

East Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting – 8th October, 2009.

A meeting of the East Hagbourne Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday, 8th October, 2009 when the following members were present :-

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

One member of the public also attended.

An apology was received from Mr P Greene. (District and County Councillor).

1. The minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd September, 2009 was confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. Matters Arising.

(a). Responsibility of Footpaths. Mr Rendell to continue the research into who is responsible for three local footpaths.

(b). Recreation Ground. Mr Rendell to progress the registration of the Recreation Ground with the Land Registry.

(c). The clerk to check the status of Great Mead before any progress can be made regarding the potholes and damaged manhole covers.

(d). Bakers Lane. The problem of cars from Passey's garage in Baker's Lane blocking FP 6 has not been resolved. Mr Passey is aware of the problem and Mr Rickeard to ask him again to leave enough space to access the footpath.

3. District and County Councillor.

No report.

4. Items for Decision.

(a). Cycle Track. (Blewbury to the Sustrans Track). Mrs Barclay-Watt representing Blewbury Parish Council requested the Parish Council's views on a cycle track from Blewbury to the Sustrans Track. They had had problems with landowners when pursuing a direct route via Upton. The Parish Council had no objections in principle to a suggested route via the old Sewerage Works, and suggested that it could then proceed along Moor Lane to join the existing Sustrans route. She was advised to contact Mr J Drewe, Coscote Farm for his opinion as his land would be affected.

(b).Village Hall Grant. The request from the Village Hall committee for a grant of £8.000.00 towards improvements to the Village Hall was addressed. Following a short discussion Mr Wilkins proposed a grant of £8.000.00, seconded by Mr Harding and agreed unanimously to be effective when the project goes ahead.

Mr Jones then displayed the vase and framed certificate from the Britain in Bloom competition.

(c).Monica Lawson Fund. Mr Duff stated it had been agreed with West Hagbourne Parish Council to share the costs of a memorial for Monica Lawson but it was proving difficult to find a suitable location. He would be discussing this further with West Hagbourne.The Council agreed that the idea of involving the community by having a competition to design the bench was a good one..

(d).Hagbourne Charities Committee Vacancy. There were no volunteers or nominees from the Parish Council to fill the vacancy. Mr Rickeard asked if it was possible to find a nominee by the next meeting.

(e).Tree Surgery – Hagbourne Parish Church. Mr Harries requested on behalf of the PCC for a grant of approximately £170.00 to share the cost of pollarding the laurel trees in the Churchyard that have become very tall and are causing problems for adjoining neighbours. He suggested they are lowered to 10ft to encourage new growth from ground level and become a hedge again. Before any decision was made it was agreed to survey the trees and possibly suggest they should be reduced even lower to ensure that any new growth was at the base of the trees.

5.Principles for reviewing Planning Applications.

Mr Rickeard suggested that Parish Councillors need more expertise to comment on planning applications. The proposed project in Blewbury Road is a prime example. An architect had approached Mr Rickeard before any plans have been received from SODC. It had been agreed not to become involved before the plans were submitted. It was agreed our first step to help understand planning applications would be for Mr Emery to progress his communications with Mrs Muceku, SODC regarding the Town and Parish Councillor Training sessions as he had not received a reply to his email sent on 4th September, 2009 when replying to her letter. Mr Wilkins volunteered to attend any future training sessions by SODC.

6. Community Sports Project.

There was no further news on the proposed pavilion and MUGA'S.
Mr Rendell gave an update on the Play Area - See Appendix.1.
He added that Mr Greene had also been invited to the official opening.

7. Reports.

(a).Parish Plan. Mr Rickeard referred to Mr Hands preliminary working document and stated he would work with Mr Hands on a more polished version for the next meeting..

(b).Planning Applications.

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

P09/W0831/LB	36 Blewbury Road	No strong views
P09/W0852	1 Windsor Crescent	No strong views but we feel strongly that the concerns of the neighbour should be addressed.
P09/W0885	1A Blewbury Road	No strong views
P09/W0905	41 Blewbury Road	Under discussion
P09/W0919	10 Bishops Orchard	-ditto-

(c) Didcot Development. Mr Emery reported that he and Mr Townsend had attended a meeting with Kathy Browning, Transport Planner, OCC to discuss the outcome of the SCOTS report. There will be a report by the next meeting.

(d).Butts Piece

See Appendix.2.

(e).East Hagbourne Website. Mr Alberry stated that at present he is the only one that can update the website. He will investigate using third party companies that specialise in hosting Parish Council websites and provide a simple interface for updating that would allow the work to be shared.

It was agreed that the minutes of meetings should not be signed before going on the website. He requested more photographs of the Produce Show and the details of Beth Riley the new archivist. It was suggested he contacted John Lawson for the latter.

(f).Calor Gas Village of the Year Competition. Mr Duff announced that East Hagbourne were the South Oxfordshire District winners. The presentations were made at Kennington Village Hall when we received a cheque for £500.00 and a framed certificate. There will be no competition next year as Calor Gas are withdrawing their sponsorship.

Mr Rickeard asked that the new school gate project be added to Agenda for the next meeting, and suggested that the Council could donate the prize from the Calor Village competition, and perhaps match these funds from our own reserves.

(g).Flooding.

See Appendix.3.

(h).Standing Orders. Mr Button stated he hoped to provide a draft for the next meeting. The clerk to chase OALC for a copy of the new edition.

(i).Britain in Bloom. It was agreed a vote of thanks be made to the Bloom Team and to discuss our plans for future competitions at the next meeting. Mr Emery agreed to convene a meeting to give thanks for this year's efforts and to consider if we should participate in future years.

8. Correspondence.

None.

9.Finance.

(a).Payments since the last meeting :-

	£
Playsaftey L:td. (Inspection)	149.90
Webhosting UK (Website)	29.99
Scion Estates (Grass Cutting)	573.18
DC Solutions (Strimming, etc)	31.22
Thames Valley Copiers (Maintenance Contract)	197.80
Trojan Fencing. (Fence & Gates)	3536.35
R.Parsley. (Clerks Salary & Expenses)	1324.38
Aasvogel (Skips)	320.00

(b).The receipts were :-

	£
SODC (Precept - Second Instalment 2009/10)	18554.00
SODC (Grant 1 st Stage – Play Area)	7628.00

(f).Precept (2010/11) There was a preliminary discussion on the draft precept for 2010/11 and the final decision will be made at the next meeting.

(g).Mr Button presented a draft proposal of a new layout to present our financial position in future that could be updated and presented at future meetings. It was agreed in principle to adopt this layout when the final draft is agreed.

10. Any Other Business.

(a).Dog Cleanliness. Mr Rickeard asked Mr Harding to help with the ongoing problem of dog fouling. Mr Harding agreed and stated that it is a major problem everywhere. Mr Rickeard stated that the Vale of the White Horse DC have a Dog Warden who may be able to offer advice. Mr Harding to collect any information that could help with the problem.

(b).Mr Duff stated that several villagers had asked if any traffic calming measures were possible in the village especially along Main Road.

He had also received a report that residents in Bishops Orchard were parking on the Open Area. It was agreed to report the matter to SODC.

Mr Napper had highlighted the problem of light pollution from street lights. We had recently agreed not to change the hours when street lights were switched on.

(c).Mr Dawson stated the weeds under the car park hedge were unsightly and needed to be tidied up. The work will be passed to the handyman.

(d).Mr Rendell stated the area around the Sustran's seats on the corner of Butts Piece is still overgrown. The work will be given to the handyman as Sustrans have let us down.

(e).Mr Button reminded the committee that all our assets need to be registered with the Land Commission. The car park and Hopfields will need to be registered in addition to the recreation ground. Mr Rendell requested maps to identify the sites.

(f).Mr Wilkins asked if some footpaths could be improved. It was pointed out that OCC were responsible for designated footpaths and would only carry out any work when they were deemed to be dangerous. Mr Rickeard asked that this, as well as possible traffic calming measures, be considered later in the context of a Parish Plan.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15pm .

The next meeting is on Thursday, 19th November, 2009.

Chairman :-

Date :-

Summary of Actions.

Action No	Action	Responsible	Status
2009-10-01	Find out who is responsible for selected footpaths	RR	in progress
2009-10-02	Register Recreation Ground with Land Registry	RR	in progress
2009-10-03	Check status of Great Mead before assessing necessary work	RP	in progress
2009-10-04	Talk to Mr Passey re cars blocking footpath access	DR	
2009-10-05	Propose nominees for Parish Charities vacancy by next meeting	All	
2009-10-06	Review proposal to trim laurel trees in Churchyard	DR	done
2009-10-07	Continue to pursue training on planning review	RE	ongoing
2009-10-08	Work with Peter Hands and others to produce a more comprehensive summary of the Parish Plan questionnaire responses	DR	
2009-10-09	Make recommendations on updating the village web site so that it is more easily accessible and undatable	CA	
2009-10-10	Make proposal for new Standing Orders	DB	
2009-10-11	Convene a meeting to give thanks for the Britian in Bloom effort, and consider future participation plans	RE	
2009-10-12	Gather information that will help us to address the continuing problems caused by a minority of dog owners	DH	
2009-10-13	Report parking in open areas of Bishop's Orchard to SODC	RP	
2009-10-14	Ask handyman to address weeds under car park hedge and around benches on near Butts Piece	RP	
2009-10-15	Advise PC on registration of the Car Park and hopfields with Land Registry	RR	

Appendix.1 Playground Update.

We are pleased to report that the project is almost completed.

Virtually all the play equipment is in place in accordance with the proposals. There is just one small problem which will be resolved by Playdale. The Pendulum swing has been delivered with a tyre seat rather than the basket seat (which encourages group play). It appears that there has been a mix up by Playdale (the installation contractor) when ordering the equipment from another supplier (Wicksteed).

They have agreed to correct the mistake, however there is a lead in time of 3-4 weeks which means the basket seat will not be in place for the Grand Opening. But, in the meantime, the tyre swing is perfectly serviceable – just less exciting!

Trojan Fencing are currently on site and, weather permitting, should have completed their installation by the end of this week. Turfing the damaged area will follow on immediately and be completed by Monday 12th October. This work is being carried out by Peter Wood's landscaping contractor at slightly less per square foot than the Scion quote. Peter has also agreed to water and feed the turf.

We will need to gauge whether the grass needs to be mowed before the Grand Opening.

ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) will make their statutory post-installation inspection on 15th October.

Our thanks go to the volunteers who helped strip and treat the four benches with the first coat of woodstain. We would like more help with the next two coats – all the really hard work has been done. The benches are in John Lawson's rear garden. Peter Wood has agreed to transport the benches to the recreation ground and install them at a minimal cost.

Peter has given so much of his own time and that of his paid apprentice. He is only going to recharge his costs (ie landfill skips etc). This project would have cost a further £12,500 were it not for his generosity (£10,000 for site clearance and £2,500 for welfare facilities for Playdale (electricity, water, toilet, storage etc)). Could I propose that the Parish Council make a small gift at the end of the project to say 'Thank you'? He is to be present at the opening.

Finance

(all sums quoted in this section are net of VAT at the Parish Council can re-claim)

The Parish Council has paid the first invoice received from Playdale for £30,695 and has received back £7,627.70 from SODC (24.85%).

Two further invoices have been received from Playdale for £17,731 and £12,031, totalling £29,762. Pending resolution of the problem with the Pendulum Swing (see above I have only passed the second invoice for payment (ie £17,731).

The Parish Council has received and paid the first invoice from Trojan Fencing for £3,075.

A second application to SODC has been made for 24.85% of the above approved invoices. We expect to receive a further £5,170.29 from SODC in the next 2-3 weeks.

A first application to TOE has been made for £25.96% of the bills we have settled, ie for £13,369.66. We have received an acknowledgment of the application from Fiona Danks who has said she will be dealing with this in the next 3-4 weeks.

The Grand Opening – Tuesday 20th October @ 11am

The play area will be opened jointly by Councillor Malcolm Leonard, Chairman of SODC along with Fiona Danks from TOE. They will jointly cut the ribbon.

We have invited representatives from both Hagbourne Primary School and Hagbourne PreSchool. Richard Jones has confirmed that he will be sending nearly two classes(!) and Margaret Emery has confirmed that the whole of the PreSchool (approx 30 children) will be present.

Also invited: All the Parish Council; Nick Quail; John Lawson

I have spoken to Didcot Herald and BBC Oxford (Radio/TV) who have all expressed an interest in attending.

Dave Rickeard has agreed to say a few words on behalf of the Parish Council.

Appendix.2. Butts Piece Update.

Andy Dixon of Groundwater Monitoring & Drilling Ltd has confirmed that sinking a well is feasible. This follows a site visit and his brief research into other wells in the vicinity.

The cost would be approx £2,000 (which assumes some voluntary assistance for the three days he would be on site). It is also subject to checking with the utility companies that there are no conduits traversing the location. He expects to drill down about 10m before finding sufficient water.

Given that we would have to spend an unknown amount of money locating the existing supply and extending the pipe into the allotment area together with the possibility of incurring costs to

repair the existing pipe length, I believe that there is a strong case for proceeding with the proposal, not least because of its 'Green' credentials.

It should be born in mind that there are no charges for the water extracted, so the only cost will be periodic maintenance of the pump (which is expected to be relatively minimal given the low-tech nature of the installation).

This recommendation is subject to:

1. Confirmation from Andy Dixon of the bore size
- 2.. Confirmation that Hagbourne Charities are happy (I will need to check the lease terms and in any event speak with Max Beran).

It has been reported to me by a parishioner that 'the older people in the village know where the water supply is'. Given that we have already approached Max Beran, Michael Bishop and others, I personally do not hold out much hope of success.

Scion continue to keep the kick around space and allotment area mown at a cost, previously reported to the Parish Council, of £65 per attendance (every 2-3 weeks in the growing season).

We are waiting on Scion to provide a quote for seeding the kick around space this autumn.

Appendix.3. Flooding Update:

OCC Highways Department have carried out nearly 2 weeks of work on the road drains in East Hagbourne, using an internal camera to inspect the drains and clearing out obstructions by flushing. Their work concentrated on the areas most susceptible to flooding, i.e Main Road, Blewbury Road and the village end of New Road.

SODC contractors have cut and cleared vegetation from the lower stream channel downstream of Tadley. A small village working party has checked the lengths of both channels and cleared some blockages caused by small branches and weeds in the stream. The stream now looks in good shape to handle the next rains, but ongoing attention will be needed to prevent vegetation and debris from building up.