

# **WEST HAGBOURNE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

## **HELD ON SATURDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2008 AT 3 PM AT BROOMSTICKS**

### **MINUTES**

---

#### **Present:**

Cllr Phil Taylor (Chairman of Parish Council),

Parish Councillors: Marion Judd, Sue Totterdell, Tom Barker, and John Thornhill

Michelle Lightfoot (Parish Clerk) and Cllr Patrick Greene ( District and County Council )

Bernard Mead, Bridget Pickup, John Watling, Doreen Watling, Margaret Hedger, Betty Kendrick, Ted Kendrick, Dave Totterdell, Andrea Mitchell, Peter Mitchell, Sheila Taylor, John Baille, June Little, Janet Cockburn, Ruth Webb, Jo Taylor, Val Walton, Mary Wiley.

PC Pip Walker,

#### **1. Welcome by Chairman**

Phil Taylor opened the meeting and welcomed everyone attending.

#### **2. Annual reports**

Copies of the Parish Reports comprising the Chair's (Parish Council) Report and reports of the Village Association, History Group, William Tyrrell Trust, Parish Plan Steering Group and reports by Patrick Greene (District and County Councillor) were distributed to each household in the village prior to the meeting. A copy can also be found on the website.

It was agreed that whilst this had been requested last year, a move towards an opt in process for electronic distribution of these reports could be considered, but as many people do not have email/ access to a computer Doreen Watling thought it better to have both available.

#### **3. Cllr Patrick Greene**

Cllr Greene had been asked in advance by the Parish Council if there should have been any benefits for the Parish as a result of the Great Western Park Development. He then raised the subject of 106 Development Agreements and read out an e-mail from Hugh Jones of Environment & Economy, Development Control, Oxfordshire County Council. It stated that there would be traffic calming improvements to both East and West Hagbourne with the narrowing of the road at Green Thatch/York Road with access only to York Road. He also said that HGVs/construction vehicles will have to use the A4130/A34 and not the village when the Development takes place. (PWG to send copy of e-mail to Clerk).

PWG then read an e-mail from Anna Robinson (SODC) regarding the Masterplan. It was stated that any house built must be in keeping with size and character and the village would only benefit if it was prepared to have 15/20 new homes built. It was pointed out there are already many more than this going to be built in the Great Western Park Development anyway.

PWG said that Roger Emery of East Hagbourne had been keen to involve the Princes Foundation for Built Environment as an independent body and he had recently attended a meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. One of the services they offer is to help to develop plans for Didcot's future and look at the overall master planning process for all villages. Sue Totterdell explained that by having the Princes Foundation involved it would help a small village which is up against a large town. It has been decided that the Princes Foundation will not be involved at this stage.

West Hagbourne Parish Council will be arranging a meeting in the summer involving Anna Robinson and Adrian Duffield of SODC together with Highways, to raise a number of issues. It was suggested that it be held in West Hagbourne, if possible, so that as many residents as possible could attend. . A comment was made that all villages accept the need for more houses to keep up with schools and villages.

#### **4. Open Forum**

##### **Land opposite the Horse and Harrow**

The Chair confirmed that he had been in touch with Greene King and they said that they hoped the matter of the land would be resolved by the end of 2008.

##### **Future growth of Didcot**

The question of flooding was raised by John Watling. Cllr Greene said he had recently been on a review of flooding. He said that SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) would be used for the new development where the water drains away into the ground. It was suggested that proposals being considered for the new development be circulated to residents. Bernard Mead said that the boundary changes had been shown on some maps in 1980 showing proposed areas of Didcot encroaching on West Hagbourne and in the past had promised that no more land would be taken. SODC have delayed their decision on boundaries, yet did not inform the Council. It was pointed out that West Hagbourne should try to gain 'something' from any changes, and it was agreed that the Parish Council were right in their current approach, to wait and see, before simply acquiescing and allowing Didcot to take yet more tracts of the Parish. The Chairman asked if all were in agreement to not allow the village to grow towards Didcot, and to ensure we maintain a strategic gap between the village and the town. There was a unanimous show of hands in favour of this.

##### **Consultations**

Sue Totterdell suggested that future consultations could be placed on the website so that residents can choose to comment on the responses and if appropriate send a response. It was suggested that there is a link to "current consultations". Sue Totterdell suggested that the Parish Council place their draft response on the website (time permitting) so that residents can comment.

There is currently a Thames Water consultation about water usage over the next 20 years. Residents are encouraged to respond as this will have an effect on the proposed reservoir. (See website).

##### **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

As currently there is no cascade system in the village the meeting discussed if this should be set up either by an e-mail cascade or for those without e-mail, a telephone cascade. Once volunteers have been decided, cascade system can be organised. TVP ringmaster messages can then also be forwarded to residents quickly. Need to establish who in the village has not got e-mail and contact these people by phone/letter instead. Note to be put in newsletter.

The chair thanked Bernard for his unstinting work on this scheme. Volunteers are required to be co-ordinators, particularly the main Co-ordinator (Bernard Mead) who feels that it is time for someone else to take the role on. A request for volunteers will be placed in the next Newsletter.

## **Issues for 2008/9**

The Chairman asked if anyone would like to add/remove anything from the list or bring forward any of the items.

- Sheila Taylor asked that point 15. the planting of a buffer zone be brought forward.
- Marion Judd suggested keeping the trees we have in a patch in Moor Lane until it is decided where they are to be planted.
- It was suggested that Dickie Allen may allow more trees to be planted on his land.
- Val Walton suggested no.8 the cycletrack from York Road to Wheatfields, Didcot would be a good idea and Betty was concerned that this was alright, as long as it is only used for bicycles and not motorbikes. PC Pip Walker confirmed it is illegal to ride a motorbike on a BOAT (Byway Open to All Traffic) unless it is taxed, MOT'd and insured, same for the mini bikes.
- It was agreed that more notice board space is required near the bus shelter and that a blitz of the notice board should be carried out asap. It may be possible to erect the spare notice board somewhere in the Square if a suitable place is found, but no strong views were expressed about a new location in Foxglove Lane.
- The Chairman asked if residents wanted the hire of skips for green waste. It was agreed that this would be continued, and there would be 'two' provided per year.

## **Other matters discussed**

- The Chairman asked Cllr Greene about the proposed road from York Farm to Brook Lane and that the Parish Council had always maintained that the village should not grow any further northwards so as to maintain the strategic gap between West Hagbourne and Didcot. Cllr Greene agreed that this should be the case, but suggested it is raised at the meeting with SODC/Highways.
- June Little said she has collided with a deer recently in her car on the A4130 and requested that warning signs be erected near The Kingswell Hotel.
- The Chairman asked what residents would like to see near the pond to replace the planter. Val Walton said that the History Group would like to have some involvement. They will come up with some suggestions as to what will replace it. The history group felt it should be in keeping with the village. PC to check with the Lay Family as to whether they are happy 'something' is put in the same place, and if so what should be discussed and considered. Josie Sage (by letter) did not want it replaced.
- A question was asked about why the road surface had not been salted near the pond when the cars skidded and damaged the planter and when the resurfacing will be done by the pond. ( promised 3 years ago ) Clerk is still awaiting a response from Highways.
- The message board on the website was raised by Andrea Mitchell. She asked that a sighting of an osprey be put on the website as it had made history by passing over the village and would be of great interest to many people. It had been deemed unsuitable for the message board. This was questioned as it was something of interest to the villagers. Should the message board not be used for messages to residents? It was agreed that the website should be used for messages such as this and people should be encouraged to use it. This would bring more people to the website.

- Sketches were passed around for the proposed development at Broomsticks and people were asked their views on the proposals for two properties to be built in the garden. There were no objections, as long as what was planned was in keeping with the village and the access should be very carefully planned. There was concern that the cob wall would be damaged by construction vehicles turning into the site and it would be very expensive to repair/replace. A suggestion was made that the access be moved along towards the pond, and might have some modern 'cob' and possibly made wider. Stewart Lilly to attend next Parish Council meeting to discuss when these points will be relayed.
- PC Walker confirmed that there had been 4 crimes in the last year consisting of a burglary, 2 car crimes and 1 other. Much lower than other close communities.
- John Thornhill warned of oil being siphoned from tanks and suggested that it would be a good idea for residents to put locks on their tanks.

Andrea Mitchell proposed a vote of thanks to the Parish Councillors for their hard work.