

PARISH OF SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 18 April 2019 at 7.30 pm
At New Beaconsfield Hall**

Present: Cllrs: B. Rigby (in the chair), J. Mavin, R. Dyer, C. Arnold, T. Etherington, T. Bruntsden, T. Yates, **County Cllr** L. Leffman, **District Cllr** J. Acock, **Parish Clerk:** L. Wilkinson, Neil Clennell (Wychwood Project), Tom Rider (Deanfield Homes), Mike Watson (Wychwood Wild Gardens), Louise Appleton (Gigaclear), Paul Miller (Wychwoods Tennis Club), Ian Drainer (Speedwatch), 76 members of public.

1. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Jane Murphy and Jeremy Harris

2. ***Who's in the Chair?***

Cllr Brian Rigby introduced the parish council and the new look format to the APM.

3. ***What has the Parish Council been doing for the last year?***

a. Planning

Cllr Rigby reported that WODC make the decisions on planning applications; the PC cannot veto any. It received 38 planning applications last year. When considering applications, the PC must examine the regulations, how the AONB would be affected and general neighbourliness. If residents feel they would be affected by a planning application, they should send an objection to WODC and copy it to the PC.

b. Only 30mph on Station Road please

Cllr Bruntsden reported that the 30mph was requested by the residents of Station Road. Following a consultation by OCC it was agreed if the PC agreed to finance it. The final cost of £8,600 for the consultation and implementation of signage was authorised at this PC meeting.

c. Funding for clubs in Shipton?

Cllr Rigby reported that £33,000 of Section 106 money will be made available by WODC for equipment and maintenance of the playground, £48,000 for sports and recreation. Constituted groups in the village have been asked to apply for funding on the basis that the items are of a capital nature, show an increase in membership and are financially monitorable. The PC will then recommend the allocation of funding to WODC.

d. All new and 'traditional' Shipton fair

Cllr Bruntsden reported that he wanted to resurrect the village fair. He brought two fair games along that had been hand-made. The PC has agreed to fund the materials and set-up of the fair at the cost of £3,800. There is also £600 left over from old fair committee. All the old fete equipment was not fit for purpose, so the fair working party has had to start from scratch. Cllr Bruntsden requested help to run the stalls on the day of the fair and to borrow gazebos.

4. ***Does Shipton need another Burial Ground? If so where?***

Cllr Etherington led a discussion on this question. The village could be short of burial space in 4/5 years. Alternatives are requesting burial at nearby parishes or cremation at Banbury. Options discussed were a) Do nothing, b) Economise and Re-use, c) Land acquisition
This will go to a village consultation in the near future,

5. ***Find out about Oxfordshire County Council***

Cllr. Liz Leffman reported that a lot has happened at the County Council over the last 12 months:

- She was involved with achieving the 30mph limit on Station Road.
- OCC now has more money for road repairs as the cabinet have been persuaded to put some real money behind road maintenance rather than just tamping down the surface. There is £30 million towards road repair this Financial Year.
- Cllr Leffman has been able to support various village initiatives out of her Councillor Priority Fund;
 - the Wychwood bus service (the number of passengers has been increasing steadily and it is in the process of becoming viable. The service to Witney is more popular than the service to Chipping Norton.)
 - She has funded resurfacing Dog Kennel Lane

PARISH OF SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- She has funded resurfacing of the outside play area of the Foundation Stage Unit at Wychwood Primary School
- She has contributed towards Wychwood Saplings.

Cllr Leffman sees her biggest source of pride locally as having the school lights installed on the road either side of the school.

There is the ongoing consultation on the weight restriction on the bridge at Burford. The outcome is unknown at present.

Cllr Leffman oversees the new partnership between Cherwell District Council and OCC; Cherwell DC has been absorbed into OCC as Northamptonshire County Council (their previous partners) went bankrupt. OCC has already made savings through the partnership and bringing together different functions from District and County Councils

6. Find out about West Oxfordshire District Council

Cllr Jake Acock thanked everyone for voting for him. He wants to get things done.

He voted against the Local Plan as he believes it is a bad plan for West Oxfordshire. He asks the question: 'where is the infrastructure for the extra housing?'

He believes that major amendment of railways is needed: the Cotswold Line should be dualled so a stopping train could pass through the villages.

Cllr Acock believes that the Witney to Oxford railway should be brought back. RAF Brize Norton will fund 50% of this.

He is keen to ensure that the car park is implemented on the development by the school and that 40% of the development is affordable housing as has been agreed.

He took the Bowerhams planning application to the Enforcement department as the developers were building certain parts without planning permission.

Cllr Acock has fought for training for new councillors and a two-day course has now been implemented for them. There will also be new training for minority groups.

The superfast broadband build by Gigaclear in Shipton is not funded by WODC (as in some areas) but is a commercial enterprise so Gigaclear responsible for it.

Cllr Acock would like to hold local surgeries every three months and would like to work closely with a PC representative.

7. Conserving and restoring our landscapes

Neil Clennell, the Chief Executive of the Wychwood Project, reported that he is new to the area and has spent the last few months finding his way around.

The Wychwood Project is currently repairing the stone wall at the Burial Ground.

Neil Clennell talked about Foxburrow Wood in Hailey which was planted 10 years ago on a dairy farm and is now starting to look like a woodland/habitat.

Activities held there are:

- Hedge laying
- Parent and toddler group on a Friday morning
- Good dog walking site

The Project is investigating creating a sensitive conservation area in the corner of the plot where no dogs would be allowed. They would also like to create a shelter and an outside classroom and increase the bird life.

They run Bird Aid which provides food for farmland birds between December and March.

The Project also works with local communities such as Diggers Wood, and Singe Wood – ten hectares in Hailey which was left as a legacy to be maintained for its wildlife and community amenity.

8. Deanfield Homes: progress to date and Q & As

Tom Rider, land director, from Deanfield Homes received questions:

- The tarmacked entrance is temporary
- Timescales – they started on site in March and will be completed by November 2020.
- There will be 17 affordable homes
- Five will be shared ownership with Cottsway Housing
- Car park – the agreed trigger for completion of car park is the 35th house or 76th week of the build. There

PARISH OF SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

will be 22 spaces and 2 drop off points.

- Affordable rent- this is Cottsway's decision, they can charge up to 80% of local rents.
- The show home will be open in October
- The hedge between the industrial estate and the school won't be replaced so the development feels more open.
- The Utilities are adequate.
- They will have to dig up Milton Rd for drainage to the new pumping station
- The site manager and his assistant are available to raise any issues with if necessary.

9. *What shall we call the Deanfield development?*

Cllr Rigby reported on suggested names so far:

- St John's Place (Badger Way, Cadet Close),
- Townsend Street,
- Names after PP Arnold who used to live in the village – Immediate Drive, Tin Soldier Way,
- Wild Garden Way, Cotswold Lion Lane
- Reflecting the Cotswold geology and local rock variety within the Jurassic age limestone: 'Cornbrash' Grove or Grange
- 'Saxon' Grove or Grange (Wychwood Forest association)
- For inner roads, name of trees strongly associated with local landscape and historical Wychwood forest eg Willow, Alder, Poplar, Hawthorn, Maple, Beech, Ash, Oak

Names suggested during the meeting:

Names on the Memorial on the Green

School Close

Cospatrick

Saxon Hill

It was advised that people's names would not be used.

10. *What's going on at the Woods today?*

Mike Watson thanked everyone for their support and engagement with the Wild Garden. He reported that without this we could make no progress. It's so marvellous to see such a wide range of regular users – dog walkers, kids and parents feeding the ducks, joggers using the outer circuit of paths, the Forest School activities from Cherubs and, the Wychwood Cubs and Scouts making regular use of the woods for their weekly activities.

And also, a special thanks to the Shipton Parish Council for their membership support over the last year and the support from the Shipton Volunteers on our working parties.

Just to emphasise the level of engagement we now have with the Wychwood Villages: We have 120 members who with Milton and Shipton Parish Councils provide us with our annual financial support – essential to cover our normal running costs. Another 100 have provided support to us during the year either as donors or volunteers; we had a marvellous turnout last Saturday at our Spring Cleanup, 30 volunteers of all ages including Tonto the dog. Plus, our 479 followers on Facebook, who provide feedback and encouragement, as well as passing on the message of the Wild Garden. And a very special thanks to the team who turn up every Tuesday morning, come rain or shine, to do whatever is necessary to look after the Garden. This all adds up to almost 1000 volunteer hours over the year, an incredible effort.

Last year we achieved a major milestone with the introduction of native fish into the ponds and canals. This was the culmination of eight years of restoration work on the water system, starting with leaking dams, silted up canals, broken banks and trees growing in the water.

PARISH OF SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Then finally the seal of approval from the Environment Agency and the delivery of a load of fish, around 200 in all, a mix of tench perch, rudd and crucian carp. Looking back, I'm not sure we fully understood what we were taking on in 2011 but it's all been worth it!

On a less positive note we had a break-in at our storage container in the autumn losing some essential tools and equipment, and of course this leads to extra work to increase security as well as general frustration not having the right tools for the job!

We also had the curious incident of a dozen domesticated ducks dumped in the Upper Pond, all with clipped wings. I'm afraid they didn't survive too long – easy prey for whatever killed them – we are now down to just one black duck left. Talking of ducks, have any of you seen chicks this year, so far I've only seen one taking a mud bath in the Upper Pond although there seem to be many breeding pairs around the Garden.

Looking ahead to this year, there are a number of small improvements we wish to make to the canal walls to stop further erosion and we are hoping to tackle the major drainage ditch between the Wild Garden and the fields, getting this back into operation again.

So, enjoy the Garden this summer, encourage any visitors you meet to take a leaflet and tell them the story of the Garden. Finally, a request to any of you whom operate a B&B in the area. Please take a bundle of our new leaflets and encourage your guests to visit the Wild Garden, and if they enjoy their visit to support us with a donation.

11. Gigaclear – how fast is superfast?

Tim Yates introduced representatives from Gigaclear and explained that the PC are working closely with them to ensure a proactive approach in the work to be carried out.

Louise Appleton, Community Engagement Officer for Gigaclear, gave a presentation.:

- Gigaclear are building brand new networks; they don't use other people's networks.
- Gigaclear are fully funding this build.
- This Ultrafast Fibre with speeds of 1000mbps
- The fibre goes directly into the home so the broadband signal isn't lost
- Gigaclear are future proofing – the cables will be in the ground for 50 plus years.
- POTS (points of termination) go on Highways land (not private land) and will sit flush with service points (drain covers etc)
- Green cabinets will be installed
- Six months after the completion of the build the verges will be reinstated
- New contractors have been employed to undertake the build. They are due to start towards the end of May.
- Network Build Care Team have a 12-hour response time. Any queries please contact them.

Floodlights at Wychwoods Tennis Club?

Paul Miller presented the Tennis Club's proposal for floodlighting on two courts at the Club.

There will be a drop-in session on 12th June at New Beaconsfield Hall to find out more about their proposal

The Club believes that it will create a more vibrant club and increase sporting capacity.

15. *No speeding through our village!* (Speedwatch)

Ian Drainer reported on the Community Speedwatch initiative:

- It has been running for the last two years with support of the PC and Liz Leffman
- Volunteers, working with the local police, monitor vehicle speeds using speed detection devices

PARISH OF SHIPTON UNDER WYCHWOOD
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

- Several roads have speeding issues in the village.
- The initiative improves the safety and quality of life in the community/
- There were 57 operations last year
- 371 vehicles were reported to the police

16. *Other Matters for Discussion*
None

Meeting closed: 9.25pm