

a reply. Ruth will check if it has been fixed and, if not, seek a local repair if possible or else chase HCC.

We discussed the need for a sign (or signs) to be erected pointing to Crux Easton church. This was considered not essential since the church can be seen from the central cross roads but villagers may wish to place a small sign there to encourage visitors.

Carol
ongoing

Speeding We discussed our strong concerns at some vehicles speeding dangerously through Ashmansworth village. Alan has been in touch with HCC and their Andrew Kettlewell. He has chased him again and still awaits his reply. We might consider measures such as gates and signs to encourage responsible driving and repainting the present SLOW sign. It was felt that the usual white gates were inappropriate and that rural timber would be better. Alan will follow this up with HCC.

Alan

Concern was also raised at speeding past Alexander Farm. It was claimed that members of one particular village family might be primarily responsible, so a private word would be appropriate!

Mark

Alan

Alan had also been approached about speeding past Zell Farm (Highclere Parish) and advised that a sign might be appropriate. This would be the responsibility of Highclere PC to advise on, so Alan will forward this to them.

Alan

Trees Johnnie reported that he had received a quotation (£150) for pruning the tree on the Ashmansworth village green by the war memorial and we gave approval to go ahead by correspondence, subject to approval by David Hill, Tree Officer at BDBC. Subject to this, an early start to the work is expected.

We had no objection to a request to remove an overhanging branch from a tree at Mere Cottage. Ruth to notify BDBC

Ruth

Doyley Bottom We expressed concern that the roadside at Doyley Bottom, for so long the home of the family who are now occupying the Cross Lane site, now looks worse than when it was occupied, due to road materials being placed there. We discussed possible landscaping but recognise that it has been returned to its original function of a store for road grit. Alan offered to discuss this with Hampshire County Council though we suspected that they may not be able to offer landscaping.

Alan

5. Crux Easton Phone Box. It is proposed that villagers may convert their newly acquired red phone box for notices and information about their village.

Carol

Broadband Survey. Alan sent a message to all known email addresses in our parish encouraging them to lobby for faster broadband locally. He has received some positive responses but it is possible that others have replied without notifying him. It is important if we are to have a chance of early benefit, so he will send out a reminder!

Alan

6. Chinese Lanterns

Johnnie reported his activity in lobbying for Chinese Lanterns to be banned since they could set fire to property and injure livestock. He wrote to Sir George Young who responded indicating government policy, which offered sympathy but no ban! Johnnie is still lobbying with limited success. It was suggested that he approach Richard Benyon MP.

Johnnie

7. Neighbourhood Watch

Report We have received a progress report from PC Matt Deery which we found very helpful. Local crime figures for the past year were shown and we were asked to set 3 priorities for the new year. After some debate, we agreed that these should be Home Burglary, Theft from Outbuildings and Speeding. Alan will report this back. **Alan**

Rural Policing Event Councillors were invited to attend a Rural Policing Event at Sparsholt College on May 6th, 12 – 8pm. No need to book, but Carol expressed interest and, if she attends, will report back. **Carol**

8. Council Plans

Parish Co-operation Alan reported that he maintained contact with the chairmen of Highclere and East Woodhay parish councils and our local borough councillors, seeking areas of mutual co-operation between us. We have already exchanged information and documents. We are preparing to set up a working group to create an Emergency Plan for the parishes, where Alan will represent us. **Alan**

Local Transport Strong concern was raised at the possibility of withdrawal of the local bus service between Andover and Newbury. Alan wrote a letter to be sent to every household in our villages. Ruth will arrange for this to houses in Crux Easton without email. Replies received have been forwarded to Cllr Horace Mitchell. It is clear that our bus is little used by our villagers although it provides a life line to those who do use it. **Ruth**

We resolved that we should do what we can to keep our bus service but also consider alternatives should it be curtailed. Alan is exploring the Neighbourcare system and other practical alternatives. It was thought that a system of registering interest in giving, receiving and sharing lifts might be appropriate. We will discuss this further at our next meeting. **Alan**

Village Plans It had been agreed that we might need to prepare village plans for each village which could identify policy towards further development. Many new houses are planned just across the border in West Berkshire so further building in our area should not be necessary. Discussion was held over due to lack of time, but hopefully some progress will be made before our next meeting. **All**

9. HALC & BDATPC

Alan reported briefly on a meeting of BDAPTC which he attended last month.

We decided against our clerk seeking membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks

10. Finance Matters

Ruth presented a summary of our financial update for the current year. We should have a bank balance of £1141.26, which is about £850 more than our balance at the start of the financial year. We had budgeted donations to local good causes of £700, but felt that this could be increased to about £750. Ruth confirmed that the limit for such donations is over £6 per elector – of which we have 173 - or over £1000. **Ruth**

After some discussion, we agreed to award the following donations:

Village Hall Appeal: £500

Crux Easton Church toilet fund: £200

Royal Wedding Celebrations: £50

Invoices for payment - We approved 4 cheques:

Mr Mike Sarson, Cheque no. 100465, £35.06, for stationery supplies for Village Calendar

Grant, Crux Easton Church, Cheque no. 100466, £200.00

Grant, Village Hall Appeal, Cheque no. 100467, £500.00.

Grant, Village Hall Appeal, Cheque no. 100468, £50.00, for Royal Wedding celebrations

11. Correspondence

We were notified by HCC highways that Peter Eade would be transferring to Winchester on 4th April and that his replacement would be Steve Pellatt.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

Parish Assembly, followed by an Annual meeting: Tuesday 24th May, in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Regular meeting: Tuesday 12th July in the village hall at 7.30pm

The **Meeting** closed at 9.45pm