

MINUTES OF THE WEST HAGBOURNE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 15TH MAY 2010 AT 3PM AT MANOR FARM.

PRESENT:

Phil Taylor (PT) – Chair of the Parish Council
Sue Totterdell (ST) – Parish Councillor
Patrick Greene – District & County Councillor
Dave Totterdell – Parish Clerk

Sheila Taylor, David Sage, Doreen Watling, John Watling, Chris Lay, Sue Lay, June Little, Val Walton, Ted Kendrick, Betty Kendrick, Penny Keevil, Charles Keevil, Janet Cockburn, Jo Taylor.

Apologies: M Judd, T Barker, Michele Thornhill, Mary Wiley

1. Welcome by the Chairman.

Phil Taylor opened the meeting and thanked Chris and Sue Lay for the use of their garden for the meeting.

Copies of the minutes of last year's meeting were available (and had been on the website) and they were taken as read.

The meeting, he said, presented an opportunity for the Parish Council to report on its activities in the past year, however, PT expressed a wish that the meeting be a forum for the members of the village to be involved in the discussion of the current local issues rather than just a presentation by the council.

PT reported that at the recent Parish Council meeting Michele Thornhill had been co-opted onto the council which now had a full complement of five.

2. District & County Council – PG reported on the major points in his reports.

He said the emphasis in the report was on financial issues and that in the current situation of fiscal constraint there were difficult times ahead. He pointed out that even county issues can impact on individual villages, citing infrastructure and housing as examples. He reminded the meeting that he had always pushed for future housing development to go to the north of Didcot. He suggested that the Parish Council attend the upcoming Scrutiny (1st June) and Core Strategy (3rd June) meetings to monitor any updates.

3. Annual Reports

Reports (OCC & SODC) had been received from PG to be discussed with him at the meeting. Reports from other Parish organisations are in the Annual Report and were not be read out in detail during the meeting. Copies of all reports were available at the meeting and will be on the website.

Village History Group - Sheila Taylor told the meeting that the Village History Group was holding a meeting on 24th May in Hagbourne Village Hall to discuss its future. Future options include merging with other village groups or linking with East Hagbourne as a history group. If the group disbands there is an issue of archiving existing data.

Village Association – Betty Kendrick thanked everyone for their support throughout the year. Again the “Dragons” event had been a major success, the dinner raising ~£66. ST suggested that next time a map in the village showing the location of all the dragons might help the tourists, Betty agreed to consider this idea for next year. PT thanked the Village Association for their efforts, and achievements and for continuing to provide opportunities for villagers to socialise.

PT acknowledged the contribution made by Andrea Mitchell over many years to village activities and to promoting the community.

4. Village meeting place.

PT informed the meeting that the negotiations with Greene King for the acquisition of the land opposite to the Horse & Harrow had moved a stage closer to completion.

This, together with the land at Ragged farm offered by Chris Lay, could present options for the site of a village meeting place. PT passed round a brochure for a possible building which is essentially portable and may therefore have less implications on planning permissions. However there are details to be resolved regarding services.

The village would be fully consulted for their views before any decision regarding use of the land was made, or the scale/style of the construction . PG agreed that where possible he would help with any funding application. The meeting considered that such a facility within walking distance for villagers would be a major asset for the village.

5. GWP and traffic issues.

PT raised the issue of future housing expansion where the Vale of the White Horse has put forward only one option - where it will extend the western edge of GWP towards the village. This is a major concern for the village and one made worse by discovering that 400 additional houses are to be sited on the Harwell site (behind Chilton school) which will mean significant additional traffic issues through the village.

Chris/Sue Lay said that they understood that the hotel on the Harwell site was now on-hold.

An issue here is that the Parish Council is not kept informed of updates/changes in such issues by the authority responsible. Attendance at Stakeholder meetings held at the Harwell site does not fulfil this role because normally the meeting emphasis is on commercial/environmental activities rather than relevant planning applications.

At last year's meeting E Vaizey (MP) expressed support for the green belt proposal between the village and any further Didcot development. PT and Betty Kendrick agreed that where appropriate his support should be encouraged.

PG noted that one benefit to the village from the GWP development is the possible traffic calming measures now agreed.

Doreen Watling asked for details regarding the traffic calming measures (humps or no humps). She is concerned about any associated noise and other pollution. The details are not yet known and may be many years away, (they could be 'build-outs' from the road edge) – humps are not favoured by the parishioners, or the Parish Council.

There was more support for the white lines near Blissetts to be extended further into the road and made more obvious. Previous responses from the Highways dept have not been positive.

PG pointed that Atkins are the new highways contractor and that the emphasis on quality was now greater. It was hoped this would mean a better service response. He assured the meeting that he had been promised 'all' holes would be remedied when the contractors operatives visited a site, rather than a selective approach.

Some concern was expressed over possible issues arising from traffic and parking at Corbiere where the front garden has apparently been sacrificed.

6. Charity Donations.

The Parish Council makes annual donations to charities and this year at the recent council meeting it was agreed to continue a donation to the British Legion but to decide on other donations at this parish meeting. This was achieved by circulating a list of the charities benefiting in the past and those who had contacted the Parish Council this year. Those villagers attending could support any three to make a total of four. The voting details are attached. The final four charities are, British Legion, Citizens' Advice Bureau, Oxfordshire Association for the Blind and Cancer Research.

7. Other matters raised.

ST suggested that the issue of a Welcome Pack to new villagers would best be done by their neighbours, thereby initiating contact. Therefore, she requested that she be contacted for a pack as soon as new people arrive.

It was pointed out that Little Acorns Nursery now has residents as does the barn at Ivy Farm.

Due to some problems with holding the meeting at this time of year, PT suggested that the legal issues regarding a change of date should be looked into.

Concern was raised over the costs and justification for the M Lawson memorial seat. The village representative at Hagbourne School (Lynn Carter) had suggested that the village should continue to engage with the school and thereby contribute to the Monica Lawson memorial seat for her contribution to our school.

June Little raised the issue of road signage for the Deer hazard which has caused damage to vehicles. The Highways dept. will be contacted.

PT thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 4.30pm.

**ATTENDANCE SHEET FOR
WEST HAGBOURNE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
ON SATURDAY 15TH MAY 2010
AT MANOR FARM AT 3 PM.**

[illegible]

CHARITY DONATION OPTIONS

<u>Charity.</u>	<u>Votes.</u>
British Legion - <i>already agreed by the Council.</i>	
Against breast cancer	2
South & Vale Carers Centre	6
CAB	11
Didcot Volunteer centre	6
Oxfordshire association for the Blind	10
Sue Ryder	1
Cancer Research	9
South Oxfordshire Ryder-Cheshire volunteers	0
St Johns Ambulance	3