

CANDOVERS PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL TO DISCUSS POLICE FUNDING

Date: Thursday 26th March 2015. **Time:** 7:30pm
Venue: Totford Farm, Totford

Present: Jonathan Moseley Chairman
Edwina Curtis-Hayward
Adam Willmott
Di Peisley
Wendy Simson Clerk

Apologise: Sue Marriott Vice-Chairman

827 Apologies

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Marriott sent her apologies as she was not able to attend the meeting.

828 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes for the last meeting held on 17th February 2015 were reviewed and agreed by the Council as an accurate record. The Chairman signed to confirm this.

829 Funding for Policing in Upton Grey and the Candovers

The Chairman explained that Hampshire Constabulary have planned a restructure to ensure they work within their budget restraints and have looked at the rural policing in the Basingstoke Area. There is a plan to change the way in which the rural areas around Basingstoke are policed with "Upton Grey and The Candovers" beat being brought into "Basingstoke Rural South" which would stretch from Whitchurch, up to Highclere and include Tadley, where the rural team would be headquartered

The Parish Councils within the Upton Grey and The Candovers beat have been given the option that they can keep a dedicated Police Officer but this would need to be funded by the Parish Councils and local residents. The estimated costs are between £88,000 to cover the costs of a full time Police Officer at 40 hours per week, up to £121,000 which would ensure cover for holidays etc were included.

Councillor Curtis Hayward asked why the costs were so high, as an allocation for Policing in the Upton Grey and Candovers area would have been accounted for and the cost was expected to be to bridge the gap between the planned cover and the current situation. The Chairman explained that as the community wanted to continue to have the existing level of cover that this was the price Hampshire Constabulary were going to charge.

Councillor Willmott suggested that given these costs that the decision the Parish Council needed to make was if they were prepared to support the plans. The Councillors agreed that the huge attendance at the meeting on Saturday 8th November at Herriard Church showed the public support for the presence of a local beat officer. Candovers Parish Council also felt

that the community would see a benefit in maintaining the police presence through the tough financial times in hope that public funding may be increased at some future point. Councillor Curtis Hayward asked about the legality of “buying” a Police Officer for the area. The Chairman asked the Clerk to speak to HALC about this situation and if there have been other cases of this nature.

Action: Clerk to ask HALC and circulate response.

“Parish Councils have power under the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 to contribute to crime protection schemes.” Vendy Treagust, Member Support Officer, HALC

The Clerk presented the budget for 2015/16 which the Councillors reviewed. It was agreed that the budgeted amount for clearing the ditches of silt was high at £2,500. The day rate being charged for this work is £100 per day and a day had been planned for the beginning of the financial year and a further 4 or 5 may be required in October/November to clear all the ditches and remove the weeds etc. It was therefore agreed that this line be reduced to £750, this would reduce planned spending to £5,716 against an income of £4,959 and leave the sum of £2,520 in the bank at the end of the year. It was therefore agreed that Candovers Parish Council would budget to fund the Policing Plan at £750 for the next 3 years subject to the police committing to three years as well.

Action: Clerk to update budget and circulate to all Councillor with minutes.

830 Planning

The Councillors looked at the plans for Manor Farm which had been received on 9th March and agreed they had no objections to the plans.

Action: Clerk to respond the Basingstoke & Deane

Councillor Curtis Hayward explained that she had met with someone clearing the path along with Wayfarers Walk and they that had informed her that the landowner intended to fence along the side of the path. It was agreed that further investigation be carried out to ensure the Wayfarers Walk would still be suitable as a bridleway.

831 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 19th May 2015 at Candover Valley Club starting at 7:30pm, later meeting in 2015 to be on:-

- Tuesday 21st July
- Monday 5th October
- Monday 7th December