

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council held on Tuesday
14th May 2019 at 7.30pm in Piddington Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Mr S. Digby, Mr N. Cloke, Mrs W. Pitcher, Ms J Redfern, Mrs. J Roy
Mrs H. Glasgow, Clerk

5 members of the public. District Councillor Ian McEnnis.

Apologies were accepted from Councillors Mr A Hackett, Mr A Stevens. County Councillor Darren Hayday

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 collection of local volunteer residents who have a love for their locale and environment and do their best to ensure that the all decisions are made in the interest of their parishioners.

We are ably assisted by our clerk who ensures that everything runs smoothly and that the Councillors are kept fully informed of relevant District and County issues.

Tricky bigger picture themes such as GDPR and the move to a single Unitary Authority for the County have been fully briefed and appropriate action taken.

Piddington and Wheeler End Parish Council has to be absolutely sure that every penny achieves value for money and is fully accounted for. We look forward to and appreciate the people who attend our meetings and draw issues to our attention. We would encourage everybody in the parish to be our eyes and ears and let us know if there anything untoward going on.

We have been up to a lot of activities in the last year, and I'd like to mention some of them -

- Fly tipping reported and removed
- The Dashwood Arms and Chequers registered as community assets
- Picnic bench purchased and installed on a concrete plinth in the Playground
- Two bus stops shut down due to lack of use
- Wheeler End Summer party support
- Silent Soldier erected beside the War Memorial in Wheeler End
- Wreaths purchased and laid
- Ideas for investment of savings investigated
- Emergency plan resurrected and updated
- HGV signs re-erected
- Footpaths reported
- Disabled bay sprayed out
- Dog fouling signs erected
- Continued efforts to making parking safer in Piddington
- Wobbly post replaced at the Playing Fields
- Salt bin installed on Bullocks Farm Lane
- Donation to the Piddington Village Hall for the new ceiling
- Litter pickers ordered and used on a full litter-pick day
- A score of 77/100 in the Best Kept Village competition, and improvement of one point over last year
- Roadside weeds were treated, overgrown hedges reported and cut back
- A mid-Summer street party was held
- ROSPA playground inspection and maintenance of equipment
- Attendance at LAFs, NAGs and Rural Forum Meetings
- DCLG, BCC and BASC Conferences attended

- The continued annual cutback of brambles and encroaching growth on Chipps Hill to encourage the spread of wildflowers
- A new grass cutting contract.

I get the feeling that amongst the general populous, the mention of any Parish Council in the country conjures up images of dodderly half-wits pontificating on issues about which they can do very little. The list you have just heard, which is by no means absolutely comprehensive, demonstrates that with a bit of time and effort much can be achieved. But there is still plenty to be done.

Superfast Broadband has arrived across our parish, but still hasn't been fully rolled out. We remain discriminated against in so far as modern communications is concerned. We will keep the pressure up to get a result.

Our two extra-curricular projects, Piddington Against Plastic and the Poo Project have shown that the actions of a few can really make a difference. Recycling information was circulated to every house in the Parish. New dog bins have been installed in high dog-traffic areas. An article was published in the Press about our dog poo activities and a poo flicking competition organised to raise awareness of the ongoing issue.

We are very lucky to have ongoing interaction with the public servants in our area. County Councillor Darren Hayday is a regular attendee at our meetings. He interacts with us and our parishioners, but more importantly, he acts. He has been a key influencer in achieving improvements on the A40. Anti-skid patches at the junction of Chipps Hill, cutting back the foliage on the Dashwood Hill and the installation of a new footpath on the Old Dashwood Hill are a tribute to his hard work. His help and support have been great in the last twelve months.

District Councillor Jean Teasdale is very supportive of our Parish Council and assists up whenever we look for help. District Councillor Ian McEnnis is an enthusiastic supporter of all things in the Parish including a generous donation to Village Hall improvements. He has been a big help to us in this parish

Our clerk, Hayley Glasgow, has been a bundle of energy and just gets stuff done. Hayley has been the backbone of this Council and faces into any task with a willing smile and boundless enthusiasm.

Each Parish Councillor has given their time unselfishly over the last year.

Vice Chair Jane Kingsman Roy more than ably deputised for me when I was unavailable and has added great energy to this Parish Council. Nothing is too much for Jane who worked hard behind the scenes on our sub-groups.

Jo Redfern is our go-to Chipps Hill expert and monitored the contractor as the cutting-back work was carried out. She has added intelligent and composed comment to the parking issues in the Village which have helped everybody understand the wider issues and prevented knee-jerk reactions which would have impacted a minority in a major way.

Alan Hackett ably continues to add to the debates on the Parish Council and can be seen by the insomniacs amongst us wombling about the Parish in the early hours picking up bagsful of rubbish. Wendy Pitcher continues to be our expert on all things farming and interaction with our physical environment.

Nick Cloke and Tony Stevens have made a big impact in their respective first years on the job. Nick has saved the Council a large amount of money by putting the grass contract out to tender which gives us the opportunity to consider other projects. He has been an enthusiastic member of the sub-teams and instrumental in placing dog bins, rubbish bins and designing and placing awareness posters around the Village.

Tony has constructed the concrete plinth for the picnic bench in the playground as well as replacing the wobbly pole.

I thank all our Councillors for their continuing work and support and look forward to working with them in the upcoming year

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 McEnnis reported on the unitary authority. A unitary authority is a type of local authority that has a single tier and is responsible for all local government functions within its area or performs additional functions which elsewhere in the relevant country are usually performed by national government or a higher level of sub-national government.

Unitary authorities cover towns which are large enough to function independently of county or other regional administration.

Elections start for divisions on 20th April 2020. The new divisions will accommodate extended boundaries. Under the new authority there will be 147 Councillors covering the County. Some areas of Wycombe have submitted a bid to WDC to become parished.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.46pm.