

East Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting – 2nd September, 2010.

A meeting of the East Hagbourne Parish Council was held at the Fleet Meadow Community Hall, Didcot on Thursday, 2nd September, 2010 when the following members were present :-

Mr D Rickeard (Chairman)
Mr C Alberry
Mr D Button
Mr R Dawson
Mr R Emery
Mr D Harding
Mr R Rendell
Mr R Parsley (Clerk)

One member of the public also attended. Mr Patrick Greene, OCC and SODC Councillor, attended the first part of the meeting.

1. Apologies.

An apology was received from Mr Duff due to business commitments.

2. Minutes.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 22nd July, 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Mr Greene stated that in the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June, 2010 his report stated OCC's budget will be reduced by £11m this year and savings up to £100m will take place over the next 5 years. Please amend OCC to read SODC and the next 5 years to read 3 years.

3. Actions and Matters Arising.

See Action List and the appropriate agenda items for full details.

2009-10-2. Register the Recreation Ground, Car Park and Hopfields with the Land Registry. In hand with the solicitors.

2009-10-09. Recommendations on updating the Village website. See 8(e).

2010-01-14. North Croft junction maintenance. A meeting has been held with OCC; further discussion is needed between RP/DR/RR.

2010-03-02. New controller for the Car Park lights. The clerk to contact Mr Wood as soon as the electrical work for the Village Hall extension is completed.

2010-06-01: Village Handyman. Mr Carey had successfully bid for some work around the village.

2010-06-07. New dog bins. Mr Beer has collected the bins for installation.

2010-06-12. No practical date was found in September, so an allotment holders meeting will be held in October.

2010-07-05. The content of the Parish Council newsletter in January is in hand.

2010-07-09. Fun Run photos for the web site. Further photos have not been forthcoming.

4. District and County Councillor.

Mr Greene enquired if the flooding problem along Main Road had been finalised and stated that he will help to progress the work if necessary. Mr Rickeard reported that Monsoon and SODC will carry out more flood alleviation work in our area. On the particular question of Main Road he is in touch with Mr Keeble,

The Vale of the White Horse DC's new waste collection scheme is now in operation. Some of SODC's waste collection days will change on 27th September, 2010.

The LDF Strategy Plan will come before the Cabinet in October/November and a general forum meeting is planned.

The new 4km Ladygrove Loop should be completed by 10th December, 2010 and will provide a walking, cycling and fitness trail: £350k has been allocated to the project by SODC.

The Fulscot railway bridge will be closed for three days to motor traffic for resurfacing on 27th September, 2010 and Halfpenny Lane, Cholsey will be resurfaced between 29th September, 2010 and 7th October, 2010.

Mr Greene highlighted the 'Oxfordshire Big Debate' at the Cornerstone Arts Centre on 16th September, 2010. Some financial savings could also come from discretionary services.

Mr Dawson queried why the traffic lights on the relief road to the Milton Interchange have not been removed as no work appears to be taken place to help the flow of traffic. Mr Greene promised to make enquires.

Mr Emery asked if the LDF was on hold. Mr Greene suggested that we invite a SODC officer to attend a Parish Council meeting to explain the current position and to answer any questions. In the meanwhile Mr Emery will contact SODC for information. Mr Green was of the opinion that there would be no changes as far as Didcot was concerned.

Finally it was queried whether SOHA would have to go through the normal planning procedure for Affordable Housing in Wilcher Close. It was agreed a planning application would be necessary (this has subsequently been received).

5. Items for Decision.

(a). Hagbourne School Swimming Pool Changing Rooms. Mr Rickeard reported he had spoken to Mr Vaughan and Mrs Stevens about the proposed new changing facilities at the pool. There were no detailed costs yet and the plans needed to be more specific. The PTA are helping to raise funds but current cash constraints mean that money from SODC and other bodies could be under threat. Mr Rickeard noted that the the Governors were keen to extend the use of the pool by the general community, both as a source of revenue and as a community service. He suggested that as such it could align with the Council's objective to improve community sports provisions. There was general support that when more financial details are available we could consider a grant.

(b). The Oxfordshire Association for the Blind. It was proposed by Mr Button to donate £75.00 (same as last year), seconded by Mr Rendell and agreed unanimously.

(c). The Didcot and District Citizens Advice Bureau. Mr Rickeard explained the background to the recent publicity around loss of some funding from Didcot Town Council and noted a large grant was provided by SODC. Our contribution matches or exceeds that of other local parishes. It was proposed by Mr Rendell to continue our donation at £250.00, seconded by Mr Button and agreed unanimously.

6.Planning Applications.

(a).The following planning applications have been received since the last meeting. The Parish Council's comments are indicated.

P10/W1150//RM	Great Western Park	No strong views
P10/W1231	20 Cromwell Drive	Under Discussion

7.Parish Plan.

(a) Mr Rickeard highlighted the various sections of the Parish Plan and reported that the key draft chapters were now all in circulation for comments. He stated that hopefully a complete draft document would be ready by the end of September for assessment. He said that various members of the Parish had assistend with input to the draft chapters and thanked everybody who had provided input. Some chapters are still receiving input from specific individuals, but all Councillors were asked to provide comments by the end of September. The objective is to post a complete draft on the web site for general public comment by the end of October.

Action: Review and comment on the draft chapters already circulated: All

Regarding the introductory chapters, the original chapters 3 & 4 are now included in the succeeding chapters and are not needed. For the remaining chapters, Mr Emery agreed to prepare Chapter 2, (East Hagbourne in Context) and Mr Rickeard to do Chapter 1 (Introduction and aims of the Parish Plan). Timescale is again end-September.

Action: Prepare introductory chapters for the Parish Plan report: RE/DR

(b) Input to free issue of Parish Magazine. Mr Rickeard reported that a further meeting had been held with Mrs Corderoy and Mrs Joy Napper where it was agreed that the free issue would be in January 2011. The PCC had been advised of the proposals, and West hagbourne PC had also been advised to see if they wanted to participate.

Parish Council input would be extended to 3 or perhaps 4 pages and will include:

- Didcot Development Update *Mr Emery*
- Parish Plan Progress (including current achievements) *Mr Rickeard*
- Solicit input for the APM
- Our Communications Strategy *DR/ID/CA/RR*
- Flooding summary *Mr Rickeard*
- Call for new councillors (election due in May) *Mr Rickeard*

It was suggested that we consider a section on the environment along the lines of what to look out for around the Parish.

The Communications Strategy was discussed and agreed that we would invite people to join an email news circulation list. Both this and the Parish Page in the Magazine would link to the web site, where more detailed information could be made available.

The title page of the Parish Magazine is seen as a barrier to acceptance by some people, because of its overt Church orientation. Similar thoughts had already been raised by Mr Duff. Proposed that an outer cover was needed that would explain why we were giving a free issue, encourage subscriptions to the Magazine, and highlight the other communications activities proposed. Mr Rickeard to put this proposal to the magazine editors and the PCC.

Action:Mr Rickeard

Mr Rickeard alerted members to the eventual need to provide 4/5 people over the Christmas/New Year period to help print and collate the magazine. Also, we need to activate

people to distribute the copies early in January. Mr Emery was asked to search out the team list for the PP questionnaires

Action: Mr Emery

8.Reports.

(a).Monica Lawson Memorial. Mr Duff is progressing the current situation regarding the memorial seat.

(b).Flooding. Two very successful work parties were held in July/August as a result of which the stream bed is clear on the upper channel down to FP16 and the lower channel is also much improved. The water level at the Blewbury Road bridge has dropped by about 20cm as a result of this work, so we were in good shape when the rains came. We have brought waders and a large rake to help with the work, and one member of the group kindly provided a strimmer.

Most of the himalayan balsam has now been cleared from the stream and environs. This includes the area through Fieldside and upstream to the church with the cooperation of most home owners fronting the stream, and including Parsonage lane. There are still occasional flowering plants, so everyone's vigilance is requested, please pull or cut them before they seed.

The Environment Agency have invited us to a session dedicated to self-help groups in October. Mr Rickeard and perhaps one other will attend

Action: Attend EA Self-Help Group mtg in October; DR

(c).Didcot Development. No significant developments; see Mr Greene's report.

(d).Butts Piece. Mr Rendell reported there will be an allotment holders meeting in October and he will prepare a list of draft rules and an agenda for the meeting. Mr Rickeard stated that signs for the allotments were a priority and agreed that he and Mr Rendell would action signs with the agreed wording with the help of Mr Parsley.

Action signs for Butt's Piece; RR/DR/RP

Action: convene allotment holders' meeting

It was agreed to ask Mr Carey to clear the area around the Sustran seats on the N/E corner.

Action: Mr Parsley

Mr Rendell asked if the stream and bank of sleepers on the eastern side was included in the Butts Piece improvement scheme. It was agreed that Cynthia Napper had included this area in the overall scheme. Mr Rickeard noted that a load of apples had been dumped on the site and we needed to be alert to prevent the area being abused. It was unanimously agreed to support the forthcoming programme proposed by Mrs Napper; costs are not expected to be excessive, but are to be further clarified for planning purposes.

Action: Liaise with Mrs Napper on costs for wildlife area etc.

(e). East Hagbourne Website. Mr Alberry proposed, after consulting with the web support team, to have the village website (www.easthagbourne.net) redesigned to allow for easy updating of information by members of the web support team. Having contacted a number of specialist companies the costs are expected to be around £1500.00 for the first year (initial design, implementation and support) and then around £600.00 per year for on-going support. This expenditure was approved by the Parish Council and the web support team will now work with one preferred company to confirm more detailed requirements, prices and create an implementation plan that will be presented to the Parish Council before any funds are actually spent.

Mr Rickeard thanked Mr Alberry and the web team for their efforts and asked for clarification on the ownership and operation of the site for the future. The site would be owned by the Parish Council for the benefit of the whole community, and managed by a small web team who would input data, under the leadership of a parish Councillor (currently Mr Alberry), and reporting to

the Parish Council. After a brief discussion it was decided that although the site would include a 'what's on' section, advertising would not be accepted.

Action: Mr Alberry to progress plans for updating the site

(f).Standing Orders. Mr Button promised a first draft for the November meeting.

9. Correspondence.

(a).Problems with pathways. A letter had been received from Mr Dixon and his son detailing the earlier complaints of problems when walking in certain areas of the village (Mr Dixon has impaired sight so need to be accompanied when out walking). Overgrown hedges and shrubs were restricting the walking area to single file. Mr Parsley had inspected the specific areas mentioned and discussed with owners where appropriate. The area along the high kerb at the east end of Main Road is a particular concern because of the safety aspects. As an action from the last meeting, Mr Rickeard had discussed this with the owners of Buckels and some tidying of the vegetation had been carried out. Members nevertheless felt that more needed to be done and that the area next to the footpath, particularly by the fence, needed to be kept free of vegetation. The also felt that the road gutter should be kept clear and wild flowers not allowed to seed there as at present.

Action: Mr Parsley and Mr Rickeard to follow up

(b).The Oxfordshire Big Debate. Mr Rickeard to circulate the details of the meeting at the Cornerstone Arts Centre on the 16th September, 2010.

Action:Mr Rickeard

(c).TOE. Mr Rickeard to attend the final meeting of TOE at Dorchester Village Hall on 9th September,2010.

Action:Mr Rickeard

(d).OALC Council Tax Capping meeting. There were no volunteers to attend.

(e).OALC Local Councils and Charitable Trusts. Mr Duff had agreed to attend a meeting on 9th November,2010 at SODC. Councillors felt that one delgate was sufficient.

Action:Mr Duff

10.Finance.

(a).payments since the last meeting :-		£
Webhosting UK	(Website)	29.99
J Van Vliet	(Plants)	27.34
Didcot Angling	(Waders)	29.99
Hagbourne Village Hall	(Donation towards new extension)	8000.00
-ditto-	(Hire)	13.75
Crosscut Tree Surgery	(Tree Surgery, Great Mead)	750.00
Scion Estates	(Grass Cutting)	489.87
Thames Water	(Water supply)	18.21

(b). The receipts were :- Nil

(c)The account balances are :-
Community A/C. 1871.30

Business Base Rate Tracker A/C.	39032.08
Savings Bond.	80000.00

(d).East and West Hagbourne Cemetery :-

Community A/C.	285.24
Business Saver A/C.	2039.35

(e).Project Balances :-

Play Area	553.87
Butts Piece	15304.47
Parish Plan	615.48
Sports Facilities	85140.40
Britain in Bloom	414.62

The money recently received from Sr birinus School in memory of Monica has been credited to the Play Area account.

11.Any Other Business.

(a). Upper Cross. Mr Barfoot had reported that there was cracks appearing on the Upper Cross. Mr Rickeard and Mr Parsley had inspected and felt that the condition was not serious, however the clerk will arrange for an expert survey.

Action: Mr Parsley

(b).Attendance at Meetings. Mr Rickeard noted that Mr Wilkins had not attended a meeting since November 2009, and we believe he is now living outside the Parish. One further attempt will be made to contact him, following which he will be considered to have resigned, and his signatory responsibilities transferred to Mr Harding.

Action: Mr Parsley and Mr Rickeard to follow up.

(c).Footbridge, Grange Path. Mr Harding reported that the surface of the bridge was breaking up. The clerk to report the problem to OCC Countryside Services.

Action: Mr Parsley

(d).Mr Dawson requested an update on the problem of flooding in the car park. Mr Rickeard is following up the problem with OCC.

(e).Mr Emery queried whether we should include an article in the Parish Magazine regarding Affordable Housing. This topic was not highlighted as an concern in the Parish Plan process, however it was agreed that information on current provision and future needs would be valuable. Mt Emery to take the opportunity of the planning application by SOHA to talk to them

Action: Mr Emery

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.13pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 11th October, 2010 at Hagbourne Village Hall At 7.30pm. (NOTE: this revised date was agreed after the meeting)

Chairman :

Date:

Action No	Action	Who	Status
2009-10-02	Register Recreation Ground, Car Park and hopfields with Land Registry	RR/DB	Solicitors have been instructed
2009-10-09	Make recommendations on updating the village web site so that it is more easily accessible and undatable	CA	Proposals have been evaluated
2010-01-14	Discuss our understanding on North Croft maintenance and define a way forward	RR/DR/RP	Mtg held with OCC
2010-02-04	Review new model standing order and make a recommendation for EHPC	DB	
2010-03-02	Action new controller for car park lights	RP	To be actioned
2010-06-01	Seek applications for a village handyman	DR/RP	Done
2010-06-07	Install new dog bins	RP	In progress
2010-06-12	Arrange meeting of allotment holders and form an operating committee	RR/DR	Expected October
2010-07-01	Discuss keeping footpath clear with owners of Buckels	DR	Done –see item 9(a)
2010-07-02	Follow up offer of a village site for disposal of clippings	RP	Proved not to be practical
2010-07-03	Review and comment on PP draft chapter on footpaths	All	In progress
2010-07-04	Clarify rights of way for Sustrans route and feeder paths	DR	To be actioned
2010-07-05	Circulate proposals for PC newsletter content	DR/ID/RR	Done – see item 7
2010-07-06	Circulate draft proposals on traffic	DR/RE/DB	Done
2010-07-07	Resolve slow water flow at allotments	CA	Done
2010-07-08	Review and comment on proposals for wildlife area	All	Done
2010-07-09	Follow up photos for web with Mr Tyler, Mr Barfoot	CA	Done
2010-07-10	Follow up tree stumps at Great Mead	RP	Done
2010-09-01	Review and comment on the draft Parish Plan Chapters	All	
2010-09-02	Prepare Chapter 2 for PP by end September	RE	
2010-09-03	Prepare Chapter 1 for PP by end September	DR	
2010-09-04	Attend EA Self-Help group meeting in October	DR	
2010-09-05	Action signs for Butt's Piece	DR/RR/RP	
2010-09-06	Convene allotment holders' meeting	RR	
2010-09-07	Arrange vegetation cutting around seats at corner of Butt's Piece		

2010-09-08	Liaise with Mrs Napper to clarify costs for Butt's piece	DR	
2010-09-09	Progress plans for updating the web-site	CA	
2010-09-10	Follow up actions on keeping footpaths clear	RP/DR	
2010-09-11	Circulate details of OCC's Big Debate consultation	DR	Done
2010-09-12	Attend final meeting of TOE	DR	
2010-09-13	Attend OALC meeting on Councils and charitable Trusts	ID	
2010-09-14	Arrange survey of Upper Cross	RP	
2010-09-15	Follow up change of signatories and position of MW	RP/DR	
2010-09-16	Report Grange path footbridge to OCC	RP	
2010-09-17	Talk to SOHA to get their views on social/affordable housing needs in the Parish	RE	
2010-09-18	Prepare inputs for free Magazine	See Item 7b	
2010-09-19	Talk to PCC and magazine editors about cover page	DR	
2010-09-20	Find the list of volunteers who circulated the PP questionnaire	RE	