

UPPER HEYFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Reading Room on Thursday 11 Mar 2017

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Reading Room on Thursday 10th of May 2018 at 7:15 pm.
Please attend, remember it is an opportunity to raise issues of concern and to hear reports from Parish representatives.**

Present: Members of the Parish Council, Parish Clerk and 18 Parishioners

Apologies for Absence: County Cllr Corkin, Parish Cllr Burrows, Rev. Griffiths, S McCready- Dorchester Gp, N Brown – Clean Slate, Nigel – Scoutmaster, Duncan Hedley, Barry Parsons

Introduction: The Clerk reported the results of the Council elections and introduced the Councillors. He reported that Cllr Alex Gregory has resigned. An election has been called to elect his replacement. At the Annual Parish Council Meeting just concluded, Cllr Allen was re-elected as Chair and Cllr Weaver as Vice Chair. The chair for the meeting was passed over to Cllr Allen.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the APM of 12 May 2016 were approved as read.

Chair's Report: I would like to start my report by acknowledging the deaths of parishioners and those closely associated with the Parish over the last 12 months. Those we are aware of include: John Stowe (Boards Farm) Mrs Marion Hedges (long time resident of the village with her late husband Leslie) aged 101, Nichola Charvis, Chris Mullineux, Kathleen Preedy & her husband Arthur Preedy formerly of this parish (residents of Steeple Aston). Others with village connections: Win Gardiner of Somerton for many years active at local events, Alan Humberstone of Lower Heyford former chairman of LH PC and various committees involved with the future of the airbase, Tony Kilby of Lower Heyford frequenter of the Barley Mow in past years. I would like to invite you all to observe a minute silence to remember the departed. It has been another incredibly busy year for the **Parish Council**. I would like to say a big thank you to Chris Scarrott and Catherine Mullineux for all that they contributed to the council and welcome new councillor Paul Smith. I would particularly thank all of our Councillors for their hard work and diligence, contributing so much of their time and skills to our community. I would also like to thank Jack Goodman as our Parish Clerk. The Council has worked very hard over the past year on a wide range of issues and projects. I would like to highlight some of this work; **Village:** Rebuilding of the church wall which looks amazing, completion of the recreation ground play area, refurbishing the village litterbins, practical work around the village e.g. Orchard Lane, School Lane sign etc, hedge and tree trimming around the cemetery and green and building the annual bonfire purchase of a Defib Unit **Heyford Park:** Working together with Dorchester and HPRA secured a temporary Dog Walk area, offering support to 3 new groups: over 55s; Play-park under 5s group & HP Youth Group, speedwatch campaign: After the success of Speedwatch sessions held so far, the PC has purchased another speed-gun and signs for Heyford Park. A school crossing remains a priority and the Council is working with HPRA and Dorchester on that. **Parish:** The Council and HPRA are working with Cherwell on a plan to separate the Parish into two, and is engaged in the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan group. **Volunteer Service:** I would now like to pay tribute to the volunteers who give their time so freely to the benefit of the community. Janet Lawrance who delivers prescription to the elderly; Ray Funnell for winding and maintaining the church clock and managing our marquees; Ian Lough-Scott who manages the cemetery, edits and publishes Valley News and Around the Fountain. Catherine Mullineux, Valley News Treasurer, who has made the publication more financially viable. Leigh McCarron, who is doing a great job as chair of HPRA, Emma Turner for organising the ParkPlay Children's sessions on Heyford Park, Tom Beckett and Dave Beesley, for organising the Youth Group on Heyford Park. Barry Parsons, Booking Clerk for the Reading Room. Marlene Bibani Booking Clerk for the Village Hall and Mary Goodman for helping managing both. Mary Goodman, Maureen and Pete James who organise the lighting of the church tower and Pete also voluntarily mows the churchyard. Bob Beere for cutting school lane grass verge. Nick Garner and Rich Riddle for pruning the trees on the Common, Sarah Zaza for looking after the RR flower tub and putting the bins in and out, Chris Steele for repairing and looking after the Allen's lane noticeboard, Paul Weaver, Alan Hedges, Kim Smith, Simon Van Z and Ian Lough Scott for the Village Group, set up to ensure that villagers are kept informed about the housing development and looking at ways to soften the impact upon the village. Veronica Lough Scott for all her contributions - Warreners, WI, 200 club and church flowers. This list is far from exhaustive but it does indicate the community spirit that makes Upper Heyford Parish a great place to live. Many other contributors will be highlighted through the individual reports to follow shortly. Finally, I would like to bring to your attention that a full account of the activities of the Council is published in the Minutes. These are posted monthly on notice boards around the village and on the Parish website. We have a public forum at the beginning of all PC meetings and you are warmly invited to attend. Parishioners are always welcome to put items on to the PC agenda by contacting Jack the week prior to a meeting. Thank you very much.

Oxfordshire CC & Cherwell District Council (CDC) Report: Cllr Ian Corkin submitted a report on behalf of OCC & CDC. As our recently elected Oxfordshire CC Councillor, Cllr Corkin requested feedback on any issues Cllr Fulljames was previously working on our behalf. Concerning CDC, highlights of his report included: Excellent fiscal management is evident, with significant savings from cross border working with S Northants DC resulting in the 8th consecutive year of no increase in CDC council tax, along with higher approval rating for the work of the Council. Approval has been given for Castle Quay 2 development in Banbury and Gateway Retail Park approval for a Next and M&S store in Bicester. The Graven Hill self-build initiative in Bicester is up and running. The CDC is working hard with NHS to retain services at the Horton General Hospital.

Finance Report: The accounts for the year past are on the table at the back of the hall for review, and are always available for any Parishioner to review by request to me. For the year ending 1 April 2017, the Council spent a total of £38,444 and had income of £42,433. On current operations the council spent £37,248 against a budget of £31,115. This spend includes £6,855 of VAT payments on the new playground (recovered), and an additional £1,196 spent to extend the fencing on the new playground. Finally, £5,800 was spent to rebuild the St Mary's church wall. The biggest single item of expenditure, £6,079, as usual, was on landscaping encompassing maintenance of the playing fields, common verges, the cemetery and Orchard Close common land. £1,268 was spent on Community Support including a £500 grant to Clean Slate charity and £450 for Queen's Birthday celebrations. £570 for the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum and £864 for speed limit signs on Heyford Park. There was a healthy income stream with VAT rebates on normal operations for the prior year of £3,663 and Reading Room hire income of over £3,431. The current account balance at the end of the FY was £10,285. I will be recommending to the Council that a major portion of this be transferred to reserves. However, because of the need for some accruals to cover expenditure agreed but not actioned during the year a portion will need to be retained in the current year accounts. The Reserve account balance, including the remainder of the Joan Rhodes bequest is £59,805. Money from the bequest has been spent to buy the bulletin board at the Reading Room and audiovisual equipment for the Reading Room and wider community use. The remaining bequest amounts to £47,330, Council reserves make up the remainder of £12,475. I have also posted a summary sheet showing the

approved budget for FY 17/18. The Council has set a precept of £33,541 against a budget of £40,730. This precept results in a charge for the average household of £45.40, an annual increase of £1.03 per household. The increase was agreed to, along with the growing tax base to provide for an ambitious programme of wall repairs, continued support for the Neighbourhood Plan process and enhanced support for Community Projects.

Cherwell Benefice and St Mary's Church Report: Andrew Gotch passed on the thanks of Rev. Griffith for all of the volunteers that make the benefice work. There is a thriving contemporary service at Heyford Park Chapel and traditional services are held in St Mary's Church in Upper Heyford village. Andrew also reported that improvements to the Church are in the works, the first project being replacing the Church heating, hopefully by the end of 2018. He passed on thanks to the Baileys and Veronica Lough-Scott for flowers and to the Friends of St Mary's for their financial support. Local support is vital. Contributions have declined this year.

Dorchester Group: Apologies were received. Cllr Allen briefed that contact is on-going with Dorchester Group particularly concerning the provision of a cemetery at Heyford Park and establishment of a buffer, non-coalescence, zone between the Heyford Park development and Upper Heyford village.

Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Forum (MCNP): Paul Weaver presented a report on behalf of the MCNP. Progress has been good. A series of consultations with members of the 11 parishes were conducted with good feedback. The MCNP has commissioned a Heritage & Culture assessment for the region. Pre-submission consultation for the plan is scheduled for July 2017, with a referendum by April 2018.

Heyford Park Residents Association (HPRA): Leigh McCarron reported that the Residents Association continues to work with Dorchester Group and others stakeholders to work for the residents of Heyford Park. As the community grows more representatives are coming forward to work with the Association. Leigh thanked the Parish Council for their support over the past year.

Community Garden: Sharon Keen submitted a report on the activities of the garden on Heyford Park. The garden has been well used all year with picnics and BBQ's. Funding was obtained from Tesco of £2,000 that was spent on garden furniture to match a picnic bench and trees seat donated by Dorchester to honour Chris Mullineux. The finances of the Community Garden are healthy with £765 in available funds. Sharon invited Upper Heyford village residents to use the garden as well.

Clean Slate: Nadia Brown submitted a report on behalf of Clean Slate. The Charity has supported over 120 clients this year with support for domestic violence and other family issues, including eight from our Parish. A fundraiser and part time administrator has been hired and has raised over £2,000 in donations. Nadia thanked the Parish Council for their continued support over the last eight years.

Heyford Scouts: A report was read on the Heyford Park Scout Group. The group continues to grow with three sections, Beavers- Cubs and Scouts. The Cubs will be attending a Jamboree at Blenheim Palace this year. The Scouts attended a District winter camp and are planning attendance at Summer Camp in Staffordshire. More adult volunteers are needed to help with the growing programme.

Amenities Management Committee (AMC) and Community Fund: Kim Smith, Chair of the AMC briefed. The AMC oversees management of the Village Hall and Reading Room and manages the Community Fund for community use. The Community Fund is available to provide seed money or grants for community events.

Reading Room: Barry Parsons reported that the Reading Room is well used both with key holders such as the WI and Art Group and for private functions. A pleasant trend has been increased bookings for children's parties. The income from hire this year was £3,498. Expenses were £1,184. £47K remains in the Joan Rhodes bequest. The bequest purchased audio-visual equipment for the facility this year and repairs are pending to the roof tiles and to repair subsidence on the building.

Village Hall:- Marlene Bibani reported that the Village Hall is extremely well used by both key holders and private functions. Income from Sep. of last year was £6,708 with expenses of £1,917. Account balance £13,671. Key holders contribute steady income with fitness, yoga and judo, as well as social groups such as the Warreners. The hall was used for Community events including Bonfire Night, Arts Week and Remembrance Sunday.

Healthy Heyford Project: Cllr Allen briefed on Healthy Heyford. Monday morning walks and some evening walks in the summer take place on Mondays. There are between five and 10 walkers each week. A stay active exercise class is run every Tuesday morning in the Upper Heyford Village Hall.

Allotments: Anne May reported on the Poors Allotments. There are currently 37 plots in use and a waiting list for one. 15 acres are rented for farming. Trustees are working to update the rules and governance for the allotments. A registration fee of £25 is now required to provide for clearing of vacate plots. Maintenance is planned for walls and the allotment garage. Income for the year was £1,204 with expenses of £568. The current balance is £7,286.

Football Club: Ian Lough-Scott reported a difficult season with lack of players and management resignations. The decision has been taken to not field a team next season due to lack of support.

Historical Society: Mary Goodman reported that the Society is a small group and would welcome new members. Work continues on documenting the impact of the Great War on Upper Heyford Parish. New members are always welcome

Women's Institute: The Women's Institute meets the third Wednesday of each month in the Upper Heyford Reading Room. The past year has been excellent, membership has remained steady and there has been a full programme of speakers and visits. We are a friendly and informal group of ladies and welcome any newcomers and visitors

The Warreners: Veronica Lough-Scott reported on the Warreners. The Warreners are a social club for over 55's. There are currently 29 members and we meet in the Upper Heyford Village Hall on the second Wednesday of each month at 2 PM. This year there has been a full programme of outings for meals, games and talks. Please come along for excellent teas and a full programme of talks and events.

200 Club: Veronica Lough-Scott also reported on the 200 Club. The cost is 25p per week. There are currently 12 free numbers. The Club raised about £1,100 this year. £700 was given to the Church repair fund, and an over 75 Christmas gift, a Christmas Meal and the Valley News were supported. Mrs Lough-Scott will be stepping down this year. A volunteer is needed to continue the excellent fund raising work. The Council thanked Mrs Lough-Scott for her 26+ years of management of the club through which over £30,000 has been raised for the community.

Any Other Business: Mr Alan Hedges thanked the Council for their dedicated service to the Community.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all present for their participation and closed the meeting at 8:40 PM.