

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF FAWLEY

Wednesday 27 April 2011 in the Jubilee Hall, Fawley, 7pm.

**Present:** Cllrs M Fidler (Chairman), L Dunsdon (Vice-Chairman), Mrs M Alderman, A Glass, B Hall, E Holtham, Mrs K Lord, Mrs L McDermott, C McDowall, Mrs S Read, R Wappet.

**In Attendance:**

Mr S Nash, Parish Clerk  
Mrs S Markides, HR& Admin Officer

**Also Present:**

County Councillor Mrs A McEvoy  
Alison Steele, Lepe Country Park  
Caroline Dench, Lymington Times  
Police Inspector A Reading  
Police Officer A Woodhead  
30 members of the public.

**Apologies** were received from Rev. B James and Mrs C Lowe, Head teacher, Blackfield Primary School.

The Chairman, Cllr M Fidler welcomed those present to the Annual Parish Meeting.

**Appointment of Clerk to the meeting:**

**RESOLVED:** That Stephen Nash be appointed as Clerk to the meeting.

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 April 2010:**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2010 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**Presentation by Alison Steele, Lepe Country Park:**

Alison provided the meeting with a most interesting talk on the challenges facing the park in the near future and long term.

An unprecedented number of visitors had visited over the Easter break and last year the number of "visits" totalled over 300,000. The park provided excellent recreational and educational facilities but currently needed to reach a target of a cost neutral budget within 4 years. This was going to be difficult to achieve so willing volunteers would be much appreciated particularly for wildlife surveys and bird counts.

Pictures were shown of sea level rise and flooding experienced on occasion. The café had recently been refurbished with improvements made but it was recognised that this was in unsustainable location. Funding bids had been made to Defra and the Heritage Lottery Fund and it was hoped to get local people involved with workshops and discussions to find out what they would like to see on site. The Parish Clerk would be attending the first meeting of the Solent Stories Heritage Lottery Steering Group and of course people could become a Friend of Lepe for a small annual fee.

The Chairman thanked Alison for her entertaining presentation and said he had very much enjoyed the woodland walk at Lepe.

**Chairman's Report:** Cllr Fidler provided the following report to the meeting:

The last 12 months have been a very challenging time for all staff and Councillors, but we have very good staff and very committed Councillors who have ensured that the Council has not only continued to provide services but has built on those services. We continue to expand our range of partnerships and recently we have helped set up the new Fawley Events Committee, which was responsible for re-establishing the Christmas Lights switch on and provided not only a full range of activities for all ages, but also decorated the village centre with a top class display of lights and a Christmas tree and we thank them for their efforts. The sponsors of the event also need thanking and include; Npower, Exxon, Councillor Alexis McAvooy and the Falcon Hotel, without whose support the event might not have been as successful as it was.

We have expanded the activities of our Youth & Community Worker and now provide regular clubs such as the Youth Club every Friday night, Junior PCSO club (that's the Junior Police Community Support Officers), After School club and club 811. Most successfully, we now provide a range of activities for young people over the school holidays, seeing as many as 60 children most days.

Our youth activities are soon to be increased through our Partnership with Parent Link (a charitable organisation that works with young people and parents) and taking on a Family Support Manager to provide a range of parenting support skills and parenting support networks helping both parent and child. These will support school activities and compliment a range of services provided across the district and importantly will be fully funded externally for a six-month trial.

Over the last six months we have been able to provide up to 11 staff at no cost to the council through the Future Jobs Fund programme. We will have some of these staff up until September which will have saved us over £55,000 and provided us with more than £10,000 of free training for all our staff to ensure we have the best trained staff possible. These are just a few of the things that have helped us reduce the precept for 2011-12 and we are now looking at a range of grants and new activities to keep down costs for the coming years.

We are launching our new web site, having a quarterly newsletter via The Herald newspaper and in May will be distributing a Parish Guide to every household in the Parish. All this is part of our drive to help residents understand what we do and how we do it and what services and facilities are available if they choose to use them.

Using grants and sponsorship we are providing a number of events this year which will be free to attend including Armed Forces Day on 25 June and Hovercraft Race activities between 26 and 29 August. We are hoping to provide Halloween activities, a Firework Display and a New Years Party for the whole family and to establish them as annual events.

These changes will allow us to engage more frequently with local residents, keep them better informed and reduce costs where possible without any loss of service. In turn this will allow us to respond to residents more quickly and direct our efforts towards what residents want and need, in order to improve the quality of life of Fawley Parish Residents. As part of this we have partnered with New Forest District Council to increase the opening hours of the Information Centre at Jubilee Hall, which has helped increase usage of the hall too.

This year we have plans to improve the play areas at QEII and at Gang Warily for young people, we have successfully passed part one of a National Lottery grant to provide more allotments at Fawley, we have won an award for our services to disabled people and we are about to re-open the café at Gang Warily which has just celebrated its first 25 years of operation.

Thank you all for coming this evening.

**Presentation of Chairman's Cup:** Cllr Fidler said:

Joan needs no introduction!

You never need to ask for help as Joan assists without hesitation.

She is such a good neighbour and friend supporting anyone in need, running errands and generally just being someone on the end of a phone.

Joan has given her time freely over the years, as well as her expertise to the local baton twirlers although she has retired from this now. She does still attend the national event meeting though, this being her annual holiday along with one of her friends.

Sunday mornings find her at the Gang Warily car boot sale tirelessly raising funds for Marie Curie Cancer Research. Infact along with all her other activities, her husband does joke that he has to make an appointment to see her!

I am sure you will agree that Joan is a deserving recipient of the Chairman' Cup and inspiration to us all and I therefore have pleasure in awarding the cup to you for this year.

**Fawley Village:** The following items were raised by Doug Eaglen and read to the meeting by Cllr Fidler.

### **Speed Limit**

Two years have elapsed since I first raised this matter at the Fawley Parish Council AGM. Little, if anything has transpired.

As a village elder and registered disabled I feel particularly vulnerable when using footpaths or crossing highways on foot. I am sure these fears must exist in other pedestrians.

Surely the village is primarily for the pedestrian and not motorised vehicles. Pedestrians should have priority in movement around the village.

There are 4 main access points to Fawley – Church Lane,  
- School Road  
- Calshot Road  
- Stonehills

Only 4 signs to indicate a 20mph limit – where is the problem?

Drivers frequently ignore the current speed limits of 50 and 40 mph. I can see no real need for the short 50 mph stretch of highway from the Kennels roundabout to a point at the edge of the village boundary. Surely 40mph is more realistic for this length of highway tying in as it does with the approach from Holbury and the by pass via Fawley to Calshot.

Perhaps more could be done to ensure the safety of persons crossing from Blackfield Road – especially for parents and children accessing to and from Fawley Infant School.

## **Fawley Village Amenities and Street Scene**

The Parish have responsibility for both bus shelters in the village (Square) that adjoin the shipping agents premises ought to be restored to its original size and condition. For those using public transport this waiting area had its minimal seating obliterated and space to wait reduced by half. The protagonist in achieving this action has long since moved on after gaining physical access to the void (50%) and using it for storing plumbing materials including gas bottles in connection with his business.

### **Shop Forecourt**

Can provision be made for seating on the paving in front of the shop/retail premises facing onto the Falcon Hotel car park? Shoppers especially the elderly, have a need to rest from time to time.

The replanting of a tree (as originally provided in the Millennium project) would be more in keeping with the overall landscape project than the salt bin, which has recently appeared on the tree pit. The tree itself has twice been “knocked down”. It is possible that delivery lorries have some responsibility in the loss too. All retail premises in this area have rear access for servicing.

### **Recycling bins and Toilet block.**

Whilst recognising the need for recycling this open location does little to enhance the centre of Fawley village. Can some form of “soft” screening be provided to lessen the impact on the environs.

The question of the redundant toilet similarly impinges on the village scene. In nearly 18 months since NFDC in their wisdom sold the building and apparently all the land around it, the building has remained in a derelict state. Recent development proposals have been refused by NFDC.

Attempts to establish ownership of the land behind the toilets have been somewhat thwarted by absence of ownership details, some of the boundary lines appear to have been altered by adjoining owners.

Is there an attempt to resolve this matter?

The present owners/landlord of the Falcon Hotel have done much to reinstate the building and its surroundings to the benefit of the village centre. Surely it is wrong to allow the toilet/land area to detract from the regenerated square.

Long unfinished sites of which there are at least three in the village present an eyesore in an area so close to the National park and designated conservation areas.

In conclusion might I draw the Council’s attention to the direction sign immediately outside Jubilee Hall? The HCC cap is rusty, suffering from lack of decoration for at least 20 years. Some of the signs are damaged and need repair or replacement. A post set in the paving would deter trucks from mounting the pavement and again damaging the sign.

I would wish to congratulate all those concerned with the current running of the Gang Warily Centre. In particular, from personal experience the work being performed by the GIG unit led by Jo Nobes. The work being done here is of great value to elderly and disabled members of the public. There should be room for extending this vital community function.

Cllr Holtham thanked Mr Eaglen for his contribution and advised that the items would be brought to the next meeting of the Public Services Committee.

**Any other matters to be raised by Parishioners:** A member of the public raised concerns regarding traffic in Ashlett Road, Fawley in particular it was considered that the bend was dangerous with inconsiderate parking, which caused difficulties for buses and lorries. This matter had previously been brought to the attention of Hampshire County Council and would be chased up. The issuing of tickets to inconsiderately parked cars was raised and Police Officer Woodhead advised the meeting of the procedures in place to deal with this.

Members of the badminton clubs and the Zumba classes raised several concerns regarding the difficulties being currently experienced at Gang Warily. Significant discussion took place and the meeting was advised of the decision reached by the Parish Council at an earlier meeting that evening which was to leave the playing times of the badminton players as they are and that the Facilities Manager of Gang Warily work with the Zumba instructor to find suitable alternative times and venues for the Zumba sessions to take place.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8pm.

.....  
Chairman