

**WHILTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 26TH APRIL 2010**

7 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 Keith Hiscock, Anthea Hiscock, Neil Phillips, Ann Gilbert, Ros Gardner and Janet Bowers.

1. Approval of the minutes of the 2009 Annual Parish Meeting

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

2. Annual Reports

Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council – Mike Lewis

CHANGES AND CHALLENGES

PC actions well documented in minutes, website and newsletter so will address noteworthy areas:

- Our clerk Anthea resigned and we now have Alison Nicoll to keep us in order. The parish boundary has changed and now includes the Spinney, Roughmoor Farm and adjoining dwellings.
- We still have a vacancy on the council and also for a Parish handyman.
- The internal audit as usual brought up a number of new issues- these cover risk assessment, health and safety, complaints and archiving of documents, which added to the new code of conduct run to well over 140 pages which we have to read then 'top and tail' for our use. The bureaucracy is I feel surely turning off a lot of potential councillors.
- Planning has been reasonably quiet in the parish but we must get more proactive and professional with our responses.
- The planning inspector and sec of state have rejected the Danetree and Church Fields appeals but this does not cancel the projected expansion and still means we have to get the best deal we can with respect to traffic management through the parish - the Flore/Weedon bypass was to be a major benefit of these proposals. A laser traffic survey showed increases of at least 50% compare with the one carried out in 2004. We are progressing towards a 20mph limit and lorry weight limit through the village and lower limit at the Locks but we still need to support our case with hard facts from our own traffic surveys.
- Highway problems remain ongoing with some success at South View but no real progress at Brington Lane and at the Locks. We will continue to push for these to be sorted out properly by any means available to us.
- The commitment needed to progress all these issues is high and we will need to refocus and decide what we can achieve with the resources available.
- Thanks go to all the councillors and to everybody who assisted in any capacity.

Report of the Footpaths Warden – Maurice Clements

Some time was spent with Mr Nick Wedgbrow (Rights of Way Officer) walking 3 footpaths at the end of 2009.

- Brockhall Boundary FL6
Deep step down from this fence Whilton side, a 2nd step would be placed down to this fence.
- Long Buckby Lane FL5
Loose top step, a repair is needed to secure this step.
- Churchyard/Brington Road
The path condition is good, no work is required.

Report of the Highways Warden – none available

Report of the District Councillor – none available

Report of the County Councillor – none available

Report of the PCSO – none available

Parish Activities

Report of the Village Hall Management Committee – Mike Lewis

Another quiet year, the main activities being as follows:

- The kitchen and store room have had new insulated floors, damp proofing and dry lining on the walls most affected by damp. The cooker socket was replaced and new outlets fitted to make the kitchen easier to work in. The drainage outside may still need to be reviewed and work carried out to try to remove all causes of damp ingress into the kitchen and storeroom.
- The playgroup are still in the process of obtaining a facility at Brington school and we should monitor this closely because of the large financial impact on our income.
- No social events were undertaken, there appeared to be sufficient run by other bodies all chasing the same money.
- As usual the 200 club continues to provide a high percentage of our income. Our thanks go to Derek and Shirley and the brave band of volunteer collectors for their essential and unstinting support.
- The hall only functions because people give their time freely. Without this small dedicated group we would not have this splendid facility, particular gratitude should go to Derek, Shirley and Mary for their vital contributions.
- There are still challenging times ahead but I am sure that we will be able to weather any financial problems and have a hall in the parish for posterity.
- Grateful thanks to all who have played their part in the last year.

Report of Roughmoor Spinney Management Group – Derek Brown

- The Spinney continues to flourish and the trees planted over the past few years are now well established. In the last 2 weeks a further 30 slips, donated to a Daventry School and not needed, had been passed to us and are now planted in the spinney. Our thanks to Rupert and Jim Gardner for donating the tree guards and canes and we are also grateful to Jim and Ros Gardner for planting them.
- Although we had a period of dry weather certain areas of the paths are still quite boggy and we need to remedy this as soon as possible. The pond is choked with silt and reeds and will probably need to be drained and cleared.
- I regret to report that the noticeboard has once again been vandalised and this time both oak posts supporting this have been snapped off at ground level. This is just a senseless wanton act and is a considerable drain on our finances to reinstate. The board and posts are made in oak wood and the cost alone for supporting posts kit cost approximately £100 when the board was installed 8 years ago. On Saturday 17th April 2010 a nearby neighbour heard an almighty crack in the spinney and went down to investigate. He found 3 youths there and the noticeboard lying on the ground. The board was then re-erected by the culprits at his insistence but is now some 24 inches reduced in height. This is now another task we will have to do to install it properly.
- The 10th anniversary celebration of the spinney took place on 2nd May 2009 with a guided walk around the spinney followed by a full English breakfast in the village hall. Sixteen sat down to breakfast.
- We have held two working Parties during the last 12 months and both were well attended by volunteer helpers.
- Safety audits have been carried out quarterly during the past 12 months.
- Thanks to all the volunteers who have given their time to assist in the maintaining of the spinney for the benefit of residents in the parish.

Report of Photographic Club – Neil Phillips

- I am very pleased to announce that the Whilton Photography Club held its first meeting in 2010 on 26th February after a break of several months due to my work commitments. We currently have 15 members drawn from Whilton, the surrounding villages and from Northampton. We are always looking for more members and hope to increase numbers during the year.
- The aim of the club is to help photographers at all levels of experience to get more from their hobby. Our current membership contains semi-professionals through to complete novices and this range of experience means that newcomers to the hobby can draw on a wealth of knowledge and hopefully see their photographs improving over time.
- Our programme for 2010 will include meetings in Whilton Village Hall (normally on the first Friday in the month), with outings to events and locations during the summer. Our meetings are split into two parts, with the first section covering a learning topic, such as composition, camera technique or post processing using computer software; whilst the second section provides an opportunity for us to critique each other's photographs.
- In the past we have produced a village calendar and it is hoped to be able to repeat this later in the year to help us to raise funds for the club for 2011.

Whilton Gardeners' Association – Ann Gilbert

- The Association meets 6 times a year, bimonthly, on the first Wednesday of the month. There are currently just under 30 paid up members, most of whom are resident in the village although we do have a small handful of members who live in nearby villages. The membership fee is currently £10 per annum.
- WGA joined the RHS during 2009 and this provides us with insurance as well as a variety of other benefits including regular magazines and bulletins and one free visit a year for our group, to an RHS garden. This membership is proving to be a valuable addition to members' involvement.
- We have also decided as an organisation, to permanently move the AGM to February as opposed to December. This is to allow enough time to prepare the year's accounts since the financial year ends in November; these can then be presented to members, along with a report of the year's activities. Because of highly successful fundraising during 2009, funds stood at just over £600 at the beginning of our new fiscal year in December,
- During 2009, the Committee has tried to bring in some fresh ideas to the programme. WGA has been in existence for a number of years and some of the members are now very longstanding which means that they, in particular, are looking for new topics to be covered.. We try to ensure there are two or three visiting speakers, as well as trips out. Last year we went to Bert Manton's Craft Workshop at Woodford Halse as well as organising talks on Winter Gardening, Photography of Plants and Landscapes and, Organic Gardening. Our RHS outing was to Coughton Court in Worcestershire when WGA members teamed up with some of the Photography Club members for what turned out to be a glorious and very popular day out.
- On 4th July some of our colleagues from Woodford Halse Gardening Association, joined around 50 people from Whilton for an American themed garden party and it was this event which swelled our financial coffers so considerably. In August WGA opened up to non members once more, for a Plant Sale and presented prizes for the best hanging basket and tubs displays in the village. Finally in December, in place of the usual AGM, 26 members enjoyed a candlelit Christmas supper in the village hall.
- We have an interesting programme planned for 2010 and are happy that the activities of the Gardening Association extend beyond matters horticultural, to play our part in supporting village life.

Report of Bell ringers – Janet Bowers

- Practice continues on a Monday evening to which we are grateful for the support of ringers from Fawsley who attend on a regular basis. The 3 ringers who have been learning the art are progressing well, 2 are from Whilton and the other from Great Brington.
- During the summer holiday Miles Baker, just under 8 years old started to ring and is coming on very well.
- The bells have been inspected by the Daventry branch steward and 2 new ropes have been fitted by him.
- Anyone interested in learning to ring please come along on a Monday evening at 7.45pm.

Report of Church Wardens- Janet Bowers

- Although still in an interregnum for the whole of 2009 services continued in the same format with the help of retired priests and lay band members. We had no baptisms or weddings (the last wedding was 4 years ago). Two funerals were followed by burial in the churchyard.
- We celebrated Fathers Day for the first time as it fell on a family service day. Later in the year a pet blessing service donated the collection to the PDSA.
- Organ, clock and fire extinguishers have had their annual maintenance and some repair work has taken place on the vestry roof timber.
- We have to fund raise to help cover the costs of running the church ie. Paying bills and paying our share of the diocesan and benefice expenses and to this aim a car boot sale was held.

Parish Concerns

Report of Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator – Ros Gardner

With the resignation of Peter Bennett due to ill health, Derek Brown offered to continue as Co-ordinator until a new volunteer could be found. I offered to help and actually took over and Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator in August 2009. Derek continues as Deputy.

The Cascade system of telephone numbers for residents of the village was updated and circulated to all households in the village at the beginning of September. This system has been used on one occasion when a vehicle parked in Main Street had the rear window smashed and property stolen from the vehicle. Feedback from the Cascade system afterwards proved that it works well when we need to make residents aware of crime within our village. In February a Landrover was stolen from Main Street and was found some hours later off the M1 Motorway at Junction 23. However the owner informed me that although it was reported as soon as it was noticed missing, it took the Police two weeks to inform the owner that it had been found and they received a bill for towing the vehicle to the Police pound and two weeks storage at £20 per day! The owners were told that it was due to a breakdown between the Highways Department who found the vehicle and the Police. A report of scrap metal being stolen from an industrial unit at Whilton Locks was also reported in February, and a garage was broken into at the Locks and a mountain bike stolen.

In February our long serving PCSO Lorraine Humfress was transferred to police the DIRFT and Kilsby area and a new PCSO Sarah Gray was appointed to our area. I met with Sarah in March and dates for the next three months surgeries have been fixed.

At our last surgery one resident expressed concern over speeding through the village and Sarah offered to look into the possibility of having a speed gun set up in the near future.

I would like to record my thanks to Derek Brown for the help and support he has given me over the last few months as I am new to this and his help and guidance has been invaluable.

Report of the Trustees of Whilton Parochial Charities – Keith Hiscock

This has proved to be a disappointing year in many respects. The value of the Charity's assets has risen mainly due to recovering share prices, but they are still some way from their 07/08 value. That said the main disappointment is the absence of applications for grants despite last years expectation that demands should properly rise as difficulties multiplied for residents. During the year therefore it has not been necessary for the two trustees to meet. Once the new Rector has settled in we will meet to again look at ways to encourage applications. Ideas on how to achieve this 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:

- i) 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.
- ii) 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.
- iii) 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 fulfil potential. It could be help with fees for, or transport costs including insurance to further training.

iv) 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 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.

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 on arrival the newly appointed Rector Reverend Sue Kipling at Brington Rectory.

Accounts	2009-10	2008-9	2007-8
Income from Coif Shares	£179.37	£173.97	£168.42
Interest from Bank Account	nil	nil	nil
Payments Made	nil	£600	£300
Total Bank Balance as at 20.04.09	£409.62	£230.25	£658.28
Capital Account Share Value	£1483.61	£1188.22	£1748.92
Subsequent Share Purchases Both at 12.04.10 value	£2643.41	£2099.28	£3116.12
Total Value of assets	£4536.04	£3508.75	£5521.32

Report of Brington and Whilton Pre-school group – Jenny Holman

During this year our numbers have been lower at 10 children each day, although financially this is not good, we are able to get to know the children really well enabling them to develop to their full potential.

Throughout the year staff have continued to build on their professional development in Early Years which enables us to continue to offer children excellent care and education.

During July last year an OFSTED inspector visited us and the outcome of the inspection came out as a 'good'. Although we did not receive an 'outstanding' comments like "Individual needs and requirements are known and respected and excellent relationships have been formed between staff, children and their peers" and other comments of a similar nature were stated, which were pleasing.

We continue to work on different areas of the Foundation Stage and offer lots of interesting projects from Healthy Eating to Number Rhymes to name a few. We recently enjoyed a visit to the Emery's farm where we were fortunate to see some lambs being born and we make use of the village by taking walks and visiting the Spinney.

After reporting last year that we were looking into moving to Brington School, this is at the present time on hold as we consider options given to us by the school.

Report of Brington Primary School Governors – no report available

3. Open forum for Parishioners

Information was given for the Best Village Competition 2010, information about this is to go on the village website.

The Litter Pick did go ahead even though there was no response from parishioners. The equipment can be borrowed anytime.

Thanks were expressed to Gerry Heeley for running the website.