

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting **held on Monday 10th April 2017 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

Present: G. Knaggs (Chairman), A. Smith (Vice Chairman), K. McConville, D. Musson, N. Moglia, C. McGibbon, G. Doland, Parish Clerk: L. Wilkinson, 11 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence: PCSO Tracey Waller, District Cllr G. Hill

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes:
None

3. Parish Council Reports

(a) 2016-7 Report

Cllr Knaggs reported that it has been a year of elections: Warwick Robinson sadly died this year and Kieran Mullins was voted in at the resulting by-election. David Cameron resigned and Robert Courts became the new local MP. There is a by-election being held on 4th May for the County Council. Pauline Lakey and Marion Davies stepped down from the Parish Council. Cllr Doland from New Yatt and Cllr McGibbon from Poffley End were co-opted in their places.

This year an Emergency Plan has been developed by Cllr Moglia. Copies are held in the Village Hall, Lamb and Flag, Hailey Primary School, the Church and at Abingdon & Witney College. There is also a copy on the website, with the WODC & OCC emergency planning teams, District Councillor Gill Hill and Pam Simpkins (Hailey Relief in Need)

Sale of Wood Green: In December 2015 Witney Town Council agreed to buy Wood Green from Hailey PC for £100. The sale is currently with the solicitors as a query over an unadopted road is causing the delay. OCC has repaved this unadopted road thus creating a precedent for repairs in the future.

A public consultation has been held by Sharba Homes, on their proposal to build 85 houses on Priest Hill Lane. A public meeting was held and the opinion was overwhelmingly against this proposal. No formal planning application has yet been submitted to WODC.

A request was received by the PC to ask WODC to withdraw the ACV on the Saddler's Arms. The request was denied after a vote by the Parish Councillors.

The PC budget was very tight last year as all the reserves had been spent on capital projects within the parish. Thus, the Council Tax was put up by £10 per year.

(b) Planning Report

Cllr McConville reported that it has been a busy year for planning. 25 applications have been received. The PC only objected to four of them: three of these were the larger applications including the six houses at Poffley End and the two applications for building on the triangle – 25 houses followed by a further one for 15 houses. Residents objected to these and the PC supported them.

In general, the PC is pro building in the village so residents can improve their properties.

i. WODC Local Plan

Cllr Knaggs reported that the Local Plan re-emerged in October. The proposed 1,000 houses at North Witney has been increased to 1,400. This is due in part to the requirement for an uplift in housing numbers for West Oxfordshire and to help meet the unmet housing needs of Oxford City. The Local Plan went out to consultation before Christmas and is now with the Inspector.

The Inspector is holding two sets of hearings; the first is on Tuesday 7th May to look at the higher elements of the Local Plan, the second will be held in July where individual applications will be discussed (for example the North Witney proposal). The PC has constantly objected to this. It would like to see 200 houses built, which was the response received from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire.

(c) Highways and Traffic Report

Cllr Smith reported that roads and potholes in the parish have been a problem this year. However, most of the repairs reported on Fix-my Street receive attention quickly so it is worth reporting on there.

Speed Data Recorder Analysis records volume and speed of cars along a specific stretch of road. Earlier this year an Analysis was held in Delly End and no problems were found. There is one soon to be done in New Yatt, followed by one in Poffley End

Gasworks are being undertaken through the village; the initial phase was carried out last year. The verges are currently being repaired by SGN. SGN are due to return in June to complete the work.

(d) Estates and Footpaths Working Group

Cllr Musson explained that this portfolio holder was responsible for parish lands, footpaths, allotments, hedges and trees and the burial ground. He updated the meeting on the following points:

- The allotments are currently fully subscribed.
- Land owned by the Allotments for the Labouring Poor Charity (of which the councillors are Trustees) is currently being registered with the Land Registry.
- Thanks were given to former councillor, Paul Thomas who walks the paths and completes a report on the state of the footpaths each year.
- Rachel Livingstone has carried out a survey on local footpaths and bridleways and has submitted proposed modifications for some of them to OCC.
- Last year, the grass cutting was undertaken by McCracken and Son. This year the number of cuts on verges and the recreation ground has been increased from six and eight to eight and ten per year.
- Repairs to the railings at the rugby club have been carried out.
- The perennial issue of dog mess has come up again. Cllr Musson will try to put more signs up as the feeling is that it is getting worse.

(e) Amenities Working Group

Cllr Musson monitors the recreation ground and inspects it regularly. His report included:

- Thanks given to former councillors Pauline Lakey and Marion Davies for the work they did on the play equipment and recreation ground.
- In July ROSPA carry out an annual inspection which leads to recommendations for repairs. Most of the recommended repairs have been carried out.
- Thanks to Terry Matthews and Phil Hunt who have undertaken a lot of repairs over the years. More recently the work has been done by Donald Steptoe.
- Hailey Football Club has installed new goal posts this season.
- The village hall committee is holding an open day on Sunday 23rd April. This is for ideas for the future of the village hall. Cllr McGibbon is the new PC representative on the village hall committee.

(f) Neighbourhood Plan Report

At the last PC meeting, Cllr Knaggs submitted a section on transport and one on housing. Sections on landscape, clubs and societies and education are ready to be submitted. The Neighbourhood Plan team have interviewed 20 landowners to see if they have any suitable land for infill or edge developments. The Team are hoping to hold a consultation in the village hall in the near future, on their work.

(g) Emergency Plan

Cllr Moglia has completed an Emergency Plan as mentioned by Cllr Knaggs in his introduction.

(h) Hailey Festival

Cllr Smith reported that last year's Festival was good fun. This year there will be fewer events held. So far, a rounders match, scarecrow trail, summer fete in conjunction with friends of Hailey school and pub fun day at the Lamb and Flag have been planned.

The Scarecrow launch night was held on Sunday 9th April. 18 have signed up already. The theme this year is occupations. A flyer for the Hailey Festival will be published in the June edition of the Hailey Herald. The Festival committee would like to see as much bunting around the parish as possible, so Cllr Smith requested if anyone has any please can they put it up during the Festival.

4. Reports from District and County Councillors

No report was received from District Council

A report was received from County Councillor Rodney Rose. Cllr Knaggs summarized:

County Budget:

OCC set their budget in February and discovered an extra £1,957,000. The Council agreed to hold onto £926,000 until the 2018/19 financial year to deal with future pressures. The rest of the money was allocated between additional grass cutting of highway verges, funding for a pilot Communities Fund, children's social care and an increase in the Council's Flood Defence Levy.

Unitary Local Government:

The proposal from OCC, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse to form a Unitary Council has been submitted to Central Government. OCC believes that this will save at least £20 million per year.

Open Access Children's Services:

Start-up funding for more community schemes to run open access services at children's centres has been approved by OCC.

Fix my Street:

If you notice a problem or defect on the road you can report it easily online at fixmystreet.com.

Transport:

The work on the Cutteslowe and Wolvercote roundabouts has been completed and traffic flow has improved for both the A44 and the A40. OCC has set aside £3 million for the next phase of development for the A40 which should see work starting in 2018.

Rail:

Work is ongoing between GWR and OCC to try to increase parking at Charlbury station by about 270 spaces. Funding is available from DfT.

5. Report from Thames Valley Police

No report has been received.

Cllr Smith reported that in the Witney and rural area crime levels are down by 11%, making this area one of lowest levels of crime in the Thames Valley area.

Speeding remains a priority in Hailey and the surrounding villages and TVP are holding events to bring attention to this. Another of their priorities is cycling on pavements.

6 Parish Accounts for 2015-16

The draft Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 were circulated. The accounts show total payments of £41,113 and receipts of £46,710, giving a surplus of £5,597. This was in part due to raising the Parish Council's portion of the precept last year; essential as the reserves had been spent on capital projects over the last few years (such as the footpath and the village gates).

Main items of expenditure were the Clerk's salary of £6,005 and the installation of the exercise equipment at the recreation ground for £15,080. This was funded by grants raised by Project Hailey. The Parish Council received a grant of £1,299 towards grass cutting costs again this year.

7. Charity Reports and Accounts for 2016-16

(a) Joan Smith Educational Charity

This charity, created in the 1600s, receives income from pieces of land it owns. The money is used to provide support to people in the parish under the age of 25.

There were receipts of £1,735 to the nearest £ and payments of £1,043 (excluding grants). Eleven grants were made, totalling £1,621 and the financial assets of the charity stand at £21,429, not including shares.

(b) Allotments for the Labouring Poor

Payments made throughout the year were £595 and the receipts were £1,851 to the nearest £. The land, owned by ALP, is currently being registered by the Land Registry so £470 of the £595 payment was for work relating to this. The charity's income was made up of rent £1797 and bank interest £54. The financial assets of the charity stand at £36,161.

(c) Hailey Relief in Need Charity

Pam Simpkins reported in John Gibson's absence:

No accounts are available at this time. Grants of £5,501 have been given. The Trustees meet in April and October but will meet within 24 hours in an emergency. The Charity has 3 wheelchairs which can be borrowed on a short-term basis. They also have a disabled toilet seat. Residents can contact the Trustees to borrow the equipment. If you live in the Parishes of Hailey and Crawley, you can apply for a grant by contacting the Trustees to request an application form. Any grant previously granted cannot be repeated.

Types of help given this year include an adapted bathroom for a disabled person, a new disabled toilet in the church and payment for a school trip. A grant to provide a new defibrillator in Crawley has also been provided.

The Trustees are: Pam Simpkins, John Gibson, Jeremy Lewis, Janet Lines and Lauren Basson.

(d) Project Hailey

Suzanne Reeve, as chair of Project Hailey reported. They were formed in 2004 by a group of parents and developed into a committee in 2009. They have worked with the PC on the installation of five pieces of fitness equipment at the playground. The PC contributed the Third-Party Donation towards this project. The equipment is suitable for people over the age of thirteen. The wide appeal of this equipment is evident as both young and old use it. The cost was £15,080. The maintenance of the equipment has been taken over by the PC. Project Hailey has £2000 remaining. The current committee feels it is time for them to resign and will advertise for a new committee.

(e) Hailey Festival

Accounts were circulated.

9. Members of the public and items for general discussion

John Simpson spoke on behalf of the West Oxfordshire Locality Group, a committee he sits on as a retired GP. Deer Park surgery has closed and other surgeries/health centres may be closing. Mr Simpson requested that people contact their local Patient Participation Group to support them to stop closure of the surgeries.

Mr Simpson gave thanks to the Hailey Herald who do a wonderful job.

Thanks were also given to the local police for their support when needed.

A vote of thanks was given to the clerk.

Meeting closed: 8.20pm

