



# The Parish of Arborfield & Newland

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010

Minutes compiled by the Parish Clerk

### DRAFT

**Representatives from Arborfield & Newland Parish Council:** Cllrs Kaiser, Nickless, Dugdale, Weir, Heard, Salter & Butterfield, the Parish Clerk

**Also Present:** D & J Dunn, R Peat, M Picken, I Potts, M Rutter, C Haigh, D Rowley, M Edwards, R Hill, S. Ridgway, V Brookling, S Bacon, A Tiplady (WBC), D Thorne, A Quinton (TV Police), C Bagen

A copy of the Parish Annual Report was available for all at the beginning of the meeting.

- 1 **Welcome and Parish Council Report** – Cllr Kaiser, the Parish Council Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies on behalf of Borough Councillor Cowan and Parish Councillors Wright and Murphy. It was explained that they were all at a meeting at WBC regarding the Arborfield Garrison Strategic Development Location. The emergency exit procedure was explained should it be required.
2. **Parish Council Report** – Cllr Kaiser gave a brief overview of the Council Report contained within the Annual Report which was written by Paul Harrington prior to him resigning from the role. Thanks were expressed to those Councillors who had departed for all their hard work and a warm welcome was extended to the new Councillors. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Clerk, the Village Handyman and to the Pavilion Caretaker.

It was reported that Arborfield is facing an extremely busy time ahead with the proposed development of the Garrison site, the possibility of a wind farm at Rushy Mead which will have 5 wind turbines larger than the one sited by COSTCO, the pavilion refurbishment, Old Churchyard maintenance, a new website and possible allotments to name just a few. Cllr Kaiser explained that any updates will be published in the Arborfield News.

A Risk Management Group has been set up within the Parish Council.

Some essential tree work has been carried out at the Old Churchyard site and is now awaiting a risk assessment prior to ground work starting.

The School Parking is an ongoing issue.

It was explained that the Parish Council has formed along with Barkham, Finchampstead, Wokingham Without, Shinfield and Swallowfield Parish Councils a group called the Southern Parishes Planning Group (SPPG) to ensure that any development carried out in the SDL's is sustainable with the correct amount of infrastructure. It is now anticipated that the MOD will not vacate the Garrison until approx 2015 and with a new Government there may be a new defence review which could change this.

3. **Pre-submitted questions** – it was noted that the below questions had been asked in time for the original date set for the APM and that events had moved on from this point.

**Martin Rutter, Chairman of Arborfield Garrison Resident Action Group (AG-RAG) asked:**

*"Many of the residents in the southern section of Arborfield are strongly opposed to those parts of the SDL that propose development on green fields and other open spaces 'outside the garrison wire'. Would the Parish Council please detail what actions they are taking, and will take in future, to fully represent these residents' views and to ensure that any development is limited to 'behind the wire' only?"*

A lengthy discussion took place involving many of those present regarding the development of the Garrison site. It was explained that WBC did not appear to be fully aware of the views of Arborfield Residents. The SPPG were working hard together to make it clear the views of the Parish Councils affected by any development. Main concerns are building on Greenfield sites, the MOD land being sold off in parcels and not as a whole, when exactly the MOD will be vacating, what will happen if they don't vacate, the required infrastructure and the 750 house trigger point whereby a by-pass is to be built.

It was explained that as Borough Councillor Cowan was no longer the Planning Executive at WBC he could better serve the residents of Arborfield regarding any development.

Martin Rutter informed the meeting that there was to be a Community Hub event on June 19<sup>th</sup> for local groups and representatives regarding the SDL's. The Parish Clerk explained she had copies of the poster which she had circulated to local groups.

**Caroline Lavelle, Arborfield Resident asked:**

*What is the status of the Village Design Statement (as part of the response to the SDL we committed to providing this)?*

This question had been asked prior to the Parish Council meeting held last week where it was agreed that Cllrs Murphy and Salter and Caroline would work together to produce the Village Design Statement for Arborfield.

*When can we expect an updated website for the village as a central communication tool?*

The new website will be up and running on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2010.

*What provision have the Parish Council made for legal fees to fight elements of the SDL as and when required?*

It was explained that the SPPG had requested each of the Parish Councils involved pledge £500 should it be needed plus a further £500 in due course. The Parish Council had agreed to pledge the money if needed at the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

**Tony Harden, Chairman of the Arborfield Local History Society asked:**

*On behalf of the Arborfield Local History Society can I ask what progress has been made with the Risk Assessment on the Old Church, and when can we expect to receive the findings of the assessment?*

Tony Harden was absent from the meeting but it was explained that Cllr Salter, a new Councillor had taken on the responsibility of the Old Churchyard and would be contacting Hazel Guile in due course.

**Jan Heard, Chairman of Arborfield Gardening Association asked:**

*An update on Allotments for Arborfield*

Jan Heard expressed her thanks to Cllr Wright for all the work he had carried out so far regarding allotment provision for Arborfield residents. The AGA had held a meeting March on Allotment Regeneration which had proved extremely interesting and very informative.

Land has been found and the Parish Council are currently trying to overcome several Highway issues regarding near by junctions. Any updates will be placed in the Arborfield News.

**Ray Hill, Arborfield Resident asked:**

*An update on the village website*

This was answered earlier.

Cllr Kaiser explained that under the previous Parish Chairman many projects had been started, that there was lots to do and all were moving ahead. He expressed his thanks to Paul Harrington and said it was a shame that he had not remained in position to see these projects through to fruition. He expressed however that there was now a substantial amount of new blood in the Parish Council.

**4. Open Forum – questions from the floor**

Ray Hill asked the Parish Council why a question he had raised last year had not been answered. The Clerk was asked to provide Ray Hill with the football pitch income and ground maintenance expenses as soon as possible. It is unknown exactly how many players from the various teams who use the pitches actually live in Arborfield.

Cllr Nickless explained that once the Pavilion has been refurbished it will be a far more attractive venue to hire which will increase revenue.

It was asked why the Minutes from last years APM were not still in draft form. It was discussed and agreed that the Parish Clerk would produce draft minutes on to the website and that the minutes would not be signed off at the next available Parish Council meeting but at the next APM as the minutes belonged to the APM.

Jim Dunn raised the issue of vandalism in the Park. PCSO Antonia Quinton explained that the Police were aware that problems had arisen recently and that they were dealing with it. She informed the meeting about Operation Lion Cub which Thames Valley Police operate on a Friday and Saturday evening. Any anti social behaviour reported to TVP is acted upon immediately with as many Officers as possible attending en masse to deal with any issues.

It was noted that the Youth Club does have benefits by giving the young people somewhere to go and something to do.

Cllr Heard explained that the pavilion and park were assets of the Parish Council and that the Parish Council had a duty to provide a safe environment for parishioners to use.

Di Thorne explained that when she was on the Parks Committee she frequented the park regularly and felt that a presence was needed by the current Parks Committee.

It was explained that some damage had occurred to the daffodils planted in the park and that dog fouling was a constant problem.

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council were looking into an email system to communicate with residents. Information regarding this will be put in the Arborfield News in due course. Residents will be asked if they would like to supply their email address to the Parish Council so they can be contacted directly if important or urgent information is to be communicated. This idea arose following the bad weather experienced at the beginning of the year when many roads were cut off and there were issues with refuse collection and impassable roads. It was explained that this idea needed to be a 2-way street whereby residents needed to inform the Parish Council if they had an issue.

Jim Dunn expressed his dismay over the state of the pavements around Arborfield and explained how difficult it was to travel around in a wheelchair. Also pavement parking was raised as an issue.

Jan Heard from AGA explained about a new gardening competition which is to be held on June 19<sup>th</sup>. She asked if one of the Parish Councillors would join the panel of judges. Cllr Butterfield happily accepted this role. Barkham are to be included as well.

Ray Hill stated that he thought the Arborfield News was tired as it was 15 years old. The Parish Clerk explained that two of the new Councillors were now on the editing committee and had already discussed several new items they would like included to improve it. The Clerk reported that the Parish News article, included as of July last year, was a huge success and had produced several responses from residents. She was also reported that the Arborfield News was only as good as the articles submitted.

Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council and particularly to the Parish Clerk, Alison Ward, for her constant hard work.

The Clerk is to follow up any queries not already answered. There being no further questions the meeting was declared closed at 20.48pm.

5. **Refreshments** – courtesy of the Parish Council - All present were invited to partake in refreshments.