

**MINUTES OF THE FROYLE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

held in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 23rd APRIL 2014** at 8.15 pm

Present:

Mr MJ Wells, Chairman
Mr. D. Collingborn, 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)
24 members of the public

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. and Mrs. Black, Mrs. Booth, Mr. Cray, The Rev. Mr. Y. Dubreuil, Mr. K. Foster, Ms. Ginsberg, Mr. Thursfield, Mr. Potter, Mrs. A. Roberts.

2 MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 15th APRIL 2013

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 15th April 2013 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 MATTERS ARISING None

Item 5 was taken at this point in the meeting.

4 REPORTS FROM VILLAGE GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

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

Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen

I hope you will all understand why I feel unable to give this report on my beloved Meeting Place and I am grateful to David for reading it for me.

The Meeting Place celebrates its 24th birthday this year and I would like to thank all those wonderful helpers and bakers who have been with me all that time. A special mention goes to Pat Parrott, who has always been there for me.

During the year, as well as our ordinary Friday mornings, we have celebrated quite a few birthdays and our Christmas Meeting Place was well attended. We were delighted to see Father Christmas as usual and this year our Carols were led by Diana Moore, who lives in Hussey's Lane. Diana, as many of you know, is a professional singer, who travels all over world. One week it's The Albert Hall, the next it's Froyle Village Hall. We really were most grateful to her. As well as being such a happy get-together, the Christmas Meeting Place, along with the Easter Meeting Place, raises much needed funds to keep everything running smoothly.

The doubling up on helpers in the kitchen has continued to be successful, especially as we seem to be getting busier and busier.

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!

May I end by saying how much I will miss you all and wish those ladies, who will be running The Meeting Place from now on, every success.

Mr. Robertson expressed grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Booth for devising and organising the Meeting Place. Mr. Wells added thanks from the parish council.

4.2 The Froyle Archive (Mr. C. Booth)

Chairman, Ladies & Gentleman,

Quite a lot has gone on since our last report a year ago.

We have followed the demolition of the Treloar Site and the restoration of “Gasston House”, now “Froyle Park”, recording the progress in over 1000 photographs, nearly 250 of which are on the Archive website. Along with several others, we shed a tear as the Newton Davis Hall finally lost its battle with the demolition teams and took great pleasure in the care being taken in “Froyle Park” itself. We are, of course, planning to continue to follow the building works on the rest of the site, and we’ve established some ground rules with Linden Homes for us to photograph with the modern development.

Our “Open Day & Village Reunion” on Sunday, June 23rd, with a theme of “Historic Houses of Froyle”, was a great success with a regular flow of visitors throughout the day.

Our regularly changing exhibition in the display cabinet at the back of St Mary’s Church continues with the current subject, rather appropriately, of “Froyle Place 1620 - 2014 - From Jacobean Mansion to Country Club”, which will be replaced by a new subject at the beginning of June.

Also we have recorded the ongoing restoration of the hatchments in St Mary’s Church, firstly in November last year and, more recently, in March of 2014. Before and after photographs are posted under St Mary’s on the website.

The biggest project, however, is a spin-off from our co-project with the local villages, as part of the “Alton & the Villages Forum”, to research and record as much as we can about the names of the fallen on our war memorial. This has enabled, for the first time, the names of the fallen to be read out in full at the Remembrance Service in November, and, following a discussion with the Parish Council, we were asked to expand the research to produce a book “Lest We Forget - Froyle in the Great War”. This will be in hardback to match “Froyle, 100 Years of Memories” and “A Village School” and will tell the story our village and its people from around 1900 to the mid 1920s.

Progress on this continues apace, with, so far, at least seven volunteers joining us to help search for any information about Froyle during the period of the Great War.

The book will, hopefully, be ready well in time for Remembrance Day this year and a copy will go free to every household in the village, thanks to funding by the Parish Council.

It will also tie in very nicely with our Open Day next year, hopefully on June 14th – which, poignantly, would be two days before Robert Scrivener, who is still remembered every November by a small cross and poppy on the War Memorial, was killed at Gallipoli. The main exhibition will be “Froyle in the Great War” which will give us a chance to display material that won’t fit in the book, and also to sell extra copies to recoup some of the costs for the Parish Council.

Details of how to reserve additional copies will be in the Village Magazine in the near future. (we’ve already had people enquiring about buying extra copies!).

The Open Day will also celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Froyle Archive.

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, as well as for funding this very exciting project - thank you Parish Council.

4.3 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.

4.4 **Good Companions Club** (Mrs M Fry)

We would like to thank the ladies of the village who give us hospitality through the summer months. We went to the Hen & Chicken again for our Christmas Lunch. We should meet on the second Wednesday of the month but because the Better Balance meet on a Wednesday we have changed to Thursday and this month we are also trying out a new venue at Barn Field Close.

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

This item does not form part of the APM Minutes but is presented here for the record.

2013 was a really good year for the club. Following the inspiring talk by Fergus Garrett from Great Dixter, many of us visited the garden in the summer. This proved very popular. We also visited John Selfe's garden at Dogmersfield which was quite spectacular. Brenda and Ernie Milam held an `At Home` evening which included a visit to Witchen where the interesting planting was very much admired. The three shows were very much affected by the weather. The Spring Show was poor following the extremely late spring. The summer sunshine gave us a spectacular Summer Show but the drought led to a poor showing in the autumn. Anne Blunt's continuing flower arranging classes have added to our membership and also produced spectacular displays. We have had speakers on various topics ranging from the Jerusalem Botanic Gardens to Autumn Bulbs. The New Year's party was as always very successful. We now have some new members on the committee which is breathing in new life and enthusiasm and we are beginning a series of new workshops for new and experienced gardeners. Hopefully we will be going from strength to strength.

Brenda Milam

4.6 **The Fête** (Ms M. Ginsberg/Mr. Knowles)

Last year's Fête was our most financially successful for many years. Profit exceeded £4000. The Fête Committee passed on £3500 to the Village Hall, which covered £2000 for 2013 and £1500 for 2012. The current bank balance is just over £3500.

The Committee purchased a container for exclusive use by the Fête, which frees up space in the first Village Hall container. We are very grateful to the Parish Council for their generous direct contribution of £500, plus their ordering of the container, which saved us the VAT. The cost to the committee was thus £1900 – a worthwhile investment.

This year's Fête will be opened by Jenny Gove, a longstanding stalwart of the Committee. My thanks, as ever, to all on the Committee and the many villagers who work so hard, with unfailing good humour, to make the fête succeed, come rain or shine.

Thank you to everyone who makes it such a success.

4.7 **The Froyle Village Magazine** (Mr D. Robertson)

New system of sharing editorship has been going now for 18 months and is working well - there are now 5 editors: Ian & Madeleine Black, Ian Whitmore, Phil & Sarah Roberts, David & Susie Robertson, and (new addition) Sarah Khan. Mary Knowles is retiring temporarily but we will still keep her and William in the loop.

New computer and software has made our lives easier - many thanks to the PC for approving and to Ian Black and Chris Booth for road-testing.

New columns started in the last year include View from the Fields, Recipe, Froyle Lives.

New columns planned include a Junior Section (including news from Bentley School), Police (Louisa Whatmore), Good Walks, Bin Collection Timetable.

We will continue to encourage regular contributions from Glynis Watts and/or Mark Kemp-Gee, and from all involved at Treloar Park.

Revamped sections Gardening Notes, Meeting Place.

More streamlined advertisements and rates introduced, Froyle residents ads to be given more/earlier prominence.

Concern that local matters quite often seem to be bypassed/presented as a fait accompli, eg the swings, problems during the Treloars development, the revitalised Hen & Chicken garage: we would suggest they be given more of an airing in the magazine in advance - as the main organ of information for the village, we would request that the PC takes up its pen more and writes ...

Finally, we would like to emphasise that this is your magazine and contributions and ideas from all residents will continue to be encouraged.

4.8 **Froyle Village Hall Trustees Report for 2013 (Mr. J. Saunders)**

Reported at the Froyle Village Hall Management Committee annual general meeting on 23rd April 2014. This item is not part of the APM Minutes but is presented here for the record.

The Hall was well used during 2013 but proved a relatively quiet year for Village Hall run events but very busy once again on projects to enhance and refurbish the Hall. The trustees remained active, meeting regularly on the middle Wednesday of the month with a good level of attendance.

The committee swelled in numbers this year as news of how fun it was filtered through the village. We are pleased to announce that Royston Annible, Yvonne Irvine and Toby Jay are now fully-fledged committee lifers. They have already been very active and got involved which is what we like.

The Treasurer's report shows an increase in hiring's and takings generally across the year, despite an increase in the charge-out rates to cover increased costs which we discussed at the last AGM, which is encouraging. Charlie will explain more in detail after my report.

The last AGM was held on Monday 15 April 2013 preceding the Parish Meeting. The committee and officers agreed to stand again and were re-elected.

Events

- This year Bingo was swapped for the ever so popular Race Night. This was well attended and a healthy profit was made to swell the Village Hall funds.

- The Bonfire Party held as always on 5 November was generally considered the best yet. Due to exceptionally mild weather on the evening attendance was up significantly. Once again no fee was charged and the bucket collection and the sales of food and drink more or less covered the costs.

- The Christmas Carols were sadly cancelled in the hall this year, as the weather was so dreadful.

-The village Plan had highlighted the wish for a film night, despite this desire no one could be found to champion and run with it as an idea. However the Village Hall committee decided it was too good an idea to miss and in November our first Film night was held. Showing Slum dog Millionaire and offering a curry and bar. This was a highly successful event and the decision was taken to run with it and since have had one more with another three planned and booked into the schedule for this year.

Activities

The mothers and toddlers group continued to be well attended during 2013 and there is now an outside group, Toddler Sense, on a Wednesday morning.

The Youth Club has sadly not reopened, as it seems impossible to recruit somebody to run and help organise the weekly event.

- Various art groups continue to make good use of the hall

- Keep fit, Better Balance and computer classes have flourished, as has the Gardening Club.

- The '100 Club' is working well and increasing its membership under the vigilant eye of William Knowles. Subscriptions can now be paid by standing order.

Lavatory refurbishment project

I am pleased to report that due to the generosity of Froyle Parish Council and Hampshire County council and certain very generous village individual donations and raiding the Village Hall reserves, we have been able to complete the much awaited Lavatory refurbishment. We are very pleased with the result that seems to have enhanced the whole visitor experience.

Front Door Replacement

At the same time as the refurbishment project we also stripped out and replaced the front doors and sidelights with energy efficient and double glazed glazing. We have had quite a few teething problems with the use of wooden doors and the rather wet weather we have had causing them to swell significantly. I feel we have now rectified this defect. We are mindful that we may need to revisit this, as this wasn't as successful as we may have wished for.

Village Hall Logo and Branding

I hope that all of you have noticed that we have been branded. The Village Hall has a new Logo, it appears over the front door albeit very subtly and we use it on all of our internal literature and marketing leaflets. We have also developed a post card 'flyer' that I am sure you will have seen on the counters of local stores and public houses. This has been well received and has generated some enquiries from it.

Maintenance and cleaning

Cindy Dennis our housekeeper has continued to do a splendid job and has become a very valued member of the committee.

I reported last year we had a problem with the central heating system, I am pleased to say we didn't have to dig up the floor to repair it and we managed to reroute the pipework and solve the problem relatively cheaper and a lot easier, without so much disruption.

After 30 years we also decided it was high time to replace the curtains and poles and install black out roller blinds. A local supplier was sourced and the project was completed in record time. The Village Hall and a generous donation from a Villager funded the project.

Publicity and promotion

The VHC reports regularly to residents via the Village Magazine, with the change in organisation and changing editors we have found it difficult to keep up with effectively selling our product to the Village and keeping the Village informed on time. We will endeavour to sort this out this year. With social media becoming ever so much part of every day life, would Facebook and Twitter help?

The web site at www.froylevillagehall.co.uk has been much improved and is maintained and updated by Martin McRiley.

As mentioned earlier the promotional card has now been completed and seems to be popping up everywhere.

Looking to the future

Due to the Development at Treloars we bid and under the section 106 agreements of Developers contributions, we were successful and have been awarded £10,000.00, to spend on a project that will improve the Village Hall.

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

We don't have to spend this money immediately and would welcome your input and suggestions; after all this is YOUR HALL we are merely custodians for you. So please address any ideas to me after the meeting and I will gladly consider them with my committee.

The trustees have continued to think about the implication of a greatly increased population moving into Upper Froyle as a result of the redevelopment of the Treloar site. We have nothing to report at this stage and can once again confirm there are no plans to enlarge the hall or are there any funding to do this.

The trustees would welcome more involvement from residents. We are always looking for new blood and new ideas, we are, I hope you agree, very pro active and respond positively to the villagers' suggestions and ideas. We also have a lot of fun, so if you are interested please let me know. The majority of the current committee have now served for 8 years

Finally may I personally take this opportunity to thank you- the good people of Froyle, for your constant and tireless support of the Village Hall, and for everything we do in it. Every year I say this and every year I am truly bowled over by your generosity and kindness that you give to me, and my committee. It really does make it pleasurable to serve you all.

This leads me on to thank the committee, they are a great fun group of individuals that give up a huge amount of their precious time to run events and manage the daily running and up keep of the Village Hall. With out them, none of this would be possible, to all of you; I lead the thanks in thanking you.

Thanks to Jo who runs the bookings and holds the key to the hall, she seems to always be on call one way or another 24/7 and when ever we have an event seems to be continually cooking and cleaning and washing up, so Jo many many thanks for your extreme dedication.

And lastly special thanks as always go to Charlie and Nick. These two individuals are very special people who do so much behind the scenes, most of which is unsung, you both also make me look good and fill in the cracks and tidy up behind me when I have a crazy idea. So thank you both.

To conclude on a happy note, this year marks the Village Halls 30th Birthday. To mark this landmark event and achievement, we have decided to throw a Village party on June 21st, midsummer's day. The event will be free and a way of celebrating and saying thank you for 30 years. Details will be announced via the village magazine, email lists and posters, and we hope that all of you will come and help celebrate with us and raise a glass to this great INSTITUTION.

Thank you. That concludes the Trustees report.

Jerry Saunders, Chairman, April 2014

4.9 **Village Agents** (Mrs. M. Black, read by Mrs. Bradley)

What is a Village Agent?

Village Agent volunteers bridge the gap between the community in which we are based and the voluntary and statutory organisations offering services for older people in the area.

We are well trained and provide high quality information and help to put older people in direct contact with agencies and organisations that can offer help and advice. By providing access to the right information at the right time Village Agents have helped many older people to live independently in their homes and communities for longer.

In Froyle we have organised weekly Better Balance sessions, ably led by Sue Sharman. We have also shared information from Age Concern Hampshire and scam alerts from Trading Standards.

New volunteers are always welcome so if you have friends or relatives in rural areas who would like to be involved, please speak to us or the Village Agent Co-ordinator at Age Concern Hampshire.

For more details about this or for anything else, please do contact us.

4.10 **The Church in Froyle** (Mr. W. Knowles)

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Apologies from Yann for his absence – the week after Easter is one of the few quiet periods when a vicar can escape for a few days. I would just like to make four points about the church.

First is an observation triggered by Chris Booth's comments earlier in the meeting; he referred to the Clive Barter cabinet (which celebrates village events more than church ones) and the hatchments with their unique historical significance. I would just emphasise that our church building is there for the benefit of the whole village, not just regular church goers. It is a beautiful building on the inside as well as out, and houses the remarkable vestments, some of which are always on display, as well as everything else. I would urge everyone, whether or not they normally go to church, to go and spend time there occasionally.

I would also like to thank the parish council for its support in the upkeep of the churchyard, which is much better maintained these days.

Secondly, the new residential developments in Upper Froyle: none of us know how these developments will affect village life, but it is clearly something the church needs to consider. The most immediate impact will be the weddings at Froyle Park. Froyle Park have had enquiries about using the church for the marriage ceremony. There are restrictions in that, if you do not live in Froyle, you have to be a regular worshiper at the church to get married there, but this can

be achieved by attending services at least once a month over a six month period, so for those serious about wanting a church wedding, it is achievable.

Yann already has experience of this with the Bury Court wedding venue in Bentley. It is good to accommodate those who are really committed to a church wedding. It also, however, raises questions of resources, both in terms of Yann's time and in terms of the back-up which we would need to provide as a church. So this is an exciting challenge for us.

Thirdly, the prospect of the changes which will come with the new developments has prompted the PCC to look more generally at the church's role in the community: whether we can make better use of the church building for events other than services – art exhibitions, concerts, debates...? Any suggestions...? Should we broaden the generally traditional types of service which our regular congregation favours? Should we do more services and church-related activities outside the church building - along the lines of the pet service in the village hall the day after the fete?

These are not new questions: some of you remember that the church carried out a consultation with the village a few years back – it was that process which resulted in the pet service. We think it is time to renew that discussion across the broader village. As a start, members of the regular congregation have been asked to answer three simple questions about their views on the church, and it would be good if anyone else in the village who would like to do so - even if you never go near the church - could answer those questions as well. Copies of the questions are available from me at the end of the meeting.

Finally – and again going back to what Chris Booth said earlier - we have been discussing with Chris and Annette whether the church should play a part in the WW1 commemorations which they have considered in such depth. We all think it should. We haven't got very far in our thinking, but we are considering doing something slightly different than usual on Remembrance Sunday, perhaps starting at the church, then going to the war memorial, and then on to the village hall, where the Booths' book will be available. At the church and war memorial, there will be a dedication on a more individualised basis than we usually do (or perhaps the first part of a four year process of dedication) to the thirty-two men who died in WW1 and who are listed at the memorial. We shall keep the Parish Council and the village generally informed as we progress these ideas, and welcome the thoughts of others.

Thank you.

William Knowles

4.11 Froyle Baby and Toddler Group (Mrs. A. McRiley, read by the Clerk)

The core committee of the toddler group has remained unchanged over the past year. Sylvie Nonhebel and Toby Faye have been taking more active roles in running things as the time draws nearer that Anthea McRiley and Alison Lopes leave the group as their youngest children are due to start school.

The group continues to be supported by families from Froyle, Long Sutton and Bentley and we have had a few new families from these villages come along in the past 12 months. Within Froyle residents hear about the Baby and Toddler group from the regular inserts in the village magazine. Outside of the village word of mouth is the main way that new families hear about us. As we meet on a Thursday many children aged 3 or 4 attend pre-school rather than come along to the toddler group. While this does impact on the number of children who are able to attend our group, parents of younger children do comment positively on the calm nature of the group.

Over the past year the number of families attending the group has remained steady although we have been less popular with child-minders who previously travelled to the group from further afield. At this point in time there are no plans to specifically attract child-minders, but we are hopeful that our number of attendees will increase when the new housing at Froyle Park becomes occupied. Financially this has been our toughest year yet as the rent for the village hall increased by 25%. We have used our savings to cover the rent and we received a donation that has enabled us to continue the weekly craft activity table. We are reluctant to increase the £2, per family, per week charge to attend the group as we do not wish to exclude any families and feel this is a fair

charge. The group would like to thank Froyle Parish Council who have recently pledged support to the group to help us cope with the increased rent. The group are also grateful to the Village Hall Committee who have purchased infant sized tables and chairs which will be available for the Toddler group to use, along with other hirers of the village hall.

Looking forward, we are working with the village hall to improve the storage arrangements for the Toddler group toys. We have also applied to District Councillor Glynis Watts for a grant in order to replace the worn-out train track with a new, more robust toy. I am hoping the group will be in a strong position when I take a back seat and hand over to the new committee in September.

Anthea McRiley

4.12 Froyle Park (Mr. Dirk Talsma)

Mr. Talsma reported that work has started on the upstairs of Froyle Park. Completion is expected in September. When the building is finished, the village will be invited to an open evening. It will be run as a private members' club. Other developments at the site are continuing. The Nicolas James Group are keen to make progress on the shop, which should be open within the next few months.

Questions were raised about the car parks for Froyle Park. Mr. Talsma explained that there was one at the entrance to Froyle Park, with 22 spaces and 16 at the side of the building, and overflow car park to the west, parking in the avenue only when necessary, and another for building work. Events such as weddings, meetings and local community activities would be the main revenue-raising events at Froyle Park, with approximately one wedding per week. There could be approximately 300 people on the site, and the overflow car park would be needed. However, NJG prefer not to use this as accessing Froyle Park from it could be dangerous, so they may use a golf buggy type vehicle to transfer visitors from the car park to the Park.

5 LOCAL POLICING MATTERS (PCSO David Nops)

PCSO Nops explained that PC Whatmore had been moved to another area. Four PCSOs will now be policing this area. PCSO Nops covers a large area. Travellers were being moved from the Tesco building site in Alton and would be looking for another site. If anyone sees anything suspicious they should telephone 999, not 101.

6 PARISH PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (Mr. A. Potter, read by the Chairman)

1. Community Projects

Froyle Good Neighbours (John Sexton): The Foyle Good Neighbours Scheme continues to function well. We have fifteen volunteers, albeit most are husband and wife teams. We have dealt with about 12 cases since last October. This is not many but is exactly what the Committee was expecting: Froyle is such a supportive community that almost all people have immediate neighbours or old friends that can assist in times of emergencies. With the other excellent support organisations in the village, the villagers rarely require our services – but we are there when they do.

Community Shop (Vacant): The project team has made repeated requests via email and telephone to NJG to meet and discuss the draft Heads of Lease and other issues regarding the shop design and operation. Having received no responses to these requests and despite NJG continuing to build the shop premises, the project team recommended to the Parish Council in April that the project should be discontinued. NJG was made aware of this recommendation and a meeting with the Parish Plan Implementation Project chair, Michelle Essenson, Glynis Watts and a member of the shop project team has now been arranged for 29 April. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether there is a basis to continue and the outcome will be reported to the Parish Council in May. Feedback from the village on their support for a shop including how and when they might use it would be much appreciated. Email your thoughts to Andrew Potter at apotsing@tiscali.co.uk.

Village Social Events (Karen Potter): In early February a very successful Bingo evening was held with a good night out being had by all. Later in that month, the second Froyle film night was held with *Captain Phillips* screening to a full house at the Village Hall. Three further film night dates have been fixed for the remainder of 2014.

Planning is well underway for the mid-Summer party on 21 June to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Village Hall – make a note of the date in your diaries!

Resident Welcome Pack (Nigel Bulpitt): The Working Party meets again on 22 April to review a second draft of the proposed document. The drafts are now being prepared in a form that facilitates printing, includes colour graphics and photographs. We are on track but at this point ((12 April) we still await the Parish Council's welcome letter.

Youth Tennis (Susie Robertson): There has been some interest in youth tennis in the village, but unfortunately the court which had been offered, is no longer available. Now that tennis weather seems to have arrived, a fresh appeal for players and courts will be made in the May parish magazine so hopefully this will move the project forward. An offer of tennis coaching has been received if we get enough players.

Outdoor Gym Equipment (Michelle Essenson): No update received

Vestment Conservation (Madeleine Black): Froyle Vestment Group have received their donation of £10,000 from the Nicholas James Group (NJG). The diocese has approved our list of items for conservation and the first two items have gone to conservators. A banner will be taken to the Royal School of Needlework next week.

2. Traffic and Transport (Ian Deans):

Bentley Station parking: Discussions have been held with Mark Kemp-Gee (HCC Councillor) who has been pursuing this issue with SouthWest Trains. Mark has been instrumental in getting more spaces at Alton which has to some extent, alleviated the problems at Bentley. This issue is therefore 'parked' for the time being.

Community Transport Scheme: Ways are being investigated to spend the S.106 funds from NJG in the most appropriate fashion to ensure that it achieves long lasting benefits for the whole community. We are currently revisiting the original data to be sure we address specific needs raised there, and will be consulting with other village groups to determine need. We have been speaking with HCC and EHDC about existing community transport options, and the current 206 service which we do not want to inadvertently lose. HCC are currently consulting (again) on the future of bus services and we will be gathering opinions from the village to make a response.

Traffic in the village: A traffic survey is being arranged to get an accurate picture of the number, speed, size and destination of traffic through the village. We have researched all the various traffic calming measures, their effect on traffic speed and numbers, together with their impact on the essential character of the lanes through the village. Once we have accurate data, we hope to make recommendations on the appropriate measures to be pursued.

3. Countryside and Biodiversity

Wildlife Pond (Gill German): A donation of £20,000 towards the construction of two Wildlife Ponds at the bottom of Gid Lane has been promised by NJG as part of their contributions to the village. These will provide valuable additional habitat to local wildlife, particularly the Great Crested Newt. Villagers will be able to spend time at the ponds watching the wildlife and, if interested, could get involved in managing and maintaining this valuable resource. A lot of leg work has been put in already but no progress has been made over recent months as there was no way anything could have been done on site given the bad weather.

A meeting with NJG is now required urgently to determine the way forward but to date there has been no response from them to our repeated requests to meet. Once a start date has been agreed, those who have volunteered to plan/clear/build/plant the ponds can be given something to do.

Crop Spray Drift (Michelle Essenson): No update received

Wildlife Walks/Talks (Sue Sharman): The Wildlife walks and talks are still going on - to date we have had talks on hedgehogs, helping wildlife in the garden during the winter and amphibians and reptiles.

Events planned for 2014 are:

April 26 - a visit to the Amphibian and Reptile conservation trust at the Witley Centre

May 10 - following on from a very enjoyable walk in May 2013, Keith Betton, the Hampshire Bird Recorder, has again kindly agreed to guide us on a walk in Froyle woodlands to listen and look out for birds

October - talk about birds of North Hampshire

In addition another walk (or 2) will be arranged during the summer.

Financially, the donations at the door cover the hire of the hall and donations are given to the speaker. There will a small charge for the walks to cover donations to the walk leaders and any other expenses.

Dog Poo (Jane Macnabb): A new joint waste bin has replaced the red dog pin on the recreation ground. This bin will be emptied by the council at no extra cost to the Parish Council. The siting and fixing of a dog bag dispenser is being investigated.

4. Business & Communications (Mark Phillips)

Broadband Services: No further activity being undertaken (see January 2014 report)

Mobile Phone Services: No update received

Froyle Business Directory: No update received

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

Whilst progress on the VDS has not been as quick as we had hoped for over the last few months, we have made good progress in producing a draft document that is based upon the various issues raised in the parish wide consultation and is in a format which meets the requirements for the document to be adopted as supplementary planning guidance. We have had initial discussions with East Hampshire District Council, who as planning authority, will need to approve the document.

Within the next few weeks, we will be tabling a draft document with them for initial feedback. Following this, the intention is to make the VDS available to people within the Parish as a final draft for comment. The VDS will then need to go through a formal process with EHDC before being adopted as planning guidance applicable to the parish.

Finally, thanks should go to all of those who have given their time and expertise to assisting with this process over the last 12 months.

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

Mr. Kemp-Gee apologised for late arrival and explained that he had just come from the Annual Parish Meeting at Selborne. He reported that he is in regular contact with the parish council on various issues, and has met PCSO Nops and Dist. Cllr. Watts many times.

There was a question raised about the A31 dual carriageway contraflow gap: Mr. Kemp-Gee reported that these have now been covered with topsoil and turf because they are not to be used for contraflow again. In answer to a question, he said that he did not know why they had been re-turfed but that it had not been part of a long-term plan to have contraflow gaps.

9 REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR (Ms G. Watts)

Pleased to report that we have had a year's stability within our group at EHDC, with no leadership change, or indeed challenge. This means that we move into election year (2015) with our current leader – first time in four years.

The leader's vision is to move EHDC towards independence from government grants over the next few years, whilst not bringing in any council tax increase. We plan to do this by continuing our

partnership working, Havant and Winchester, and expand this where it makes sense, plus looking to the private sector for both partnership working and ideas for finding other income streams. To assist, a non-executive board of local business luminaries has been set up – unpaid – who will bring their expertise to the issues and we hope come up with some innovative ideas.

Very pleased to say that our joint core strategy has been found sound by the inspector and will be formally adopted by the council in early May. Unfortunately we did not get our way on two important issues. The word minimum in regards to housing numbers remains – a minimum for East Hampshire of 10,060 in the plan period. Plus we have to delete the sequential approach to the release of lands for housing. We had wanted our strategy to say that brownfield sites would be used before greenfield.

This is all very much to do with the push by central government for more housing and they are using every carrot and stick available to them.

So in Alton for the plan period, we already had in the region of 1,000 new homes, either recently completed, or in the works. The new JCS required that we find a further 700 on new greenfield sites. In fact developers are massing at the gates and we have potential applications in the region of 1100. To run through these: Already included – the Coors site for 85 – issues in the application and committee delayed to approximately August. Expecting an application soon for 530 for south Alton – Borovere Farm and Treloars. This application includes improvements to Butts bridge, and a sizeable sum towards a new sports centre in Alton. Will Hall – 200 homes. Initial discussions with EHDC, and a public exhibition held. Land west of Old Odiham Road – 100 homes – initial discussions with EHDC and a public exhibition held. Highmead – 120 homes, discussions held with EHDC. Cadnams Farm – 275 homes, held a public exhibition and expect an application soon.

There are major concerns within Alton about the infrastructure needed to cope with all these new houses, particularly water pressure/sewerage/health and schooling. Also roads/traffic jams etc. Very pleased to announce that as a result of very considerable pressure from Mark Kemp-Gee and myself, HCC and EHDC have agreed to jointly fund some consultants to come in, look at all the potential bottle necks and some of our suggested solutions.

Dist. Cllr. Watts reported that the increase of airspace applied for by TAG Farnborough could threaten the existence of Lasham Gliding Club, which is the biggest gliding centre in the world. It was necessary to respond to the application.

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

This has been another busy year for the Parish Council, planning applications come thick and fast, making it necessary for the council to meet more frequently than usual. Four more meetings have been added to the Parish Council's calendar, even more extraordinary ones I'm sure will be needed to cope with the current influx of new applications and changes to existing ones.

Froyle Quarry has been bought by new owners Sarah and Tim Watkins. A consultation was presented to the public in the village hall, and at a Parish Council meeting; we now await an application for the two houses proposed.

Westburn Fields

The wooden clad numbers 38 to 41 are due to be demolished and be replaced with six new houses and two bungalows now approved by District Council, we do not know at this stage the timing of when this happen.

Farnborough Airport

Froyle Parish Council has been notified that TAG want to increase available airspace for Farnborough. This will mean an increase in passenger numbers, resulting in more aircraft flying over Froyle, they will fly low, create more noise disturbance and disrupting glider activity for nearby Lasham, an important centre for gliding activities. More information on this and how to object may be obtained from councillor Ian Deans.

Jubilee Green in Upper Froyle has been in the past cared for by the Treloar Trust. Now that the trust has moved to Holybourne care is no longer provided. With this in mind and for continued care, the Parish Council took the decision to take the Green into its ownership. It is now recorded with the Land Registry as Parish Council property.

The *Millennium map* situated on the Green is in need of repair. The Parish Council have a replacement on order coupled with a more detailed Ordnance Survey map.

The *Recreation Ground* has in the past been subject to grass mowing problems. We are trying to rectify this with more regular mowing and occasional gang mowing.

A new dog poo *bin* has also been provided on the rec.

Grants Awarded

Grants awarded by the Parish Council this year include the Village Hall, Victim Support, Binsted, Bentley and Froyle Care Group, Froyle Baby and Toddler Group, Bentley School, the Froyle Archive and Hampshire County Youth Band.

The *Village Hall car park* tarmac has for some time needed some repairs. We have accepted a quote from a company to chamfer the ledge and renew the tarmac closest to the hall and at this time are awaiting a response from them.

The Play Area

The old broken swing seats have now been replaced with new. The sports hut will require some maintenance and new windows to replace rotten ones.

A31 Junction

As most will by now have seen, the road layout has been slightly changed at the Hen & Chicken, and signage and street furniture has been reduced from 65 units to 41. Despite these measures this remains a difficult junction to make safe.

The *Village Magazine* - although funded by the Parish Council, can only continue due to the efforts of the editors, each editing for a two-month stint, and to the volunteers who continue to deliver to every household.

Finally as always, on behalf of the Parish Council thanks to all of you who represent your groups here tonight and for the work during the year.

Thanks to County Councillor Mark Kemp-Gee, and to District Councillor Glynis Watts for the work they do for the village on our behalf, and for their grants for the village maps.

To Philippa our clerk, Phil Elliot our internal auditor and to Parish Councillors.

Last year I said thank you to our Parish Council Planning Sub Committee for the extraordinary work and time spent on planning issues, this year has been no different. Committee, your work is greatly appreciated.

11 ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS

A comment was made about the number of cyclists passing through the village, especially Well Lane, at speed, and it was asked whether anything could be done to stop this. PCSO Nops explained that cyclists are entitled to use the public road, and the police are more concerned with the safety of cyclists using the main road. Cty. Cllr. Kemp-Gee suggested signage or traffic-calming, and said he would investigate and report to the parish council. A 20-mph speed limit was suggested, but Mr. Wells said that it had been quite difficult to get the present speed limit, and it would be unlikely to slow the cyclists. Mr. Whines suggested contacting the cycling clubs which use the village hall, and reporting bad behaviour by club cyclists.

The parish council were thanked for their work on behalf of the village.

Date.....

Chairman.....