

## **Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall.

**Present: Cllrs:** G. Knaggs, A. Smith, D. Musson, C. McGibbon, K. McConville, **Parish Clerk:** L. Wilkinson, 14 members of public

1) **Apologies for Absence** were received from Cllr G. Doland, District Cllr K. Mullins, M. Weetman (Hailey FC),

2) **Parish Council Reports:**

a) **Planning Report**

Cllr Karl McConville reported that it has been another busy year in Hailey with 22 applications. All applications by residents to develop their properties were accepted. The larger developments tend to have been refused. There are some significant applications outstanding i.e. 50 houses at the end of Priest Hill Lane.

b) **Highways and Traffic Report**

Cllr Andy Smith reported that three speed surveys have been undertaken this year at Delly End, Poffley End and New Yatt. They all came in under the base line of 40mph, so no preventative action is required.

Forty-one reports about potholes have been raised in the last year. Thirty-eight of these have been fixed. So, it is worth reporting any concerns on FixMyStreet.

The gas mains work by SGN that was planned for last summer is rescheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> July to 7<sup>th</sup> September to allow a gas mains upgrade. The main road through Hailey will have no access during these times as three metres clearance each side of the work is necessary for safety. Thus, the whole road will have to be closed. There will be access for residents and businesses. Representatives from SGN and their contractors GPL, are attending the next PC meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May, to answer questions. The diversion routes have not yet been confirmed.

c) **Estates and Footpaths Report**

Cllr David Musson reported that this includes allotments and parish land, footpaths, bridleways and rights of way, burial ground- new and old, the war memorial and grass cutting.

- Allotments: these are thriving. Young people are taking them on. The PC is in the process of checking and renumbering the allotments at Hemplands. Allotment lands are now registered with the Land Registry.
- Footpaths/bridleways/rights of way: We no longer have a footpath warden. If you have any concerns about footpaths, please let the PC know so it can investigate them. The Definitive Map is where footpaths are officially recorded. Several footpaths in Hailey have had a modification order submitted to change their use.
- Burial ground: The PC liaises with funeral directors over burials and undertakes maintenance.
- Grass cutting: This is currently undertaken by McCracken and Son. Last year the number of cuts were increased to 8 for the verges and 10 for the recreation ground. Timing of cuts is always an issue as this depends on the weather and speed of growth. It has been agreed with Hailey Football Club for them to organise up to 4 more cuts for the pitch if needed, especially during early season. McCracken's will also now cut along one side of Priest Hill Lane. The contract is up for renewal at the end of this year, so it will then go out to tender.

#### **d) Amenities Report**

Cllr David Musson reported that this is looking after the recreation ground, pavillion, playground and football pitch along with liaison with the football club and the village hall committee.

- Playground: a monthly safety check and litter pick is undertaken.
- The annual ROSPA inspection takes place in July. This year repair to the roundabout was necessary, new bark has been laid and equipment cleaned.
- A new entrance will be created this year for easier access.
- The PC is looking for a handyman who can undertake small jobs on the playground equipment and around the parish.
- Football Club and Pavillion: The Football Club have replaced the door on the Pavillion and repaired the door on the shed.

#### **e) Neighbourhood Plan Report**

Cllr Graham Knaggs reported that the writing of the Hailey NP was completed in the middle of 2017 (many thanks to the NP team and everyone else who was involved / consulted / contributed).

There was a formal consultation on the plan at the end of the year which resulted in some changes. The main one was the withdrawal of the site in New Yatt (15 houses) and its replacement by an alternative site adjacent to the Saddlers Arms (probably 8 houses). We have applied for a grant to pay for a required Strategic Environmental assessment of the two identified housing sites (the other one is adjacent to Witney Rugby Club) and for a Health Check. Once these are completed and any further adjustments made we will formally submit to WODC. They will hold a second consultation and there will be a referendum of all eligible voters in the parish. The plan will then be adopted.

#### **f) Hailey Festival**

Cllr Andy Smith reported that three meetings have been held so far. It is being held between Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June. More events are being held this year such as a rounders match, scarecrow trail, bunting workshop, sevens tournament at the rugby club, church concert, Breach Wood AGM and speaker, summer fete, Battle of the Bands, Ska and Soul night, Open Gardens and a Father's Day event.

They are also working with Common Leys Farm to promote their Country fair on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

There is currently £2,821.79 in the bank account but the Festival group are looking to add to this by advertising space on the flyer. The Theme for scarecrows this year is sport.

Any volunteers would be welcomed.

#### **g) Infrastructure Development Plan**

Cllr Graham Knaggs reported that there has been an IDP plan for a couple of years – it is regularly updated. However, we have now formed a working group to develop it further. Essentially this group will identify and cost what should be included in future plans for the parish.

Initially we have focussed on the village Hall and Sports pavilion. The lease on the former expires in 2021 when it will revert to the PC. Outline plans and costings for refurbishment or replacement have been commissioned and today's PC meeting decided on demolishing and replacing the village hall and pavillion There now needs to be a comprehensive consultation to determine the needs of the community on the way forward, along with the launch of a fundraising campaign.

Although we have been opposing the North Witney development proposals for many years, we now need to recognise it is going to happen and recognise that it will also require a great deal of attention. The developers would prefer a simple housing estate of 1,400 houses bolted onto Witney, but we should be pushing for the development of a real community with associated community infrastructure, including:

- A community centre
- West End link road
- Sports pitches and facilities
- Primary School
- Green spaces and landscape buffers
- Children's play area(s)
- Footpath/cycleway network linking to Hailey/Poffley End/New Yatt/Witney

All of this needs to be identified, costed and the funding agreed.

#### **h) 2017-18 Report**

Cllr Graham Knaggs reported that Nick Moglia has stood down as a Parish Councillor and has been replaced by Gavin Hyatt.

Thanks were given to Nick for all his hard work over the years and Gavin was welcomed.

Thanks to all the other Councillors for their time and effort and a special thanks to Lisa our Parish Clerk for her patience in dealing with all of us.

We seem to have spent most of the year on various forms of planning rather than the usual issues of grass cutting, speeding through the villages, parking on pavements and dog mess. These issues never go away of course.

WODC's Local Plan 2031 underwent inspection during the summer. Hailey PC was present at all the sessions during the four weeks and made representations on flooding, viability, roads and traffic, air quality (in Bridge Street), landscape and the capacity of the site. The inspector has reported that the plan is likely to be approved but some further changes have been made and are being consulted on (consultation closes on 9<sup>th</sup> March). The plan is likely to be approved and adopted by mid-year (that's 7 years late) and will include an approved 5-year supply of housing. This should theoretically at least shut down speculative planning applications although inevitable developers will continue to search for loopholes.

Cllr McConville has already talked about significant planning applications:

9 houses approved in the Giernalls triangle (interestingly WODC assessed this site as suitable for 15 houses so it could still happen)

3 (reduced from 6) houses in Poffley End/Chapel Lane was rejected at appeal.

50 (reduced from 85) houses in Priest Hill Lane failed to come forward because of the weather in December and a Council's opinion in January (it was withdrawn) combined with the almost emergent Local Plan. We keep watching but no sign of it re-emerging.

Occupation Lane was the subject of many discussions during the year. A consultation is currently running and at today's PC meeting we decided to support the re-instatement of a bridleway.

### **3) Reports from District and County Councillors**

#### **District Cllr Gill Hill report:**

This past year has not been without its frustrations with the Local Plan still awaiting final acceptance. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel with hopefully a conclusive result within the very near future. The Inspector has agreed to preserve the AONB in the Burford, Charlbury, Woodstock corridor from

having developments of houses in the area. This will prevent property developers from obtaining endless permission to build on protected land.

All six Oxfordshire Councils have approved the £215m Housing and Growth Deal over a five-year period. This funding will support the delivery of around 100,000 new homes across Oxfordshire between 2011 and 2031 and infrastructure developments as outlined in each Council's Local Plan. The Deal will also be seen as a down payment for the county with more funding to come.

As expected with the end of the five-year freeze, Council Tax in West Oxfordshire has increased by three percent from April meaning the average Band D household will pay £94.38, just £2.75 higher than last year. That compares to a 5.1% increase nationally. WODC still has the second lowest Council Tax in the country.

The partnership of shared services with Cotswold and Forest of Dean District Councils is saving around £2m a year with a further £1.5m worth of efficiencies predicted following the establishment of the local authority owned company Publica in 2017 which now embraces Ubico and the 20/20 partnership. The Council's revenue has also been boosted by the new 10-year leisure contract with GLL Better.

When the Council's budget was set it was revealed its financial position had improved by £447,000. Rises in investment income, additional funding from Rural Services Delivery Grant and an increase in the Council's retained share of business rates had contributed to this despite the reductions in central Government funding.

Tourism is booming across the Cotswolds. In West Oxfordshire alone 553,000 people stayed in the area while almost 3.7 million visited for the day spending more than £252m. Across the Cotswolds there were 22.5 million visitors generating £745.7m for the area's economy. Figures for 2016 compiled by South West Research Company Ltd also showed tourism was responsible for eight per cent of employment across the wider area, rising to nine per cent in West Oxfordshire.

Free car parking continues to be available throughout West Oxfordshire.

I shall continue to support you with any concerns you may have with regard to WODC.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

**Cllr Kieran Mullins** sent in the Annual Review from West Oxfordshire District Council below:

The past year has brought a number of changes to the local area, including the transition to the jointly created Publica Group to share some council services between four partner Councils Cheltenham Borough Council, Forest of Dean, Cotswold and West Oxfordshire District Councils with the aim of delivering more cost-effective and improved services. The major impact on our local residents has been the changes to the management of the waste and recycling services and, albeit with some initial issues and problems, the service now seems to be working reasonably efficiently.

The other issue dominating council business has been the housing issue; assessing development applications (approving some, opposing others), and, of course, the emergence of the Local Plan. There is still work to be done to ensure we are not impacted by further large developments within the ward, and I will continue to work with the Parish Councils to ensure we do our utmost to create an environment that works for existing and future residents. To assist local residents to understand how the Local Plan will affect us, an email is being sent to all Town and Parish councils with the following message:

*“Once adopted, the Local Plan will be the starting point for decision making and clearly it does allow for greater levels of house building than has been the case historically for West Oxfordshire.*

*Whilst that can have some negative impacts it can also be a means for you to secure developer funding to assist in settlements meeting their aspirations. We are currently in the process of formulating some guidance which seeks to help you in determining how to best present your case in seeking to ensure that these funds are delivered. The regulations are complex but in essence the monies have to be for Capital rather than Revenue and be proportionately and reasonably related to the development concerned. The key premise is that the 106 funding from developers has to mitigate the impacts of the development to be legal.”*

If there is a desire for training on developer funding, please contact Phil Shaw at WODC. Similarly, if you would like to arrange a meeting to discuss the development of the Local Plan and to talk through the key changes. Training could also incorporate a discussion around the process for building a Neighbourhood Plan and cover the issue of enforcement.

It is now a year since I was elected as a local councillor for the Minster Lovell, Hailey and Leaffield ward at WODC. Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive and welcoming so far; it has really helped me during this period when everything is so new. Hopefully I have managed to represent many of you in the way that you would wish from your local councillor, and I look forward to continuing to stand up for the interests of the residents of the ward over the forthcoming 12 months.

In the meantime, please do contact me with your questions or concerns to [Kieran.mullins@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:Kieran.mullins@westoxon.gov.uk)

#### **Report from County Councillor Liam Walker:**

It's been a very busy first year as the County Councillor for the Hanborough and Minster Lovell Division.

In Hailey there have been lots of issues I have been involved with from trying to get a better service for New Yatt, a community action day cleaning road signs in the village, deferring planned gas works through the village, and of course, potholes!

At the moment I'm working with our team at the County Council on the diversion route for the gas works this summer. As many of you will know, this was due to take place in 2017 but the County Council decided to remove the works permit. There were rightly concerns from residents about the diversion route and the lack of information from SGN about the planned works. This will now take place this summer instead and SGN have already started to engage with the Parish Council and residents about this.

Potholes continue to be a problem in the village and around the whole area to be honest. Here in Oxfordshire I am hoping the council will look into the idea of using recycled plastics mixed with bitumen to help improve and strengthen repairs. Any potholes can be reported to the council via the FixMyStreet app for your phone or online via [fixmystreet.com](http://fixmystreet.com) and will be fixed if they meet the criteria for repair.

The County Council has recently consulted in Occupation Lane in New Yatt about the proposal for it to be added to the Definitive Map. This would mean it could become a public right of way from New Yatt to the A4095. The consultation ends on 12<sup>th</sup> April and can be found on the Oxfordshire County Council website.

£135 million has just been announced by the Government for improvements to A40.

As always. I'm keen to help where I can and happy to discuss local issues or concerns with residents.

#### **4) Report from Thames Valley Police**

Inspector Steve Hookam briefed the meeting on Neighbourhood Policing:

TVP priorities are domestic burglaries, child exploitation, domestic abuse and drug lines

There has been an increase of 60% in domestic burglaries (across Cherwell and West Oxfordshire).

The Neighbourhood team engages with local offenders. However, the increase is from organised crime gangs from out of the area. TVP is on top of this burglary spike.

Drug lines are the biggest demand on police time at the moment. Drug gangs use the train line infrastructure to come out to rural areas to deal the drugs.

The Neighbourhood Policing team concentrate on visibility, engagement, community resilience and problem solving.

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is being revamped at present. Schemes now have one co-ordinator for a village.

Community resilience groups are being set up (similar to Neighbourhood Action Groups). They consult with the community.

Details of crime from Hailey in the past year:

- 2 Criminal damages
- 4 burglary dwellings
- 4 thefts from vehicle
- 4 assaults without injury
- 1 theft in dwelling.

#### **5) Report from Hailey Village Hall**

Cllr Calvert McGibbon reported that the AGM is being held on 24<sup>th</sup> April, so he does not have the latest financial information. A band evening raised £639. The officers of the management committee have all resigned. Thanks are given to Eady Woods, Nicky Clargo and Michael Fisher for their work.

#### **6) Report from St John's Church**

This was received and read out by Graham Knaggs.

### **St John's Church, Hailey Annual Report**

This has been an eventful year in the life of Hailey Church.

We have welcomed Ness and Ross into the parish, and are delighted to have them amongst us, together with all the clergy who support us. Thank you to all the team for their leadership of all our services and for their pastoral care. We appreciate the time they are able to spend with us, although at times we do feel a little distant from the parish communication hub.

The main news is that the Floor has been Fixed. Over the past two years we have raised sufficient funds through many fundraising events, generous local donations and the support of a variety of trusts, to fulfil this project, and it is now very nearly complete and we now have a level floor, a vestry, a bigger disabled loo, a galley kitchen, improved heating and lighting, and much more useful space at the back of the church.

All in all, this is a great result, and a huge thank you goes to Michael Drew who has project managed the whole scheme, and to all the local businesses who have carried out the work. Now we are thinking of what new, imaginative things we can do with our lovely church.

We became a peripatetic congregation during the works and this has been a positive experience; most of our Sunday services were held in Hailey School Hall, and a big thank you goes to Debbie Davies for allowing this. Other services were held in Breach Wood, Middle Farm, Swanhall Barn, Witheridge farmyard, and our Remembrance Day service was held in the Subaru Garage opposite the village War Memorial.

Our Thursday services were held in Middletown Grange where we welcomed residents joining us. Now the church is open again we continue to have services there twice a month and are looking towards becoming a Dementia Friendly church.

The churchyard has coped with the building works remarkably well, and we are planning a hands-on day in early March to tidy things up.

There are many people to thank for their great contributions throughout the year. John Haskell and Sue Drew, as sacristans, have managed to pack up all the items we needed for each service, and then transported them to wherever we were going, with amazing diligence. A big thank you to our organists Amalya, Barbara and Jeremy, who give their time and talents so generously, and to our servers, Kate and Yvonne.

There are too many others to name individually but you will know who you are, and we say thank you very much for making Hailey church the friendly, supportive and prayerful place that it is.

The church in Hailey is closely involved in all village events and organises the monthly Village Lunch. We are looking to start some new activities in our enlarged church space. Hailey Festival in June sees the annual Rounders Match, Fete, Scarecrows and much more, all of which involve the church.

We welcome the school for its major services throughout the year.

We look forward to a new year with excitement to see what innovations Hailey can create.

Onwards and upwards!

Elpie Lewis and Sue Drew – Deputy Wardens

### **Hailey Village Lunch**

This happens in the Village Hall on the third Wednesday of every month and has been going now for about 12 years. It is organised by a stalwart gang from the church.... furniture movers, table layers, taxi service, cooks, washers up, raffle ticket sellers.

The main course is usually a casserole/ sausage creation/ lasagne/ shepherd's pie sort of thing, followed by an amazing selection of hot and cold puddings created by a wonderful rota of folk from around the village. The cost is £6, and this money goes into our DCC funds.

We never know how many people are coming but so far, we have never run out of food, catering for 30/40+ people. Christmas usually sees more people, but this year the snow that day was a bit tricky, so numbers were down a bit.

All in all, it is always a happy occasion, and we are delighted to welcome new visitors.

#### **7) Report from Hailey Football Club** sent in by Mark Weetman, treasurer.

This season I am stepping down from Hailey FC. In regard to this season, on the pitch has been a rollercoaster with wins & losses. Socially we continue to support the local pub - Lamb & Flag, in which Andrew is a superb host and the lads continue to have a very good team spirit.

We have undertaken a refurbishment of the changing rooms. I know the managers funded that day from their own pockets. The changing rooms & toilets were the cleanest ever in my 7 years!

#### **8) Report from Breach Wood**

Cllr David Musson reported that this is an important and successful development of an amenity. It is well-used by walkers. There is an active group of Trustees.

Currently there has been extensive thinning of oak trees as a managed programme– over 500 trees have been cut down to create more space for the remaining trees.

A photographic record of woodland using a drone is being done. Photos will be taken during different seasons.

A problem with Ash die-back has to be dealt with. In due course there will be plans for replacement planting.

Breach Wood is keen to link with other village activities such as the scarecrow trail and educational opportunities.

**9) Parish Accounts for 2016-17**

The clerk distributed the annual accounts for 2016-17. It was noted that Hailey's precept is in the bottom third of parishes in Oxfordshire.

**10) Charity Reports and Accounts for 2017-18**

**a) Joan Smith Educational Charity**

The accounts were distributed.

**b) Allotments for the Labouring Poor**

The accounts were distributed.

**c) Hailey Relief in Need**

John Gibson reported that this charity was formed in 1977 by an amalgamation of four Hailey charities. Relief is offered to all those in need. There are four trustees and they consider cases of need or hardship that are brought to their attention. Grants are not made for difficulties with Council tax or utilities bills. They make one-off grants. They also make general grants if it will help people to function in the community, for example to improve a footpath. There is about £30,000 in their bank account. Their aim is to distribute £1,000 to £1,500 per year. Privacy and discretion is absolutely guaranteed.

**11) Members of public and items for general discussion**

None

Meeting closed: 9pm