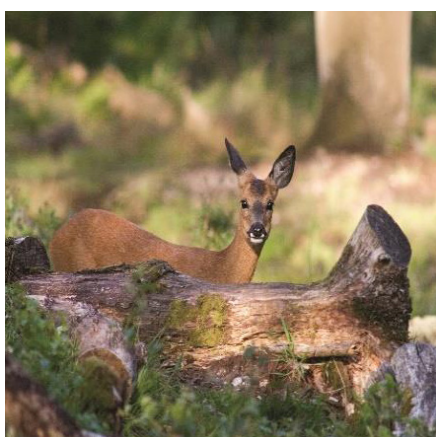




HOOK

PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2019 – 2020

Subject to external audit



www.hook.gov.uk

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A warm welcome to all residents, especially to those incoming members of our community, who have moved into newly-built or existing homes within Hook, over the past year.

In May 2019, a contested election was held for the twelve seats on the Parish Council. Six existing Councillors retained their seats, whilst six new Members were elected. Since the election, two Councillors have resigned for personal reasons. One of these two vacancies has been filled by Cllr. Les Morrison, who was co-opted onto the Council in March. However, at the time of writing, the other seat remains vacant.

Of previous initiatives launched by the Parish Council, the Hook App continues to achieve significant growth in user numbers and is fast becoming the 'go to' place for information about all things Hook. New initiatives progressed during this year, have included the formation of two working groups: the Sports Working Group, and the Community Safety Working Group, whose remit will primarily be to determine effective ways of combatting anti-social behaviour, which has been on the increase in our community.

The 2019 Hook Village Show run by Hook & Odiham Lions, assisted by the Odiham & Hook Rotary Club, and supported by the Parish Council, continues to go from strength to strength, being well supported by residents and visitors alike. Similarly, Community Christmas, which provides lunch and entertainment on Christmas Day for Hook residents on their own during the Festive period, hosted more participants than in previous years.

At long last, the Hook Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2032, was formally adopted by Hart District Council on 27th February 2020 and will inform the future planning decisions taken by the District Council during the plan period. Unreserved thanks go to the Hook Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, a band of hardy volunteers, who persevered for nearly six years through various changes of its personnel to produce a document, which both protects the Parish against unmerited development and speaks to the importance of maintaining all those aspects which contribute to the health & wellbeing of our residents.

During this municipal year, the community of Hook won five awards at the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Village of the Year Competition, where our village was named as runner-up best village in Hampshire & Isle of Wight, whilst Hook Parish Council won two awards at the Hampshire Association of Local Councils Awards Ceremony. Congratulations and thanks to all those volunteers and Parish Council Officers, who continue to enable Hook to be one of the most sought after communities to live in Hampshire!

Finally, don't forget that the Parish Council Office, located at the Community Centre, is open each weekday morning, where our extremely capable and knowledgeable officers are there to answer any residents' queries, or provide useful information, about Hook related matters.

Jane Worlock
chairman@hook.gov.uk

'Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Parish Council Office is currently closed and all staff are working from home.

We can be contacted by phone or e-mail in the usual way'



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

15th September - 8pm
Hook Community Centre
Ravenscroft

**HOOK VILLAGE SHOW
CANCELLED**



PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE (P&I) COMMITTEE

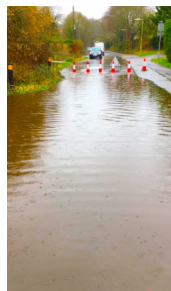
The P&I Committee currently consists of five Members and usually meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. The Committee acts on behalf of the Parish Council and it considers planning applications and infrastructure matters. All Planning Applications are categorised into those that are non-contentious (those which can be determined under delegated authority), and those that require more in-depth consideration. Applications are considered by

the Committee with input from site visits, neighbours and other stakeholders when making recommendations to Hart District Council (the Local Planning Authority). Hook Parish Council continues to work closely with both District and County Councillors, and their respective officers, to ensure that the views of the residents of Hook are taken into account when determining planning-related matters..



OWENS FARM APPEAL

Following the refusal of planning permission for the development of up to 700 dwellings on Owen's farm (West of Hook) in June 2018, Wilber Developments subsequently Appealed the decision. During the inquiry (March 2019) the Developers decided to withdraw their challenge. This successful outcome was in no small part due to partnership-working between proactive local residents, the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and the Parish Council.



CLIMATE CHANGE AND RESILIENCE PLANNING

The frequency of flooding events appear to be increasing. The Parish Council regularly informs Hart DC of local issues that could potentially contribute to localised flooding. To complement Hart's Flood Risk Infrastructure Strategy, the Parish Council has begun to explore opportunities for securing Community Resilience Funding and piloting a Community Flood Plan for a small-scale trial location.



GREEN HART PARK

The last 12 months have seen the commencement of building on NE Hook, now marketed as 'Green Hart Park'. As part of the development, 'Whitewater Meadows', (a large green open space connected to wider reaching public footpaths) has now been delivered and is open for the public to enjoy.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Parking along Sheldon's Lane became problematic in 2019. After consultation with residents, Hart Council proposed a programme of prohibitions (double yellow lines) and restrictions (single yellow lines) to be introduced. This will balance the need for parking for short periods, whilst stopping vehicles being parking close to junctions. Scheme implementation will be during the Spring. The Parish Council engages with District and County Councils in respect of

infrastructure. Issues such as problem parking, speeding, localised flooding, that are regularly flagged up by residents and the Parish Council seeks to contribute in the resolution of such matters



SCHOOL BUSES

Many readers will be aware of Hampshire County Council's proposals to implement a 'safe walking route' across Bartley Heath SSSI, crossing the busy A287 at Newlyn's roundabout, to access Robert May's School (Hook's only catchment secondary school). Throughout the engagement period with HCC, the Parish Council continued to object to the proposals on the basis of safety. An extremely well-organised and proactive group of parents formed the campaign group, Positive Action Against Transport Cuts

(PAATC), to oppose the removal of the school buses in the absence of a safe walking route to school. The combined efforts of the Parish Council and PAATC, supported by Hook's District Councillors, culminated in HCC taking the decision (in February 2020) to put the proposal "on hold for the immediate future".

Jeff Burke
jeff.burke@hook.gov.uk



ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY (E&C) COMMITTEE

The E and C Committee is dedicated to maintaining and improving the wellbeing of the community by providing a range of services and amenities that benefit the diverse nature of the village. These include: children's play areas, a skate park, Christmas lights, grants for local initiatives, bus shelters, along with the

Council's land, including the SANG, and buildings to name a few. The current E & C Committee consists of five Members and meets on the third Wednesday of every month. During 2019-20 the Committee work has included:



Colourful Hanging Baskets



Poppies for Remembrance



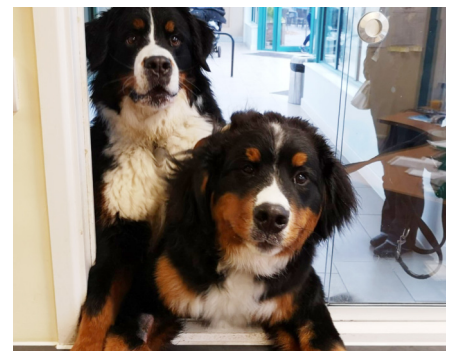
Varndell Improvements



Clean Air Banners



Wheel Stops for Safety



Dog Bags Please!

FLORAL HOOK

A total of 35 hanging baskets brought new vibrant displays to the centre of the village throughout the summer. Thanks to the Hook In Bloom volunteers, the troughs and flower beds continue to bring colour to the village. The Parish Council continues to work closely with Hart to identify new wildflower areas within Hook and work has commenced on a new site in Mitchells Field. Please take an interest and watch how it grows.

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY AND SAFETY

Wheel stops have been installed to prevent vehicles overhanging the pavement when parking. Also, Clean Air banners have been erected to encourage people to turn off their engines when parked.

LITTER PICKERS

The Parish Council Office now has litter picking equipment that can be loaned to groups and organisations keen to keep litter under control. Contact the office to organise your litter pick in the village.

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas lights were enhanced this year with stars in the tree on Grand Parade and icicles along the Grand Parade shops. The carols and community singing was ably supported by the Basingstoke Silver Band and Hook Choral Society saw a wonderful turn out around the Christmas Tree.

VARNDELL PLAY AREA

The Varndell Play Area is getting a facelift, thanks to the Men's Shed and funding from the Parish Council. All play areas owned by the Parish Council have been reviewed and further improvements are planned. Watch this space!

DOG BAGS

Dogs who live in Hook are welcome to bring their owners or carers in to collect dog bags from the Parish Council office. The dogs get offered a biscuit for their trouble. We give out over 60,000 dog bags a year and nearly as many treats!

Liz Tomlinson

liz.tomlinson@hook.gov.uk



GRANTS

Organisation	Amount	Project Description
The Base Youth Club	£ 16,500.00	Youth support
Victim Support	£ 200.00	Security equipment
Citizens Advice Hart	£ 1,500.00	To cover general advice and overhead service costs
Hook Scouts	£ 5,000.00	Support for Extension of the Scout Hut
Hook Players	£ 750.00	Equipment and stage
Poppy Appeal	£ 250.00	Wreaths and streetlight poppies
Life Education Wessex	£ 980.00	Health and drug education at Hook Junior school
Teen engagement	£ 900.00	Youth activities
Destination Sport	£ 900.00	Youth project
Hook Village Nursery	£ 1,116.50	General support
Men's Shed	£ 500.00	Start up support
HVHCA	£ 500.00	Children's half term activities
Hook Squash Club	£ 1,000.00	General support
Total	£ 30,096.50	

FINANCE, STRATEGY & RESOURCES (FSR) COMMITTEE

The FSR Committee, consisting of eight Members, meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Its functions include the consideration of new policies, developing strategy, monitoring of the actions in support of the Corporate Plan, oversight of the Council's budgets, accounts, investments and internal controls, along with the HR functions of the Council. Hook Parish Council is open and transparent about the way it manages its finances. Information on the way

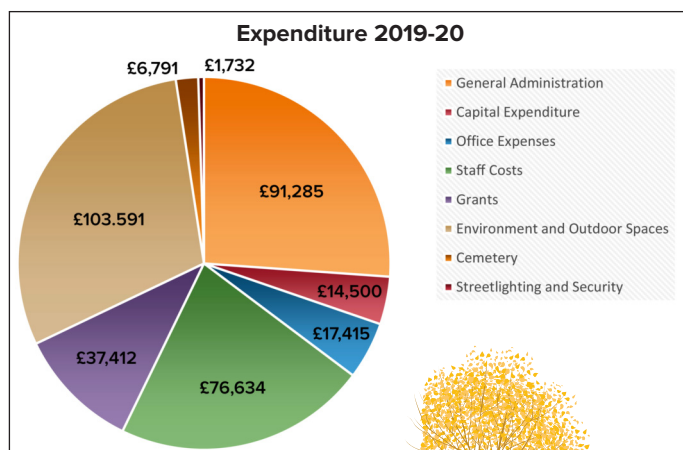
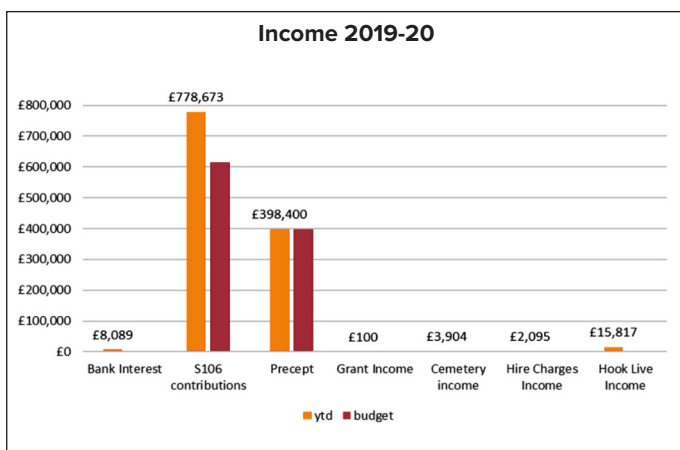
the Council mitigates financial risk and what it has spent money on can be found on the Council website www.hook.gov.uk/finance

The Council's finances are monitored on a day to day basis by the Responsible Financial Officer. The Council appoints an internal auditor who assesses the Council's compliance with relevant legislation and a further audit is carried out by an external auditor appointed by the Audit Commission.

MONEY MATTERS

The Parish Council receives income through the Precept; an annual sum of money collected with the Council Tax by Hart District Council. In addition, income is received from Cemetery fees, hire of pitches,

Echo Hotel Music Club and developer contributions. Details of the income and expenditure for 2019-20 are shown below



MONEY MATTERS ... continued

The precept for 2020/21 is £437,000 which equates to £120.50 pa for a Band D property, which is an increase of 0.14p per week compared to 2019-20. This takes account of all the costs incurred in running the Council's services and assets, as well as a number of challenging new initiatives and events being planned for the coming year. Income is broken down into precept, S106 contribution from developers, bookings for Hartletts Park, including a charity event and a dog training venture, in addition to hire of the football pitches to Hook United, cemetery fees and proceeds from the Hook Live initiative, Echo Hotel Music Club. S106

contributions, while a significant proportion of income, are held "in reserve" to cover the cost of maintaining the Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) at Bassetts Mead and must last for 80 years.

The year ends slightly under budget with most areas of expenditure as expected and overspends within budget categories are minimal. For large ticket items which occur only every few years such as elections, play area replacement, tree health checks and buildings surveys, a smaller amount is put aside annually to spread the cost.

HOOK PARISH COUNCIL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

SERVICES

- Cemetery
- Bus shelters
- Footpaths
- Playgrounds
- Open Spaces
- Seating
- Grants
- Planning
- Community Buildings
- Hook App/Facebook/Website9
- Free dog refuse bags
- Defibrillators – these are at Hook Community Centre (Squash Court side) and at Grant Parade (Mosaic)

ACTIVITIES

- Echo Hotel Music Club events
- Hook Village Show
- Annual Village Meeting

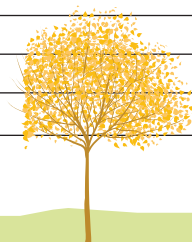
SUPPORTING OTHERS

- Hook Neighbourhood Plan
- Hook in Bloom
- Hook Allotment Association
- The Base Youth Centre

2020 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

All meetings of the Council and Committees are open to the public – see Calendar of meetings below. Each agenda includes a period when the public may address the Council. For more information please go to the Meetings pages on our website www.hook.gov.uk

2020	COUNCIL	P&I Committee		E&C Committee	FSR Committee	ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
		1	2			
JANUARY	8*	15	29	22	28	
FEBRUARY	5	12	26	19	25	
MARCH	4	11	CANCELLED			
APRIL	CANCELLED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS					
MAY	6**	13	27	20	26	
JUNE	3	10	24	17	23	
JULY	1	8	22	15	28	
AUGUST	5	12	26	19	-	
SEPTEMBER	2	9	23	16	22	
OCTOBER	7	14	28	21	27	
NOVEMBER	4	11	25	18	24	
DECEMBER	2	9	23	16	-	

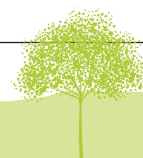


PARISH COUNCIL PERSONNEL: 2019-20

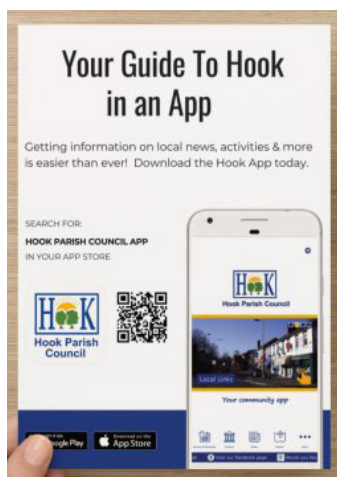
Executive Officer / Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer:	Anne Atkins	Parish Council Office Hook Community Centre Ravenscroft Hook RG27 9NN Opening hours: 9am - noon Monday - Friday	01256 768687 or 01256 768573
Senior Administrative Officer (Environment & Community)	Marian Bright		
Administrative Officer (Planning)	Annalie Hadfield		
Administrative Officer (Community Engagement)	Pam Mercer		
Administrative Officer (Finance)	Serena Dolby		
Chairman of Council & Chairman of Finance, Strategy & Resources Committee	Jane Worlock	Emrys House, 17 Driftway Road	07887 502384
Vice-Chairman of Council	Rob Cowell	2 Rookwood Close	07707 532787
Chairman of Environment & Community Committee	Liz Tomlinson	Silver How, London Road	01256 212462
Chairman of Planning & Infrastructure Committee	Jeff Burke	21 Hawthorn Rise	01256 766223
Members	Paul Kinge	11 Butts Meadow	01256 764611
	Fergus Kirkham	1 Alderwood Drive	01256 766122
	Barry Myall	23 Lynwood Gardens	01256 764640
	Jacqui Nabbs	48 Oak Tree Drive	01256 761988
	Verd Nabbs	48 Oak Tree Drive	01256 761988
	Chris Terrey	3 Stable Close	01256 964597
	Les Morrison	29 Mead Hatchgate	01256 762817
	VACANT SEAT		

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS 2019-20

Councillors	Full Council	E & C Committee	FSR Committee	P & I Committee	Overall Attendance
No of Meetings Held	11	9	8	12	
Jeff Burke	8	N/A	5	10	74%
Rob Cowell	7	N/A	5	11	74%
Paul Kinge	11	9	N/A	12	100%
Fergus Kirkham	7	N/A	1	9	62%
G Miller (resigned 4/11/19)	5 (of 6)	N/A	5 (of 5)	6 (of 6)	94%
L Morrison (co-opted 4/3/20)	1 (of 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A	100%
Barry Myall	10	8	N/A	N/A	90%
Jacqui Nabbs	8	N/A	8	N/A	89%
Verd Nabbs	6	4	N/A	N/A	50%
Chris Terrey	10	9	8	N/A	96%
Liz Tomlinson	10	8	7	10	88%
Ian Warner (resigned 8/1/20)	6 (of 8)	7	N/A	N/A	65%
Jane Worlock	11	N/A	7	N/A	95%
See Website for full details of absences and late arrival					



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Keeping abreast of what is going on in Hook has never been easier.

The Hook Parish Council App is now two years old and usage continues to grow. The App is full of useful information, such as links to local organisations, events, fault reporting via 'fix my street', maps for

local walks and much more continually being added. For more information please go to our website at www.hook.gov.uk/app. The App can be downloaded by searching for Hook Parish Council on the App Store or, Google Play

Regular updates are published in Hook Focus (page 5) and posted on the Parish Council Facebook page. These are mirrored on news section of the App, so non Facebook users can also be kept up to date. Posts cover a wide range of local interest topics, e.g., events organised by local groups, election information, details of surgery's (district/county and local MP), surveys, charity activities, HCC public consultations on lighting, libraries, roadworks etc.

In addition to the Parish Council website, which holds a huge amount of information including Agendas and Minutes, there are three Council noticeboards in the village. They are updated weekly and are located at Hook Community Centre, Holt Lane and Grand Parade. There is also a free for all open to the elements noticeboard that anyone can use on the path to the pedestrian crossing near Hook Pet Shop at Grand Parade.

Hook Parish Council was recognised for its Community Engagement twice during the year. Firstly, as Winner of the Hampshire & IOW Village of the Year', 'Excellence in Community Engagement' (Steven Lugg Trophy) for the Hook App. In November, the Parish Council was presented with the Glass Trophy as Winner for Best Use of Social Media at the Hampshire Association of Local Councils Awards (HALC) along with Runner-up for the Best Local Council Website (the e-mango Shield).

ECHO HOTEL MUSIC CLUB

Hook Parish Council sponsored and supported the establishment of the Echo Hotel Music Club as a not-for-profit live music venue, based at the Elizabeth Hall, in 2019. The aim was to present the best bands and artists on the UK Live Music circuit, many of them selling 1000s of albums a year, for the benefit of music-loving Hook residents, who would otherwise have the expense of travelling some distance to attend a decent gig. In addition, the Club was also set up to ensure a friendly, safe 'vibe' in which to enjoy the music, an affordable bar and professional sound and lighting to complete the experience.

Since the Club formally opened its doors in February 2019, it has held nine gigs in the first Season and planned ten further gigs for 2020, at roughly one per month. All gigs

have been popular and extremely well attended, with over half being completely sold out! Such is the quality of the acts that we have booked. We have regular 'out-of-town' visitors too; from South Wales, Kent, Cambridge and Southampton. And Echo Hotel is also popular with the band community (the word is spreading!). Two bands have recorded live albums with us, and another has filmed their entire performance!



A further benefit to the Community of Hook is that any surplus made is ploughed straight back into facilities provided by Hook Village Halls. So far, we have purchased the powered cabinet for the public Defibrillator at Elizabeth Hall, painted the entire stage area black (like every other theatre and venue in the UK) and replaced all the backdrop curtains. Further improvements are in the pipeline.

So, if you haven't been to a gig yet, come and join us. Echo Hotel Music Club is becoming THE music venue in the Thames Valley region...and it is on YOUR doorstep. It's YOUR Club! Tickets are on sale via the Echo Hotel Music Club Facebook page, the Echo Hotel listing on Ticketsource, Trees Newsagent or by phoning 07810 893564.

Verd Nabbs

verd.nabbs@hook.gov.uk

