



HOOK

PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2020 – 2021

Subject to external audit



www.hook.gov.uk

Published by Hook Parish Council, Hook Community Centre, Ravenscroft, Hook RG27 9NN

Tel: 01256 768687 / 01256 768573 Email: eo@hook.gov.uk

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Without doubt, daily life changed unimaginably in March 2020 and the months that followed, due to the global Coronavirus pandemic. The effects of Covid-19 touched all of our residents, from the youngest to the oldest, one way or another. Heartfelt sympathy goes to those families who lost loved ones in Hook, during this extremely challenging and unprecedented time.

At the start of the first lockdown, Hook Parish Council set up a local response hub, with the assistance of Hart Voluntary Action, to coordinate volunteer activity. Everyone worked together as a team to shop for vulnerable and elderly residents, deliver prescription medicines and offer assistance with attending medical or hospital appointments etc. This community effort in Hook was (and remains) tremendous in helping so many of those shielding. On behalf of the Parish Council, both Councillors and Officers, I express our thanks to all the individual volunteers and local organisations who came together to assist residents in need of help.

As large groups of people could not meet in person, according to Government guidelines, virtual meetings became mandatory. The transition to online presence was smooth and allowed members of the public to attend meetings of the Council and its Committees whilst staying safe in their homes. Being able to meet virtually, meant that the essential operations of the council were able to continue.

The Annual Village Meeting, Hook Village Show, Community Christmas Lunch and Echo Hotel Music Club (EHMC) events were, amongst other community events, cancelled in 2020. Whilst the Village Show will not be held again until 2022, the Annual Village Meeting will take place virtually on Wednesday 12th May. As life starts returning to normal, the Parish Council will make further announcements about future events, via its website, Hook App, Hook Focus and village noticeboards.

Following the Councillor vacancy, which arose last year, we are pleased to welcome back Councillor John Orchard, who was co-opted onto the Council in July 2020.

At the time of writing, the Council Office in the Community Centre remains closed, with officers working from home. They have been available throughout this period, via email or telephone, and have continued to deliver an excellent service in addressing residents' queries or issues. However, there were changes to staff in early 2021. See the E&C Report for more information.

Finally, this will be my last annual report, as I will be standing down as Chairman at the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting on 5th May. Whilst I will remain a Parish Councillor, I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors and the Officers for their unstinting support and advice over the past five years.

Cllr. Dr Jane Worlock

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING (Virtual)

12th May 2021 at 8pm

**Please see agenda
<https://hook.gov.uk/about-hook-parish-council/council-meetings/agendas/>
for meeting link.**



PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE (P&I) COMMITTEE

The P&I Committee currently consists of seven 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 – PROPOSED RETIREMENT CARE VILLAGE



Following the developer withdrawing his Appeal at the Inquiry in 2019 for the previous proposal for up to 700 residential dwellings on this site, a revised scheme for a care village comprising 160 units and ancillary buildings is now being pursued by the same developer. Partnership-working between proactive local residents and the Parish Council has continued in an effort to protect this important, valued landscape for the community of Hook, against a backdrop of significant amounts of residential development already being delivered in the village.

OAKWOOD GRANGE

Over the last year the development has progressed at pace (the Barratt portion now completed). Hook Parish Council has continually pushed for site improvements: the removal of building materials in green spaces, inclusion of a tarmac surfaced and well-lit



pedestrian and cycle link between Barratt/Wilson schemes, improved safety for the crossing point on B3349 by lobbying for a reduction in the speed limit and continues to object to the delivery of the wooden boardwalk that deviates from the granted scheme.

MCCARTHY & STONE

McCarthy & Stone are responsible for the delivery of a retirement/sheltered living scheme for older persons on what was the Rawlings Haulage Yard in the centre of the village. After delays in progression caused by Covid and additional

design work, partly generated by engagement with the Parish Council, to secure appropriate improvements in the amended scheme. It is hoped that the enhanced scheme is close to obtaining its planning permission.



Illustrative street scene of the proposed McCarthy & Stone scheme (as viewed from Tesco carpark).



ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY (E&C) COMMITTEE

The E&C Committee currently consists of six councillors and meets on the third Wednesday of every month. It focuses on maintaining and continually improving the wellbeing of the ever growing village and its residents. They work to provide a range of services and facilities that benefit the diverse character of the village and its

people. These include, multiple children's play areas, various sport pitches with more under development, the village cemetery, Bassetts Mead SANG and grants for local initiatives to name just a few. Despite the pandemic, they have worked on the following initiatives:



Poppies for Remembrance



Christmas in Hook village



Repairing the skate park



The beautiful wildflowers around the village

PLAY AREAS

Councillors and Officers worked hard throughout the pandemic and the ever-changing requirements to ensure for most of the year that all our children's Play Areas were Covid safe and could remain open for children to enjoy. Guidance on the Covid requirements were posted on our website and in each of the play areas.

DOG WASTE BAGS

Although for much of the year the Council Office at Hook Community Centre has been closed, we were able to set up numerous collection points around the village to enable this much used service to continue. Unfortunately, we were unable to provide doggie treats at these locations.

MITCHELL'S FIELD WILDFLOWER MEADOW

This year we have extended the number of wildflower areas in the village with the aid of Hart District Council. In spring and summer, we identified an area in Mitchell's Field that could be a wildflower meadow. It is in its early stages but will improve as time goes by.

BASSETTS MEAD

Bassetts Mead is managed by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust on behalf of Hook Parish Council. Ciara Askin is the new Assistant Reserves Officer responsible for managing the site. During the year the fence line along the river path has had posts replaced and areas of stock netting and barbed wire retensioned in order to get the site ready for winter.

LITTER PICKING

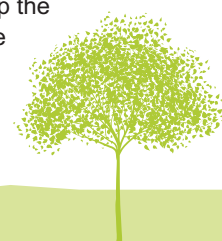
We have provided Hook and Odiham Lions with 60 litter picking kits in support of their new litter picking initiative. If you would like to get involved please contact Mark Hazell Mark.hazell@hookandodihamlions.co.uk

POPPIES FOR REMEMBRANCE

We were able to extend the poppy display again this year. Hook in Bloom (HIB) is also in receipt of a grant to enable villagers to knit and build a unique display of poppies in the village that will run from mid-October to end of November 2021. Email HIB on info@hookinbloom.org if you want to get involved in this initiative

FAREWELL TO MARIAN

After 16 years, our E&C Admin Officer, Marian Bright has moved on to enjoy the freedom to travel (when restrictions end), spend more time with her horses and on her allotment. Many of our residents and their dogs, have been assisted by Marian with a variety of issues over the years. She has been responsible for all our parks and open spaces, the Christmas lights, hanging baskets, poppies on the lampposts and the cemetery. She will be very much missed and a hard act to follow, but we would like to wish her well as she starts a new chapter in her life. Sarah McMeeken, also a dog lover, has taken up the reins and looks forward to meeting you when the office reopens



GRANTS

Organisation	Amount	Project Description
Victim Support	£200	To help purchase security items that are provided free of charge to victims, such as personal alarms and small security items, to make people feel safer in their homes
Home Start	£100	To help provide a free service to families with young children who are finding it difficult to cope with a variety of problems like bereavement, disabilities, post-natal depression, isolation and illness
Marie Curie	£100	To support anyone in the community living with a terminal illness, taking care of patients and their families in their own homes
Royal British Legion	£150	To extend the lamppost poppy display and wreaths for Remembrance Sunday
Hook Bowling Club	£1,900	Replacement guttering for the Bowls Club
Hook in Bloom	£200	To build a display to enable the knitted poppies to be presented in their full glory
Mens Shed	£1000	IT equipment and teaching materials
TOTAL	£3,650	

FINANCE, STRATEGY & RESOURCES (FSR) COMMITTEE

The FSR Committee currently consists of eight councillors and meets on the third Monday 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.

A Capital Projects Advisory Group (CPAG), reporting to FSR, was established at the end of 2020 to provide initial proposals and scoping documents for new community projects in Hook. CPAG will work closely with community organisations, residents and Councillors to identify projects for the benefit of Hook in the medium – longer term.

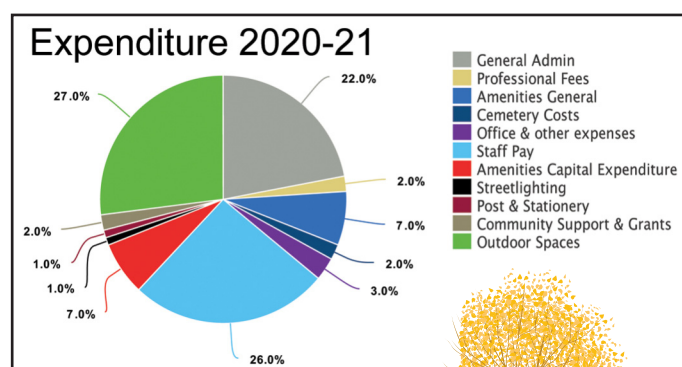
MONEY MATTERS

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 at www.hook.gov.uk/finance

The Council's finances are monitored on a day to day basis by the Responsible Finance 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.

Income 2020-21	
Bank Interest	£6,200
Precept	£437,000
Grant Income	£1,000
Cemetery income	£4,911
Hire Charges Income	£1,370
TOTAL INCOME	£450,481

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, interest on funds held in investment accounts and hire of pitches, and in some years, although not this one, developer contributions. Details of the income and expenditure for 2020-21 are shown below:-



MONEY MATTERS ... continued

The budget and precept proposals for 2021-22 were debated, finalised and approved at the Council meeting in January 2021. The precept for 2021-22 was set at £450,000 which equates to £120.94 pa for a Band D property, an increase of £0.01 per week on 2020-21. This accounts for all the costs incurred in running the Council's services and assets, as well as funding new initiatives being planned for the coming year.

The year ends under budget with most areas of

expenditure as expected and overspends within budget categories are minimal. Covid-19 measures have meant slight overspends in some areas, but savings in others. Several initiatives planned for the year have had to be delayed and funds allocated for these will be carried forward into the next financial year. 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 budgeted 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/Website
- Free dog waste bags
- Defibrillators - Community Centre and Grand Parade

ACTIVITIES

- Echo Hotel Music Club events
- Hook Village Show (in conjunction with Hook and Odiham Lions)
- Annual Village Meeting

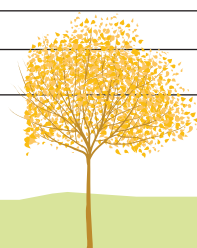
SUPPORTING OTHERS

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

2021 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

All meetings of the Council and Committees are open to the public and in 2020-21 were held virtually via Teams. Each agenda includes a period when the public may address the Council and also contains the link to join virtual meetings. For more information go to <https://hook.gov.uk/about-hook-parish-council/council-meetings/agendas/>

2021	COUNCIL	P&I Committee 1	2	E&C Committee	FSR Committee	ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
JANUARY	6	13	27	20	18	
FEBRUARY	3	10	24	17	15	
MARCH	3	10	24	17	15	
APRIL	7	14	28	21	19	
MAY	5	12	26	19	17	12
JUNE	2	9	23	16	21	
JULY	7	14	28	21	19	
AUGUST	4	11	25	18	-	
SEPTEMBER	1	8	22	15	20	
OCTOBER	6	13	27	20	18	
NOVEMBER	3	10	24	17	15	
DECEMBER	1	8	22	15	-	



COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL MEETINGS 2020-21

Councillors	Council (8 meetings)	E & C Committee (7 meetings)	FSR Committee (6 meetings)	P & I Committee (12 meetings)	Overall Attendance
Jeff Burke	8	N/A	6	12	100%
Rob Cowell	8	N/A	5	10	88.4%
Paul Kinge	8	7	N/A	12	100%
Fergus Kirkham	6	N/A	0	10	65.4%
L Morrison	8	7	N/A	11 (of 12)	96.3%
Barry Myall	8	7	N/A	N/A	100%
Jacqui Nabbs	8	N/A	6	N/A	100%
Verd Nabbs	8	7	N/A	N/A	100%
John Orchard (Co-opted 1/7/20)	8	N/A	6	11 (of 12)	96.1%
Chris Terrey	8	7	5	N/A	95.2%
Liz Tomlinson	8	7	6	11	96.9%
Jane Worlock	7	N/A	6	N/A	92.8%
See Website for full details of absences and late arrival					

PARISH COUNCIL PERSONNEL: 2020-21

Executive Officer / Clerk	Anne Atkins Ext 201	Parish Council Office Hook Community Centre Ravenscroft Hook RG27 9NN Opening hours: 9am - noon Monday - Friday	01256 768 687 or 01256 768 573
Responsible Finance Officer	Serena Dolby Ext 203		
Administrative Officer (Environment & Community)	Sarah McMeeken Ext 202		
Administrative Officer (Planning)	Annalie Hadfield Ext 204		
Administrative Officer (Community Engagement)	Pam Mercer Ext 205	Emrys House, 17 Driftway Road	07887 502 384
Chairman of Council & Chairman of Finance, Strategy & Resources Committee	Jane Worlock		
Vice-Chairman of Council	Rob Cowell	2 Rookwood Close	07707 532 787
Chairman of Environment & Community Committee	Liz Tomlinson	Silver How, London Road	01256 212 462
Chairman of Planning & Infrastructure Committee	Jeff Burke	21 Hawthorn Rise	01256 766 223
Members	Paul Kinge	11 Butts Meadow	01256 764 611
	Fergus Kirkham	1 Alderwood Drive	01256 766 122
	Barry Myall	23 Lynwood Gardens	01256 764 640
	Jacqui Nabbs	48 Oak Tree Drive	01256 761 988
	Verd Nabbs	48 Oak Tree Drive	01256 761 988
	Chris Terrey	3 Stable Close	01256 964 597
	Les Morrison	29 Mead Hatchgate	01256 762 817
	John Orchard	15 Painters Pightle	01256 767 521



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



The Hook Parish Council 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. As events and group activities start to return to normal, details will again appear on the app. 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

Hook Focus (page 5), the Parish Council Facebook page and the website remain a regular point of information about the Council. Facebook posts cover a wide range of local interest topics, e.g. events organised by local groups, election information, details of surgeries (district/county and local MP), surveys, charity activities and public consultations on lighting, libraries, roadworks etc.

In addition, the Parish Council noticeboards at Hook Community Centre, Holt Lane and Grand Parade are also updated weekly.

WORKING GROUPS

Working Groups are established by the Council, when required, to undertake research and develop recommendations to Council on specific projects. Membership can be both Councillors and external stakeholders. Currently there are two groups:

Sports Working Group (SWG)

Council approved the establishment of the SWG to develop a proposal for the construction of a sports facility adjacent to the Park Health Club on London Road. Due to the Covid pandemic, progress on the development of designs for a sports pavilion has been hampered. The groundwork for the pitches area has been completed and a management scheme will be considered when the area is handed over to the Council by Croudace Homes later in 2021.

Community Safety Working Group (CSWG)

The CSWG was established in September 2020 following a spate of criminal activities and antisocial behaviour. In order to gauge the level of public concern and feelings about safety in Hook, a survey was delivered to all Hook households (paper form and online) in November 2020. This achieved an excellent response and the results were collated and analysed. The CSWG are assessing the next steps and will be contacting residents who expressed an interest in being involved with the work of this group.

ECHO HOTEL MUSIC CLUB



Echo Hotel Music Club (EHMC) was established in 2019 as part of the Hook Parish Council '**Hook Live**' initiative. In that first year, the Club very quickly became a recognised music venue in the South of England. We put on 9 live music gigs at the **Elizabeth Hall** featuring 18 top bands and artists from the current UK Live (Original) Music scene. All the gigs were well attended, not only by Hook residents, but also by music fans from further afield and the majority of the gigs were sold out.

Another full calendar of events was planned for 2020.. In January a 'full house' enjoyed the band '**Brave Rival**' who recorded the performance for their Live Album release. In February the critically acclaimed '**Jack J Hutchinson Band**' opened their UK tour and album launch at the club. Another 'Sold Out' gig! And then in March we welcomed Rock Legends '**Never the Bride**'.. The gig was 'Sold Out' well before the date so the band 'livestreamed' the performance to their massive fan base in the UK and abroad. Sadly, Covid-19 struck and all subsequent gigs for 2020 were cancelled.

Subject to the virus finally being brought under control and the continued success of the National Vaccination Programme, **EHMC** has organised its return with 2 gigs planned for October 2021: '**Sari Schorr**' followed by '**the Mentalls**' 3 weeks later. Both bands have sold out the Club before and received rave reviews for their performances. In fact, the last time Sari visited, she recorded the whole gig, and some of the songs appeared on her 'Live in Europe' album issued in 2020.

'If you love live music, (or want to experience the excitement of a live gig for the first time), then you don't need to travel far to see the best bands playing on the UK scene. It is in the centre of your village! The atmosphere in the **Elizabeth Hall** on gig nights is welcoming, comfortable and friendly. There is also a bar. Please check us out on our Facebook page and website (Google us) or find our article in **Hook Focus** every month.

Cllr Verd Nabbs

verd.nabbs@hook.gov.uk

