



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
OF ODIHAM, NORTH WARNBOROUGH AND RAF ODIHAM
HELD AT ROBERT MAYS SCHOOL
ON TUESDAY 14th MARCH 2023 AT 6.30pm**

Present:

Residents, councillors and staff: 39

1. Chairman's welcome and housekeeping

Cllr McFarlane opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained housekeeping procedures.

2. Signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 22nd April 2022

Approved.

(Proposed by Cllr McFarlane, seconded by Cllr Verdon).

3. Presentation from guest speaker Arthur McCaffrey from Galleon Marine

4. Council highlights of the year (refer to Appendix 1 for presentations):

5. Reports from Council committee chairs

- Update received from Cllr Verdon Chair of the Planning & Development Committee – Cllr Verdon.
- Update received from Cllr McFarlane, Chair of the Community Committee – Cllr McFarlane.
- Update received from Cllr Coleman, Chair of the Amenity Areas Committee – Cllr Coleman.

6. Summary of achievements for the election term 2019-23 – Cllr McFarlane

7. The Year Ahead – Cllr McFarlane

8. Questions

The following questions were received and responses given:

- i) Are the percentage increases stated on the 2023/24 council tax bill correct?
Response from Cllr Dorn: The Hart percentage figure is incorrect Capita had miscalculated the percentage, the increase should read 2.9% and not 2.6%.
Response from Cllr Glen – almost all county councils had increased their part of the council tax bill by the maximum 5%. A high proportion of the Hampshire County Council tax funds the cost of running adult social services. Finances are “on a cliff edge” and the Council risks not being able to provide vital services if the maximum increase isn't utilised.

- ii) Previous surveys carried out at the cemetery have in the past proved very useful when planning council projects. Can the surveys be used to plan for future use of South Chapel and a footpath running through the cemetery?
Response from Cllr McFarlane – OPC will keep a watching brief on the chapels but OPC's current resources are focussed on The Bridewell. There is a path running through the cemetery but this connects to private land which is out of OPC's control.

- iii) Please can OPC find a balance between greening and housing when considering applications and for the planned Neighbourhood Plan review?
Response from Cllr McFarlane – OPC must respect planning laws and the Conservation Area. There were things OPC could do as part of The Greening Campaign.

Cllr McFarlane thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.