



Report of the Annual Meeting held on 26th April 2023

Due to the elections, the May Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on May 18th, the report will be available in the June Link edition. Oakley & Deane Parish Council election was uncontested, and the Council would like to warmly welcome your new Parish Councillors who join the current team: Lucy Archer, Ramona Chisnall and Dave Condliffe.

Thanks to everybody who attended the Annual Parish Meeting, and thank you to our many speakers who made the evening so informative.

PSCO Andy Jones gave an update on crime stats for the area, and encouraged people to report crime through the correct channels. Mrs. Altmeyer-Ennis and Dr. Decker from Watership Down Health spoke about their vision 'to work in partnership with our patients and communities to improve health and well-being'. Unsurprisingly demand for services has increased but the team are being proactive and have recruited a variety of roles to give their patients a range of support. One of these roles is a Social Prescriber, Ms. Tracey Powell gave an overview of this role which involves helping with social issues ranging from bereavement, to sign posting for benefit and housing help, to being a 'warm hand' and accompanying people, who otherwise may not go out, on walks or to coffee mornings.

Although our Hampshire County Councillor, Cllr. Juliet Henderson was unable to attend, a report was provided that highlighted the Fostering Hampshire Children Campaign and the continued national issue of potholes. Hampshire County Council continue to take the case to Government for further funding. We were joined by our 3 Borough Councillors, and Cllr. Diane Taylor updated us on plans for Manydown, as well as the planning application for houses in Sainfoin Lane which is still ongoing. Cllr. Taylor also highlighted Carbon Busters, which is an initiative created to examine how they can deliver actions that will reduce our local footprint. Please do reach out to the Borough Councillors over anything that concerns you.

The Chair of Oakley & Deane Borough Council, Stephen Harding, closed the meeting by thanking our team of Parish Councillors and five members of staff for all their hard work over a variety of projects, ranging from improved IT infrastructure, to new cricket rollers and events such as Carols at the Pond. Look out for the Parish Council 'Grow your Own' family afternoon 17th June at Andover Road Village Hall.

Everyone is more than welcome at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council, 18th May 7.30pm at Newfound Pavilion.

Parish Council Office hours are St Leonards 9-12 Wednesdays and 12-3 Thursdays. We are looking to extend the office hours on Thursdays at Newfound from end of May.

Helen Meyer – Deputy Parish Clerk

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