

East Hagbourne Annual Parish Meeting - 22nd April, 2010.

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of East Hagbourne was held at the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 22nd April, 2010.

Present were :-

- 6 Parish Councillors (Mr D Rickeard (Chairman), Mr C Alberry, Mr D Button, Mr I Duff, Mr D Harding and Mr R. Rendell.)
- Clerk (Mr R Parsley)
- District & County Councillor. (Mr P Greene)
- Wallingford Police Station (PC Walker and PCSO Galpin)
- 13 Members of the Public.

Apologies were received from Mr R Emery, Mr R Dawson, Mr P Hands, Mrs J Smith, Mrs J Corderoy and Mr J Lawson.

1.Chairman's Address.

Mr Rickeard welcomed everybody and introduced all the Parish Councillors, our District and County Councillor Mr Greene, and our local police officers PC Pip Walker and PCSO Taqwa Galpin.

2.Chairman's Report.

Mr Rickeard presented the Chairman's Report, shown in Appendix 1

3.Financial Statement.

Mr Button presented the Parish Council's financial statement for the preceding financial year and gave a summary of the income and expenditure. See Appendix 2. The figures presented are provisional, and the final audited figures will be posted on the web site.

4.District and County Councillor's Report.

Mr Greene briefly presented his reports on SODC and OCC which were circulated in written form at the meeting. See Appendices 3 & 4.

Mr Greene congratulated the Chairman on his report and the village on their achievements. He asked if we received any interest on the bank balances and it was reported we had recently transferred £80000.00 into a 9-month low-risk savings bond.

He highlighted the success of the Waste Collection improving the recycling rate from 48% to 70%, the Orchard Centre and Cornerstone. He stated the housing programme had slowed right down. The Great Western Park scheme had been reduced from 450 houses to 100 houses a year. In his opinion any further housing would go to the north. He also stated that the Council Tax had not been increased. The merger of SODC and the VoWHDC's had made substantial savings but more savings will be needed in future years.

Referring to OCC he stated he had included a list of members indicating their responsibilities. It was very much a financial report and considerable savings had been made. The care for the elderly has increased considerably and grants will be much harder to come by and will certainly be smaller in future. The Council Tax was increased by 2.75 %.

He reported he is Vice Chairman of SODC and will be taking a special interest in speeding in the area. He then invited any questions.

Mr Rickeard congratulated him on his appointment as Vice Chairman of SODC and asked if he will still be able to support our community interests as before. Mr Greene said that the Vice-Chair is the public face of the Council, and did not affect his ability to represent the Division and he would certainly do his best. Mr Rendell thanked him for his help with a personal planning problem.

5. Police

PC Walker and PCSO Galpin said that crime had decreased in the area and was at a very low level. They stated they would be helping to monitor speeding in the village. A recent survey between 8.50am and 9.30am on New Road counted 91 cars of which 3 were speeding. Mrs Elliot urged for speeding checks on Blewbury Road and Mrs Booth asked for checks on Main Road. Mrs Elliot also reported that some drivers were still regularly using mobile phones when driving.

PCSO Galpin said another priority was to monitor dog walkers and mentioned that she would issue on-the-spot fines to people who refused to clean up after their dogs. They requested that people provide as much information as possible when reporting problems and to ring 0845 8 505 505.

Mrs Napper mentioned that some rubbish was being dumped on Butts Piece.

6. Parish Plan.

Mr Rickeard gave an introduction to the Parish Plan. The slides are included as Appendix 5. After an introduction to the background and objectives of the Plan, he asked for comments and ideas on selected topic areas.

Communications.

Mrs Rickeard, Mrs Elliot and Mr Rendell were all of the view that there could be a better liaison between village clubs. One suggestion was to repeat the club day at the Village Hall in 2007 although some doubted whether it really had worked. Mr Rendell said that the previous event had recruited new members. Mr Alberry suggested clubs should get together and help one another.

There was general agreement that the Parish Magazine was a valuable asset, but a feeling that it could be used better. Mrs Duff suggested that the Parish Magazine could be promoted more as she had met people from Bishops Orchard who had not heard about it. Mrs Napper suggested that the Parish Council could support a special issue that could be distributed to all villagers as a way of publicizing the magazine and showing it was not just for church goers. It was agreed to seek Mrs Corderoy's views. The editors of the Parish Magazine would like more reports from local clubs. Other ways to obtain information are from the website and SODC Outlook. It was suggested that PC's could be made available but there was lack of space at the shop and a lack of supervision in the village hall. The use of PC's in Didcot Library could be promoted.

Road Safety.

There was a lively discussion on this topic. There was a general concern regarding speeding throughout the village. Mrs Button suggested mirrors at the War Memorial as she felt this was a significant hazard. Mr Smith proposed there could be a change of road priorities at the War Memorial and that some of the footpaths could be widened: he mentioned particularly the stretch from Lower Cross to the shop where the traffic comes close to pedestrians. Mrs Elliot requested that action should be taken to remove overhanging branches and hedges and she complained about parking on pavements especially outside Passey's garage

Mr Rickeard reported that a small group had met with OCC and were working with them on a traffic survey to help formulate future plans. Options being reviewed were speed limits, traffic calming, road arrangements and signing. On the particular question of mirrors, OCC were not supportive.

Mr Rickeard commented that the discussion highlighted that traffic measures are a contentious subject, and that was why the Council was proceeding in a careful way to gather facts. Once a draft plan is formulated there will be further public consultation before proceeding to action.

Footpaths

Mr Rickeard thanked Mr Jones and Mr Chambers who had surveyed local footpaths and pavements and produced an objective assessment that was being analysed. Many comments were made in the survey about muddy paths, and the survey identified in particular the path beyond Fieldside, that adjacent to the east of Butts Piece, and Bakers Lane to The Croft.

Mr Rickeard also highlighted those areas of footpath meriting attention, namely access to the graveyard and embankment, from Upper Cross to the school, and traversing Lower Cross from Blewbury Road to New Road

Sustainability and Environment

Mr Rickeard outlined the complex nature of the sustainability concept and asked for comments and suggestions. Mrs Napper had several plans for Butts Piece including a coppice to supply wood. She mentioned that the main problem in getting this established was the deer. Other sustainability efforts that were mentioned were Blewbury's use of a heat detector to measure insulation in homes and the use of a communal apple press in Brightwell-cum-Sotwell. Overall, we have more ideas for actions in the area of wildlife conservation than in the social and economic areas.

Sports and Leisure Facilities.

Mr Rickeard outlined the history of past efforts to build a new pavilion, and the fact that funding had proved unobtainable for such a costly project. We now needed to consider options carefully to find a way forward. A successful approach would need to reduce costs either by excluding one of the four elements (changing rooms, club/social room, sports hall, MUGAs) and/or by reducing the cost of construction. Mr Davies had suggested modular buildings, and Mr Hands was exploring whether an 'industrial' type building with a mezzanine could provide a more cost-effective option.

The possibility of more than one building was discussed, perhaps replacing the existing pavilion on its current site and then extending from there. In principle this could offer the possibility of staging the investment. The difficulty was that a building immediately to the south of the existing pavilion might prove too close to neighbours in Ryman's Crescent, so a new site in the SE or SW corner of the site might be needed. The importance of supporting other sports in addition to football was recognised, and mention was made of the possibility to provide increased space for the village shop, perhaps also the ability to serve coffee. More work is needed to find a way forward.

Shops and Services.

The comments raised in the survey have been addressed as far as the existing facilities will allow. Mr Jones stated the main problem at the moment was the lack of space. Suggestions for improved facilities included the proposed new sports facility, the village hall and the public house. The benefits of having a village room as a focal point in other villages was stressed. Mr Smith suggested that the shop might not survive if the post office was closed.

7. Other Business

Allotments.

Mr Rendell stated that the plans for a allotment on Butts Piece were progressing satisfactorily and that 27 allotments measuring 63 sq.m. were planned. The area will be fenced and a water supply and trough had been installed. The next job was to mark the layout of the allotments. The annual rent will be £25.00 per plot per annum which will be revised after one year. Formal application forms are available. So far, 25 people had shown interest and 17 had confirmed their intention.

Britain in Bloom.

Mr Rickeard stated we would once again be entering the Regional Competition for 'Britain in Bloom' and hoped we would be ready for the judges in July. He emphasised that an 'Action Team' is wanted to organise and prepare the village for the competition. It was suggested we had a 'Best Village Garden' competition.

Fun Run.

The annual 'Fun Run' is on Monday May 3rd, 2010 starting at 11am.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be the Annual Meeting on Thursday 13th May, 2010.

Chairman:

Date:

APPENDIX 1 Chairman's Report

East Hagbourne Annual Parish Meeting, 22 April 2010. Chairman's Report

We have held nine Parish Council meetings this year and in addition, much work has gone on within small groups working on specific issues such as the play area, Butt's Piece, flooding and the Parish Plan. I would like to thank all the councillors for their support and involvement over the year, and our clerk Robin Parsley who does so much to keep the wheels of the Council turning. I must also thank Syd, our village hall caretaker for coming to lock up after our meetings, which regularly go on until 10pm. Special thanks to John Townsend who has served the Council over many years, both as a councillor and for many years as an consultant. Although John retired from his formal consultancy role this year, he continues to provide valuable advice and support on matters affecting future developments. During the year we also welcomed David Harding who was co-opted to fill the vacancy left by Monica Lawson. Lastly, I thank Patrick Greene for his continued support to our meetings, even through the difficult times after he broke his leg last summer.

We can record some successes over the year:

- In the Britain in Bloom competition, we achieved a silver award medal in the national and a Silver Gilt Award in the Regional competitions. In addition we won the South Oxfordshire District Prize in the Calor Gas 'Villages of the Year' competition. All of these reflect with high credit on our community, and I would particularly like to thank those on the BiB committee who worked so hard to achieve this.
- Perhaps less glamorous, but no less important, a significant effort has gone into revitalising the village web site, thanks to Derek and Christine Button, and to Chris Alberry who is now the main contact for the web site.
- The new Play Area was opened last October in a very happy ceremony with Councillor Leonard of SODC and Fiona Danks of TOE (both of these bodies provided grants to supplement our own local funds). Children from the School and Pre-School immediately put the equipment to good use.

The Play Area was very close to Monica Lawson's heart, so the money donated in her memory was contributed to the project, as was an earlier bequest from John Bennett. Our success in the Calor competition came with a £500 prize which was matched by the Parish Council, donating the total towards the gates for the village school gate which were designed by the children. Monica is of course also remembered in West Hagbourne, and the two Parish Councils are working together on a bench to be placed in a central location.

Turning to broader village issues,

- Our Post Office and Shop remain a focal point of village life and I cannot overemphasize the hard work and dedication of the volunteers and our postmaster, Terry, who keep these facilities running as they enter their tenth year of successful operation.
- We also acknowledge the many other people who contribute to activities from the School, Pre-School and Church to the various clubs, music evenings and other activities that make East Hagbourne such a special place.

The past year has brought some disappointments. Christmas was again tinged with sadness when we learned of the death of our village handyman, Washington Hunda. His funeral and burial took place here in East Hagbourne.

Also, we have finally had to concede defeat in our efforts to secure grant funding for a new sports pavilion and MUGAs at the Great Mead recreation ground – the cost of the project proved in the end too high to fund. A small group including the Football Club is exploring ways to reduce costs and come up with a revised scheme. On a positive note, the Football Club have carried out improvements to the changing rooms in the the existing pavilion. However, this building is getting to the end of its life and needs replacing.

Many projects are making steady progress, but need continued efforts

- Work on Butt's Piece is moving ahead now that provision of a suitable water supply has been resolved. When completed, the area will contain allotments, a 'kick-around' area for informal play and improvements to the wild area at the top end of the site to make it more attractive for wildlife and people. This land is owned by the Parish Charities, but has been leased by the Parish Council who are funding the improvements, and will ultimately pay a rent to the Charities for use of the land.
- SODC, through their contractor, Monson, carried out significant clearance of the two stream channels downstream from Blewbury Road which have much improved the carrying capacity of the stream. It is pleasing to see the local farmers carrying on the work further downstream. OCC, responsible for the road drains, carried out over a week's work of clearance and surveying and will return later this year to carry out further work. At Tadley, a small group of residents has been formed to monitor the stream and help keep it clear of obstruction. We hope to extend this concept to include stream dwellers further upstream, and ask the help of everyone, in particular to help us control himalyan balsam and prevent it seeding. I should also give thanks to the two public spirited volunteers who last summer cleared both channels down Parsonage Lane.
- Didcot development is proceeding more slowly than expected. We expect the new housing to be primarily to the north of the town, which would remove the need for a perimeter road to the south. However, the critical SODC Core Strategy will not now be discussed until after the general election, so nothing is final as yet.
- The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is being reinvigorated under the leadership of Myra Hardiman and Di Duff.
- We had a good turn out for the annual Litter Blitz on 17 April, and the village is now looking smart.

Finally, there is plenty to do around the Parish, as you will see when we discuss the Parish Plan. Offers of help are always welcome - you do not have to be a councillor to make a contribution.

I also remind you that all Parish Council meetings are open to the public, and you are always welcome to attend.

And, we are entering the Britain in Bloom Regional competition again. This is not as onerous as the national finals competition, but I hope we can all play our part to present the best to the judges when they visit in July.

David Rickeard
Chairman EHPC
22 April 2010

APPENDIX 2 Parish Council Financial Summary

Parish Council Income and Expenditure

Provisional accounts at 31 March 2010

Income, 2009-10		Expenditure, 2009-10	
	£		£
• Precept	37108	• Repairs, equipment	287
• Lease Income	1050	• Grass cutting, bins	4383
• Calor Gas Prize	500	• Salaries, expenses, audit insurance, etc	8829
• Other income	251	• Donations and Grants	
		BiB	2000
		Village Hall	8000
		School Gates	1000
		Other grants	830
		• Set aside for projects	20000
• Total	38909	• Total	45329

EH Annual Parish Meeting 2010.ppt

Slide 6

Funding of Parish Projects

A snapshot at March 2010 . . .

- The Parish Council has set aside funds of about **£128000**
- This total is allocated to the major village projects as follows

	Spent 09/10	Balance
– Butt's Piece redevelopment	£5000	£24000
– Sports Facilities	£0	£80000
– Village Hall grant	£0	£8000
– Playground	£74000	£2000
– Parish Plan	£400	£600
– Britain in Bloom	£1500	£500

- Some of these projects involve additional grant funding
- Remaining balance of £14000 provides operating fund for smaller projects and routine expenses

EH Annual Parish Meeting 2010.ppt

Slide 6

South Oxfordshire District Council Report 2009/10

This year the council introduced the new waste collection to 56,000 households, a huge challenge for the council and residents. We received a national award for the communication methods to residents. We worked with the contractors for nearly a year prior to the actual start date. Recycling rates have gone from being 48% to 70%, which means less landfill and more money for the council in the form of recycling credits. There were problems to overcome in some parts of the district, which we have been discussing with those residents concerned. Then we had the hardest winter with snow, which caused further problems, but everyone working together enabled us to get back on track and continue the high recycling rates.

Nexus Leisure have taken over the running of our four leisure centres introducing a membership card which means members can use any of our centres activities. We have invested capital money into improving the facilities, which will continue in 2010.

Working in partnership we have Go Active, which has been well supported, plus a sports development officer working with communities to gain sport out in the rural areas.

The Economic Development worked with consultants and the three market town partnerships and town councils, which means we were able to get SEEDA grants, which the council will match, to enable some work to be carried out in the towns. We are employing three town coordinators to help businesses in the market towns of Wallingford, Thame and Henley.

It is vital that we all do what we can for the local economy that is reasonable and achievable. We are involved in South Vale UK that is Harwell, Culham, Milton Park, OCC, and OEP working together to achieve inward investment. This will create more jobs especially taking into consideration all the new houses being built at Didcot and around the district.

The Orchard Centre is a great success even in the recession with plans in the pipeline for a stage 2.

Cornerstone continues to be successful with many events being sold out within days. This means that they are improving their financial position but still need the council's subsidy that hopefully will reduce.

PCSO's are working well in both the towns and villages. This is a joint project with the police and residents are now aware of their presence. CCTV will be reviewed this coming year. Both PCSO's and CCTV are partly paid for by the town councils, police and this council. We need to know if we receive value for money and that our residents feel happy.

Housing, with the national economic situation we have not been able to deliver as many houses as we had expected. However working in partnership with housing associations we have built on sites in Wallingford with smaller in-fills in the villages. We do hope that this year will see the start of building in sites at Didcot, Fairmile and Chinnor

Choice Base lettings that was recently introduced has been a success in that those requiring homes have been able to bid for properties and have seen the openness of the process.

Planning, there has been a downturn in applications, which again is mainly due to the recession. We have introduced a new process for referrals that has had some bad press, but this has mainly been to misunderstanding the process. This process does mean as a district councillor we need to work closely with our parishes on applications especially those that may be contentious.

Enforcement cases have reduced dramatically during the year but there are those cases that do take along time due to the complexity.

The local development framework (LDF) is the new planning system which sets out in the form of a portfolio, the local development documents which collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for South Oxfordshire District Council's area. The core strategy sets out the spatial vision for the local area up to the year 2026 taking into account national and regional plans. This is a very controversial issue especially when we have to make a final decision on these sites after wide consultation.

Joint working with the Vale of White Horse District Council has caused some uncertainty for staff but we have now have in place a joint Chief Executive, and joint Directors, Heads of Service and Managers. This has meant a reduction in staff with the benefit of more efficiency savings.

The council tax over the last five years has given an average of 1% increase per annum due to three years of no increase. Once again, this year, we are able to have a nil % increase in council tax. This is a very good record and welcomed by the residents of South Oxfordshire.

Again, councillors have agreed to continue with no increase in their allowances making these allowances one of the lowest for councils in the South East.

The Audit Commission has scored us as being one of the top councils in the country. We will continue to strive to do even better over the coming year and offer even better value for money.

Your Ward member thanks the Parish Councillors for their co-operation during the year.

Cllr Patrick Greene – Hagbourne Ward – South Oxfordshire District Council – April 2010

APPENDIX 4 Oxfordshire County Council Report 2009/10 - Councillor Patrick Greene

THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Conservative controlled that provides around 80% of the county's local authority services. These include social care, schools & children's services, waste management, trading standards, roads, transport planning, land use, countryside, the registration service, the fire and rescue service, countryside service, libraries, museums, emergency planning, public health (*jointly with the Primary Care Trust*) and Youth services.

CABINET RESPONSIBILITIES/ADDITIONS TO CABINET MEMBERSHIP REPORTED TO COUNCIL 6 APRIL 2010 – Councillors:

Name	Portfolio	Extent of authority
Keith Mitchell	Leader of the Council	Corporate and community leadership; corporate strategies; Strategic communications; Oxfordshire Partnership; regional issues; council business management; breaking the cycle of deprivation; Oxford City Council liaison and Oxford City Local Strategic Partnership
David Robertson	Deputy Leader of the Council	Economic development and tourism; skills (strategic approach including adult learning); governance; performance including the Public Service Board and Local Area Agreement; Legal & Democratic Services; members' services; HR; ICT; policy & partnerships unit; change programme; West Oxfordshire District Council liaison and West Oxfordshire Local Strategic Partnership
Arash Fatemian	Cabinet Member for Adult Services	Adult social services and health issues
Ian Hudspeth	Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure	Regional planning; strategic planning and transport within Oxfordshire; waste management; environmental management; flooding; clean and green; climate change; archaeology; South Oxfordshire District Council liaison and South Oxfordshire Local Strategic Partnership
Jim Couchman	Cabinet Member for Finance & Property	Finance, property and procurement
Kieron Mallon	Cabinet Member for Police & Policy Co-Ordination	Police issues; community safety, anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime; drugs and alcohol awareness and Council policy co-ordination
Louise Chapman	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families	Children's Services – lead member for Children, Young People & Families including educational policy; services for children, young people and families; preventative services; child protection; family support; youth service; youth justice and breaking the cycle of deprivation
Michael Waine	Cabinet Member for Schools Improvement	Primary & secondary schools; special schools; pupil services; school transport; music services; Cherwell District Council liaison and Cherwell Local Strategic Partnership
Rodney Rose	Cabinet Member for Transport	Implementation of schemes for transport; highways; traffic and parking; road safety; public passenger transport and access to the countryside
Mrs J	Cabinet Member for	Fire and rescue; consumer protection (Trading Standards); emergency planning;

Heathcoat	Safer & Stronger Communities	coroner's service; gypsies and travellers; adult learning (oversight of the adult learning service); libraries, museums and heritage; the arts; archives; leisure and recreation; registration service; community cohesion; equalities and social inclusion; voluntary and community sector; Vale of White Horse District Council liaison and Vale of White Horse Local Strategic Partnership
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In the light of the very serious matters relating to public finances, I make no excuse for this report to major on the council's budget and how the council is managing its finances through to 2014/15. Also, the effect on some of the important services provided by this council.

Summary Key Issues:

- 1 The County Council agreed a Council Tax increase for 2010/11 of 2.75% on 9 February 2010. This represents a Council Tax (for Band D equivalent properties) of £1,161.71. The County Council also agreed the five year Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme to 2014/15. The Council Tax for 2011/12 and 2012/13 is to be frozen if a Conservative government is returned at the General Election to take advantage of a pledge in the Conservative Manifesto to provide sufficient extra government grant to reduce a 2.5% rise to zero for two years.
- 2 Through the Council's Service & Resource Planning process, pressures of £73.8m over the medium term plan have been identified, with savings of £70.8m proposed. This leaves a shortfall over the five year period of £3.0m which, given the significant saving assumptions already built in, should be deliverable. Capital resources, particularly from capital receipts and developer contributions, are also giving rise to pressures on the Capital Programme which has resulted in a review and reprioritisation of the schemes

Background

- 3 The Council has been working on its 2010/11 to 2014/15 Service and Resource Planning Process (S&RP) since last summer. This culminates in the 2010/11 budget being agreed by Council in February 2010.
- 4 Pressures relating to the medium term were being identified after the 2009/10 budget was set in February 2009, which required changes to the medium term planning assumptions. These reflected the scale of the national and global recession, changes in legislation and pressures in the cost of services. The impact of these was spread across the medium term but with a significant impact in 2011/12.

Major Financial Issues facing Oxfordshire

- 5 External Funding:
 - ❖ **Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)** - Given that the government delayed the date of the CSR which was expected originally to follow on from the previous three year settlement in 2009, the Council has had to make some assumptions about future funding levels because we do not believe that it is realistic to start our planning once the revised grant figures are known. Given the current level of public sector borrowing and the need to reduce expenditure to compensate, our expectation is that any increase in grant for the three year period up to 2013/14 is likely to be offset by greater levels of efficiency requirements. This could be further compounded if there are changes to the 'Damping Grant' Oxfordshire currently receives which is expected to be £6.7m in 2010/11.
 - ❖ **Taxbase** – With no sign of recovery in the new house building market, the growth in the taxbase - the number of properties from which council tax can be collected - is not

expected to grow in line with planning assumptions. This reduces the amount of income available to the Council.

6 Government Legislation:

- ❖ **Free Personal Social Care** – If approved by Parliament, the Personal Care at Home Bill, will guarantee free personal care for the people with the highest needs from October 2010. Costs of £2.8m in 2011/12 are currently proposed in the medium term plan, with a half year effect of £1.4m in 2010/11. These sums represent only the additional levels of “efficiency” that the government has assumed and do not reflect our concerns that the real costs will be far higher. The national totals assessed by government to be only £670m are thought by the Association of Directors of Social Care to be more than £1bn. As all the additional costs will fall directly on councils, this represents a significant risk to the County Council.
- ❖ **Concessionary Fares** - The transfer of concessionary fares to county councils will take place in April 2011. Based on the current position of the district councils in Oxfordshire, there is a likely to be a shortfall in funding currently estimated to be £0.9m in 2011/12 rising to £2.1m in 2012/13 when the Government expects there to be efficiencies made from the rollout of smartcards and lower costs from raising the age of eligibility to 65.
- ❖ **Landfill Tax** - The national budget in April 2009 announced further increases in landfill tax of £8 per tonne for each year from 2011. This is estimated to cost an additional £1.5m each year, reaching £6.0m by 2014/15.
- ❖ **Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)** – The auctioning of allowances under the “cap and trade” scheme begins in 2013. Costs of £1.4m over the medium term are expected although there is some uncertainty because the performance of the council will be measured against other public and private organisations.
- ❖ **Learning Disabilities** - From April 2011 the County Council will receive funding for Learning Disabilities directly from the Department of Health. It is not yet clear how this grant will be paid. It could be paid through Area Based Grant (ABG), which would enable local discretion on the level of spend. However, if it goes into Revenue Support Grant, Oxfordshire would not receive this funding because we remain below the grant floor and the floor mechanism would reduce our level of damping grant.
- ❖ **Learning & Skills Council (LSC)** - Following the dissolution of the LSC, responsibility for funding education and training for 16-18 year-olds transfers to local authorities from April 2010. Other requirements of the act include the raising of the age of participation in education, training or work with training to 17 by 2013 and 18 by 2015. The funding arrangements and exact levels of resources are not yet confirmed.

7 Service Pressures:

- ❖ **Children’s Social Care** – There has been a 40% increase in referrals since the Baby P case, which has put additional pressure on a service, which has historically been under pressure. Additional costs of £2.25m are expected in 2010/11. In May 2009, the Court of Appeal issued the Southwark Judgement, which has significant implications for the way children’s services are delivered to homeless 16 and 17 year olds. The Judgement extends the Local Authority's duty of care for this group. It is estimated that the cost of this ruling could be up to £1.0m in a full year and this has been recognised in the budget proposals.
- ❖ **Asylum Seekers** – The Council receives funding for clients, which don't fully meet the full costs of providing services. This is estimated to be £0.550m. The Council has been

in ongoing negotiations with Government to recognise the pressures, which we along with a small number of other authorities are facing.

- ❖ **Capital Programme** - Economic and market conditions have resulted in a reduction in available capital resources, particularly from capital receipts and developer contributions, over the last year. This has led to a resources shortfall in the Capital Programme of £4.502m. To address the shortfall and to allow the inclusion of a number of new schemes in the programmes, a number of lower priority schemes have been reduced in size or taken out of the programme.

Proposed Savings

- 8 Two areas have been effectively exempted from savings targets. They are Safeguarding Children (children's social care) and our Fire and Rescue Service.
- 9 For all other areas, total savings planned for 2010/11 are £27.8m, £15.5m are classed as efficiencies or income generation, £9.8m from other funding sources and £2.5m are classified as a service reduction. This demonstrates that, wherever possible, efficiencies are proposed with service reductions as a last resort.
- 10 Significant savings are set out over the medium term relating to inflation provisions. This reflects the current lower levels of inflation, the Government's announced cap on public sector pay at 1% for 2011/12 and 2012/13
- 11 Significant savings are also planned through implementing a number of transformation programmes including Transforming Adult Social Care and working with the Primary Care Trust (PCT) in 'Creating a Healthy Oxfordshire' programme.

County Council Budget and Medium Term Plan to 2014/15

- 12 The budgets for 2010/11 and the medium term plan to 2014/15 are prudent, recognising the risks and the service issues against a continuing background of economic recession and anticipated cuts in public spending.
- 13 Full details are available on the County Council web site: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Thames Valley Police Authority and District Council Precepts

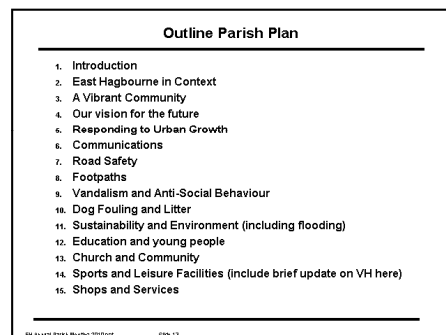
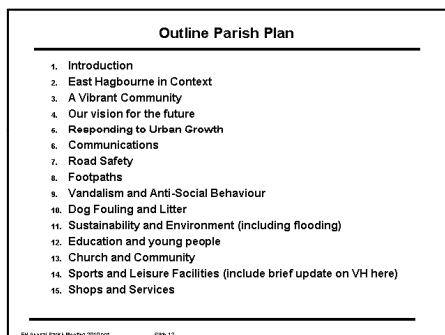
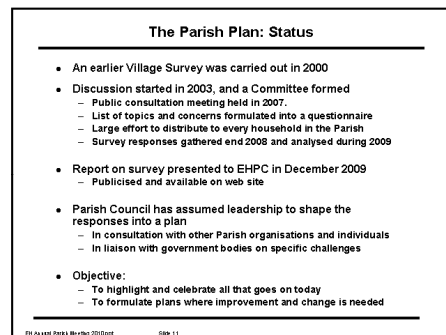
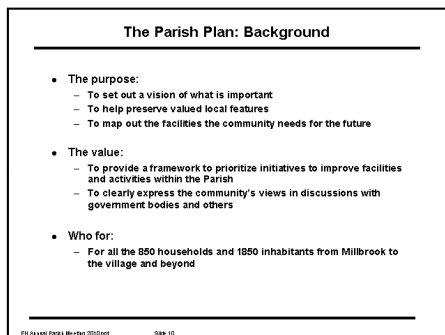
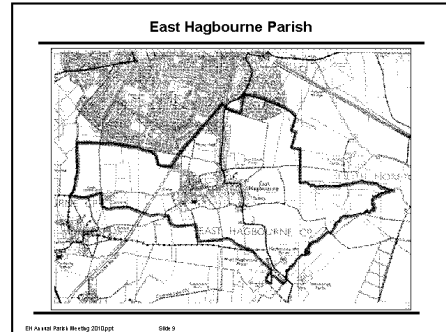
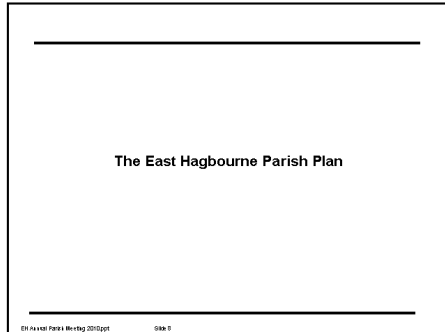
The Thames Valley Police Authority met on 19 February to agree their Precept of a 2% increase, taking the band D charge for 2010/11 to £154.30. South Oxfordshire District council on the 22 February decided to freeze council tax with a 0% increase.

Your local councilor Elected Vice-Chairman of Oxfordshire County Council on 6th April'10. A committee member of the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee. He also presently serves on the following working groups:- Speed Reference, Local Transport Plan No.3, and Minerals & Waste. Of local matters, he has pressed for more road safety measures. He continues to press for better and a quicker response to road repairs. He is a member of the 'Wallingford' - Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG). He has frequently requested for more speed checks and enforcement measures in 30mph limits within the Moreton Division and many have resulted in the police issuing fines etc.

Your Division member thanks the Parish Councillors for their co-operation during the year.

Cllr Patrick Greene - Moreton Division – Oxfordshire County Council – April 2010

APPENDIX 5 Presentation slides on the draft Parish Plan




Our Vision for East Hagbourne

- A village environment close to both country and town
- Value and preserve our sense of community
 - where people can make friends
 - know their neighbours
 - the whole Parish feels involved
- Value and preserve the beauty, tradition and green spaces of our community
 - Preserve the green separation between East Hagbourne and Didcot
- Develop for the future in a sensitive way
- Maintain and develop our key services, facilities, meeting places
 - Post Office, shop, pub, Village Hall

EH Ax 148 Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 14

Communications


- 41% of respondents said they would like more information about village/parish news
- Our Parish Magazine is high quality
 - Only 21% of those receiving it said they did not receive enough information
 - But, only 50% of households currently subscribe
- 60% of people said they would read a web newsletter
 - Since the survey, considerable effort has been put into revitalising the web site: www.easthagbourne.net
 - Parish Council newsletter is published each month
- 53% of respondents felt they did not get sufficient information about local government plans (such as roads and housing) that affect the village, against 39% who felt they did.



EH Ax 148 Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 15

Road Safety


- Main areas of concern highlighted in the survey:
 - Speeding in New Road, Blewbury Road, Main Road
 - Desire for a 20mph limit in Main Road
 - Neighbourhood of the PO/Shop/Great Mead
 - Lower Cross war memorial junction
- Traffic has been a concern for many years
 - Didcot development can only add to the pressures on the road
 - OCC traffic report (SCOTS) envisages traffic calming from Coscote through Main Road
 - Hump and pedestrian crossing already in place at school
- Actions so far:
 - Police carry out spot speeding checks
 - If you have a concern you can contact them on 08458 505 505
 - Meeting held with OCC to discuss infrastructure changes
 - First step is traffic survey to generate data on volumes and speeds



EH Ax 148 Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 16

Footpaths

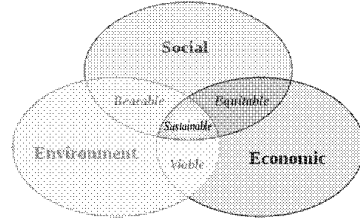
- 63% use the footpath network at least once per week
- Main comments:
 - Footpaths often muddy, overgrown
 - Difficulties for children and pram-pushers
 - Some people requested paving, lighting
 - Request for some additional pavements
 - Provide a map of footpaths
- Survey of all footpaths and pavements carried out
- Footpaths mostly good/lverage for country paths
 - Muddy conditions at Fieldside, Bowls Club, Butts Piece
- Pavements generally OK, but some problem areas
 - Access to graveyard and Embankment from Main Road
 - Access from school to Upper Cross
 - Road crossing at Lower Cross and Great Mead



EH Ax 148 Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 17

Sustainability

- Covers a wide range of topics!



EH Ax 148 Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 18

Hagbourne School . . .


To help our environment we
Use less energy, water and paper.
Save stamps aluminium and textiles.
We make plans every year to improve our school grounds.
We look after and care for each other.

<http://www.easthagbourne.net/oxonlife/oxonlife.htm>

EH Ax 148 Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 19

Sustainability and Environment

- Covers a wide range of topics!
- Use of resources:
 - The new recycling procedures seem to work well
 - School and Pre-School preparing children for the future
 - Encouragement for walking, cycling, improved bus services
- Social sustainability:
 - Social networks, building communities
 - Church, school, pre-school, youth activities, clubs
 - Village Hall, Recreation Ground and Play Areas
- Environment: for humans, for wildlife
 - East Hagbourne has some marvellous assets
 - Beautiful village, a sense of place, country pub, shop
 - Footpath network, green lungs for town and village
 - Greenmere corridor, wildflower meadow, Butts Piece
 - Millennium Wood and Mowbray Fields nearby
 - Significant progress in controlling flooding risks
 - But continued vigilance will be needed



The Secretary's Garden at Hagbourne school

East Hagb. Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 20


Sport and Leisure Activities

- Current activities:
 - Active clubs for football, bowls, tennis
 - School activities include swimming and other sports
 - Swimming available at the school
- Numerous clubs and informal groups around the parish, including
 - Garden Club, Produce Show
 - Book Clubs, Informal bridge
 - Folk at the Fleur, Barn Dance Club
 - Senior Citizens' Lunch Club
 - Baby & Toddlers group
 - Brownies, Beavers and Cubs
 - Hagbourne environment group
- Extensive footpath network used by dog-walkers, cyclists, joggers
 - Fun Run, Ramblers Group

East Hagb. Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 21

Sport and Leisure Facilities

- Millbrook and Great Mead play areas
 - Especially for younger children
- Great Mead recreation ground
 - Home to HUFC
- The Village Hall
 - Two rooms for indoor recreational activities
- Butts Piece
 - New layout will include a 'kick-around' play area
- Nearby
 - Millennium Wood and Mowbray Fields offer green open spaces
 - School has its own dedicated sports field



East Hagb. Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 22

Sports & Leisure: What the Survey Said

- A broad interest in both outdoor and indoor activities
 - But spread over a wide range
 - Some activities depend on gender/age: others can be more generally enjoyed
- Number of people who would participate weekly or fortnightly

Outdoor	W*F	Indoor	W*F
Tennis	56	Plates	60
Running	34	Badminton	58
Football	29	Yoga	51
Clay Shooting	21	Aerobics	45
Basketball	18	Dancing	45
Cricket	17	Table tennis	31
Netball	17	Indoor Bowls	23
Athletics	15	Ballet	12
Hockey	11	Boxing	11
Skateboard	11	Karate	10
Mini-rugby	11	Judo	7
Swimming	2		

East Hagb. Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 23

Sports and Leisure: The Challenge

- The Village Hall has embarked on an update
 - Will provides a small additional room
 - Make the existing facilities more comfortable and usable
- The existing pavilion at Great Mead is dilapidated
 - Many years' work to build a new pavilion has proved unsuccessful
 - Changing facilities
 - Club/social area
 - Hall for indoor sport/leisure activities
 - Tennis Courts (MUGAs)
 - Associated parking, pathways and disabled access
 - Funding for such a large project could not be obtained
- Preliminary studies now under way to reduce costs
 - Cheaper construction methods (modular or 'industrial')
 - Minimise scale of facilities
 - Use 'self-help' where possible
 - The way forward is not clear

East Hagb. Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 24

Shops and Services

- East Hagbourne retains three valuable assets in
 - The Post Office and Shop, a fine example of volunteer effort
 - The Fleur-de-Lys serving food, wines and good beer
 - The garage, car repairs
- The survey showed good support for the village PO/shop
 - Over 100 comments received, mainly related to increasing the range of goods and extending opening hours
 - Comments have been responded to where possible
 - The shop does stock an amazing range of goods in a limited space
 - A dedicated group of volunteers keeps the shop open as long as practical

East Hagb. Parish Meeting 2010ppt Slide 25