

**THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, FRANKLIN AVENUE, TADLEY ON MONDAY 4 APRIL 2011 AT 7.30pm**

Present: Town Councillors Ballard, Broad, Faulkner, Flahive, Frost, Hankinson, Keeling, Leeks, Lovegrove, Moss. Quelch and Slimin (Chairman)  
County Councillor Tucker, Borough Councillor Round, Stephen Fussey, Lindsey Appleton, Phillipa Kent, 4 members of the public, 2 members of the press and Clerk

**1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Burdett, Mullan and Noad, Father Tansy.

**3. MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve the minutes of the Town Meeting held on 12 April 2010.

**4. TOWN COUNCIL REPORT**

A detailed report of the Council's activities over the past year was given by the Chairman of the Council. See attached. A presentation was made to Cllr Faulkner who will not be standing for re-election, to mark his 16 years of service as a Town Councillor.

**5. POLICE REPORT**

There were no members of the police present to give a report.

**6. AWE**

Stephen Fussey, AWE Director of site, introduced himself and spoke briefly about the recent fire at AWE. Cllr Ballard raised concerns concerning the lack of communication received on the day of the fire. Cllr Round also raised concerns regarding communication. Stephen responded that communication methods have been reviewed. Cllr Lovegrove asked about procedures for local fire brigades attending incidents. Stephen said he would look into this. Cllr Leeks asked if lessons would be learnt from the recent incident. The Chairman raised that it was of concern that the Town Council received no notification of the incident. Cllr Flahive asked if the findings of the investigations will be published in due course. Stephen confirmed that Defence Estates have bought the Falcon pub but the former owner had had it demolished. Apologies were given for not notifying the Town Council but this was due to the commercial sensitivity of the sale of the building. It is hoped that the area will be improved by the new entrance at the Falcon gate. Cllr Quelch said he was surprised about the comments made by HSE regarding the Boundary Hall site. Stephen said a decision should be made by 22 June. Cllr Leeks raised that traffic queues outside the Main Gate in the mornings between 7.30 and 8.00am seem to be getting worse. Changes have recently been made at the Main gate to alleviate this.

The Chairman thanked all those present for attending and the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date.....

## Chairman's report to Tadley Town Council Annual Town Meeting 4 April 2011

Welcome to this year's ATM and a special welcome to our invited guests.

Firstly I would like to tell you of the work we have been doing this year to engage with our residents some more successfully than others.

We have continued to hold councillor Surgeries – We reviewed these this year and agreed to continue to hold them in the Library or the Swimming Pool but changed to having them only every two months as they prove a useful way for residents to communicate with the Council.

The Council had a stand at the Treacle Fair in June that was well visited by residents and we hope to have another one in June this year.

We decided to join the modern world of social networking and we agreed to create a Facebook page. Residents can continue to reach us via our website where minutes and agendas of our meetings are posted and that has also had a revamp. We publish and deliver a regular newsletter to all our residents and we have agreed to continue this next year but are about to refresh the format of that too. We open the office in the mornings and we get a lot of visitors including many from surrounding parishes.

All our meetings are open to the public and have public participations sessions on the agenda where residents can raise any queries.

We held our annual Christmas Tree Event here in December – again this was very well attended and a great success. We have already met and decided what we might add next year having had feedback on what was liked and what was needed.

On a less positive note the Tadley Vision group were hoping to produce a Town Plan but this folded during the year due to lack of volunteers. Note this could not be Council led as it had to be resident led so it was agreed not to proceed. We will be seeking other ways to decide what we need in Tadley for the future in conjunction with residents.

The Greening Campaign launch in October was also not well attended mainly we feel because we have already done much work in the area of awareness. We have agreed to support the Borough Council in its effort to get a group off the ground this year.

I have set up a Youth Forum which has only just started to get off the ground and it will be my objective to continue to move forward. We plan to publish an updated booklet of what is available for young people in Tadley as our first project.

As Chairman, I attended the opening of the new skate board park in May 2010 – the work of the Jake and Lee Fund in raising the money to deliver the new park is to be celebrated. I also attended a Liaison lunch in October to mark the 25 anniversary of our CAB being opened and was able to present them with our Good Citizens Award for the work they do and continue to do for our residents. If you know of anyone who should be nominated for this award the Clerk can supply the nomination form.

I also went to the NALC Conference, HALC AGM, a Greening Conference in London, training days at Thatcham, BDATPC meetings etc all to find out what is happening in the wider world of councils and bring back good practice to Tadley – and spread a bit of ours to others. Our Clerk attends meeting with the police, other councillors attend Transport meetings and cross boundary meetings as well as representing the council on many local bodies,

There will be some chances with the new Localism Bill to deliver services more locally. Also other schemes with the police to help combat speeding are being drawn up. We are always open to new ideas and new opportunities here in Tadley.

I will now tell you of some of the work done by our committees.

## Recreation & Leisure

We continue to have seasonal hanging baskets for both summer and winter and have planted more bulbs. These can now be seen in various places around the town and continue to be admired and help brighten up the town.

Our Illuminated Christmas decorations on the lampposts also continue to be admired for the second year. These are to be extended to four columns in Franklin Ave and also onto two new lighting columns by Sainsburys for next year.

We continue the maintenance of the play areas at Giles Road, The Green, Lowes Corner and Tadley Common. We also have a programme to replace play equipment as it passes its sell by date. Regular inspections ensure that they are safe and any remedial work can be carried out quickly.

We also continued the maintenance of gardens in the town which are our responsibility: Huntsmoor Road, Whitedown Road, Bishopswood Road, Newchurch Road, the Memorial Garden as well as the Grass cutting on all Tadley Town Council owned or adopted land.

The Council provided continued financial support for Barlows Park, now open for three years. The Borough also helps fund the football facility in Silchester Road. The Green is no longer used for football as the changing rooms there were reassigned by the Memorial Hall committee once Tadley Calleva FC decided they would no longer maintain them. There is still a shortfall of sports pitches in Tadley so if you are interested in commenting on this the Borough are currently undertaking a consultation on priorities for the future so make your views known.

The Town Council provided grant funding of £10,000 towards the new skate park and new CCTV was installed there.

Grant funding has been applied for from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council for the creation of a footpath across the Giles Road field. Environmental improvements can be submitted as grant applications.

## Highways & Planning

**Boundary Hall Site, Aldermaston Road.** An application for the erection of 115 residential units and a unit for commercial use on this site by Cala Homes has now been the subject of a public enquiry which commenced on 12 October 2010 following an objection from the Health and Safety Executive. We are still awaiting the outcome of the enquiry which is now expected to be in June 2011. The outcome will be of great interest in the town and our future development.

## Other items of interest

Following the snow during the winter of 2009 -10 a number of new grit bins have been installed at locations in Tadley. After difficult conditions at the end of 2010 further requests for grit bins have been forwarded to Hampshire County Council for consideration. We have also now adopted our own Community Emergency Plan to help us respond to any emergencies locally. West Berkshire Council are responsible for the off site plan for AWE and have provided us with an update on the review of this plan. We have highlighted the lack of involvement with the town council and parishes on the Hampshire side so we hope this will be addressed soon and we have invited their representative to attend our next meeting to let us know what is planned.

We have refurbished and relocated a bus shelter no longer required as the bus route changed. We have commented on a number of issues to do with public transport especially the loss of a bus to Reading, the loss of travel tokens to our senior citizens and disabled groups and potentially the loss of subsidised bus services in the evening and weekends. We know that savings cuts are inevitable but we need to protect services that enable our residents to get to work, hospital services as well giving them a good quality of life.

Speed Indicator Devices continue to be sited through the town.

## **Finance & General Purposes**

The precept was set at £180109 for the coming year. This is equivalent to £42.86 for a band D property. The precept for Tadley has risen by just under 0.15%. The Town Council is continuing to build reserves for future projects such as further cemetery provision and continued refurbishment of the town's play areas. In addition to this we have been advised by the Auditor that our general reserve figure is too low and should be increased to a more prudent level.

Grants made include:

£6500 CAB  
£500 Hurst Leisure Centre – funday and learning day  
£360 Relate  
£350 Hampshire & IOW Wildlife Trust  
£75 Tadley Youth Fund  
£2000 Age Concern  
£125 Hurst Community College  
£1000 TASTE  
£300 Victim Support  
£1000 Loddon Valley Day Care  
£7000 Barlows Park

Reviews of Policy, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessments, Effectiveness of Internal Audit and Standing orders were all carried out. As a Quality Council it is important to show that we are operating in a correct manner within the rules set for town and parish councils.

This year we replaced the Council's vehicle used by our staff around the town.

We gave support for the Hampshire County Council Trading Standards and Tadley Police in setting up Cold Calling Zones in some areas of the town and we agreed to provide future financial support for signage for new areas that might wish to join.

## **Burials**

The Burial Committee has been busy this year. The new Cemetery is being well used and we continue to maintain the old burial ground next to St Peter's Churchyard. The Ashes plots and children's section of the Cemetery have been redesigned to allow best use of the land. Improvements continue to be made to the ashes plots and pathways. We have received some grant funding from our county councillor to help the cost of this work.

## **Personnel**

Our Contracts of employment have been amended to allow staff to work after age 65 following the new legislation.

## **Elections**

I should like to thank all the councillors that have worked hard this year especially those that have taken on the responsibility of chairing our committees. I would also like to thank our staff both in the office and out and about for their contribution again this year under the guidance of Nicki Barry, our Clerk. On May 5<sup>th</sup> the whole council comes up for election, the nominations closed at noon today but we will not know if we have elections until noon on Wednesday. While you will see that the majority of sitting councillors are interested in continuing there are some who have decided to stand down this time. I would like now to especially pay tribute to Cllr Terry Faulkner who stands down after giving long service to Tadley both as a town and Borough Council.