

Chairman

Minutes of the Annual Assembly Meeting 13th May, 2024, held in the Bushfield Room, Badger Farm Community Centre at 7.00 p.m.

The Chairman Cllr. John Godbold gave his welcome address.

Good evening everyone, welcome to the 2024 Annual Meeting0.

I hope you will all agree that we have had a busy and productive year achieving many of the goals we had set for the year.

The tree to commemorate King Charles' Coronation was eventually planted and looks very healthy at present. The commemorative stone will be installed later this year. The Queen's bench is well used and very popular.

The additional 6 benches project is underway, work commenced last week.

The wildflower areas are still on going, thanks to Cllr. Sarah McColl for all her efforts. We hope to be given some resistant Elm trees to plant around the estate to go some way to replace those trees lost to disease.

We had decided to replace the five bus shelters over five years however, we are going to have them refurbished over the summer. A couple of them are in very poor condition especially after the recent graffiti attacks. Although the paint has been removed the shadow of the tags are still plain to see.

We have again suffered from a period of ASB (anti-social behaviour) ranging from broken windows to harassing residents and criminal damage to bus shelters. We were promised extra police patrols, but I personally never saw much sign of these.

Parking on the estate is becoming an issue again particularly down the bottom around Ashbarn and Rooks Down. These roads were not designed as overflow parking for the hospital or university. If Bushfield goes ahead things will only get worse and we may need to ask for some form of parking control for non-residents.

We are continuing the fight against the plans for developing Bushfield and await the next phase of the planning process.



The PC finances are on a sound footing and we were able to keep the precept at last year's rate again this year.

The parish was offered the opportunity to take ownership of the Persimmon land which comprised a lot of very small parcels to some large areas such as the bottom part of the Davis Kickabout Area. At the initial meeting with Winchester City Council, Cllr Porter agreed the Parish Council could take on only the parts we actually wanted. However, WCC officers now want us to take on all the land and bear the cost of the maintenance. This would be a case of double taxation as residents are already paying for this via the Council tax and would be forced to pay again via the PC precept.

I would like to thank our Clerk Christine for trying to keep us on the straight and narrow and for successfully completing this year's audit.

Finaly, I would like to thank our parish councillors for the work they do in the background residents have no idea how much time is given by councillors for their benefit. We have recently lost Sarah and she will be a very hard act to follow. We now begin the search for the right person to replace her.

The Chairman invited questions from the floor.

The meeting closed at 7.12 p.m. and was immediately followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Cllr. John Godbold (Chairman)

Signed by Cllr. John Godbold

Dated: 12th May, 2025.