

East Hagbourne Parish Council Meeting – 19th November, 2009.

A meeting of the East Hagbourne Parish Council was held at the Village Hall on Thursday, 19th November, 2009 when the following members were present :-

Mr D Rickeard (Chairman)
Mr C Alberry
Mr D Button
Mr R Dawson
Mr I Duff
Mr D Harding
Mr R Rendell
Mr M Wilkins
Mr R Parsley (Clerk)

Five members of the public also attended.

Apologies were received from Mr R Emery due to evening classes and from Mr P Greene.

1.The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th October, 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2.Actions and Matters Arising.(Refer also to Appendix 1. Action List.)

(a).Responsibility of Footpaths. Mr Rendell to continue to research into who is responsible for three local footpaths.

(b).Recreation Ground. Mr Rendell and Mr Button will progress the registration of the Recreation Ground and to include the Hopfields and the Car Park with the Land Registry. They will continue to gather information and then request Slade, Son and Taylor to act on our behalf.

(c).Great Mead. O.C.C. have stated that Great Mead is a 'Publicly maintained Bridleway'. They have been requested to repair the potholes. Clerk will monitor and follow up as needed.

(d).Bakers Lane. Mr Rickeard had spoke to the staff at Passey's garage regarding the cars blocking the footpath. They were sympathetic and promised to resolve the problem. The situation has improved.

(e).Hagbourne Charities Committee Vacancy. Mr Rickeard stated that Mrs Rickeard had volunteered to fill the post. Mr Duff to refer to the Charities Committee.

(f).Clerk has reported parking in public areas of Bishops Orchard to SODC. They have replied and said they will monitor.

3.District and County Councillor.

No Report.

4.Items for Decision.

(a).Monica Lawson Memorial. Mr Duff stated that West Hagbourne Parish Council had organised a competition to design a seat that will replace the iron seat along West Hagbourne path.

(b).New School Gate. Mr Rickeard suggested that the £500.00 award from Calor Gas be presented to Hagbourne School towards the cost of the Memorial gates and also to add a £500.00 donation from the Parish Council. Mr Wilkins proposed that the suggestion is adopted, seconded by Mr Harding and agreed unanimously. Mr Duff will inform Calor Gas of our decision and the clerk will inform Mr Jones, Hagbourne School..

(c).Donations. The meeting considered a number of requests for support received in the past month, taking into account the services provided by these bodies to residents of the parish.

(i).Tree Surgery. It was proposed by Mr Rickeard , seconded by Mr Duff and agreed unanimously to pay half the cost, approximately £150.00 + VAT, for tree surgery at Hagbourne Parish Church.

(ii).It was proposed by Mr Wilkins, seconded by Mr Rendell and agreed unanimously to donate £50.00 to Sue Ryder Care.

(iii).It was proposed by Mr Rickeard, seconded by Mr Wilkins and agreed unanimously to donate £125.00 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

(iv).It was proposed by Mr Rickeard, seconded by Mr Rendell and agreed unanimously to donate £250.00 to the Didcot & District Citizens Advice Bureau.

(v).It was proposed by Mr Wilkins, seconded by Mr Duff and agreed unanimously to donate £200.00 to the South & Vale Carers Centre.

(vi).It was proposed by Mr Wilkins, seconded by Mr Rendell and agreed unanimously to donate £75.00 to the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind.

(vii).Hedging, Fulscot Track. It was proposed by Mr Rickeard, seconded by Mr Wilkins and agreed unanimously to pay £100.00 to enable Oxford Conservation Volunteers to lay the hedge along part of the Fulscot track.

(d).Parish Council Meetings 2010. The days for the Parish Council and Annual Parish meetings were discussed. Although there are some conflicts for individual members it was agreed that all meetings will be held on Thursdays in 2010 and to add an additional meeting in February. Mr Rendell requested the PCC are advised of the dates. The Annual Parish Meeting will be dedicated to a review of the draft Parish Plan. (See Item 6.)

Meetings 2010.

January	14th
February	18th
March	18th
April	22nd (Annual Parish Meeting)
May	13th (Parish Council Annual Meeting)

June 17th.
July 22nd
September 2nd
October 14th
November 18th

5. Planning Applications.

(a). Principles for reviewing planning applications.

Mr Emery reported that a reply from Mrs Muceku, SODC did not really answer his question but repeated the invitation to the Planning Training meeting which he had attended. He will provide notes on topics of interest to the Council before the next meeting.

(b). Lower Cross Farm Barns. The two applications were discussed in detail and comments agreed as shown below.

P09/W1037 Lower Manor Farm Barns – Bungalow

The concerns expressed by neighbours should be addressed

Windows on NW side should be designed so that they do not overlook the swimming area and garden of 25 Blewbury Road

Concerns about noise/light from parking adjacent to their bedroom of no27 should be addressed

That the existing hedge should be protected.

We agree with the comments of No 27 that previous misuse of the site was largely caused by the lack of site security which is the responsibility of the site owners, so should not be a reason to allow development

We note that OCC have commented, but their comment is not visible on the web site

P09/W1038 Lower Manor Farm Barns – Stables

We are concerned that traffic to and from the site will be excessive, both in the course of use of the nine stables, and in supply of feed/bedding etc. Access from Blewbury Road is on a sharp bend. Traffic coming from Blewbury and turning into the site is especially at risk.

Although 6 car parking spaces are envisaged, the development could encourage parking along Blewbury Road. It is difficult to estimate the likely scale of use from the application. For example, traffic generated by owner/riders would be less than that from a commercial hire operation.

We note that OCC have commented, but their comments are not visible on the web site.

Statements in the application relating to bridleway access are misleading. There are only two (east-west) bridleways in the village, and there is NO public access to these by horse from the site. Unless there is a private access to bridleways, horse traffic would need to use Blewbury Road, which already suffers from traffic problems. The public footpath from the site to the Fulscot bridleway is an attractive footway overhung by trees and not suitable for horses.

The proposal to burn bedding straw on site is out of step with the environmental credentials claimed elsewhere in the submission. Burning bedding is a particularly dirty operation that should not be allowed.

We agree with the neighbour's comment that previous misuse of the site was largely caused by the lack of site security which is the responsibility of the site owners, so should not be a reason to allow development.

(c).The following other planning applications have been received since the last meeting. The Parish Council's comments are indicated.

P09/W0905	41 Blewbury Road	No strong views
P09/W0919	19 Bishops Orchard	No strong views
P09/W1001	18 St Anne's Court	No strong views

6. Parish Plan

(a).Mr Rickeard had circulated a report on the survey by email. This summarised the responses of the 300 households which participated in the survey. Parish Councillors were given two weeks to comment on any errors or omissions.

(b).Proposals to develop the Parish Plan.

Mr Rickeard said we now needed to move ahead rapidly to develop a draft Parish Plan based on the survey report, plus any other important topics not included in the survey. The Plan is intended to reflect the views and needs of all residents, however the role of the Parish Council should be to lead and facilitate the process. A draft plan should be developed for public review at the next Annual Parish Meeting in April 2010.It was agreed to form a Working Group of Parish Councillors. Mr Rickeard, Mr Emery, Mr Button and Mr Duff who would ask for help from members of the Parish Plan team. For each component topic in the plan, this group would then consult with other appropriate people in the community. Mr Rickeard to formulate a plan of action.

7.Britain in Bloom.

(a).Report on the Open Meeting.

Roger Emery had convened a successful meeting on 9th November to celebrate the village's successes in 2009 and consider how to proceed in 2010. A full report is in Attachment 2, from which the key points are :-

- There was strong support to enter the Regional competition in 2010 (we are not nominated for the National Competition).
- A general feeling that we should 'be ourselves', celebrate what we do rather than trying to adapt to B in B criteria.
- Leadership was requested from the Parish Council, and an early start to give us more time.
- Keep the workload on individuals to a reasonable level.

(b).Plans/actions for 2010.

Mr Rickeard commented that in terms of organisation, our success in 2009 was due to the efforts of very many people, but we do need a few champions to act as a spearhead. The role of the Parish Council should be to encourage, support and make resources available. In terms of day-to-day actions (such as maintenance, contacts with SODC, OCC), our Clerk Robin Parsley

remains the contact, however the Council should provide guidance and assistance. Our vision is that we have one champion for each 'pillar' (horticulture, community environment, sustainability – the last two could be combined) who would be familiar with what is going on in the Parish, encourage developments and ensure the achievements are celebrated in our B in B submission. One of these champions should be the primary liaison with the Parish Council and come along to PC meetings to involve the whole Council in developments.

Mr Rickeard to circulate the Council's views and offer of support together with the meeting report and solicit input and volunteers.

8.Reports

(a).Play Area. Mr Rendell reported a very successful opening on 20th October, 2009 when the Play Area was opened by Councillor Leonard, SODC and Fiona Danks,TOE. Some financial details remain to be finalised and these are in progress.

(b).Didcot Development. Mr Emery had received the CD from Kathy Browning (OCC) with the 122 page report setting out their recommendations to the Council for highway schemes. He will review this with John Townsend and provide more information before the next meeting..

(c)Butts Piece. Mr Rendell reported on progress to develop Butt's Piece. A well supported meeting had been held to progress the water supply for the allotments. The primary plan is to sink a well, but the alternative option of a piped supply is being kept open. Due to the current high demand for allotments, these may be made available in quarter sizes to enable more people to benefit. Even so, there is likely to be a waiting list. A quotation for fencing has been obtained, and ideas for the wildlife area discussed. The footpath along the eastern edge of the site is in need of improvement and Parish Council help was solicited for this. It was noted that footpaths are a major topic in the proposed Parish Plan, and will be considered in that context.

(d).East Hagbourne Website. Mr Alberry reported that an investigation of an alternative and standardised website including support for a 'Content Management System' is ongoing.

(e).Dog Cleanliness. Mr Harding reported that the local footpaths and the emptying of dog bins were being monitored. The problem of educating dog owners to pick up their dog faeces was an ongoing problem county wide. SODC have been sent weekly reports regarding the emptying of dog bins and they have promised to monitor the contractors. He agreed to investigate in more detail the legal situation regarding dog fouling.

(f).Flooding. Mr Rickeard reported that local residents had helped ensure the stream around Tadley was kept clear during the recent heavy rain. Although this was not a severe test, the stream had coped well.

(g).Standing Orders. Mr Button presented a brief summary of issues and is continuing to prepare a report regarding Standing Orders that will be more suitable for Parish Council use.

9.Correspondence.

(a). Mrs S Parker has formally resigned as the Neighbourhood Watch Area Co-ordinator. Mrs M Hardiman has volunteered to take over and will be assisted by Mrs D Duff.

(b).SODC Standards Committee. No important issues.

10. Finance.

(a).Payments since the last meeting :-

	£
J.Smith. (Britain in Bloom – various)	306.92
P.Wood. (Play Area – various)	3599.79
Playdale. (Wetpour)	13835.65
Focus. (Paint)	26.99
Playdale (Equipment)	15031.65
Trojan Fencing (Fencing)	3628.35
Playsafety Ltd. (Inspection)	454.25
J van Vliet. (Plants)	33.12
Kingdom Signs Ltd. (Sign)	310.50
SLCC Enterprises Ltd. (Seminar)	74.75
Hagbourne Village Hall (Hire)	26.25
DC Solutions (Hedge Cutting, etc)	133.41
Scion Estates Ltd. (Grass Cutting)	96.43
S.Langford. (Expenses)	160.50
D.J.Rickeard (Expenses)	22.40

(b). The receipts were :-

Gales Partnership (Lease).	950.00
ORCC (Competition Prize)	500.00
Oxfordshire Environment Ltd. (Grant)	13366.66
SODC. (Grant)	6099.00
Barclays Bank . (Interest)	18.33

(f). Precept 2010/2011. The precept was discussed again and Mr Button proposed the precept For 2010/2011 be set at £36743.00, seconded by Mr Wilkins and agreed unanimously.

(g).Mr Button circulated a draft statement of the accounts he is developing and he hopes to present the final copy before the next meeting.

The committee thanked him for the presentation.

11. Any Other Business.

(a). Village Archives. Mr Alberry understood that Mrs E Riley was not taking over the archives as the Village Archivist but is willing to carry out filing duties.
Mr Duff to discuss the matter with Mr Lawson.

(b). Mr Wilkins reported that cars were racing through the village at night in addition to large lorries. He is liaising with the police.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

The next meeting is on Thursday, 14th January, 2010.

Chairman :-

Date:-

ATTACHMENT 1. Summary of Actions.

Action No	Action	Responsible	Status
2009-10-01	Find out who is responsible for selected footpaths	RR	in progress
2009-10-02	Register Recreation Ground with Land Registry	RR	in progress
2009-10-03	Check status of Great Mead before assessing necessary work	RP	Done: OCC responsible
2009-10-04	Talk to Mr Passey re cars blocking footpath access	DR	DONE
2009-10-05	Propose nominees for Parish Charities vacancy by next meeting	All	DONE
2009-10-06	Review proposal to trim laurel trees in Churchyard	DR	done
2009-10-07	Continue to pursue training on planning review	RE	ongoing
2009-10-08	Work with Peter Hands and others to produce a more comprehensive summary of the Parish Plan questionnaire responses	DR	DONE
2009-10-09	Make recommendations on updating the village web site so that it is more easily accessible and undatable	CA	ongoing
2009-10-10	Make proposal for new Standing Orders	DB	In progress
2009-10-11	Convene a meeting to give thanks for the Britian in Bloom effort, and consider future participation plans	RE	DONE
2009-10-12	Gather information that will help us to address the continuing problems caused by a minority of dog owners	DH	Superseded
2009-10-13	Report parking in open areas of Bishop's Orchard to SODC	RP	DONE
2009-10-14	Ask handyman to address weeds under car park hedge and around benches on near Butts Piece	RP	DONE
2009-10-15	Advise PC on registration of the Car Park and hopfields with Land Registry	RR	Included with 10-03
2009-11-01	Clerk to monitor OCC progress to repair Great Mead surface.	RP	
2009-11-02	Develop action plan to produce a draft Parish Plan with RE,DB,ID and others.	DR	
2009-11-03	Circulate report on Britian in Bloom debrief and PC discussion, and solicit input	DR	
2009-11-04	Advise implications of the OCC traffic report after consultation with Mr Townsend	RE	
2009-11-05	Investigate the legal aspects of dog fouling and enforcement	DH	

ATTACHMENT 2.

'BRITAIN IN BLOOM' open meeting, East Hagbourne Village Hall 9 November 2009

Following East Hagbourne's success in 2009 in the Britain in Bloom and the Calor Villages of the Year competitions, an open meeting was convened by Roger Emery on behalf of the Parish Council to celebrate the achievements, discuss learnings, and decide what to do in the coming year. 30 people attended the meeting, including members of the Britain in Bloom Committee, Parish Councillors and other residents of East Hagbourne.

Following the Agenda shown in the Attachment, the PC Chairman, David Rickeard, welcomed the participants and briefly explained the objectives. Roger Emery congratulated the committee and the village on their success and showed the certificates and trophies that we had won, before showing the excellent video made by Andy and Beth Riley.

Feedback from National Judging

The judging was attended by John Lawson, Sharon Langford, Terry Taylor and Roger Emery. Margaret Emery also attended as an observer and reported some of the main impressions and the comments by the judges.

- it was a big event, almost like the Oscars. The delegates learned a lot at the event and in meeting the judges the next day.
- the standard of those villages that gained gold was very high; they were experienced and knew how to play the game.
- the judges said that we were not well prepared but that this was not our fault. It quickly became obvious that to succeed at National level a community has to have been working towards the national level over a period of years. In the light of this, we could be proud of our achievement of silver. John Lawson commented that in earlier years silver would have been an exceptional mark and that the overall standard was now very high.
- for the future, mentoring is available from the regional organisations (we did not receive much help this time), also we can influence the timing of the visit to best suit our needs. We should select parts of the village to show our best; it is OK to use cars to reach different locations. A range of different types of village "scenes" needs to be displayed, and every step of the route for the judges must represent one of the criteria – no "wasted" time. The most successful communities, large and small, had strong support from District and County Councils as well as from the Parish Council and local businesses.

Points that had impressed the judges in other villages were:

- wide range of community groups, and activities around the year (not just one-off)
- greater involvement of younger people
- show how BiB will enhance the village in the future, not just now
- productive relationship between the Bloom Team, the community and the Parish Council
- express the identity of the community.

It was important to note that the judging criteria were split between the 'bloom' aspects (flowers and village tidiness), community activities and sustainability - we need to work on all three areas if we are to be successful.

East Hagbourne is one of the smaller villages in the 'larger villages' section.

Feedback from Regional Judging

Jenny Smith reported on the regional competition based on the judges' marking sheets. Some of the well performing villages had many shops and businesses who could support the effort. It was also noted that some entrants were urban regions rather than villages in the traditional sense. Positive points about our entry were:

- we had a theme (the Great Fire)

- our floral displays, residential and public areas were well presented, verges well trimmed: particular mentions for the displays at the school and pre-school
- the wildlife meadow scored high for bio-diversity.
- community involvement (church rota, shop)

Overall we scored 161/200 and won the regional award.

Feedback from Calor 'Villages of the Year'

Iain Duff reported on this competition which in former years was called Best Kept Village which East Hagbourne won in 1996, 1999, 2003 and 2004. In this case there was no village visit, we had to submit a dossier and attend a meeting in Kidlington to present it. The criteria centre on community involvement.

- We won the South Oxfordshire district prize of £500 (Goring won the overall Oxfordshire prize).

Discussion Session

Roger moderated a discussion on what we had learned and what the community wanted to do in 2010.

- we gained admission to the national competition by gaining top marks among the region in the 2008 BiB competition. Since we did not achieve the same heights in the regional competition in 2009, we are not invited to the national competition next year.
- There will be no Calor competition in 2010, because Calor are withdrawing their sponsorship.
- So, we need to think about the BiB Regional competition.

Key points from the discussion are summarized here:

- Bill & Susan Proctor were impressed by the way the community got involved, but disappointed that street furniture was marked low after all the effort on it (but we think the regional judging took place before this work was completed)
- Allison Huckle suggested we need more guidance on what to aim for; Nick Rigby suggested broader aspects such as a childrens' action group
- Roger Emery said some villages had 3 sub-teams for each of the 'pillars' (horticultural, community, sustainability).
- Caroline Hunt said we would need a larger committee if we were to divide responsibilities in this way. However spreading the load was important, because it was a heavy burden for a few people. We could do better by starting earlier next year. In fact the BiB needs to be a continuous ongoing process. The most successful communities work on the projects all year round.
- Jean Elliott noted that Blewbury Road felt a little out of things because they were not on the visit route this year. Derek and Christine Button said that they who lived in New Road felt similarly. However
- Jenny Smith said that the judges can go where they want, and suggested to include other areas e.g. Bishop's Orchard. Roger supported including all areas next time.
- Margaret Emery commented that local groups e.g. Ryman's Crescent could get together to coordinate - perhaps we could even have a 'Hagbourne in Bloom' competition to get everyone involved. Roger pointed to the scarecrow competition as a successful example of involvement

Decisions for Next Year

- Cynthia Napper proposed we should think about whether entering the competition benefits the community, don't just enter for the prize - make it a force for good.
- After some discussion, the meeting declared firmly in favour of participating in the 2010 BiB regional competition.
- Allison Huckle asked whether we wanted to fit the BiB criteria (or just be ourselves). This did not

generate much response, but an informal vote later seemed to confirm being ourselves and not trying artificially to tick boxes.

The discussion turned to how we will organize ourselves:

- Caroline Hunt asked for stronger leadership from the Parish Council. Roger and David agree that the PC could provide a leader, but noted that a strong Bloom Team would still be needed.
- Roger said that our clerk, Robin Parsley, was the key link with SODC and OCC and he had achieved a lot this year, together with organising PC sponsored work around the village.
- It was agreed that more lead time would help - an early start will give us more time. An early action is to put a link to BiB on the village web site so we can see the portfolio requirements. Note: here is the main web site: <http://www.rhs.org.uk/britaininbloom/index.html> it would be helpful if someone could point us to the relevant parts for the 2010 portfolio.
- In summing up, David Rickeard said we should try to do it efficiently, without making excess work. The Parish Council will discuss at its next meeting and start the ball rolling.
- Jenny Smith said that in the meantime, we should ensure that village events are photographed to provide material for the submission.

Notes prepared by: D Rickeard