

TWYFORD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 9th May 2018 at 7.30 p.m. in Twyford Parish Hall.

1) **Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Jade Cornwall and from the following Twyford resident; Maggie Lippett.

2) **To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2017**

<http://twyfordhants.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/2017-Draft-Minutes-TWYFORD-ANNUAL-PARISH-ASSEMBLY-2017-Published-on-Website.pdf>

It was noted that the draft minutes of the last meeting had been published on the Parish Council page of the Twyford Parish website for the past year and referred to on the published agenda. No requests for any changes had been received and none were made at the meeting.

Acceptance of the draft minutes was proposed by Councillor Forder-Stent, seconded by Richard Sellars and carried unanimously.

3) **Chair's Report *Waine Lawton***

A hard copy of the Report of the Chairman available to each attendee was referred to and the Chair proceeded to articulate the contents of the annexed report.

In particular the Chairman thanked Cllr Humby, Cllr Cook and Cllr Izard for all that they do for the village. The Chairman also thanked Sonia Watson for all her hard work as Treasurer, and who left the Council in 2017, and wished Cllr West all the best for the birth of her baby.

The Chairman ended his report, noting in all the 8 years he had been on the Council he had never know it so busy, with so many demands on the Council. If anyone is interested in taking a more active role in helping the Parish run, then to please get in touch to find out more about being a Parish Councillor.

4) **District Councillor and County Councillor reports *Sue Cook, Richard Izard & Rob Humby***

Councillor Humby

Cllr Humby clarified that he has two roles, one as a City Councillor, where he is Deputy Leader of the Council, and secondly as County Councillor. As County Councillor, he is an Executive Member responsible for The Environment and Transport Committee.

As the Executive Member, he is responsible for waste collection across Hampshire, and looking after the recycling centres. He also has 5,500 miles of roads and footways to maintain, and repair potholes. Due to cuts, there is a backlog of pot holes to deal with, and the recent snow event caused £10m additional damage. The funds provided by the Government (£3m) does not cover the cost, and the County is £20m short in funds to do all the work that is needed.

A new contract with Skansia to repair pot holes has enabled faster repairs, and 10,000 pot holes a year are fixed. The best way to report a pot hole is through the online reporting tool on Hampshire County Council Highways reporting page.

Hampshire is the County with the highest number of cars. There is a need to increase the capacity on the motorways and A roads before dealing with local traffic.

With regards to local issues, if there is a safety issue, for example foliage cutting on Highbridge Road / Main Road, then it will get done. The gulleys at the side of road have been installed with monitors, so silt build up can be monitored remotely. This means that gulleys will get cleared when they need to.

Cllr Humby ended by reminding the Assembly that there is a continued pressure on budgets, and adult and child social care is the second largest budget in the County, and growing.

There was a question from the public, requesting a monitor in the gully in Finches Lane. Cllr Humby will look into it.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Humby.

Councillor Izard

Cllr Izard congratulated Cllr Cook on the success of being re-elected. He provided an update on the following

- Silver Hill – regeneration of the bus depot in Winchester City Centre is due to be approved in June.
- Two largest planning projects he had to approve was Boomtown license, and a new Tesco's in City Centre.
- Involvement in the speed reduction campaign between Twyford and Colden Common, and the safety of Highbridge Road / Main Road junction
- Fighting the Eastleigh Local Plan preferred options
- Colden Common Sandyfields development of housing will generate some money to make road improvements in Twyford
- WCC are developing the Old Police House in Dolphin Hill
- Speedwatch will commence in Twyford next week, outside Manor Farm Green

Report by Councillor Cook

Cllr Cook thanked the Council for having the opportunity for speaking. She provided an update on:

- Queen Street road resurfacing needs to be completed
- Thanked the work Jonathan Humphreys has done to improve the Northfields Bus Shelter
- Thanked the community of Twyford and Colden Common for being re-elected and looks forward to serving the community. Encouraged residents to contact her no matter how small the problem.

5) Questions from Electors

No further questions were asked of any of the Councillors.

6) Report on crime and disorder during the last year specific to the Twyford area

Emma Gill, PCSO, Hampshire Constabulary.

Emma Gill introduced herself and fellow officer, Steve Sharp.

Emma reported that in the months Feb to May, crime in the area has been relatively low. There have been 4 attempted break ins to the Golf Club. There have been 4 bike thefts, and Emma reminded the Assembly to ensure security of your belongings, lock them up and away. There have been reports on anti-social behaviour, and the officers continue to work hard in those areas.

Compton Lock was discussed, which attracts a lot of youth in the sunny warm weather. Steve has been regularly patrolling the locks. Emma updated she is trying to apply for a Section 30 dispersal, but to be successful with that, she needs lots of evidence that the youths are a problem. Emma urged the Assembly that if they see a problem at the lock to report it on 101 so it gets logged. Emma commented that whilst the new steps at the Lock look great, it does encourage visitors. The majority of the visitors are causing no issue, but 20% are ruining it for the rest.

Steve has met with Davina Holland, the Neighbourhood Officer, she is going to do a joint operation with Steve.

The officers are unable to ticket anyone dropping litter unless they are caught in the act, and are over 16. The officers have never seen anyone drinking or taking drugs.

With regards to the Speed Reduction, Sgt Gilmour attended a meeting in Colden Common. He is trying to get statistics on number of accidents between Twyford and Colden Common. They know of 5, but only 1 is on record.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for patrolling the Lock and walking around the village. The presence does make a difference.

St Mary's School invited Emma Gill to talk to the school children in the run up the summer holiday.

A member of the public is keen to start Speedwatch in Twyford, and would be keen to hear from anyone who would like to assist.

7) Twyford Neighbourhood Plan *Chris Corcoran*

The Neighbourhood Plan has been held up, due to a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) is being conducted. The Neighbourhood Plan has brought some issues to the forefront which are being dealt with, including; parking, flooding and funding to investigate these aspects further. Development of Site 26 could potentially solve both the flooding and parking issues in the village. We are in talks with the owner of the site regarding donation towards investigating the flooding further. Hampshire County Council have awarded £10,000 to investigate a solution to the flooding. We continue to work closely with South Downs National Park.

If the SEA is completed by the end of May, there will be a major Consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan in the Summer. We encourage everyone to comment, and feedback if we have not got it right.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Corcoran, and the team of volunteers who have worked really hard get the Neighbourhood Plan to this point.

8) Eastleigh Local Plan: *ACTION AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT - EASTLEIGH John Lauwerys*

ADD started in December 2015, when Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) issued their first Consultation document.

On 11th December 2017 EBC decided to adopt the draft plan, which includes Options B and C, and a new link road between Lower Upham and Allbrook. The link road is

presented as a solution to bypass Eastleigh and solve traffic problems. The plan includes 5,200 housing, and EBC have to provide 15,000 in next 20 years. EBC are proposing to put a third of the total allocation on the boundary to Winchester.

ADD think that the housing is in the wrong place, and options D and E on Allington Lane has better support from infrastructure, transport and location.

EBC Councillors have made a decision prior to evidence being provided.

Next step is the plan goes to the Inspectorate in June, when it will be open for 6 week Consultation. Public can lodge their views and it will go to the Inspector.

ADD are fighting with Planning criteria.

ADD is relevant to Twyford, as the traffic generated from the housing will affect Twyford, 26,000 extra journeys a day will be created. The link road joins existing road system. 4,200 houses are planned from Fair Oak to Upham, the traffic has to go somewhere.

ADD are looking to appoint a planning solicitor to prove the plan is not sustainable. The campaign is looking for donations to help fund the solicitor. John asked the villagers to donate if they can and want to.

Questions:

In 2017 TPC donated £500 to ADD, and the internal auditor raised it may be political. We suggested we would ask the APA for the opinion of the residents of Twyford, if they support a donation to ADD. It was proposed that TPC help with a £500 donation, and ADD is not seen as a political organisation. It was proposed by Cllr Corcoran and seconded by Jane Bronk. The majority of the audience voted by show of hands in favour of the proposal. There were no abstentions and no objections to the proposal. The proposal was carried forward to the FPC to ratify on 24th May 2018.

Cllr Izard asked to the extent Hampshire Highways are involved in the road. John Lauwerys explained that Eastleigh planners were missing evidence in the plan, including traffic and transport. The local plan should be evidence based, and ADD still await the evidence. HCC are formal consultees on the plans, and have received a draft. Highways Authority have a duty to co-operate with Eastleigh planning authority, and have to respond in a professional objective way.

A question was asked about the rail bridge at Allbrook, which cannot be raised, and the road cannot be lowered. The road is proposed to be straightened between Allbrook and Colden Common.

Cllr Cook asked if there have been any compulsory land purchase for the plan. John Lauwerys said that he has heard of some unpleasant scenarios.

9) Berry Meadows and Compton Lock restoration project

Chris Corcoran

A hole was reported a year ago in the steps, and the project has snow balled since then. The restoration of the steps came to £10,000. The Parish Council had put aside £5,000 towards the cost, and grants have been obtained for the rest. The project has grown which attracts more grants, so for the same investment by the Council, much more has been done to improve the area.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Corcoran for all that he has done, and for securing the funding.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Corcoran on the success of Kathy Stearne talk on the history of the water meadows.

10) Update on Local Community Projects

Short 'headline' updates will be given

written reports received will be published on the Parish Council website

Roger Walker, Graze Festival

Roger thanked the village for attending the event and giving support. He thanked Jonathan Humphrey for providing the land, and developing the site to accommodate the festival. The first couple of years there was an issue with parking, but now 7 acres will be provided for parking.

Graze has been running for 4 years, and there is a license for a further 3 years. There are 2,500 people on site during the festival, and expecting 3,000 this year. £20,000 surplus was made last year, most of it was given away to local charity. Some of the money has been kept for working capital.

This year a Charity has been named to whom the funds will go to: Joe Glover.

This year event is on 26th August.

Liz Kennett, Twyford Parish Hall Management C'ttee

Liz thanked Andy Roberts for his work on the Notice Boards and the tree stump. Thanked Colin for caretaking, and goes beyond what he gets employed to do. Thanks also went to Ian Wheeler for managing bookings and the support of the Parish Council. Plans for improvements include the area in front of the Hall, and the flat roof needs repairing. The Committee will also look into obtaining wi-fi, which has been on the request of users.

Vicky Feldwick, Guiding [in Twyford]

Guiding in Twyford includes Guides, Brownies and Rainbows. It is thriving in Twyford, and there is a hope to revitalise Rangers, for 14 to 18 year olds. A new programme is to be rolled out across all sections, involving 6 new steps. New volunteers are encouraged to join the group.

Pamela Lawrence, Twyford Playgroup

Pamela has managed the playgroup for 18 years, and is grateful to the committee who manage the playgroup.

The playgroup break even over the course of the year, but it is dependent on numbers.

Pamela thanked Graze for funding, and hopes for funding from the Parish Council to refurbish the allotment at Ballard Close.

The Chairman thanked the playgroup for the service they provide the village.

Juliet Hawkes, Twyford St Mary the Virgin Church

Following the previous vicar's resignation, a new vicar (Rev Damon Draisy) will be inducted on 27th June.

The Appeal for new bells continues to raise funds, and new bells will hopefully attract bell ringers to the church. The church had to have a new boiler, funded by the diocese, but now new radiator system is required. Funds for a new system are being scoped.

Juliet thanked the village for the work on the church yard and grass cutting.

The Chairman thanked the work of the church.

Hannah Beckett, St Mary's School

The head teacher thanked the Parish Council for the donation to the outdoor classroom. The school are creating a landscape plan to optimise the space usage in the school, which may change the direction traffic enters the school. The school was the top performing school in the County for improvement in performance from KS1 to KS2.

Mary Timms, Twyford Social Club

The Social Club has changed their constitution, so they can now fund raise. There are 207 members, and 47% are residents of the village.

Twyford Community Project have contributed towards some partitioning, so the bar can be separate to functions and children. TPC are contributing towards car park improvements. More funds need to be raised

There were 2 break ins this year, which created £6,000 worth of damage. There was a great public response to help.

Events at the Social Club continue to grow and be diverse, and a new range of ales are on sale at the bar.

Centenary celebrations are planned for 10th November.

More volunteers are desperately needed to help run the social club, especially as 2 key members are leaving soon.

Lucy Roberts, One Acorn

One Acorn is a social enterprise with the aim for people to connect to nature to improve well being.

For a relatively new organisation, Lucy is pleased to be running 1 or 2 sessions per month.

They are trying to fund raise to continue to build and grow, and offer more sessions. If anyone is interested in taking part, please contact Lucy.

11) Closing Questions & Answers depending on time available before 9.30

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and invited any closing comment.

A resident alerted everyone to the social calendar of events which is on the TPC website, underneath the Parish Council Calendar.

A resident wanted to know what the booking process was for the Hunter Park Tennis Courts, as someone had problems booking a court, and it did not appear to be open access. A short discussion on the history of the tennis club took place. It was agreed the Parish Council would invite representative of the HPTC to attend a Parish Council meeting to understand further.

The meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

Chairman's Report

Annual Parish Assembly 9th May 2018

Parish Council

The Parish Council has had an extremely active year during which there have been times of frustration and times of pleasure.

Of the Council itself, Tony Bronk the clerk to the Council resigned in May last year and notification of this was made at last year's meeting. In the short time he was clerk, he accomplished much tidying up various financial aspects of the Council's work which was greatly appreciated. Jo Nicholson who previously was the administrator of the Neighbourhood Plan replaced Tony last September and is adapting quickly to intricacies and increasing challenges of the role of a parish clerk.

Sonia Watson, a long-time member of the Council and Chair of the Finance Committee resigned during the course of the year to concentrate on other things of personal interest. She was due to leave after last year's AGM but very kindly stayed on to help induct the new clerk and Stephanie West, her successor on the Finance Committee. Sonia's financial expertise and wisdom were much appreciated and I would like to thank her for her commitment to the Parish Council and also to the well-being of the village as a whole. A further resignation for the Council was Andrew Holland.

As mentioned, Stephanie West has replaced Sonia as chair of the committee but the Council is about to lose her for a period of time while she takes maternity leave. We offer her our congratulations and trust all will go well with the birth of her first child. Richard Sellars the vice chairman will cover Stephanie's absence.

I would like to thank the County and District Councillors, Rob Humby, Richard Izard and Sue Cook for their support. During the course of the year much has been thrust upon them by the Council for advice and action and they have responded admirably.

Neighbourhood Plan

One frustration this year has been the slow progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. Key to securing the Council's preferred site for development, which is adjacent to the doctors' surgery, is to satisfy the SDNPA who is undertaking a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan, that a deliverable flood attenuation scheme can be put in place. Dealing with this has been a challenge and after a period of stagnation, progress is now being made.

The Council has engaged Mayer Brown, a consultant engineering firm, to produce a design plan for flood mitigation. This is being funded by Council through budgeted money and a grant from HCC which will cover two thirds of the cost of the scheme. This will be sufficient to enable Mayer Brown produce the essential part of the design plan with the outstanding part being with how the drains will fit in with the underground utilities in the road left to a later date. Happily this has enabled the SDNPA to proceed with the Strategic Environment Assessment and by all accounts it is believed to be acceptable in all other aspects. On its return, the Parish Council will consider any minor adjustments to be made with the mind of bringing it into line with the new SDNPA Local Plan that has been published. Once this has been accomplished, the Neighbourhood Plan will move on to pre-submission for consultation and finally a village referendum probably early next year.

Traffic

The high volume of traffic passing through the village remains an issue. The congestion on Hazeley Road and the High Street has forced commuting traffic to make use of the minor residential lanes as a means of avoiding the village centre which is annoying to those who live there. Unfortunately the volume of traffic is going to increase with new houses planned in Colden Common and quite possible further south, near Fair oak, owing to Eastleigh Council's new development plan. The implications of this will be discussed during the meeting following a talk by a member of the ADD team.

A further frustration has been the time it takes from identifying a problem to having it resolved or attended. Dealing with the parking issues on Finches and Shawford Lanes has been a lengthy process. Advice and support has been forthcoming from the City and County Council but they have to follow routine procedures, face demands and have tight budgets so the process is slow. Happily after persistence, Queen Street has been resurfaced and parking restrictions have been placed along the lanes although Finches Lane remains heavily congested at times.

A proposal has been put forward to narrow the carriageway to single width, with white lines, over Norris Bridge to slow traffic and provide a safe pathway for pedestrians to cross the bridge. It has been agreed already that the bridge itself will be painted. To the south of the village, a request is to be made to reduce the 50mph section of the road towards Colden Common to 40mph. Many find the Twyford Moors junction hazardous owing to its layout and the speed of the passing traffic. A recent speed survey established that the majority of traffic passing through this section kept below 50mph but exceed 40mph by a reasonable margin. At the moment Hampshire Highways are displaying a reluctance to act but the Council will persist with vigour to have the speed limit reduced.

Water Meadows

Compton Lock has required attention as over the years the bank holding the steps has been eroded making it unsafe. The repair work has just been completed for which the Council has borne the cost

with support from a grant from Hampshire and a donation by Shawford Parish Council. Mention of this will be made at the meeting.

Many people attended the interesting talk by Kathy Sterne on the historical use of water meadows in England and in particular that belonging to Twyford. The Council has commissioned her to produce a historical study of the Meads and to oversee repair work to bring the flooding channels back into working order. She has very kindly agreed to be an advisor to Council in how best to manage the Meads over the next decade.

The Berry Meadow and Meads around Compton Lock are places all the village treasure and enjoy. Of late though, during the warm summer weekends and school holidays, the area has become a haven for youngsters to gather, many from far afield. Unfortunately the behaviour has not always been good and nor has the place been left in a tidy state. This has been distasteful for those who enjoy the tranquillity and beauty of the area. The Council has been working with Shawford Parish Council, Hampshire Police and Hampshire Community Service to monitor this. It was very pleasing to learn that the crowd of youngsters were dispersed and sent home during one particularly warm weekend evening in March.

The Council would like to thank, most sincerely, those volunteers, many of whom are from Shawford, who clear up the mess left behind after the weekend visits. It is a shame that people who want to enjoy the pleasures of the site have no desire to leave it tidy on their departure.

Recreation Grounds

There have been changes to the maintenance of the two recreation grounds. Matt Riley who looked after these areas has moved to preparing the cricket wicket and Green Smile has taken over dealing with all the grass cutting and field maintenance at Hunter Park and Northfields.

Last year it was mentioned that the Council would set aside a sum of money each year for to put towards the replacement of the children's play equipment as new stock ranges between £10 000 and £20 000. The intention was to build up a useful sum of money to be able to change a number of aging items when the time came. However one well used old piece of equipment broke and as its repair costs were so high it was decided that to replace it with something new. So some of the money that had been ring fenced has been used, but the intention is to carry on annually putting a sum aside as it proved that it was useful to have when the need arose.

Some people have complained to the Council about the state of Pumfrett's Bank. Unfortunately the owner of the residence where the bank is located is contesting the Council's authority to tidy the

bank as it is not lodged with the deeds of his property and would like the memorial stone removed. The matter is with the solicitors, but suffice to say that an agreement that was drawn up in 1983 between the then owners of the bank, Hampshire County Council and the Parish Council for a memorial stone to David Pumfrett and for the Parish Council to keep the area tidy has operated smoothly until now. I hope we can bring this unfortunate matter to a satisfactory and speedy conclusion.

Conclusion

During the eight years I have been a parish councillor, six of which as being chairman, I have noted a significant rise in demands being made of the Parish Council. Whether it is "localism" or the fact that the County and City Councils are increasingly strapped for cash, perhaps a combination of both, the Parish Council is being forced into taking on more responsibilities. The Council has nine members and would keenly like more to join to assist it with its work. It is varied and interesting as well as being rewarding when something desired is accomplished. Under new regulations Councillors may receive a small amount of remuneration. It is essentially a gesture of goodwill with the money drawn from the precept to go towards expenses and time the Councillors give to the community. Please don't hesitate to come forward.

Waine Lawton

Chairman

Written report about One Acorn

One Acorn is an exciting new charity based in Twyford to connect people with nature.

I believe that everyone has something special inside them and sometimes people lose that spark. During my recovery from Chronic Fatigue Syndrome I noticed that I felt best about myself when I was doing something meaningful with other people and connected with nature. I decided that I wanted to bring this feeling to others in our local area.

Our plans in the future are big! We are aiming to have a piece of land where we can grow food, have some woodland to manage and maybe, in time, a kitchen/cafe. We will develop programmes for tailored support for groups of people with mental health problems, learning difficulties and physical difficulties.

In the meantime, we are getting a group of volunteers together who understand the "kick" of doing something meaningful with other people with a focus on nature. We will be gardening, carrying out conservation work and woodcraft activities as well as doing all the background work to put our big vision in place in the future. We will also be fundraising and delivering sessions to groups with special needs.

We are looking for:

- Volunteers to join our activities both in physical activities outdoors and in sharing skills we need behind the scenes.
- Land both for individual events in the short term, and long term somewhere we could settle on a single site.

If you would like to get involved, have any useful information to share or to find out more, please contact Lucy Roberts:

Phone: 07419 210219

Email: lucy@oneacorn.org

Facebook page: @OneAcorn.

Website: www.oneacorn.org (coming soon)

Thanks for having me along tonight.

Lucy Roberts

Twyford Good Neighbours Annual Report up to April 2017

Twyford Good Neighbours was started by volunteers in 1975 as Twyford Care Group. It's prime purpose was to provide a transport service to residents of the village needing to get to appointments at local hospitals, surgeries etc. at a minimal cost. This still remains it's main function under the guidance of the committee comprising Colin Francis (chair), Louise Watson, Jackie Sewell, Jane Beljic, Jo Francis and Ian Wheeler.

We have a great team of volunteers, both drivers and cooks and helpers at the Village Social Lunches. Without their willing help the Group could not survive and hopefully they get satisfaction from knowing how much their help is appreciated by the recipients. More help is always welcome and we would be delighted to hear from anyone with a few hours to spare.

Over the years use of the service has increased as has the number of volunteer drivers. In the past year, 393 journeys have been undertaken by 31 volunteer drivers. These range from visits to Twyford Surgery to Basingstoke and Southampton Hospitals as well as shopping and social visits.

Car parking is a major problem at many of the destinations covered, and this has become particularly bad at the RHCH in Winchester since changes were made to their car parks. But it is understood that arrangements are being put in place to monitor incorrect parking within volunteer and disabled spaces to assist volunteers.

Jo continues to do a great job as driver/customer co-ordinator and since last June a dedicated Good Neighbours number has been introduced to make it easier to transfer the number to other volunteers during holiday periods.

Village social lunches have been restarted four time a year and are as popular as ever. The next one will be on Tuesday 13th June in the Parish Hall and we hope as many as possible will book a place when the list goes up in the Post Office on 31st May.

We are always pleased to receive feedback from volunteers and customers if they have any suggestions how the services provided by Twyford Good Neighbours could be improved.

The Good Neighbours work closely with the Age Concern village agent (Colin Francis) when older residents are identified as needing help or advice. If you are aware of anyone in this position please let Colin know.

Volunteer drivers are offered the opportunity to use the HCC driver appraisal service aimed at the over 60's and Good Neighbours will cover two thirds of the cost of the £31.50 fee.

I can thoroughly recommend this service having done the assessment myself.

2017 Annual Report on Twyford St Mary's C of E Primary School for the Annual Parish Assembly

The most significant event in this year has of course been the arrival of Mrs Hannah Beckett as our new Head Teacher. She is proving to be a dynamic and purposeful leader of the school, keen to build on our "Good" inspection in February 2016.

The children have had a particularly exciting year in terms of extra activities, examples being: a very successful Science day, 'Diversity Week' in November (based on India), Sycamore's French day, the elections for School Council, Beech's and Oak's trips to Sea City Museum and also Milestones Living Museum, Forest School, Yew's residential trip to Fairthorne Manor, Willow's trip to Jude's Ice Cream, Sycamore's trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, the choir's trip to the O2 Young Voices Festival, and Ash's trip to Pizza Express. Children have taken part in tournaments for football and high fives. A theatre group visited to give an anti-bullying presentation. During 'Enterprise Week' the children were encouraged to borrow money to set up businesses to make and sell goods at the PTA Christmas Fair. And, as usual, Easter and Christmas were marked by services and performances both in church and in the school.

Results continue to be pleasing. In November the school received a letter from the Regional Schools' Commissioner congratulating everyone on the Key Stage 2 results, 90% of pupils achieving the expected level in Reading, Writing and Maths. The Year 1 phonics test results were also excellent (putting the school in the top 3% nationally).

New dining furniture in the Hall and new equipment in the playground (bought partly with Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers – thank you, all donors) along with lunch clubs run by the children themselves have helped to make lunch-times both more organised and more fun. There are also plans for an outdoor classroom which is being funded partly by the £1500 grant from Parish Council.

The School will enter the new school year with a small budget surplus but there are going to be challenges ahead as small schools will lose out under the proposed Government New Funding Formula. The school have been working with Hampshire Education and Steve Brine to express concerns regarding the consultation. We await the next round of proposals from the government. Whatever happens, rural schools like Twyford St Mary's are going to be hit financially moving forward and we will be aiming to work in partnership with other village organisations, parental volunteers and ensuring that we maximise our revenue from grants and local businesses.

We were sorry to bid farewell to four governors: Nigel Close, Jennifer Laute, Oonagh Harrison and Steve Bailey. They have been replaced by Linda Snoswell (, Tim Barker and Helen Witt. Bruce Greig stood down as Chair of Governors last July after putting in many years of hard work and our new Chair is Lucy Hutchin. Thanks are due to all those departing as well as those coming along to shoulder the responsibilities.

All in all, the school is a busy, thriving place, of which the village can be proud.

Lucy Hutchin, Chair of Governors, Twyford St Mary's School