

next meeting

The next meeting of the *Parish Council* will be held on **Thursday 12th July** starting at **7.30** in Hagbourne School



mobile library

the library will now be stopping outside the *Little Acorns Day Nursery* at 09:20am as well as the present stop at *The Square* on 09.00-09:15am

skill swap

if you'd like to offer to swap some ironing in return for someone clearing your gutters, or dog walking in return for a trip to the dump - send details to janet@jcockburn.plus.com

madge trophy

remember judging this year will be on **10th July**

recycling + green waste

Green recycling Boxes allow you to recycle packaging, plastic and paper. Available from Bridget Pickup on 850392 or the Didcot One stop shop. For information about the new small green waste bins available through SODC call 01491 823416 www.southoxon.gov.uk

web help wanted

The web site team need some help from anyone with html knowledge or the ability to contribute or check existing information to ensure it remains up to date, e.g links, numbers, etc. Without further input from the village the website will become stale and out of date.

message board

Remember you can use the message board section on the web site which is available for you to add their messages, news items, notices, etc.

village history group

The History Group will be holding its Annual General Meeting at Linda Thompson's home 1, Grove Terrace on **16th July 2007 at 8pm**. All West Hagbourne residents are welcome



Mabel Powell

Former resident of West Hagbourne Mabel Powell died after a short illness on June 2nd **aged 98!**

Mabel spent her earlier years in East Hagbourne - where she trained to be a teacher. In 1934 she married a local farmer - **Wipsey Powell** from West Hagbourne - living firstly in Foxglove Lane, then down Moor Lane and later at **Ash Farm** which they had built for them in 1955.

Many will remember that she ran the popular Lake Green Grocery in the 1960's - which now the veterinary surgery.

Always extremely youthful, she was still going shopping to Oxford on the train with her sister Bess, when she was over 90! She also attended Reading Football Club matches at the Madejski Stadium when over 90 years of age - always a very keen sports fan.

In 2004 Mabel moved to the Meadows Care Home in Didcot where she was very happy but she will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Saturday 23rd June St Andrew's Church Fete at 2.15p.m in the lovely garden of

2 Church Close, East Hagbourne

this year's theme is CINEMA & THEATRE

Join the parade at the school in costume by 1.55pm
silver cups for the best groups and individuals.

Free admission and sweets for all in costumes.

Stalls from bric-a-brac to plants, Jazzband,
traditional sideshows, teas - something for everyone.



Offers of help or donation of items to sell gratefully received.
contact Andrea Mitchell 850719

community support officer

Our local Police Community Support Officer who attended this years Parish meeting **Thomas Mynehan** is based at Wallingford Police Station and works with PC Pip Walker and Sergeant Fraser Weller. One of the major problems raised was the speeding in the village and they are in the process of organising a speed enforcement day. Note that traffic teams will pursue persistent offenders!

If you have any concerns or issues that you would like to bring to their attention, then please don't hesitate in contacting them on **0845 8 505 505** at Wallingford Police Station

West Hagbourne newsletter

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come to lunch

All residents of West Hagbourne (from babies to great-grandparents and everyone in between!) are invited to the **Village Association's** free lunch on **Sunday 15th July** at Broomsticks which is being held to celebrate it's **tenth** anniversary.

The lunch is for West Hagbourne residents only.

Tickets for admission will be needed so that the Catering Corps know how many to cater for.

The event **starts at 12.30** with lunch served at 1.00 pm. After lunch, those who feel up to a challenge can follow a mystery trail through the village. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Tea and cakes will be served at 3.30pm followed by presentation of the Madge Trophy, mystery trail and **raffle prizes** will be presented to the lucky winners.

Information about the lunch has already been circulated to every house in the village.

It is hoped that everyone will come along and join their neighbours, new and old, and enjoy a pleasant afternoon together.

annual meeting of Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council was held before the ordinary meeting on **Thursday the 10th May** at Hagbourne School.

Attended by John Thornhill, Keith Little (part of the time only) Cllr Patrick Greene sent his apologies

Phil Taylor was re-elected Chairman of the Council and Marion Judd as Vice Chair. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by the Chairman in the presence of the Clerk.

written reports from the following groups were presented to the Council:

- East and West Hagbourne Cemeteries
 - Hagbourne Parochial Charities
 - Hagbourne School Governors
 - Hagbourne Village Hall
 - Parish Plan Steering Group
 - Western Villages Alliance
- Sue Totterdell was reappointed as representative on the East & West Hagbourne Cemetery Committee, Marion Judd was reappointed to Hagbourne Parochial Charities

consultation

SODC have been undertaking several stages of consultation on the growth and development of Didcot. West Hagbourne is fully participating in these by invitation.

The green space consultation is part of the planning process, as it is focussed on the possible establishment of a country park, in some of the land being taken over for the building of Great West Park. If you have any specific thoughts on this, please contact a Parish Councillor this month, so your views can be incorporated into our response.

try recycling

If you are one of the few households in the Parish that doesn't recycle - why not give it a try. Green boxes are free, and you can easily use it for packaging, paper and plastic. This saves on bin bags and really helps the environment and will help save you money in the longer term.

in this issue

Parish notes

Madge Trophy

Community support officer

obituary

Church Fete

diary dates

History Group
AGM meet on
16th July

the Annual
North Berks
MCC **British
Bike Night**
Horse and
Harrow

**Tuesday
17th July**



Following its Annual Meeting an ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held on **Thursday the 10th May** at Hagbourne School.

No general forum was held as no members of the public attended. Cllr Patrick Greene gave his apologies.

As a result of only three nominations for the posts of Parish Councillors, the Council decided to co-opt John Thornhill and Thomas Barker as members of the Council.

Main issues

The Council agreed the main issues for action during 2007/08 as a working document. These will be updated following the Parish Meeting and during the year as necessary.

Code of conduct changes

It was agreed that the mandatory provisions in the Model Code of Conduct set out in Statutory Instrument 2007/1159 should be adopted as the West Hagbourne Parish Council Code of Conduct effective from 1 July 2007, subject to minor amendments as recommended by the Standards Board for England and South Oxfordshire District Council.

Horse & Harrow

The Council considered alternative options offered by Greene King to either purchase the land for a 'nominal sum' or to lease the land from Greene King for a peppercorn rent. Greene King have advised the Council that they have instructed their legal department regarding the Horse & Harrow. It was agreed to proceed with making an offer for the site, subject to public approval of this at the Annual Parish Meeting and to appoint solicitors to carry out the legal work in connection with purchase.

The Council also considered a request from the North Berks Motorcycle Club to put a temporary building on the site and it was decided that this would not be appropriate at this time.

Formal agreements with County

It was agreed to continue the current arrangements for grass cutting and to enter into a formal agreement with the County Council. But not to take responsibility for the removal of unauthorised signs on the highway and not to enter into a formal agreement with the County Council. It was decided it was not now appropriate to consider any action regarding the unauthorised signs on the highway at Scotland's Ash.

Community involvement Phil Taylor and Bernard Mead had attended the second of a series of Didcot focussed events arranged by SODC. Phil Taylor offered to be a member of any Communications and Open Spaces groups that might be formed.

The Council **recognised** Bernard Mead's experience after many years as a parish councillor and decided to ask him to assist the Council as a consultant where appropriate.

Clerks Job description

The Clerk's Job Description and Contract of Employment have now been revised by the Council. The Council decided to increase the Clerk's salary to £1,500 pa, backdated to 1st April 2007 and to review the salary annually in November, with any change in salary to take effect from the following April. The Council also decided to pay the Clerk an additional payment of £100 in recognition of the time spent on revising and updating the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and other documentation.

Roads & traffic

Oxfordshire Highways has reported that traffic speeds are 'similar' since the removal of white lines and signs. The council favoured non-replacement of the white lines and signs, but will consult the public at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Planning applications

There have been no recent planning applications. The Horse & Harrow shelter was approved by SODC.

Moor Lane

A start has been made on clearing the ditch and it is still not evident why water from gullies in Main Street is not draining properly. Work will continue on clearing the ditch of undergrowth.

Marion Judd will investigate sources for other grants for improving the appearance of the village, which may include Moor Lane.

The Oxfordshire County Council grant has been received for the new kissing gate.

Criminal records

The Clerk will ascertain whether Criminal Records Bureau checks need to be made on members and the Clerk.

The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on **Thursday 12th July** at Hagbourne School.

Parish Council

Phil Taylor Chair 850 182
phil.taylor@westhagbourne.org
Marion Judd Vice-Chair 850 434
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John Thornhill 850 489
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Tom Parker
tom.parker@westhagbourne.org
Sue Totterdell 850 080
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the Parish Clerk

Roger Sweet 850 492
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org

District Councillor

Patrick Greene 813 396
patrick.greene@southoxon.gov.uk

County Councillor

Patrick Greene 813 396
patrick.greene@oxfordshire.gov.uk

planning applications

York Farm have applied to build a new road from Brook Lane across the field to their main buildings

newsletter deadlines

September Issue 30 August 2007
please e-mail copy for inclusion to
parishclerk@westhagbourne.org
or drop off to the clerk

westhagbourne.org

The web site is constantly being updated and is growing.
If you'd like to help, write, build or contribute to the site contact the webmaster or call Roger Sweet.

successful annual Parish meeting

This was a very well attended meeting and was opened by Phil Taylor who Chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone attending with a promise to ensure future Parish Meetings were not held to clash with the Cup Final.

Copies of the Parish Reports comprising the Chair's (Parish Council) Report and reports from the Village Association, History Group, William Tyrrell Trust, Parish Plan Steering Group and reports by Patrick Greene (District and County Councillor) were given to all people present. The Parish Reports also included a summary of the traffic measurement results following the removal of white lines and road signs. Full copies of these reports are available on the web site.

The meeting took the form of one large open forum, including a range of topics:

Land by the Horse and Harrow:

The Chair summarised the current position regarding the Parish Council's interest/action in the plot of land, i.e. that the Council had had the land cleared and seeded and had been given the opportunity to buy it from Greene King for a nominal sum or to lease it for a peppercorn rent.

- The clearance of the site has resulted in the appearance of it having been opened up
- And the general feeling was that the village should easily be able to raise the money to buy it and there would be no dissenters if this could be achieved.
- The Council should be aware that Greene King are rumoured to be involved in a take over – hence action should be prompt.
- Whilst the size of the plot would an area for village children to play it was thought that the location was not really suitable for children
- The plot might be better suited for a meeting place that could incorporate fire proof storage for parish records.
- The question of whether the village can afford the upkeep of a hall was raised, there has been volunteers already, and the process of viability consultation should now be commenced.

In summary there was overwhelming support from those present for the Parish Council to continue negotiations with Greene King for an acceptably 'nominal' sum.

Flooding

Of particular concern was the flooding in Main Street: by Wycherts which is due to poor dispersal into the Moor Lane ditch and Highways advise it is not deep enough, it needs to be deepened by about 2 feet.

Removal of signs and white lines:

It was explained that a Highways conducted a traffic speed survey before and after removal resulting in little difference to recorded traffic speed. The following comments were made:

- What would happen if there was now an accident where the lines had been removed?
- Something still needs to be done to slow traffic as it enters the village

- The bend at the junction with Foxglove Lane is a particular problem
- White lines in narrow stretch outside Green Thatch need repairing as behaviour has changed to some extent
- Should anything be done to remove the redundant sign poles, the consensus was that these should be removed

In summary, the Chair said that the Parish Council would revisit the original Halcrow proposals for reducing traffic speed entering the village, and press for some input from the authorities.

Future growth of Didcot:

The Chair explained that he and Bernard Mead had attended two Didcot community involvement events arranged by SODC. The Parish Council would continue to voice their opinions wherever possible. He thought the Council over the past 4 years had made a good job of raising the profile of West Hagbourne.

Parish Plan:

Sue Totterdell explained that volunteers had replaced the style on the path to Upton with a kissing gate. This had been welcomed by most people. Sue asked whether there were any other suggestions for improvements.

- Environmental improvements along Moor Lane
- Reinstatement of the former pond in Moor Lane
- Raising the first part of the path along School Path
- Plant a dense tree screen between village and Didcot

Boundary review:

The Chair explained that a parish boundary review of Didcot West was currently under way and that the previous Parish Council had said that it would prefer not to relinquish part of the parish.

New Didcot housing in the parish would mean parish councillors representing that area which could change the balance from rural to urban. In summary, the Chair said that the Parish Council could consider agreeing to a boundary change if the parish could gain from this, perhaps financially.

Other matters discussed included Road safety at Coscote and the removal of unauthorised signs on the highway – The Parish Council has decided not to enter into a formal agreement with the County Council for this so responsibility for the removal of signs now rests with the County Council. Finally pot holes in York Road are yet again giving cause for concern.

Andrea Mitchell proposed a vote of thanks to the parish councillors for their hard work over the past year and the Meeting ended, and was followed by Thames Valley Police surgery for the Hagbourne's at 4.15pm

Your attendance at this meeting in particular is essential to ensure that your views are being taken into account by your representatives - our thanks go to Marion Judd for use of her garden and for providing teas afterwards, and to the Village Association for the use of their tent allowing the event to be held in the village.