

WHILTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL  
ON WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2011 AT 7.30PM**

5 Parishioners attended, with Mr Mike Lewis, Chairman of the Parish Council, in the chair, and Mrs Alison Nicoll, Clerk to the Parish Council, as secretary. Mr Mike Lewis welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Jenny Holman, Keith Hiscock, Wendy Amos, Jonathan Hanslip, Anthea Hiscock, Ann Gilbert, Jan Abrams, Sue Wingrave and Janet Bowers.

**1. Approval of the minutes of the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting**

It was proposed by Mike Lewis and seconded by Michael Thomas that the Minutes for the last Annual Parish Meeting be approved.

**2. Annual Reports**

a) Local Government

**i) Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council for 2010/11 - Mike Lewis**

We kept the precept to last year's figure - £6600, with committed money for a street light, clerk's training and village sign. The remainder is above that stipulated by the auditors.

Our Parish Walks carry out a risk assessment on items in our ownership and continue to highlight highway problems. Some of the highway problems like flooding in Brington Lane have been referred to the County Councillor with responsibility for highways but we have not yet reached a satisfactory resolution. One positive is that potholes are now given a 'permanent' fix rather than the temporary one as previous. We are proceeding slowly with taking over the Green with clarification needed on parts which appear to be in private ownership and difficulty in getting a solicitor to give a quote and raise the access agreement and the two wayleave agreements needed.

The WNDC has started to transfer some of its powers to the DDC, mainly planning for under 200 units. Monksmoor has been granted planning permission but is up for sale so it is hard to see the original timetable for Daventry's expansion being maintained. Church Fields may progress and the traffic generated by this development will have an impact on our parish. Traffic through the parish has doubled since 2004 and could double again if measures are not taken to discourage use of 'our' road and ensure that the traffic uses the A5 and the proposed Flore/Weedon by pass. Also the sewage treatment plant is scheduled to double in size to cater for the proposed expansion.

We have reviewed and approved many documents this year – new standing orders, risk assessment policy, complaints procedure, documents and records, our insurance policy and new audit requirements. All these direct and control how we operate for 'good governance' reasons, but they all need quite a lot of effort to read, understand and 'top and tail' if necessary. We had thought that most of the red tape would be swept away by the Localism Bill currently under debate. This purports to put 'significantly more influence in local hands' but please do not hold your breath. Powers will be devolved to local levels, District and Parish, with freedom to act in the best interests of the community. Conflict of interest rules will be softened to allow more proactive involvement by our elected councillors and by ourselves. The main area that we have to tackle will be generating a 'neighbourhood development plan' which will probably replace Design Statements and Parish Plans and have a greater significance in planning terms. We will not be able to alter strategic planning but should have a much greater say in how our parish is developed.

## **ii) Report of the Footpaths Warden – Maurice Clements**

1. Contacted Mr Nick Wedgbrow, the Rights of Way Officer for this area, to request an upgrade to Footpath EE3 and the Spinney Bridge. This footpath was in the Brockhall Parish before the boundary change.
2. FL6 Footpath also requires a replacement stile/step board. (Whilton Main Street end).

## **iii) Report of the Highways Warden –Wendy Amos**

Following a busy year at DDC, the following items I feel count as the most important for Whilton residents.

Council tax remains the same, following government help with grant. DDC remains in the lowest quartile in the country.

The structure at DDC is altering. As from April 1st Ian Vincent became the permanent Managing Director, with Simon Bovey being a Director and the Monitoring Officer. Judy Gregory has retired. Budget cuts within the organisation are becoming more difficult to achieve in an already tight ship, but nevertheless a further million pound saving is being searched for.

Non statutory services are particularly vulnerable, though we are trying to help the most valuable services, such as Advice Daventry, Sure Start and Time to Talk amongst others.

The Leisure Centre is under new management, with considerable expertise being put in by DDC officers.

The new Core Strategy [local plan] is currently out for consultation, with housing numbers considerably reduced. The plan is due to be adopted in 2012, and will cover major development until 2026. The position with regard to the Flore/Weedon bypass is still under review, with a threshold on development in Daventry being put, beyond which improvement to the road network must take place.

Renewable energy is also a top priority, and there is much concern throughout the district over wind farms. Applications are prolific, but the energy produced is often a very low percentage.

Bus services in rural areas are also very vulnerable, and I feel it is essential for villages to link up to ascertain the greatest need and current usage.

Finally within the last couple of weeks a response has been received from the Boundary Commission, stating that Daventry District will be divided into 12 areas with 3 Councillors in each! Thus Whilton would join forces with Norton, Flore, Brockhall, Weedon, Dodford, Farthingstone, Everdon, Newnham, Stowe ---. This would mean elections every year as they are by thirds. All our responses to the consultation were ignored!. Further responses can be made until the end of June, but the boundaries are due to take effect from next year.

Thankyou for your support.

## **Report of the County Councillor – Steve Osborne**

## **The report of the PCSO – Sara Gray**

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

### **Report of the Village Hall Management - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020/2011 – Mike Lewis**

Hall refurbishment has carried on with the painting of the walls and woodwork. The floor will be sanded and resealed when time allows. Apart from looking at the furniture there is not a lot left to be refurbished.

The move by the play group to Brington school is still on the agenda, 2011 or later.

The 200 club carries on supporting the hall's refurbishment and maintenance. The organisation by Derek and Shirley Brown in running this venture is again first class and the collectors' efforts have been magnificent in keeping the club running like clockwork.

Everybody who has contributed to the running of the hall is thanked for their time and dedication, particularly Mary Kane who does all the bookings in her usual quiet 'back office' fashion.

Together we can keep this hall in a superb condition, weather the current spending crisis and look forward to a brighter future, with more bookings, for this community amenity.

Thank you all.

### **Report of Roughmoor Spinney Management Group 2010/11 - Derek Brown**

There is very little to report as the Spinney is fairly well established and with a minimum of two Working Parties each year and with the occasional individual taking care of ongoing tasks, the maintenance is satisfactory.

However, so far we have not been able to deal with the matter of the pond and it is hoped this will be tackled when we have our next Working Party in the very near future.

The secondhand motor mower purchased in the early days for keeping down the growth in various areas in the spinney has just about reached the end of its working life and will need replacing with a machine more suitable for the task. This is currently being looked into and a suitable machine has been identified. The financing of the purchase of this equipment is to be discussed at our next meeting.

It is difficult to know the numbers visiting the spinney but there are signs that the paths are regularly walked.

Thanks to all volunteers who have given their time to assist in the maintaining of the spinney for the benefit of residents in the parish. We also thank Whilton Parish Council for their financial support. Health and Safety Audits have been carried out during the last 12 months.

### **Report of the Gardeners Club - WGA Chair's Report – Ann Gilbert**

Whilton Gardeners' Assn. has a steady 30 or so members each paying £10 annual fee. For this members have the opportunity to attend six meetings or trips out each year on the first Wednesday of every other month. Other benefits are - 10% discount at Whilton Garden Centre, Discounted Seed orders up to 50%, free visit to RHS Garden, up to 4 speakers per year, extra garden visits, free Christmas supper and other Social events

We've tried over the last couple of years to introduce some new trips and talks into the programme. We arranged quite a lot of trips out during 2009 and had feedback from some that they like a good sprinkling of talks too, so we've tried to even out the events in the village hall and the trips.

The Association is led by a committee of six people who meet prior to the Association meetings to plan the programme and manage the finances.

The Association manages well for funds, boosting income with occasional fundraising and with raffles at some meetings. At the beginning of the current financial year the funds stood at £423. We continue as members of the RHS, which provides insurance for members.

### **Activities 2010**

3rd February - The AGM has been moved to allow more time to report on the previous year's finances as the year end is November. There was a good attendance again this year – approximately 20 people and the AGM was followed by a light-hearted quiz organised by Olive.

7th April - Mrs Janet Cropley an old friend of WGA returned to give an illustrated talk on 'Scent in the Garden'

2nd June - Andrew Patmore gave fascinating talk on The History of Salcey Forest – up to the present day  
Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June - Visit to Felley Priory in Nottinghamshire. A beautiful day, lovely gardens – trip attended by about 10 people

4<sup>th</sup> August - A visit from our colleagues at Woodford Halse Gardeners Assn (who outnumbered WGA members) when there were garden visits to three members' gardens in the village. Committee members organised delicious evening buffet with wine.

Our hanging basket and tubs competition (that no-one enters) was judged by the vicar and was won by Phil Grant (hanging basket) and Benny and Mark at Stone House for their front of house show

11<sup>th</sup> August - A visit to Julie Connell's garden at Clipston (plus cream tea) – a lovely evening

6<sup>th</sup> October - Linda Smith, a specialist in ponds and aquatics, gave super talk on Garden Ponds – great, informative evening

Finally – December – Christmas Supper for members – a chicken casserole, followed by fruit pie meal was very well attended – approx 20 people

### **Report of the Bell Ringers – Janet Bowers**

Practice evening is Monday 7.30pm and anyone who would like to learn to ring is welcome to come along or contact Justin Baker or Janet Bowers. At the present time we have 5 adults from Whilton 2 from Brington and 1 from Harlestone and also 3 juniors from Whilton ( 2 for their Duke of Edinburgh award). We also have valuable help from 2 ringers from Fawsley for which we are extremely grateful. Three of us regularly ring for weddings at Brington and Norton and on occasions at other towers either in the benefice or elsewhere. The main reason for ringing is to ring for church service but with so few this is not always possible every Sunday but we do usually manage to ring some of the 8 bells we have for special services.

We have welcomed several visiting ringers throughout the year. The tower is in the Daventry branch which is one of 10 of the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers.

### **Report of the Churchwardens – Janet Bowers**

On 27<sup>th</sup> April last year at Brington the Revd Sue Kipling was Instituted and Inducted as Rector of the Spencer Benefice which includes Whilton.

There has been some changes within the services -we now have an evening service once a month at 6pm.

Clock, organ and fire extinguishers have all had annual maintenance and the Quinquennial and electrical inspection and reports are due to be done this year.

The church fundraising committee continue to work hard to raise funds which also aids the social life of the village eg the Quiz held last month, car boot and bazaars to name some.

In the last year we have had 2 baptisms 1 funeral and 1 memorial service but no weddings (last one 5 years ago)

### **Report of the Local History Society – Anthea Hiscock**

The Local History Society has continued to meet bi-monthly in the Village Hall. As yet we have not had to pay for a speaker, and as a result are able to cover the expenses of the rent with small donations of £1.50 per meeting.

Last May our meeting was based on the history of the Old Plough. In July our meeting was entitled, "Guess or remember", and those who attended tried to identify photos and drawings of past residents, places and objects in Whilton. The September meeting was postponed to October, so that it could include the launch of the history of Whilton: "Living in the Gap". Several villagers enjoyed taking part in a dramatic reading "Rivalry in Whilton", based on one of the chapters. This was the first opportunity to purchase the book, which is now available from Anthea Hiscock at £12.99.

In November the subject was Christmas Parties at Whilton Lodge. These were held in the 1930s and village children had happy memories of these. We sampled some of the foods they were served, including fancy cakes, thinly cut sandwiches and orange jelly.

We began this year with the story of the Stone House in January, with its varying roles from farmhouse, to carrier's home, outdoor beer house and bakery.

In March we had a visit from Julie Cassidy the Archaeological Finds Officer for Northamptonshire, who told us about her work and identified objects found in Whilton, which dated from Neolithic times to the last century.

The Society is open to anyone and all are welcome. The next meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May will be a workshop, aiming to create a leaflet about Whilton Churchyard, and in July the theme will be the life and times of Don Welch, who died last year.

- a. Parish Concerns
  - i. Report of the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator
  - ii. Report of the Trustees of Whilton Parochial Charities

## **REPORT ON THE WHILTON PAROCHIAL CHARITIES 2010-11**

**Prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

This has proved to be a disappointing year in many respects. The value of the Charity's assets has risen slightly mainly due to recovering share prices, but they are still some way from their 07/08 value. That said the main disappointment is that only one application for a grant has been made despite last years expectation that demands should properly rise as difficulties multiplied for residents. During the year the Trustees have met twice which has allowed our new rector to acquaint herself with what could be provided. Ideas on how to achieve more applications from residents as well as actual applications are very welcome. Our view remains that if the need is there it should be met, and if the funds are thereby extinguished then this should be accepted. So again we would remind people of our criteria and remain open to approaches from all our residents young or old.

These are to remind you:

- ii) The Trustees are prepared to give up to £900 in grants in sums usually not exceeding £300 and limited to one application per financial year.
- iii) These would be given on receipt of a written application to the trustees, in confidence, given to one of the trustees explaining the need and difficulty in financially meeting it, or if preferred, an interview with one of the trustees which they would record.
- iv) The need may be for a piece of equipment or experience that anyone with reasonable means could be expected to acquire eg. A replacement mattress, TV licence, small house repair, musical instrument, evening class/skill giving course, playgroup fee, taxi fare to visit relative/friend in hospital, holiday break or significant school trip/DofE expedition that would fulfill potential. It could be help with fees for, or transport costs including insurance to further training.
- v) Eligibility for an older or disabled person is defined as living mainly on a basic state pension or benefit, for a family living on an income half the national average wage, and for young people in their own right in a situation where it would not be expected a parent would fund the expense required. The payment may be requested to avoid consequences of a loan or the incurring of further debt.

Permanent notices remain on both the Village and Locks Notice Boards. A reminder will again be published in the August issue of the Village Newsletter reminding those about to embark on university study or new work training of our existence and continuing to indicate safeguards for confidentiality of applicants. We will discuss any 'What If' situation before any name is mentioned if you or an agency approach one of us. Recipients of grants in previous years are welcome to apply again if circumstances remain the same or indeed if a new need has arisen.

This fund remains for anyone normally resident in the Parish Boundaries and we would urge you to mention the possibility to those who should benefit from the forethought of previous wealthier generous parishioners.

We remind you that the three Trustees to be approached are Ann Gilbert at Langton Cottage and myself, Keith Hiscock, as the Parish Council nominee, at Langton House, and the Rector Reverend Sue Kipling at Brington Rectory.

<b>Accounts</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	2009-10	2008-9	2007-8
Income from Coif Shares	<b>£218.8</b>	£179.37	£173.97	£168.42
Interest from Bank Account	<b>nil</b>	nil	nil	
Payments Made	<b>£300</b>	nil	£600	£300
Total Bank Balance as at 20.04.09	<b>£294.36</b>	£409.62	£230.25	£658.28
Capital Account Share Value	<b>£1529.17</b>	£1483.61	£1188.22	£1748.92
Subsequent Share Purchases	<b>£2724.58</b>	£2643.41	£2099.28	£3116.12
Both at 13.04.11 value				
<b>Total Value of assets</b>	<b>£4548.11</b>	£4536.04	£3508.75	£5521.32

K Hiscock. 13.04.11

Report of Brington and Whiton Pre-School  
Brington and Whilton Pre-School

As in previous years our numbers have built up during the year, in September we had very few children left to attend, so we lowered our age range to two year olds up to school age. This brought in a good number of children who have now reached two and half years. At present we have 13 children on the register with another child starting after the Easter holidays.

During this year staff members have been productive with two members of staff producing babies and so have been on maternity leave. We have received the support of our parents to cover maternity leave and have enjoyed them helping out.

Last May we decided to use the local Forest School at Everdon to give the children outdoor opportunities. We visited for six consecutive Wednesday's and the children had a great time playing hide and seek, making collages, dens and mini beast hunting. On our last Wednesday we even lit a fire and toasted marshmallows and popcorn. This event was so successful we are repeating it this year.

As Pre-school for many children is the first step into the educational system, we support the children in their Social and Emotional Development, Physical and Creative Development and ensure the children receive a happy, exciting and challenging time in the setting. We give them lots of opportunities and activities that they can be part of, which in turn prepares them for their transition to primary school.

April 2011

Report of Brington Primary School - Jan Abrams, Executive Headteacher

This has been a very interesting and exciting year for Brington Primary School. In September a new Executive Headteacher was appointed to lead and manage the school along with Harlestone Primary in a partnership. This arrangement has been very successful and the schools are working closely together in lots of ways including having a joint choir and drama club, carrying out joint projects such as planning a Road Safety Day and enjoying exciting events like the Pancake Day races.

As two such small schools it is lovely to see the children working and playing together and sharing ideas with a greater number of children.

A new member of teaching staff was also appointed for September and it has been fabulous to have a member of staff providing a male role model for our children and also bringing a different perspective and style of teaching to the school. The standard of work that is being produced by our children is very high and the mature attitude of the older children both to their work and other members of the school and wider community is a joy to see.

We have 'dipped our toes' into a more Creative Curriculum this year and the children have studied topics such as 'On a Cold and Frosty Morning' and 'Blood, Bones and Body Bits'. This way of working has really

inspired the children across the whole school to get engaged with their learning and the staff are looking forward to two days of quality training in the summer term to develop it further across both the schools. We are also working to develop our beautiful building so it can be seen in its best light and also provide an ideal working environment for the children. We have begun by having a very therapeutic clearout and with the help of governors and neighbours have created a lovely extra classroom upstairs for the children to use in groups or for their music lessons. We are keen to reinstate the main school entrance and provide a lobby for visitors and parents.

The inside of school is in need of a coat of paint and if anyone has contacts with a friendly painter and decorator who may be able to help us out I would be very grateful, (there is very little money in the pot!) A longer term aim is to refurbish the junior toilet block but that will need to wait until budgets improve. We have really enjoyed becoming more involved with the local community and the 'Evergreens' are now regular visitors to school! The children took part in the recent 'Litter Pick' in Brington and made Monster models from recycled materials which were then judged by Jane Mahood and very generous prizes given to the winning children. The highlight of this term however was the Pancake Races and we were delighted with the number of community teams who joined us on this lovely occasion. If you have any ideas for other ways that the school can be involved with the community please let us know.

OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHONERS