

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council held on Tuesday  
10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.30pm in Piddington Village Hall**

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

6 members of the public. County Councillor Darren Hayday, District Councillor Jean Teesdale.

Apologies were accepted from Cllr J Galliven, District Cllr I McEnnis.

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 is a vibrant, democratic grass-roots organisation which prides itself on adding value to its environment. Our modus operandi is one of issue identification, information gathering and decision making. We then move on, and do the same process all over again. This activity is carried out in an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation. Debate is encouraged with the objective of examining issues from different viewpoints. But at the end of the discussion there has to be a decision, and that decision must be supported by the councillors. This has meant that the Parish Council has managed to get through a tremendous amount of progress in the last year and I am proud to mention a list of them -

- A full repair and maintenance programme for the War Memorial in Wheeler End
- ROSPA playground inspection and maintenance of equipment
- Allotments managed to full capacity
- Attendance at LAFs, NAGs and Rural Forum Meetings
- DCLG, BCC and BASC Conferences attended
- Money donated to the Village Hall towards the purchase of new curtains
- Money donated to the Queen's birthday celebrations
- Picnic table reinstated in the playing field
- Water leaks at the bottom of Kings Street sorted out with Thames Water
- The complete cutback of brambles and encroaching growth on Chipps Hill to encourage the spread of wild flowers
- The footpath clearance on Dashwood Hill, which now makes it safer for ramblers and joggers
- The purchase of pop-up goals for football on Wheeler End Common
- The facilitation of extra parking spaces at George Lee court in conjunction with Red Kite
- Interaction between the residents and the Edgleys about ongoing work in Tipping Shaw wood
- A full assessment of supplying water to the allotments
- The removal of a dead conker tree on Wheeler End Common
- The Dashwood Arms public house listed as an Asset of Community value
- A new childrens' slide in the playground
- Full grass cutting and maintenance of the playground, playing field and Piddington Green

Our year started auspiciously with the local MP, Steve Baker, attending our May meeting. This is the first time an MP has graced us with his presence and has created a link to his office in order to help us achieve our goals.

We are very lucky to have some fine public servants in our area. County Councillor Darren Hayday is a regular attendee at our meetings. He listens, he writes his notes but most importantly, he acts. He gets stuff done. His help and support has been invaluable in the last twelve months. Continually hassling the powers that be has resulted in road resurfacing in Piddington, incremental parking spaces and the clearance of Dashwood Hill. And there are many more examples of his work, but he will be embarrassed if I go on much more.

District Councillor Jean Teasdale is hugely supportive of our Parish Council, and is always willing to strike terror into the hearts of wayward service providers. We thank her for her continued help.

District Councillor Ian McEnnis is a huge help to us in this parish. He continually updates us on the latest issues and is always by our side when pushing our agenda outside our environ. As leader of Wycombe District Council, we have had a wonderful ally over the last twelve months.

Our clerk, Hayley Glasgow has been a joy to work with. Efficient, practical and bright (both of nature and intelligence), she has steered this Parish Council through the year with great skill. We never have to worry if an action has been done because she is usually two steps ahead. And a great negotiator to boot; she convinced Red Kite to donate £3,000 to the cost of the childrens' slide in the playground which was no mean feat. She is a delight to work with and her network of contacts quake in their boots if they haven't fulfilled a promise that they have made to Hayley. I thank her profusely.

I would like to thank my Parish Councillors individually. Alan Hackett ably deputised for me during the year as vice-chairman and has carried out his work efficiently and with no fuss. Wendy Pitcher is our authority on all things rural and is our parking specialist for Wheeler End Jean Galliven is always willing to get involved and create practical solutions to issues. Sylvia Storey patrols Piddington perfectly. Always noticing things that can be improved or evicting wayward lorry drivers, she is someone who gets things done. Our Contact contact, she efficiently communicates and keeps the residents informed. Jo Redfern has been beavering away in the last twelve months. She sorted out the work on Chipps Hill with a detailed brief and kept an eye on the contractor as the work was carried out. She single handedly solved an issue that has caused an issue for years. I'd like to welcome Jane Kingsman Roy to our Parish Council. She has a skill set that will be put to good use as part of our merry band.

Our parishioners are always willing to make their voices heard and I thank them for that. We are accountable to every parishioner and that is something that has to be exercised. Mr Ranking has been picking up litter as he walks around the Village. How good is that!

There is plenty more to be done. We have a Piddington Village meeting planned in June concerning the parking problems. I am hoping for a lively evening with input from many organisations and individuals and a successful outcome.

We are still battling to get Superfast Broadband for the area, which is hampered by perpetual delays. This just isn't good enough and we have redouble our efforts to ensure that our parishioners are not discriminated against.

We have had Community Impact Bucks to a meeting in a quest to create interaction between the elderly and younger residents.

We will be cleaning for the Queen later this month and have entered the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village competition again. I am hoping that we will do better than last year.

My thanks to all who have helped this 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 Storey reported on the NAG meeting there has not been much criminal activity, most issues were parking problems.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm.