

## WEST HAGBOURNE PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 14 May 2025 at Hagbourne Village Hall, East Hagbourne

**Present:** Cllrs Dan Tozer, Margaret Leishman, Andy Wimshurst, Robin Wilkes, Clerk Andrew Wise and 15 residents (see attached signing sheet)

### 1. **Welcome from the Chairman:**

Cllr Dan Tozer welcomed the public to the meeting.

### 2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne-Marie Simpson, Crispin Topping, Jonny Hope-Smith and Julie Freeland.

### 3. **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2024**

It was proposed by DT, seconded ML, that the minutes be signed as a true record, carried nem con. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

### 4. **Matters Arising from the minutes.**

The minutes from 2024 were reviewed and updates were provided where required.

### 5. **Chairman's Report**

The Chair started by explaining each councillor had different areas of "lead" responsibility, and asking each of them to speak to their areas of responsibility.

### **Highways, traffic, rights of way – Report by Margaret Leishman**

#### Community Speedwatch Group

The group has been in operation for a year and in that time conducted 21 sessions at various times and locations on Main Street. From a total of 1834 vehicles monitored, 274 drivers have been reported to TVP for speeding offences; the highest recorded speed so far being 42mph. Figures show that an average of 15% of drivers are recorded driving in excess of the accepted allowance above the speed limit. However, this is no indication of the overall number during such times when monitoring is not in force. I remain very grateful to those villagers who voluntarily conduct the sessions and help to keep our roads safer. Their presence at the roadside has proven to be a very effective way of slowing drivers down!

#### Speed Indicator Devices, Vehicle Activated Signs & Traffic Management

The two permanent speed indicator devices that are situated on Main Street to the west of the village are due for replacement following the adoption of the 20mph speed limit. The Parish Council is in the process of ordering upgraded models that should be visually effective and will record useful traffic data. The cost for these replacements is being covered by OCC. In addition, the Parish Council is intending to purchase a similar, but portable device, that can be located around the more built up areas of the village.

It has been noted and reported that the three large VAS located at the east entrance to the village and approaches to the single file section of Main Street are no longer operational. The Parish Council has requested clearer signage as part of a traffic management review by OCC Highways in this area.

### OCC Super user

Super user is the title given to residents who volunteer to carry out inspections of the road and pavement surfaces and report directly to the Council contractor if any repairs are necessary. Thank you to Chris Lay for taking on this role. Currently there are several potholes and dislodged kerb stones that need work.

### Roadside debris & flytipping

All reported roadside debris and fly tipped waste has now been cleared. Incidents of fly tipping can be reported on Fix My Street.

### Thames Water - works debris clearance

Following pipe repair works over the past few years, various items of debris and equipment have been left on RsOW posing a hazard to the public. After reporting, some have now been removed but the metal fencing on the byway near the Driftway remains uncollected - ongoing.

### Moor Lane

Moor Lane was officially closed in March 2024 when the surface was considered to be in such poor condition that it was unsafe for continued public use. The damage being due to the continual use, especially during wet weather, by an increasing number of recreational drivers of heavy 4x4 vehicles. Following extensive correspondence with the OCC Countryside Access team, some 'scrub' clearance and ditching work took place during February and March this year with the expectation that tidying and surface levelling will follow. To avoid this recurring cycle of closure and the damaging of the fragile surface happening again, the Parish Council has requested that the lane be redesignated as a restricted byway which would ban the use of unauthorised motor vehicles, leaving it to be safely used by walkers, cyclists and horse riders. This issue is ongoing. The Parish Council intends to replace lost trees and hedgerows when the work has finally been completed.

### Other Rights of Way issues

Notification of a consultation taking place until the 19th May has been circulated to those registered on the village email list. The survey asks for the public's views on Rights of Way in the County as part of the renewal of the Oxfordshire Rights of Way Improvement plan this year.

Please report any issues with Rights of Way in the parish to the Countryside Access team (found on OCC website) or contact the Parish Council.

### **Flooding/drainage – Report by Robin Wilkes**

During the past year we have actively looked at the various watercourses entering the village and the suitability of their subsequent exit routes. We have collaborated with OCC and SODC to investigate key ditches and pipes and in November we set up a Village Flood Group to carry out ongoing preventative maintenance around the village.

West Hagbourne Flood Group: since November, fifteen villagers have joined our work parties across eight Sunday mornings. Activities have focused on road drain clearance, with ongoing maintenance, and ditch digging to remove both vegetation and silt, particularly in Moor Lane and on Manor Close leading to York

Farm. WHPC has agreed to purchase selected equipment to enable further ongoing work and we are looking for volunteers to join the team.

Successful OCC Grant Applications for 2024-25 are soon to enable Surveys of Underground Pipes: with work scheduled to take place in June at Enard Cottage, Moor Lane and under York Farm. Further Expression of Interest grant applications, for 2025-26, have been submitted to OCC for further investigation and work on both the Manor Close and Moor Lane ditches.

OCC Highways Investigations: have been performed from the old Horse & Harrow pub down to the Pond, with all pipes confirmed as being clear.

SODC & OCC Investigations on GWP Didcot: after ongoing concerns from villagers and the Parish Council on the volume of water coming through the ditch and across fields, it was discovered that hydrobrakes had been omitted by the developers. These were installed in December and have been visually inspected by SODC. The suggestion is these should very significantly reduce the amount of water discharging along the Manor Close ditch, which was again breached in November 2024 (after being so in January 2024), resulting in water flowing down York Road and onto Main Street. We still await calculations from SODC relating to this water discharge and an analysis as to whether the ditch is fit for purpose.

Sandbags provided by the Parish Council: to several properties and locations throughout the year and are available to all villagers.

### **Community issues – report from Julie Freeland (delivered by Dan Tozer, in her absence)**

Over the past 12 months the PC has delivered the following:

- Defib training
- Julie has become the PC rep on the Hagbourne Cemetery committee
- Julie is now the PC liaison to the West Hagbourne Village Association
- The PC has approved a quote for refurbishing the Telephone Box
- A successful litter pick was arranged in April and has arranged for another one in October so this will now become a six-monthly exercise

Chair has drafted a village emergency plan and is currently awaiting more volunteers to have responsibilities allocated to them and then it will be distributed to every house in the village.

With the next PC Election due in 2027 if you are interested in becoming a councillor then either speak to the Clerk or the Chair to see what is involved.

John Baille asked if residents affected by the need for better signage in Main Street would be consulted by councilors and ML replied saying definitely that they would before the relevant signs are ordered.

### **Planning – report by Andy Wimshurst**

- Planning Application Responses – Whilst the PC has no power to prevent planning decisions (currently that is SODC), we do have the ability to Support or Object any planning application. We do this on a case by case basis, we discuss the merits / issues as a committee and respond to SODC with our reasons. We will generally

support extensions and individual development, where the impact on the village is minimal.

- Land to the north of the Horse and Harrow' pub (Lizard Bank field) – SODC refused the application for 6 houses in Jan 2024. This decision was appealed to Govt Planning Inspector, and eventually dismissed in November 2024 - Inspector agreed on the 3 main refusal points with SODC.
- Former Pumping Station (bottom of Hagbourne Hill (across the A4117). The current building had residential consent, then it was changed use to be a Care Home, they recently requested a children's day nursery be built on the site. WHPC objected to this addition, mainly on road safety grounds. The application was withdrawn in April.
- Development without planning consent at Manor Barn (right at the end of Foxglove Lane), a single story residential standard building with the conservation area. WHPC has a duty to report it to SODC following numerous complaints from village residents.
- Neighbourhood Plan – this focuses on guiding development rather than stopping it. The PC investigated the merits vs costs of doing this, and the PC decided during the past year that the downside risk was greater than any benefit to the village.
- Local Plan 2031 – SODC is currently working to an adopted local plan to 2031. There is no additional housing allocated to WH (as is the case for most villages in the District). There is also no likelihood of road improvements (bypass) around the village in the current period.
- Local Plan 2041 – SODC/Vale are currently preparing a plan to 2041, currently at an early stage, this will probably be overtaken with the council reorganisations.
- Rosie Gardner asked about the status of the Old Pumping station and AW replied that it is currently unoccupied to the best of our knowledge.
- John Housie enquired about SODC taking PC response into their thinking when making a decision on planning applications. AW replied that SODC planning takes the PC responses into account, and if the PC responds with OPPOSE then the application will automatically go to Planning Committee.
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## **6. Report from the Village Association Chair (delivered by Rosie Gardener, VA member)**

I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to talk tonight and highlight the work of the West Hagbourne Village Association.

Our constitution says "The purpose of the association shall be to arrange and hold social fund-raising and other village events", but I think our role is so much more.

1. We welcome new residents to the village
2. We promote a feeling of community
3. And, yes, we provide opportunities for residents to meet and mix

I've been asked to detail our events for 2025 – past, present and future. Throughout the year, usually once a quarter, we organise a village walk where residents can join each other for a 2-4 mile walk which normally features a stop-over at a local pub. Very sociable!

However, this year our calander started <sup>WITH</sup> the annual Madge Trophy on the 11<sup>th</sup> April. Alison Brown from the East Hagbourne gardening club spent a pleasant afternoon walking around the village admiring our front gardens. A full listing of the winners will appear in the June edition of the West Hagbourne Newsletter – they all displayed a huge pride in their properties.

The Madge Trophy was quickly followed by the Dragon

- Competition which ran from 13-27<sup>th</sup> April. I think this is one of our most important annual events;

Sheila Bayler and Louise Abbey  
from the Hagbourne pre-school  
were our judges

1. The effort residents put into creating their displays is an indication of their commitment to village life
2. It contributes to the identity of our village. We are the "Dragon village". East Hagbourne is the scarcrow village and so on.

This year we had 32 dragons – most of them were thoroughly enjoying easter

On the 5<sup>th</sup> April the village association held an event to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day. This was a very enjoyable event greatly added to by the committee members wearing 1940s appropriate costumes. The VA served refreshments and provided craft activities for the children.

With regards to Future events in 2025

A Barn Dance is planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> July. Thanks to our very successful fund raising event last year – namely the Garden Open Day – the VA ~~have~~ made this a free event. We hope for

has

a large turnout of villagers and we have invited East Hagbourne residents to join us on the day.

We have over the last 2 years held a Garden Games Afternoon in early September. The main attraction on the day has been a Boules Competition. This year we are planning a rounders competition between Main Street/ Foxglove Land versus York Road/ Manor Close. We hope that by encouraging friendly rivalry we will increase the turnout and hopefully more young residents will get involved. As before the VA will provide refreshment throughout the afternoon.

The final quarter of 2025 will be marked by the Macmillan Coffee morning on the 26<sup>th</sup> September and Remembrance Sunday on the 9<sup>th</sup> November

With regards to Christmas 2025, the VA will be funding a village Christmas tree and asking the WH children to decorate it. We will also get involved in TreeFest and serve mince pies and Mulled Wine at Carols in the Farmyard. What a perfect event to wish West Hagbourne a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

That's the end of 2025, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Village Association Committee for

their enthusiasm and hard work. Thanks also to the residents who provide us with venues, cakes and raffle prizes year after year. We couldn't do it without you!

## **7. Report from Tyrrell Trust (delivered by Rachel Tozer, trustee)**

William Tyrrell by his will of 16 September 1662 kindly created a charity for the benefit of residents of West Hagbourne by giving a parcel of land by the pumping station.

Even 1931 when placed under a Scheme governed by the Charity Commission its objectives were in rather archaic language so the current trustees updated its purposes in 2022:

1. To provide relief through the provision of grants, goods or services to those residents of West Hagbourne who are in need by reason of ill-health or disability; and to those past residents who by reason of ill-health or disability have moved from West Hagbourne to another location where they can receive care.
2. The relief of those residents of West Hagbourne who are in need by reason of financial hardship or other disadvantage (including emotional or social disadvantage);
3. To advance in life and help young people who are residents of West Hagbourne through grants of money to be used by them to develop their skills, capabilities and/or capacities.

We would like to invite people to consider if they wish apply to any of us for a grant either for themselves or suggest someone they know who would benefit. We have failed miserably to make grants. We did ask mention the Trust in the Newsletter a while back but didn't receive any approaches.

To be clear a "grant" from the charity is a gift, it does not need to be paid back.

We currently have 4 trustees - Mike Butler, Valerie Brownsword, June Little and yours truly. We are asking for a volunteer to join us in preparation for when Mike leaves the village.

Liz Wimshurst and Cllr Margaret Leishman said that they would be delighted to volunteer to become trustees of the Tyrrell Trust.

## **8. Village Maintenance**

John Baille raised the issue of 2 broken wooden posts that need replacing. ML said she would look into it.

## **9. Open Forum**

- No issues were raised

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8:30 pm and the Chair invited the attendees to stay on for refreshments.

14 MAY 2025 WEST HAGBOURNE APM SIGNING SHEET

Rachel Tozer
KATHRYN WILKES.
Rosary Gardiner
Constance Bell
<del>Samie, C. Bell</del>
Sue Totterdell
Sheila Taylor
John Baile
JOHN HARVEY.
June Little
Liz Wilmshurst
IAN LEISHMAN
Aylinn Silcock
MARCUS ROY
Chris + Sue Lay
Dan Tozer
Margaret Leishman
Robin Wilkes.
ANDY WIMSHURST.

Signed..... Dated.....