MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY
OF ODIHAM, NORTH WARNBOROUGH AND RAF ODIHAM
HELD AT NORTH WARNBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 8th APRIL 2025 AT 6.30pm

Present:

Residents, councillors and staff: 37

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 30th April 2024**
   Approved.

3. **Presentation from guest speakers:**
   i) Wg Cdr Field provided an update on behalf of RAF Odiham, including: changes in the Chinook fleet, changes in the station's leading positions, thanks to the community for their ongoing support to the RAF Station, the a new multi-use-games-area, plans for four new Padel courts, and plans to celebrate one hundred years of aviation at RAF Odiham during the year ahead.

   Two questions were raised:
   - What are the height regulations for the flight path over Odiham?
     Cllr Greensides responded saying the regulations stipulated 1,000ft covering five nautical miles around Odiham, much higher than other areas.
   - Were there any plans to reintroduce the rainmaker to the UK?
     Wg Cdr Field was not aware of any plans.

ii) Mr J Champion, local resident, presented the history of The Magna Carta and its significance to Odiham and that 2025 was the 800th anniversary of the definitive charter.

4. **Council highlights of the year**
   Cllr McFarlane reported the Council's 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.

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) War Memorial working group – Cllr Bell

6. **The Year Ahead presented by Cllr McFarlane (refer to meeting papers for the presentation)**
   Cllr McFarlane reported plans for the year ahead, including: Freedom Parade celebrations to commemorate one hundred years of aviation at RAF Odiham, volunteering opportunity, a watching brief on devolution and local government re-organisation in Hampshire, and continued focus on amenity areas including The Bridewell and play areas.

7. Questions

The following questions were received and responses given:

i) What is happening with the public open space at Montfort Place and the plans for Odiham Parish Council to take over the land?

This matter is with the developer, Persimmons Homes, as Hart District Council has not issued the certificate of practical completion due to the land not being managed in accordance with the landscape management plan. Furthermore, no commuted sum for future maintenance had been set when the original planning application was granted.

ii) Has the community governance review looked at combing parish and town councils?

It is up to a parish or town to put forward their own proposal but some councillors were working collaboratively to raise awareness that the community governance review is taking place.

iii) Raising awareness of the Odiham chalk stream - the Whitewater Valley Conservation Society charity is about to embark on river surveys, with an estimated cost of £10,000. The charity is trying to encourage residents to get involved.

iv) The Villages Opposes Warehouses reinforced that the River Whitewater runs adjacent to the proposes warehouses development at Lodge Farm and promotes their petition and recent newsletters.

v) Concerns on the speed limit on King Street.

The new working group is in the early stages of research.

Cllr McFarlane thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.