

SWAY PARISH COUNCIL - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Sway Parish Council was held at Jubilee Field Pavilion, Station Road, Sway, on Thursday 29th May 2014.

Present : Councillors Barry Rickman (Chairman), Ted Fleat (Vice Chairman), Kevin Cripps, Peter Dance, Carole Gates, David Golby, Kevin Langford and Stephen Tarling.

In attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), John Warden (Transport Representative) together with 13 members of the public.

01/14 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

02/14 Apologies

None.

03/14 General

1) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 23 May 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 May 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

There were no matters arising.

04/14 Chairman's Address

In giving his address, the Chairman highlighted the following points:-

- The Parish Council had come a long way in the past year in the way that it worked, had become more transparent and continued to work closely with the local community.
- The Parish Council was facing a tough financial position and that would not change in the coming years and the Council were indebted to the close scrutiny carried out by David Golby and the Finance Working Group to help manage this situation.
- Kathy Gulliver resigned as a Parish Councillor in July 2013 after many years of loyal and valuable service. She was replaced by David Golby as a co-opted Member in August of that year.
- The Parish Council had welcomed the increase in the size of the Council from 8 to 12 members in time for the 2015 elections and looked forward to a contested election.
- The Parish Council has successfully developed a robust and effective meeting structure to support their work and to ensure that they are transparent and open.
- Agreement reached to support the development of a MUGA facility at Jubilee Field.
- In conjunction with Brockenhurst and East Boldre Parish Councils, a new Lengthsman Scheme had been introduced to help keep the village in good shape which we would normally have to seek external help for. The Parish Council received £1000 from the County Council to support the scheme.
- The Community Speedwatch Scheme was now operating successfully. The Parish Council had put £500 towards the cost of the equipment which was shared with neighbouring Councils. Len Thomas, a local resident, was the lead for Sway.

- Support had been given to the Tennis Club to develop a clubhouse within the Jubilee Field Pavilion which would help the further development of the Club.
- The Parish Council had successfully negotiated with the Forestry Commission and the Verderers for a further licence to continue the use of the Memorial Field in Pitmore Lane for sporting activities etc for the village.
- With financial support from Councillor Thornber, a new bus shelter had been provided for the village.
- With the help of the sports clubs, a defibrillator would be installed at Jubilee Field to help provide emergency medical support to the local community.
- The access to the Jubilee Field Pavilion would be improved to enable wheelchair bound visitors to use the facility.
- Introduction of a new Parish Council website with the help of a donation from a local resident and the continuing development thereof during the year.
- From a District Council perspective, this had been the fifth year that they had been able to support a nil increase in Council Tax. With regard to waste collection, he stated that it was essential to maintain weekly collections and that the weekly glass collection now covered 67% of the households in their area. The issue of the glass recycling bins located at the Youth Centre would continue to be monitored.
- The Chairman commented on the excellent work by the District Council and the emergency services following the damage to the beach huts at Milford on Sea.

Finally the Chairman thanked all the Parish Councillors and the Clerk for all their hard work over the past year and also the support the Parish Council received from Sway News and John Warden as their Transport Representative.

05/14 Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2014

The Parish Council accepted the Summary of Receipts and Payments as presented.

06/14 What is Your Parish Council All About?

After opening comments by the Chairman, he invited the Clerk to briefly explain his role with the Council. This was followed by a short presentation by Stephen Tarling as Chair of the Planning & Transport Committee, Carole Gates as Chairman of the Amenities Working Group and David Golby as Chairman of the Finance Working Group. Each Councillors explained the role of their Committee or Working Group and how their role supported the overall work of the Parish Council.

07/14 Report by County Councillor Ken Thornber

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Thornber commented on the following issues:-

Hampshire County Council - Councillor Thornber reminded the meeting that, since the last Annual General Meeting, he had been serving as Chairman of the County Council and that the composition of the County Council had changed greatly in that time. Prior to that he had been Leader of the County Council and during the last 2 to 3 years of that time he had had to oversee the loss of some 1,800 jobs and significant financial savings. The County Council still had to save a further £90m each year and reduce staff levels even further. He stressed however that the County Council were looking to cut essential services such as education, adult and child care and highways

Marlpit Oak Railway Bridge – Councillor Thornber commented on the history of the problems with Network Rail in relation to the repairs to the bridge and the resulting impact on local communities. An agreement was now in place that the B3055 would remain open until early October 2014. Network Rail had agreed to look at options as to whether the road could be kept partially open when the work resumes. In the meantime, the County Council would proceed with the repairs to the cattle grid at Cobblers Corner.

Highways – Everyone was aware of the tremendous battering that the roads network had taken over the winter and that in some areas, things were only just getting back to normal. Councillor Thornber pointed out that the County Council would need to spend an additional £68m to repairs the roads. He went on to highlight issues relating to a number of roads in the Sway area which were currently being addressed by the County Council.

CANGO – Councillor Thornber reminded the Parish Council that the County Council had agreed to extend the contract for the CANGO service for a further 4 years until 2018. He thanked John Warden for all his hard work in promoting this service

Financial Support – Councillor Thornber commented that much had been made of financial support he had given to Sway over the past few years and he stressed that, in the coming year, he would be directing his efforts towards St Luke’s School and the Sway Youth Centre.

08/14 Any Other Business

Standing Orders

It was noted that a number of items which would normally have been considered at this meeting would be dealt with at the ‘normal’ Council meeting which followed this meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

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Chairman