

Greatham Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at Greatham Village Hall on Thursday 25th March 1993 commencing at 7.00pm.

Present: Messrs R W Flack, R E Siney, P Stevens, K Snelling, Richenda Lady Neave, Mrs Jenkinson, Lt Col Digby, the Clerk, 17 members of the public and the guest speaker, Ms Sue Bellamy, of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust.

Apologies: Mr Dent.

Minutes: The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th March 1992 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and thanked his fellow councillors and the clerk for their support throughout the last year and reported that council meetings had been very well attended.

A special thank you was given to Mr Siney who had continued his work as tree warden and in the restoration of the dew pond in Church Lane and to Mrs Porter for her determination in continuing the campaign for the Greatham bypass.

Complaints had been received as a result of the A3 bypass regarding noise and the increased speed and volume of traffic passing through the village. These were being passed on and supported by the Parish Council to the District and County Councils and the Department of Transport, highlighting the increased necessity of the construction of the Woolmer Link.

Posters had been displayed around the village to deter dog owners from letting their animals foul pavements and verges and these seemed to have been successful. New byelaws would be coming into force shortly which would make prosecution possible for offenders and permanent signs would be put up by the District Council in 1994.

The new recycling centre in the Village Hall car park had been installed by the District Council and it was hoped that as many local people as possible would make use of this facility in the future.

There had been problems with street lights not working and some requests for additional lighting. The County Council are investigating the additional lighting and local people were asked to report any faulty lights so that action could be taken to get them fixed quickly.

Thanks were also extended to Mrs Flack and Mrs Murphy in their capacity as local bus representatives.

Reports from Representatives: Mr Siney reported on the restoration of the Dew Pond which he had been working on with Mr Nolan. The land had been sold by the Church Commissioners to 2 private buyers but the pond area could be handed over to the Parish Council. Negotiations were continuing but nothing, at present, was confirmed. A contractor had been called in to clear the pond to a one metre depth, but further work would be needed to consolidate the clay bottom and make it water proof.

It was planned to grass around the edge of the pond and provide a bench for public use as well. Mr Siney reported that many ducks had already been seen using the pond and that was very encouraging.

Mrs Jenkinson reported of the arrival of a Priest in Charge for Greatham, Empshott, Hawkley and Priors Dean on 8th May 1993. His name is Bill Day and he will bring with him his wife, Carol, and he has a background encompassing the Navy, teaching and sales. Mrs Day is a teacher and they have two children.

Lt Col Digby reported on the Woolmer Link situation. Once a year the Planning and Transportation Committee agreed their submissions for the Department of Transport and the Woolmer Link was an agenda item. The Assistant County Surveyor and the Chairman of the Transportation Committee assured Col Digby that although the Woolmer Link had been unsuccessful in the 1993/94 bid for funding, it would be submitted again for 1994/95 to the Department of Transport. The bid would be submitted in the summer of 1993 and a decision would be published in December. The County Council asserted that they were doing all they could to try and get the Woolmer Link constructed, particularly as the Petersfield Action Group gave it as a condition of the new road being built and it was agreed that the Woolmer Link was essential and there was a moral responsibility to put it in place. Pressure would be brought to bear by local campaigning and council lobbying and Mrs Porter would continue her co-ordination of pressure for the new road in the village. Col Digby also produced a diagram of the potential new junction adjacent to Blackmoor Stores. The District Council Environment Committee were also pressuring the Department of Transport and were discussing noise barriers for local people to be protected from the noise levels generated by the new A3.

Accounts: The clerk provided a summary of the accounts for the year up to 25th March 1993 and these were adopted by the meeting.

Guest Speaker: Ms Sue Bellamy of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust.

Ms. Bellamy began by explaining how the Wildlife Trust was organised and that one of its main aims was to encourage local initiatives. They manage 50 nature reserves encompassing 4000 acres of land which cover a wide variety of habitats including Blackdown at Basingstoke and meadows at Bishops Waltham to name but two. The Wildlife Trust also comment on local development plans and have been consulted in projects such as the Minerals Plan and the National Rivers Authority catchment plans. They also are fostering a junior wing for under 16s on a local basis. Being part of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and Wildlife partnership, they were involved in the Parish Environment Initiative which was set up in 1990 to react to and give advice on wildlife matters to local people, often involving compromise of the use of land between the wildlife and the use of motorbikes, etc, for recreational purposes. The Trust is also concerned over the proper management of local grasslands and ponds and is encouraging co-operation between local people and landowners and the Trust in finding new ways of tackling problems that may come up. Ms Bellamy gave a very interesting slide presentation on various works that they are involved with and discussed conservancy work that was of relevance to Greatham Old Church and the new churchyard.

The Chairman thanked Ms Bellamy on behalf of the meeting for her most informative presentation.

P C Andrews introduced himself to the meeting. He explained that he was based in Whitehill but would be the local point of contact for Greatham. He encouraged everyone to feel able to contact him if they felt it necessary and that he would always be happy to help out if at all possible. The Chairman thanked PC Andrews for taking the trouble to attend the meeting and looked forward to close co-operation in the future.

Questions:

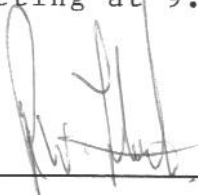
There was a great deal of anxiety over the new A3 bypass and the problems that it had caused for Greatham. Many members of the public were concerned about this. Col Digby stated that pressure would be maintained to try and alleviate the situation and that local groups and individuals should also make their feelings known in this respect. He also reported that the County Council would be undertaking a census shortly on traffic levels and speed on the A325 through the village and that this might produce some interesting evidence.

Another problem being faced by local people and associated with the A3 bypass was the build up of traffic at the junction of the B3006 with the A325 and that this was turning into an accident "blackspot". A suggestion was made that if a mini roundabout was built at the junction the problem might be helped. Again, Col Digby explained that this was all part of the same problem and that the Woolmer Link was essential to take the traffic out of the village and alleviate the chaos. He suggested that individuals contact the Regional Office of the Department of Transport at Dorking. The Highway Authority were also going to be carrying out a survey of the noise pollution caused by the new road with their results to be published at a later date.

There was a deal of discussion following in the above connection and it was the unanimous opinion of the meeting that the Woolmer Link should be built at the very earliest opportunity.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and as there were no further questions, closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Chairman



Date

11-4-94

GREATHAM PARISH COUNCIL SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS
19TH MARCH 1992 TO 25TH MARCH 1993

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>£</u>
Balance on Current Account brought forward	198.71
Balance on Deposit Account brought forward	1054.81
EHDC Precept	1500.00
Commonwealth War Graves Commission	12.00
Interest on Deposit Account	12.49
Dew Pond restoration fund raising	165.00
	<hr/>
	2943.01

<u>Payments</u>	<u>£</u>
Insurance	69.71
HAPC subscription	72.00
Hire of hall	45.00
Donations	450.00
Clerk's salary $\frac{1}{2}$ year	356.34
Administration	42.74
	<hr/>
	1035.79

BALANCE	<u>£1907.22</u>
---------	-----------------