

FOVANT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 APRIL 2005 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Wiltshire Fire Brigade	Mrs Melanie Jezzard (Guest Speaker)
Salisbury District Council	District Councillor Mrs J Green
Fovant Parish Council	Councillor N Knowles (Chairman)
Fovant Parish Council	Councillor K Grant (Vice Chairman)
Fovant Parish Council	Councillor Mrs A Harris
Fovant Parish Council	Councillor Mrs A Hasbury-Snogles
Fovant Parish Council	Councillor A Leppard
Fovant Parish Council	Mrs E Young (Parish Clerk)
Fovant Badges Society	Colonel A Pinder
Fovant Relief in Need Charity	Mrs J Snowden
Village Hall	Mrs J Snowden (Vice Chair)
Fovant Youth Club	Mrs S Jay (Report)
Fovant History Society	Mrs Margaret Mackenzie
Neighbourhood Watch/TCSG	Councillor A Wells

There were 8 members of the public present.

Apologies: Cllrs Harden, Mrs Hunter and Mrs Story.

Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed those present. He explained the Parish Meeting consisted of all local government electors for the parish and was required to assemble between 1 March and 1 June once a year. The Chairman of the Parish Council must preside. The purpose of the meeting was to hear what the Parish Council and other organisations in the village had been doing and for the Council to hear the public's views as to what could be considered for the future and where ideas should be focussed.

1. There was no Community Police Report. The Chairman report that action had been taken with the Joint Transportation Team in Salisbury regarding speeding on the A30 and accidents at the junction of the High Street. Also the traffic calming project at Barford St Martin which had caused some concern regarding the possible re-direction of HGVs onto the A30 and through Fovant High Street, had proved successful with no anticipated increase in HGV traffic to Fovant.
2. The Chairman welcomed Ms Melanie Jezzard from Wiltshire Fire Brigade who spoke about the free availability of smoke alarms to the parish. With government funding, Wiltshire Fire Brigade were able to offer and fit free of charge at least two alarms to every household. She emphasised that these alarms had a ten year battery life – a huge number of accidents were caused by people testing alarms or refitting them with one year batteries. She was particularly concerned about the elderly and householders who would not necessarily ask for one. Word of mouth was essential. Members of the Fire Brigade would visit homes before fitting the alarms and make a brief home safety check.

Cllr Knowles thanked Ms Jezzard and it was proposed the request forms should be circulated in the parish magazine as a matter of urgency. This was agreed by the meeting.

3. **Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting** held on 14 April 2004 were approved. These had been circulated to Councillors and displayed on the notice board.
4. **Reports:** (full copy of reports submitted in writing to the Clerk are available on request)

Salisbury District Council: District Councillor Mrs Green:

Councillor Green reported that she had represented the ward as an Independent Councillor for some nine years and expressed her gratitude for the support she received from the community. From her report:

- 1) Council Tax: Only 10% of the total tax collected goes to SDC. Rubbish collection: a Band 'D' property pays .24p a week and in the year 2004/5 some 50,000 homes had refuse collections made; 17,000 miles of streets were cleaned and 220 acres of parks and gardens were maintained.
- 2) SDC had received a government grant increase this year of £263,000 but £750,000 is needed just to stand still. Efficiency savings had been made to keep the Council Tax as low as possible. There had been a .10p increase at Band D; .20p for the top Band. Banding and revaluations are to be reviewed and will be completed with new recommendations in 2007.
- 3) There had been the opening of the Park and Ride site at Wilton to complement the Beehive Park & Ride.
- 4) Increases in car parking charges in the City with improved security and CCTV monitors. Also the introduction of Residents' parking fees and for their visitors;
- 5) Stock Option Appraisal – SDC had decided to look further into the possibility of locally formed Housing Associations to purchase existing Council houses so as to maintain decent standards in the housing stock.
- 6) Recycling: this was still well below the government expectations and smaller skips could be used in car parks for recyclable rubbish.
- 7) Planning Performance Indicators: SDC had been awarded a grant of £500,000 to enhance the service.
- 8) Centralisation of the Salisbury District Council Offices: this was going ahead and funding would come from the sale of satellite offices in the city.

Fovant Badges Society:

Col Pinder reported that the major restoration work was completed in 2003, efforts had now been concentrated on the annual maintenance programme. All the badges had been strimmed and weeded and the Australian Commonwealth Ministry Forces and Royal Corps of Signals were surface re-chalked. Cost of the work had been £15,000. The weather had however resulted in weathering of the chalk. The maintenance for 2005 therefore would involve surface re-chalking four badges; Royal Wiltshire Yeomanry, 6th Battalion City of London Regiment, London Rifle Brigade and Devonshire Regiment in addition to normal weeding and strimming aspects. Estimated cost of this work will be up to £22,000.

Membership currently stood at some 250 and the financial position was reasonably in balance. If the Society is allowed to become exempt from VAT this would save approximately £3,000 a year.

To mark the 10th anniversary of the Heritage Lottery Fund, all projects they had sponsored were reviewed including the £70,000 grant to Fovant Badges. A "Heritage Heroes Award" ceremony hosted by HLF was attended and Fovant Badges project received an award of "Runner Up" to be considered a "Heritage Hero".

Fovant Relief in Need Charity

Mrs J Snowden reported that the Trustees at present were The Revd John Eade; Dr G Morse, Mrs A Cooke and herself. She asked the Parish Council to consider re-electing Mrs J Coombes as Trustee for the Parish Council for a further term. The Trustees had met twice during the year and were pleased to receive a donation from the Fovant Fete Committee. Disbursements had been made to two families in the village. A notice is placed twice during the year in the *Three Towers Community Magazine* to give publicity to the Charity.

Fovant Village Hall

A Report was given by Mrs Snowden as Vice Chair on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee. It had been a busy and successful year. Refurbishment of the hall had continued and a lot of work carried out by volunteers. Thanks to an SDC SWAG grant, double glazing had been put into the main hall, kitchen and store room. The kitchen had been painted and vinyl flooring laid. A lot of new equipment had been purchased. The flat roof had leaked again but had been made good.

Another grant from SDC SWAG had enabled the committee to resurface the area round the War Memorial and entranceway to the Hall. The troughs and tubs are well planted and the area much enhanced. Fund raising and social events had been very successful. The Chairman and Committee wanted to thank everyone who had worked so hard and supported them so well during the year.

Fovant Youth Club

Mrs Margaret Mackenzie read Mrs Susan Jay's report. The last year had been a very busy one with 25-30 children attending. The Club continues to go from strength to strength, but despite continual requests for help, the committee was very disappointed with the lack of interest and support from the local community members with children. It is proving a strain on the management committee. A project being considered for the Club was to put gates along the front of the property. Not only would this make the whole area safer for the children, but also keep out dogs and prevent fouling of the play area.

Rights of Way

The Clerk reported on the work carried out by Cllr Harden over the past year. There had been several initiatives affecting Rights of Way mainly regarding areas of Open Access. Detailed maps of the area can be found on the Countryside Agency's web site and "brown walker" signs will appear on the hillsides. On local issues, following many years of discussion and Public Inquiry, the regrading of Hole Lane had finally come through and a traffic restriction order (TRO) had now been established to prevent use of the RoW by traffic (mechanised vehicles, motor-bikes, bicycles etc).

Also with a contribution from the Parish Council, Nick Cowen, the WCC Rights of Way Warden with help from the Burnbake Trust, had constructed a causeway through the spinney at Footpath 2 where flooding had often occurred in the past. It has also been possible to remove a couple of stiles and with the co-operation of landowners it may be possible to remove more to assist the disabled with access. This will considerably reduce maintenance requirements. Thanks once again to all those who have helped to clear overhanging vegetation, repair the steps of stiles or just using and walking the footpaths and thereby keeping them clear.

Fovant History Group

Mrs Margaret MacKenzie reported that with the new Fovant History Group web-site, links had been made by the Group to Fovant Badges; the Local Heritage Initiative, the National Archives, Wiltshire Record Office, the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, the Wiltshire Buildings Record, the South Wiltshire Community Website and Salisbury District Council. Contacts through this site had been made from national and international sources with a bewildering array of queries. However, the group has been working on the book "Pages from Our History" and it was hoped to have the book will be ready for the Christmas 2005 market. In August 2004 there was an exhibition of research findings in the Village Hall and this will be repeated in 2005. The Group have concerned themselves with the fate of World War 1 memorabilia housed at the Pembroke Arms; they have been removed and are now being evaluated, categorised and catalogued and eventually a selection will return to the pub for display.

Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Wells reported it had been reasonably quiet in Fovant this past year. There had been four incidents reported by the Police; (i) an elderly lady had been targeted by a distraction burglar on the A30; (ii) and a woman had been grossly overcharged for building work on her home in Tisbury Road, (iii) a student had been apprehended by the police in the High Street trying to sell goods door to door when he was not licensed to do so, and (iv) a burglary was committed in Clays Orchard. The message was to be alert and to report anything suspicious to the police. Cllr Wells thanked the co-ordinators for their help in the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Fovant Parish Council

Activities: Cllr Knowles gave a full report on the Council's work. He thanked the Councillors for their help and commitment over the past year. Cllr Grant (vice Chairman) had been working to provide a bus service for Friday and Saturday evenings to and from Salisbury with some success, as the WCC Transportation Group have indicated that a solution may become available in 2005. Cllr Mrs Harris in her position as liaison between the Parish Council and the Village Hall had kept us up to date with what was happening, particularly with regard to arrangements for extension of the lease which expires in 2011.

Cllr Mrs A Hasbury-Snogles had spend a great deal of time and effort to maintain the children's playground, and also to complete the recreation ground project with Cllr Mrs Hunter. Work had been done painting the swings, roundabout, weeding, replacing the safety bark areas with emergency repairs to the slide with the help of Cllr Leppard. A safety fence had been erected at the larger recreation field and shortly a second goal mouth frame would be placed there which could be removed when other uses for the ground was required.

Cllr Leppard's oversight was for Highways matters, particularly with the Parish Lengthsmen scheme who would be visiting on 13 April. Cllr Mrs Story reported on Youth Issues and Cllr Wells represented the Council on matters affecting the Neighbourhood Watch & Tisbury Community Safety Partnership.

Cllr Knowles made particular mention of the excellent work Cllr Harden had done with respect to Rights of Way issues. It was regrettable that Cllr Harden had expressed a wish to stand down as Councillor at the end of April. The Parish Council and the community were very grateful to Mike for all his hard work over the many years of community service provided

Budget: this has been kept at £6,000 for the past 5 years. The budget allocation was; Administration 28% ; parish works 22%; public amenities 40% (i.e. playground project, fencing), Statutory fees 10%.

Recreation Field & Playground: the swing barriers had had to be removed, a new gate installed and new notices signed in accordance with RoSPA requirements. There was continual maintenance work on the roundabout, see saw and swings over the year. The new Safety fencing along the Recreation Field had been erected to prevent children running into the road and potential ball damage to vehicles. The fencing had been selected to closely replicate the fencing around the Playground.

Notice board: the Parish Council had commissioned a new board at the Pembroke Arms which would have a lock – articles for insertion into the Board should be cleared with the Parish Clerk in the first instance. Members of the public were requested not to obscure or remove Official Notices from the Parish Notice Boards as they must have priority. The public may post notices provided there is space available and the notices are removed promptly after expiry of the event.

Planting The Chairman expressed his thanks to all who had helped to make Fovant a pleasant village, and especially to Mr Bernard Allnutt for his work with planting out the tubs throughout the village and at the High Street triangle, and to Mrs Mackenzie for making such a special effort to pick up litter in the village. The Council and the community are particularly grateful to them for this.

Future Council Activity: Temporary repairs have been made on the children's slide but it is hoped to procure a new or fully refurbished slide with the help of finance carried forward by the Parish Council and other funding which may be available from SDC and other sources. During the next year the community will be invited to consider producing a Village Design Statement in conjunction with a Village Plan. This would need to be fully owned by the community as the final document would reflect what the residents of the village would like to see happen in the future. The process would require setting up an interest group, holding a number of consultations with everyone to get their views, and when the plan is finally agreed, it will become an 'official' reference document which must be considered by the Statutory Authorities, including planning and development agencies, when dealing with matters affecting Fovant.

Open Forum

With regard to the cutting back of hedges in Moor Lane and Sutton Road – Council agreed to request Wiltshire Highways to look into undertaking the work as soon as possible. Particularly where signage was being obscured.

There being no further questions, the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

DATE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

Tuesday 17 May 2005 in the Village Hall