

**Minutes of Nether Wallop Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 11 May 2009 at Nether Wallop Village Hall**

Attendance: The meeting was attended by Cllrs Atkins, Richardson, Roach, Souter and Whitaker, HCC Cllr Woodhall, TVBC Cllr Boulton, Mr Williams (Footpaths Officer), Mr Gibson (prospective County Council candidate) and thirteen members of the public.

Apologies: Sgt Curtis and Cllrs Hind and Young.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 28 April 2008: These were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

Neighbourhood Watch update: Unfortunately Cllr Young, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator was not well. The Chairman reported in her absence on various local incidents. Sgt Curtis would attend the next monthly meeting to make a Policing Report.

HCC Report: HCC Cllr Woodhall, Chairman of the Hants County Council, was retiring at the next local election in June. He has represented the people of Hampshire and been involved in a variety of events including a Land Army reception of 1,000 in Winchester Cathedral. Mrs Gunn had been present and worked as a dairymaid during the war. He wished to thank the Chairman and Clerk for the jobs they do and congratulated the council on its first Annual Report. He has been able to give a grant of £400 to St Andrews Church and a further £300 to equipment purchased for the playground area at the playing fields. He commented that HCC has the highest percentage of Quality Parish Councils. It has been quite a good year, and despite the economic downturn some businesses are doing ok. From the HCC budget of 1.6 billion, £14 million was put into Andover schools including a completely new school which is being built in Abbotts Ann and there is a good improvement in Winton School. HCC Cllr Woodhall was saddened by the death of Mrs Jackie Walker, she will be much missed in the parish. Longparish has a magnificent hall and Cllr Woodhall would love to see a good facility here rather than the present hall! 30% of thatched roofs are in the Test Valley and people should be on their guard despite the excellent team in the Fire Service. There are now some advanced techniques in our force which involve sniffer dogs and were used recently in the Warwickshire incident. Cllr Woodhall is delighted to see the police presence in Stockbridge which now has a police car parked outside the station. This is not only a deterrent to speeding cars but also available in case of emergency. He has been involved in the planning of the London Olympics and commented that Aldershot would host the sailing whilst training for the shooting is at Longparish. He reported that Portsmouth is the principle dock for vessels and that cruise liners are big in Southampton. Finally he reported that according to 'Country Life' Hampshire is the second best county in which to live!

TVBC Report: TVBC Cllr Boulton reported that council tax has gone up by 4.6% which is about £5 a year extra. The economic downturn has caused a lot of problems with interest rates also down. TVBC has £60 million invested and a shortfall of 1.8 million. As a result a re-structuring of the whole of the team has been conducted with the loss of

five Heads of Service. A number of jobs (around forty) have been shed too which will mean 10% less staff. However, this restructuring should mean that TVBC would be a more efficient council. The Planning Core Strategy has gone through the consultation process but the Inspectorate have found that some deficiencies and have pronounced it 'unsound'. The next step will require consultation with each Parish Council and subsequently each community, which will determine how much development, will happen in each village. The news on the 'megashed' is that it achieved its final approval at a recent planning meeting but that there are stringent conditions imposed on the lorry routing and management. On the northern side of Andover development has begun and around 3,000 houses are to be built in the next decade with 40% of these being 'affordable'. Cllr Boulton described his role on the Council with the environment portfolio which is the most senior council Committee. The department continues to strive for improvement in waste collection, recycling, bottle banks, street cleaning as examples and means that he sits on the cabinet. He welcomes all sensible contributions from parish councils to help formulate our views when applications come to committee. He congratulated the council on the continuing success of the Village Green and on the progress of various village halls. Cllr Boulton ended by congratulating Cllr Woodhall on all he has achieved during his time as a County Councillor and wished him well in his retirement.

Wallop Primary School: The Chairman read a report from the school in which staffing deployment was described. The Rose Review has set out initial proposals for a revised primary curriculum, which will be introduced in 2011, and the school has already begun to trial a variety of different teaching approaches. However, the teaching of Literacy, Numeracy and ICT continue to be the 'bedrock' of primary learning. A monthly audit of Health & Safety issues has begun and the Head recently met with the rural policing sergeant who is keen to improve links between the police and schools. Various performances and fundraising events were successfully held. The Chairman concluded to say that we are fortunate in having such an excellent school within the village.

Footpaths Report: Mr Williams, Footpaths Officer report is contained within the Annual Report. This is his second year with responsibility for the footpaths and urged anyone who would like to help to get in touch with him. He attended a half day conference organised by Hants County Council and was able to meet the HCC team. He flagged up an incident of fly tipping within the parish which had been dealt with within 24 hours. The Chairman thanked Mr Williams for his efforts. There are evidently 35 footpaths in Nether Wallop!

Finance: Cllr Atkins thanked Mr Shoemith for his continuing work in dealing with the financial side of council work. Expenditure was almost within budget and the General Fund balance at only £127 lower than a year ago. He warned that a third of the share of local fundraising for the Wallops Parish Hall would be expected to be provided by the council. The precept has increased from £9,500 - £10,000. It had previously stood at the same level for 5 years. He explained 137 payments and these amounted to £323 for the year. The accounts were as yet unaudited although a date has been set. He requested therefore that the final accounts previously circulated be formally approved subject to

audit and this was proposed by Cllr Whitaker and seconded by Cllr Souter with all in favour. The Annual Return is a summary of all the figures within the accounts. The Annual Governance statement and conditions were read out and it was proposed by Cllr Whitaker and seconded by Cllr Souter, with all in agreement, that the Annual Return be signed by both the Chairman and the Clerk. Cllr Atkins further proposed Eleanor Greene be appointed as our internal auditor with all in favour.

Highways: Cllr Atkins reported that potholes and other highway repairs have been reported to Hants County Council and most have been dealt with reasonably quickly, although the snow and cold winter meant more problems with roads than usual. The major item in the year was the resurfacing of the footbridge by the Splash, and after an initial false start, this was in the end completed satisfactorily, thanks mainly to Mr Duckworth's efforts. The village sign at Peacock Water, which was replaced for the third time last June, is still there.

Village Green: Cllr Roach reported that Moulands Meadow continues to be an appreciated asset for the village, widely used and enjoyed by all age groups. It is maintained by volunteers who regularly mow or work on special activities such as clearing the adjacent rill of weed. The second May Fair was held and was bigger and better than previously and blessed by good weather. This was followed by the Church Building Trust Drinks Party. The next happening was the arrival of a film crew, to make a series of adverts for Boursin Cheese. Many local villagers and village scenes were featured, and included one of the brook and Stewart's bridge. In August the village market was held and on the same evening there was a village picnic. In September there was a rounders competition and barbecue and the year finished with the fourth Carols on the Green around a truly magnificent Christmas tree. For the first time ever June will see a wedding reception by to be given by the Souter family.

Playing Fields: Cllr Richardson reported that in spite of the coldest winter for 18 years people had continued to play tennis! The new net would be put up by Mrs Souter. The pavilion had two parties on the playing fields during the year. There are two football teams, one who play there three times a week. The play equipment had been enhanced by the purchase of two springers and a picnic bench (organised by Cllr Hind). Mr Pasque has mown the grass for 20 years. Mr Cullen repainted the play equipment and also strims. Cllr Richardson marks the pitches.

Nether Wallop Village Hall Trust: The Chairman asked Mr Rogers (Chairman of the Trust) to report. The woodwork on the front of the hall has been painted. Two Budlieas have been cut in the garden. A planning application for the felling of two trees in the back has been made. In view of the success of obtaining a grant for the Wallops Parish Hall it has been decided to put the Nether Wallop Village Hall project on the back burner in order for there to be no competition on fundraising. Therefore the Trustees have agreed to patch it up for the moment. He was very sorry to lose Mrs Walker from the committee and her place would be filled by Mrs Mongor.

Chairman's Address: The Chairman's report is contained in the Annual Report. Any parishioner wishing to have a copy of the Annual Report please contact the Clerk. The Parish Council has had a busy and largely successful year. All parish councillors have taken on work with sub-committees. The main streams of activity were summarised. Many councillors have full time jobs so it has been a challenge at times to fulfil commitments to all these activities. The parish council has investigated whether to try to become a 'Quality Parish Council'. Cllr Souter and Whitaker attended an evening briefing run by Hampshire Association of Local Council (HALC). It was concluded that while we believe that the parish council should adopt, where possible, the procedures recommended by HALC, the cost and time involved with councillors and the clerk attending the required courses was not achievable or justified. The Chairman thanked HCC Woodhall particularly as this would be his final Nether Wallop parish meeting. He was grateful for all his support and work done. He was a familiar face and had attended 50% of all meetings of this council and had represented the council's views at county level. The Chairman concluded the meeting at 9.30pm. Refreshments were served afterwards.

THESE ARE DRAFT MINUTES PRODUCED FOR REVIEW BY THE PARISH COUNCILLORS PRIOR TO BEING APPROVED AT THE NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL