

## **WEST HAGBOURNE PARISH**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 24 May 2023 at  
Hagbourne Village Hall, East Hagbourne

**Present:** Cllrs Michael Butler, Michael Telford and Hugh Lewis, Connie Bell, Margaret Leishman, Ian Leishman, Rosey Gardiner, Steve Carr, Val Walton, June Little, Marion Allin, Sheila Taylor and Jeff Powell.

**1. Welcome from the Chairman:**

Cllr Michael Butler welcomed the public to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Dan Tozer, Cllrs Anne- Marie Simpson, Ben Manning and Jane Murphy, Mr & Mrs Lay, Mr and Mrs Totterdell and Betty Kendrick.

**3. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2022**

It was proposed by MT, seconded MB, that the minutes be signed as a true record. Carried nem con. The minutes were signed by the Chairman. Minutes to be posted on the website. The draft 2023 minutes will be circulated by village email.

**4. Matters Arising from the minutes.**

The minutes from 2022 were reviewed and updates were provided.

**5. Chairman's Report**

**Annual Report of the Chair of West Hagbourne Parish Council**

**Council.** This is the first Annual Parish Meeting since the council was changed. Despite what was said at the last APM, nobody indicated a willingness to stand on the council. One of the existing councillors has retired. The remaining four have agreed to stand again. We are thus one councillor short. For some of us this represents an extended period of service. We need a volunteer to make up the council and we would like this person to be female.

**Highways.** The 20-mph speed limit has been introduced throughout the village. An outstanding issue is that the existing vehicle activated signs have not been updated from the 30-mph limit. This will be attended to in due course. There are additional signs concerning the single-track section of Main Street. There is also a sign when entering the village from the North.

**Planning.** The planning application to change the use of the Horse and Harrow to a residential property was successfully objected to. There will probably be an appeal and we are considering how to respond to that. We are in discussions with CAMRA about what we need to do. The basis of our objection was that the pub was poorly attended because it was a bad pub and there had been no investment to improve it. In addition, no attention had been paid to what villagers would expect from a village pub.

**Coronation.** There was a successful event to mark the Coronation, held at York Farm, which was organized by the Village Association. The council provided funds for this.

Michael Butler  
Chair.

## 6. Village Maintenance

Clerk reported that he had engaged the same local contractor who cuts the grass verges to dredge Moor Lane ditch having been instructed by the councillors at the last PC Meeting. However, following discussion with the residents in attendance the overwhelming view of the meeting was that this work was unnecessary following the clearing of the gullies in Main Street, at this time and that the proposed work should be postponed.

**AW** – Clerk to contact contractor and postpone planned works.

Clerk reported that one of the councillors (DT) had an action from the last PC Meeting to obtain a quote from a local contractor to replace the damaged steps leading to the kissing gate on the path to Upton. Following an unsuccessful attempt to share costs with Upton PC, your PC will fund this urgent repair work.

**HL** - Connie Bell asked a question about the unauthorised tree pollarding in Foxglove Lane. The Clerk responded that the PC had not been told anything officially in advance of the works. Cllr Lewis suggested that it was probably the same contractor seen pollarding the tress in Main Square and would provide CB with the name of the contractor once he had an opportunity to check his CCTV outside his property.

## 7. Open Forum

- The following questions were asked by residents in attendance.
- Sheila Taylor spoke on behalf of most residents present to say that although she welcomed the news that the owners of the Horse and Harrow Pub had their planning permission refused by SODC Planning Committee and in fact praised the Chair for his contribution to the process when he spoke at the committee meeting, she was worried about the outcome of their planned appeal and asked if the PC could do anymore? The Chair responded by saying that the PC would discuss next steps at the July PC Meeting, one idea being considered was to engage CAMRA to produce a viability report which would cost the PC £2000 approx.
- The Clerk reported that the PC would discuss the possibility of a general skip hire for village use, as has been provided in the past at the July Meeting. However, there wasn't a great deal of support amongst residents for this provision, with most present admitting the brown bin service provided for their needs on most occasions.
- Jeff Powell addressed the meeting to thank the WHVA committee for their sterling efforts to put on a magnificent Coronation Party in the York Road Farm Barn, despite the inclement weather.
- Jeff and Sheila confirmed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of Month Lunch Club is still ongoing, currently meeting at the George and Dragon Pub at Upton but may move to the Fleur De Leys Pub in East Hagbourne depending on the future plans for the George and Dragon. Anyone interested please contact Sheila Taylor.
- Clerk offered to speak to anyone who was interested in becoming a councillor and answer their questions.

Village Reports were received from the following organisations:

- West Hagbourne Village Association Annual Report – appendix 1

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8:25 pm.

Signed.....

02

Dated.....

8 May 24

## Appendix 1

### WILTON ASSOCIATION

#### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM

24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2023

Before discussing the events run by the WHVA since the last Parish Council in May 2022, I would like to comment on the importance of the WHVA to our community. We live in a very beautiful part of Southern England, but, as a village, we have very few amenities. This has been felt particularly acutely this year with the closure of our village pub. The WHVA organizes events throughout the year which promote community spirit, bring residents together and, hopefully, make our village a very special place to live. We thank the Parish Council for the support they have given to achieve this goal.

#### SUMMARY OF WHVA EVENTS MAY 2022-MAY2023

##### **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Village Party**

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee village party was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at York Farm by kind permission of Mary Allen and her family. The event was funded by the WH Parish Council and more than 150 people enjoyed a buffet lunch, music provided by The Songbirds and children's entertainment provided by Dizzy Dean. A very enjoyable afternoon to mark this very historic event.



## **West Hagbourne Village Association AGM**

Our AGM, held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022, saw a very significant change in the association with 6 committee members leaving and 5 new members joining the team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the retiring members of the committee for their hard work and commitment over many years. They have continued to support the WHVA providing plenty of advice and turning out at each subsequent event to give us the benefit of their experience. As a committee, we are very grateful to them.

## **Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee**

### **Commemorative Tree**

A Horse Chestnut tree, donated by Liz and Andy Wilmshurst, was planted on the corner of Foxglove Lane in November to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A plaque was subsequently added.

### **Remembrance Day**

There was a short service on the 13<sup>th</sup> November at the village war memorial to remember those from West Hagbourne who lost their lives while serving our country during WWI and WWII. A new poppy wreath was hung and a 2-minute silence observed as a mark of respect.

### **Madge Trophy 2022**

The judging of The Madge Trophy was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2022. Sue Mantell from the U3A gardening club walked around the village enjoying our front gardens. She was particularly looking for "attractive designs, planting and colour amongst the borders, planters and hanging baskets". For the first time this year the focus was on wildlife-friendly gardening methods. Well done to the winner – 12 Manor Close

### **Village Walks**

Our very enjoyable and sociable season-by-season rambles have continued over the year, visiting the neighbouring parishes of East Hagbourne, Upton, Blewbury, Harwell and Didcot.

### **MacMillan Coffee Morning**

This charitable event, held at York Farm by kind permission of Mary Allen and her family, was particularly successful this year with an amazing £1,536.76 raised in aid of MacMillan Cancer Care. It was also memorable for being a very enjoyable and sociable event, aided by good weather and a plentiful supply of cake!

watched live on two large screen TVs. We then enjoyed a Hog-Roast lunch followed by a Coronation Cake Competition – very tasty – raffle and children's craft activities. We would like to thank the WH Parish Council for helping to fund this event (particularly so soon after the Jubilee Celebrations earlier in the year) and the Allen family for donating the pig. I hope you are as proud as we were that Colin Gilby, the caterer, donated the leftover pork and salads to the charity Oxford Homeless, who, in turn, distributed it to people living on the streets of Oxford.

### **Acknowledgements**

The Village Association is very grateful to all those who are willing to give up their time and effort to support our annual calendar of events.

Our thanks also go to Sue Totterdell and Mary-Ann Le May for their long-standing efforts to publish the Village Newsletter. It remains our primary means of communication with residents.

### **Village Christmas tree**

For the first time this year the village association purchased a community Christmas Tree and erected it in The Square over the festive period. The village children were invited to decorate the tree and it certainly added to the Christmas spirit. We hope to make this an annual event.

The Village association also supported the Hagbourne Christmas Tree Festival providing refreshments at their "Carols in the Farmyard" Event.

### **St George's Day Dragon Competition**

This year's Dragon Competition was held over 8-23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023. After a slow start, due to very wet weather, 26 dragons appeared around the village. The local artist Linda Benton was our judge and she was impressed by the effort everyone had made. The competition was won by 5 Manor Close and the children's prize went to 6 York Road. Well done!

### **Coronation of King Charles III Event**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023, the coronation of King Charles III was celebrated with a village party held at York Farm, by kind permission of Mary Allen and her family. Sadly, the day was VERY WET which meant that many residents decided to stay warm and dry in front of their own TVs, but about 100 people attended and our "British Spirit" shone through making the event a very enjoyable experience. The ceremony was