

SHALFLEET PARISH COUNCIL NEWS May 2008

BY JOHN WHITNEY. CLERK TO THE COUNCIL.

The Annual Parish Meeting took place at Shalfleet Primary School on 7th May with the Parish Council Chairman Colin Hedgley presiding, there were 12 electors present. An interesting talk was given by Lynn Clarke (Community Liaison Officer) of Island Waste, Lynn used the medium of a DVD pausing at intervals to comment on vital points regarding waste management. A number of myths were exploded as to what material should or should not be placed in the black paper waste bins.

Then followed the Parish Council Chairman's report

In his Chairman's report Cllr.Hedgley outlined projects achieved during the previous year which included the building of a new playground at Bouldnor, the installation of picnic benches at Bouldnor & Newbridge, provision of children's swings at Wellow and a major planting regime at Bouldnor. Cllr Hedgley remarked that it was particularly pleasing to note that all of these projects have been achieved via outside grants and generous donations thus without resort to the Council's management precept, commenting that this was a prime example of community spirit in action.

The Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors for their diligence throughout the council year and also their hard physical work given freely at several working party events pointing out that Shalfleet Parish Councillors are unpaid and do not claim allowances, he thanked the Clerk for his effective fund raising and work, commenting that John is an exceptional public servant

Following the Chairman's report John Whitney as Responsible Financial Officer gave a brief report on the Council's finances as recorded in the last audited accounts (period 1st April 2006 to 31st March 2007) which have been cleared and approved by the Audit Commission. Copies of the accounts returns were circulated and brief details are as follows:-

Management Precept for the year..... .£10500

Grants and other receipts including C/F.....£33764

Payments including staffing.....£27999

John Whitney concluded his report by advising that Shalfleet had been selected for the second time in three years for an intermediate (more exacting) audit by the Audit Commission's Plymouth Office, he explained that parish council accounts now have to be examined by (1) an internal auditor who is independent of the council, and (2) an external audit by the Audit Commission which for small councils with annual turnovers of less than £50000 makes for a "draconian" process.

The Annual Meeting concluded with an electors question & answer forum .

Communication details regarding how to contact Councillor's or the Clerk plus copies of past minutes and other community interest information may be found on the Council's website www.shalfleetiow.org.uk and the contact telephone number & email address for Shalfleet Parish Council is whitneyparishcouncil@tiscali.co.uk