

## WEST HAGBOURNE PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 8 May 2024 at Hagbourne Village Hall, East Hagbourne

**Present:** Cllrs Dan Tozer, Margaret Leishman, Andy Wimshurst, Robin Wilkes and Julie Freeland; Clerk Andrew Wise; Michael Telford, Connie Bell, Liz Wimshurst, Marion Allin, Ian Leishman, Rosey Gardiner, Steve Carr, Val Walton, June Little, Sheila Taylor, John Baile, Sue Lay, Chris Lay, Kathryn Wilkes and Betty Kendrick.

### 1. **Welcome from the Chairman:**

Cllr Dan Tozer welcomed the public to the meeting.

### 2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne-Marie Simpson, Ben Manning and Jane Murphy, Mr and Mrs Totterdell, John and Hayley Harvey, Mike and Mary Ann Butler and Valeri Brownsword.

### 3. **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2023**

It was proposed by MT, seconded DT, that the minutes be signed as a true record, carried nem con. The minutes were signed by the Chair. Minutes to be posted on the website. The draft 2024 minutes will be circulated by village email.

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

The minutes from 2023 were reviewed and updates were provided.

### 5. **Chairman's Report**

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

#### **Responsibilities**

The Chair started by explaining the different responsibilities for the Parish Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council, and focusing on those areas for which the Parish Council is responsible and those areas where it has influence (both formal and informal).

#### **Last 12 months**

Chair highlighted the following main actions undertaken by the Parish Council in the last 12 months: (1) objecting to the various planning applications for the Horse and Harrow Pub (with particular thanks to Sheila Taylor for her work on this); (2) the implementation of the 20mph signs, and investigation of further potential actions to help mitigate the problems of traffic speed and volume in the village; (3) pressurizing the County Council to repair the section of the Moor Lane byway which has been ruined by 4WD and motorbikes and to consider re-designating this byway to prevent such future damage; (4) financial support for the Village Association; and (5) the response to the flooding issues experienced in January (initially resulting in the purchase of a supply of sandbags for the village).

Chair thanked all 3 retiring councilors on behalf of the village (Mike Butler, Mike Telford and Hugh Lewis); they have all given sterling service for the past 10 years. Chair also thanked the Clerk for all of his efforts over the past 12 months and noted that we are lucky to have such a proactive and supportive Clerk.

Chair also thanked John Baille for his continued efforts updating the village website.

### **Next 12 months**

Chair reported that four new councilors had been recently co-opted (Julie Freeman, Margaret Leishman, Andy Wimshurst and Robin Wilkes), and that the Parish Council has allocated areas of “lead” responsibility, as follows:

- Chair - Dan Tozer
- Vice Chair - Margaret Leishman
- Highways, traffic, rights of way – Dan Tozer and Margaret Leishman
- Planning – Andy Wimshurst
- Flooding/drainage – Robin Wilkes
- Community– Julie Freeman
- Budget – Dan Tozer & Andrew Wise (Clerk)

### **Key activities for the next 12 months**

- (1) Flooding resilience plan – Chair explained that RW will be leading the work on this. The plan will look at the existing watercourses and drainage facilities around the village, the impact of development outside of the village on the water coming in, and the options we have both to improve the position of the village (for example, by keeping drainage channels clear) and also to help those in need at times of flooding.
- (2) Emergency plan - Chair explained that it is the intention of the PC to draft an emergency plan for the village (covering issues which are wider than just flooding) by the end of the year.
- (3) Traffic – traffic speed and volume through the village remain key concerns and a focus of activity. ML gave a demonstration of the new Community Speed watch equipment. Residents were invited to take a close look at the equipment on display. ML confirmed that her team of volunteers had grown to 11 and they hoped to start very soon using the equipment and recording both speeds and volume of traffic at different times of the day, at the approved sites in the village. Records will then be sent to Thames Valley Police for action.
- (4) Village Association support – the Parish Council will continue to provide financial support for community events.
- (5) Planning applications – the Parish council will continue to review and respond to each application made in the village.

### **6. Village Maintenance**

None

### **7. Open Forum**

- Chris Lay raised the issue of the blocked drain that takes water from the duck pond to the next pond behind Lilley Cottage. OCC Highways contractors stated in January (when they cleared the various village drains) that they would return in April / May to clear it. **RW** said that he will raise it with Oxfordshire County Council Highways to action this clearance.
- Betty Kendrick took the opportunity to thank the PC for all their efforts over the past 12 months and also to thank all the residents who gave up their time in January to help with the flooding issues in various parts of the village.
- Julie Freeland explained that she will be organising the annual village “tidy up” day this Autumn as part of the Parish Council’s preparations for the winter season (to help flood preparedness).

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8:20 pm.

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