



Annual Parish Assembly Minutes - DRAFT

held on Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 19.30, in the Main Hall, Village Centre.

Present: Cllrs Dave Burlison, Jeanette Davies, Patrick Foote (Chair), Robbie Henderson, Phil Jeffrey, Ed Makgill, Glenda Mew, Dave Peart, Gwen Randall,

In attendance: Parish Clerk, Maxine Owen Members of the Parish: 70+

Meeting start: 19:30

Parishioners were able to access the Main Hall from 19:00 for Welcome Drinks, and to take the opportunity to view reports from organisations operating within the parish. Nine Parish Councillors, the clerk, a Borough Councillor & a County Councillor were available to speak informally to.

Reports were made available from:

SMB Village Centre
Hill & Valley
SMB Parish Community Fund
The Lunch
Sustainable Bourne Valley
Countryside Access Team, Hampshire County Council
Testbourne Community School
St Mary Bourne Cricket Club
St Mary Bourne Primary School
SMB Flower Show Committee
Community Play Space Project Team
Stoke Village Fund
SMB Baby & Toddler Group
Bourne Fest
St Mary Bourne Parish Community Fund
Hampshire Police – Reported Crime Numbers

The above reports, the Parish Council Chairman's Report & The Clerk's Financial Report are available on the parish website: <https://www.stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk/community/st-mary-bourne-parish-council-12760/2025-reports-from-apa/> or from the Parish Clerk by emailing clerk@stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk

Welcome and Introduction led by the Chair, Councillor Patrick Foote

- 1 **Apologies for Absence** – None
- 2 **Approval of the Minutes** of the 2024 Annual Parish Assembly was granted. Proposed by Cllr Dave Peart, seconded by Cllr Dave Burlison.
- 3 **Councillor Reports**
Cllr Tom Thacker: Cllr Thacker gave a brief update on the local government devolution

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process and shared 3 video clips with the audience.

https://youtu.be/TirFVngvD7c?si=JzM_hEQfa8L1tTEk

<https://youtu.be/GvshRKOTJ7w?si=4AzZc3reiYlf-ql8>

https://youtu.be/3iSng8hnX9g?si=qTCDw_4nX5xYQMH9

Cllr Thacker advised that 3 Unitary Area models were currently being proposed of which St Mary Bourne Parish would likely fit into the proposed northern area. Each model structure proposed has to put forward its case financially and with assured service levels. HCC are hoping for a model which does not break up services that are currently working well. The final decision will be made by central government, and they are monitoring progress and cost through the process. Cllr Thacker advised that he was hoping people's jobs would not be affected. There has been a mix of success with other counties which have already gone through the process including two near neighbours, West Berkshire and Wiltshire. Wiltshire is currently seen as having been a significant success, but West Berkshire not so much. Cllr Thacker suggested this was probably more down to the size of the original county. With Hampshire being such a large county by geography and population there is hope that this type of Unitary Authority will work well for us.

Cllr Jo Perry: Cllr Perry introduced herself to those attending and made herself available afterward for questions.

4 **Representatives of Local Organisations Invited to Speak**

Representatives from local organisations listed below spoke to share information or give an update.

Gemma Clinch – Countryside Access Team, HCC. Gemma gave a presentation on Corporate Volunteering with her team, and had a table display on some of the work the team and volunteers have been doing in our area. Please get in touch if you are interested in becoming a volunteer.

SMB Cricket Club – Mark Lancaster & Jonny Orange. Both spoke about how the club is going from strength to strength. Two Saturday Adult Teams now, and approximately 200 youth players. A growing army of qualified coaches, including eight team coaches who won Best Youth Coaches in Hampshire Award 2024 and were also awarded Highly Commended in a National Competition. (Congratulations to Poppy M, Thomas, Owen, Holly, Olivia, Ivo, Gemma and Poppy G). There is intent to work with the Parish Council in the next few years looking at refurbishing & extending or entirely rebuilding the Pavilion. The Nets are up and running and are available for everyone in the community to use, not just the cricket club, and it is good to see youngsters setting up and practicing there regularly. The club have installed rabbit fencing around the rec to ball-stop. A new electronic scoreboard has been purchased, and the club are continuing to live-stream matches. The club appreciates that the huge influx of members does cause parking issues and is working with the parish council and nearby land-owners to try and find a solution. In the meantime thank you for your patience.

Flower Show/Horticultural Society – Andrew Shegog. Andrew updated everyone on this year's flower show plans and invited everyone to take part in the extended number of classes. The committee intend to continue with a traditional style flower show, but do need the community to enter into the competitions to help the event grow. This year's show is on Saturday 27th July.

The Boundary Shop & Café – Sandra Grunsell. The Boundary is as popular as ever. Sandra is responsible for the Café and Vicky Pettitt the Shop. Sandra thanked the current volunteers and made a shout out for anyone interested in becoming a volunteer in the shop – there is always room for more volunteers, even if it's only an hour a month. The shop sources lots of local produce, and the team are always willing to listen to ideas for improving what is on offer/available. On Friday 9th of May there will be a quiz to raise funds to improve the deck area. Originally the fund raising was to buy new furniture, but The George kindly stepped in

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with a donation of furniture. Fundraising will now concentrate on general improvements such as parasols for the decking area.

Community Play Space Project – Amelda de Segundo. Amelda updated the audience on the project, thanking everyone who has made a donation so far. The Planning Application is currently in the BDBC, and with a little push the team is hoping that works will start in early autumn. Amelda has had very good success with obtaining grants. All details will be available soon on the Parish Council website, or you can visit The Good Exchange to see the scope of the project, fundraising updates or to donate:

<https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/19580/st-mary-bourne-parish-council/new-st-mary-bourne-play-area-and-games-facilities>

- 5 **Patrick Foote, Chair of St Mary Bourne Parish Council gave his annual report.** The full report is available on the Parish Council Website listed under Parish Council Meetings/APA. As time was moving on, and everyone wanted to get back to the wine, the Clerk’s Financial Report will be made available online, and Maxine will be happy to answer any questions you have.
- 6 **Questions from the audience** included concerns about an extended period of closure at Applegate because of works required from SSE to complete the project. Cllr Burlison advised that SW were equally frustrated with SSE as they are trying to get the works done within the current closure period but are struggling to get any response from SSE. Any extra closure by SSE would be for 24-72 hours, not the 4 weeks rumoured. The PC have now been asked to escalate to the local MP by the SW project team to try and call SSE to action. Updates on this will be available on Full Council Meeting Minutes or on the SMB-PC Facebook Page. Negotiations with SW and Hampshire Highways are ongoing to get the damaged verges repaired. Some work will be done on 7th, 8th & 9th May. Other parishioners made a point of thanking the Flood Emergency Team for their efforts in the last year in finally getting SW in the valley to make the repairs not done for many years. **Cllr Patrick Foote then thanked everyone for their valuable input and for attending and closed the formal meeting. Refreshments were continued to be served.**

Meeting Ended: 21:00

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