

**MINUTES OF THE FROYLE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

held in the Village Hall on **Tuesday 17th APRIL 2018** at 8.15 pm

Present:

Mr. K. Anfield
Mr. I. Deans
Mr. I. Macnabb
Mr. S. Maher
Mrs. J. Southern (Chairman)
Mr. N. Whines
Cty.Cllr. M. Kemp-Gee
Dist.Cllr. G. Watts
27 members of the public

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Mr. I. Black, Mr. G. Heyhurst, Dr. A. Roberts, Mrs. M. Stanford.

2 MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD ON 26th April 2017

The minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 26th April 2017 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 MATTERS ARISING None.

4 REPORTS FROM VILLAGE GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS ETC

4.1 The Meeting Place (Mrs. G. Bradley)

Another year has passed and the Friday morning Meeting Place continues to flourish. If you have never joined us, we meet every week from 9.30 to 12.00 in the Village Hall for homemade cake, tea and coffee, with squash for the children. As well as regular Froyle supporters, we are joined by visitors from surrounding villages as well as a group of cyclists from Fleet. Half term and school holidays, and when there is snow on the ground, we have a lot of children, who are able to enjoy the rec and the playground while their parents have a cup of coffee and a chat. The draw for the 100 Club is done on the first Friday of each month.

We celebrate special birthdays with, cake, flowers and very often a glass of bubbly. This year we celebrated a very special 90th birthday.

The Fridays closest to Christmas and Easter are always special days with mulled wine and mince pies for the former and hot cross buns and a painted Easter Egg competition for the latter. We run several charity fund raising events during the year and make regular collections for St. Michael's Hospice, Cancer Research and this year Cardiac Rehab.

We would like to thank all those who support us and especially our team of ladies and gentlemen who help in the kitchen. We would also like to thank those who set up the tables and chairs each Friday and the team who clear away and sweep the floor at the end of the morning. We are extremely grateful to the person who does the kitchen and cake rotas, an unenviable task!

The Meeting Place Team – April 2018

4.2 The Froyle Archive (Mr. C. Booth)

The Froyle Archive 2017 to 2018

Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

We have just reached the halfway mark in the major task of moving the Froyle Archive into a new home at "Adams Field". The move gives us a downstairs bedroom for the first time in nearly forty years which, with Annette's failing ability to climb stairs, makes life more comfortable.

It has also given us a chance to rationalise the material in the archive and, in the process, we have discovered 'long lost gems' (holds up photograph of Esso pipeline from 1981). This exercise should be complete by the summer.

The Clive Barter cabinet mini exhibitions have continued as well as the features in the Froyle Village magazine – April's edition should be about the interior of St Joseph's – the little church by the Well Lane turnings that featured in the March edition.

We have now virtually completed the electoral roll record to the eve of World War 2 and, with the aid of local directories we have a pretty good idea of who lived where in Froyle between 1800 and 1950.

We continue to host websites for the Parish Council, Froyle Fête, the Church Vestment Group and the Village Design Statement as well as publishing the web version of the Village Magazine - usually available to our readers worldwide by the 23rd of the preceding month - and we maintain links to local doctors, businesses, and village organisations.

Most of our records are now backed up to the cloud each night and the websites likewise - the recent fire at "Highway Cottages" has reinforced the necessity of this.

Two mysteries have not been solved – we still can find no trace of an Albert Ward who died in the First World War, and we missed the person, who every year, leaves their own tribute on the War Memorial to Robert Scrivener by just a few minutes!

Everything we do here at the Archive is made easier by the generous grant from Froyle Parish Council whose support has been invaluable over the years, and greatly appreciated – thank you Parish Council.

4.3 Neighbourhood Watch (Mr J. Thursfield)

Report is same as last year: the fewer approaches we have, the better. There is a team of about a dozen volunteers, used twice in the last year. We would like a new chairman. The group continues to function well. Agree to list helpers in the Village Magazine so that residents know who they are and how to contact them.

4.4 Good Companions (Mrs M Fry) No report

4.5 The Gardening Club and Flower Show (Mrs Milam)

Froyle Gardening Club has had a good year with well attended meetings and is in good financial shape. We have had successful outings including a soggy day trip to Forde Abbey. The shows have not always been well supported for various reasons. The flower arranging classes have excelled in numbers thanks to Anne's excellent workshops but there has been a notable lack of entries in fruit and vegetable sections. Geoff Hawkins also carried out helpful workshops in members' gardens. However, we still have no Secretary or Show Secretary and the working committee is very small. We are all grateful to Jim Bellis for his great help with practical matters and all the other people who have helped us. For many reasons I have given notice to leave as Chairman in December but it will be a case of limping through. We now urgently need three officers and two or three more committee members or the club will close.

4.6 Fête Committee (Mr I. Whitmore, read by Mr. Knowles)

71st Froyle Fête, Dog Show and Flower Show Saturday 8th July 2017

We were able to enjoy a warm sunny day for this year's Fête and Flower Show. This certainly helped bring in what we think may be a record number of people. We heard comments from visitors who like the fact that Froyle has a friendly, traditional fête. Takings also reflected the weather, with the beer tent and ice creams showing significant increases on the previous year. In fact the beer tent made above £1,000 for the first time ever. Much of this is due to the ever growing popularity of Janet Dobson's Pimms.

We made some radical changes to the layout this year, moving the beer tent and bbq to a more central position; it is obvious from the takings that everyone found where they had been moved to.

Brenda Milam, in opening the Fête, gave a brief but interesting history of the Flower Show, which we should never forget is an integral part of the day, and again the number of entries particularly from the younger members of the village bodes well for the future.

There was a point, during the children races, when it looked as if the adults may have won the tug of war, but I think that an element of cheating ensured their disqualification. Thanks must go to the Khan family who in their 4th year of organising, managed to ensure the races were a great spectacle.

The Dog Show was its usual chaotic self, although William, together with the judge (Jimmy Murphy, to whom many thanks) and the dogs, were kept under a degree of control by Sarah English and Polly Marshall, whose help prevented the spectacle falling apart completely. The larger arena this year was a great help.

Takings for this year of £6378 was a record. This was certainly helped by the Silent Auction – only the second time this has been held. Thanks to Chris Little and Mary Knowles for putting together a great array of auction items and thanks to those who donated them and to those who successfully bid for them, raising over £1600. The overall profit, whilst up significantly on previous years, was affected by the costs, which too were higher this year. We made a donation to Paul Le Feuvre, who has supported the Fête as MC for 30 years, for his support to Wey Valley Radio.

We were again thankful to a number of organisations and individuals for sponsoring certain items, the Anchor, the Hen and Chicken, the Nicholas James Group for effectively stocking the beer tent and Rawles and Jamie Stewart-Smith for organising a very nice display of cars.

The Fête is very much a village event, so as well as the committee there are many others who play an important part, whether in manning stalls, donating raffle prizes, baking cakes or helping to set up and clear away. We are grateful that each year the village shows off its community spirit to help the success of the event.

Lastly, this Fête was about donating money towards the cost of the playground. So when, near the end of the Fête, Brenda called forward Amelia and Ludo her dog to cut the ribbon (well security tape...), it was so pleasing to see the number of children who rushed to enjoy the new equipment. It is great that the money we raise can bring tangible benefits to the village.

Ian Whitmore

4.7 Froyle Village Magazine (Mr D. Robertson)

2017 can perhaps be best described as a developing year for the magazine. There have been a number of changes - which we hope are improvements – and a continuation of some what we see as our more successful items.

So far as the editing team is concerned, Sarah and Phil Roberts stepped down as editors this year - many thanks for all their efforts - at the same time, we were very pleased to welcome Jonathan & Gillian Pickering to the team, but sadly Sam Sayers was unable to take up the role due to other commitments. So the full team now includes Ian and Madeleine Black, Ian Whitmore, Yvonne Irvine, Jonathan and Gillian Pickering and myself with William and Mary Knowles in a very useful advisory role.

We were asked by the PC towards the end of 2017 whether we needed to raise our advertising rates, particularly as we are now printing and distributing 340 copies per month. This increase is due to the Froyle Park influx, which we are hopeful, if not certain, is leading to an increased readership. There is circumstantial evidence to support this. During the year we may have lost a couple of advertisers but, following a number of initiatives spearheaded by Ian Whitmore and Yvonne Irvine – for which many thanks - we are quite optimistic of improving demand for space in the current year. We think this would be unlikely if there was a feeling of a readership going backwards.

That said, we do remain determined that advertising should not go above 1/3rd of total pages. If the product is good enough then demand for space will be there. And as our printing costs have remained stable we have not increased our rates. Interestingly the Bentley and Binsted magazine has followed our example by making theirs free. The expression to do with imitation and flattery comes to mind...

So far as content is concerned, we have continued with a lot of the columns we introduced over the last couple of years. We thought some of our most amusing contributions were in the “I was There” column and would love to hear more of those – I seem to recall the Chairman hinting that she might be persuaded...?!

We have started a “Save the Date” column which we think is a sensible way of centralising reminders for up and coming village events. We have also been delighted to publish individual contributions from residents about things they may have done or experiences they have had, all of which we think are of interest to the community. And we greatly encourage more contributions of this nature.

Chris Booth’s “From the Froyle Archive” continues to fascinate, the reports from Bentley School are always most informative as to what “the little darlings” are really up to, and the Wildlife Column is a delight.

And looking to the future, we encourage each editor to create their own style which we believe helps to maintain the magazine’s freshness. So for example we have just started “Inconsequential Tales”, a possibly fictional column that will chart ebbs and flows of life in a rural community, or maybe it won’t, but whatever the veracity of the content, it will be a continuing saga which we hope will keep you all amused for months to come...

Finally as ever we remain extremely grateful, not only to the Parish Council for continuing to support us without fear or favour, but also for our wonderful team of distributors who make sure everyone always gets their magazine by the first of every month. A BIG THANK YOU to you all.

There has been a lot going on in Froyle over the last twelve months but we do hope sincerely that we continue to be a fair reflection of life in the village and remain a true voice of its residents both in good times and bad.

David Robertson, Editorial Committee The Froyle Magazine

4.8 Froyle Village Hall Trustees Report for 2018 (Mr. D. Robertson)

Reported at the Froyle Village Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting on 17th April 2018. This item is not part of the APM Minutes but is presented here for the record.

David Robertson thanked Jo Mills for her ten years as Bookings Secretary. He welcomed Gordon Mitchell to the Committee, and Sarah Zorab and Yvonne Irvine who had rejoined.

The Committee had met each month during 2017 and reported its activities in the Magazine.

During the year the Committee had organised three film nights, a Safari Supper, a Race Night, teas for the Garden openings, the Bonfire Night and Christmas Carols, all of which had been successful.

Regular events had included Monday and Tuesday art classes, Better Balance, the Toddler Groups, the Gardening and Wildlife Clubs, Flower arranging and the Meeting Place.

There had been a solid stream of bookings, both from within and outside the Village, including two elections which was excellent news for the hall finances. Income was down slightly over the year but this was largely explained by the fact that the hall was closed for three weeks in January/February, a normally busy period, to allow work on the floor to proceed.

Major expenditure during the year had included refurbishing the floor, redecorating the hall and a deep clean for the kitchen. The automatic flushing mechanism in the gents' loo was replaced. A new control system for the heating system was installed. Outside, the gutters and down pipes had been replaced and the windows repainted and the latches mended. The Committee was grateful to the PC for repointing the patio, to Cllrs Mark Kemp Gee and Glynis Watts for grants towards the cost of the redecoration and to the Fête Committee for their contribution to the cost of the floor.

The Committee had contributed towards the cost of the playground renewal which had greatly enhanced the facilities available to hirers of the hall.

The Child Protection policy had been updated.

The Committee had been working closely with the PC over plans for the future of the football hut.

Looking to the future, a contract had been signed to replace the front doors with aluminium ones at a cost of approximately £5000. Cllr Watts was thanked for her grant of £1000.

David Robertson concluded by thanking Cindy Dennis for her hard work keeping the hall clean and welcoming. He also thanked Sylvie Nonhebel for her work running the Mothers and Toddler Group which now sadly was closing, and the officers and members of the Committee for their enthusiasm and dedication.

The Meeting approved the Report

Treasurer's Report by the Treasurer Charlie Findlay

Charlie Findlay spoke to his report. He thanked Ian Macnabb for inspecting the accounts and for his comments which had all been incorporated. He explained that because the Hall is a charity key financial information had to be provided to the Charity Commission. The overall deficit for the year was £369 vs a surplus for 2016 of £5,495. Although we had budgeted for a small surplus, the unplanned contribution to the playground and the increased cost of the central heating controller were not completely covered by the additional funds generated by the Safari Supper. Our 2018 aim is to make a small surplus at the 'Operating Level' which, with donations and fund raising, should cover the costs of the projects mentioned above, leaving the overall bottom line at breakeven.

The Village Hall accounts for 2017 and accompanying notes can be viewed on the Village Hall website at www.froylevillagehall.co.uk.

The meeting approved the accounts.

Questions

The Bonfire Party was discussed. It was suggested that given the numbers who now attend more bucket shakers were needed particularly in the lower part of the recreation ground.

Parking on the road had been chaotic and it was suggested that visitors be allowed to park on the recreation ground. It was pointed out that this might be more dangerous given the darkness and the numbers of people.

It was pointed out that in 2018 the party would no longer coincide with the weekend and that this might reduce the numbers attending.

The Committee agreed to take all these points into consideration when planning the next bonfire night party.

It was suggested that the deposit be increased to cover situations when clearing up was inadequate. The Committee agreed to discuss this.

A question was asked about whether awnings could be installed to replace the gazebos which were difficult to erect and easily blown over when installed on the patio. The Committee had investigated awnings but had found that the low eaves of the hall made installation problematic. Awnings were expensive and did not work well in the wind and rain being mainly designed to provide protection from

the sun. It was hoped that the refurbishment of the hut might include a permanently covered outdoor area. A plea was made for a wide broom. The Committee agreed to purchase one.

Election of Committee

Members of the Committee having agreed to stand again, Julie Southern proposed and Jenny Gove seconded that the Committee be re-elected. The meeting voted unanimously in favour.

Any other business

William Knowles thanked the officers for their work on behalf of the Hall.

4.9 **Village Agents** (Mrs. M. Black)

I am a volunteer for Age Concern Hampshire, signposting older residents to information they need, for example on benefits, help with heating, or personal alarms. All enquiries are treated as confidential. In Froyle, residents support each other well so there are not many enquiries. I go to cluster meetings with other North East Hampshire Village Agents, which includes training.

I have been trained to help fill in Attendance Allowance forms, so I can cover this area.

The most successful initiative here is Better Balance. Sue Sharman has led these classes regularly for over five years, proof of her enthusiasm and encouragement! The longest break we have had was three months. I will continue to support Sue, whose class developed from the HCC Falls Prevention strategy.

HCC have withdrawn funding for the Village Agent project, but Age Concern Hampshire are continuing while looking for another funding partner. I will see how this develops and my role in this. If there is anyone else interested in volunteering, please talk to me.

4.10 **The Church in Froyle** (The Rev. Y. Dubreuil)

Reported that things are going great. People helping work very hard. Maundy Thursday and Advent Carol Services were highlights. Thanks to Jane Palmer, organist and choir director, the PCC, Michael Starbuck for buildings advice, the churchwardens. A reminder that there is now an Anna Chaplain, Jon Rook, for the elderly. He can visit care homes or individuals at home and is around on Fridays.

4.11 **Froyle Baby and Toddler Group** (Mrs. S. Nonhebel, reported by Mr. D. Robertson)

Sadly the number of attenders has been low and there is currently no volunteer to carry on running the group, which will therefore close. Sylvie Nonhebel organised the group for five years. The toys will be returned to Sure Start, Alton. The Village Hall Committee will make a presentation to Mrs. Nonhebel at the Meeting Place.

4.12 **Froyle Park wedding venue** (David Lago, Manager) No report.

4.13 **Linden Homes** (James Richards) No report.

4.14 **Froyle Good Neighbours** (Mr. J. Sexton)

We regret to announce that Froyle Good Neighbours is to be disbanded. We are simply too small an organisation for Hampshire to continue to fund it. Whilst the actual cash funding has been modest, £250 on our formation, the cost to Hampshire of the administration, the renewal of the Disclosure and Barring Service approvals for the volunteers and the provision of the public liability insurance appears to be too high for the size of the organisation. Without the latter two provisions we cannot continue to operate.

I have spoken at length with the Hampshire Good Neighbours Advisor to examine how we might expand the role of Good Neighbours but, in a village with already much care provision, it is not obvious how to do this without completely changing the role.

Obviously, there will remain many good neighbours in Froyle as there have always been, so we can reassure villagers that their need for help will always be met but on an informal basis. Please feel free to telephone John Sexton (01420 520098) should you need any assistance or the recommendation of a local tradesperson.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who have provided such good assistance over the past five years.

The Committee, Froyle good Neighbours.

4.15 Froyle Wildlife (Mr. B. Clark)

Our group, Froyle Wildlife, has been busy with various projects and our 'walks and talks'. We look after two areas in Froyle, a wildflower area on the recreation ground and a wildlife pond near Gid Lane. There's a website with details of all our events as well as information about the parish and what species have been recorded recently and in the past.

Wildflower area on rec: The wildflower area had its annual cut and rake-up at the end of July, after perennials such as sorrel, ox-eye daisy and knapweed had flowered. Although it was less colourful than the previous year's cornfield annuals, this is to be expected from perennial wildflowers that take time to establish.

This spring we enlarged the area by 5x10m and have sown cornfield annuals only after cultivating the bare ground with help from volunteers. These should flower from July to September and provide nectar at a different time of year from the perennials.

Wildlife pond near Gid Lane: The wildlife pond was funded by developer contributions through East Hampshire District Council and completed in 2016 with the kind permission of Froyle Park. The fenced area surrounding the pond is wildflower meadow about 60x40m area and there is pedestrian access for members from Gid Lane. The pond area can be seen from the adjacent public footpath along the Lime Avenue and there is a location map on our website www.froylewildlife.co.uk/parish/wildlife-pond/.

Last June there was an official pond opening event to celebrate this successful project. We informally monitored the new habitat and the results have been quite astonishing:- 22 species of butterfly; 13 species of dragonfly/damselfly; 2 species of amphibian; 8 species of daytime moths; and 86 species of flowering plants: eg Small copper, common darters, bumblebees, marmalade hoverfly, 7-spot ladybird, mullein moth caterpillar. This diversity of plants and large number of insects attracted to them demonstrates the increase in local biodiversity around this new habitat, so a big thank you to all the volunteers that helped to make this happen.

Walks and Talks: Our talks in the last 12 months included: 'the River Wey –our rivers are nature's superhighways' by Glen Skelton from Surrey Wildlife Trust; 'Harvest Mice' near Selborne by zoologist Dr Francesca Pella, 'Seabirds of Skokholm' by local naturalist Alan Wynde and 'British mammals' – by wildlife author Dominic Couzens. Our walks included visits to Noar Hill for wildflowers and butterflies; to Bentley Station Meadow, a woodland edge habitat for Silver-Washed Fritillary. In August there was a pond dipping event for children at the wildlife pond.

Coming up next is a talk on 'Hampshire's Amphibian and Reptiles' on 19th April (Thursday) at 7.30pm here in the village hall. And of course there's more information on walks and talks on our website, www.froylewildlife.co.uk, so do take a look.

4.16 Speedwatch Group (Mr. G. Mitchell)

The Speedwatch Group, eleven Froyle residents, maintained their vigilance in 2017, albeit carefully avoiding the three winter months of January, February and December for reasons of daylight, not frigidity.

Vehicle speeds are monitored with a mobile detector, which flashes up motorists' speeds with a smiley face if within the limit. Any speeds in excess of 35 mph are reported to Hampshire police along with corroborative details of vehicle make, colour and registration. They contact the speedsters by letter, with repeat offenders having a collar-feeling visit.

On average the group undertook four sessions a month; two mornings from 7.00am to 9.00am and two late afternoons from 4.00pm to 6.00pm, this based on the busiest traffic flow periods. Various village locations were used.

A direct comparison with 2016, with reference to site, date and time was undertaken with the not unexpected result that traffic flow had increased by about 10% but with the proportion of speedsters either static or decreasing. We hope the latter reflects our presence.

Analysis of the police feedback data shows that well over half of the Froyle speedsters live within ten miles of Froyle. Perhaps, with that in mind, local publicity about the consequences of speeding would be indicated.

We have also made representations to the Highways department about HGVs using Froyle Road as a cut through. This has resulted in the promise of altered signage at The Golden Pot crossroads.

As a group we report to the parish council and are recommending to them our preference towards the use of an unmanned detector, which shows drivers their speed. This, to be backed up by occasional Speedwatch activity. Alternative options discussed are permanent speed-calming artefacts, for example speed bumps, visual restrictions, portal fences, a reduction to 20mph limit etc.

An article is to appear in the Village Magazine canvassing views on the above and asking for more volunteers.

For the foreseeable future, until permanent decisions are made, the Speedwatch Group will continue although we are finding it increasingly difficult to man all the sessions.

We need more volunteers.

It was added that an analysis of speeding vehicles in Froyle showed them to be largely from Bordon and Basingstoke.

A resident commented that although tractors may be travelling at less than 30 mph, their width fills the road so can be a danger. It was agreed that local potato farmers, whose vehicles pass through the village, would be contacted on this matter. A resident pointed out that painted lines on the road appear to make the road narrower. It was suggested that there could be more of similar pinch points, as there had been in response to vehicles appearing to speed past the village hall, but it was added that no particular scheme had been supported in the Parish Plan. It was agreed to put a synopsis in the Village Magazine of the different effects of speed at 30mph and 35mph.

It was reported that the corner by Highways House was being eroded by lorries etc.

5 LOCAL POLICING MATTERS (PCSO David Nops) No report

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

MNKG re-elected to HCC in May 2017, receiving over 70% of those voting, some 40% - very high for a local election.

Reappointed as Chairman of the Hampshire Pension Fund (including all district councils in Hampshire) valued at £7 billion.

Reappointed as Chairman of the Members Code of Conduct Panel.

County Matters:

Council Tax has gone up by 5.4% for those of us in East Hampshire – but Hampshire has the lowest Council Tax of all English counties except Somerset.

Central Government Grant to help pay for all County Services is less than half what it was in 2010 and by 2020 it will be eliminated and replaced by allowing us to keep some of our business rates but not ALL our business rates unfortunately!

We are now spending over £500 million alone in adult social care a year and keenly await the Government White Paper to be produced this summer to learn how we are to cope with this overwhelming problem and the inter-action with the NHS going forward.

County is once more attempting to put together a Combined Strategic and Economic Authority without an elected mayor, including Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight for greater (in size) Hampshire whilst continuing its opposition to try and split Hampshire into two local authorities and consign East Hampshire to Solent City!

Froyle Matters:

Much activity in bring significant improvements to safety on A31.

Greatly involved in the improvements and the new build programme at Bentley School.

Constant battle to repair pot holes and drainage maintenance.

Possibility of Community Traffic Calming Initiative.

Helped Village Hall notice board from Devolved Budget.

7 REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR (Ms G. Watts)

Continues to be a challenging time financially for all councils with government grants ceasing in the next twelve months. East Hampshire is in very good shape as a result of commercialising our services, maximising our property portfolio, and being fiscally very careful, while at the same time maintaining front line services, freezing council tax this year, investing in two brand new sports and leisure centres, and maintaining Councillor and Cabinet grants. Froyle has done well from our grant scheme.

Boundary Commission: The final recommendations have been made, and will be ratified by parliament in around October. Froyle will now be alongside Shalden, Lasham and Bentworth, with a new Councillor.

We have commenced a Local Plan review. This will take about two years in total. Our current plan will start to lose weight from May next year. We have made a call for sites for all types of housing including affordable, older persons, and gypsy and traveller, employment, retail, social infrastructure and open spaces. This ends 5 pm Friday 4th May. LAA - Land Availability Assessment - and listings will be published. Getting on this list does not assume acceptability or suitability for any of the above uses. There will be plenty of opportunity for consultation.

IBM is joining forces with East Hampshire District Council and WBRC to turn Whitehill and Bordon into a 'smart' town.

Froyle Park is now using the post code from the church.

Residents asked where would the traffic from the new town at Bordon go, and generally how to manage the increased density of traffic due to more housing.

Dist.Cllr Watts advised residents to report to HCC roads where the banks are being eroded, and to note the enquiry number for following up.

It was suggested that there should be compensation for damage caused by potholes in the road.

Comment was made on the amount of litter on the A31, and whether there could be any sanction on the recycling plant if it be the cause of the littering. It was advised that residents make a note vehicle numbers if they see litter dropping from lorries from the recycling centre.

8 REPORTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

I am delighted to give the Chairman's report for 2017/18. I would firstly like to welcome Garth Heyhurst and Simon Maher as new members of the Council and also to thank Jo Wallis for her service until she stepped down in September last year.

I would also like to record my thanks to my fellow councillors who have continued to serve over the last year and to Philippa who continues to support us as clerk.

As normal the council have had a busy year covering the usual range of topics. Overall, the level of activity reviewing and commenting on planning applications has felt quieter than when I gave this report last year. There remain several approved planning applications that have not yet translated into activity:

- additional car parking at Froyle Park which was approved in July 2016
- conversion of three flats to five units at Froyle House , approved in March 2017
- additional three new houses next to Jephson House approved in May 2017

Alongside the more routine applications covering tree pruning and small extensions we objected to an application to convert the old garage buildings at the White House Upper Froyle into three new dwellings. Fortunately this application has now been withdrawn but we expect that a new application for one property may soon appear. Although this in itself might not normally be something to object to it is our opinion that the developer who owns this site has done a poor job of developing and caring for it so as a point of principle feel that much more onerous conditions need to be in place for if any future development is to be granted.

At long last the wall outside the White House has been repaired after an enforcement notice was served on the owner. Although it looks better than it did when it was rubble, I have a meeting arranged with Glynis and Peter Fellows the conservation officer on site on 1st May to discuss this and the White House in general.

It wouldn't be an APM without mention of Froyle Park. Those of you who read the PC minutes will know that there was a legal dispute between the Parish Council and Nick Roach last summer. As part of settling the dispute Cllr Roberts and I met with Nick Roach, owner of Froyle Park, and were able to express the village's concerns regarding the operation of the venue. This meeting has been followed up by several others with Mike Warren CEO of Harbour Hotels and they have taken some of the actions agreed to try and reduce the nuisance that the venue causes including screwing windows shut, locking internal doors to better direct guests away from the front of the building, locking the front door at 9pm to prevent exit to the front and improving extraction from the kitchens. A sign has been erected to try and stop lost cars entering Froyle Green which unfortunately has only been partly successful. However, none of the actions taken can deal with the fundamental issue that Upper Froyle is an inappropriate site for an intensively used large wedding venue. We continue to have complaints from residents living nearby but following the outcome of the planning investigation last year we have very limited avenues through which to seek redress. We have a meeting with the CEO of EHDC in June to explore how we might work together to make life more tolerable for residents close by Froyle Park.

The Council wrote to Linden Homes to request that they remove redundant signage on Hen and Chicken Hill and also that they put in a rumble strip at the exit onto Hen and Chicken Hill – both actions have been completed. We supported Bentley in objecting to the shape of the proposed electoral ward boundary changes but to no avail. As a result of the review we remain a single council ward joined with Bentworth.

Turning to other matters, I would like to ask three of my colleagues to briefly update you on three projects – one completed and two that are work in progress.

Firstly Ian McNabb will cover the playground which was the major area of expenditure for the council in 2017, then Nick Whines will give a brief update on the football hut which will be our major financial project this year and finally Ian Deans will talk about the War Memorial.

The Playground and the football projects were managed and funded as a joint project.

- Funding came from: FPC funds £25k, Open Spaces £29k, Village Hall £2.5k, Fête £2k, donations £0.8k, and EHDC grant £15k. Internally FPC estimated split between the playground and football hut was 42% playground and 58% football hut.

- Budget was originally set by FPC at £30k but following useful input from others in the village this was increased to £31.75k. In the event actual costs were £33.7k.

- Opened at the July 2017 village fete.

- Important thing is that the playground is being used and children seem to be enjoying it.

- In April this year FPC ordered a pre-summer inspection which has now been completed. The new equipment has been 'passed' as fit for use. However, one issue was the main wire of the zip wire which is showing signs of wear and is in need of replacement. It has been taken out of action and a replacement wire is being sought.

- One further issue is a sign which is needed by the playground to instruct any person that observes some problem with the playground equipment should please report it to FPC as soon as possible.

Ian Macnabb

It is more than ten years since the last football team hung up its boots, leaving the Parish Council with the problem of what to do with the hut. This is an attempt to get everybody up to speed and engaged with the Hut Project.

Last year the parish council proposed to demolish the football hut and construct a new oak frame building to provide some storage and a large covered shelter. The cost was around £50k. Plans went into the Mag and we received very mixed reactions from residents. Some supportive. Some less so.

Unsure how to proceed we set up a joint VH/PC sub-committee consisting of Ian D, Ian M, David Robertson, Charlie Findlay and myself. The architect Mark Penfold, who has significant experience of community building projects, was invited to join. We have met three or four times in various combinations.

The sub-committee looked at FIVE options for the hut and which would offer best value for the village based on £50k being available, half from the PC and half from external funding.

1 *Do nothing*: but sooner or later something would have to be done because the building would continue to decay and might become dangerous and will continue to be an eye sore. We might also lose up to £10k of the cabinet grant we received from EHDC for the joint Playground/Hut project.

2 *Demolish and landscape*: The cost of doing this would be around £10k and the village wouldn't have much to show for the expenditure beyond a couple of parking spaces or a bit more grass. Again we might lose £10k of the cabinet grant.

3 *Demolish and rebuild as a small meeting room*: the cost of this went well beyond the available funds because it would require the duplication of facilities (loos, kitchen etc).

4 *Demolish and create an oak framed shelter and store* as per previous proposal for which funding was awarded by EHDC: potentially this would be much more attractive visually. Not as expensive as Option 3 but significant doubts were expressed about how it would be used and whether it was needed.

5 *Refurbish the hut* with new roof, new cladding and insulation to provide a secure village store and a covered sitting area on the front at a cost of around £24k.

Option 5 was the sub committee's clear preference and is supported by the Village Hall Committee for whom storage is always an issue. Having more storage may allow the hall to be used by people who also need space to keep their equipment.

It is worth noting that residents are already beginning to use the hut for storage in preparation for the recent jumble sale. What was not sold has been restored for the fête.

It has been suggested that if we proceed with option 5 we may then be able to remove one or both of the containers but we know the Fête Committee want to retain theirs because access is easier for moving the heavy tables in and out.

To progress the hut project, I think we need to nail things down in much more detail. For example what do we need to include in the refurbishment that will allow us to repurpose the building at some future date? Is it worth spending for example another £10-15k now in order to get more flexibility in the future? Or are we looking to do the minimum at lowest cost?

The PC will be making some decisions at its next meeting on 14th May. We would be pleased to have any thoughts or ideas you may have now or before then. Please email:

froyleparishclerk@yahoo.co.uk

Nick Whines

This year is the 100 year anniversary of Armistice Day and to mark this important historical event we felt it would be fitting to give the War Memorial a face lift.

It is now seven years or so since it last had any attention, and the weather has taken its toll. Some of the names on the inscriptions have almost worn away, particularly on the southern face that takes all the weather, and all need re-painting.

It is a 'listed monument' and any work requires the approval of the relevant authorities. We have had meetings on site with both the War Memorials Trust and East Hampshire Conservation Officers who have given advice on the technical aspects of the work. This will comprise the steam cleaning of the memorial to remove dirt and lichen, followed by a 'deepening and sharpening' of faded lettering with a repainting of all lettering to give a consistent appearance.

Tenders have been sent out to two stonemasons, and we are awaiting their return with a view to getting the work done over the summer.

We would also like to improve the setting of the memorial. Currently it is surrounded by a concrete slab that is breaking up and becoming uneven. We are looking into suitable materials for its replacement, including a consolidated gravel or grey paviments. This will require Listed Building approval which has to be submitted before the work can commence.

We are looking for funding to assist in the cost. We have had a positive response from a pre-application submission to the War Memorials Trust, and Glynis Watts has indicated that she will be able to provide some money from her EHDC Councillor Grant Fund.

Hopefully, all of this work will be completed by the autumn and the memorial will be looking at its best on 11th November.

Ian Deans

During the year we made grants to Victim Care of £60, Froyle Archive £600, £160 to Froyle Wildlife, and continue to cover the cost of the Village Magazine.

Looking forward, aside from the regeneration of the Football Hut and repair of the War Memorial we expect to keep an eye on the proposed new aviation fuel pipeline consultation, to get more involved with trying to address speeding through Lower Froyle which is becoming more and more of an issue and to investigate ways that we might improve the drainage at various points which flood throughout the village. We are always delighted to hear from residents so please do talk to one of us if there are particular matters that you would like us to look at. We look forward to your continuing support.

Thank you.

9 ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS None

Date.....

Chairman.....