

Report of the Outwood Annual Parish Meeting ~ April 2006

About 60 people, including at least a dozen under 16s, attended this meeting in the Lloyd Hall on April 20th. The Chairman presented her report of the year's activities which included the disappointment over the Rural Housing Trust's recommendation that no affordable housing could be built in Outwood due to the lack of amenities. (The Chairman's full report can be found below).

The sharing of the 'odd job man' with Burstow has been resumed and the resurfacing of Millers Lane has been completed. As the last census showed that well over 20% of Outwood residents were under 16, a youth agenda was introduced to explore the lack of youth facilities in the village. An informal group was set up with concerned parents, and various options are being discussed. The Cricket Club has a thriving Colts section and an informal game of football takes place on the common during the lighter evenings.

Our precept remains at £6,000 and our reserves have been reduced through the purchasing of new kerbstones along the northern part of the Dayseys Hill Project and an oak sign at each end, along with a donation to St John's Parish Church for the maintenance of the churchyard and towards the new boiler. Taxi vouchers have also been purchased although the take-up on these has been disappointing. A joint effort with Neighbourhood Watch has resulted in money being set aside to enable us to join with Horne in the Community Speed Watch Scheme as well as possibly purchasing a moveable speed activated sign.

The Chairman extended her thanks to all the Parish Councillors and to the "hard-worked and uncomplaining" Parish Clerk.

Questions followed, including one about the proposed parish boundary changes and the large lorries that use Millers Lane.

There was then a presentation by WPC Moira Cocks on the Community Speed Watch Scheme which operates in a number of Surrey villages to great effect. Checks can only be made on roads with speed limits of 30 and 40mph. Speeds of up to 5mph above the limit are recorded and the police will contact the registered owner of the vehicle. Persistent offenders will result in a police attendance and they will prosecute. In answer to questions WPC Cocks said that the speed guns are re-calibrated annually and that speed limits are set by the SCC Local Committee - Transportation.

Following this Jane Wilson, Youth Development Officer for SCC, provided us with an overview of the facilities and support provided by Surrey County Council for young people. After her presentation she was able to talk to a number of young people and their parents and discuss a way forward.

Mrs Marsh thanked all the speakers and everyone for attending and invited them to share in the delicious refreshments provided by Mrs Last.

Paula Marsh - April 2006

Outwood Parish Council Annual Report for 2005-6

As the new Council year began in May 2005 I was delighted to take over the Chair from Geoff Last, and welcomed our new Surrey County Councillor Ken Rimington and Sue Wilson who has been co-opted onto the Parish Council for two years. Ian Frow agreed to be Vice-Chairman and various responsibilities were allotted to appropriate Councillors.

We continued to hope that a number of affordable homes could be built in Outwood under the auspices of the Rural Housing Trust. All the formalities were adhered to including their questionnaire to villagers and a preliminary walkabout with a representative of the Trust looking for a suitable site. Unfortunately the lack of any amenities swayed the decision against this being a suitable place for such housing.

We have been able to resume the sharing of the 'odd job man' with Burstow Parish Council. This enables our verges to be kept as tidy as possible as he litter picks on his one day a month in Outwood. Litter is a constant blot on the landscape and the Council is grateful to all those villagers who go out and pick up litter outside their properties. The resurfacing of Millers Lane has also been completed.

The Dayseys Hill Project was taken on by Sue Wilson and new kerbstones were put in along the northern part to discourage vehicles from driving over the meadow. Oak signs were erected around the same time and extra wording will be added in the near future emphasising the nature of this project.

The Council noted that the last census showed that well over twenty percent of Outwood residents were under the age of sixteen. A youth agenda item was placed on the November meeting and younger residents, their parents and the Council explored the problem of the lack of youth facilities in the village. An informal group was set up by the concerned parents and members of this group made a further input to the well attended March Parish Council meeting.

The cricket club has a thriving Colts section which meets on a Friday evening during the cricket season. Also, an informal game of football has been taking place on the Common to the south of the windmill on the lighter summer evenings, and the Council made a grant for the purchase of a portable set of goalposts.

The big problem is that the Parish Council owns no land. Ideally a hard standing such as a tennis court that could also have basketball and netball lines would be desirable, but finding a suitable location is proving to be difficult. We are in talks with the National Trust at the moment as the Council is also in favour of a shelter where youngsters could 'hang out' together. Again the siting is causing problems. We continue to pursue all possibilities.

We have combined with Neighbourhood Watch to assess the need for a moveable speed activated sign for the village and money has been set aside to enable us to join with Horne in the Community Speed Watch scheme.

During the past year we have kept within our budget and have reduced our reserves by over £3,200 through the purchase of the kerbing and signs on Dayseys Hill. Donations totalling £1,500 have been made to St John's Parish Church for the maintenance of the churchyard and towards the new boiler. Taxi vouchers have been purchased but the level of requests has been disappointing. Our precept remains at £6,000.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow Councillors, Ian Frow, Colin Denny, Patrick Jenn and Sue Wilson for their loyal support and hard work and special thanks goes to David West, our hard-worked and uncomplaining Parish Clerk. We are here for you and we look forward to continuing to serve our village.

Thank you,

Paula Marsh

Chair, Outwood Parish Council

April 2006