



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
OF ODIHAM, NORTH WARNBOROUGH AND RAF ODIHAM
HELD AT THE OLD SCHOOL, LONDON ROAD, ODIHAM
ON TUESDAY 30th APRIL 2024 AT 6.30pm**

Present:

Residents, councillors and staff: 43

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 14th March 2023

Approved.

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

3. Presentation from guest speakers:

i) Sam Mabbott, CEO, Hart Citizens Advice (refer to meeting papers for presentation).

ii) Revd Chris Dudgeon, All Saints Church – community support projects (refer to meeting papers for presentation).

4. Council highlights of the year and community awards presented by Cllr McFarlane

Cllr McFarlane reported on the Council highlights of the year (refer to meeting papers for presentation) and referred to copies of the Annual Report available at the meeting for people to read. Cllr McFarlane confirmed that the Annual Report would be published on OPC's website and Facebook page the following day.

Community awards were presented to:

- i) Kathryn Ball - for "supporting every community event and project going - from selling tickets for events to providing refreshments for volunteers. Kathryn also works tirelessly to raise funds for cancer research and support charities Kathryn has also served as a Parish Councillor for more than one term whilst running two businesses at the heart of the High St. She has also served as a Trustee of Odiham Consolidated Charities."
- ii) Helen Fleming – "Helen is a key member of the Odiham Society with extensive knowledge of the Parish which she puts to good use. She was active in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan and has continued to contribute to the monitoring of its application and the recent review. There would not be the Odiham Book Exchange without Helen's contribution and its formation and ensuring role as a director of the CIC. She also served as a Parish Councillor for some 12 years."
- iii) Tom Janaway – "for carrying out works when members of the community post their concerns. He has recently cut back branches and cleared roads of trees that have fallen in the storms. He has never turned down a request of help and is not part of any group."

- iv) Jonny Bass - Youth award – “Jonny has worked tirelessly for his local community. He gets involved in every activity that enables him to give back to the community. Some of the things he got involved in included the Jubilee Tea Dance, where we invite elder members of the community into school to celebrate events that are happening nationally. He gave up his time to make tea and sandwiches as well as play guitar and sing as part of the afternoon activities. He also raises money for local charities this year raising £300 by organising an Easter egg hunt for pupils at Robert May’s School.”

5. Reports from Council committee chairs (refer to meeting papers for presentations)

- i) Planning & Development Committee – Cllr Verdon
- ii) Community Committee – Cllr McFarlane
- iii) Amenity Areas Committee – Cllr Sanger
- iv) Finance Committee – Cllr Tyler
- v) Conservation volunteers work group – Cllr Bell

6. Council priorities for the election term 2023-2027

Cllr McFarlane explained the main priorities listed in OPC’s recently adopted Business Plan (as shown in the presentation) and confirmed the full Plan was also available on OPC’s website.

7. The Year Ahead presented by Cllr McFarlane

Referring again to the new Business Plan which would guide council activities for the next 3 years until the next elections in May 2027. Priorities included community events to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day, a flag raising event for armed forces week, completing a review of the Odiham & North Warnborough Neighbourhood Plan, continuing to upgrade The Bridewell community hub and a retained focus on environmental projects.

8. Questions

The following questions were received and responses given:

- i) What level of funds have been set aside to fight a large warehouse planning application?
There is a total budgeted amount for professional fees of £8,000 which is set aside to cover all professional advice to the Council.
- ii) Can the precept be increased to cover the cost of fighting such an application, estimated to be £100,000?
OPC will continue to review all budgets as opportunities and threats arise.
- iii) What level of reserves does OPC hold?
3-6 months running costs is the sector advice. However, OPC holds just under 6 months, as agreed by Council resolution, due to OPC’s high number of listed buildings and timber play equipment.
- iv) Are there any plans to re-visit previous discussions for a pedestrian path over M3 from North Warnborough to Hook?
OPC would hope to look into this should a suitable opportunity arise.
- v) Are permissive paths recorded by the Parish?
No, people should refer to Hampshire County Council’s definitive map.

- vi) Who is responsible for regulating bins on pavements?
Responsibility was likely to be mixed depending on whether the bins were from residential or business properties. Responsibility could also lie with a management company.

- vii) There are a few permissive paths at the southern end of the Parish, eg Alton Road.
Can OPC do more to identify more routes?
OPC could consider this.

Cllr McFarlane thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.