

1. David Ellis, PC Chair, chaired the Annual Parish Meeting and welcomed everyone.
Councillors also in attendance: Jo Probut, Andrew White, Julia Chedgey, Jayne Hudson, Diccon Harvey. Apologies: Jim Marsh
2. **Minutes of the last Parish Assembly 3 May 2022** – signed by David
3. **County Councillor's Report** – Juliet Henderson sent her apologies
4. **Borough Councillor's report** - Colin Phillimore introduced the newly elected ward cllr – Karen Watts. Following the election, the council make up has changed considerably with 31 councillors now in opposition - 23 previously. He hopes that charging for car parking will be changed. Fighting development in Whitchurch and Overton remains a big challenge. As Basingstoke & Deane Borough don't have an agreed 5-year land supply the area is laid open to speculative developers. Colin is trying to get the Portals site included in the B&D plan. David re-iterated that the PC is happy to support this.
5. **Chairman's Report:**
 - Our thanks to Colin Phillimore & Karen Watts (Ward Cllrs), Helen Coles & Kerry Quinn (Bombay Sapphire) for attending today & all those who have done written reports for the meeting.
 - The year has been one of celebrations. In June last year we celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee with a well-attended and successful village party with games and evening of entertainment. We received a grant from the lottery commission to support the event and that has provided the villages with games equipment and a new seat in the green which will face the west, giving us a chance to face and enjoy the sun sets over Batt's Meadow.
 - We again celebrated last weekend's Coronation which was supported by a small grant from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and kindly aided by Bombay Sapphire. I think everyone enjoyed our Royal Revelries. The BBQ, Games on the Green, tea and cake all went down very well. We are all looking forward to the re-creation of the photographs of the Royal visit a hundred years ago and in front of the Bombay Sapphire Glasshouses with the Mayor.
 - We were pleased the Big Help Out on Monday was well attended with clearing in both the village green and the church areas. We are delighted with the fantastic contribution from Bombay Sapphire employees on the Inspirit day on Wednesday.
 - We express our grateful thanks to all the members of the committee and villages who organised these events and ensured they were a great success.
 - During the year the PC has:
 - Continued to support the Millennium Green at the heart of the villages. We have provided a grant for insurance for the playground.
 - Continued to maintain the Lady Rose Hall with repairs to the floor. We are in the process of completing instructions for the repair of the damaged brick work and coping on the North side of the building and to the wall in the car park. This is supported by an s106 grant.
 - Cut back the hedge alongside Laverstoke Lane
 - Repaired the drains to the Lady Rose Hall and Kingfisher centre through an insurance claim.

- During the year we commissioned condition surveys of the old pavilion building which identified that there will be substantial costs over the next few years if the building is to be kept open. This will be a significant ongoing challenge to the PC.
 - The dispute with the WTC over the brightness and timing of lights installed has continued during the year. Basingstoke and Deane rejected planning approval, and the WTC decided to pursue an appeal rather than address the issue with residents at the September 2022 PC meeting. Sadly, the dispute on the Pavilion Licence is ongoing though we hope this can be resolved sensibly.
 - There were also some other disappointments:
 - After many years of discussion on the potential car park in Freefolk, Sovereign Housing decided this was too expensive and we have concluded that this project will not happen. However, we had In April a productive Parish Council meeting where a number of residents came to discuss options for the area. We will look to define more clearly the rough ground which can be used for parking and also plant/re-wild the rest of the area to make it more attractive.
 - With Overton Archers we let part of the field become a wildflower meadow. We have sighting of a number of Orchids and other flowers – but also an abundance of thistles. Sadly, as normal mowers can't tackle the long grass the cost of cutting the grass annually is high and this experiment will be difficult to maintain. We are currently in discussion with the archers about this
 - We finally found a contractor to remove the old football lights but this has been prevented by the wet weather making the ground too damp for machinery. We hope this can be completed this year.
 - We have continued to work well with our County Council and our thanks goes to Nicky as clerk for the excellent work liaising and dealing with matters. We are pleased to see the footpath bridge over the Test in Freefolk which was damaged in the storms repaired, and on a lighter note we have had a duck crossing warning side installed on the B3400! Diccon has continued to work on footpaths and we will continue with this and other projects on our list during next year.
 - A new fence has been installed around the undercroft to provide a more obvious border to the archery safety area.
 - We are pleased to have been able to increase the Parish precept only very slightly for next year to £10k but which actually represents a fall in percentage rate on the average band despite high inflation. In addition to continuing with our projects we are looking to make savings from banking and IT arrangements.
 - Also in the year, we had a change of Councillors. I would like to reiterate my thanks to James Bretel who stepped down in the Autumn and to Jim Marsh who then joined us
6. **Bombay Sapphire update** - Helen Coles introduced Kerry Quinn who is a production supervisor. The distillery team are still waiting to employ a production manager. During the year they had donated 'Laverstokes' and gin to the Jubilee and Coronation celebrations and pallets to the Men's Shed. They have lots of pallets and are happy to supply more if needed. They have seen a decline in visitor numbers coming out of covid and have made a change to their business model with consumer openings on Fri/Sat/Sun and private groups only on other weekdays. They expect to increase opening hours during the summer holidays. Their Creative Lab development has started but is expected to complete next year. This year will see new offices opening. Kerry explained that they had record gin production over the past year with 16.8million litres of alcohol (at 80%)

produced. There have been a few changeovers in structure on the distillery side. Kerry has been with BS 4.5 months only and Josh is now a supervisor too. Kerry's role includes managing operations and compliance. They have recently launched Citron Presse gin (think lemoncello and gin had a baby)! Also, in process of launching a Limited Edition Juniper Premier Cru for the global travel retail market and sale at the distillery! They are working on the licence to allow locals to visit the café. In the tank farm area, the fir trees have been replanted - they are 8ft but look small. The wall was also repaired. Clematis and ivy on the fence remain a constant challenge but they will keep a close eye on this.

7. Police Report - Andy Jones, PCSO, sent in a written report which was read as follows:

- **Assault without injury x 1** - A concern was raised by a neighbouring Police force that then raised a concern for children living at an address. Enquiries into this allegation are ongoing.
- **Burglaries x 3**
 - A Shipping container was broken into which was situated on a site where building was occurring. A compactor plate to the value of £800 was stolen.
 - A porta cabin on the above site had its window smashed and the frame removed 5 days prior to the previous incident.
 - On the 14 March 23 a resident returned home from work to find a window ajar and marks of on the floor within. Nothing appears to have been stolen.
- **Criminal Damage x 7**
 - 5 of these reports involved damage to fields and hedgerows believed to have been caused by criminals involved in wildlife crimes. (Hare Coursing)
 - A report of a caravan having been damaged whilst parked up unattended. There was suggestion that some person/s may have attempted to steal it hence the damage.
 - A tractor window was found broken by the local gamekeeper. Youths were spoken to who were close by at the time. No further action taken as not convinced they were responsible.
- **Theft x 1** - A storage card from a trail camera located on private land has been removed by person trespassing upon it.
- **Theft from car** - A catalytic converter has been stolen from a car whilst parked up. These types of theft are on the increase and difficult to prevent. The offender uses a hydraulic jack to allow access to the area under the car before using a reciprocating saw or similar to remove it. The whole process completed in less than 2 minutes. The noise made using the saw is loud – it makes a distinct cutting metal sound.

High end keyless cars in general are being targeted for theft. Criminals use a device which amplifies the signal from the device used to start the car within the residence, allowing the car to be started and driven off without the owner being aware. By using a faraday bag / box to store key when not in use prevents a signal from being transmitted. This can be purchased from various high street stores and online.

Apple Air Tags & Samsung Galaxy Tags are a very good at tracking belongings if lost / stolen. Recently someone had their car stolen and left one of these devices within it. This allowed the Police to locate it as well as in excess of 70 other cars that had previously been stolen.

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Other devices such as TILE remain on the market for owners of SMART phones that are not Samsung or Apple. Always read the specifications on the product to ensure your mobile device is compatible.

Your local point of contact remains as PCSO 13301 Andrew Jones. He can be contacted by email Andrew.jones.13301@hampshire.police.uk Do Not report crime direct to Andy initially but continue to use 101 or report online for non-emergency matters & 999 for crimes happening at the time and a suspect still on scene.

I cover a huge area but I am always willing to meet in person if crime prevention advice is wanted etc.

OPEN FORUM

A member of the Millennium Green team thanked Bombay Sapphire for their generous support of the recent Coronation event and also their quiz evening. Another resident commented that following the police report perhaps there could be consideration of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the area **Action:** contact Andy to discuss.

The meeting was followed by Cheese and Wine and a review of historic photos that Jo Probut has collected in relation to King George V's visit to Laverstoke in April 1923. She has also re-created the visit with a photo of residents taken at the Coronation event and superimposed on the old photo. With thanks to Bob Hough for taking the photos and creating this:

