

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 30th APRIL 2015 AT 7.30PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, WEST WYCOMBE**

PRESENT:

Cllrs Mrs J. Smith (Chairman), Mr N. Harris, Mrs K. Cheshire, Mr N. Timberlake from 8.30,
Mrs L. Cook (from 9pm) Mrs S. Henson, Clerk

26 members of the public including County Cllr D. Hayday, Dist Cllr Mrs J. Teesdale,
Distr Cllr Mr I McEnnis

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mr R. Seymour

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs Smith welcomed everyone.

Cllr Mrs Vicki Smith, West Wycombe Parish Council Chairman's Report for 2014/15

West Wycombe Parish Council was formed in 1987.

Which means after the election on May the 7th we will be starting our 29th year.

I have been on the Parish Council since the beginning and would like to say how grateful I am that over these years we have had Parish Councillors who have been committed to making the whole of West Wycombe Parish a good place to live and work.

Over the years we have achieved a huge amount of things that contributed to the safety, wellbeing and leisure of the residents of West Wycombe.

Just a few of the things we have organised are...

The Burial Ground

We opened this for our residents in the year 2000 when St Lawrence churchyard had to be closed as there was no more space available.

Pedestal Play Area and Allotments

When we asked our residents, in a survey, what would be high on their wish list for the parish a children's playground and allotments came top. We have managed to provide both of these. All these are on land leased from West Wycombe Estate because the Parish Council does not own land.

To make sure we achieved our aims we have contributed money towards the cost of the pelican crossing on West Wycombe Road, the zebra crossing in The High Street, new street lighting in many places throughout the parish, a pavement to the school and double yellow lines and bollards in places in the parish to help traffic flow and parking problems.

We put up handrails to make certain places safer to walk.

We negotiated with West Wycombe Estate for the school to be able to use the car park at the garden centre and for some time we paid for another children's crossing patroller. Bucks County Council decided we only needed one patroller when The High Street had a zebra crossing.

We organise the Christmas trees and pay for the Christmas tree lights. Very soon we will be planting two new trees, one on the triangle and one in the car park of the Village Hall. In future we will use these as our Christmas trees instead of using cut trees which West Wycombe Estate has provided, free of charge for many years.

We have given grants to help other organisations in the parish.

In the last few weeks we have paid for two defibrillators that are linked to the 999 service/ NHS. One is installed on West Wycombe Village Hall and hopefully soon one will be installed on the top of West Wycombe Hill by the gate leading to St Lawrence Church. If needed these will help not only local people but visitors to the parish too.

We have placed filled grit bins on most of our roads for bad weather conditions and recently we installed dog poo bins, which we pay to have emptied once a week.

We are still having problems with dog walkers on the playing field who insist on letting their dogs off the lead and not cleaning up after them. We don't want to have to ban dogs but we may have to if people don't respect our rules.

We are actively still trying to get the route for HS2 construction traffic removed from coming through our parish. This is an ongoing process. Sharon has worked hard on this for many months even taking our petition up to Government in London for us.

You may think these things haven't amounted to much work for the Councillors and Clerk but be assured that these projects have taken many hours of deliberation and planning. For instance ...it took well over ten years constantly nagging every department you can think of to complete the burial ground.

We are consulted on all planning applications in West Wycombe Parish and these are very much part of the everyday work of the Parish Council. Dealing with Wycombe District Council and Bucks County Council regarding road and pavement repairs and cleaning, road closures and street lighting problems take time too.

We are about to take on a few of the jobs that Bucks County Council has undertaken in the past because we realised that we could do more and better grass cuts and sign washing, for instance, than BCC have been doing for us, which will keep our parish looking neat and tidy. BCC are having to cut back on these jobs due to their budget constraints.

You may be interested to know that 70% of BCC's budget this coming year will be taken up with paying for elderly care and children's care services. This is a statutory duty that they have to carry out and which they want to do to the best of their ability but it leaves little money for schools and road repairs.

Each of the Parish Councillors is on other committees or organisations and report back at our monthly council meetings.

Cllr Neil Harris, our Vice Chairman is invaluable to us when it comes to dealing with emergencies on land surrounding West Wycombe. Through his job with the National Trust he knows every piece of our parish and he knows the best people to call should we need help. He is also Chairman of the West Wycombe Events Team who organise the yearly Summer and Christmas Fayres.

Cllrs Kate Cheshire and Lisa Cook work incredibly hard for the events team too, they are absolutely indispensable. Most of our Parish Councillors are on The Events Team and lend a hand when it comes to Events days.

Cllr Neil Timberlake is a founder member of West Wycombe Library Team and works regularly at the Library and he attends Wycombe Air Park's JCC meetings on our behalf.

Cllr Roger Seymour keeps an eye on the Burial Ground and the Allotments for us.

Cllr Kate Cheshire is on the Village Hall Committee as the Parish Council representative.

The Village Hall is not owned or run by the Parish Council but as often happens in communities the same people get 'roped in' to help run a good few of the local organisations.

I am a member of the Neighbourhood Action Team and a member of Wycombe District Council's Standards Committee and I represent the Wycombe Association of Local Council on WDC's Rural Forum

We belong to the Bucks and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils and we attend meetings of the Wycombe Association of Local Councils, the Marlow and South West Chiltern Local Area Forums and the Wycombe District Council Rural Forum and many training seminars throughout the year. All these meeting bring us into contact with many other Councillors and farmers which gives us a good insight, knowledge and appreciation of how things work in many other Parish Councils.

There are 26 Parish Councils in the Wycombe District. Many will have brand new Councillors this May who need to know how Parish Councils work so Sharon, our Clerk and I will be helping with a training event for all new Councillors in July at the Wycombe District Council Offices.

We would like to thank Sharon Henson, our Clerk, for all her hard work again this year for West Wycombe Parish Council. She does all the office work and keeps a handle on everything that is going on in our parish. She liaises with everyone who undertakes work for us. She is our one employee and we know we would not be able to work so efficiently if Sharon wasn't as diligent as she is.

Sharon has now worked for us for 20 years.

We were sorry to lose Frank Downes when he retired in September this last year. Frank had not only been a Parish Councillor for West Wycombe for many years but our County Councillor too and was a valued member of our team.

Lisa Cook is stepping down after this meeting. She will be much missed because she has always taken a keen interest in everything West Wycombe. We will miss her lively participation in discussions and her help in looking after the playground for us.

We wish Lisa well for future and hope she will continue her interest in the Parish.

We would like to thank Cllr Darren Hayday, our Bucks County Councillor, for taking a real interest in West Wycombe right from the beginning of his time as a brand new County Councillor. It has been much appreciated.

We have always appreciated our District Councillors Jean Teesdale and Ian McEnnis too for their help and support.

We would like to thank Mike Henson who looks after our website. The website covers everything we do but is always full of other interesting information too. Please do make the most of it.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their commitment and support this past year. Our meetings are never dull and they make my job as Chairman much easier because they are really great to work with.

We don't always have the same opinion as one another but we do respect for each other's point of view and in the end come to a decision that will be the best way forward.

We live in a beautiful parish. Whilst nothing is ever completely perfect we will always try to retain West Wycombe's unique character whilst moving with the times and do our very best to see it remains a good place to live, work and visit.

Presentation of the Financial Statement

The Clerk/RFO issued a set of accounts to everyone present and gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions. The accounts can be viewed on our website www.westwycombe.org.uk

West Wycombe Estate

Sir Edward Dashwood gave a short talk on the activities of West Wycombe Estate and explained his reasoning for the delay in making long term plans for the Garden Centre. He introduced the new company – Lavender Green – who has taken on the site and who plan to have it operational as a Garden Centre by Christmas 2015. The new owners would stay to the end of the meeting to answer questions on the project. He talked of the recent renovation of the Mausoleum and the beautiful landscape in our parish.

Cllr Neil Harris, Head Ranger and Mr Peter Hill – The National Trust

Buildings

The 3 year major refurbishment project to repair and restore our housing stock in the village is now complete however there are still some properties which we will be working on in the coming year – 19 – 22a - but on the whole the village will seem a lot quieter in the coming year and no disruption to the businesses in the village.

Modernisation work to Cave Cottage is now complete and a new tenant is about to take up residency.

We have expanded our in-house contractor team to increase capacity to meet current work levels.

Very few tenants are moving out of the village at the moment which is excellent to see.

A tour of the village is planned in June which will be led by Oxford Architecture

We are working on plans to help support West Wycombe Village businesses with our first meeting on 16th June.

We have produced a full archaeology report and the first draft has been published. An article on the report will be circulated.

Events and Conservation

Apart from the many events as outlined in the events ream report we have been busy with both large and small scale conservation work.

The Hillfort – with a generous donation from the Chilterns Conservation Board Commons Project (funded the Heritage Lottery Fund) we were able to remove trees that had grown up in the last 50 years or so. These were not only threatening the ramparts of the Iron Age Hillfort (50 -1000BC) but had shaded out the chalk grassland on the banks and blocked the fantastic view from both the hilltop and from the Mausoleum, which is now looking splendid after the recent painstaking renovation undertaken by Sir Edward Dashwood.

Similar set broadleaved trees will be removed from Chalky Way over the next year to safeguard the chalk grassland and open up further views from the hilltop towards Radnage. We removed hay from the hill last year for the first time in three years; the best of the hay has been used by local farmers, including the newly established herd of Highland cattle at Bradenham. This will be a regular activity from now to keep the wonderful display of wild flowers. Waymarks have now been placed on the hill to direct visitors to the National Trust and West Wycombe sites, this has helped our visitors find their way around the hill and especially to St Lawrence Church and the Caves; unfortunately three fingerposts have been vandalized already! We shall replace these with shorter fingers to reduce the risk of a repeat treatment! When one was being put up a visitor asked the way to the Caves. They were standing in front of the sign at the time!

We had a heavy duty forest mulcher on the hill to knock out the encroaching scrub, this machine was able to work on the very steep slopes and keep the brambles at bay. We will be working towards our aim of establishing grazing and relocating the car park this year, to protect the scheduled Ancient Monument. We will also carry out more scrub work and tree surgery and continue to replace the steps on the hillside and some path revetment and slight rerouting to take the pressure of all those feet away from the roots of the yew trees. The wonderful film made by West Wycombe School about the hill was shown recently at a conference on the future of Common Land. We will be planting two deodar trees which when fully grown will be the parishes permanent Christmas trees. We will be installing a bin for dog mess on the hill in an attempt to keep the hill free from detritus of all descriptions – fly tipping is a real problem – we have picked up 10 televisions and 6 fridge freezers amongst other things.

Cllr Mrs Smith introduced PCSO's Penny Ling and Ben Rackstraw of Thames Valley Police and who form part of our Neighbourhood Policing Team. They were able to report that we are in a very low crime area and that they will continue to work on the parking problems and contraventions in the parish. They then left us to resume their duties as they had been called in to support High Wycombe Police Station.

Mr Graham Wood, Treasurer, West Wycombe Community Association

West Wycombe Village Hall continues to be a popular venue and that our regular hirers have been using the Hall for many years. The regular users are very important to us. They are...West Wycombe Pre-school who use the Hall every weekday morning during term time, West Wycombe Art Group have every Monday evening, Masque Players Drama Group Tuesday and Thursday evenings and The Cycling Club on Wednesdays and WI on monthly Tuesday afternoons. Masque Players have the Hall for week long productions two or three times a year and the Art Group put on a four day Art Show through the August Bank Holiday weekend. We are pleased to have a booking again for a monthly Saturday Antiques Fair. The Hall is often hired out for family parties, quizzes, coffee mornings and other fund raising events. The Annual New Year's Day Walk and the Senior Citizens Party are free lets that we feel are our contribution to our West Wycombe community. We try to keep our charges competitive and the Hall in good repair. Most of our outgoings are on electricity and general maintenance. We know that we are on borrowed time with the main hall heater and will have to invest in a new one soon. We have looked into insulating the roof space but this could cost over £2000. The car park too is need of attention again because the holes have got bigger and bigger. This is not surprising as a lot of cars go through the car park. We are grateful to have Barry and Michele clean the Hall: they liaise with Judith Gerrard our Letting Secretary as to when they can come into clean. Our special thanks go to Judith who talks to potential hirers and shows them around the Hall. She keeps the bookings diary going even when she is away from West Wycombe. She keeps a regular eye out too for the unauthorised people using the Village Hall car park. We do have a few residents who persist in using the car park when they have been told not to and we are at a loss to know how to proceed with this problem since the government ruling "banning clampers" on private land.

Talking of the car park... we would like to thank the Parish Council for the decorated Christmas Tree we had in the car park garden again this year. There are plans to put in a permanent growing tree in the same place as the non-growing tree in 2015 at a cost to the Parish Council who also pay for the electricity used for the lights on the tree. There will be another tree planted on the triangle at the High Street junction with Chorley Road making it easier each year to look after rather than have to erect trees every Christmas time. For many years the West Wycombe Estate have supplied the trees and we have been very grateful and pleased to have had them but it is felt that growing the trees is the best way forward.

I would like to thank Mr Roger Seymour and Mr Mel Webster for continuing to look after the maintenance work that has to be done in the Hall.

The Hall could not function without the work of our Hon Treasurer, Mr Graham Wood. He collects the monies, banks it and keeps the account book in very good order. Graham has been our Treasurer for nearly 19 years and we appreciate all he does. Thank you Graham.

Mrs Marion Brown is our Hon Secretary and organises our meetings. Marion has wanted to step down from the job for some years so we are very lucky she continues whilst we (not very successfully) find a replacement. Thank you Marion.

For the past two years The Village Hall Committee has run the tea and cake marquee at West Wycombe Fete. It has been a good fundraiser for us with everyone working very hard not only on the day but cake making and organising things beforehand.

This year the West Wycombe Events Team had lots of stalls in the Hall for The Christmas Festive Fayre and gave the Village Hall £400 for our funds. This was very much appreciated by the Committee. The money was used to repair an outside door.

I would like to say a big "Thank You" to everyone on the Village Hall Committee. You all give up your free time to come to meetings and help out at events. Your enthusiasm and commitment helps to keep this Hall a much-valued asset not just for West Wycombe but the surrounding areas too.

Thank you all very much.

Cllr Mrs Kate Cheshire, West Wycombe Events Team

Another year has flown by for the Events Team. Our Accounting year runs from 1st May to 30th April, and we are now at the end of our second year.

Our first event of the year was on 20th June. The events team organised the Midsummer's Eve Beacon in front of the Mausoleum on the hill. It was a glorious summer's evening and plenty of people come out with their picnics and sat and chatted to family and friends. The church tower was also open for the evening and people enjoyed the breath taking views whilst watching the sun go down, before the lighting of the beacon at 21:21. The beacon was expertly built and lit by the National Trust. This evening was a community event, with no costs incurred. A lovely chance to enjoy what we are privileged to have on our doorstep!

The main event of the year is the Annual Summer Fete that is run in conjunction with the National Trust. Although the planning for this starts back as early as January each year, there are two full days of hard labour involved before the main event itself. Building marquees, collecting equipment, installing electrics and marking out pitches are to list a few jobs!

On the eve of the fete – the Events Team held a Quiz Night in the main marquee. Lots of our regular supporters organised teams and come along for a great evening. This year a hog roast was provided in the interval with lots of delicious side dishes. Two volunteers kindly helped us run the very popular bar and served to the 96+ people that attended.

It was agreed at a previous meeting that the events team would invest in their own PA system to save on hire costs. *Income generated from the quiz night - £606.87*

The team were up very early on the Saturday morning ready for the full day ahead! We had over 80 stallholders to get through the gates to set up! The weather was glorious, and the day ran without too many hitches! There was so much to recall – great side stalls and activities for all the family such as Archery, mini golf, Zorb balls, tractor rides, falconry display along with lots of unique stall holders selling fantastic products. We were also marvelled with performances from the West Wycombe Brass Band, Collective Calm, Anderson Sisters, the West Wycombe School Drumming Club and West Wycombe Chamber Choir. *Income generated from the fete - £1,376.33.*

The West Wycombe Village Festive Fayre was held on Wednesday 3rd December. Stall holders filled the village hall and car park and various areas around the George & Dragon. The village

looked very festive with shop displays and Christmas trees. We had a good response to the Festive Window Competition and the winners displayed their certificates for the evening.

Our thanks to The Horses Trust who brought along some ponies for the public to pet.

The Events team spent the evening dressed as elves and ran the Santa's Grotto in Black Boy Yard which was kept very busy during the evening. *Income generate from the Festive Fayre - £581.31.*

The Event team was asked to take on the Annual New Year's Day Walk. The route was planned and over 100 people and dogs turned out for the walk. Vicki Smith and some other generous helpers organised and baked lots of delicious cakes that were served with hot cups of tea/coffee afterwards.

Our last event of the year was only last week – another quiz night in the village hall. 9 teams supported us and were served with a freshly cooked pizza from a wood oven in the car park in the interval. *Income generated from the quiz night - £147.72*

Plans are underway for the year ahead. The first Quiz Night will be Friday 10th July, the Summer Fayre is being enhanced by a Classic and vintage car show (over 100 cars are booked to attend) this will be on Saturday 11th July and the Festive Fayre will be on Wednesday 2nd December. We are always looking for volunteers to help out with any of our events. If you know of anyone or do want to help yourself then please contact Kate Cheshire for more information.

Alison Rimmer – West Wycombe Parochial Church Council

This year has been another year of growth and strengthening, due to the friendship and support at the churches where the congregation ranges from a few months through to people in their nineties. We are very fortunate to have a very strong and committed clergy team led by Reverend Nigel Lacey whom we see at our churches and also at social events and there are many plans for the future.

Our services are varied, with three services each month at St Lawrence, one Family Service at St Paul's and a 5th Sunday is a shared service with other churches, i.e. Bradenham, Radnage and Bledlow Ridge. We also have a monthly afternoon service at Piddington Village Hall, a weekly service on Tuesday at St Paul's, occasional weekday services often followed by a shared meal, and both the churches are popular for baptism, wedding and funeral services. We are also proud to have the musical talent of Pearl Chubb and Veronica Wayman and a growing and lively Sunday School with children aged between 20 months and early teens.

There is inevitably much activity around bricks, mortar and finance with three historic buildings to maintain as well as the numerous bills that come 'through the door'; however church life is never just about practical and financial matters. There have been several additions or alterations to our churches over the year – not (only the gliss-gliss!) but the font from All Saints at Piddington is now restored and at the entrance to St Lawrence with the carved font now in the Chancel. At St Paul's, we now have the new toilet installed and are proud that St Paul's, is now registered as a Small Pilgrim Place, many more people will be able to share its calm along the busy A40.

We have an active Parochial Church Council which meets every six weeks, and has just had its Annual Meeting with 4 new members joining. We are also represented on the Deanery Synod amongst the 30 churches of High Wycombe, print a weekly News-sheet and maintain an informative website. The PCC has made a 'Mission Plan' for the coming year – a major part of this is to begin the plans for the new Children's Room at St Lawrence. This is a very exciting initiative and will be built to the left of the main door of the church, with a door into the back of church. It's particularly special that the children and young people can have their own space for their discussion, drama, music and much more!

We have also agreed to support the 'Toilet Twinning' charitable organisation for the year, and recently donated money to provide a latrine in Bihar state, N E India. We hope that we could give further support to the community if they wish to make contact with us. We also plan to hold a fundraising event for the earthquake victims in Nepal.

The third part of the plan is to increase events and outreach in Piddington, with plans for a children's event in the summer holiday and continuing opportunities within the village.

The social events which we thoroughly enjoy go from strength to strength, the monthly Coffee Mornings in aid of various causes have resumed, and we are delighted that the Church Loft is open more often and hope to make much more of it, it is a remarkable building. A buzzing social calendar does so much to build and strengthen links and friendships within the church and local community – and its fun!! In the past year,, we have run a Spanish evening, Bavarian Oompah

evening, Children's concert, Bonfire Bazaar, various local concerts at St Lawrence and we enjoyed being part of the Village Fete and Christmas Evening.

The Tower has been open each Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday between Easter and the end of September, with delicious Teas served alongside. This raises valuable funds but just as importantly, enables so many people to enjoy the church we love and from many ethnic backgrounds, to revisit old memories and to share the views around. Now that the churchyard is closed to further burials it is maintained by Wycombe District Council which we greatly appreciate; they have just completed work on trimming the trees around the War Memorial.

We continue to build on our links with West Wycombe Parish Council, and are particularly grateful for the interest which you take in our activity; and especially for your recent provision for a defibrillator for West Wycombe Hill, a generous act which could benefit many visitors and villagers alike. We thoroughly enjoy being part of the annual Village Fete and Events Committee, and appreciate the constant activity and care of the National Trust around us; West Wycombe Hill is always interesting! We were able to be part of the Snowdrop Sundays this year and appreciate this support very much, not only from the fundraising point of view but also in keeping the churches on the local map and information available to visitors.

This is a very special village and the life of our churches is very much bound up within village life and the continuing affection, energy and support of so many people living in and around it – Thank you all very much.

Cllr Neil Timberlake –West Wycombe Community Library

Madam Chairman, Members of the West Wycombe Parish Council, and residents and friends of West Wycombe parish.

It was ten years ago – in 2005- that Buckinghamshire County Council first mooted its plans to close a number of smaller libraries, including the one in West Wycombe, citing the need to reduce expenditure and quoting figures which seemed to indicate poor usage of the library in this village. At that time, there was a significant reaction from the public, concerned at the loss of a public facility and concerned at what future use, if any, could be made of the historic library building if it ceased to be used for that purpose.

A long campaign, a lot of effort and fundraising, a detailed business plan, and a vision of a volunteer-led community library offering much more than just books took hold during 2005 and 2006, and in the event, the vision (much of it owed to Jean Teesdale) was realised, taking over the library in January 2007

West Wycombe Library is now in its ninth year as a volunteer-led, community-based enterprise. We have a 25-year lease with Buckinghamshire County Council to provide public library services to residents of the parish and, indeed, across the county. We are grateful for the support of everyone who has contributed to our continued existence.

But we're missing an important element – users of the library!

Footfall in the last year or so has been poor and declining – book issues are pretty mediocre in number. There are a few residents who use our facility regularly – amongst them numbered our esteemed Parish Clerk – but most residents we never see or hear from, and that is a shame.

The efforts of our volunteers, and the money that we raise and spend in support of maintaining the library service, is only vindicated if people use it.

The library volunteers and trustees, some of whom have put in a decade of activity, are beginning to question whether Bucks County Council may have been right all along – perhaps the day of the library, even one which tries to be a community hub, with internet access, local information, coffee and cakes, is past.

The Trustees met recently – we have some new members, replacing several who have stepped down in the last year – and are asking searching questions.

We would like to know what people in the parish want from their library – what services can we offer – how – and at what times and on what days?

The Parish Council undertook a Parish Plan survey a couple of years ago, which included some questions about people's awareness of, attitudes towards, and use of the library – and we will be looking again at the detailed results from that survey. Later this year we may very well commission some further surveying of our own.

It would be shame if next year's report to the Annual Parish Meeting had to indicate our plans to close or to substantially cut back the service we provide.

On a more positive note, we continue to be the grateful recipients of a continuous supply of varied donated books. We plan to undertake an inventory of our stock-holding and to thin out our less popular items to make room for new arrivals, and to try to provide a less cluttered appearance.

We are also most grateful to the National Trust for kindly supplying us with a substantial quantity of wood logs for us to burn on our library fire and keep the building and its occupants warm during the winter months.

No vote of thanks can ignore the support from a dedicated team of some twenty active volunteers, who provide librarianship services during the five days a week that the library is open, or who support the work of the library behind the scenes in fundraising or administrative support.

The County Council continue to be immensely supportive and the new terms under which we operate for them are very much more generous than were the terms of our first five years.

The County Council continues to provide a mobile library service to the village on Wednesday afternoons, in the Garden Centre car park, on the day when our Community Library is closed.

We will review and may adapt West Wycombe Library's opening hours during the year. At present we are open from 9am to 5pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 9am to 1pm on Fridays and from 10am to 1pm on Saturdays, and with Sunday afternoon opening in the summer months once again eagerly anticipate to align with the period of summer opening of West Wycombe House and grounds in 2015. We can only do so thanks to the tremendous efforts of our volunteers.

The summer Sunday openings, serving cream teas and other delights to tourists and locals alike, are a huge money-spinner for us, and nowadays meet almost the entire costs of running the library service.

For this reason we have not held any fund-raising events beyond our participation in the Village Fete and the West Wycombe Christmas Fayre over the last year. At the Festive Fayre we once again sold Denise's legendary Caribbean Curry sold well in 2014, although not in the same quantities as in the previous couple of years.

To support our fundraising we also sell a number of small items, such as bags, potted plants, jewellery, and surplus books.

We will look to refresh and re-invigorate our website – www.westwycombelibrary.org.uk – as well as our Facebook page. We are grateful for the support and co-operation of the parish magazine "Contact", of the Parish Council, and of the Bucks Free Press for all they do to publicise our activities and raise awareness of the library.

We continue to host a regular programme of craft skills sessions, and welcome a regular Tuesday morning craft session which is well-attended.

The Library is run by a charitable Trust. There are currently seven Trustees, but the Trust Deed allows for up to nine. If anybody is interested in joining our ranks, or being trained as a librarian, or to be a chef or waiter on summer Sundays, or who wishes to support us in some other way, please talk to me or introduce yourself to the duty librarian. You will be made very welcome.

Finally – although we are an independent, volunteer-run and volunteer-financed library, we are nevertheless part of the County Council library network. As such, if you have a Bucks County Library card then you are automatically a member of our library, and can borrow items on the same terms as from other libraries. You can borrow books from West Wycombe and return them to other libraries in the county – and vice versa. Some people may be of the mistaken belief that because we are an independent charity-run library there is some form of charge or fee to use our library. There absolutely is not – we are free to all residents of Buckinghamshire.

We hope that we can continue to provide a library service to West Wycombe, and the wider population of Buckinghamshire, for many more years to come! Give us some encouragement to do so in the year ahead. Thank you.

West Wycombe Pre-School

The Clerk read out the report for the Pre School.

The October 2014 AGM, saw new members join the Pre-School Committee, as well as the resignation of our Supervisor - Paula Cox. It has been a busy few months with recruitment for her replacement, for the staff at the setting, and for our Deputy Supervisor - Sarah Gowers, who has temporarily stepped in to take up the reins. Our new Supervisor joins the setting on the 11th May - and her name is Rosie Jones.

With ever changing Government directives, our main focus and priority for the children is to continue the formalisation of their early experiences, with constant development assessments

and observations throughout their time in the setting. Our waiting list for funded 2 year olds is increasing, with currently 18 families waiting for a place. The demands of the younger children have meant increased staffing levels, and we have enjoyed welcoming into the setting, parents of the children, to help and assist with certain activities. At the time of writing, 21 of our older children will have received confirmation of the primary schools they will be attending in September.

We have continued with the additional two hour lunch clubs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and as demand increases we plan to continue this into the September term for 2015/2016.

The Ofsted Inspection took place in October 2014, with the setting receiving the grading - Good. Now the warmer weather is here, we are looking forward to enjoying our outings in the surrounding countryside, and the beautiful grounds of the Dashwood Estate. We have a walk planned very soon, and preparations are underway for Sports Day which is also held within the grounds. We will be supporting the Village fete with our own stall, as part of our fundraising efforts.

We are looking forward to the new garden centre opening soon, and forging new and exciting relations with them, which hopefully may provide educational benefits for the children. We continue to work with the local schools, and maintain good relations with West Wycombe School. The children love visiting the school for the Foundation year annual nativity play, and we always enjoy returning the favour, with the Foundation year attending the setting to watch our nativity play.

Whilst the Pre-school receives government funding, we are still a registered charity and rely heavily on the fundraising efforts of the committee of parents. We ran a very successful Bingo night, and received many generous donations from local businesses for the raffle, for which we are extremely grateful. These funds have gone a long way in purchasing some larger more expensive equipment which is not only interactive and developmental, but fun equipment - to be enjoyed for many years to come. We have run coffee and cake sales, with an 80's themed disco planned for the end of term.

If any further information is required, then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks.

West Wycombe County Combined School

The Clerk read out the schools report produced by Mrs Alison Cobb, Headteacher as she was unable to attend as they were holding their Talent Competition.

Contextual Information

Staffing

In addition to the Headteacher, there are eight teachers, nine teaching assistants and three office staff. We have several PPA teachers, a temporary caretaker and a number of supply teachers who we use for emergency cover.

Governors

Our Governing body is comprised of LA, Parent and Co-opted Governors. They continue to work on the strategic plan for the future as we continue our school improvement planning. Governors play a key role in setting the direction of the school and help to shape the future of the education we provide for the pupils at West Wycombe. We are recruiting new governors and are keen to attract some people with expertise and experience that they could offer to the school. Governors work on Resources and Teaching and Learning Committees.

Pupils and Parents

We currently have 204 pupils on role. This year we have had twelve children join us from other schools during the academic year and have had eight children leave the school.

The school is fortunate to have the support of 38 volunteers, the majority of whom are parents. This number reflects an increase in support by our parents.

Our Travel Plan is led by a group of parent volunteers and we are grateful that with their support we achieved the Bronze Level STARS award (accredited by Bucks County Council) and they have been prominent in promoting safer parking by the parents. Our Junior Road Safety Offices continue to oversee our Go for Gold Walk to School initiative.

Successes to celebrate:

Values based education

Our core values are making a difference to everyone in the school. Our top value of honesty enables some interesting and reflective conversations. The values are not only discussed in assembly but in classrooms and around the school generally. The values were the topic of much discussion on Open Evening and our "Values Tree" in the hall has already "grown" some leaves in recognition of the values demonstrated by some of our pupils. We will continue to develop the children's values and promote them through assemblies and PHSCE.

Let's Get Smart

We can celebrate the fact that we are one of only four schools in Bucks to be using the 'Let's Get Smart' approach to behaviour. We are having visits from other schools and professionals who want to adopt this approach themselves. They all speak positively of our children's engagement with "Let's Get Smart" and their excellent behaviour. We will build on this approach further next year. A school without rules where everyone lives by shared values would not have seemed possible a couple of years ago! My thanks to all the staff who have embraced the approach as it was a real professional challenge back in September.

Accelerated Reader (AR)

The children in KS2 have all had the opportunity to track their progress in reading as a result of the introduction of Accelerated Reader. Anecdotal evidence thus far means that it too has been a success. Two boys in Year 6 told me they are pleased they will be able to continue with Accelerated Reader in their new upper school and felt that it was a positive programme. Parents and teachers speak positively of its impact in encouraging more reading at home. Our first "millionaires" have their names on display in our entrance hall. I am sure there will be many more to come! My thanks to all the children, staff and parents for their support during its introduction in September.

Jolly Phonics

An early understanding of phonics is crucial for children learning to read and write. To enable this we use a 'synthetic, systematic' phonics programme - **Jolly Phonics**. In order to be able to read children first need to understand what sounds each letter and combination of letters in our alphabet make. Synthetic phonics is the explicit teaching of this knowledge. We teach children to break words down into smaller units of sound. We also teach children about the words that cannot be broken down and have to just be learnt such as 'the' and 'she'. All children, from Foundation Stage to Year 2 have a twenty - thirty minute phonics lesson daily. Some children in Foundation Stage, key stage 1 and Years 3 and 4 also have additional phonics sessions as needed.

Further information about the school e.g. SATs can be found at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/cgi-bin/schools/performance/school.pl?urn=110236>

Website

We launched our new website (www.westwycombe.bucks.sch.uk) in September. It is regularly updated with events and school information. We also have a new Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), a portal on which the teachers can post information for their classes.

ParentPay and Parentmail

We have used Parentmail for several years and have successfully introduced ParentPay this month. It is an on-line payment system, which enables parents to pay for trips safely and order their children's packed lunches.

Information Technology

All the teachers and classes have visualisers and iPads to aid the teaching and learning at the school. Lots of our events and celebrations are filmed.

Clubs

Due to the Government grant for PE and sports funding, we have increased our club provision. There are a number of sports clubs run by Club Sport. These include: Cheerleading, Football, Basketball, Tri-a-sport, Martial Arts, Cricket/Rounders and Athletics.

In addition, other clubs that have been run this year are Choir, Science Club, Chess Club Art Club and a Homework Club.

BBC Ten Pieces Project 2015

Since Christmas we have been working on the 'BBC Ten Pieces' project. The project was designed to introduce children and inspire children to enjoy classical music. At West Wycombe, each class chose one of the ten pieces as the inspiration for a "work of art" such as an animation, watercolour, drawing which represented the chosen piece of music.

Some of the animations, photos and films were uploaded to the BBC Ten Pieces website where some were chosen to be the official schools films to represent the BBC Ten Pieces Project. We are pleased to be able to announce that three of the Year 5 and 6 films/animations were chosen to feature on the BBC website. The animations can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02jg3xk>

BBC Radio 2 500 Words competition

Many of our students entered this competition, and one of our year 6 students managed to get into the second round with her story "The Story of Mercury Silverwood".

Challenges for the future:

Staffing

The turnover of the staff in recent years reflects the changing nature of education and the world of work. We have found that people are moving around a lot more and looking for flexible and part time working patterns. Recruitment of all staff is proving more challenging in Buckinghamshire.

Hot Meals

All pupils in KS1 were entitled to a free school meal from September at West Wycombe CS and this has been in the form of a packed lunch. The Governors have investigated having hot meals but have concluded that after a detailed audit of the school site and facilities we cannot introduce this safely without considerable financial investment. Unfortunately there are no additional funds available to pay for this and the governors decided that rather than deflect money from the current school plan, we would continue to provide a packed lunch service for the rest of the academic year. Bucks County Council continues to support the school in overcoming this challenge.

We are grateful to all our local supporters including the Parish Council, Church, National Trust and West Wycombe Estate, traders and residents. We always welcome visitors to the school.

Paul Baker, Chairman, Downley Dynamos Football Club

Mr Baker explained their plans for the football club and how the year groups will change round next year. They use the Pedestal Playing Field and the sports field at Downley. Sadly they no longer have a senior team but the younger age groups are very healthy. He asked if the Parish Council would consider expanding the hard standing area of the car park by using the road planings that would be produced from the forthcoming road resurfacing. The Parish Council agreed to consider this at their next meeting.

Cllr Mrs Smith asked our County and District Councillors if they would like to say anything bearing in mind that they were in purdah due to the forthcoming District Council Elections.

County Cllr Darren Hayday

Cllr Hayday has given his support to all the efforts made by the Parish Council to improve the roads in our parish and has helped to move things forward. As a new County Councillor at the last elections he had to find out how the County Council works and continually becomes involved whenever the Parish Council ask for his help.

District Cllr Mrs Jean Teesdale

Cllr Mrs Teesdale reported that Wycombe District Council is very aware of the possible impact on the parish which could be experienced if the HS 2 construction route comes from Handy Cross ad through to the A4010. They are working with Bucks County Council to represent their case. Cllr Mrs Teesdale also talked about the future development plans for the Saunderton area.

District Cllr Mr Ian McEnnis

Cllr McEnnis explained WDC's involvement and issues connected with the proposed Saunderton developments and his continued support for West Wycombe Parish Council all the work undertaken by them.

Both he and Cllr Mrs Teesdale enjoyed working with the Parish Council and offered their help in any way we needed.

Cllr Mrs Smith invited Lavender Green to explain their plans for the future of the Garden Centre. They handed out leaflets to everyone which gave a summary of their proposals; Show Gardens, Education Centre; Restaurant; new toilet block; reinstating and expanding the historic greenhouses; sale of plants; sale of coffee and a delicatessen; covered walkways. They would

like to employ local people. It is hoped to open in time for Christmas 2015. They were quite happy to answer questions and allay people's concerns. It was felt that the development of the Garden Centre would bring more visitors to the parish which would be a benefit to the whole community

Cllr Mrs Smith invited everyone to stay for light refreshments.