

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th May 2014 at 8.15pm in Piddington Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mr S. Digby, Mr, Mrs S. Storey, Mrs J. Galliven, Mrs W. Pitcher, Ms J. Redfern,
Mr. F. Swainston Mrs S. Henson, Clerk

County Cllr Mr D. Hayday

5 members of the public

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mr Hackett

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

2. Chairman's Report

The Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council has continued on its Twenty Year Vision of working to deliver improvements that will leave a legacy for the area.

This means that an eye has to be kept on the day-to-day issues as well as steering by the stars to deliver for tomorrow's generation. Flooding, potholes, dog dirt, grass cutting and maintenance are a cross-sample of issues that have to be dealt with on an ongoing basis ensuring that our Parish is maintained to the highest standards. Longer term projects which will deliver for future generations include decisions about planning applications, the planting of trees, siting of swathes of daffodils and the laying of hedges. It is the combining of both the short and long term objectives and goals that will enhance our environ for many years to come, and leave this place in much better condition. It is immensely pleasing that we received a Certificate of Merit in our inaugural entry into the Best Kept Village competition. This award exceeded our expectations and provides the motivation to do even better in future years.

Over the last year some of the work that the Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council has carried out has been –

- A defibrillator was demonstrated, purchased and sited in order to provide immediate assistance should anyone in the area suffer a sudden cardiac arrest
- The Emergency Plan was updated and re-circulated
- The Parish Council website has been upgraded to include a photo gallery and a map of all of the footpaths
- The Piddington bus shelter has been maintained and painted
- Jet patching was carried out at our behest by Bucks County Council
- We have signed up to supporting service personnel from RAF High Wycombe
- The recreation ground has been maintained, fences repaired and also improved to include two goalposts with netting which is regularly used by the local young people
- The hedge on Princes Street was completely tidied up and epicormic growth cut out on offending trees
- The recreation ground hedge was laid in Midland Bullock style and gaps replanted
- The allotments have been under the Council's management for four years and are fully allocated
- A full report was commissioned on our War Memorial and a full restoration arranged
- A poppy wreath was laid at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday
- A Parish Questionnaire was circulated to all residents and a list of fifteen actions drawn up on which the Parish Council is now acting. Communication of the actions were published in Contact Magazine.

- Funds were donated to many worthy causes, including the M40 Chilterns Environmental Group and The Piddington Village Hall
- An easy to read explanation of the bus service for Piddington was circulated to every house in the Parish
- Sandbags were delivered to properties affected by flooding
- The clerk has continually worked with the Bucks County Council Local Area Technician to log the work that had to be done on our roads, despite the problems posed by continuous changing of personnel

The person who ensures that all of our work is done is Sharon Henson. Against often frustratingly annoying bureaucracy she manages to triumph to deliver for our Parish. Her experience and breadth of reach across her three Parish Councils means that we are always apprised of the key issues and challenges. All of this carried out with a laugh and a smile whilst getting things done with a gritty determination. I thank her most sincerely for all of her hard grafting, good humour and guidance.

Our attendance of Parish Council in the last year could have been a lot better. Three meetings were inquorate which meant that an Extraordinary Meeting had to be called on one occasion. The Standing Orders were changed to allow three councillors constitute a valid meeting. But this is not the answer. I'll remind councillors that you are part of a binding constitutional body, and that you are legally bound to turn up at meetings. It is not a huge ask of our time and I'd like to ask everyone to ensure that you honour your commitments.

Vice Chairman Alan Hackett has always supported this Council as an eye on the area and back up to me. Councillors Jean Galliven and Wendy Pitcher are important members on behalf of the residents of Wheeler End whilst always guiding the Council. I thank them both for their work and inputs. Councillor Sylvia Storey is the roving reporter of Piddington and has personally banished many truck drivers to fields afar in her judicious pursuit of our TRO. Councillors Fraser Swainston has taken on the mantle of our Social Media and Jo Redfern always contributes to the debates at meetings. I thank them both.

I must also thank our local representatives for their continuing support. County Councillor Darren Hayday has been of tremendous support to the Parish Council and has been tenacious in his follow up of Bucks County commitments. District Councillor Ian McEnnis is a great supporter of our Parish Council, and a special thanks to District Councillor Mrs Jean Teesdale who has always been a stalwart.

Members of the public have helped draw attention to Village matters and I'd like to thank a few of them including Pam Harris and Jim Lassen for their forthright views and energy. Our pub landlord Wayne Mitchell also communicates with the Parish Council and we will continue to do what we can to support him in his enterprise.

The Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council is in great shape. I believe that we can still do better and know that we will continue to have a positive impact on our Parish.

3. Annual Accounts

The Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Henson had issued sets of accounts and went through them with everyone present. They will become part of the minutes of the meeting.

4. Open Forum and reports from other bodies

County Cllr Hayday re stated that he would continue to work tirelessly for the parish and he thanked the Councillors and Clerk for their friendly welcome and good working relationship despite the struggle to get work undertaken by Bucks CC.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm and asked everyone to join the Councillors in light refreshments.