

*This meeting is preceded by the  
Annual General Meeting  
of the Froyle Village Hall Committee  
in Froyle Village Hall  
on Wednesday 23rd April 2014 at 7.30 pm  
to which ALL ELECTORS of FROYLE are also invited.*

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE FROYLE  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

held in the Village Hall on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013** at 8.15 pm

*Present:*

Mr MJ Wells, Chairman  
Mr. D. Collingborn, Parish Councillor  
Mr. M. Cray, Parish Councillor  
Mr. I. Deans, Parish Councillor  
Miss JJ Gove, Parish Councillor  
Mr. N. Whines, Parish Councillor  
Mrs. G. Watts (County Councillor)  
Mr. M. Kemp-Gee (County Councillor)  
27 members of the public

**ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr. Foster, Mr. Goodsell, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Thursfield.

**ITEM 2 MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 16th APRIL 2012**

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 16th April 2012 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

**ITEM 3 MATTERS ARISING**

None.

*Item 5 was taken at this point.*

**ITEM 4 REPORTS FROM VILLAGE GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

**4.1 The Meeting Place (Mrs. A. Booth, read by Mr. Booth)**

Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen

The Meeting Place celebrates its 23rd birthday this year and I would like to thank all my wonderful helpers and bakers who make the whole thing possible as well as all of you who support us in any way. A special mention goes to Pat Parrott and Joy West who are there every week to help Chris and myself set up and to Dave Bennett, who always helps us when he is in this country.

During the year, as well as our ordinary Friday mornings, our Christmas and Easter Meeting Places were both well attended. As well as being such happy get-togethers, these two special events raise much needed funds to keep everything running smoothly.

This year we have doubled up on helpers in the kitchen, which was a good decision on my part, since we have been SO busy since Christmas. We also have two families of Young Bakers, the Crays and the Pratts, who bake for us during the school holidays. We sampled the Pratts' delights at Easter and we are looking forward to seeing what the Crays have for us in August!

If you have not dropped in to The Meeting Place on a Friday morning, do give it a try. If you are new to the village it is a particularly good way of getting to know people. There is always a friendly face and a helping hand, as well as all that delicious cake! Basically, it is what Froyle is all about!

*Annette Booth*

#### 4.2 **The Froyle Archive** (Mr. C. Booth)

Chairman, Ladies & Gentleman

We missed last year's Annual Parish Meeting as we were away in Beaconsfield visiting Sir Hubert Miller's great niece, Zelda Dunlop, at the invitation of her daughter Tess, who had discovered us on the internet. Zelda, who is 88, was suffering from the after effects of a stroke which had greatly affected her speech, but she was delighted to see us and gave us access to Sir Hubert's scrapbook which is still in her possession. During our visit we discovered the true date of the building of St Joseph's Church in Lower Froyle (1879/80) and finally found the location of his villa in Venice where he spent much time while collecting the Vestments and Silver for St Mary's Church. Just as we were leaving Zelda produced Sir Hubert's tie pin, in the shape of a stag's head, mimicking the statue on "Post Office Cottage" in Upper Froyle. Sadly, we couldn't bring it home with us!!

This year we are holding another "Open Day & Village Reunion" on Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, with a theme of "Historic Houses of Froyle", so do come along and find out more about your village and its history.

Throughout the past year we have been mounting a regularly changing exhibition in the display cabinet at the back of St Mary's Church. The current subject is "The Bells of St Mary's", which will be replaced by a new subject in a few months time.

Last year we took part in an "Alton & the Villages" Exhibition on May 19<sup>th</sup> as members of the "Alton & Villages Local History Forum". We had a continual stream of visitors all day, with an estimated total of nearly 300 - sadly to this day, the report has yet to appear in the Alton Herald!

As August 2014 will see commemorations of the start of the Great War, we are planning to fully record the story of every person from that conflict whose name is on our War Memorial. The object is, in conjunction with the other villages, to produce a book recording their sacrifices for future generations. There is an appeal to those villagers with family connections for information in the May Village Magazine, we have clearance from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to use their photographs of the various cemeteries and have already been loaned some photographs. All being well, we shall be able to show some progress at our Open Day in June.

I must finish by putting on record here our thanks to the Parish Council for their continuing support and a most helpful grant towards the running of the Archive - thank you Parish Council.

*Chris Booth*

#### 4.3 **The Froyle Players** (Mr M Cray)

The Froyle Players attempted a comeback at the end of last year hoping to put on a production of DRACULA THE PANTO, in the village Hall during February of this year. After a lot of work had been put into the production by various people in and around the Village the sad decision to postpone the production to next February was taken due to the lack of a cast!

We are short of young ladies to fill the principle boy/girl roles. Auditions will be held later in the year for the roles not filled, and if we cannot fill these parts then no Panto! Those parts already cast still stand unless people want to change. Help is still needed in all departments.

The Panto can work in the Village Hall and I would like to thank the Village Hall committee for their support of the Panto. It just needs the rest of the Village to get behind it both on and off the stage if they want it to come back.

#### 4.4 **Neighbourhood Watch** (Mr. J. Thursfield, read by the Clerk)

I telephone everyone if anything urgent occurs and needs action. Less urgent and 'general information' matters are publicised in the Village Magazine.

#### 4.5 **Good Companions Club** (Mrs M Fry)

We would like to thank the ladies of the village who open their gardens and homes in the summer months for tea parties. We normally meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 2.30 for tea and bingo at Chapel Cottage.

#### 4.6 **Froyle Football** (Mr. Cray)

It is hoped that the Froyle Football Club will come back.

**CASTLE CITY FC** Is a local small football team started in 2009. It was started by three school friends Tom, Thom & Jaison as a way of staying in touch and playing football with friends.

The team now has 20 players signed up and all live in the local area (Odiham, Farnham, Bentley etc).

We look forward to using the facilities at Froyle as our new home and will respect and maintain the facilities as required. We are also prepared to provide an annual clean up and tidy of the clubhouse and pitch areas as part of our relationship with the parish council.

Mr. Wells added that income will now be received again for the use of the football hut and playing field.

#### 4.7 **The Gardening Club and Flower Show** (Mrs. Milam)

Froyle Gardening Club is in a much better position than it was a year ago. We now have a new chairman – me, not that that is any help but we also have two new committee members who are a help. Anne Blunt did an admirable job care-taking for two years or so during a difficult time. We are also solvent but our very low subscription will have to rise at the end of the year to keep pace with the cost of speakers.

Last year we had an interesting programme covering subjects from wildlife in Wales to travel in New Zealand and of course gardening topics. Unfortunately our visit to the beautiful garden called Pullens at West Worldham was very poorly attended due to very poor weather. No surprise there. The spring was so hot the daffodils were over before the spring show, the summer so wet that both summer and autumn shows were difficult. This year of course it has been so cold the daffodils are hardly out but we still managed a fairly good show.

We have just had a wonderful talk on Great Dixter Past and Present by Fergus Garrett. A feather in our cap. Every chair in the hall was in use and we are now hoping to visit Great Dixter on July 16th.

Following the garden talks at the Maltings organised by Phyll Watts of Farrington Horticultural Society there are now stronger links between local societies.

Altogether we are in a happy position.

#### 4.8 **The Fête** (Ms M. Ginsberg)

Because of rain, profits were much lower than usual, but we still earned about £1500, which went to the Village Hall. We also bought twenty new tables. By table-sharing with Bentley, we will save about £600 per year. These tables, along with the marquees, are a good addition for other village events.

We are delighted that Annette and Chris Booth will be opening the Fete on 13th July.

#### 4.9 **The Froyle Village Magazine** (Mrs S. Roberts)

The deadline for the next issue is 19<sup>th</sup> April. The magazine was ably edited by Nigel Fisher for a number of years. This commitment is now shared between a team of editors who edit 2 issues each. The editors would like more contributions to the magazine, eg messages, recipes, gardening tips.

#### 4.10 Village Hall (Mr. J. Saunders)

*Reported at the Froyle Village Hall Management Committee annual general meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2013. This item does not form part of the APM Minutes but is presented here for the record.*

#### FROYLE VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES REPORT FOR 2012

2012 proved a relatively quiet year for the village hall. The trustees remained active, meeting regularly on the last Thursday of the month with a good level of attendance. Less frequent meetings have been suggested but the number of 'issues' appears to justify the regular meeting. Karen Potter joined the committee.

The accompanying Treasurer's report shows a decline in hirings which is a matter of concern. The loss of the pantomime and the youth club contributed to this decline. Plans to promote the hall more actively have proceeded somewhat slowly.

The AGM was held on Monday 18 April 2012 preceding the Parish Meeting. The committee and officers agreed to stand again and were re-elected.

#### Events

A Bingo evening was held on 3 March. This was well attended but the levels of concentration required meant that profits from the bar were lower than anticipated.

Jubilee 'Big Lunch' held on 3 June was an outstanding success and despite poor weather much enjoyed by all present. Karen Potter master-minded the project.

The Safari Supper held on 1 September was much enjoyed but numbers were lower than anticipated. The project was ably directed by Gill Bradley.

The Bonfire Party held as always on 5 November was generally considered the best yet. No fee was charged and the bucket collection and the sales of food and drink more or less covered the costs.

Plans for an 'Applefest' were postponed as a result of the poor apple harvest.

Carols were held in the hall on 22 December and were led by the Froyle choir.

#### Activities

The mothers and toddlers group went from strength to strength during 2012 but sadly it has not been possible to re-start the Youth Club. Various art groups continue to make good use of the hall which hosted the Water Colour Society's summer school for a week during August. Keep fit and computer classes have flourished as has the Gardening Club. The '100 Club' is open for new members. Subscriptions can now be paid by standing order.

#### Loo refurbishment project

The project was much discussed during 2012 and quotes obtained from several companies. This was extended to include the replacement of the front doors and double glazing the surrounding windows.

Help with funding was secured from FPC (£1000) and HCC (£4000).

A limited appeal to residents led to a generous response and secured a further £5000.

It was agreed to undertake the work in early 2013.

#### Maintenance

Cindy Dennis replaced Maggie Terry as housekeeper who was thanked for her hard work. During 2012 it became apparent that there was a leak in the central heating system below ground which was causing the system to run dry and damage the boiler. As the cost of digging up the floor was thought to be prohibitive it was decided to replumb the radiators via the loft space and at the same time uprate the radiators themselves

and provide a radiator in the store room, and to carry out this work at the same times as the loo refurbishment.

Several applications for funding new curtains were unsuccessful.

There are ongoing problems with the dishwasher and the French doors.

#### Publicity and promotion

The VHC reports regularly to residents via the Village Magazine.

The website at [www.froylevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.froylevillagehall.co.uk) has been much improved by Martin McRiley but effort is still needed to keep it up to date.

A small ad in the Herald appeared to have little impact.

Again attempts were made to produce a promotional card.

After two successful years it was decided to drop the Froyle Calendar.

#### Into the future

The trustees are discussing the installation of solar PV panels on the roof of the hall. The cost of doing this is now below £10,000 but the income from generating electricity has also dropped significantly.

The trustees continue to look for a source of funding for replacement curtains.

The trustees are thinking about the implication of a greatly increased population moving into Upper Froyle as a result of the redevelopment of the Treloar site and the possible availability on that site of a large hall (the school dining room). The trustees have been in discussion with the developer about how these issues can best be managed. At the moment there are no plans to enlarge the hall or funding to do this.

The proposal for a film club awaits a project leader.

The trustees note with pleasure the support for the village hall which emerged from the Parish Plan Survey. The trustees would welcome more involvement from residents. The majority of the current committee have now served for 7 years.

The current committee and their responsibilities are as follows:

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Jerry Saunders  | Chair                 |
| Nigel Fisher *  | Froyle Magazine       |
| Charlie Findlay | Hon Treasurer         |
| Mary Knowles*   | Fete                  |
| Nick Whines     | Hon Secretary         |
| William Knowles | '100 Club'            |
| Jo Mills        | Booking Secretary     |
| Anthea McRiley* | Mothers and Toddlers  |
| Gill Bradley*   | Church/Gardening Club |
| Martin McRiley  | Web site              |
| Jeanette Cray*  | Child Protection      |
| Karen Potter    | Promotion and events  |
| Cindy Dennis    | Housekeeper           |
| Suzy Robertson  | Kitchen committee     |

\* Indicates trustee

*Nick Whines, Hon Sec Froyle Village Hall, April 2013*

#### 4.11 Village Agents (Mrs. M. Black)

The agents' activities are reported in every issue of the Village Magazine.

#### 4.12 Playground (Mr. M. Cray)

As most people know by now there have been a few changes to the Recreation/Playground, with some of the old and damaged equipment being replaced and some new equipment being added for the older children. The swing seats are in need of replacing and there are some minor repairs to be done on the remaining items. This will be undertaken within the next few months.

The cost of this was met by funds from the PC, grants from the Lottery, Hampshire Playing Fields Association, Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee and developers funds and also by donations from Froyle residents, to which the PC give thanks for the Froyle residents' generosity.

We lost out on one community grant, but I would like to thank Ian Deans and his team of supporters for their efforts in trying to secure the grant in what turned out to be a quite a bizarre way of distributing funds! I would also like to thank Alison Blanchard for her help in obtaining the lottery grant.

The Playground/Rec remains an ongoing project and we will be looking into ways to obtaining more funding to continue to maintain, replace and add equipment if needed.

#### 4.13 The Church in Froyle (The Rev. Y. Dubreuil)

Froyle Parish Church is part of the Church of England:

- 85% of people in Britain visit a church in any one year for many reasons apart from services of worship. Weddings, funerals, school services, concerts and special events attract people to these centres of community life.
- At Christmas 35% of people in Britain attend a church service while 20% attend a normal Sunday or midweek church service over the course of the year. For Church of England churches this brings more than 1.7 million people over a typical month into their regular services.
- There are 16,000 Church of England church buildings across England, 9,000 of which are rural and 7,000 are in urban areas. 45% of all grade 1 listed buildings are Church of England parish churches.
- 4,700 Church of England schools educate almost 1 million children. 25% of all primary schools and 1 in 16 secondary schools are Church of England, many in deprived areas.
- More people do unpaid work for churches than for any other organisation. Churchgoers contribute 23.2 million hours each month outside their local church to the local community.
- People value their local church and 68% consider it an important part of their local community. Those who consider churches important include 45% of people with no religion and 62% of adherents of other faiths. 70% believe it provides valuable social and community facilities and 57% believe it should be more actively involved in the local community.
- In 2006, necessary repairs to all listed places of worship in England were valued at £925m over the next five years, or £185m a year. Around £110 million is currently spent on repairs to Church of England churches per annum, 70% of it raised by the congregations and local community. The Church of England brings Christian ministry to every neighbourhood, to industry, education, hospitals, prisons, armed forces and community centres. There are 28,000 licensed ministers, 17,800 of which are volunteers, 18,000 of which are ordained clergy and 10,000 are licensed lay ministers. In addition around 150,000 people serve as lay members of local parish church councils.
- Church of England congregations give more than £51.7 million each year to other charities - that's even more than the BBC's annual Children in Need appeal.

Froyle Parish Church is part of the Benefice of Binsted, Bentley and Froyle

- The total population of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle is relatively small - approximately 2500 (ish!). But we punch above our weight!
- About 3000 people attended a wedding at one of the 30 weddings held in our churches in 2012.
- 1655 came to one of our Christmas services last year.
- We ministered to 27 local families upon the death of one of their loved ones - in other words, on average every other week we're seeking to help a family in grief.
- Every week we lead collective worship (a.k.a. assemblies!) for over 300 children and staff in our local schools.
- Our volunteers are amazing - they include: members of the PCC, Churchwardens, Treasurers and Secretaries, Members of Rector's Council, Flower Ladies, welcome teams and sidesmen, bell ringers, cleaning rotas, buildings committees, churchyard parties, Pastoral Care Team, Prayer Ministry Team, Bible study group leaders, Deanery Synod representatives, School Governors, Diocesan Synod representatives, Readers, Prayer Morning Group, makers of Sunday coffees and cakes, organists, children's leaders and assistants, Vestment ladies, and others!

Activities in Froyle:

Froyle highlights for 2012:

- The adoption of a sustainable and nourishing pattern of services for Froyle: we work to our strengths - Froyle parish church offers traditional services ranging from Said Communions, to Common Worship in traditional language and sung and Choral Evensong services.
- We have enjoyed the ministry of a fantastic choir - not only at our regular services but also at special services such as our Maundy Thursday service and Advent Carol service.
- There are also other special services during the year - from the quiet reflection offered at our Ash Wednesday and Good Friday services, to the organised chaos of our Pet Service.
- 2012 also saw the introduction of a monthly Sunday School on the last Sunday of the month - something we hope to build on over the next few months and years.
- We saw three young people from Froyle confirmed by the Bishop of Basingstoke (with the new Bishop of Winchester in attendance!)
- Our Vestments Ladies have continued their excellent work of maintenance, restoration and display of our magnificent and unique collection of clergy vestments.
- Of a total expenditure of £43,800, £11,600 was spent on maintaining and repairing the church building in 2012; £25,640 was spent on ministry costs (Parish share, Benefice office expenses and administrator); our total income exceeded our expenditure for the first time in three years.

Above all Froyle parish church is your local church - if you have any suggestions or feedback on any of our activities or would like more information please contact the Vicar, Yann Dubreuil, by email or telephone (yann@benbinfro.org / 07777 684533) or the Benefice Administrator, Sandy Roberts (admin@benbinfro.org / 07500 949465). Also - please be sure to check our website [www.benbinfro.co.uk](http://www.benbinfro.co.uk) (still under construction!)

Blessings

*Yann*

#### **4.14 Froyle Baby and Toddler Mornings (Mrs. A. McRiley)**

Froyle Baby and Toddler group is a drop in session for parents and carers of children under 5 years of age. We meet on Thursday mornings in Froyle village hall. We don't place any further exclusions on who we welcome to the group and the catchment area of attendees has grown to include Bentley, Long Sutton and beyond. The group is known for being relaxed and friendly.

As we are a drop-in group, numbers of attendees vary week to week. In the past term our quietest session had just six adults and nine children while our liveliest session had eighteen adults and twenty five children. The group has been established for three and a half years and since starting we have charged £2 per family to attend. From this we have weekly expenses such as the hire of the hall, refreshments for adults and children and craft materials.

Last year we also held a fund raising evening which although it was not strongly supported by the people of Froyle, it did raise enough funds to purchase some much needed new baby toys. In the past year we have also purchased role play costumes, a new ride on wheelie bug toy and we are now renovating our train set which has become slightly tired looking with the many hours of play it has endured.

During the year the children have celebrated the harvest, Christmas and Easter with craft activities that have been displayed in the Church. The children enjoy seeing their creations during services, but some families also visit the Church during the quieter times to see their art on display. The highlight of the past year for the group was the Christmas party and I would like to extend the thanks of the group to Jo Mills who was once again a fantastic host.

The group's success is due to the clean bright surroundings, the quality of the craft activities and the toys available. I am extremely grateful to the small team of Froyle parents who assist me in the weekly running of the group and also to the village hall committee who are very supportive of the toddler group.

I would also like to mention that following the toddler sessions the children often enjoy being taken outside by their carers to play, the new Ark has certainly proved very popular.

#### **ITEM 5 LOCAL POLICING MATTERS (PCSO J. Hornsby)**

Over the past year, there had been one burglary, a stolen car was recovered in London, garden sheds had been broken into and items stolen including a lawnmower, thefts from the church, damage to a village hall window, anti-social behaviour eg too much noise. There had been pony and trap racing on the A31, and the police investigated veterinary issues and horse passports. Jewellery was the main item stolen in break-ins and pillowcases were used to transport stolen items to cars, after which the pillowcases are discarded. If a pillowcase is found, do not touch it but telephone 101. Keep jewellery well hidden or use a safe. Make house names visible from both directions, so emergency services can find a particular house more easily. Overall, the area is pretty safe.

#### **ITEM 6 PARISH PLAN (Ms M. Essenson)**

Current Status: We are now in the final stages of writing our Parish Plan, based on results of the consultation exercises. A draft will be ready during May at which point the steering group will agree how best to communicate the results to the whole village.

Resident participation in the consultations was high. For example, over 150 residents were involved in the house parties, which helped to pull out the key topics and issues. We also achieved a 92.5% response rate to the village questionnaire. This means that the views and opinions in the plan are representative of the village as a whole.

Use of the data to date: The data has already been put to good use with the new owners of the former Treloars School site. A footpath from the site to the Hen & Chicken is one example of how NJG responded to the survey data and discussions with the various working groups.



NJG has also given permission for the village to create a wildlife area close to Gid Lane. This is a key Countryside project based on resident requests. NJG has offered to cover the necessary insurances and help with construction and planning permissions. Support for this Parish Plan project by NJG is outside any planning application requirements for open space.

Going forward: The Parish Plan will be an important document for funding applications and as a framework to drive several village projects.

Examples of projects with startup volunteers assigned:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Community                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Good Neighbour Schemes” to help with small DIY type jobs, shopping &amp; trips out.</li><li>• A new resident pack.</li><li>• Outdoor gym equipment – specification &amp; funding application.</li></ul> |
| Countryside               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A planning guide for PC &amp; residents.</li><li>• Doo poo bins.</li><li>• Walker access / Landowner relationships.</li></ul>  |
| Traffic & Transport       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bentley Station – Interim, medium &amp; Long term parking solutions (Bentley + Froyle PC + Glynis Watts + Resident representatives).</li></ul>   |
| Business & Communications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rural Broadband – Positioning Froyle for rural broadband funding</li><li>• Help and advice with phone network / provider selection.</li></ul>  |

There are many more projects waiting in the wings (for example, all youth related projects, community transport and a business networking club). These will only move forward when people volunteer. A full project list is in the plan, along with more information and details of how to get involved.

About 25 people are currently involved in the overall project via the steering group and working groups. Everyone has put in a great deal of time and I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to each person. I'd also like to thank everyone in the village for being so supportive of the project and taking the time to express their views and opinions.

*Michelle Essenson*  
*Chair – Froyle Community Planning*

## **ITEM 7 VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT (Mr. K. Foster, read by Mr. Deans)**

Considerable time was spent last year reviewing the results of the Village Questionnaire and liaising with other groups to assess and interpret the findings in the context of the requirements of the VDS. The high response rate and depth of information from the questionnaire will provide a solid foundation for the final VDS.

Consideration has also been given to the impact of changes in planning legislation upon the form and content of the VDS.

The VDS group has considered and agreed a template for the document to ensure that the information therein can be presented in a logical and easy to read format, with suitable illustrations and key policies highlighted.

The template has been used to start to prepare a draft document for wider circulation and discussion. Many of the members of the VDS group have been actively involved in commenting upon and considering the considerable detail of the Treloar site application. This has inevitably taken time and resources away from the finalisation of the VDS document itself.

That being said, the VDS group are now re-convening with the objective of finalising a draft over the next few months.

## **ITEM 8 REPORT BY COUNTY COUNCILLOR (Mr. M. Kemp-Gee)**

Mr. Kemp-Gee apologised because he would not be able to stay until the end of the meeting.

He said residents expect sound finances of Hampshire County Council, but these are difficult circumstances, nevertheless council tax had been frozen. There was a broadband initiative so that not less than 90% of the population would be able to receive it. The census had shown that the population of Hampshire had increased by 6% over the decade, with the average age over 43, so new ways of looking after an older population need to be found, with personalisation of benefits, special accommodation eg flats, provision of meals of wheels, etc. 8000 new school places must be found. HCC are introducing apprenticeships and child safety schemes. For Froyle, it had been the right decision to turn down the application for wood chipping at West End Farm. Though as a county councillor, Mr. Kemp-Gee said, he is not primarily involved with planning applications eg for the former Treloar site, he is involved with the related infrastructure such as S106 contribution to traffic matters, for example at the Hen & Chicken/A31 junction.

A resident asked Mr. Kemp-Gee what is happening to the Hen & Chicken filling station. Dist. Cllr. Miss Watts said she would look into the matter.

## **ITEM 9 REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR (Ms G. Watts)**

Ms Watts mentioned the Joint Core Strategy, especially houses numbers, budget, future plans. This Joint Core Strategy, with the South Downs National Park, had been turned down by the inspector because he said more houses were wanted and there should be more information in it about gypsies and 'travellers'. So more worked had to be done and it would be re-presented. Several other councils' core strategies had also been rejected because the government wanted more housing.

The average age of first-time buyers in East Hampshire was 40. Over a thousand new houses had been built in Alton and more would be wanted elsewhere. There were over 14,000 households aged over 65 and this was forecast to increase.

Rebuilding of Alton Sports Centre should be decided by 2017 when the leisure contract is due for renewal.

In the budget, revenue support grants had been reduced and investments had not kept up. East Hampshire was one of the lowest taxing authorities, even though Eric Pickles had said their council tax could be increased.

Regarding the future to 2020, East Hampshire is working with local authority partners, and they want to be able to provide services locally instead of all at Penns Place. They want more young people voting and becoming councillors.

The applications for the Treloars site are to go to the committee soon, and their top planning officers had been working on it. It was because of Froyle's Planning Guidance that the site had not gone to a big developer who might have put many more houses on the site.

## **ITEM 10 REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL (Mr. M. Wells)**

The Parish Council continues to be very busy, this, I think, has been probably the most difficult year this village has or will know. Many meetings have taken place this year, many applications have come our way, as well as the general issues that crop up over a year.

Some of our main planning and business this year has included:

### *The former Treloar main site*

Having studied the 244 documents involved with this application, the parish council came to a decision to support the applications, but with various conditions.

The Nicolas James Group site application goes before district planning on the 25th of this month.

### *West End Farm*

We have at the moment an application for change of use from agricultural to industrial use. The farm buildings are now said to be redundant. It would appear that there is now not a working farm, except perhaps, for Isnage, in the whole of Froyle, and a concern that a desire for new entrants to enter into farming will be thwarted.

### *West End Farm proposed wood waste site*

Parish Council objected to this application: traffic, noise, diseased wood, proximity to woodland were some of the issues. Nick Whines spoke at Winchester on the council's behalf, with support from county councillor Mark Kemp-Gee. The application was refused.

### *Westburn Fields*

We have not received any further news on the proposed re-development.

### *Recreation Ground Grass Cutting*

This year we hope to be able to maintain the rec. somewhat better than the wet summer of last year. More cuts and better timing are what we are aiming for, but of course we are always reliant on the weather.

### *Grant Applications*

Each year various organizations apply to us for grant aid, this year grants have included Bentley School (£400), Alton Counselling Service (£100), and that worthwhile mine of information The Froyle Archive (£400).

### *Signage*

Discussions are now taking place regarding not only the missing village name signs, but also the number of signs at the Hen & Chicken.

### *Precept*

The money the Parish Council has available to spend is collected through your community charge and known as the precept. We as a council have to decide every year where to channel what monies we have. In the year 2011/2012 our precept was £16,500, knowing that in the coming year we would have to make various repairs and improvements we raised the precept to £17,500, our largest increase for some while.

For comparison, some may have seen in the local paper precepts from nearby villages. Farringdon, a similar elector population as Froyle, has raised their precept significantly to £31,000, Selborne has nearly £31,000, Binsted £56,000 and Bentley £28,000.

Finally, as always, thanks to those who volunteer their time for the village, to all the representatives of the groups, to Philippa, our clerk, and Phil Elliot, our internal auditor, District Councillor Glynis Watts and our County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee.

My thanks to Ian, Nick and David our planning sub committee. Their time spent on planning issues this year has been extraordinary: the former Treloar site and the proposed wood waste site as well as the usual type of applications have meant that we, the rest of the council were able to reach decisions with much more clarity.

This is not to forget the council as a whole whose workload over the last year should not be underestimated.

Just a reminder you can keep up with Froyle Parish Councils minutes and agendas on [froyleparishcouncil.org.uk](http://froyleparishcouncil.org.uk)

**ITEM 11 ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS**

Mrs. Milam said she was impressed by Ms Essenson's hard work on the Parish Plan, and grateful thanks were expressed to Ms Essenson.

The chairman and the parish council were thanked for their hard work on planning applications in particular.

Date.....

Chairman.....