



*West Wycombe
Parish Council*

ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

This publication is based upon the report given by
Cllr. Mrs Vicki Smith, Chairman of the West Wycombe Parish Council
at the Annual Parish Meeting on 8th May 2014.

Reports from The National Trust, West Wycombe Community Library, West
Wycombe Community Association, West Wycombe Pre-School and Thames
Valley Police can be found on the website

www.westwycombe.org.uk

QUALITY **Q** COUNCIL

Parish Work

I am sure most people think of Parish Councillors as busy bodies who interfere if they have a planning application or people who like the sound of their own voices!

Parish Councillors do have three essential functions:

1. They pass the views of their communities onto the administrative tiers above them.
2. They work to improve or sustain local character and quality of life.
3. They provide services. These can include burial grounds, allotments, street lighting, bus shelters, children's play areas and playing fields.

Much of a Parish Council's day to day jobs are thankless tasks and like housework noticeable only when it is left undone. But that doesn't mean it can't be rewarding.

Next May we have the UK Elections, not just a General Election but also an election of your parish councillors who form the lowest tier of local government; and a tier that is becoming more important.

You can stand for election to a parish or town council if you are a British citizen, or a citizen of the Commonwealth or the European Union and 18 years or older on the day you become nominated for election. And if you are registered as a local government elector for the parish for which you want to stand; or you have, for the whole 12 month period up to the date of the election, occupied (as owner or tenant) land or other premises in the parish; or your principal or only place of work during that same 12 months period has been in the parish; or you have during the whole of that same 12 month period resided in the parish or within 4.8 kilometres (3 miles) of it.

You cannot be a candidate if you are employed by the parish or town council or hold a paid office under the council (including employment by any joint boards or committees of the council). You are the subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order. You have, within five years before the day of the election, been convicted in the United Kingdom of any offence and have had a prison sentence (whether suspended or not) for a period of over three months without the option of a fine. You have been disqualified under Part III of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (which relates to donations and other offences) or under the Audit Commission Act 1998.

Have an informal chat with the Clerk, Chairman or Member of the council

Planning

It is true.... we West Wycombe Parish Councillors do look at all planning applications that come through for our parish: and surrounding parishes if we think they might have an effect on our parish. We do always check that new builds or conversions will fit in and enhance our community. With our local knowledge we know how a building could impact on the neighbourhood if not carefully planned.

Parking is always something we are concerned about with new plans. We know, very well, that we can only object to something that is inside the strict planning criteria. Mostly Wycombe District Council agrees with our decisions but sometimes applicants will challenge decisions and go to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State can and does sometimes over turn both Wycombe District Council's (WDC) decisions and West Wycombe Parish Council's recommendations.

We are concerned and have made our concerns known to WDC about the potential plans to build many new houses at Saunderton and Princes Risborough as this will make the already busy A4010/A40, that runs through our parish, even busier.

We have submitted a petition to Government for approval so that we can object at a Select Committee Hearing about potential Hs2 plans to bring lorries carrying construction materials through our parish along the A4010 to their sites in Stoke Mandeville etc.

Our Clerk has worked very hard to get this piece of legislation correct (she has had to use very Dickensian language in the document) to enable us to submit it in the proper manner. It is not certain that we will be called to the Select Committee when we have done all this but we feel we must do everything in our power to try and make sure the transport takes another route.

We try always to find the best solution we can for our residents.

**Find out about local planning applications
by visiting our website
westwycombe.org.uk
*the planning page is updated every Monday***

Pedestal Playground and Field

We are always pleased to see this area well used and it is a real pleasure to see football being played on there once again.

We have purchased a new rubbish bin and a seat, after the others were vandalised and a netball/ basket ball hoop for this area.

We have recently made the car park longer and put planings taken from the West Wycombe Road resurfacing to make hard standing for vehicles.

Unfortunately we do have problem with dogs fouling in the playing field and it looks as if we may have to ban dogs completely if it continues.

We have appealed to people to keep their dogs on leads so they can check and pick after the dog has poo-ed but up to now the problem still exists

Chorley Road Allotments

With money given to us from our Bucks County Councillor Darren Hayday and our Wycombe District Councillors Jean Teesdale and Ian McEnnis we have arranged to have a water tap fitted at the allotments and hard standing on the car park there, as in the playing field.

It's amazing what you can find on our website.

The News and Forthcoming events section is full is those bits of information that nobody usually finds out about until it's too late and Cllr Timberlake has also put together timetables for the bus routes through our parish. These can also be found in the West Wycombe Library

Please help us to help you

All the cutbacks being forced down from central government is having a detrimental effect on the level of service that is being provided by Bucks County Council. If you see a pothole, trees or bushes overhanging pavements, flooding, broken kerbstones, empty grit bins, or damaged street furniture or signs, please report it directly to Transport For Bucks.

0845 230 2882

www.transportforbucks.net

Emergency Service - 01296 486630

Affiliated Groups

The Events Team

Most Parish Councillors are on West Wycombe's Events Team who organise The Fete, The Beacon Evening on West Wycombe Hill and the Christmas Fayre to name but a few of the social activities in West Wycombe.

We will be pleased to welcome anyone who would like to come and join us on the Events Team or just help on event days. Without more help from our residents we may not be able to sustain the standard of our events.

Cllr Neil Harris is the Chairman of the Events Team and Cllrs Kate Cheshire and Lisa Cook are invaluable organisers but The Events Team is not run by the Parish Council although we do support it. We are indebted to the local National Trust team for helping with these events,

The Wycombe District Association of Local Councils.

These meetings are open to all Parish Councils in the High Wycombe Area. It gives training and has regular open discussions on anything related to Parish Councils and their residents.

The Bucks and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils meets in the County Offices in Aylesbury. Parish Council members come from all over Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. This Association also arranges training sessions on a larger scale and keeps us informed of news from the National Association of Local Councils.

Cllr Neil Timberlake represents the Parish Council on the **JCC for Wycombe Air Park** and Cllr Mrs Smith is a Parish Council representative on the **WDC Standards Committee**

Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

Cllr Mrs Smith is also a member of the a Police led group who include members from Lane End, Piddington and Wheeler End, Studley Green and Stokenchurch. We help each other with problems such as anti social behaviour and parking.

The Marlow and South West Chiltern Local Area Forum is a group run by Bucks County Council and where we presented a case to be able to obtain funding for the Vehicle Activated Sign on the A40 a couple of years ago.

We attend **Wycombe District Council's Rural Forum** meetings as we think it important to keep up with news from the farming community surrounded as we are by farmed fields. 80% of the Wycombe District Council area is rural.

P h o t o g r a p h s f r o m t h e



Lots more images can be found in the gallery

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on the website - www.westwycombe.org.uk

A personal message from the Chairman

All your parish councillors are unpaid and they use their knowledge and personal expertise to serve our community. They give up an enormous amount of their time to attend meetings and seminars etc. They are members of other committees and organisations on our behalf and make sure we are represented and often involved in discussions throughout the High Wycombe and Buckinghamshire area. In fact we will go anywhere if we think there will be information that could affect our parish. They very much deserve your thanks.

We hold Quality Parish Council Status.

Mrs Sharon Henson, our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, also deserves your thanks. We Parish Councillors all know that without her understanding of Parish Council law and her experience it would be much harder to run this Parish Council as efficiently as we do.

Sharon has had to work hard this Winter and Spring to help and support our residents who have suffered with drainage and sewage problems due to the heavy rainfall. She was able to give them advice on who to contact and personally talked to Thames Water, The Environment Agency, Wycombe District Council and Bucks County Council to tell them exactly what was going on and what was needed.

It makes my job as Chairman of the Parish Council much easier knowing I have an enthusiastic team of people, with, thank goodness, a sense of humour, who are dedicated to moving West Wycombe along with the times without losing sight of this area's unique character. My thanks to all of them for their support.

We would like to thank our County Councillor Darren Hayday for his support and help this last year and our Wycombe District Councillors Mrs Jean Teesdale and Mr Ian McEnnis for their support and keeping us informed with news from WDC.

Visit YOUR website
www.westwycombe.org.uk
It's more than just the Parish Council

Parish Council Accounts

Year Ending 31st March 2014

INCOME	31/3/2014	31/3/2013
Administration	£41332.93	£39875.05
Allotments	£228.00	£222.00
Pedestal Playing Field	£180.00	£165.00
Burial Ground	£415.00	£1446.00
VAT Refund	£0.00	£5552.61
TOTAL	£42155.93	£47260.66

EXPENDITURE		
Administration	£18044.33	£18493.73
Allotments	£2220.34	£70.00
Pedestal Playing Field	£8222.17	£18229.63
Burial Ground	£4272.25	£3418.90
Highways	£503.54	£447.50
Street Lighting	£4970.47	£5340.29
VAT	£4005.78	£5552.61
TOTAL	£42238.88	£51552.66

SUMMARY		
Opening Balance	£12572.26	£16864.26
Income	£42155.93	£47260.66
Total	£54728.19	£64124.92
Expenditure	£42238.88	£51552.66
Balance	£12489.31	£12572.26

CUMULATIVE FUNDS		
Barclays Community Account	£10221.95	£10506.43
Barclays Business Saver Account	£1134.04	£933.56
Bank of Ireland Account	£1133.32	£1132.27
Total	£12489.31	£12572.26

Devolved Powers

We attended a meeting with Buckinghamshire County Council at the end of May 2014 because they would like Parish Councils to take over some of the services that they have delivered for some time, grass cutting and public toilets for instance.

Obviously we want to see what benefits this has for us, if any. As a small Parish Council with only a part time Clerk and no employees we will have to look at this proposal very carefully but it is possible that if we do not take on these additional responsibilities they may not get done at all.

This is not unique to West Wycombe; all parish councils are going to have to face this challenge. As your elected Parish Council we are keen to control our own 'environment' and not waste a great deal of time chasing Bucks CC to carry out work at the right time and to a good standard.

However it will require additional time and money as well as a steep learning curve to comply with the Health and Safety aspects of these services, undertaking risk assessments and for some larger authorities investing in equipment.

For a parish of our size, any devolved services we take on would be contracted out to fully approved contractors and ultimately, but not immediately, these devolved powers will impact on the Precept and your council tax.

Website

The website has now undergone a major facelift. Pages have been moved around to improve the navigation, new pages have been created and a lot of 'under the bonnet' enhancements have been made to deliver the contents much quicker.

The website is for you, the people who live and work in West Wycombe and also for the many visitors that West Wycombe attracts.

We will be pleased to hear your comments on the new site, use the Contact Form to tell us what you think and if there is any way we can improve it and how; we will be grateful for your input and constructive criticism.

We are particularly keen to include any information, photographs, cuttings or publications that you may have with regard to Col. Lesslie Watson, the original Parish Council, the original Village Hall which was located in what is now known as the Pedestal Field and the building of the current Village Hall. Any information from around those areas will be appreciated. Please contact the Parish Clerk on 01494 448048 or Mike Henson on 01494 438904.

We also want to provide more information for people visiting the Parish so any assistance in that area will be most welcome. Remember, you can have your business or organisation listed free.

Remembering those we lost in the First World War 1914 to 1918

The congregation of St Lawrence Church has always commemorated Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial which is in the churchyard and looks over West Wycombe Hill and the main road leading into Wycombe. For the last 4 years the Parish Council has joined the service and laid a wreath on behalf of the residents of West Wycombe Parish.

In this World War 1 commemorative year we took part in a service of commemoration with members of the congregation and on August 4th at noon we joined with the nation and laid a wreath on the War Memorial. The names of all the men of this parish who made the ultimate sacrifice are listed below.

Sidney Allen
 Albert Allworthy
 Wallace Ashby
 Walter Ashby
 William Bailey
 Sidney Bates
 Harry Barnett
 John Bartlett
 Gary Batting
 Ernest Biggs
 Jonah Britnell
 Cyril Butler
 John Butler
 Wilfred Chilton
 Edward Cutler
 Robert Dashwood
 Walter Day
 Alfred Doel
 Leonard Dollery
 Francis Dukes
 Edward Fassnidge
 George Gibbs
 Charles Giles
 Frank Giles
 Charles Gillett
 Reginald Harris
 Ernest Harris
 Harry Harvey
 Owen Harvey



Harry Hawes
 Robert Hernon
 George Hernon
 Charles Holland
 Frederick Howland
 Albert Johnson
 William Joynson
 William King
 Charles King

William Langley
 James Langley
 Edward Lawrence
 Ernest Lowe
 Henry Lowe
 Charles Lunnon
 Frank Martin
 Leonard Maunder
 Gilbert Mead

Joseph Monday
 John Monday
 Harold Moores
 Rupert Newell
 James Newell
 Amos Oxlade
 George Oxlade
 George Pepall
 Walter Phillips
 William Piercey
 Alfred Pike
 Ernest Pitcher
 Edward Putman
 George Rackstraw
 Robert Rippington
 Ernest Sears
 Gilbert Sexton
 Brommidge Smith
 Thomas Smith
 Stewart Spriggs
 Ernest Stevens
 Alfred Styles
 Robert Styles
 Alfred Tilbury
 Rupert Twitchen
 George Wakefield
 Albert Walker
 Arthur Warwick

Parish Council Officials - 2014/2015

Chairman:

Cllr. Mrs Vicki Smith, 2 High Street, West Wycombe, HP14 3AE
Tel: 01494 532239

Vice Chairman:

Cllr Neil Harris, 49 High Street, West Wycombe, HP14 3AG
Tel: 01494 524787

Clerk:

Mrs Sharon L. Henson, 18 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU
Tel: 01494 448048

Members:

Cllr. Roger Seymour, 78 Chorley Road, West Wycombe, HP14 3AR
Tel: 01494 439081

Cllr. Frank Downes, High Barn, Flint Hall Farm, West Wycombe, HP14 4ES
Tel: 01494 440860

Cllr Neil Timberlake, 8 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, HP12 4AU
Tel: 01494 459004

Mrs Kate Cheshire, 34 Portway Drive, West Wycombe, Bucks HP12 4AT
Tel: 07768 746150

Mrs Lisa Cook, Primrose Cottage, 11, Bradenham Road, West Wycombe,
Bucks HP14 4EY
Tel: 07711 870845

District Councillors:

Cllr Mrs Jean Teesdale, 43 Green Lane, Radnage, Bucks HP14 6DJ
Tel: 01494 483298

Cllr Mr Ian McEnnis, 49 London Road, High Wycombe, HP11 1BN
Tel: 01494 462834

County Councillor:

Cllr. Mr Darren Hayday, 17 Woodlands Close, High Wycombe, HP12 4HB
Tel: 01494 462611