

## East Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.

A meeting of the East Hagbourne Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 when the following members were present :-

Mr D Rickeard (Chairman)

Mr C Alberry

Mr D Button

Mr R Dawson

Mr I Duff

Mr D Harding

Mr R Rendell

Mr R Parsley (Clerk)

Mr P Greene (District & County Councillor), part time

Two members of the public also attended.

### 1. Attendance and apologies.

Apologies were received from Mr M Wilkins due to business commitments and Mr R Emery due to evening classes.

### 2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Actions and Matters Arising.

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

(b). Recreation Ground, Hopfields and the Car Park. Mr Rendell and Mr Button to continue the registration with the Land Registry.

(c). Following representations by a member of the public at the last meeting, the clerk has regularly monitored the parking at the junction of Harwood Road and The Croft. The situation has significantly improved since the snow has melted, and at present there appears to be no great hazard. However the situation will continue to be monitored to assess if any improvements are needed.

Other actions have either been completed or are discussed under the agenda items below - see Appendix 1 for summary.

### 4. District and County Councillor.

In response to questions raised at the previous meeting, Mr Greene stated that development of 4000 houses at Grenoble Road has now clearly been refused, that the houses remain in the

County obligation, and that no one knows where the proposed houses will now go. He believes that the County have written to government asking that the obligation be removed.

£600k had been received in 2009/10 from the New Growth Point initiative, and it was hoped that £1.4M would be available in 2010/11, but this was not guaranteed. This is less than was originally envisaged, however there is no indication that number of houses required will be reduced.

Great Western park is proceeding at a rate of 150 houses/year rather than 400/year because of the recession and this means that the flow of revenue from developers is reduced. The Council are seeking money from the Government to fund the roads necessary for the development.

He said that there were no visits at present to Recycling Plants and that only small groups would be allowed in the future. Referring to recycled glass he stated that it is processed through rollers including glass of all colours but not drinking glasses.

The Police budget was not known at present so the District Council tax had not been finalised. The County tax had been increased by 2.75%. He stated that Anna Robinson, SODC was willing to discuss any of the above issues and would attend a Parish Council meeting if requested.

Regarding Didcot development, housing is expected to go to the north, but it is still not final. Completion of the northern perimeter road is important to improve traffic flow by encouraging vehicles to avoid the town, however the acquisition of land do this had not been finalised. Completion of the road would also facilitate building to the north.

Referring to potholes he stated that they were graded according to priority, which meant that all potholes in any area are not repaired at the same time, and he had made representations to handle matters more efficiently.

Finally regarding the concerns of the Southern perimeter road he stated that it would only be necessary if houses were built to the south of Didcot.

Asked about the LPT3 process, Mr Greene said that he chairs the group, and that it is a working group, not a final step in the process. He spoke of possible changes to speed limits in the county which would include some 20 mph limits near schools, however it is not clear if this level of detail will appear in the policy document. There will be lots more consultation.

Mr Duff asked about the southern perimeter road. Mr Greene said that the SCOTS report made it clear that such a road would not be needed if building was to the north of Didcot as expected. A decision on this question awaits the Core Strategy document which is expected to be finalised in early 2011.

#### 5. Items for Decision.

(a). Monica Lawson Memorial. The competition to design a memorial seat is under way. Marion Judd of WHPC is coordinating.

(b). New School Gate. Mr Rickeard stated that the gates were now completed and in place. Mr Harding mentioned that although the new school gates were very impressive the groundwork had not been completed very satisfactorily. The white stones on only part of the entrance.

(c). Village Hall Footpath. Mr Rickeard reported that discussions had been held with the Village Hall Chairman in preparation for fencing of the western end of the path. This will allow more play area at the Village Hall once the planned extension is completed, but will require the hedge adjacent to West End Cottage to be trimmed back to the property line. This has been discussed with the occupants, who have agreed that this will be done, but asked that no play equipment be installed near the house that could encourage noisy play by older children. A path width of 1.2 metres will be maintained (plus a 10cm tolerance for the hedge to grow back between

trimmings). This width is the same as already exists at the east end of the path, so is considered appropriate. The path will remain unfenced for now along the length of the VH building. Mr Rickeard read the text of a note to be sent to the involved parties, outlining the above points, which was agreed by all members.

(d).Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire. It was proposed by Mr Duff, seconded by Mr Alberry and agreed unanimously to make a donation of £30.00.

(e). Potholes. The potholes at the entrance to Northcroft and Wilcher Close are causing concern. Since the last meeting (Action 2010-01-14), a discussion on site had been held including another resident of North Croft. Mr Rendell stated that a Land Registry search to establish ownership had failed. He had spoken to Mrs Parker, 19 The Croft who could not recall any previous repair work to the area of tarmac in question. Mr Rendell will continue progress by contacting Thames Water and British Gas to try and ascertain who they obtain permission from to carry out any road works.

(f). Internal Auditor. A new Internal Auditor is required and it was decided to approach Arrow Accountancy, Bicester, The Tax Team, East Hagbourne and Mr Alberry suggested we might engage a Didcot Accountancy firm. The clerk and Mr Button to discuss the way forward on or after March 10<sup>th</sup>,2010.

Action:- Mr Button and Mr Parsley.

(g).Setting up and Managing Allotments Course. Mr Button proposed that two candidates attend the course, seconded by Mr Rickeard and agreed unanimously. The course fee is £125.00 per person.

(h).Insurance. It was unanimously agreed to obtain alternative quotes to Zurich Municipal for the Parish Council insurance. In addition it was suggested that local Parish Councils are approached to ascertain which firms they employ.

Action:- Mr Parsley.

## 6. Planning Applications.

(a).Principles for reviewing planning applications. There was no new information to report, and it is proposed that this item be dropped as a specific issue in future meetings

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

P10/W0009	23 Blewbury Road	No strong views – but the neighbours (No 21) have objected because the extension will block their light.
P10/W0068	22 & 24 New Road.	Refused The proposed development is an overdevelopment for the building plot and considered unneighbourly. The access is inadequate and the parking space limited. The extra traffic would be very obtrusive to the neighbours.
P10/0010/LB	5 Main Road	Under Discussion
P10/0137	Blue Hills, Coscote	-ditto-
P10/0133	Coscote Farm	-ditto-

(c).East Hagbourne Discussion Group.

Mr Alberry has set up an electronic bulletin board where Councillors can post comments on planning applications. This has been used to a limited extent so far, but some problems have been experienced in accessing the system.. Mr Alberry will issue a brief guide on how to use it. The paper system will continue to be the main reference while we gain familiarity with the new system.

### 7.Parish Plan

Mr Rickeard explained the work in progress and the actions that need to be taken. See progress summary in Appendix 2.

### 8. Britain in Bloom.

The organisers were contacted in January, but advised that there was no information on this year's regional competition until the invitations are sent out : this is expected at the end of February.

### 9. Reports.

(a).Play Area. A complaint had been received regarding the muddy state of one of the entrance to one of the Play Area gates. It has been a problem with the recent weather conditions and it was agreed there was no immediate solution but that it will be monitored in future.

Mr Rickeard enquired whether the seats had been secured. Mr Rendell was under the opinion the repairs were in progress, but would check.

Mr Rickeard suggested that the chain link fencing on the south side of the Play Area be replaced by similar fencing to the other three sides as it is being continually being broken down.

Mr Rendell said that there should be sufficient funds left in the budget to do this, and he would have a site meeting with Trojan Fencing to discuss the problem.

(b).Didcot Development– No Report.

(c).Butts Piece. Mr Rendell stated it had been agreed to proceed with Thames Water as the supplier of water to the allotments as the research into the use of a well had indicated the yield may be low. Thames water have quoted £1932.00 inc. VAT to connect a supply. Other costs will include digging a trench to the location of the tap, etc. All costs were unanimously agreed.

It was suggested a water tank is provided so that it would be easier and quicker to collect water. This idea was taken on board.

A draft plan of the allotment area has been prepared and a 6ft chain link fence will be erected to include three gates.

(d).East Hagbourne Website. No Report.

(e).Dog Cleanliness. Mr Rickeard reported that following a meeting between himself, Mr Harding and the local Police officers, a newsletter has been prepared for the for the next edition of the Parish Magazine outlining the facts and responsibilities of good owners, in the hope that more people can be educated to carry out their responsibilities. The Police have indicated their support for this initiative and remain available to provide further support if needed.

(f).Flooding. Mr Rickeard reported that he had followed up with OCC, who were preparing a programme of work following the camera survey of drains carried out last year. He had also received an informal survey of Main Road drains from Mr Barfoot, which he had forwarded to OCC with a request that they take the information into consideration as they developed their plans.

(g) Standing Orders. The new model standing orders issued by NALC seem to be a big improvement over the older version, and should make the job of preparing our own document easier. Mr Button will continue to review and make a recommendation.

Action: Mr Button

(h). Community Sports Project. Please refer to the Parish Plan, Appendix 2.

#### 10. Correspondence.

(a). Direct Information Service. It was unanimously agreed not to subscribe to this monthly document.

(b). Oxford Play Partnership. Mr Rendell to advise if any action is needed.

#### 11. Finance.

(a). Payments since the last meeting :-

		£
CPRE	(Subscription)	29.00
Thames Valley Utilities	(Survey)	235.00
OPFA	(Subscription)	42.00
Thames Valley Copiers	(Copy Paper)	35.00
SODC	(Dog bin emptying)	582.00

(b). The receipts were :-

Trust for Oxfordshire Environment Ltd	(Grant)	7930.00
HM Revenue & Customs	(VAT Refund)	10972.71
PCC	(Donation)	4.00

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(f). Savings Bond. A bond is available to invest in excess of £20000.00 at 1.15% interest for a nine month period. No withdrawals are allowed.

Mr Duff proposed we invest £80000.00, seconded by Mr Rendell and agreed unanimously.

Action:- Mr Parsley.

#### 12. Any Other Business.

(a). Following discussion with the village Hall, Mr Rickeard suggested that the car park lights are electronically timed to ensure the lamps are not lit unnecessarily. The idea was adopted and the clerk to approach Mr Wood, Pipes and Wires for a quotation.

Action Mr Parsley.

(b). Mr Alberry asked if the plans for the Annual Meeting had been made. Mr Rickeard stated that they should be finalised at the next Parish Council meeting and asked for volunteers to help. He will email everybody with his suggestions.

Action: Mr Rickeard

(c). Mr Dawson asked if a replacement litter bin for the Village Hall had been requested. The clerk confirmed that a bin had been ordered.

(d). Mr Rendell stated that parking outside 2 Harwood Road had ruined the grass verge. Mr Rickeard and the clerk to investigate.

Action:- Mr Rickeard and Mr Parsley.

(e). Mr Harding reported large lorries sometimes backed from Blewbury Road into Main Road to turn which was a very dangerous manoeuvre. Mr Rickeard asked that where incidents occurred, they should be documented with as much detail as possible.

He also stated that there were parking problems at Bishops Orchard. The area will be monitored and any appropriate action taken

Action:- Mr Parsley.

(f).Mr Cox reported that footpath 6 was virtually impassable in places. The clerk to report the complaint to the OCC Countryside Agency.

Action:- Mr Parsley.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

The next meeting is on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.

Chairman :-

Date:-

**Appendix 1: 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, Car Park and hopfields with Land Registry	RR	in progress
2009-10-09	Make recommendations on updating the village web site so that it is more easily accessible and undatable	CA	ongoing
2009-10-10	Make proposal for new Standing Orders	DB	in progress
2009-11-04	Advise implications of the OCC traffic report after consultation with Mr Townsend	RE	ongoing
2010-01-01	Check on 29th Jan mtg at SODC on LTP3 consultation and arrange attendance as appropriate	RE	report at next meeting
2010-01-02	Check impact of govt withdrawal of New Growth Points initiative - does this mean 1500 less houses for Didcot?	PG	DONE
2010-01-03	Investigate implication of Grenoble Road development refusal	PG	DONE

2010-01-04	Find out more about how recycled material is handled and whether a visit to the processing centre would be possible	PG	DONE
2010-01-05	Investigate parking around Harwood Road/Croft area	DR/RP	DONE
2010-01-06	Write to Charities Secretary advising that Mrs Yen Rickeard is the new PC nominee for the committee	RP	DONE
2010-01-07	Investigate potential to record comments on planning applications electronically so all can see	CA	DONE
2010-01-08	Resubmit our comments on Greenacre Farm, discuss with Planning and attend appeal hearing as appropriate	RE/DR	DONE
2010-01-09	Parish Plan: convene mtg to discuss communication aspects with Janet Corduroy	ID	DONE
2010-01-10	Respond to HUFC on proposals to develop existing pavilion	DR	DONE
2010-01-11	Find out the procedures for entering 2010 Britain in Bloom Regional competition	RP/DR	DONE
2010-01-12	Follow up OCC on Main Road drainage survey	DR	DONE
2010-01-13	Respond to the Green Spaces survey, resubmitting our comments to the 2008 consultation	DR	DONE
2010-01-14	Discuss our understanding on North Croft maintenance and define a way forward	RR/DR/RP	in progress
2010-02-01	Make recommendations for a new internal auditor	RP/DB	
2010-02-02	Obtain alternative quotes for annual insurance	RP	
2010-02-03	Issue explanatory notes for the electronic planning comments	CA	
2010-02-04	Review new model standing order and make a recommendation for EHPC	DB	
2010-02-05	Get quotation for improved car park lighting control	RP	
2010-02-06	Circulate proposals for the APM	DR	
2010-02-07	Investigate parking on verge in Harwood Road	DR/RP	
2010-02-08	Report footpath no 6	RP	

## APPENDIX 2: PROGRESS ON EAST HAGBOURNE PARISH PLAN 18 FEB 2010

- work in progress, more actions to be undertaken

### 1. Introduction

### 2. East Hagbourne in Context

### 3. A Vibrant Community

### 4. Our vision for the future

Needs input

### 5. Responding to Urban Growth (RE)

### 6. Communications (DR/ID talk to Janet (and Joy))

Meeting held with Janet Corderoy. Support and promote existing Parish Magazine and complement with additional news sheets via web and on paper (3 monthly?).

### 7. Road Safety (RE/DB with John Townsend)

Meeting held with OCC Highways on 16 Feb

### 8. Footpaths (DR to ask John Jones and Paul Chambers for help)

PC has carried out a survey of pathways in the Parish; JJ will do the same for pavements

### 9. Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour (ID with Di Duff, Myra Hardiman)

Neighbourhood Watch scheme is being reinvigorated. Discussions held with Community Police officers. Police recommend telephone no to be more widely publicised.

### 10. Dog Fouling and Litter (DR & David Harding)

Discussion held with Community police officers leading to preparation of an information sheet for next Parish Pages.

### 11. Sustainability and Environment (DR talk to Cynthia Napper)

In progress. Reports of pollution in the stream (household waste and perhaps sewage). National telephone number for Environment Agency to be circulated

Include flooding under this topic.

### 12. Education and young people (DR)

Input received from Mr Jones (Hagbourne School) and Mrs Emery (Hagbourne Pre-School)

- Primary catchment area in each case covers both E&W Hagbourne and extends to the end of New Road, so does not include all of EH Parish.

### 13. Church and Community (DR)

Meeting arranged with Father Jason in March.

### 14. Sports and Leisure Facilities (PH, DR, Andy Barnes)

Peter Hands has obtained information on 'industrial building' construction that would allow a mezzanine floor and perhaps more cost-effective construction. Peter is obtaining information on likely costs (no expenditure of money authorized at this stage).

Trevor Davies has obtained a quote from Sitesafe (prefabricated buildings) that offers another approach.

Siting considered: SW corner of site might be more effective than SE corner to minimize path lengths.

### 15. Shops and Services

Response to questions raised in the questionnaires received from JJ

### 16. Conclusions