

East Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting - 3rd September, 2009.

A meeting of the East Hagbourne Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday, 3rd September, 2009 when the following members were present :-

Mr I Duff
Mr C Alberry
Mr D Button
Mr R Dawson
Mr R Emery
Mr D Harding
Mr R Rendell
Mr M Wilkins
Mr R Parsley (Clerk)

Three members of the public also attended.

Apologies were received from Mr D Rickeard due to a business commitment and Mr P Greene (District and County Councillor).

Mr Duff welcomed Mr Harding who has been co-opted as a Parish Councillor.

1. The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th July, 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters Arising.

(a). Neighbourhood Watch. Mr Duff had contacted Mrs Parker who is happy to stand down as the Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator although she is not leaving the district at present.

Mrs D Duff and Mrs M Hardiman have both shown an interest to take over with Mrs Hardiman becoming the main point of contact.

(b). Parish Plan. Mr Emery to hasten Mr Hands for an interim report in addition to Mr Rickeard and Mr Duff who are also requesting information. It was also agreed to ask Mr Hands to make a presentation at the next Parish Council meeting.

(c). Hagbourne Charities Committee Vacancy. Mr Duff stated that a new committee member for the Hagbourne Charities Committee need not necessarily be a Parish Councillor and that there was no urgency to recruit as meetings are only held annually. He requested we carry over any decision until the next meeting.

(d). Responsibility of Footpaths. Mr Rendell to continue to research into who is responsible for three local footpaths. Mr Barfoot offered to help stating he had old maps that might help.

Mr Emery suggested that Mr Rendell should contact Mr Townsend who may also be able to help.

(e). Village Hall Footpath. Mr Hughes had cut the hedge bordering the Village Hall footpath.

(f). Bakers Lane to Northcroft Footpath. The matter is in hand and OCC have issued a works order.

(g).Blewbury Parish Council wish to create a track from Blewbury to the Sustrans track. Mrs Barclay-Watt of Blewbury Parish Council to attend our next meeting to present their proposal.

(h).Notice Boards. Mr Duff stated that the cost of notice boards could be as much as £800.00. It was agreed to identify our needs before deciding the type of notice board and also to determine who should be able to advertise.

3.District and County Councillor's Report.

Mr Greene has unfortunately broken a leg but sent the following report. SODC's new scheme of rubbish/recycling/food collections is going well with fewer complaints each week. Recycling was 40% before the new scheme started and is now 70%.

Re. OCC. The SCOTS report will be agreed by Cabinet on 15th September. There will be a presentation to local County Councillors on 8th September and the Growth and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee will discuss it on 16th September.

Mr Rendell requested information on the outstanding delivery of extra recycling bins. It was suggested we request for the Speed Indication Device (SID) to be used in East Hagbourne especially in the evening.

Mr Emery suggested we send a letter of to Mr Greene to wish him a speedy recovery.

4.Items for Decision.

(a).Recreation Ground.

(i).Disposal of Green Waste. It was agreed to obtain a quote for any future hedge cutting including the disposal of all clippings to avoid the need to dump in the Recreation Ground or to use a Recycling Depot.

(ii)Access to the Paddock. Mr Rendell to chase the solicitors for a ruling on the use of the Recreation Ground for access to the adjacent paddock and to register the Recreation Ground with the Land Registry.

(b).Great Mead. It was agreed to obtain a quote from Ivor Beer to fill the pot holes along Great Mead and to check whether Great Mead is a 'Private Road'.

(c).Monica Lawson Memorial. It had been discussed with West Hagbourne Parish Council and suggested that a tree and bench would be a suitable memorial. Ideas for a suitable site are required. West Hagbourne will be discussing the matter at their next Parish Council meeting.

5.Community Sports Project.

(a) Mr Rickeard reported that our grant application to WREN for the MUGA's will be heard in September but the outcome will not be known until November. The Football club has carried out work to the pavilion over the summer, particularly to the showers which are now modernised and provide separate facilities for home and away teams. The club will continue with further work as resources become available.

A village netball team participated in an enjoyable competition at Abingdon during July. More new players are needed

(b).There is no further news on the Tennis Courts.

(c).Play Area. Mr Emery queried the contingency of £2,000.00. It is hoped that this will not now be needed.

Mr Laing, Mr and Mrs Rendell met on site to decide the actual location of the Play Area so as not to impact on the slide and any future buildings.

Mr Wood has kindly allowed an area on his property to store equipment and for the contractor's use which should save approximately £2,000.00.

The work started on September 1st and will take about two months to complete. It is proposed to have a 'Grand Opening Ceremony' and to invite representatives from SODC and TOE. SODC have requested their name is on the Play Area sign advertising their involvement which will also include TOE and the Parish Council.

It has been suggested the Play Area is named after Monica Lawson.

There are a number of benches at John Lawson's that need to be checked for suitability and then cleaned and treated. Volunteers will be needed.

An order has been placed with Trojan Fencing to supply and fix the boundary fence and a 50% payment is required in advance.

The age group of the users is to be decided.

6.Reports.

(a).Village Hall. Mr Barfoot presented the Village Hall plans for future development. See App.1. Mr Button stated the Parish Council would require a formal request for a grant to include in the agenda of the next meeting. He agreed an email would be satisfactory.

Mr Emery requested a copy of the plans if we propose to increase the 2010/11 precept to fund a grant.

(b).Planning Applications.

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

P09/W0599/RET.

70 New Road.

Strong views.

No case has been made for the retrospective planning application. Is a toilet in the garage planning ahead?

The changes must not be allowed to become permanent.

Please confirm the time scale will be monitored. Where will the cars be parked? A condition is required stating no parking on the road or verge.

P09/W0346

23 Blewbury Road.

Withdrawn.

Mr Emery to write to Mrs Muceku, SODC regarding the content of the proposed planning training sessions to cover applications properly in respect of planning policies and guidelines.

(c).Didcot Development. Mr Emery stated that there had been no further progress regarding the SCOTS report. The report will now be discussed on September 15th 2009 and not on October 15th 2009. The Growth and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee will have the report on their agenda for September 16th 2009. This will raise issues on the Southern Perimeter road, links to the A34 and other traffic issues. It may also have input on the new Didcot housing.

He is disappointed that OCC have not responded to our input. Traffic will have the most impact on East Hagbourne.

The next Didcot Forum meeting is early October. Everything appears to have slowed down at present. The most active area is at Didcot station.

We must rely on Patrick Greene for any updates on the SCOTS report.

(d).Butts Piece. Mr Rendell reported there had been no help from Thames Water regarding the water supply but Mrs Kisby has a contact who sinks wells and he has been asked to visit and check the possibilities of sinking a well. We are allowed to extract up to 40,000 litres of water per day. If possible it could be available to the allotments next spring. The cost of a well is approximately £850. 00 but the water would be free.

Mr Duff drew attention to an ARI initiative to assist people planning allotments that was reported in the recent issue of the NALC Newsletter. Mr Rendell would follow this up.

Mrs Napper is working on the 'wild area' and the open area will be reseeded in October.

Mr Rendell stated that a motor vehicle is using the eastern footpath so that the owner could take his dog for a walk. It was agreed to check if the path is a designated footpath and to speak to the local PCSO regarding the use of the vehicle.

(e).East Hagbourne Website. Mr Alberry stated that the website had taken off and they were being overwhelmed with information. All efforts were being made to keep up to date.

(f).Calor Gas Village of the Year. The presentation night is at Kennington on October 7th,2009. Mr Duff to arrange who will attend.

(g).Flooding. Mr Rickeard has stated a meeting was held with Keith Lead of the Environment Agency to obtain their input on ongoing maintenance of the stream channels.

SODC have commenced work to cut the vegetation along the lower channel downstream from Blewbury Road.

Following a severe rain cell on 6th August there was flash flooding in Main Road and Blewbury Road where blocked drains were identified. We are not aware that any water entered houses on this occasion. OCC carried out a camera survey on 27th August to investigate the condition of the drainage in Main Road and Mr Cox stated a few problems were found.

(h).Standing Orders. A copy of the new edition has been ordered from OALC. Mr Button's draft copy for Parish Councillor's use has been held in abeyance.

(i).Britain in Bloom. The regional presentation is at Newbury Town Hall on 28th September at 2.30 pm. Mr Duff to contact Caroline Hunt for names of the Bloom Team who might like to attend.

Mr Emery has arranged for himself and Margaret Emery, Sharon Langsford, Terry Taylor and John Lawson to attend the national presentations at Torquay on 23rd September.

7.Correspondence. None.

8.Finance.

(a).Payments since the last meeting :-

	£
Focus. (Paint)	15.99
Hagbourne Village Hall. (Hire)	34.12
Waste Recycling Group. (Grant arrangement)	2300.40
Scion Estates Ltd. (Grass Cutting)	573.18
DC Solutions. (Hedge Cutting, etc.)	369.23
Playdale Playgrounds Ltd. (Play Area Equipment)	35299.25
SODC (Emptying Dog Bins)	110.90

BDO Stoy Hayward. (Audit)	460.00
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(b).The receipts were :-

St Birinus School. (Donation to Monica Lawson Fund).	68.49
Sale of Surplus Equipment.	150.00

(f).Annual Audit. The accounts for 2008/09 have been certified and duly signed by the external auditor. They recommend that the Parish Council agree to the internal auditor's comments that the clerks salary is subject to income tax. They reviewed the level of the Fidelity Guarantee cover and stated it would be insufficient when taking into account the 2009/10 precept payments. This figure will be within the cover when payments are made for the Play area so no action need be taken at present. In future the amount of cover will be closely monitored.

9.Any Other Business.

(a).Mr Rendell reported that cars from Passey's garage were blocking the access to the footpath to Northcroft. It was agreed to ask Mr Passey to leave a suitable gap for pedestrians when parking the cars.

(b).Mr Button stated that the new financial format was in hand.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.08 pm.

The next meeting is on Thursday, 8th October, 2009.

Chairman :-

Hagbourne Village Hall

Proposed Extension in 2010

Funding Presentation to Parish Councils

As you all probably know I am the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee. Known as "Hagbourne Village Hall" the Hall was founded in 1926 to provide a service to the populations of both villages for occasions when a public venue is needed. In fact we welcome hiring applications from anyone, but offer Hagbourne parishioners a discount.

For many years we have had a mix of Casual hirers, that is, those who wish to hire for a single event, and Regular hirers who are generally offering educational facilities to their own clients; these include such varied groups as Scouts, dancing classes, sewing groups and the gardening club. By far the biggest of the regular users is the Hagbourne Pre-School group which started by using only one of the Hall's rooms but now has grown to use the whole of the Hall every single morning, and three afternoons, during term-time.

The Pre-School group has become so successful and is in so much demand that we are now having to consider physically extending the Hall to improve the facilities we offer. We wish to increase significantly the size of the entrance hall for the twin purposes of accommodating waiting parents and retaining expensive heat energy, and to provide increased toilet facilities for the children. This last factor will allow the Pre-School organisation to increase the number of children it can accommodate by meeting Ofsted's ratio of toilets for a given number of children.

The Hall Committee has pondered this matter for some time and has consulted its regular users to discover what improvements they would consider useful. As a result we would like to include with the extension more storage (with which our Hall is singularly ill-equipped) and a Meeting Room which is something we have not had before. This room would be carpeted and furnished with a small conference table and padded chairs and would be available at modest rent for any organisation wishing to hold a "clean", i.e. food-free, meeting of up to, say, 15 people. Indeed, it would probably be suitable for routine Parish Council meetings and would certainly be made available for such at a modest rate.

Initial contact has been made with SODC planners who have not found anything objectionable in our ideas and have encouraged us to submit detailed drawings for Planning Permission. Based on preliminary sketches our building costs are projected to be in the order of £60,000, exclusive of provision for heating and electrical wiring. The Hall Committee has foreseen the need for such an extension for quite a while and has, over the past three years, applied a charging structure which has allowed us to put into a Reserve Account certain monies specifically towards its cost and can confidently

advance a sum of £18,000, to which we can add a generous grant of £25,000 awarded by the Oxford County Council as a result of an application by the Pre-School group. On the grounds that the Village Hall is an indispensable part of the communities of East and West Hagbourne we hope the Parish Councils will feel able to assist in meeting our target and accordingly we ask East HPC for the sum of £8,000 and West HPC, with its significantly smaller budget, for the sum of £2,000. I should add two comments here: **first** that the County Council award is made on the clear requirement that we commence work next year and therefore, owing to the extended timescale imposed by the necessity of acquiring Planning Permission and obtaining quotes from builders, we need to know very soon whether we can count on your valuable financial assistance, and **second**, that the Village Hall's own, currently-specified commitment does not use all its monetary resources. We have deliberately kept back a sum in respect of contingency **as well as** other funds which our treasurer feels are necessary for any organisation to have immediately available in case of unexpected need.

In the event that these applications were fully successful we should have a total fund of £53,000, leaving us short of the projected total by £7,000 excluding any contingency required. We plan to apply to other sources of funding such as Awards for All and the Landfill Communities Fund for the balance, but such organisations will expect us to have involved our local communities beforehand by asking you, our own Parish Councils, for assistance, before we approach national organisations. We also envisage any funding shortfall to be reduced by fundraising activities.

Councillors, the Village Hall has been in active existence since 1926 thus providing a valuable service which is central to our twin communities for over eighty years. The current Hall Committee would like to put the Hall into a sound physical and financial position to continue this service for the foreseeable future and we earnestly ask your financial assistance to realise this project. To help you in making your decision, we can inform you that the Hall will not need to expend any Parish Council grant monies until July 2010 at the earliest, and therefore any contribution could be spread over two financial years if you wished.