

# annual parish meeting 2010

## reports

The Annual Parish Meeting is a statutory meeting which is held once a year for the benefit of all the residents of the Parish of West Hagbourne. It is intended to provide an opportunity at which we can report to you what the Parish Council has done over the past year, how we spent your money and to give a series of updates on matters that affect the whole community. It also allows you the opportunity to directly quiz your representatives at Parish, District and County Council levels.

In the past the reports have been formally presented to attendees at the Annual Parish Meeting and where possible these will be distributed in advance by email.

This year's meeting will be held at 3pm on **Saturday 15th May** at Manor Farm.

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## Parish Council

During the past year, the Parish Council has found itself reduced to only four Councillors, and yet again has been engaged with considerable commitment in the consultation process over Great Western Park. Its Community Forum, the updating process and the actual planning applications are now ongoing, and about to reach the detailed stage for the first areas to be built which are to the north. The ground work will start soon, at its entrance from the Milton Link Road.

We have continued to build on links between us and local stakeholders, allied organisations, neighbouring councils and campaigners and where appropriate continued to build on established alliances with neighbouring parishes and other relevant agencies. This has been done in the long term interest of the village, to build on West Hagbourne's profile, raise its visibility in the wider community and to try to ensure we are not overlooked by the larger participants in local affairs.

Unfortunately Councillors have also found themselves forming the mainstay of maintenance work around the village. Whilst those who have helped have certainly done their bit, I would have hoped that more of our able-bodied residents might feel able to give up a few hours each year, in order to maintain the environment which we all enjoy.

In the light of recent Westminster scandals, please remember that Parish Councillors receive NO remuneration; none of them have made a single travel expenses claim, nor have they received any of the allowances which legally may be allowable to them.

The council comments on local planning applications and has participated in the various consultations on the growth of Didcot. Throughout, we have used these opportunities to bring to the attention of planners, and builders our concerns about light pollution, urbanisation of green space, cycle tracks, solar street lighting and the complete lack of any areas designated as future burial sites.

### Budget.

A big issue this year was agreeing the Council's budget in November. Because our overall precept has had little or no contingency built up over the years, a request from the Village Hall Committee to contribute to its expansion plans presented a huge dilemma. The consensus was that a significant, but proportionate, contribution to the hall expansion was justified as this facility benefits the whole community. Any contribution would increase our element of the Council Tax. The amount committed is £600 each year for three years, and is in direct proportion to the population and contribution made by East Hagbourne.

Please note that of the £5,800 the Parish Council will receive this year, over 30% of this money is spent on providing a Clerk and a massive 13% on insurance. Another 6% goes in providing green skips in the village.

A detailed set of accounts and the budget is available to anyone who might want to see where the rest of the money gets spent; please contact the clerk.

### Great Western Park

We have repeated our demands for an adequate road network to be put in place, ahead of GWP being built and for this to be done in such a way that it relieves traffic in all affected the villages, whilst also satisfying the needs of those who live and work in Didcot.

Your Local District Councillor will report that the only 'gain' to us from the GWP development, is in the form of a commitment to 'traffic calming' in both of the Hagbournes. In the Vale District, however, Harwell Parish will receive some direct financial benefit from the houses to be built in its parish. It appears that Didcot Town Council still assumes that it will simply absorb the new houses as a result of a future boundary review that would significantly erode our parish.

PARISH COUNCIL

TYRRELL TRUST

HISTORY GROUP

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE

VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

COUNTY COUNCIL

PARISH PLAN

Currently the Parish Council view is that we should initially oppose any boundary change, unless some tangible gain is offered to the Parish. It is vital that parishioners make their views clear to the Annual Parish Meeting, so the Parish Council can be fully informed of local feeling.

We will continue to engage with the District and County Councils at every opportunity, and hope that this will help protect the Parish from the next round of expansion. In particular we oppose development of the land to the south of Didcot. We believe that, at present, both South Oxfordshire District Council and Didcot Town Council favour development towards the North East of the town. As ever the Parish Council will keep a watching brief.

The very real threat and long term impact of the Vale of White Horse DC's intentions to allocate its share of future housing to the tranche of land that lies between the A34 and the Great Western Park remains of immense concern. Their proposals take housing almost to the north eastern parish boundary where it meets the Driftway.

The Vale has also refused to engage with us meaningfully over any additional housing at the Harwell / Chilton site, and has moved forward with plans for another 400 homes there. The negative impact on our roads is inevitable as residents drive into Didcot.

#### **Meeting Place:**

During the past week we have been assured by Greene King that the potential transfer of the parcel of land at the Horse & Harrow has only been delayed, and real progress will be made soon.

After more than five years of waiting for this to happen, and despite the inevitable frustration, we can wait for the process to progress, in the hope that it will eventually be concluded.

#### **Other items:**

The Parish Councils of East and West have initiated a competition to design a new bench, in memory of Monica Lawson, which will be made and erected somewhere along the boundary between the Hagbournes. Monica was instrumental in so many areas which affect both of the Hagbournes, the school being central to this, and the importance of her input at local events, regional meetings, consultations and in representing the interests of the villages should not be under-estimated.

Finally the annual thank you list which always seems to include the same people. If I have missed anybody out, please accept my apologies. I know many of you take the trouble to pick up litter as you walk dogs, and some residents have been seen to weed the gulleys and maintain areas beyond their own frontages. Specific thanks go to the following:

- Dave & Sue Totterdell for continuing work on the garden by the bus shelter and for Dave's work in Moor Lane.
- Ken Bishop for keeping the shrubs by the entrance signs clipped. Also for clipping back the verge at Coscote corner and in so doing making it safer for all road users to negotiate this often dangerous part of the road.
- John Baile for managing the web site.
- Chris Lay for work on footpaths and in clearing Moor Lane
- Dave Totterdell for taking on the role of Parish Clerk, and his other many tasks, from removing barrow loads of soil from School path, and many weeds from along York Road to planting and pruning.
- Mary Ann Le May for her work on the planter by the pond

- Tracey Anderson for printing the newsletter and always meeting the shortest deadlines.
- Hugh Lewis for keeping the Square tidy
- Robert Griffiths and Hazel Rack for filling the water butt during dry weather and additional grass cutting.
- Jeff Powell for the continued use of his trailer and truck
- landowners who allow the green skips on their land each year.
- Keith Little and Janet Cockburn for volunteering to take on the formal role of representing West Hagbourne and the Parish Council on the Village Hall Committee..
- Terry Pritchard for volunteering to represent the village at Transport Group Meetings

Thanks also to the Village Association for this year's second Dragon Competition. This has become an annual event which attracts many visitors to the village and for those of you who attended the supper, I am sure you agree, the efforts by this organisation to bring residents of West Hagbourne together and our issues into the public eye are appreciated.

The ongoing village maintenance programme continued this year, in the main carried out by Parish Councillors and a few stalwart supporters.

The grass verges this year have been severely damaged by the increased frequency of large agricultural vehicles driving through the village. Not all of the blame lies with our farmers, who are only trying to continue their daily work, since the refuse collectors and builders' lorries have all contributed to the damage which we hope will be remedied where possible.

The Parish Council has expanded the areas covered by our grass cutting and the Clerk is tasked with balancing the grant we receive from the County which appears to have drifted slightly away from adequately covering all of the work done.

In sessions led by a team of Oxfordshire Conservation Volunteers, co-ordinated for us by an environmental specialist from the Northmoor Trust, enormous inroads have been made in Moor Lane this past Winter. Many 'tonnes' of dead bramble, litter and refuse were cleared and since then several hundred shrubs & trees have been planted along the ancient hedgeline.

Additional tree planting will continue annually along the parish boundary if suggestions and new sites are agreed.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank my fellow Councillors for sharing the responsibility of taking part in other Committees, tirelessly attending many meetings with other organisations and for their input into the many consultation processes which form the basis of so much of what we are expected to do. I am also optimistic that we will be able to recruit a fifth councillor in the near future.

Please come along to the any Parish Council Meeting and give us your views, or you can contact the clerk / write to us, if anything is bothering you; or if you have suggestions for things you would like to see considered in the future.

**Phil Taylor** - Chair May 2010

# the History Group 2009 - 10

May 2009 – April 2010

This year the Group has made a concerted effort to recruit new members. Whilst a couple of people expressed an interest no new members have joined us this year. This has meant that we have been unable to further our research into the history of the village. However, we have continued with ongoing projects and maintenance of the archive as well as holding regular meetings and responding to enquiries.

## Projects

The Millennium House Project continues. This is based on the responses to the millennium questionnaire and the photographs of the village taken in 2001 to provide an accurate record of the village at the turn of the century. A further ongoing project based on the questionnaire is the development of an illustrated history of the historic buildings in the village, including stories and photographs of the people who lived in them.

The Group is currently listing and cataloguing its holdings. These include albums of local events, parish magazines, newsletters, research for the history book, minutes, correspondence, newspaper cuttings, films, photos, CDs, videos, censuses, maps, etc. The Group plans to open the archives to the public at an event during the summer.

The Group continues to receive and answer enquiries via the website. Orders for Windsor Hakeborne: the Story of West Hagbourne continue to trickle in.

## New acquisitions

A photograph taken in 1926 by the celebrated photographer E. O. Hoppé of one of the thatched cottages which stood opposite the Old Post Office has been purchased by the Group.

The existence of a painting by Helen Allingham of one of these cottages has recently been discovered. Another painting by Helen Allingham of a cottage which stood on the site of Brookmead appears on the front of the history book.

A copy of the 1911 census has been obtained for research purposes.

## Future and AGM

The present members of the Group have been working on the history for 20 years but would now like to step down.

Without new members it may not be possible to continue. The future of the History Group will be discussed at the A.G.M. at **8pm on 24th May** at Hagbourne Village Hall.

The meeting is open to everyone. Please come along with your ideas about the future of the Group.

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# the William Tyrrell Trust 2009 - 10

The William Tyrrell Trust was originally set up in 1662 for the benefit of the residents of West Hagbourne and continues to be managed by Trustees appointed by the Parish Council.

## Tyrrell Trust land

The trust obtains its funds from rental on its land. Mike Butler has co-ordinated the required lease for the tenancy of the former allotment land at the foot of Hagbourne Hill and negotiations are ongoing.

## Accounts for 2009/10

The annual Charity Commission returns are due to be submitted in May 2010.

Thanks once more to Bridget Pickup for preparing the accounts for the year and to Ian Thompson for auditing the accounts which will be available for inspection.

## Disbursement of Charity funds

Two grant applications were received and approved during 2009/10.

The Trustees continues to encourage young people and others resident in the village to apply for small grants during 2009/019. Grants are available to any resident, particularly young people, for funding to assist them with worthwhile initiatives and pursuits.

Anyone wishing to apply for a grant should contact one of the Trustees.

the current Trustees of the charity are:

**Mike Butler**  
**Marion Judd**  
**Bridget Pickup**

## Oxfordshire County Council Report 2009/10

### The Oxfordshire County Council

Conservative controlled that provides around 80% of the county's local authority services. These include social care, schools & children's services, waste management, trading standards, roads, transport planning, land use, countryside, the registration service, the fire and rescue service, countryside service, libraries, museums, emergency planning, public health (*jointly with the Primary Care Trust*) and Youth services.

### **CABINET RESPONSIBILITIES/ADDITIONS TO CABINET MEMBERSHIP REPORTED TO COUNCIL 6 APRIL 2010 – Councillors:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Extent of authority</b>
Keith Mitchell	Leader of the Council	Corporate and community leadership; corporate strategies; Strategic communications; Oxfordshire Partnership; regional issues; council business management; breaking the cycle of deprivation; Oxford City Council liaison and Oxford City Local Strategic Partnership
David Robertson	Deputy Leader of the Council	Economic development and tourism; skills (strategic approach including adult learning); governance; performance including the Public Service Board and Local Area Agreement; Legal & Democratic Services; members' services; HR; ICT; policy & partnerships unit; change programme; West Oxfordshire District Council liaison and West Oxfordshire Local Strategic Partnership
Arash Fatemian	Cabinet Member for Adult Services	Adult social services and health issues
Ian Hudspeth	Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure	Regional planning; strategic planning and transport within Oxfordshire; waste management; environmental management; flooding; clean and green; climate change; archaeology; South Oxfordshire District Council liaison and South Oxfordshire Local Strategic Partnership
Jim Couchman	Cabinet Member for Finance & Property	Finance, property and procurement
Kieron Mallon	Cabinet Member for Police & Policy Co-Ordination	Police issues; community safety, anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime; drugs and alcohol awareness and Council policy co-ordination
Louise Chapman	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families	Children's Services – lead member for Children, Young People & Families including educational policy; services for children, young people and families; preventative services; child protection; family support; youth service; youth justice and breaking the cycle of deprivation
Michael Waine	Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement	Primary & secondary schools; special schools; pupil services; school transport; music services; Cherwell District Council liaison and Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership
Rodney Rose	Cabinet Member for Transport	Implementation of schemes for transport; highways; traffic and parking; road safety; public passenger transport and access to the countryside
Mrs J Heathcoat	Cabinet Member for Safer & Stronger Communities	Fire and rescue; consumer protection (Trading Standards); emergency planning; coroner's service; gypsies and travellers; adult learning (oversight of the adult learning service); libraries, museums and heritage; the arts; archives; leisure and recreation; registration service; community cohesion; equalities and social inclusion; voluntary and community sector; Vale of White Horse District Council liaison and Vale of White Horse Local Strategic Partnership

**In the light of the very serious matters relating to public finances, I make no excuse for this report to major on the council's budget and how the council is managing its finances through to 2014/15. Also, the effect on some of the important services provided by this council.**

# Oxfordshire County Council

## **Conservative controlled, it provides around 80% of the county's local authority services.**

These include social care, schools & children's services, waste management, trading standards, roads, transport planning, land use, countryside, the registration service, the fire and rescue service, countryside service, libraries, museums, emergency planning, public health (jointly with the Primary Care Trust) and Youth services.

In the light of the very serious matters relating to public finances, I make no excuse for this report to major on the council's budget and how the council is managing its finances through to 2014/15. Also, the effect on some of the important services provided by this council.

## **Summary Key Issues:**

The County Council agreed a Council Tax increase for 2010/11 of 2.75% on 9 February 2010. This represents a Council Tax (for Band D equivalent properties) of £1,161.71. The County Council also agreed the five year Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme to 2014/15. The Council Tax for 2011/12 and 2012/13 is to be frozen if a Conservative government is returned at the General Election to take advantage of a pledge in the Conservative Manifesto to provide sufficient extra government grant to reduce a 2.5% rise to zero for two years.

Through the Council's Service & Resource Planning process, pressures of £73.8m over the medium term plan have been identified, with savings of £70.8m proposed. This leaves a shortfall over the five year period of £3.0m which, given the significant saving assumptions already built in, should be deliverable. Capital resources, particularly from capital receipts and developer contributions, are also giving rise to pressures on the Capital Programme which has resulted in a review and reprioritisation of the schemes

## **Background**

The Council has been working on its 2010/11 to 2014/15 Service and Resource Planning Process (S&RP) since last summer. This culminates in the 2010/11 budget being agreed by Council in February 2010.

Pressures relating to the medium term were being identified after the 2009/10 budget was set in February 2009, which required changes to the medium term planning assumptions. These reflected the scale of the national and global recession, changes in legislation and pressures in the cost of services. The impact of these was spread across the medium term but with a significant impact in 2011/12.

## **Major Financial Issues facing Oxfordshire**

### **External Funding:**

Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) - Given that the government delayed the date of the CSR which was expected originally to follow on from the previous three year settlement in 2009, the Council has had to make some assumptions about future funding levels because we do not believe that it is realistic to start our planning once the revised grant figures are known. Given the current level of public sector borrowing and the need to reduce expenditure to compensate, our expectation is that any increase in grant for the three year period up to 2013/14 is likely to be offset by greater levels of efficiency requirements. This could be further

compounded if there are changes to the 'Damping Grant' Oxfordshire currently receives which is expected to be £6.7m in 2010/11.

Taxbase – With no sign of recovery in the new house building market, the growth in the taxbase - the number of properties from which council tax can be collected - is not expected to grow in line with planning assumptions. This reduces the amount of income available to the Council.

### **Government Legislation:**

Free Personal Social Care – If approved by Parliament, the Personal Care at Home Bill, will guarantee free personal care for the people with the highest needs from October 2010. Costs of £2.8m in 2011/12 are currently proposed in the medium term plan, with a half year effect of £1.4m in 2010/11. These sums represent only the additional levels of "efficiency" that the government has assumed and do not reflect our concerns that the real costs will be far higher. The national totals assessed by government to be only £670m are thought by the Association of Directors of Social Care to be more than £1bn. As all the additional costs will fall directly on councils, this represents a significant risk to the County Council.

Concessionary Fares - The transfer of concessionary fares to county councils will take place in April 2011. Based on the current position of the district councils in Oxfordshire, there is a likely to be a shortfall in funding currently estimated to be £0.9m in 2011/12 rising to £2.1m in 2012/13 when the Government expects there to be efficiencies made from the rollout of smartcards and lower costs from raising the age of eligibility to 65.

Landfill Tax - The national budget in April 2009 announced further increases in landfill tax of £8 per tonne for each year from 2011. This is estimated to cost an additional £1.5m each year, reaching £6.0m by 2014/15.

Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) – The auctioning of allowances under the "cap and trade" scheme begins in 2013. Costs of £1.4m over the medium term are expected although there is some uncertainty because the performance of the council will be measured against other public and private organisations.

Learning Disabilities - From April 2011 the County Council will receive funding for Learning Disabilities directly from the Department of Health. It is not yet clear how this grant will be paid. It could be paid through Area Based Grant (ABG), which would enable local discretion on the level of spend. However, if it goes into Revenue Support Grant, Oxfordshire would not receive this funding because we remain below the grant floor and the floor mechanism would reduce our level of damping grant.

Learning & Skills Council (LSC) - Following the dissolution of the LSC, responsibility for funding education and training for 16-18 year-olds transfers to local authorities from April 2010. Other requirements of the act include the raising of the age of participation in education, training or work with training to 17 by 2013 and 18 by 2015. The funding arrangements and exact levels of resources are not yet confirmed.

### **Service Pressures:**

Children's Social Care – There has been a 40% increase in referrals since the Baby P case, which has put additional pressure on a

service, which has historically been under pressure. Additional costs of £2.25m are expected in 2010/11. In May 2009, the Court of Appeal issued the Southwark Judgement, which has significant implications for the way children's services are delivered to homeless 16 and 17 year olds. The Judgement extends the Local Authority's duty of care for this group. It is estimated that the cost of this ruling could be up to £1.0m in a full year and this has been recognised in the budget proposals.

Asylum Seekers – The Council receives funding for clients, which don't fully meet the full costs of providing services. This is estimated to be £0.550m. The Council has been in ongoing negotiations with Government to recognise the pressures, which we along with a small number of other authorities are facing.

Capital Programme - Economic and market conditions have resulted in a reduction in available capital resources, particularly from capital receipts and developer contributions, over the last year. This has led to a resources shortfall in the Capital Programme of £4.502m. To address the shortfall and to allow the inclusion of a number of new schemes in the programmes, a number of lower priority schemes have been reduced in size or taken out of the programme.

#### **Proposed Savings**

Two areas have been effectively exempted from savings targets. They are Safeguarding Children (children's social care) and our Fire and Rescue Service.

For all other areas, total savings planned for 2010/11 are £27.8m, £15.5m are classed as efficiencies or income generation, £9.8m from other funding sources and £2.5m are classified as a service reduction. This demonstrates that, wherever possible, efficiencies are proposed with service reductions as a last resort.

Significant savings are set out over the medium term relating to inflation provisions. This reflects the current lower levels of inflation, the Government's announced cap on public sector pay at 1% for 2011/12 and 2012/13

Significant savings are also planned through implementing a number of transformation programmes including Transforming Adult Social Care and working with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) in 'Creating a Healthy Oxfordshire' programme.

#### **County Council Budget and Medium Term Plan to 2014/15**

The budgets for 2010/11 and the medium term plan to 2014/15 are prudent, recognising the risks and the service issues against a continuing background of economic recession and anticipated cuts in public spending.

Full details are available on the County Council web site:  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

#### **Thames Valley Police Authority and District Council Precepts**

The Thames Valley Police Authority met on 19 February to agree their Precept of a 2% increase, taking the band D charge for 2010/11 to £154.30. South Oxfordshire District council on the 22 February decided to freeze council tax with a 0% increase.

Your local councillor was Elected Vice-Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council on 6th April'10. A committee member of the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee. He also presently

serves on the following working groups:- Speed Reference, Local Transport Plan No.3, and Minerals & Waste. Of local matters, he has pressed for more road safety measures. He continues to press for better and a quicker response to road repairs. He is a member of the 'Wallingford' - Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). He has frequently requested for more speed checks and enforcement measures in 30mph limits within the Moreton Division and many have resulted in the police issuing fines etc.

Your Division member thanks the Parish Councillors for their co-operation during the year.

**Cllr Patrick Greene** - Moreton Division – Oxfordshire County Council – May 2010

# South Oxfordshire District Council

This year the council introduced the new waste collection to 56,000 households, a huge challenge for the council and residents.

We received a national award for the communication methods to residents. We worked with the contractors for nearly a year prior to the actual start date. Recycling rates have gone from being 48% to 70%, which means less landfill and more money for the council in the form of recycling credits. There were problems to overcome in some parts of the district, which we have been discussing with those residents concerned.

Then we had the hardest winter with snow, which caused further problems, but everyone working together enabled us to get back on track and continue the high recycling rates.

Nexus Leisure have taken over the running of our four leisure centres introducing a membership card which means members can use any of our centres activities. We have invested capital money into improving the facilities, which will continue in 2010.

Working in partnership we have Go Active, which has been well supported, plus a sports development officer working with communities to gain sport out in the rural areas.

The Economic Development worked with consultants and the three market town partnerships and town councils, which means we were able to get SEEDA grants, which the council will match, to enable some work to be carried out in the towns. We are employing three town coordinators to help businesses in the market towns of Wallingford, Thame and Henley.

It is vital that we all do what we can for the local economy that is reasonable and achievable. We are involved in South Vale UK that is Harwell, Culham, Milton Park, OCC, and OEP working together to achieve inward investment. This will create more jobs especially taking into consideration all the new houses being built at Didcot and around the district.

The Orchard Centre is a great success even in the recession with plans in the pipeline for a stage 2.

Cornerstone continues to be successful with many events being sold out within days. This means that they are improving their financial position but still need the council's subsidy that hopefully will reduce.

PCSO's are working well in both the towns and villages. This is a joint project with the police and residents are now aware of their presence. CCTV will be reviewed this coming year. Both PCSO's and CCTV are partly paid for by the town councils, police and this council. We need to know if we receive value for money and that our residents feel happy.

Housing, with the national economic situation we have not been able to deliver as many houses as we had expected. However working in partnership with housing associations we have built on sites in Wallingford with smaller in-fills in the villages. We do hope that this year will see the start of building in sites at Didcot, Fairmile and Chinnor

Choice Base lettings that was recently introduced has been a success in that those requiring homes have been able to bid for

properties and have seen the openness of the process.

Planning, there has been a downturn in applications, which again is mainly due to the recession. We have introduced a new process for referrals that has had some bad press, but this has mainly been to misunderstanding the process. This process does mean as a district councillor we need to work closely with our parishes on applications especially those that may be contentious.

Enforcement cases have reduced dramatically during the year but there are those cases that do take along time due to the complexity.

The local development framework (LDF) is the new planning system which sets out in the form of a portfolio, the local development documents which collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for South Oxfordshire District Council's area. The core strategy sets out the spatial vision for the local area up to the year 2026 taking into account national and regional plans. This is a very controversial issue especially when we have to make a final decision on these sites after wide consultation. Joint working with the Vale of White Horse District Council has caused some uncertainty for staff but we have now have in place a joint Chief Executive, and joint Directors, Heads of Service and Managers. This has meant a reduction in staff with the benefit of more efficiency savings.

The council tax over the last five years has given an average of 1% increase per annum due to three years of no increase. Once again, this year, we are able to have a nil % increase in council tax. This is a very good record and welcomed by the residents of South Oxfordshire.

Again, councillors have agreed to continue with no increase in their allowances making these allowances one of the lowest for councils in the South East.

The Audit Commission has scored us as being one of the top councils in the country. We will continue to strive to do even better over the coming year and offer even better value for money.

Your Ward member thanks the Parish Councillors for their co-operation during the year.

**Cllr Patrick Greene** May 2010

South Oxfordshire District Council – Hagbourne Ward

# West Hagbourne Village Association

The following officers and committee were elected at the Annual General Meeting of the West Hagbourne Village Association held at the George and Dragon, Upton. in March 2009. Notice of this meeting, to which all villagers were invited, was given in the Village Newsletter.

Chairman - Peter Mitchell

Vice-Chairman - Betty Kendrick

Hon. Treasurer - Keith Mitchell

Hon. Secretary - Hazel Rack

Committee -

Marion Judd. Mike Parker, Bridget Pickup and Val Walton

## **Vice-Chairman's Report for 2009 - 2010.**

It has been a very mixed year for us. It started wonderfully. Our St. George's Day Competition exceeded all our expectations with over thirty dragons prowling the village

We were mentioned in local and national newspapers and our Chairman and Treasurer appeared on television and were heard on radio. Some 55 villagers, young and old, continued the celebration with a delicious supper at Hagbourne Village Hall. Many more people, throughout Oxfordshire, have been made aware of our determination to keep safe our village way of life through the publicity this event received.

Sadly, later in the year our Chairman, Peter, found he needed to devote all his time to taking care of Andrea. We miss her very much

But we continued to hold committee meetings and plan further events.

In September, The Madge Trophy Competition for the best front village garden was held and was won by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hill of 16 York Road. The judge, Brenda Andrews, commented on the villages well kept lawns and the variety in types of gardens.

Unfortunately, the skittles evening planned to take place in February had to be postponed because the renovations to Upton Village Hall were not completed in time. So that is an event for us to look forward to later in the year. Look for the date in the Village Newsletter.

To everyone in our village - thank you for your support throughout the year.

The success of the St. George's Day Campaign was due not only to the hard work of this Association but to your hard work too in producing so many and such wonderful dragons!

**Betty Kendrick**



## the issues for 20010/11

This list will be further informed by the input and opinions gathered at the Annual Parish Meeting and from residents throughout the year.

Ongoing main issues in order of priority

1. Continue to represent the best interests of the Parish in consultations and other relevant opportunities, especially in relation to plans for new housing surrounding Didcot; with particular reference to maintaining strategic gaps and the need to address road infrastructure issues including a Harwell/Hagbourne relief road.
2. Sustain and build on relationships with neighbouring Parish Councils in the interests of all affected villages; jointly pursuing issues of common concern through mutually agreed collaborative initiatives.
3. Continue to pursue implementation of a traffic strategy, calming and speed control.
4. Achieve some tangible planning gain from the next stage of development of Didcot should it take any more of the Parish of West Hagbourne for housing development
5. Monitor and comment on proposed Parish Boundary changes and achieve maximum result from any change
6. Support implementation of the Parish Plan:
  - Provision of a Village meeting place
  - Provision of a children's play area
  - Encourage participation in activities such as litter picking, maintenance, rights of way clearance, and planting
  - Continue to maintain flower and tree planting
  - Village improvement group
7. Continue to provide twice yearly skips, for green waste collection in larger volumes
8. Lobby for a Cycle track between York Road and Didcot Wheatfields
9. Monitor and react to waste and foul water issues
10. Encourage the Newsletter and Website
11. Produce a guide for living in the conservation area
12. Erect old notice board in Foxglove Lane
13. Improve / maintain School Path
14. Continue to monitor local transport issues and integrated bus services
15. Propose a planted buffer zone ( consecrated woodland ) between Great Western Park which would ultimately help create a visual and physical division along the Parish Boundary

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## the Parish Council

**Phil Taylor** Chair 850 182  
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**Marion Judd** Vice-Chair 850 434  
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**Tom Barker** 850 858  
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## Parish Clerk

David Totterdell 01235 850080  
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previous minutes and newsletters are all available online at  
**www.westhagbourne.org**

## South Oxfordshire District Councillor Oxfordshire County Councillor

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