

**Minutes of the Wendlebury Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 25 May 2017 at 8.00pm**

Present:

Chairman: Tim Hibbert
Clerk: Jane Olds
Cherwell District Council: No Councillors were available
Oxfordshire County Council: Cllr Ian Corkin
12 Wendlebury Residents

Apologies: Police, Cllr David Hughes, Jane Burrett, Lois Lancaster, Joyce Barlow, Gary Blake, the Rev'd Gareth Miller

1. Apologies

The apologies were received.

2. Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for electing him as Chairman. Anni Thompson was thanked for her dedication to the village both as a Councillor and all her other voluntary contributions and the Chairman wished her well for her move to Suffolk.

Catherine Fulljames was also thanked for her dedication to the village as the County Councillor.

Ian Corkin was welcomed as the new County Councillor.

The new vicar, Gareth Miller was also welcomed to the village.

3. Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Police were unable to attend.

4. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman outlined the Parish Council's activities over the past year which included responding robustly to CDC's consultation on the Partial Review of Local Plan Part 1 for Oxford's unmet housing need and the Boundary Commission consultation on the Parliamentary constituency boundaries.

The Partial Review consultation was of primary concern because of the proposal put forward by Bonnar Allen for 2,000 houses outside the village. The Parish awaited CDC's response with interest.

The Boundary Commission had proposed that Wendlebury be included in the Henley and Thame constituency which the Parish Council, with a number of other parishes, had rejected.

The Parish was also keeping a watchful eye on the Bicester Gateway development to the south of Bicester Avenue Garden Centre and would be ensuring, with the Safer Wendlebury team, that the village did not become a rat run for visitors to the development. The Safer Wendlebury team would also be working on further speed checks in the village. One earlier in the month had spotted 140 vehicles travelling through the village between 7.15 and 7.30am.

Four parishes had been working together to rectify the roads affected by the Network Rail construction traffic. The County Council had met with Network Rail and a funding arrangement had been agreed. Unfortunately, this would not cover the full repair, however the Chairman had met with County Council officials to show the damage which needed repairing and in some parts, re-building and it was hoped that OCC would be able to supplement the Network Rail contribution with the repairs being undertaken during the summer holidays.

With the resignation of Anni Thompson, the Parish Council would be looking for a new member.

5. Healthy Bicester – to hear from the Healthy Bicester team

The Healthy Bicester team were unable to attend.

6. Reports from Village Organisations:

a. Parochial Church Council and Church Fundraising Committee

Julian Cordy reported that the church had been faced with closure 18 months ago because it had been difficult to pay the quota. However, a fundraising committee had been formed and, thanks to Justine Brown, was doing well and the Church was now in a reasonable financial state.

The Quinquennial report from the architect had indicated that about £25,000 worth of repairs were needed to the building. While this work needed to be undertaken, the PCC were looking into the possibility of providing a toilet and kitchen facilities to give the village an additional venue.

The Church is already being used as a rehearsal venue for the community choir.

b. Community Choir

The Community Choir which had about 30 singers was run by Catie Williams. They had performed two very successful concerts. The next event would be a Big Sing on 24 June which all were welcome to attend.

c. Neighbourhood Watch (written report from Jane Burrett)

In addition to the retirement of WPC Caroline Brown, Deborah Huxtall, who used to send email alerts about crimes in our immediate area from her Banbury office, has also ceased her job.

If you wish to be an individual member of www.neighbourhoodalert.co.uk you can register as an individual member. You then put in your post code and you will see the various co ordinators in Wendlebury. You will also from the above site – using the same log in details you register – check on the crimes in our area. You can click on a month and select other options.

For general information from Thames Valley Police there is a new website which you may wish to access: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

d. Women’s Institute

The WI apologised for not attending, but had got held up returning from an event.

e. Allotment Society

All the allotments have now been cleared and are in use with nine active members or families. Due to a dip in take up within the village there are now three allotmenters from Bicester and Caversfield and the group is able to swap agricultural techniques from France, Portugal, Zimbabwe and the UK!

The group has regular supplies of locally sourced manure thanks to Kate Lewis which helps with the growth of their wide range of vegetables, fruit and flowers, and locally sourced wood chippings thanks to Keith Hooke which are used for the paths and ground cover.

Tim Howard was thanked for providing the village with the idyllic spot and they were pleased to continue to support St Giles Church with the rents each year.

f. Cycling Club

The Cycling Club now meet on a Thursday evening and ride between 20 and 30 miles, usually finishing at a pub. It is very relaxed and all are welcome to join in.

g. Golf Society

Julian Cordy reported that the Golf Society has two events a year in the spring and autumn. All villagers are welcome to join the group.

h. Village Club (written report by Lois Lancaster)

The Village Club has had a busy 12 months and would like to thank everybody for their support at the various events. April last year saw our sell-out 80’s Disco which was great fun, the Travelling Supper in June and Village BBQ in July were well attended as usual and the Taste Challenge in September and Comedy Night in November were enjoyed by all who attended. The Village Quiz in October was the last to be organised by Graham and Gordy, we thank them for giving us so much fun and look forward to having Jeff Hewitt at the helm going forward.

We have had to cancel a couple of events such as the Film Night and the recent School Disco due to lack of interest. While this isn't a problem, if anyone has any suggestions for the kind of events they would like to see us put on they should feel free to drop me a line so that we can make sure we are catering for everybody and trying new things.

Looking forward, we have the Travelling Supper on the 10th of June, the Village BBQ on the 15th of July, the Village Quiz on the 7th of October and another Comedy Night on the 10th of November. Do pop these dates in your diary and try and come along to support them where you can. All proceeds from events go directly to the village, maintaining the hall, the playground and other community projects that help make our wonderful place so special.

i. **Wendlebugs** (written report by Lorraine Mead)

Wendlebugs has continued to run weekly in term time for the parents and care givers of babies and toddlers. Each session offers a cuppa for the adults, toys for babies and toddlers and also a snack and creative activity for the older kids. Activities vary each week and include making Easter cards, crafting, painting, and playdoh.

The group is run by Hayley and Lorraine currently - Lorraine lives locally in Wendlebury. A group of parents, grandparents and caregivers etc work together on a rota to set-up, run each session and bring snacks for the children. However, we are looking for someone to support this group of volunteers. We continue to look for a volunteer (is there any local Wendlebury people?) that might be able to help out on the Friday morning to make a welcoming cuppa in the kitchen.

We've had a couple of outings arranged over the last year, for example,
Farm visit
Summer holiday party
Halloween party
Christmas party

Also, if there are people in the village that would like to come and help by making a few cups of tea for mummies and daddies that come that would be appreciated.

We need to do a stock take on the toys too as several are broken, so donations of toys in good working order are welcomed wholeheartedly.

Thanks for your continued support.

j. **Evergreens** (written report by Joyce Barlow)

The Evergreens have had a very successful year. Our membership has increased, even though sadly, we have lost some of our members.

During the year we had a varied programme re-visiting places we have been before and also going to new places. Trips which were new and very successful were the Severn Valley steam train from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth and also in September the Black Country Museum in Dudley.

We are grateful for the use of the Wendlebury mini bus and also the drivers who volunteer to drive for us, Dave Jones, Pete Busby, Kerry Wilce, Stuart Weston and Hugh Pryor.

The monthly meetings in the Chesterton Community Centre were well attended especially as they now have TWO cups of tea and homemade cakes and biscuits!!!

We have now put together our programme for 2017/2018 using the Chesterton Community centre for our meetings every first Monday of the month, and we have activities and speakers booked right up to February 2018, which we hope is varied so there is something for everyone.

We had our AGM on February 6th, when Stephen stepped down as leader and Joyce Barlow was elected as the new leader. Joyce has been on the committee for a few years and was happy to move into the position. Pat Lawrence was elected as Treasurer taking over from Harry Jenkins who had been treasurer for 20 years. Marilyn Simpson is now Secretary and Ann Houghton is a further committee member. Stephen was elected as a committee member, but has since resigned owing to other commitments.

All of the Evergreen members thank both Stephen and Harry for all their hard work looking after the group for many years.

k. ABC

No report had been received.

l. Gardening Club

No report had been received.

m. Bowler's Copse Project (written report by Jane Burrett)

The six regular and 3 occasional volunteers have finished doing maintenance work in Bowler's Copse until next season which will be from early November 2017! Then we plan to coppice a section which was cleared and replanted in 2004-05. This will be the second coppicing there. The growth will come more strongly after that. We will let gardeners know before Christmas if we think we can harvest sets of 8ft bean poles. In the last few weeks visitors have seen bluebells flowering. Six bird nesting boxes were put up and we hope that gradually they will be occupied each spring.

Anyone is welcome to go into the copse any time. A dog needs to be on a lead because of the roads, despite the drainage ditches. There is a small picnic area with rough seating and tables just over the big bridge at the Wendlebury end, before or

after a walk along the narrow path to the pond at the far end. Wear stout shoes and please close the handmade gates as you leave because the deer like to eat the bark. If you go in the summer take some insect repellent. If you want to know more nearer the autumn please contact: Wendlebury regular volunteers Mike and June Pearce: landline 243967, Jane Burrett 241823.

n. 5-a-side Football

The group is run by Julian Cordy and is open for all ages. They meet on Tuesday nights at Cooper School and the cost is £3 per session. All are welcome.

7. Update from Village Hall Committee Chairman

No formal report had been received, however it was understood that the Committee was looking at how to refurbish and rejuvenate the hall and playground facilities.

8. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Corkin introduced himself as the newly-elected County Councillor. He lived in Fewcott and was a Parish Councillor for many years. He is also a District Councillor for Fringford and the Heyfords and much of his area of responsibility overlaps. He chose to stand for the County Council in order to be a voice for the rural community in which he lives.

He was acutely aware of the issues affecting the rural community, particularly the loss of the bus service, and the closure of the children's centres and other senior adult services. However, he reported that about half of the current budget was now being spent on Adult Social Care for 2% of the population and that the County would run out of money in less than five years without intervention.

Cllr Corkin believes that the only way to change things is to do something about it and to pass on fresh thinking which he hopes he will be able to influence.

9. District Councillor's Reports

Cllr Corkin kindly made a report on the District Council as none of the village's District Councillors were able to attend.

Cllr Corkin was pleased to report that the District continued to deliver great value for money with no reductions to front line staff or facilities.

A new Chief Executive had been appointed to start in July.

Cllr Corkin had been appointed as a non-executive Director of the Graven Hill Self Build project which was gaining popularity.

Of concern was the reduction of services at the Horton and the provision of healthcare in general, particularly round the Bicester area.

The Unitary debate had been put on hold until after the General Election.

Cllr Corkin recommended that the Parish think about a future wider neighbourhood plan which could encompass other villages.

10. Open discussion

There was no open discussion, but the public thanked Tim Hibbert for his work.

11. Chairman’s Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked the public for attending.

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm

Signed

Dated