left alone. These powers are helpful for the police/PCSOs/ACSOs nipping problems in the bud before they get out of hand later on (for example a group with alcohol, at an early stage before becoming a problem).

Parking Problems

I attended a meeting at Liphook School last year that was also attended by Mott McDonald (Consultants), Dr John Tough, and the Community Safety Team. From that meeting changes were made and recommended, as mentioned earlier and for the Safer Route to schools remit. We walked the route where there could be possible parking in the area, and found that was quite useful for later on.

EHDC Equality and Diversity

I am also EHDC Lead Councillor for Equality and Diversity and sit on the Social Justice Board. I have chaired a cultural diversity group in Petersfield which covers the EHDC Area. This group aims to highlight the cultural and diverse needs of minority groups within the EHDC area.

(Cllr Mrs Hope made reference to the Credit Union Service.)

QUESTIONS

Mrs Hoskins Could we have some signs to tell people and parents where the satellite parking has been established, as parents do not know that those areas have been allocated as satellite parking areas for the school run?

Cllr Mrs E Hope Need to take this forward and organise that. There has been a lot of talk about the car parks and it will go ahead.

51/09 HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - CLLR S JAMES

The Chairman said that the report was to have been given by Cllr Sam James but unfortunately he was in hospital at the moment. Copies of the report would be available from the Parish Office, and would be published in the minutes of the meeting (see below).

Good evening councillors, ladies and gentlemen. Firstly I must apologise for not being here in

person but I am unavoidably detained elsewhere. I would like to thank the Parish Council and particularly the officers for all the hard work they have done during the year on behalf of all the residents. Their efforts have made my job much easier and I salute them for that.

The County Council tax increase for the coming year will be 1.9% and the same rate of increase is planned for 2010/11. This will be the lowest rise in tax for 40 years. It reflects the County's desire to help people struggling in these hard times, whilst ensuring that we do more to preserve or increase our key public services.

Children's Services and Adult Social Care are two of our key responsibilities and around 100 additional staff are being recruited to improve the service to the vulnerable residents of Hampshire. In the wake of the appalling death of Baby P and disturbing reports of abuse of elderly people in other parts of the country, it is vital that we strengthen our efforts in this area.

The County Council is responsible for 534 schools, 6,000 miles of roads, 81 libraries and a number of museums. It also disposes of around 800,000 tonnes of waste and under 20% of this goes to landfill sites. Much of it is incinerated to provide electricity to 50,000 homes. With so many miles of roads, highway issues remain a continuing concern whether it be the condition of the road surface or speeding/traffic calming. The freezing weather earlier this year has caused significant increase in the workload of the roads maintenance team. However it is pleasing to note that the Headley Road, from the Square to the A3 bridge, has been resurfaced. My apologies to those whose journeys were disrupted by the works, but it needed to be done as the condition of the road was deteriorating badly, as was the Liphook Library car park which has also been improved. It is also planned to reduce the speed limit on the B3004 in the Passfield area.

The loss of the post office service in Passfield was a cruel blow. A massive effort was made by local residents to stop the closure but sadly to no avail. Luckily the determination of Mr and Mrs Wood has kept the shop open and the County Council was delighted to provide a cheque for £12,000 toward refurbishment of the interior.

I was also pleased to help the Liphook Bowling Club with a cheque for £2,000, from my devolved member's budget, to assist with the funding of their fencing requirements. That concludes my report. Thank you Mr Chairman.

The Chairman thanked all those present for attending, and said the Council had tried to answer the questions raised. He thanked the Councillors for attending and for their reports and invited everyone to the Canada Room refreshments.

CONCLUSION - This concluded the business of the meeting at 9.30pm.

Confirmed at the meeting held on 27 April 2009

Signed

Chairman