

Council

input during the last year and for all the work of Libby as clerk.
I also want to give special mention to John Leggett who is standing down as both parish councillor and District Councillor. John has been on the

for 32 years and for the last eight years has been a SCDC councillor. As a parish councillor he has given an incredible service to this parish including 12 years as chairman and a long time as Manager of the Playing Field committee.”

Mr.Hindle then made a presentation to Mr.Leggett .

5. County Councillors report: Mr.Bellfield said he was making a good recovery. He is Still fully available on the phone to any parishioners. He reported the usual problems with budget and council tax. The current target of savings is £22 million on top of the £24 million from last year. SCC is getting advice on cutting back spending, and are hoping for a larger grant from central government, this follows the example of SCDC a few years ago. The SCC budget is £500 m. He said that the rumours of 10,000 redundancies is rubbish.
There is to be school reorganisation within the county – a cross party panel decided to convert the 3 tier areas to 2 tier. There is a strong campaign being mounted by middle school interests. There is also a reorganisation of the legal departments within the CC. Ipswich have gone for Unitary Council status which the government may not ratify on grounds of increased costs.
6. District Councillors report: Mr.Leggett reported that the main work has been on the S Area Development control and the Local Development Framework. A consultation document has been published and the parish council responded recently. Winesham will not be greatly affected.
Mr.Leggett wished the council good luck and gave his thanks for their kind words and the gift.
7. School governor’s report: none received.
8. VHMC committee: Mrs.Shaw reported that a new cooker has been installed.
9. Suffolk Constabulary report: this can be viewed at the meeting if desired.
10. Poores Land report: Mrs.Shaw reported that the usual Christmas gifts of tea and biscuits had been distributed to the pensioners of Swilland. There are two donkeys coming from the Donkey Refuge. The planting of new grass is happening.
11. Youth Club: Mr.Lea’s report will be available at the meeting. He spoke of the need for help and leadership and Mr.Hindle offered any support from the Parish Council that might be needed. The question of the play area/football pitch was raised again. Mr.Hindle said that there are issues with lighting, siting, expense etc. We really need to try to discover what the level of demand is from the young people in the village.
WASCC: Mr.Hindle said that we need a greater dialogue with other organisations – what opportunities are there for joint efforts, projects etc. Mr.Tyrrell remarked that the Village Hall is a poor location for extra activities.
12. AOB: Mr.Rush commented that it was a pity there was no school governors report and suggested that next year the clerk should write to the Head of Winesham School to get a report for the APM.
Mr.Stennett asked why it had taken so long to get the Affordable Housing scheme going? Mr.Lightfoot said we had had trouble finding suitable sites etc. but that things were now progressing well.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.