

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

As previously, the reports have been produced as a single document to consolidate the information from the various committees the Parish Councillors attend - this helps save duplication costs and presents the information in a consistent form.

Note: if you would like to see a full set of minutes of any of the meetings attended or discuss specific matter in more detail please feel free to contact the appropriate Councillor directly. Their details are on page two.

These reports form part of the formalised **Annual Meeting of the Parish Council** of West Hagbourne.

The accounts show how we have spent the precept, which is collected as part of your council tax. This year we have reduced this by 0.5%.

This meeting is like an AGM - the outgoing Chair stands down, and the newly elected Councillors take over. It can then review the accounts, formally agree the officers of the Parish Council, elect a Chair and Vice Chair and re-consider things like insurance, subscriptions and frequency of its meetings.

Ordinary business is also included in the agenda.

This meeting is not to be confused with the regular annual **PARISH MEETING** which is held once a year to review the actions and performance of the Parish Council.

That meeting would normally receive reports from representatives to Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and the Tyrrell Trust as well as the Village History Group and from the Village Association.

The Parish Meeting will be held in the village again this year in Manor Farm garden on the **18th June 2010** at 3.00pm

CEMETERIES
CHARITIES
SCHOOL GOVERNORS
VILLAGE HALL
PARISH PLAN
ACCOUNTS

the East & West Hagbourne Cemeteries committee

This committee meets twice a year, usually in June and January and is responsible for the management of the Hagbourne Cemetery. This can be found on the road between the two villages (adjacent to the 'overflow' Church cemetery) and is accessed via the Lychgate.

Residents of East and West Hagbourne can request burial in this cemetery.

In June 2010 the committee met at the cemetery. The newly planted Rosa rugosa hedge was reported to have established well and the refurbishment of two seats was discussed.

It was also noted that the wild flower meadow at the back of the cemetery was thriving, with the yellow rattle well established and the ragged robin doing particularly well. However, there have so far been no owls in the owl box.

In January 2011 the committee met at 12A Harwood Rd, East Hagbourne.

There was discussion about the provision and location of a memorial seat for Monica Lawson, but this has not yet been agreed with the family. The owl box remains empty. A volunteer was found to sweep the lay-by in front of the cemetery gate.

Sue Totterdell

Parish Plan 2010

This is a repeat of the last update from the Parish Plan Steering Group and formed the **Action Plan for 2010**

An update to this plan will be carried out during 2011

1) Protect and preserve the rural character of West Hagbourne

- Resist further expansion of Didcot towards the village. The Parish Council continues to oppose further development of Didcot beyond Great Western Park. At present SODCs preferred direction is to the north and east of Didcot. The Vale of the White Horse Council will be allocating a site close to the parish boundary.
- Lobby for a buffer zone. Reference to buffer zones to prevent coalescence of settlements was removed from the updated SE Plan but the PC will continue fight to avoid coalescence.
- Lobby for a relief road. A survey of traffic volume through the village (carried out by the Highways department of OCC) showed an overall increase of 17% within 2 years and increases of up to 50% in the peak morning rush. A relief road from the Wantage Road in Didcot through to the A417 and on to the A34 at Chilton would significantly reduce traffic through West Hagbourne. The PC supports this route.

2) Improve pedestrian safety and access

- Work continues in Moor Lane as part of a habitat development project being coordinated by the PC
- Vegetation is regularly removed from the stile and bridge on the footpath to Upton and from Church path and the level of the western end of this track will be raised if funds can be found.

3) Improve the parish environment

- The village appearance group plants the tubs by the bus stop twice a year and maintains the gardens there. The rose bushes will be replaced in 2010 if they continue to struggle.
- Regular tree planting takes place each spring. This year trees were planted along Moor Lane.
- No site has been identified for a memorial grove but individual trees can be accommodated.
- Village clean-ups take place twice year with villagers also helping by collecting rubbish regularly on their walks. High visibility jackets, gloves and pickers are available from the PC.
- Recycling and composting account for more and more of our waste. The PC supports SODC's doorstep recycling efforts and provides two skips for larger green waste each year.

4) Seek solutions to the increase in volume and speed of traffic through the village

- Any volunteers to organise a traffic group would be welcome.

- The Parish Council continues to lobby for a relief road that would reduce traffic through the village.
- Please notify Trading Standards about vehicles breaking weight limits. Although signing has been improved large vehicles continue to pass through the village, causing damage to kerbs and property.

5) Develop village facilities

- Village meeting place (site and possible use). The PC continues to explore obtaining the land opposite the pub as a site for a meeting place and in the meantime has improved the appearance of this land by grass cutting and tree planting.
- A volunteer is needed to produce and maintain a list of volunteers in the village
- A Welcome Pack is delivered to new residents, ideally by a neighbour. Please contact Sue Totterdell if you have a new neighbour.
- Articles for the newsletter or web site can be submitted electronically or by hand to the Clerk.
- The recent (second) highly successful celebration of St George's Day (April 23rd) was organised by the Village Association. Watch out for future events.
- If you plan to hold a coffee morning in the village, please notify the Parish Clerk, if you would like to publicise this on the web site.
- If you wish to post details of your club, please contact the web master or the Parish Clerk.

6) Improve transport links between West Hagbourne, local schools and Didcot

- The PC has followed up a suggestion that the X2 from Chilton to Oxford should be re-routed through the village. When contracts are re-negotiated, they will raise this issue again.

7) Improve cycle routes between West Hagbourne and local schools

- A volunteer is needed to form a cycling interest group. In the meantime, the PC will lobby for improved cycling routes to schools in Didcot

8) Ensure that future development meets the needs of local people

- The PC interacts with SODC planning to try to ensure that developments in the village are sympathetic to its character.

9) Develop activities for young people

- We are still seeking a volunteer to represent the needs of young people in the village and to facilitate events for them.
- We also seek a young person from the village prepared to set up and maintain pages on the web site highlighting youth-oriented events, interests and activities.

Sue Totterdell

ORCC Transport

Terry Pritchard has agreed to represent the interests of West Hagbourne as our Transport Representative at meetings organised by Oxfordshire Rural Community Council.

The Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) transport budget has been cut.

However the OCC say that they can maintain the present services for the current financial year by savings elsewhere. Not introducing new bus arrival time boards for example.

New contracts for bus services in our area, including the 94/95, will commence in Dec 2011. The 94/95 bus is one of the services under review, and comments and suggestions have been requested.

I have made a series of suggestions to improve the overlap of arrivals, and in particular suggested small changes which would allow commuters to use the bus to get to and from Didcot at times which connect with train services. Deadline 03 Jun 2011. (a public meeting was held on the 12th of May 2011 in Grove Village Hall)

OCC will take over issuing bus passes from Mar 2012 until then contact your local district, as before.

Terry Pritchard

Hagbourne School Governors Report

Another very busy year in the life of the school with 206 happy pupils and 35 happy staff with plenty to celebrate on the way.

I was fortunate enough to have been asked to lead a team of teachers to South Africa in February, looking at Community Cohesion in their schools. It may have been the temperature (30 degrees) or possibly the opportunity to swim in the Indian Ocean, but we found very little evidence of what we were looking for.

This is certainly not the case here, with links not only to the local community but also with St. Andrew's Church. There is plenty going on at all times of the year, but can we see the evidence for this? I suspect the answer is very definitely YES.

The Christmas services, the weekly input from a member of the clergy, the Ash Wednesday service and preparation of the ashes, the Leaver's service and St. Andrew's birthday, Harvest Festival, Church

Fete, annual clean-up of the village. We try to maximise the use of the school by extending its use in supporting the work of the Church with Marriage Preparation Days and Diocesan meetings.

Add to this the excellent liaison we have with the villagers of East and West Hagbourne and overall, it seems a winning combination.

So why are the South Africans so far behind? It is a good question and we have invited one of the principals over to UK to visit and answer that question. It will be an opportunity for her to look at her own practice and reflect on ways in which she can enhance it for the future. She will help us to improve what we are doing for our Community. What other profession tries so hard to improve aspects of their own practice for future generations?

Richard Jones
Head teacher May 2011

Hagbourne Charities

Current Trustees: I Duff, (chair), Sue Lay (representing West Hagbourne residents), Margaret Turner (representing Didcot Town Council), Yen Rickeard (nominee East Hagbourne Parish Council), A. Thompson, Marion Judd (representing West Hagbourne Parish Council) and Rev J. St John Nicolle. The Trustees met on 18th January 2011.

Insurance liability for Butt's Piece has now passed to East Hagbourne Parish Council. Trustees noted that the Council has shown sensitivity toward the Trustee's concerns about avoiding any actions that could adversely affect the long-term value of Butt's Piece.

Following previous encroachment, the southern boundary of Butt's Piece is still deemed vulnerable to further encroachment. Action was agreed to take detailed measurements and photographic evidence of the existing boundary in order to amend the present inaccurate details held by the Land Registry.

The Charity made its annual grant of £225 to the Didcot Volunteer

Centre. During calendar year 2010 the grant was used for 55 clients in the Charity's benefit area and 560 single journeys.

With the leasing of Butt's Piece, the Charity's annual income will increase from April this year and there is a requirement that the money should be spent. Apart from the annual grant to Didcot Volunteers, no applications for grants have been received from individuals during 2010. The Trustees have agreed action to publicise the Charity through local organisations including the CAB, and the East Hagbourne Parish website.

West Hagbourne residents should be aware that under the terms of the Hagbourne Charities, residents are eligible to apply for grants from the Hagbourne Charities in cases of hardship.

Marion Judd
Vice- Chair and representative for West Hagbourne Parish Council

Sue Lay
Representative for West Hagbourne residents

Hagbourne Village Hall

The extension to the village hall has been the main focus of the committee this year, but topics for year 2010-2011 included:

- Extension to Village hall.
- New pricing policy for Hall usage.
- Licence fees.
- Replacement caretaker.
- West Hagbourne History Group.

The hall was closed for six weeks over summer 2010, re-opening in September in time for the start of the pre-school autumn term. It was officially opened on 12 February, 2011, by David Rickeard, Chairman of East Hagbourne PC when four residents of West Hagbourne attended.

The hall now provides improved facilities for the Hagbourne pre-school, an expanded lobby, Meeting room, Refurbishment to toilet areas, including a toilet suitable for disabled persons and increased storage capacity.

Estimated cost of the work was £106,000, much of which has been met by grants:

- Oxfordshire County Council (£25k)
- WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited)(£30k)
- East and West Hagbourne Parish Councils (£10k).
- A further £25k was taken from Hall funds.

The remainder has come from individual donations and fund-raising efforts. Full details are contained in the Minutes of the Village Hall AGM, 30/11/10. However, the Hall committee now needs to rebuild a solid reserve fund to cover emergencies and further fund raising is planned.

In light of improved facilities, higher energy expenses and debt currently carried, fees for hiring the Hall have been raised (see Table below). The Hall committee was recently asked to consider whether, in view of SODC's price rise for the option, the committee should continue to hold a licence permitting it to sell alcohol on the premises. The decision was left to the chairman and to date no further feedback has been circulated.

The previous caretaker resigned at the end of 2010. Wendy Lucas, who has recently moved to East Hagbourne, has been appointed to the vacant post.

The West Hagbourne History Group has been able to take advantage of increased storage in the Hall to negotiate space to hold its archive material. It has bought a 4-drawer filing cabinet which has been installed in the Meeting Room.

Janet Cockburn

Accounts of the Parish Council April 2010 to 31st March 2011

(as per section 1 of the Annual Return)

	Year ending 31 st March 2010		Year ending 31 st March 2011	
	£	£	£	£
Balances brought forward		7,931		9,442
(+) Annual Precept	4,785		5,854	
(+) Total other Receipts	<u>1,777</u>	6,562	<u>1,597</u>	7,451
		<u>14,493</u>		<u>16,893</u>
(-) Staff Costs	1,574		1,507	
(-) Loan interest / capital repayments	0		0	
(-) Total other payments	<u>3,477</u>	5,051	<u>3,929</u>	5,436
Balances Carried Forward		<u>9,442</u>		<u>11,457</u>
Total cash and investments		9,442		11,457
Total fixed assets and long term assets		26,498		26,498

Parish Clerk

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previous minutes and newsletters are at
www.westhagbourne.org

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