

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Cllr Holmes (Chairman of Fovant PC) and 19 members of the public inc Cllrs Dunn, Havard, Mrs Jones, Phillips, Swift and Mrs Turner.

**In attendance:** WC Mrs J Green, John Walker (WC), Andy Mead (WC) and Sarah Hughes (WC) Mrs C Churchill, Clerk to the Parish Council.

Questions from the public are in italics.

- Welcome** by the Chairman of the Council: Cllr Holmes welcomed those present and introduced the three officers from Wiltshire Council.

Sarah Hughes	Senior Spatial Planning Officer
Andy Mead	Commissioning Officer, New Housing Team.
John Walker	Housing allocations.
- Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting** held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2015. These have been circulated to Parish Councillors and displayed on the notice board. Copies are available. The Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- Brief presentation on Neighbourhood Plans.** Ms Sarah Hughes from Wiltshire Council (spatial planning) gave a brief presentation on the process of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan with a view to a Fovant NHP.

The 2011 Localism Act introduced the right to prepare a plan, right to build, right to challenge and the right to buy.

Wiltshire Council adopted the Core Strategy in January 2015, this sets out the need for housing and employment, it aims for a robust economy with high skilled quality jobs and accommodates NHPs. Previously parishes and towns could have a parish plan and / or a village design statement.

A NHP can allocate land for development, promote more development than stated in the CS and have policies based on design statements and renewable energy.

A NHP can not conflict with the CS, it can't prevent development.

A NHP must be prepared by a qualifying body (parish council) although this is usually done through a steering group.

There is a grant available from the Govt, the grant is regardless of the size of the parish.

First steps;

Allocated a link officer (WC Officer) – there is no cost for this.

Community engagement

Designate the neighbourhood area, usually the parish boundary

Develop the plan – can use Parish Plan and Village Design Statement

Examined by an Independent Examiner who decides if it is fair and reasonable.

Referendum.

The CS has housing figures for Fovant, it is expected that Fovant will accommodate residential development up to 2026.

It is not a quick and easy process, usually 18 – 24 months.

There is a NHP page on the WC website with lots of information.

Questions

*What is the definition of a larger village?*

Based on various criteria.

*When the Inspector looked at the South Wiltshire CS, he agreed that the classification of Fovant was incorrect yet when the SWCS morphed into the Wiltshire CS nothing was changed.*

Clerk to forward letter re classification of larger villages.

*Decision from the community, does the size of the village matter?*

No, a small village can do a NHP.

*What is the purpose of a NHP?*

The location and number of houses.

*What is currently in the CS is permissible, a NHP can allow more?*

NHPs allow control on where development occurs.

WC is currently preparing a site allocations document

*There was a consultation on the settlement boundary?*

There was a scoping consultation with towns and parishes, a full consultation will happen in the near future.

A NHP can change the settlement boundary, the settlement boundaries were redrawn to ensure consistency in the county.

4. **Affordable Housing for Fovant.** Andy Mead from Wiltshire Council gave a brief overview of the Wiltshire Council housing programme.

Where there is an identified need and land available, WC will speak to the parish. Fovant has an identified need and land. The land identified is off Sutton Rd but prepared to look at alternative land sources, once all land sources are submitted then they will all be considered.

John Walker (JW) – WC have a choice based lettings scheme, it is Homes4Wiltshire. Need to have local connections to the parish, majority of applicants are within 2 bands.

Some priority to people in overcrowded / unsuitable accommodation but local connections are more important. There are weekly meetings to allocate houses.

No age restrictions, any expression is determined on connections.

Want to ensure local homes for local people, usually homes are located to local people.

Currently 1950 on the housing register, about 100 are exempt from requiring a local connection (military, homeless, refugees, fleeing domestic abuse, witness protection).

Applicants have to state parish they wish to live in and connection.

*People need to live where they work?*

Interesting question.

*Are there any statistics of this?*

The Core Strategy looks at local need and employment.

*Some people want to live in a rural area and travel to work.*

*Would WC be prepared to prove the local connection?*

Not considering redoing the survey.

Unable to identify people but can show some statistics.

*What is affordable housing?*

Affordable rented is a rental charge of 80% of the open market value, can not be more than the benefit allowance.

Shared ownership – WC have not yet delivered these. Tenant can purchase a % of the unit and rent the rest eg mortgage on 60% and rent remaining 40%. Have to be eligible to buy shared ownership.

*Shared ownership does not work, total outgoing can be as much as a full mortgage.*

There needs to be a balance.

*Can a parish council make sure that the property is always offered to a local person even if the original (and subsequent) buyer sells?*

That is a matter for the S106 agreement, can prevent 100% ownership.

Each S106 is a separate legal agreement

Have looked at standard S106 agreements, can be leasehold forever.

*Can cost be on cost of build rather than open market value?*

The bill currently going through Parliament deals with Right to Buy for housing associations.

*How is clear support from community determined?*

Exception site requires local support from the parish council and the local member.  
*Restricting purchases for right to buy, there are powers available to ensure future sales are locally connected.*

Not sure if WC do apply a restriction.

Cllr Holes thanked Sarah Hughes, Andy Mead and John Walker for attending.

## 5. Community reports

### Community Police Report – apologies received.

#### Councillor Mrs J Green Wiltshire Council

It has been another interesting year but one very much dictated by the savings that have had to be found as a consequence of, not only the reduction of grant funding that Central Government give to local Authorities, but also to enable a better way of working together with other providers and organisations. £120 million has been saved over the last 5 years.

It is 7 years since Wiltshire went Unitary. For those years the priorities have remained the same.....the **Vulnerable** in our communities, especially the disabled, elderly and those children that need our care and protection. Since the Rotherham case we have all been alerted to the atrocious things that can happen so WC has made some positive moves to prevent such horrors.

**The Economy.....** *without a vibrant economy things would be worse and we must do all we can to maintain vital services, the new science park at Porton which will create more jobs, the expansion of Dyson and other opportunities will benefit the military personnel as they relocate to the Plain. (4,000 troops + 3,600 dependants)*

By 2026 it is anticipated that 40,000+ new jobs will be created and 31,000 new homes delivered in the County.

In Wiltshire last year there were 2,118 new homes of which 635 were affordable. More affordable housing is required as well as extra care and sheltered housing to meet the demand. With changing demographics, Wiltshire has 15% more older residents than the UK average which places a huge demand on both the social and health services. The population of Wiltshire is 471,000 and the number of retired residents will rise from 23% to 27.1% in 10 years' time.

As you are aware Wiltshire Highways is an issue that hopefully will improve now the new contract has been awarded to Ringway. 65% of the service remains with Tarmac Lafarge and Jacksons and The Landscape Group will continue to do the verges. £21million is spent across the County but with 2,728 miles of roads, the same distance as London to Egypt, it is an ongoing programme of which we in the South West of the County constantly remind Officers we want our fair share! I'm pleased that Church Lane had the long overdue work done in the last year and that Fovant has been chosen to have the 20mph limits installed.

The University Technical College in Salisbury has now opened, 91.2% of children are in good or outstanding schools across Wiltshire and we must maintain that.

The Tisbury Nadder Centre is progressing well.

It is noticeable how much more resilient and proactive communities have become. The 31 Libraries have remained open across Wiltshire whereas in other Counties they are closing, this can also be said of the Sure Start Centres although changes are afoot and the Emergency/ Flood plans you have drawn up are a credit to you all.

The Rights of Way and First Aid projects I led on have been very successful and is another example of how parishioners have worked together with WC.

Over 80,000 premises now have Broad Band with well over 70,000 receiving superfast (over 24 mgbt's per sec). Satellite BB is the next phase but this is not seen as an overall solution. Further re-investment will be announced in the spring.

Finally, I would like to thank the 14 PC's in the Fovant and Chalke Valley Division for providing me with the feedback and views of the communities with which I am then able to air at the appropriate committees. With this involvement I can be assured that I speak and represent the views of everyone no matter how diverse or controversial the subject.

### **Fovant PCC – Revd Graham Southgate.**

Rector of the Nadder Valley covering 14 parishes.

There are 11 members of Fovant PCC, 6 are elected and 5 are ex officio.

Special tribute to Mrs Pauline Story who stepped in as treasurer.

This year building work to the roof has been addressed and a large tree removed for safety reasons, a large slither of the tree has been kept and it is hoped to make this into a table top.

International links – Sudan Medical Link, there is a talk on 20<sup>th</sup> April at Tisbury.

Loyal team of bell ringers.

Three organists.

And special thanks to Richard Austin and his team who keep the churchyard up together, they meet on the first Saturday of the month – all welcome.

*Concerns have been raised at the trees at the Rectory.*

All trees were surveyed in 2012/13 and when the Diocese send the tree surgeons to clear up the fallen tree they will be asked to look at the other trees.

**Fovant Badges Society**      apologies received and the following report had been received.

- For those newcomers present, the FBS is a registered charity that exists to raise funds to preserve and maintain the 8 military badges on Fovant Down. The first was cut in 1916 and the most recent in 1970. Maintenance is managed by the FBS but performed by professional civil engineers. Maintenance costs the Society over £30,000 per year.
- **So what have we done in the last year?**
  - **The maintenance of the badges** was completed in June last year. We re-chalked three badges **The Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry and The Post Office Rifles** as per our agreed maintenance plan with English Heritage. Since our Guest of Honour at the 2015 Drumhead was the Australian High Commissioner in the ANZAC Centenary year we also re-chalked **the ACMF badge**. In order to reduce the impact of “dribbling” chalk due to the heavy rain we seem to experience every year which the edge of the design we continue with our trial of white revetting boards along the horizontal edges of the designs. These are kindly provided by curtain rail manufacturer “Swish”. We have also appointed a new civil engineering company Earcoate Construction to carry out the annual maintenance.
  - **The Drumhead Service** was held at East Farm Barn (**kind permission of Ed Williams**) on Sunday July 5<sup>th</sup> July and our special guest was the Hon. Alexander Downer AC, Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom. Mr. Downer thanked the Society and the people of Fovant for all the work they have done to preserve the ACMF badge, it was much appreciated back in Australia.
  - Our team remains much the same as last year and committee members have been very busy over the last year with many projects including:
    - A new Website which includes much of the output from our 2014/5 Education Project
    - A film about the badges produced by Southampton Solent University Students which can be seen on the website
    - The completion of the digital recreation of Fovant WW1 Camp – also on the website
    - Scheduled Monument Consent for our Centenary “Badge”
    - Around 20 Talks to various local community and other groups about the badges.
    - Oh! And we received a further grant from the HLF of £52,700 for our 2016 Centenary Project
  - On July 4<sup>th</sup> we start to construct our 2016 Centenary poppy. The project includes much more though. If you are interested in archaeology and/or history and are keen to get directly involved in the badges story, please join us on the hillside during July and August. We will have a team of professional archaeologists working with us to complete a survey of the badges and WW1 camp site and you join us on the hill you

will be able to take part – free refreshments and toilet facilities provided! Whatever time you can give will be much appreciated by the Trustees.

- **Events for 2016**

- Our AGM will be held here at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 24 May – all welcome
- Drumhead 3 July at 2.45 at East Farm
- From 4<sup>th</sup> July on Fovant Down for 6 weeks – Building the poppy and all the other events outlined above!

### **Fovant Village Hall - Mike Cary.**

This is my third and last annual report as Chairman of the village hall management committee, Nicky Jones will be the new Chairman.

Having sorted out the aftermath of the floods (Christmas 2013) it has been a year of consolidation. Other than running maintenance we have had a professional survey done of key work to be put in hand to mitigate as far as possible the effects of heavy rain when it occurs in the future, as a result of which a six point plan was initiated in the summer. I submitted a brief report to the parish council on its completion in the autumn.

The hall has continued to provide a venue for a wide range of activities, including;

- Helping to maintain the fitness in the community through exercise classes
- Entertainments such as fun quizzes, rural arts Wiltshire performances and a summer BBQ.
- Thursday coffee mornings
- Regular club activities like the valley choir, Fovant Independent Ladies Group and New Age Kurling.
- Meetings of the parish council, PCC, Badges society and other village institutions.
- Support for church activities over the harvest festival and for welcome events
- Private parties for children and adults
- In the absence of a village pub, occasionally offering a Pop Up Pub.
- Retail opportunities such as Christmas fayre and jumble sales.

We are comfortable that there is a fair range of activity taking place in the hall which villagers can participate bearing in mind the limitations of hall size, catering facilities and lack of car parking. We meet the statutory requirements for the disabled and other legal necessities for the operation of a facility with public access. We are always open to suggestions for expanding the number and type of activities.

As a Registered Charity, we apply appropriate principles for the financial side of our operation. We maintain a £5000 emergency fund while generating income to cover running costs from hiring out the hall, fundraising events, obtaining grants and prudent monetary housekeeping. We are grateful for the support received from the parish council and look forward to this continuing through the coming year.

Looking to the future, our next project is to update the kitchen facilities.

From a personal viewpoint, I much appreciate the work put in by the members of the Hall Management Committee, with a special mention for John Taylor who does most of the maintenance and upgrading of the hall structure, freely giving his time and efforts. I also offer my best wishes and ongoing support to the incoming Chairman of FVHMC, Mrs Nicky Jones, who will I am sure bring a much needed feminine touch back to the decisions on the successful operation of the hall.

### **Fovant Parish Council. William Holmes.**

With the help of active members of the village, this year we have;

- planning first aid training
- painted the white post and rails in Tisbury road
- cleared and maintained the upper brook
- cleaned litter for the queen
- taken steps to introduce a 20mph limit for the high street, with 25% to be paid by the parish.

- helped the village hall secure a grant of £2000 from Wiltshire council (SWWAB) for the village hall flood work by agreeing to pay a further £500 from village funds.
- secured a grant of £3400 from Wiltshire council (SWWAB) for safety surfacing in the play area the Poplars, by matching this funding with £3400 of parish funds.
- we have given a grant to the Three Towers we are considering a grant to the youth club.
- we have now entered into a dialogue with Wiltshire council over the provision of 7 affordable houses.
- we have increased the precept to allow for the expected £750 contribution to Wiltshire council when the 20mph has been installed.
- the finances of the parish are in a sound condition.

**Fovant History Interest Group** - apologies received and the following report had been received.

As a group whose aim is to research and record for posterity the history of the village in which we live, we do not have much of a visible presence to report on. However there are various aspects of our activities which you may have noticed.

The 'Fovant then' mini rolling exhibition, which has been on display in the village shop since April 2014, is now showing Number 19 in the series. My original intention was to stop at number 18 unless more interesting subjects turned up, which they did, so number 20 is waiting in the wings, and number 21 is in the early planning stage. During summer 2015 a second 'Fovant then' frame, currently showing Number 5 in the series, was set up in the village hall.

Now that we are going to have a village pub again our thoughts have turned to the possibility of returning the WW1 Memorabilia Collection to the Pembroke Arms. FHIG, having rescued the collection from dispersal in 2004, have since then rearranged and added to it in order to include more recent events.

This being so, after discussion between FHIG and Fovant Badges Society, it was decided to approach the new owners of the Pembroke Arms to seek their views regarding our proposal for a possible display of a small joint collection in the pub. FHIG and FBS do stress however that the new owners of the Pembroke Arms may well have alternative ideas for the décor of the building. In which case we will have to work on plan B – whatever that may be.

In July 2015 a keen-eyed villager spotted a small metal plaque on the High Street wall of the Pembroke Arms and wondered what it could be. It is an 18<sup>th</sup> century Fire Insurance Mark, the details of which were contained in a small article published in the August edition of Three Towers last year. Early this year another equally observant villager noticed a large capital letter L incised into the stone of the building lower down on the same wall. An explanation based on an educated guess has been submitted to Three Towers for publication.

Also early this year we heard that one of the graves in the churchyard had collapsed so we went down to investigate. Although no visible signs of a coffin were present the assumption was that one existed at the bottom of the large hole. There was no headstone but since our archives confirmed that all the other graves surrounding the collapsed one were for members of the same family, it was a reasonable assumption that here was another one of their own. The account of our investigation was too long for publication in Three Towers but a copy of it was sent to the Rector.

Our website goes from strength to strength. Rarely a week goes by without an enquiry or a snippet of information to add to our archives. A perfect example of this two-way response occurred recently in that shortly after we had been given over thirty photographs of the former Watercress Beds, we received an Email from a lady in Australia requesting information about Australian troops at Hurdcott Camp during WW1 as she was producing a play on the subject in her home town.

As a group we may have a low profile but we're not really under the radar. If anyone has questions to ask, information to give or comments to make, get in touch either by phone, 01722 714 253, Email <[lizjoh87@gmail.com](mailto:lizjoh87@gmail.com)> or via the Introduction/Contact us button on our website [www.fovanthistory.org](http://www.fovanthistory.org).

**Fovant Road Safety Group** Tony Phillips.

The 20mph scheme has progressed to the next stage with PC support.

*A question was asked – Could yellow lines be placed by the Dinton Rd / Tisbury Rd junction.*

**Footpath Representative.** Mrs Auriol Turner. Nothing to report.

**Fovant Tree Warden** - apologies received and the following report had been received.

Throughout the year, I have undertaken the following tasks as the Parish Tree Warden:

- Dealing with applications for work on trees in the conservation area, keeping an eye on trees in Fovant, removing stakes when necessary and looking for signs of disease.
- Maintaining the register of notable trees in Fovant on the web ([www.fovanttrees.co.uk](http://www.fovanttrees.co.uk)). This records local trees that might need protection. The Jubilee 'Diamond' Tree donated by the Tree Council and planted by the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire on 24 March 2013 is growing well and a plaque has now been paid for by the Parish Council to identify it.
- As a result of some pressure on Wiltshire Council, there is now a Wiltshire Tree Policy on how they deal with trees on council-owned land and the document is now available to the public and can be found on the [Wiltshire Tree Wardens' website](#). This policy is being used by the Council as a basis for any tree work although, due to funding cutbacks, they are overworked and understaffed so no work is done to trees unless they are deemed to be dead, dying, dangerous or causing damage.
- Contributing to and editing the Wiltshire Tree Warden Newsletter (3 times a year), maintaining and updating the [Wiltshire Tree Wardens' website](#), attending training when available and taking up any other opportunities to learn about trees by attending talks at Stourhead and Savernake Forest.
- This year I have been involved in a community project to record ancient trees in the Donheads which was initiated by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It is now hoped to extend the project to the Vale of Wardour of which Fovant is part. An initial meeting was held in Tisbury on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and it is hoped that, if there is enough enthusiasm, there is an opportunity for anyone locally who is interested in trees to get involved. The aim of the project is to increase the knowledge of veteran or ancient trees extant in the area. This will be achieved by looking at the following areas:-
  - (a) Historic evidence - maps, records
  - (b) Historic context – understanding the landscape
  - (c) Identifying where trees have been lost
  - (d) Recording existing ancient/veteran trees
  - (e) Proposing how and where long term retentions (future ancient and veteran trees) can be replaced into the landscape taking account of current land management practice.
  - (f) Carrying out suitable tree planting supported by external funding sources (using grants and sponsorship).
  - (g) Producing a report of sufficient value to provide evidence for future funding bids to develop and extend the project to other areas within the AONB.If anyone is interested and would like to find out more, please contact me. You don't need any specialist knowledge – just enthusiasm and an interest in trees!

**Three Towers community magazine** - apologies received and the following report had been received.

These notes refer to the financial year ending 31 October 2015.

The magazine purchased a new collator at a cost £1,800. The old collator had been giving frequent problems, which resulted in many delays and frustrations in producing the monthly magazine.

Although this capital spend was substantial, we felt that this cost was justified to ease the production of the magazine.

Excluding this capital spend, the magazine made a small loss of £118, on an income of £2,815.

As always, thanks go to our advertisers who continue to support the magazine (and whose contributions make up 95% of our total income). We are extremely grateful for their loyal support - without them the magazine would be very difficult to produce in its current form.

We also value the many people who contribute articles and news items to the magazine. We had welcome donations from the Fovant Independent Ladies Group, Fovant Chapel and several individuals – many thanks to all.

The majority of our expenditure is unsurprisingly spent on paper and printing ink. This has increased somewhat this year (5%) as a result of the increased number of pages printed. The magazine continues to be produced each month by a dedicated team of volunteers, who help with checking and stapling the magazine. We also rely heavily on volunteers to distribute the magazine to all households in Fovant, Sutton Mandeville and Compton Chamberlayne. Special thanks goes to our editor, who does such a large amount of work to create and print the magazine each month.

Thanks also to Bernard Allnutt for auditing the accounts this year. This independent review of our accounts (which are published annually in the magazine) ensures that our finances are in good order.

#### **Fovant Environment Action Team. FEAT.** Mrs Beryl Paton.

The team continues to collect items from the Cross Keys and takes them to Churchfields, there are plans to collect many of these items on the kerbside collection next year. Small electrical items are taken to the Trussell Trust.

Interested in the potential of parishioners using the litter picking equipment to keep the village clean. The alternative recycling leaflet has been reissued.

#### **Neighbourhood Watch.** William Holmes.

The experiment with the information telephone line has been concluded on the grounds of cost and suitability.

After a spate of burglaries in the village residents have become more aware and attentive to strangers, and are making more use of the 101 telephone line, which is the best course for non emergency but important information calls.

The smaller linked units we utilise here is now under consideration for implementation in Warminster.

#### **Fovant Flood Warden.** William Holmes.

The working party continued its necessary work in and adjacent to the brook.

With the support of other individuals, funds were secured to purchase the expensive special white paint for the post and rail along Tisbury Road which were painted.

Weed was extracted, maintaining the habitat of the wildlife which uses the brook.

Rubble and debris was removed from under the Tisbury Road bridge.

A training exercise was conducted and valuable information gained.

Laminated plans of the watercourse, with house names have been produced for use

In an emergency, together with two way radios personal torch lights, weather resistant clothing and a request to Wiltshire Council for additional flood warning signs.

The Village Hall was made available to the working party at each meeting.

#### **6. Open Forum**

*The notice boards around the village are in a sad state.*

There is a plan to relocate the noticeboard from the rainbow centre to the Pembroke Arms.

*Could the playground be relocated to a more central location?*

Where?

#### **7. Closing Remarks**

There are two vacancies on the parish council, this is a problem faced by several village organisations. Please help if you can?

Cllr Homes closed the meeting at 9.14pm.