

WEST HAGBOURNE PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 23 May 2018 at Hagbourne Village Hall, East Hagbourne

Present: Cllr M. Butler and 24 members of the public. See appendix 4 for attendance register

1. **Welcome from the Chairman:**

Cllr Butler welcomed the public to the meeting.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Mr and Mrs Powell, Mr and Mrs Rickard and Mrs S. Totterdell

3. **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2017**

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Minutes to be posted on the website.

4. **Matters Arising from the minutes**

The minutes from 2017 were reviewed and updates were provided

5. **Chairman's Report**

Annual Report of the Chair of West Hagbourne Parish Council

1. Planning

This year we have had to deal with some major planning applications to the south of Didcot. One was for land to the east of Park Road, by Catesby Estates. This was refused by SODC and is currently under appeal. The other is for land to the west of Park Road by Taylor Wimpey, and the planning application is currently in the consultation stage with responses due by 23 May. The Parish Council lodged its objections on 15 May. Objections have also been lodged by Didcot Town Council and East Hagbourne Parish Council. A number of objections have also been lodged by people in West Hagbourne, East Hagbourne and Didcot. A very effective group of people was set up to coordinate opposition to the application, separately from the Parish Council, and thanks must go to them for their efforts. The speculative planning applications were made despite the published intention by SODC to maintain a green gap south of Didcot as part of the Didcot Garden Town plans. At the time that the applications were made, SODC did not have a 5 year housing supply but at the end of April they published a document indicating that there was a 5.4 year supply. This makes it easier to object to speculative applications by developers. A planning application for development on the green gap between Didcot and East Hagbourne had already been refused, including at all levels of appeal, despite the lack of a 5 year supply. The Parish Council is hopeful that the Catesby and Taylor Wimpey applications will suffer the same fate. Within the village, planning applications have been granted for houses in the garden of the Horse and Harrow and houses on a site further along the road towards the garage. These may have contributed to the SODC housing supply. Steps are being taken by SODC to establish a "green gap" around West Hagbourne, by obtaining evidence from landscaping consultants. This will be relied upon to formalise the Didcot Garden Town plan. West Hagbourne is one of two villages being tested to assess the scheme, the other being Harwell village (in Vale of White Horse).

If the scheme is considered appropriate it will be done where necessary around Didcot. If the results are acceptable for West Hagbourne they could be relied upon to support a Neighbourhood Plan but this is a complex procedure and we

do not yet know whether we will take that step or rely instead on protection from the Garden Town Plan.

2. Highways

The Harwell Link Road has been opened. Highways have installed traffic counting apparatus on Main Street, towards the Horse and Harrow. We shall await the outcome. The road narrowing and raised footpath scheme on Main Street alongside Green Thatch has been completed. Signs are being installed indicating that it is a single track stretch of road. The footpath is in use by a number of people and has improved safety. We are grateful to the residents of York Road who had to bear the road being used as a bypass while the works were carried out and Main Street was closed to through traffic. The work was carried out using Section 106 funding from the Bloor Homes development to the west of Park Road. There is some leftover but we do not know how much yet – possibly around £17,000. Highways have looked at extending the footpath, although it cannot go fully around the bend. It appears that the amount leftover from the S.106 funds allocated to West Hagbourne would be insufficient but they are looking at whether there are funds in the complete S.106 pot that could be used. The Parish Council has not yet decided on what should be done with the available funds but instead of extending the footpath, Highways have suggested some more vehicle activated speed signs. Ultimately it is a decision for Highways as to how the funds are spent and the results of the traffic counting survey may be relevant. There are continuing problems with Moor Lane and we are taking this up with OCC and hoping to get the support of SODC. Clerk to add an agenda item on the possibility of implementing 20mph signs in the village for the July PC Meeting. Clerk to supply Cllr Simon Clarke with all correspondence on Moor Lane so that he can chase the Countryside Team at OCC.

3. Broadband

The Cabinet has now been upgraded, finally, so that high speed broadband is available in the village. You may need to speak to your provider. Many thanks to Hugh Lewis for his efforts in pursuing Open Reach to get this done.

4. Marion Judd is leaving the village and we would like to thank her for her contributions to the village and its organisations over the years.

Michael Butler

May 2018

6. To nominate 2 trustees to represent West. Hagbourne Parish on the shared Hagbourne Charity

Chair explained that with the 2 current trustees having to resign as they were leaving the village, an invitation was made to the meeting for replacements. Mrs June Little kindly volunteered to become West Hagbourne's new replacement on the committee. The Chair thanked the departing trustees for their sterling service. If any other villager is interested then please email the Parish Clerk.

7. Village Maintenance

- Mr Lay asked the chair what was the frequency of the public litter bin emptying in the village? Clerk to contact Waste Management at SODC and circulate answer via village email distribution. Chair to write a piece in the next edition of the village newsletter to remind dog walkers that they can now use the public litter bins for dog waste disposal.

8. Open Forum

A member of the public asked Cllr Simon Clarke to explain the correct procedure for reporting pot holes in the village. Cllr Clarke responded by asking all villagers to report pot holes in the village by completing the online form of "Report my Street" which can be found on the OCC Website. It doesn't matter if more than one person reports the same pothole as more often or not, volume of reports will help prioritise the work!

Village Reports were received from the following organisations:

- Hagbourne Cemetery Committee – appendix 1
- Hagbourne Village Hall – appendix 2
- West Hagbourne Village Association Annual Report – appendix 3
- Attendance Sheet – appendix 4

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9:00pm.

Signed..... Dated.....

APPENDIX 1

Annual report of the East and West Hagbourne Cemetery Committee 2018

The committee met three times during the year, once at the Cemetery on 17th July 2017, once on 6th November 2017 and once on 5th March 2018.

There are two vacancies on the cemetery committee. If anyone is interested in joining the committee then please see me.

The cemetery bank account has been closed and the monies merged into the EHPC account although the money is accounted separately. The balance reported at the last meeting is £3,257.89.

The fees have not been increased this year because they were increased by 10% in 2016. They will need to be reviewed in the next year.

The standpipe was repaired. Alison Leigh attended a cemetery training course. It was suggested that with all the building work that will soon be going on opposite the school, we should have some sort of marking to indicate that the lay-by is for cemetery parking only. The layby was constructed out of cemetery funds. OCC are being consulted.

The cemetery regulations date from 1990 and are currently being reviewed alongside sample regulations from the Institute of Cemetery and Cremation Management (ICCM).

Damage to Lych Gate

Sometime between 25th May 2017 and 8th June 2017 a high-sided vehicle hit the lych gate causing damage to it. No-one has admitted to damaging it. The corner tiles were damaged and the lych gate was knocked into an askew position on its brick base. The original architect was Colin Underhay but he has now retired. So far we have been unable to find anyone to repair it. However in an unexpected turn of events someone, unknown, has pushed the gate almost back into position. It is now in a less precarious position but still needs to be moved back fully and the tiles repaired. EHPC has suggested that we take up the offer of Pete of Pipes & Wires who suggested getting the Drewes to use one of their tractors to edge it over.

Grave register

This is currently kept manually and there is a very old, much folded map to show the locations of graves. The committee has agreed that an electronic record would be a good idea. To this end Alison Leigh has obtained quotes from three companies who provide cemetery administration systems. These are currently under review and no final decision has been made yet.

Valerie Brownsword (West Hagbourne Parish representative)

Annual report of the Village Hall Committee 2018

The committee met at the Village hall on four occasions during the last year; on Wednesday 21th June 2017, on 26th September, on 9th Nov 2017 for the AGM and on 28th Feb 2018.

Greenlight

The chairman of the village hall committee submitted our objection to the proposed Greenlight development next to the car park. Unfortunately the proposal was accepted by the planners. We are still very concerned about the inadequacy of the current car parking and the fact that the car park might be used by residents of the proposed development. A letter has been sent to Greenlight asking them to provide more land for car parking spaces. We should be careful to ensure that these are not considered to be extra parking for the development.

Key personnel changes

Craig Barfoot resigned as bookings secretary in August 2017. He was thanked for all the hard work that he has put in over the years. Geoff Leaver has taken over as bookings secretary. In order to get anyone to do this job we have had to make it a paid post at the rate of £80/month. Shirley left the caretaking team in October. Linda Benton has continued as sole caretaker and we have had reports from users of how efficient and friendly the service is.

There are still 4 vacancies on the management committee if anyone feels that they would like to partake in the running of the hall.

Finance

Receipts for the year were £26K which is up on last year. However this figure is inflated by the SODC grant of £5K for the pre-school improvements which was paid to us. Payments were £18K including the £5K loan which we paid to Pre-School. (This was repaid by the grant of £5K from SODC.) We have £25K in savings and £25K in Lloyds bank. The Hagbourne Pre-school continued to be our largest user of the village hall accounting for £9K or 44% of total receipts. This was followed by Casual bookings with receipts of nearly £4K which represents an increase of 4.2% on the previous year.

In general the finances remain healthy and we have money in hand for future work which will inevitably come. We have decided to institute a charge of £10 to use the stage with sound equipment.

Pre-school

The Pre-School works have been undertaken giving a much improved outdoor play area. This was paid for by a grant from SODC.

Valerie Brownsword (West Hagbourne Parish Council representative)

West Hagbourne Village Association Annual Report May 2017-----May 2018

Village Walks:

Every year the Village Association organise four village walks which have proved to be popular. In 2017 the summer walk took place on July 9th and the autumn walk on October 8th.

Thirteen people accompanied by three dogs attended the first village walk of 2018 on January 7th on a cold winter's day and the spring walk which was

combined with the St. George's Day celebrations took place on April 22nd, a sunnier warmer day.

Madge Trophy:

At the beginning of September 2017 the front gardens were judged by Mrs. Jane Kinniburgh from Blewbury. The joint Madge Trophy winners were Green Thatch, Main Street, and 16, York Road. This year, 2018, the Madge Trophy was awarded to Uplands, Main Street. The judging took place on April 20th by Mrs. Madeleine Loynes from Didcot.

Macmillan Coffee Morning:

On September 30th 2017 the Macmillan Coffee Morning was held at York Farm by kind permission of Mr. Mrs. Allen. The Village Association thanked everyone who helped to make this special event such a success. An amazing £ 1,033 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support.

West Hagbourne Association Annual General Meeting 13th November 2017 at the Horse and Harrow:

Committee members elected were: Chairperson: Val Walton, Vice Chairman: Ian Leishman

Treasurer: June Little, Secretary: Margaret Leishman

Executive Committee: Bridget Pickup, Robert Griffiths, Hazel Rack, Betty Kendrick, Pierre Aller, Eva Pinkava, Emma Rickard, Rob Rickard, Steve Carr
Robert Griffiths has agreed to be responsible for the hire of the marquees and tables and chairs.

St. Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival 9th ----19thDecember2017. The Village Association sponsored a tree.

St George's Day Celebrations: April 7th-----23rd 2018

West Hagbourne gained a mention in the Oxford Mail with a photo and explanation of the large dragon with Robert Griffiths who had displayed it in his garden. Mrs. Madeleine Loynes, the judge, was impressed with the variety of St. Georges and dragons in our village. First prize went to 5, Manor Close, second prize Suffolk Lodge. The children's prize went to Broomsticks. Prizes were awarded at the tea party which was held at Chapel Hayes, thanks to Ian and Margaret Leishman. Over sixty people and children enjoyed teas and delicious cakes and were entertained by Malcolm Brownsword's fantastic audio- visual presentation of the St. Georges and dragons. Many thanks to Malcolm.

The Village Association welcome new members and ideas for events for the enjoyment of our villagers. Please contact Val Walton: 851089 or Ian Leishman 851707

WEST HAGBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL VILLAGE
MEETING WEDNESDAY 23RD MAY 2018 REGISTER

Cur. M. BUTLER
Cur. Oliver Doogue
Cur. Val Brownword
Cur. HUGH LEWIS
Dane. ~~THE~~ M
Eva Pinkava
E. Kender
Sheila Taylor
John Baile
Mawin Allin
Val Walton
John Hresny,
June Kettle
Margaret Leishman.
Dan Lewis
Cllr. Simon Castle
Pat Allin
Les Griffiths
W. H. Wood
Sue & Chris Lay
Cur. MIKE TELFORD
Cur. JANE MURPHY
TRACEY ANDERSON