



## ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL held  
in the ROOKSDOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROOKSDOWN on  
MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017 AT 7.45 PM**

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Councillor Mahoney (Chairman)	✓		
Councillor Botten	✓		
Councillor Bound (Borough Councillor)	✓		
Councillor Lovett (Vice Chairman)	✓		
Councillor Mason	✓		
Councillor Payne	✓		
Councillor Parkinson		✓	

Also in attendance: County Councillor Stephen Reid, Richard Vaughan, David Hillier-Wheal (Clerk to Bishopstoke Parish Council) and 5 residents.

- 020/17 To approve appointing David Hillier-Wheal as the Proper Officer for the duration of the Parish Council meeting**  
Proposed Councillor Mahoney, Seconded Councillor Bound, **RESOLVED** unanimously that David Hillier-Wheal be appointed as the Proper Officer for the duration of the meeting.
- 021/17 To receive and accept apologies for absence**  
Apologies had been received and were accepted from Councillor Parkinson.
- 022/17 To receive and note any declarations of pecuniary interest relevant to the agenda** No declarations made.
- 023/17 The Chairman to sign as a correct record the minutes of the Rooksdown Parish Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**  
Proposed Councillor Mahoney, Seconded Councillor Lovett, **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 as a true and accurate record. The Chairman duly signed the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017.
- 024/17 To receive an update on matters arising not covered on the agenda elsewhere**  
Councillor Payne reported resident's concerns regarding recently installed paths on Rooksdown Park, and whether they would be gravelled. It was thought this would be dangerous for children. Councillor Bound noted that the path surfaces were covered in the consultation 2 years ago, but offered to find out what they are supposed to be and whether any work has been done on quality checking similar paths.  
**Action: Councillor Bound**

Councillor Payne also reported on a productive meeting regarding the skate park. Some small changes had been made to the overall design and everyone involved was happy with it. It is believed that the contractor will shortly be instructed to begin the work.

Councillor Mahoney reported that there had been an email regarding a planning application received that day, but the deadline for responding was before the next Council meeting. Councillor Mahoney offered to circulate the plan, and then determine if there was a need to call an extra meeting to discuss it.

**Action: Councillor Mahoney**

Councillor Mahoney reported on another email, this time regarding the tree work around Florence Way about which there has been previous correspondence between the Clerk and the Housing Association. Due to financial constraints the Housing Association have stated that there is no budget in the current financial year but will look to see if it can be included in the next financial year. Councillor Mahoney offered to contact the Housing Association for an update. **Action: Councillor Mahoney**

**025/17 To open the meeting to members of the public**

***Standing orders were suspended for this item***

This session had been designated in particular to allow the Parish Council to gather the views of residents regarding the proposed closure of Fort Hill school. The notes from the session are attached as Appendix A

**026/17 To receive reports from:**

**Chairman to Rooksdown Parish Council**

Cllr Mahoney reported that the street furniture project being undertaken by B&DBC (started in 2014) is nearing completion. Cllr Mahoney advised that he had been made aware of some graffiti damage to some of the new seats down Peggs Way – he reminded that BDC are responsible for repair to the bins/seating whilst the Parish Council are liable for any remedial work to the noticeboards. Councillor Bound reported that there was still an old bin left in place which would need removing.

**Action: Councillor Mahoney**

Councillor Mahoney explained that following the resolution in the previous Parish Council meeting, he had booked the Speed Limit Reminder (SLR) camera from B&DBC for Rooksdown for a period of 1 month. Significant numbers of flashes had been recorded outside the school (2700 in 1 week), near Costa (3000 in 1 week) and in particular on Mill Road (12000 in 1 week). The Parish Council considered whether they installed/deployed their SpeedWatch camera to do further observation of driver behaviour, but Councillor Mahoney advised there was a significant cost for installing it. County Councillor Reid suggested that HCC could be asked to simply install the spare attachments and then the Parish Council could be responsible for moving the camera. Councillor Mahoney was asked to determine if this were possible.

**Action: Councillor Mahoney**

Councillor Mahoney explained that, further to his very productive meeting on 14 December with HCC with regards to installing 20 mph repeater signs across the development - all the suggested signs have now been approved and will be installed by 7th March with no cost to the Parish Council as HCC are funding it within the current financial year. The road marking element will be included in the next financial year.

Councillor Mahoney went on to remind the Parish Council that Hampshire County Council are happy to support the inclusion of an amendment in the TRO to correct the description for Rooksdown Avenue which will allow the 20mph gateway to be placed at the brick pillars, and include the residential area of Florence Way, Gillies Drive, Gander Drive and Barron Place in the 20 mph zone. This will be delivered later in the year as it is a bit more complicated & time consuming.

Councillor Mahoney noted that the “Welcome to Rooksdown” signs had been ordered and installed, at a cost of £80 + VAT (agreed at the January parish council meeting).

Councillor Mahoney stated that there is now a considerable amount of dirt being dropped on the road by David Wilson Homes development lorries. He has been engaging with Mark Glendenning at HCA to link in with DWH directors. Councillor Reid asked to be copied in to the email trail to go to the directors.

**Action: Councillor Mahoney**

Complaints are being received from residents in & around Trenchmead Gardens. Taylor Wimpy have now fulfilled their obligations in this area but in doing do have taken out a number of improvements that had been put in by residents. There is still some work to be undertaken in the area

Finally, Councillor Mahoney reported on a very useful meeting between a number of members of the Council and David Hillier-Wheal on 18 February.

**County Councillor**

County Councillor Stephen Reid's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is attached to these minutes (Appendix C).

Additionally, Councillor Reid noted that the Trumpet Junction access was being refused for safety reasons in that construction traffic would be too slow in turning compared to the other traffic on the road.

Work on the Doctors' Surgery is expected to be full complete by the end of July.

**Borough Councillor**

Borough Councillor Simon Bound's verbal report was NOTED

Enquiries into the required size of the Parish Council have been made, and electoral services have provided details of who to contact to find out. Councillor Bound offered to take this action.

**Action: Councillor Bound**

Tree works are ongoing around the Borough, felling diseased trees and performing necessary maintenance work.

Gates have now been put on the car park by Southern Health and Headway which should help with the drugs issue.

**Rooksdown Community Centre**

Simon Bound's verbal report was NOTED

**CSPO**

There was no report received

**027/17 To discuss the ongoing development of the Manydown project**

Councillors Botten & Mason reported that there was still no update available. This item will be retained on the agenda going forward.

**Action: Councillor Mahoney**

**028/17 To note the current financial situation and to sign the bank statements**

The current financial situation was **NOTED**

Signing the bank statements was deferred pending review by a Responsible Finance Officer

**029/17 To consider and agree requests for Payments**

Proposed Councillor Mahoney, Seconded Councillor Lovett, **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the requests for payments. (Appendix D)

*1 resident left at this point*

**030/17 To note the resignation of Councillor Parkinson and declare a vacancy on the parish council**

Councillor Parkinson had offered to resign but there was a question over whether an email could be accepted or whether Standing Orders require a "wet signature". Councillor Mahoney was asked to discuss the situation with Councillor Parkinson, and if Councillor Parkinson still wished to resign, to obtain the necessary signature.

**Action: Councillor Mahoney**

**031/17 To consider the distribution of salt bins across the development**

After discussion it was agreed that Councillor Lovett be requested to determine the current location of Hampshire County Council bins; draw up an initial plan for placing the Rooksdown bins; mark the current location of Rooksdown bins; ascertain whether HCC will move the bins, and keep them filled, and if not then determine who can.

**Action: Councillor Lovett**

**032/17 To confirm the date of the next meeting**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017, with the date of the Parish Assembly being set as 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017

**033/17 To consider confidential matters under schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.**

*Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting*

David Hillier-Wheal left at this point

**There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:30pm**

## Appendix A

### Notes from the Public Session

A resident commented on the problem with paths that had been mentioned earlier in the meeting. This is also a problem outside houses, and the quality and longevity of paths needs to be looked at.

A resident then handed out their proposals for the Fort Hill school (attached to these notes as Appendix B).

A resident stated that there are many proposals being put forward, and that currently North-West Basingstoke was planned to have no secondary school. An amalgamation with Cranbourne had been proposed but in previous discussions this had been rejected as it is already too full. Now that the children are older this is somehow being seen as OK and no one understands why.

It will be too far to travel. In particular, for some the bus route will be too far and smaller children will be faced with having to walk long distances.

Another resident said she understood that the Parish Council had no jurisdiction, all the power being held by the County Council, but she wanted to know whether the Parish Council had an opinion.

Councillor Mahoney stated that the Councillors would all have individual, personal opinions, but they did not have a collective Parish Council opinion. Councillor Mahoney restated that the purpose of this session was for residents to be able to air their views to the Parish Council, and for the Parish Council to pass them on to the County Council.

Councillor Bound stated that he had prior experience in a similar case, with regard to the Primary school 6 years previously. He had become aware while campaigning that there were a number of rules that the Parish Council has to follow before it could even support a campaign. However, he had found that the easiest solution was to apply for grants from the Parish Council to assist with the campaign work and expenses.

The resident asked whether it would be possible for Councillor Bound to use that experience to help the Fort Hill group and Councillor Bound replied that he already was, and in particular was in contact with Andrew Hood.

Councillor Payne stated that individual Councillors were already getting involved in diverse ways.

Councillor Bound asked whether the proposals being distributed at the meeting were part of the official response of the Fort Hill group. The residents replied that they had been emailed to Glenn Parkinson, but they were aware that a lot of proposals and opinions were being submitted. Councillor Bound then suggested that one main proposal supported by the main campaign would be the best way to go forward, and asked whether there was 1 main proposal.

Another resident stated that there are 2 proposals. Her previous experience of the County Council was that Fort Hill was being presented very much as a take it or leave it situation, but other schools faced with similar problems had been offered as many as four possible options. It was disappointing that Fort Hill was being placed in a situation where the County Council was only putting forward one solution. They should have put the work in to investigate other possibilities and not simply left it to residents.

The question was asked whether the Parish Council has jurisdiction over transport and the answer was that they do not.

The resident also stated that extra car journeys would be a problem and asked the Parish Council to comment.

Councillor Bound repeated his advice from earlier, which was to come to the Parish Council for a grant, not for campaign support. Bring forward a proposal to ask for money to support the actions of the group.

The resident stated they were hoping not to have to do that. They believe that Fort Hill is a good and improving school which should be supported. There is an obvious need for good local school.

The residents wanted to know where the future of Rooksdown was heading if there were no good schools in the area. They stated their belief that other schools in the area were either bad or over-subscribed.

At this point, Councillor Mahoney asked Mr Vaughan what would happen to the questions and comments being presented at the meeting. Mr Vaughan replied that a full report was being written and would be presented to Council on 20<sup>th</sup> March. So far there had been 400 written responses and 600 online. All responses are being drawn together and included in the report. Discussion with local schools was ongoing. At that meeting there would be a decision on the publication of notices. Then there would be 4 weeks of consultation followed by another report and a final decision in June.

At this point Councillor Mahoney closed the public session and thanked everyone for coming and sharing their views.

*Mr Vaughan and 4 residents left at this point.*

## Proposal

### **Consultation - Amalgamation of Fort Hill Community School and Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College, Basingstoke including the Fort Hill Special Educational Needs resourced provision**

A proposal to **de-federate the current federation** of Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College (Cranbourne) and Fort Hill Community School (FH) and a proposal to **keep Fort Hill Community School open**.

#### Purpose

The closure of Fort Hill Community School (FH) will have a huge impact on the families and children in the current catchment area. With no secondary school in the area, a growing population of children will be expected to travel to Cranbourne Business and Enterprise College (Cranbourne), a school that is currently rated by Ofsted as inadequate, a school that has no direct transport links between the two catchment areas, and a school of which future is uncertain.

#### The first stage of the proposal is defederation of FH and Cranbourne schools

The federation has not fulfilled the purpose it was set up for.

#### The second stage of the proposal is to keep FH open

##### **1) Amalgamation with Cranbourne is not practical and is not supported or welcomed by the community because:**

- a) **Fort Hill School Location** — walking distance is a priority for the majority of pupils and parents.
- b) **Fort Hill School Size** — parents chose Fort Hill School for its size due to the needs of their children.  
30% of current year 6 within catchment area made Fort Hill their 1st choice. c) **Pupils**
  - i) SEN special unit — showing excellent results. Any change will have an impact on pupil's progress. ii) GCSE's results are improving. In 2016 Fort Hill had better results than The Vyne and Everest.
  - iii) In 2016/17 the pupil premium additional funding allocated to schools affected 141 of the school population (31%) — the proposed extra travel will put further strain on the families. d) **Cranbourne School**
    - i) School Ofsted rating 'Inadequate' with the compulsory conversion to Academy, where the requirement is not to employ qualified teachers, its future is uncertain.
    - ii) Too far to travel for our children — the logistics of getting there, especially for families with smaller children attending Infant and Junior schools across Winklebury and Rooksdown are just too complicated
    - iii) The schools GCSE's results have declined iv) The number of year 7 applications has fallen drastically - Not enough interest of year 6 pupils within the catchment area (only 18% put Cranbourne as their first choice) — if numbers do not pick up, the school might also be facing closure in the near future. The budget forecast is already showing possible deficit in the upcoming year
  - v) Brighton Hill Community School 1.2 miles away from Cranbourne and running at Y2 the capacity, also facing problems in a year or two unless pupil numbers don't pick up
- e) **Effect on surrounding schools** —
  - i) Parents from Winklebury, Rooksdown and Bucksdown will most probably not send their kids all the way to Cranbourne as there are schools with better Ofsted reports that are closer. This will put pressure on the nearby schools of which 2 (Aldworth and Everest) are also on the official list of schools where attainment levels are 'Well below national average '.
  - ii) Costello, The Vyne and Aldworth schools are already full with many kids being put on waiting lists.

##### **2) Ripple effect of closing Fort Hill**

- a) **Community** — Closing Fort Hill would mean that siblings are potentially scattered around the town. **b) Parents**
  - i) Some pupils from Fort Hill currently collect their younger siblings from other schools in Winklebury.
  - ii) With dividing time between two school runs — impact on parents employment.
  - iii) Financial impact on families that will need to find extra funds to pay for travel - either for fuel or bus fares. This may result in families having **fewer funds for important extracurricular activities** such as music, dancing, sport etc. lessons.
- c) **Castle Hill Pre-School** operating within Fort Hill grounds — uncertain future for the children and staff

**d) Local Business** — Some local trade and tutors at risk due to secondary pupil absence from the area **e)**

**Increased Road Traffic**

- i) Cranbourne is less than 3 miles away therefore council is not required to provide transport to.
- ii) The volume of the morning traffic currently in Basingstoke is already high, any extra traffic will cause further issues.
- iii) **Current and Future New Houses Development in the area**, not enough school places in the North part of Basingstoke to cope with influx of new pupils moving onto the area: iv) Chapel Hill - 578 new homes v) Aldermaston Road Triangle (outside the hospital) — 90 new homes vi) Beckett Rise (bottom of Roman Road) - 42 new homes vii) Old Golf Course in Rooksdown - 585 new homes viii) Sherborne Fields (East of Aldermaston road) — currently 750 new homes ix) North of Popley Field 450 new homes x) Trumpet Junction - 122 new homes xi) East of Basingstoke (Lychpit/Chineham) — 615 new homes xii) Bramley

**3) Manydown**

- a) (as a potential solution to the raising numbers of pupils in the area) **Time scale** - Not built yet

**Solution**

**De-federate the current federation of Cranbourne and Fort Hill and either:**

- 1) create a single all-through (age 4 to 16) school** together with one of the local Infant and Junior schools
- 2) Keep FH school open until Manydown secondary school opens** with the current housing development in the area (as per numbers above), the numbers of pupils will increase naturally. Once Manydown is open, transfer all FH pupils to its premises — this will ensure a minimum disruption to the local pupils. **FH is currently the only secondary school in Basingstoke North West area.**

Meanwhile, the community will stand by the school, will offer its support and helping hand whenever it can (re-instating PTA, organizing volunteering work, organizing fundraising activities etc.). Together with the school will work hard on changing the image and perception of the school within wider community to ensure it once again becomes choice nr.1 for every local family.

- 3) Amalgamation of Cranbourne and Brighton Hill Community School** - Although no one wants to see any of Basingstoke secondary schools to be closed (and all the current places will be needed soon!), if this is a purely money saving exercise, it would be more logical to amalgamate Cranbourne and Brighton Hill Community School schools as both schools are running at very low capacity, they are within 1.2 miles of each other and a direct public transport runs between them. While the combined PAN for both schools is 435 (180+255) between them they only managed to attract 146 (99+47) (35%) 1st choice applications from the pool of approximately 410 pupils living within both catchment areas. Both the schools must increase their pupil intake in order to secure their survival, however given the fact that both are competing for pupils from the same part of the town, the success of their task is very unlikely.

**Summary**

Keep Fort Hill open. All Infant and Junior schools in the current FH catchment area run at, or very near, their full capacity, some are heavily oversubscribed - those children need a local secondary school to go to.



Report from Stephen Reid for Rooksdown Parish Council February 2017

**Parking restrictions on the Avenue and Residents' Parking on Park Prewett road**

The news is positive regarding getting double yellow lines on the Avenue and protection for Rooksdown residents from hospital parking. Both Cllr Bound and I have written in support of the proposed scheme. No timescale yet.

The rumour (picked up Friday) is that the temporary building for a ward outside the Sherborne building has had its planning permission withdrawn or deferred. Something about oil tanks ...

The hospital trust is planning to upgrade its car park machines, augmented by number-plate recognition cameras. Cllr Bound arranged a meeting for us at which the plans were explained. At worst we get a more efficient and reliable version of what we have now (which means shorter queues). At best, we see a reduction in illicit parking in the hospital car parks, which could have a beneficial knock-on effect for Rooksdown.

**Developer access to Trumpet Junction**

My representations to the Director saying 'A339 access please' have not found favour so far.

**Consultation on Fort Hill School**

I reported last month that the governors of Fort Hill and Cranbourne asked for a consultation on amalgamating their activities on the Cranbourne site. This was triggered by the fact that only 39 pupils registered their first choice as Fort Hill for the coming academic year.

The consultation process is now under way. Two public meetings have been held at the schools concerned plus a drop-in session at Westside Community Centre. I must await the report on the outcomes from the consultation but will be interested in hearing views.

**Wellington Terrace / A339 roundabout.**

No further update on the junction changes. The evolving Manydown plans show the Roman Road being severed from the roundabout so there is a potential long-term solution to the safety problem. The treatment of the A339 / Rooksdown junction is an important one. It is in Rooksdown's interests to make it look as 'minor' as possible.

**Rooksdown School extension and drop-off facility**

I haven't seen plans yet for the proposed extension. I asked a question at our Council meeting of the Executive Member who assured me that, whilst dropping off points are not favoured inside school boundaries, they are considered on their merits outside. It is therefore up to us to prove our case.

**Build quality**

Maria Miller MP, Cllr Bound and I continue to meet with residents affected by poor build quality of their new homes.

**Doctors' Surgery**

Work continues at a pace and the latest update is that the new surgery remains on schedule to open on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. That won't be the end of work on site, however, as there will still be need to demolish the old building and complete the car parking provision.

**New Hospital**

The CCG review continues and was due to report in January. It now looks as if this report may be delayed by several months. This sounds bad but may imply better news: if the answer was a flat 'no' it would be possible to publish it quickly. Perhaps they are genuinely considering the merits of the Critical Treatment Hospital. I hope so.

Another positive piece of news is that a liaison group is being established to consider the impacts of centralisation / the CTH. Perhaps this means an increased likelihood of the CTH going ahead?

## Appendix D

### February Payment Requests

FOR	ITEM	AMOUNT	INVOICE NO	METHOD OF PAY
Staff	Salary	£807.14	February	SO
HMRC	Tax and Ni	£35.70	February	E Payment
NEST	Pension	£14.63	February	DD
ITM Ltd t/a Signrite	Welcome Sign amendment	£96	3002557	E Payment
David Hillier-Wheal	Consultancy fee	£175.00	270217	E payment