

# HAILEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Chairman: Mr G Knaggs Parish Clerk: Mrs K Doughty

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2015, 7.30pm at the Village Hall**

**Present:** G Knaggs (Chairman), A Smith (Vice-Chairman), P Lakey, K McConville. D Musson, and 18 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** P Thomas.
2. **To consider and approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th April 2014:** It was noted that the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting had been previously approved.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes.**

The Saddlers Arms, New Yatt – The Chairman reported that the public house had been registered as an Asset of Community Value last year following notification that the owner intended to sell the property which triggered a moratorium. This allowed a community group to make a bid for the pub at £275,000 which was submitted and refused. The Saddlers Arms is now in a protected period.

A resident advised that the Village school bus service provided by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) for Wood Green School pupils is being withdrawn as OCC now consider the walking route to be safe between Hailey and the school following the installation of the new footpath. There had been no public consultation before the bus policy was changed. The Parish Council was asked to work with the Action Group to lodge an appeal, which was agreed.

#### **4. Parish Council Reports**

##### **(a) 2014-2015 Report**

Following a Council vacancy, Cllr Lakey was co-opted and welcomed to the Parish Council. Elections are due to take place in May this year, however following nominations for all 7 available seats, no poll will take place for Hailey. Mrs Reeve, the previous Clerk, was thanked for her efforts and the new Clerk was welcomed.

Parish improvements – Some flood drainage work was undertaken in February. BT has now made Fibre Optic Broadband available in most parts of the Parish.

Budget – OCC advised that its grass cutting grant to the Parish Council is going to be cut by 50%. Precept increased by 2% to £12,000.

New Councillors-to-be (from May) Marion Davies and Nick Moglia were introduced to those present.

##### **(b) Highways & Traffic Working Group**

Cllr Smith advised that the best way for parishioners to raise highway/environmental actions is to use [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com). Authorities sometimes take a while to respond, however it continues to be a good system to resolve actions.

The school bus service to Wood Green School, speeding and inconsiderate parking are key issues. The Parish Council has installed 2 new solar-powered Vehicle Activated Signs and is investigating a third one for the Village. Installation of village gateways are also being considered as a speed reduction measure. It was noted that the Lollypop Lady had retired and following an assessment, OCC found that a replacement person was not needed. Automated, programmed, crossing lights are being purchased from OCC to replace the existing lights and 20mph speed limit signs are to be installed (the limit is enforceable when lights are flashing). Other highway safety projects include repainting of zigzags, new bin signs, more highway signs, a road safety poster competition and Speed Indicator Device events which will be held.

A resident advised that Hailey Road School still have a Lollypop Lady in addition to a zebra crossing on a straight piece of road. It was felt that an accident is waiting to happen due to the road layout at the school. Further road safety education and working with the school is required and being planned.

(c) Planning Working Group

i. WODC Local Plan 2013

The Chairman outlined the planning process and discussed the North Witney development of 1000 houses between Hailey Road and Woodstock Road. West Oxfordshire District Council's (WODC) Local Plan consultation has been undertaken. The Parish Council feel it is not sound - by WODC's own evidence the North Witney option is not financially viable.

Taylor Wimpey submitted a planning application for 200 houses in November last year which is yet to be determined by WODC.

(d) Estates & Footpaths Working Group

Burial Grounds - It was noted that a community group had uncovered all the headstones in the old Burial Ground, new Burial Ground and Churchyard. Wildflower seeds were sown in the new Burial Ground and the area fenced off for protection.

Following windy weather, a tree in the old Burial Ground has 'rocked' and the adjacent dry stone wall has become damaged.

Allotments – 1 plot is currently available. Some wall rebuilding work has been undertaken by the crossroads at Chapel Lane. The Chairman referred to an allotment plot which is currently rented to neighbouring residents and the Allotments for the Labouring Poor has agreed to sell. Cllr McConville commented that conditions of sale would be imposed so that any development of the land would require the Trustees' authority.

Footpath - A new footpath has been installed in Hailey which took 2 years of work to accomplish. The Clerk noted that Mr Hill is to be asked to re-seed the verge. The daffodils will be replanted in the verge in September.

Although Paul Thomas is no longer continuing as a Parish Councillor, he has kindly agreed to continue his work as a Parish Path Warden.

Assets/Land – the Council is to identify and register all assets with Land Registry and deeds need to be obtained.

It was noted that work to hedges is being undertaken to the rear of Townsend. Clerk is to contact Mr Basson to enquire whether there is anything afoot that the Council needs to be aware of.

(e) Amenities Working Group

The recreation ground and play equipment continues to be well used. The Working Group undertakes monthly inspections and Mr Matthews undertakes minor repairs as and when required. Project Hailey has plans for further development of the play area and grants are being obtained. Football matches are held regularly. It was felt that the Pavilion is not in a satisfactory condition; however, there is no viable alternative at the current time. Concern was raised regarding ongoing litter and dog fouling problems.

(f) Special Projects

i. Woodgreen

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council rents Woodgreen in Witney to Witney Town Council for £1 p.a. At a recent meeting, the Parish Council resolved to sell this land to Witney Town Council for £100. As the Parish Council is currently required to insure and maintain the area (which is outside the parish boundary), it is felt to be preferable to allow Witney Town Council to formally administer and oversee the land for the benefit of the Woodgreen community.

ii. Defibrillators

A defibrillator has been installed at The Lamb & Flag and another set has been purchased and is intended for New Yatt. As the first awareness training session was held in Hailey almost a year ago, another session will be organised with South Central Ambulance Service. A defibrillator sign is to be displayed at both locations. It was noted that the Rugby Club is also going to have a defibrillator installed in the near future.

iii. Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council agreed that it would start a process to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Once finalised, the document would advise on development matters for the forthcoming years. This could include potentially shaping the development of the 1000 homes development, covering subjects such as highways, infrastructure, healthcare, schools etc. It was noted that there are also strong financial incentives in having a Neighbourhood Plan in place.

## 5. Reports from District and Council Councillors

It was noted that District Councillor Simon Hoare is standing for election in North Dorset and has moved to the area. He has contacted the Parish Council to say that it had been a pleasure to serve our local community.

## 6. Report from Thames Valley Police

A report from PS Kerry O'Leary of the Witney Neighbourhood Policing Team was read. It was recommended that residents sign up for the Thames Valley Alert email service that allows members to keep up to date with localised crime and safety alerts.

## 7. Parish Accounts for 2014/15

The draft Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 were circulated and questions welcomed. The accounts indicate total payments of £28,817 and receipts of £15,371, giving an overspend of £13,446. This was in part due to the footpath extension at £4,348 and transfer of sale of land funds to the Allotments for the Labouring Poor of £11,000.

Main items of expenditure were the Clerk's salary of £5959, capital projects £5083 and upkeep of the Recreation Ground at £1814.

The Parish Council received a grant of £2598 towards grass cutting costs. The grant has been halved for the new financial year due to the County Council's cost saving measures. A further invoice by the District Council is expected to be received at £254 which would leave a small surplus available within the budget for grass cutting from the last financial year.

The Football Club rent was queried by a resident and it was felt that a named individual should take personal responsibility to forward rent on time each year. If the rent is not received the licence should be terminated.

## **8. Charity Reports and Accounts for 2014-2015**

### **(a) Joan Smith Education Charity**

There were receipts of £2,136 to the nearest £ and payments of £1,140. Six grants were made and the financial assets of the charity stand at £23,222, not including shares. The charity's income was made up of rent £1,875 and interest and dividends of £261. The payments were made up of grants £690 (£450 grants from the previous financial year). Administration fees for the last financial year will be made in the next financial year. A statement is awaited in order to value the charity shares.

### **(b) Allotments for the Labouring Poor**

Payments made throughout the year were £1833 excluding VAT and the receipts were £12,376 to the nearest £. £11,000 was received from the Parish Council for sale of allotment land which was invested in an existing deposit fund.

Taking the £11,000 out of the calculations, an overspend of £436 was made. The additional spends this year were for dry stone wall repairs at £1200 and field gate and posts at £633. The charity's income was made up of rent £1339 and bank interest £37. The financial assets of the charity stand at £15,890.

### **(c) Hailey Relief in Need Charity**

Mrs Simpkins presented the unaudited accounts. The sum of £11,316 was awarded in grants. The current account stands at £608.43, petty cash at 36p, and the deposit fund at £200.48. Shares are valued at £32,607.99 and £9300 was received through the sale of shares in the 2014/15 financial year. The charity has 2 wheelchairs available in Hailey for resident's use that are located at 23 Giernals Road. Mrs Pratley and Mrs Simpkins were thanked for their efforts in the community.

### **(d) Project Hailey**

Project Hailey is currently fundraising for a slide on a mound and adult/teen all-weather fitness equipment. The bank balance stands at £1737 and they have just submitted a second bid for West Oxfordshire Community Funding having been asked to conduct further consultation in the first round.

Fundraising events have been taking place over the winter and grants remain their main source of income which in the current climate is proving increasingly difficult. Committee numbers are low and further members are welcome. (Contact [suzireeve@btinternet.com](mailto:suzireeve@btinternet.com)).

## Hailey Festival

Following last year's barn dance and a number of quiz nights held since, £137 profit was made with an end of financial year closing balance of £1378. This sum of money is maintained each year for a possible future Coronation/Jubilee event. The Hailey Festival starts on 13 June – currently 28 scarecrows have been signed-up for display and many other activities are planned. Volunteers were thanked for their help and organisation.

### **9. Members of the public and items for general discussion**

Mrs Pratley queried a bench installed on Cottsway's land and thanked the Parish Council for all its work.

It was noted that New Yatt does not yet have Fibre Optic Broadband and it was asked whether the Council could help to pursue this. Clerk is to investigate.

A resident advised and noted that a new seat has been installed in the new Burial Ground and 2 existing benches are in the way of burial plots and need to be repositioned.

Clerk noted that the use of acronyms are to be avoided in meeting minutes or listed at the end of the minutes for reference.



Katherine Doughty  
Parish Clerk

Signature of Chairman upon approval of Minutes ..... 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015