

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th May 2009 at 9.00pm in Piddington Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mr S. Digby, Mr A. Hackett, Mrs J. Galliven, Mrs W. Pitcher, Mrs S. Storey, Miss L. Bowen Mrs S. Henson, Clerk Dist Cllr Mrs J. Teesdale

3 members of the public

Apologies were accepted from: District Cllr Mr I. McEnnis, County Cllr Mr F. Downes

1. Cllr Simon Digby as Chairman welcomed everyone present and thanked them for their support over the previous year.

2. Chairman's Report

The clearing of the brambles on the east side of Chipps Hill road is an unlikely analogy for The Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council's activities over the past year. We have identified the difficult problems within the Parish, tackled the thorny issues with energy and expertise, never shied away when the task looks too steep and the activities have resulted in the indigenous wild flowers once again flourishing where once there was barren land.

This has come about through a Parish Council which is filled with committed volunteers, who devote many hours of their time in the pursuit of enhancing their local area for the benefit of all parishioners and visitors alike. This could not have happened without the skills, professionalism and great humour of our Parish Clerk who works selflessly for our Parish and is the catalyst and conduit for all the actions that we manage to achieve. Our profile has increased in the last twelve months – when Piddington and Wheeler End speaks, people at all levels listen to what we have to say. This is very important as it gives us a voice in decisions that affect us and our Parishioners amongst the policy makers in local Government.

Evidence of the Council's work is apparent across the Parish. Here are some of the improvements that have been made –

- The Piddington Playground has been furnished with high-quality play apparatus. A ball wall and apron and a five-a-side pitch is fully installed which has seen huge usage from the local children
- The Playground has now got a fence along the road side of the field which enhances security and safety
- We have taken over management of Piddington Green
- The allotments have been cleared and reallocated
- The brambles along the east side of Chipps Hill have been cleared allowing wild flowers to flourish (aided by a £500 donation from the Chilterns Conservation Board)
- The War Memorial fence has been fully replaced
- Hedge cutting has been organised in several areas
- The Parish Website has been fully developed with hits improving significantly
- The ruts on Wheeler End Common were sorted out
- A donation was made to WERAG for plants on Wheeler End Common
- A bank of daffodils was planted alongside the Old Oxford Road
- Fly tipping has been addressed with the positioning of secret cameras in hot spots to help identify and prosecute offenders
- Financial assistance given to the Piddington Village Hall Committee towards the cost of repairing the roof

The Parish Councillors and Sharon Henson have spread themselves far and wide in a quest to ensure that our voice is heard and amongst the meetings attended were – WDC Parish Council Chairman’s Meeting, Rural Marlow Local Community Partnership, WDALC, Planning Training, Pathfinder Pilot Trials, SLCC Training Course, the Stokenchurch / Marlow Transport Group and numerous NAGs

I am delighted with the progress that the Parish Council has made in the last year. This would have been impossible without the services of our clerk, Sharon Henson. A one-woman dynamo who always gets the job done in the best possible humour. Her considerable reputation amongst her peers, employers and local public servants ensures that Sharon’s input is always dealt with the gravitas that she demands. This is why we manage to get so much done. She has the knowledge and experience to go straight to the right person for what ever task is required to be carried out and a tenacious hold taken until delivery is assured – all in the nicest possible way. I once again thank her wholeheartedly for her huge support and efforts which have made this Parish Council so successful. on so many fronts.

I would like to pay tribute to my fellow councillors - Vice Chairman Alan Hackett can often be observed picking up abandoned litter in the early hours of a Sunday morning – tribute to the unseen work he does all year long. Councillor Jean Galliven is a backbone of our Council, always cheery and optimistic. Councillor Wendy Pitcher is a very valuable member keeping an eye out on the Wheeler End part of the parish. Councillor Laura Bowen has made a great contribution in her first full year. Councillor Sylvia Storey continues to be the mobile antennae of the Parish Council and has unselfishly participated in many local meetings.

I must also thank our local representatives for all of their support. County Councillor Frank Downes and District Councillor Ian McEnnis have been great supporters of our Parish Council, and a special acknowledgement to District Councillor Mrs Jean Teesdale who has always been unselfishly at hand to help out when needed.

Exciting times for The Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council as we continue to add value to our environs, utilising what modern technology can provide us. The website will include all of our pathways in the next year providing easy access for visitors to come to the beautiful countryside that surrounds us. Local businesses will have their own links so that trade can be generated, benefiting the whole community.

Our year ahead - more brambles to be cleared on steep ground for the flowers to come blossoming through.

3. Annual Accounts

The Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Henson had issued sets of accounts and gave a report to everyone present and this will become part of the minutes of the meeting.

4. District Councillors Reports

Cllr Mrs Teesdale is pleased to see Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council represented at so many meetings and is proud to work with them to represent their residents.

She reported that WDC is having to make financial savings and officers are being made redundant. It is a slightly depressing time at the moment and we just have to work through this period. She is always willing to help with planning applications. She and Cllr McEnnis were pleased to have helped with some finance for a piece of play equipment and thoroughly enjoyed the official opening of the play area on Sunday.

5. Open Forum and reports from other bodies

Mr Galliven as a Wheeler End resident reported that he was no longer Chairman of WERAG, however he was able to report that work carried out this year has managed to reclaim some of the Common Land and that the South track was now being looked at.

There were no other organisations present.

The Chairman asked members of the public if they had any questions.

Mr Billington asked if, when the Village Hall Committee produced plans to change the toilets, the Parish Council would be able to help out. The Responsible Financial Officer reported that this year would be difficult as we had deliberately kept our precept the same as the previous year in order not to increase resident's Council Tax; we had also finished off the play area by having the ball wall apron laid, however if they made a request to the Parish Council in September it could be allowed for when setting the next year's budget.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm and asked everyone to join the Councillors in light refreshments.

Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council
Receipts and Payments Account - Year ended 31st March 2009

Receipts	Year ended 31.3.2008	31.3.2009
Opening balance current account	1694.00	2594.83
Opening balance – Bank of Ireland	16841.24	19854.94
Interest	1013.70	362.87
Precept	13000.00	15000.00
HM Customs	351.26	3471.04
Chiltern Society Grant	500.00	500.00
Football Foundation	198.00	
County Councillors & District Councillors Leaders Fund	----	700.00
Refund for paper	----	34.93
Total income	33,598.20	42518.61
Payments		
Clerks salary and allowances	3954.14	4111.94
Administration	1066.93	1621.58
Insurance	580.68	606.31
Photocopier lease	223.44	----
Audits (internal & external)	210.00	210.00
Recreation Grounds Maint/insp/wayleave/rent/equip	3087.44	21058.81
War Memorial Restoration(Sect 133 LGA 1948)	----	2508.00
Maintenance of Piddington Green/Bus shelter	1010.00	1555.00
Maintenance of Wh/End bus shelter/War Mem/Poppy Wrth	100.17	59.00
Hire of village hall	162.00	198.00
Subscriptions	202.37	206.57
Donations: WERAG	200.00	200.00
Piddington Village Hall (Sect 87 PHA 1936)	----	1141.34
VAT on purchases	351.26	3471.04
Clearance of Chipps Hill	----	1000.00
Total Expenditure	18,148.43	37,947.59
Cumulative Fund		
Opening Balance	18535.24	22449.77
Income	15062.96	20068.84
	33598.20	42518.61
Expenditure/reserves	18148.43	37947.59
Balance not allocated	15449.77	4571.02
Balance including reserves	22449.77	
Represented by:		
Current account		4456.85
Bank of Ireland		114.17