

Parish Council 2.3.11 Charles Milner-Williams in the Chair; Councillors Phillipson, Davis, Foynes, Windsor and Bradbury in attendance. County Councillor Mrs. Pat West, and Borough Councillor Phil Lashbrook also present. Richard Whiting of Veronica Cottage had come to the meeting to alert the Council, and especially to alert residents whose drainage is by **Septic Tank**, that legislation provides that all these **must be registered with the Dept. of the Environment by 1st Jan. 2012**. There must also be registered a maintenance programme. Failure to meet these requirements will be a **criminal offence**. The Chairman thanked him for highlighting this information, which was news to the Council. Also *from the floor*, Alan Leslie spoke about the **Solar Farms** which are planned for this area. He regretted the use of good agricultural land when “thousands of acres of roofspace could be used”. John Davis said that, although very close to us, none of the installations would actually be in our Parish, so the Council had no standing in the matter, but objections **by individuals** could be encouraged. Phil Lashbrook spoke about liaison with the **Circuit** in keeping traffic flowing freely and minimising impact on “the villages”. There are two big meetings coming up in May i.e. on May 1 Touring cars, and on May 30 Superbikes. He was confident that the arrangements would be effective.

County Cllr. West spoke about the £ 55 million “funding gap” with which the County had to contend, the worst ever. They would do their best to safeguard “children’s services”, would NOT close libraries; and allowing bus -passes to be used from 9am would help a lot of people. She also commented very favourably on the merger of the Basingstoke and Winchester Health Care Trusts, “best thing that could happen”.

The Chairman commented on **Dog Mess, Rubbish : and Footpath Working Parties** but see separate paragraphs in this issue.

Council discussed these matters at some length. It was noted that some **Pot Holes**, as reported for attention, had actually been done ! Though many more awaited. But Progress !!

Mike Windsor reported that the **Village Green Wall** had been repaired, and that the tree work had been done. He presented a report listing a schedule of **maintenance work** on and around The Green, with costs. Of the 5 headings, the Council were happy immediately to authorise 3, but wanted more time to consider the other 2, which pertained to clearing of rubbish from The Green, and possible treatments with herbicides. There is a leaflet “**Guide to Concessionary**

Fares” together with an application form. The Clerk has some of these, so if you would like one contact Heather on 773976.

The May Parish Council Elections were discussed, including the desirability of having a reserve venue for the voting. Councillors Debi Foynes and Kate Phillipson indicated that they would not be seeking re-election. In fact this would be Kate's last Council meeting, and Charles expressed thanks for her contribution, particularly her expertise as a lawyer. John Davis confirmed that the only outstanding **planning** issue was the Showman's Site, but there were signs that the long-awaited decision might come soon. On the **financial** side, his attempts to find a reasonably yielding home for the Council's reserve funds, had not, as reported last month, ended at Santander. A new approach from Lloyds would give a 1 year bond paying 1.55%, with less-draconian provisions and greater ease of use. Council will go for this. Debi Foynes reported on a recent check on **the play area**, and recommended one or two jobs to be done. This will be acted on. The next meeting will be on April 6th.

Death. John Green, long time resident of Beech Close died, in hospital, on February 20th.

Don't forget **The Day of Speed** on Sat May 14th when, for £25 (normal cost £50) you can be driven at race speed (up to 150mph) by a professional driver for 2 laps in a Ferrari or G.T Racing car. To reserve a slot ring Jeremy Bally on 772896, or email at jbally@tiscali.co.uk Get in as quick as poss. as over half the slots have already been reserved.

Churchyard Working Party is on Sat. 9 April, from 10.30 : all ages welcome. Please bring shears, rakes etc and wear suitable clothing, to help tidy the churchyard. Refreshments afterwards will be provided by Mrs. Rome.

The regular **opening of the Church in the afternoons** will begin on the Wednesday of Holy Week, that is April 20th. More details in our April issue.

We are always happy to publicise events at **The Project Workshops** at Quarley. They are having an **open weekend** over the 7th -8th May. With no fewer than **Ten Studios** open, lots of other attractions. A great event to visit, and entry is absolutely FREE. See posters around the Village, and we hope to give more detail next month.

Thanks dear Readers; “see” you in April