

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council held on Tuesday
9th May 2017 at 7.30pm in Piddington Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Mr S. Digby, Mr A Hackett, Mrs J Galliven, Mrs S. Storey, Ms J Redfern,
Mrs W. Pitcher,
Mrs H. Glasgow, Clerk

6 members of the public. County Councillor Darren Hayday.

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Mrs J Roy.

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

2. Chairman's Report

Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council continues to operate as dynamic, decision making, environment enhancing, listening and active democratic operation.

In these days of fake news, hyperbole, chest thumping bragging, we just get the important stuff done. There will be no wall to keep the Lane Enders on the south side of the motorway, we have no swamps (called bogs in this part of the world) to drain and we welcome immigrants with open arms, all adding to the life and diversity of the beautiful area in which we are lucky enough to live. We are a group of volunteers doing our best in an atmosphere of convivial cooperation, and we have a lot to show for our efforts. I'd like to mention some of them -

- The Piddington Lane sign was found and put back up where it belonged
- A community parking meeting was held and a full strategy put in place which is helping to make Piddington a safer place
- Voluntary parking rules created and disseminated
- Updated allotment tenancy rules
- A notice board was erected in the bus shelter
- Broken bollards were replaced
- Our website was reviewed and proposals adopted to upgrade and modernise
- A social media policy has been adopted
- A full litter pick was organised and carried out
- Roadside weeds were treated
- A mid-Summer street party was held
- Assistance given to the village-wide distribution of DataTags
- Anti-ponding roadworks carried out on Piddington Lane
- ROSPA playground inspection and maintenance of equipment
- Allotments managed to almost full capacity – one available
- Attendance at LAFs, NAGs and Rural Forum Meetings
- DCLG, BCC and BASC Conferences attended
- The complete cutback of brambles and encroaching growth on Chipps Hill to encourage the spread of wild flowers
- Full grass cutting and maintenance of the playground, playing field and Piddington Green

We have also tried different ideas which have fallen on stony ground. We tried to get surrounding Parish Councils to agree to help create jogging trails through our Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This was rebuffed. We looked at additional parking in Wheeler End. This too was soundly rejected by residents. We entered the Best Kept Village and got nowhere, despite the organised litter-pick and weed eradication. We have failed in getting Superfast Broadband into our area. A mix-up of postcodes has to be one of the most pathetic excuses proffered by BT as a reason for their vacillation. We will keep chasing to get a result.

I look upon these failures as a demonstration of our success as a Parish Council. We have to keep trying things, even if they don't have the outcome we desire. If we don't face the odd letdown, then we are not trying hard enough. Let's keep the ideas flowing, but more importantly, let's keep trying to execute them. Discussion without an action is just discussion; discussion with an action is a plan. This is a Parish Council that is dedicated to action over discussion.

We are very lucky to have healthy relationships with the public servants in our area. PCs O'Driscoll and Shoebridge have attended our meetings and offered full empathetic help on our parking issues. PC Marchant has organised DataTags for Piddington residents. County Councillor Darren Hayday is a regular attendee at our meetings. He listens to us, he listens to local social media, he listens to our parishioners, but most importantly, he acts. His help and support has been invaluable in the last twelve months. Continually hassling the powers that be has resulted in anti-ponding on Piddington Lane and potholes filled in.

District Councillor Jean Teasdale is hugely supportive of our Parish Council, and is always willing to put the fear of God into wayward service providers. We thank her for her continued help. District Councillor Ian McEnnis is a huge help to us in this parish. He energetic on getting the latest issues sorted out and is always by our side.

Our clerk, Hayley Glasgow, has been a great asset over the last year. She has an uncanny ability to hound various organisations and get results, all done with a smile on her face. Her efficiency is the oil that keeps the wheels of the Parish Council rolling. We couldn't do it without her. I must also mention Sharon Henson, who came riding over the hill to help us when Hayley was on maternity leave. It was lovely to welcome her back and her work was of stellar standard.

I would like to thank my Parish Councillors individually. Alan Hackett ably deputised for me during the year as vice-chairman and has continued his quest of local litter warden and clearer of problems like dumped garden waste. Wendy Pitcher continues to be our expert on all things rural and carried out the parking survey for Wheeler End. Jean Galliven has sorted out the War Memorial and is a continuing active member of this organisation. Sylvia Storey patrols Piddington and woe betide a trucker who parks where he shouldn't. Sylvia is our Contact contact, efficiently communicating and keeping the residents informed. Jo Redfern has been busy in the last year. She again sorted out the work on Chipps Hill with a detailed brief and monitored the contractor as the work was carried out. The current display of wild cowslips is a tribute to her perseverance. Jane Kingsman Roy got her sleeves rolled up and overhauled our social media approach resulting in the adoption of our policy. She has improved the website and we will be tweeting shortly as a result of her efforts. I thank of our Councillors for their continuing energy.

Our parishioners are always willing to make their voices heard and I thank them for that. I ask them for their help in making things happen over the next year.

Superfast Broadband can't come soon enough; we will create a welcome package for people moving into the area which will give them goodies from local businesses and we will enter the best kept village again.

My thanks on behalf of this Parish Council to all who have helped make improvements happen and I relish the opportunity of us all working together in the future to do even more.

3. Annual Accounts

The Responsible Financial Officer, Mrs Glasgow issued sets of accounts.

4. Open Forum and reports from other bodies

Cllr Hayday thanked everyone for voting for him in the election. Cllr Hayday is hoping to make the pathway from West Wycombe through to Stokenchurch more accessible and also the possibility of having a cycle lane, money dependant.

Cllr Storey reported that the Police have delivered the DataTags packs to about half the village and the Police will continue over the next coming weeks.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.45pm.