

WEST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 15th May 2014 at Hagbourne Village Hall, East Hagbourne

Present: Cllr M. Butler and eight members of the public.

1. Welcome from the Chairman

Cllr Butler welcomed the public to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from District Cllr L. Docherty, County Cllr P. Greene, Chris Lay, Sue Lay and Val Walton.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2013

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising

The Parish Boundary change is currently underway. The Parish Council responded to the consultation asking for the buffer zone between Great Western Park and West Hagbourne to remain in West Hagbourne. However it looks likely that the buffer zone will also become part of Didcot.

Pot holes, traffic and flooding continue to present problems for the Parish.

5. Chairman's Report

In my report for the Parish meeting in May 2013, I mentioned that there was a proposal to change the parish boundary to exclude part that was assigned to Great Western Park. The Parish Council intended to agree to the transfer of the part of the parish to Didcot. We argued that the buffer zone, where there should be no building, should be part of West Hagbourne parish but this proposal was rejected and it was held that both the buildings and the buffer zone should be within Didcot.

The change to the parish boundary emphasise our desire to stay as a distinct rural community, something which was acknowledged by the Boundaries Commission when we were successful with our objection to the changes to the district council wards. We shall need to keep this clearly in the minds of planners. Whilst the Core Strategy of South Oxford District Council protects the separation of West Hagbourne from Didcot, we are aware of plans which might reduce this separation in the longer term. We are also concerned about the proposed activities of the Vale of White Horse, which is of course under pressure to build more homes which may have an effect on our local environment.

There will be some developments regarding the road system near the village. It seems that the A34 junction at Chilton will be made bi-directional, something which was supported by all of the local parishes apart from Chilton. The link road which joins the A417 just to the North West of the village, before the Kingswell, will be constructed and it has been decided that a major route for

traffic to and from the A34 and the Harwell campus will be over Hagbourne Hill. The road over Hagbourne Hill will be improved and there will be a new roundabout at the junction with the A417. The county council has just contacted the Tyrell Trust regarding the purchase of the old allotment land (now leased to a farmer) to accommodate the roundabout. The intention of the Parish Council is to do what we can to exploit these changes, to dissuade people from travelling through the village when they should use the new link road.

It appears that the field behind the Horse & Harrow, which is in Chilton parish and the Vale of White Horse district council, has been sold by Thames Water. A rumour is that it has been bought by somebody who will seek planning permission for an ecologically sound single dwelling. Whether that permission is granted, and whether there will be further applications for further buildings on the same site, we do not know.

A major problem this year has been flooding. We are seeking to arrange a meeting with the various bodies involved, including the Environment Agency, to see what can be done before next winter. We will be looking at Highways drainage as well as the system of ditches and streams which should carry water away more effectively than they do at present.

There are still some serious potholes, some of which seem to be connected to water beneath the road surface, particularly on Main Street near the southern junction with York Road. The pavement along the stretch of Main Street to the pond is unusable in many places and needs to be repaired.

6. Strategic Housing Market Assessment - housing to 2031

There have been concerns for some time about housing in the Vale of White Horse District moving towards the village. Land to the North of the village has also been earmarked.

SODC have yet to publish their SHMA Plan however it was agreed that the Parish need to be aware of possible plans to expand Didcot further. The Parish Council will continue to try to maintain as much space around the village as possible and press for more routes away from the village. However the village may have to be prepared to take some housing though building to the South would be preferable rather than towards Didcot.

7. Skip Hire

The Parish Council plan to hire a skip for use by residents. It was agreed to ask Mr Powell at Ash Farm to host the skip as this would avoid the need for a license to place it on the highway.

8. Flooding

Following serious flooding earlier in the year the Parish Council are seeking to meet with the relevant authorities to find out what can be done to minimize further risk. However it is up to landowners to maintain ditches properly to allow drainage. The Council will also continue to urge SODC to keep the gulleys clear.

9. HGVs

There have been increased problems caused by large vehicles in the village. The Parish Council will ask local farmers to drive farm vehicles with consideration through the village. Any HGVs should be reported to Trading Standards.

10. OCC Transport Plan

The County Council is currently consulting the Local Transport Plan 4. It was agreed that a cycle route between Upton and Blewbury would be very welcome.

11. Village Tidy Up

The Parish Council is organizing a Village Litter Pick. The date will be advertised in the newsletter.

12. Open Forum

The Council were asked to advertise next years Annual Meeting more widely.

It was also agreed to consider holding a Parish Meeting in the marquee in West Hagbourne.

The telephone box is looking a little tired. It was suggested that the village could consider purchasing a defibrillator for the box and carry out maintenance at the same time.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8.40pm.

Signed..........Dated.....20/5/2015.....

Reports

Annual report of the Village Hall Committee 2014

The committee met three times during the last year, on 19th September 2013, 22nd November 2013 and 12th March 2014. The meeting on 22nd November was followed by an AGM.

The hall is in a very healthy financial state and therefore the current rates have been kept for the fourth year running. The cost of the extension has now been paid off. John Jones has now resigned as treasurer and the new treasurer is Janet Hornsey.

The hall continues to be well used. It is almost at full capacity during the week, so much so that it is sometimes difficult for the caretakers to schedule their cleaning. Therefore Friday afternoons are being kept free whenever possible for that purpose.