

Lower Heyford Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting held at 6.30pm Thursday 31st May 2018 in the Church

Minutes

1. To receive apologies for absence - Apologies were received from Emily Daly and Roger Bowen
Present : JJ Macnamara, Denise Ball, Bruce Eggeling, Chris Cox, Liz Goodwin, Hazel Stoddard, Anthony Elder
In attendance : Cathy Fleet (Clerk & RFO)
2. **To receive the minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2017 were agreed as a true record of the meeting and signed by the chair.
- 3 **Chairman's Report & Financial Report**

Introduction. As Chairman of the Parish Council for the past year, it's my duty to account to you for both our activities over that time and the money we spent on your behalf, after which there will be time for questions and comments. We are all unpaid volunteers working for the community in our own time and your encouragement and offers of help are always appreciated.

Clerkship. Almost everything we achieve is through the hard work of our Learned Clerk, Cathy Fleet, the PC's sole, part time, officer, to whom the Parish owes a great debt of thanks. In addition to the matters I will report, we must not forget all the vital but invisible work she does behind the scenes that keeps us legal, solvent, audited and law-compliant, with up to date Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and Code of Conduct to comply with best practice. Her professional qualification and the experience gained with a number of parish councils over quite a few years now make her an invaluable asset. Special thanks are due this year for grappling with the legal technicalities of the King George's Field lease and the last hurrah of EU, the General Data Protection Regulation.

Councillors. In all this, the parish should once again thank all those who have served as Parish Councillors. During the past year, we have lost a couple of valued members as pressures of work and family have combined to make the extra time needed by the PC impossible. The whole community should be grateful to those who have served. We must also be grateful to those who have stepped up to the plate and volunteered to

replace them. Naming names: Denise Ball has served yet another year as Deputy Chairman and Bruce Eggeling, Emily Daly and Lynnette Michaelides also served throughout the year. Sadly, though, we lost Petra Turner, who had been our link with the Play Area, and Leigh Thompson, who contributed enormously in many areas, not least on crime and speeding through the NAG, safety inspections of the play equipment and much, much more. We are very glad to have recruited Chris Cox, with his IT and website expertise and are currently looking to fill the remaining vacancy.

King George's Field has been the biggest issue this year and we are most grateful to Bruce Eggeling for his expertise and enthusiasm in beating through the legal thickets to finally achieve an extended lease, ensuring participation from across the whole parish. This, in turn, enabled fundraising for improvements to the newly renamed King George's Community & Sports Centre, to which the PC was glad to make a significant contribution and on whose management committee we are very grateful to be represented by Bruce Eggeling.

Planning never goes away and we saw the **Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan** accepted by Cherwell for public consultation, after which it will be reviewed by a planning inspector before being put to a vote by all residents. We are most grateful to Emily Daly and Peter Stoddart for their painstaking work on behalf of the parish. This included crucial and contentious policies to protect Caulcott from encroaching development and continues with pushing for traffic mitigation in Station Road and a weight limit on Rousham Bridge.

In this vein, **highway safety** remains a high priority and we keep plugging away to reduce speeds in Caulcott and lorry numbers in Station Road. We are trying to get the SIDs working effectively again. The PC is supporting residents' requests to Oxfordshire County Council to site a 250 bus stop in Caulcott. We continue to press Dorchester Group to ensure their business tenants comply with routing agreements.

A related issue is the submission of the Heyford Park Masterplan for planning approval, a huge and complex proposal on which we must contribute comments. Meanwhile, Cherwell's Local Plan Part 2 and plans to accommodate Oxford's unmet housing need are working their way to adoption with no mention of Great Heyford, which can at last be declared completely dead when they are finalised.

Highway maintenance continues to feature with regular reporting of potholes and other defects. Port Way has got so bad, we have asked for speed restrictions. The grass cutting contract seems to have settled down in the third year since we took it over. Happily, another winter has passed without having to use our snow clearance plan or the salt kindly stored at the canal boat yard by David Dare. (While thanking him for this, we are also most grateful for his hosting of the recycling bank, not to mention the contribution Kizzie's and the Canal Shop make to our amenities). We are also extremely

grateful to Peter Stoddart for again volunteering to organise a successful Spring litter blitz: all those who took part contribute greatly to our environment.

The Millennium Seat round the oak tree in Market Square had to be removed following damage. While the Parochial Church Council has reerected the remains of the stone one as an amenity for church yard users, we now have a good looking metal one for the benefit of passers by in Market Square – a double bonus.

Friends of Lower Heyford Station continue to greatly enhance our environment – particularly the all important first impression on arrival by train. We are always happy for them to apply to the PC for support when they need it.

Politically, we note the reelection of Barry Wood as one of our three District Councillors (and his continuing as Leader of the council). While various proposals for “unitary” councils in Oxfordshire remain under consideration, the Government's proposed reorganisation of Northamptonshire, following its county council's financial woes, is likely to mean changes in the Cherwell - South Northants tie up, which has been so successful over the past eight years.

Financially, we continue to try to keep the precept to the minimum commensurate with keeping our environment pleasant. This year, that meant a small decrease of about £200 to £8,113. Our main outlays are staff costs and insurance, as you'd expect when we operate principally by volunteer labour and by getting larger authorities to do what the parish wants. Full details are available to anyone interested.

Communications: our minutes are summarised in Valley News, which we have continued to support, and posted on village notice boards. We continue to discuss ways to improve the website (and are grateful to Graham Wilson, who has stepped down after looking after it for years) or make use of social media to ensure residents have no difficulty finding out what we are doing. Our archives are now, thanks to the PCC, filed in the church vestry and we plan to have them catalogued and reorganised in the coming months, with many thanks to Peter Deeley.

In summary, we have kept plugging away without any dramatic progress to report but, hopefully, maintaining things in a decent state at reasonable cost and supporting major projects like King George's Field and the Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan which are led by others. I've mentioned a lot of areas where work continues and we are always on the look out to hear from residents what they would like to happen – and where they could help to achieve it.

Reports from local groups :

Sports & social club

No update was available.

Heyford Athletic club

Anthony Elder confirmed that the funding is now in place and that the application for funding from the Football Foundation is due to be released next Wednesday. The project has already started but there has been a slight delay due to the structural engineer who will attend on site on 9th June when work will commence.

The club won the senior league making them the most successful team since the 1950s. There is some doubt as to whether the boys foot ball will continue as the current organisers have resigned .

The pitch is in poor condition and the next project will be to improve it.

King George Field Committee of Management

The building project is almost completely funded and work has commenced with the removal of sheds etc, and will begin in earnest on 9th June, with an estimate completion date of September 2018. The facilities will be for use of the whole village and it is hoped that with encouragement, residents will make good use of the new amenity. It is hoped that the project will be self supporting financially in the future, but consideration should be given to possible support being required.

LHRINC

The Charity has had a quiet year, with income from the rent of the Reading Room, the Pours land, and the SSE Wayleave with total reserves of £48,878 at the end of the financial year, although a reserve of £16,144 has been set aside for the re-thatching of the roof when required. £10,000 has been donated to the KGF project and a donation of £500 has been made for membership of the new facility for the entire village.

there have been very few requests for assistance , as a result of which considerations for the future are :

- A Young Persons travel and development grant
- Assistance with funding for re-training/career change for older people

Bowls Club

No update was available

FoLHS

No update was available

WI

The Heyfords WI meets the third Wednesday of each month in the reading room at Upper Heyford at 7.30pm.

The Heyfords WI consists of 12 members, so very small but would like to see more members, it offers a very varied programme throughout the year to try and cater for all tastes, a copy of which will be posted on the Parish Notice Boards and is on the Heyfords websites.

The WI has been inspiring women for 103 years - The Heyford WI was first formed in 1935 and has given help and advice to many women besides giving them a good social evening learning new skills and discovering interesting facts from visiting speakers, the WI also involves itself in many projects examples being Food Waste, Plastic Use and many other concerning issues.

The Oxfordshire Federation - OFWI - based at Tackley offers many outings to interesting places and courses of which members can partake, there really is something for all if you so wish.

Many young WI's are now being formed nationwide, so not just for the oldies, young blood is always needed in any organizations for it to grow and thrive, gone are the days of Jam & Jerusalem - although Jerusalem is sung on occasions.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are always available at each meeting after the speaker, this is when members can sit for ten minutes or so and have a chat before the WI business is discussed, the evening usually concludes around 9.45pm.

The Valley News gives an update of previous meetings kindly written by Veronica Lough-Scott, so please feel free to come along for an evening and hopefully you may wish to join us, you will be very welcome.

Events Committee

Village Hall Management Committee

The Village Hall Management Committee has donated the entire balance of the account, some £99,000 to the Committee of Management of King George Field , the account will be closed and the VHMC will cease to exist.

Allotments Association

The allotments in Lower Heyford have run for many years where the land is rented to us from Corpus Christi College. During 2017 there was a change in our management in Lower Heyford and also there was a change in the Corpus Christi agent from Savills to Bidwells. With the change in agent Bidwells required us to set up a new agreement in which the rent is set for the complete allotment, and not as a fixed rent for each plot taken. We have also been required to set up an Allotment Association (so we are now Lower Heyford Allotment Association) in which we register plot holders and elect a committee. We meet as a group occasionally. Presently we have 8 plot holders but have vacant plots which we are actively promoting.

Church

The next project to be undertaken in the Church will be to upgrade the lighting. The current lights are costly to run and because of the height, the bulbs are difficult to replace, so the lighting will be replaced with LED bulbs.

The Cedar tree in the churchyard, which is estimated to be some 150 years old, has lost several branches over the winter and has been found to be unsafe so will have to be felled. It will be replaced by a more suitable tree.

4. Public Participation

- Liz Goodwin asked what impact the proposed additional building would have on Heyford Station and the parking there. JJ responded by saying that Heyford Park have a 'green travel plan' and that it is intended to use shuttle buses to the station and that S106 monies will fund traffic calming schemes. The PC are still pushing for a weight limit on the bridge.
- Thanks were expressed to the Village Hall Management Committee for providing funding for the new building project which will benefit the entire village.

Signed Chair, LHPC

Date