

## WEST HAGBOURNE PARISH

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 13 May 2026 at Hagbourne Village Hall, East Hagbourne

**Present:** Cllrs Dan Tozer, Margaret Leishman, Andy Wimshurst, Robin Wilkes, Julie Freeland, Clerk Andrew Wise and 13 residents (see attached signing sheet)

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

Cllr Dan Tozer welcomed the public to the meeting and provided an introduction to the structure and purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

Apologies were received from Mr and Mrs Lay and Betty Kendrick

### 3. **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2025**

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 2025 were reviewed and updates were provided where required.

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

The Chair started by explaining the role and structure of the Parish Council, stating that each councillor had different areas of "lead" responsibility, and asking each of them to speak to their areas of responsibility.

### **Drainage and Flooding – Report by Robin Wilkes**

RW would like to thank those key people who have enabled our flood-related activities throughout the past year, especially:

- Our Village Flood Group: now with 18 or so members, who have been out working across the village on 15 Sunday mornings in the past year
- WH Landowners, particularly Jane Drewe and Chris Lay, who have enhanced our work with their own improvements to ditches and culverts around the village
- OCC & SODC contacts, who have supported us with enquiries, investigations and follow-up works
- WHPC, particularly the Chair, for funding equipment, from shovels to pumps, for our Flood Group.

To highlight our key successes this year, we have:

- Managed finally to get acknowledgement and installation of 'missing' drainage infrastructure on GWP Didcot, which has noticeably improved the amount of water coming from that direction in times of heavy and continued rainfall
- Worked on improvements to the two major drainage routes through the village, the Moor Lane and Manor Close/York Farm ditches
- With contributions from both OCC Highways and our Flood Group, improved drains across the village, with noticeably better road conditions in times of heavy rainfall. We are working on the remaining flood road 'hotspots' of Brook Lane and the drain at the corner where Brook Lane meets Main Street.

We'll continue our work across the village in the next year, hopefully now moving towards continuous maintenance schedules. Thanks again for everyone's help and support of our activities this year.

- Ian Leishman asked Robin if Mill Stream could be included in future plans? RW replied by saying that after received a report from OCC Highways there was no current plans for any remedial work at Mill Stream.
- Dave Totterdell wanted to thank Kathryn Wilkes for proving the much need refreshments of tea and cake at every Flood Group Working Session.
- RW said he would send a copy of the most recent OCC Flood Grant Application to JHS for his support at County.

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

Community Speedwatch Group.

The group has now been in operation for two years and continues to conduct regular roadside sessions. During this time almost 500 drivers have been reported to TVP for speeding offences from a total of approximately 3,200 vehicles monitored. The group's roadside presence remains the most effective way of reminding drivers of the legal speed limit and the need for them to reduce their speed along hazardous village roads. A big thank you to the team.

Speed Indicator Devices. Two new devices were positioned on Main Street in July last year. As well as displaying driver's speed, they collect data on every vehicle that passes. Downloaded data from one of the devices over the past 10 months has revealed that approximately 70% of passing drivers exceed the legal speed limit of 20mph and excessive speeds of between 50 and 65mph are regularly recorded. The weekly count of traffic travelling east towards the centre of the village is consistently, around 15,000 (one way only).

Single carriageway section of Main Street. Following discussions with OCC Highways, new traffic signs and white lines have been introduced on this section in an effort to reduce the problem of drivers failing to give way to oncoming traffic. However, residents report that these measures have done little to improve the behaviour of some drivers.

Pot holes and general maintenance.

Thank you to Chris Lay, our designated 'Super-user' for continuing to monitor the condition of the village roads and report issues to OCC Highways.

A reminder to residents to make sure that any overhanging garden vegetation is trimmed well back from pavements and road signage. Residents can report incidences of damaged pavements, roadside fly-tipping and suspected overweight lorries to the appropriate authorities – contact details are printed in the village newsletter.

Village Gates.

White gates and new signage have been ordered through OCC Highways and will be installed at all 3 entrances to the village within the next few months. We are very grateful to Upton Parish Council for agreeing to accommodate one of the sets just over the boundary on the road to the approach to the pub. The gates have been funded through CIL awards.

Public Rights of Way.

Moor Lane was closed by the OCC Countryside Access Team in March 2024 on public safety grounds due to its badly rutted, uneven surface. Over the following 18 months, brush clearance and ditching took place causing more surface disturbance. The byway was opened to all traffic again last autumn however, despite requests, no levelling was carried out prior to this and sections of the lane remain hazardous to walkers cyclists and horse riders.

Over the past year, attention has also been given to improve accessibility and safety for users of PROW in the parish. These include checking reports of a

locked gate across a footpath, reporting damaged bridges, debris clearance, overgrown vegetation and unauthorised signage.

Problems concerning ROW can be reported to parish councillors, the clerk, or the OCC Countryside Access via their website.

- ML/JF to take photos of the current worsening condition of both the Main Street and Grove Terrace footpaths which are both now unsafe for use by pedestrians to JHS to take up with Highways officials. ML to ask Mr Lay as superuser to report state of both footpaths to Highways Engagement Super User hotline
- Following a request from John Baille, ML and Chair to set up a site meeting with Jon Beale from OCC Highways to discuss further signage that warns oncoming traffic that they are about to enter a single lane road.

### **Community issues – report from Julie Freeland**

- Bus shelter is still on going
- Posts in Moor Lane. I have someone coming on Friday to give another quote.
- Thanks to everyone who took part in the April Litter Pick and reminded residents that the next scheduled litter pick is for October.

### **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.

- **Upton PC and the Traveller Site** – (just behind the George & Dragon Pub. Two attempts in the past year to gain planning permission, the most recent was declined by Vale DC in March 26.
- **Little Acorns land** – 3 additional Houses to the East of the nursery. This is in Upton Parish, but WHPC supported the application in Feb 26, as the developer will build the “missing Footpath” from the pub to the site.
- Development without planning consent at **Grove Manor Barn** (right at the end of Foxglove Lane), a single story residential standard building with the conservation area. SODC have granted retrospective consent.
- **Pub permission** and recent auction...

**Recent additional housing** – over the past 10 years, there have been 11 new houses built to the south side of Main Street (3+5+3). There have also been 3 new houses built in the rest of the village in the same period - These additional 14 houses represent 13% increase to the village since 2016 (now 125 houses).

**There is permission to build** a further 9 houses (pub 5, Little Acorns 3, Manor Grove Farm 1) – not clear how many or how long these will take to build.

**Neighbourhood Plan** – focus on guiding development rather than prevention. PC previously decided not to proceed, having taken account of the downside risk vs benefit to the village – We will look at this again if Upton PC decide to put a NP in place.

In response to a question from Sheila Taylor, the Chair promised that they will work with both Vale and SODC to make sure that the developer Mainsbridge keep their promise of building a footpath from the old nursery to the old pub.

Chair explained in response to a question from John Harvey that the PC had tried to make contact with the owners of the old Horse and Harrow Pub to report the current state of the pub which all residents think is an eyesore but to no avail.

## **6. Clerks Comments on current financial situation**

Clerk reported that the 2025-26 Parish Council Accounts had been signed off by the internal auditor, approved at the recent PC Meeting and now submitted to the external auditors.

Clerk explained that if any resident would like to view the accounts then they could make an appointment by emailing the clerk on

[westhagbournepc@gmail.com](mailto:westhagbournepc@gmail.com).

Finally, the clerk explained that the PC had recently received some more CIL funds from SODC so would welcome any suggestions for how it could be spent in the village. The clerk explained that the main criteria is that any purchase must benefit the majority of residents in the village.

## **7. Contributions from SODC and OCC Councillors**

**SODC** – AMS opened her annual review of SODC activities by thanking the Parish Councillor's and Clerk for all their efforts over the past 12 months. She explained that the new Joint Local Plan wouldn't be signed off till early in 2027. She encouraged the PC to ask the SODC Neighborhood Plan officer in their meeting next week as many questions as possible to really understand the pros and cons of adopting a neighborhood plan either by themselves or jointly with Upton PC. Finally she explained that Central Governments plan for South Oxfordshire to become a Unitary Authority wont happen before May 2027, when both District and Parish Councils Elections are scheduled.

**OCC** – JHS opened his annual review of OCC activities by saying how much he had enjoyed working with Parish Councillor's in his first year as a County Councillor. John Baille asked the County Councillor to raise the issue of poor broadband coverage in the village. Both Jonny and AnneMarie said that they would work together to try and get the Telecoms providers to improve the coverage by committing to a new mask in the local area.

## **8. Report from the Village Association Chair (delivered by Rosie Gardener, VA member)**

The Village Association report to the West Hagbourne Parish Council AGM

The village Association has been busy since last years Parish Council AGM. We have continued to hold our well established annual events including The Madge Trophy, The St. George's Day Dragon Display, 4 village walks through the seasons, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas celebrations.

However, I would like to celebrate 3 events which went particularly well last year.

First, the Barn Dance held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June. Jeff Powell was kind enough to let us use one of his grain stores for the evening. We had Pandamonium (out of Wantage) provide the music and a Sole a Luna van fed us throughout the evening. Over 100 people attended this very special evening and highlights included Jeff and his very rowdy party arriving on a trailer driven by one of his tractors.

Second, the Games Afternoon held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September. Sue and Chris Lay were kind enough to cut 2 pitches in one of their fields and well over 60 people spent a happy afternoon playing rounders. The competition between 4 village teams was hotly contended – to the point where there were arguments over the rules - but there was also a feeling that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Village Association provided beer and a picnic on the day.

Third, The Mcmillan Coffee Morning. Due to the amazing generosity of the West Hagbourne villagers, we ended up with too many raffle prizes for the one event, so, for the first time last year we held a Christmas Raffle – a single prize consisting of a basket of 15 bottles of wine and spirits. Over the two events we raised a total of £1,735. A definite success..

This summer we have two new events planned. In a couple of weeks there will be a Garage Sale Trail throughout the village – stalls set up in front gardens selling pre-loved items to the public. The village Association will provide BBQ, tea and cake and ice cream stalls as a fund raising initiative. Later in the summer we have arranged a wine and cheese evening where Ed Mitchum, manager and part owner of the West Hagbourne vineyard will give a talk on winemaking in England. This is an opportunity for us to taste his wines. Other wines will also feature.

We hope that a calender of new and well established events will increase our fan base and continue to make West Hagbourne a nice place to live.

Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Village Association who work so hard to put on these events, The residents of West Hagbourne who provide the venues for our events and The West Hagbourne News which reports and advertise all our events. Also, thank you to everyone who attends our events. We'll keep putting them on if you keep coming. Thanks.

## **9. Report from Tyrrell Trust (read out by Dan Tozer)**

### **Set up of the Trust**

William Tyrrell by his will of 16 September 1662 kindly created a charity for the benefit of residents of West Hagbourne by giving a collection of allotments throughout the village which were later exchanged for a parcel of land by the pumping station.

Purposes, even 1931 when placed under a Scheme governed by the Charity Commission its objectives were archaic so the trustees updated its purposes in 2022 to focus on 3 primary areas:

1. Ill health or disability;
2. Disadvantage (whether financial, emotional or social);
3. Developing young people's skills, capabilities and/or capacities

In all cases in relation to residents of West Hagbourne (and in the case of ill health past residents who have moved to other locations due to illness or disability to receive care).

### **Change in trustees**

In preparation for Mike Butler's move out of the village, he resigned as a trustee of the Trust last year and Liz Wimshurst was appointed.

The current trustees are now:

- Valerie Brownsword who remains as a trustee but after faithfully serving us as treasurer for many, many years has handed over those reins to Liz Wimshurst
- June Little who acts as secretary
- Rachel Tozer who acts as chair

### **Recent grants**

We are very pleased to say that our raising of awareness of the trust and its purposes in the village newsletter has resulted in a recent application for a grant and at our last meeting 2 weeks ago we awarded two grants.

Any other suggestions for grants?

If you know of anyone else in the village who would benefit from a grant please contact one of the trustees.

Rachel Tozer May 2026

## **10. Open Forum**

- Jeff Powell wanted to thank Sue Totterdell for both arranging the monthly senior citizen lunches in addition to editing the village newsletter. Sue in response to this thanks stressed that she will step down from editing the newsletter at the end of the year and anyone interested in taking over from her should make contact before the final edition in November. Both her and David said they would be looking to hand over the maintenance of the village garden from the end of next year and again if interested to make themselves known to them.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 8:55 pm and the Chair invited the attendees to stay on for refreshments.

**13 MAY 2026 WEST HAGBOURNE APM SIGNING SHEET**

IAN LEISHMAN
MARGARET LEISHMAN
JUNE FREELAND
Robin Wilkes.
Dan Tozer
ANDREW WIMSHURST.
Rosy Cardiner
Marian Allin
CORAL POWELL
JEFF POWELL
Suzan Totterdell.
Sue Atterbell
Johnny Hope Smith
Sheila Taylor
John Baile
JOHN HARVEY
KATHERINE WILKES
ANNE-MARIE SIMPSON

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