

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON 25th APRIL 2019 AT 8.00PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, WEST WYCOMBE**

PRESENT:

Cllrs Mrs. V. Smith (Chairman), Mr. N. Harris, Mr. N Timberlake Mr. S. Cope, Mr. R. Seymour,
Mrs. K. Cheshire, Mr. P. Brown
Mrs. S. Henson, Clerk

Sir Edward Dashwood, PCSO Penny Ling, PCSO Ben Rackstraw, Christine Barry, Alison Rimmer, Andy Stafford, 21 members of the public

APOLOGIES: County Cllr Mr. D. Hayday, Dist Cllr Mrs. Teesdale, Dist Cllr Mr. I McEnnis, Rosie Jones – West Wycombe Pre School, Revd Allan Barton.

The Chairman, Cllr Mrs. Smith welcomed everyone.

Cllr Mrs Vicki Smith, West Wycombe Parish Council Chairman's Report for 2018/2019

At this time of the year when writing this Annual Report I look back on what we have discussed at our monthly Council meetings.

We cover all sorts of subjects from planning applications, highways problems including the condition of our roads, pavements, lighting, drainage, trees and hedges. We talk about our burial ground, playing field, our allotments, our defibrillators, dog poo bins, resident's questions and the financial and legal requirements to run the Parish Council. Our meetings are never boring or a waste of time although some decisions do take ages to come to fruition! That is the nature of local government I'm afraid.

There currently 660 homes in the civil parish of West Wycombe. We are not a huge parish but hope to stay an independent parish should the new Buckinghamshire Council or the UK Government change parish boundaries, which is rumoured.

We wait to see how the new unitary council for Buckinghamshire will affect us. It will come into effect in May next year. There will be elections at that time for both the new Buckinghamshire Council and for all parish councils in Bucks. Normally elections take place every four years but ours have been held over this year until next year because of the Bucks new council status. We are pretty sure parish councils will be offered more powers to take on jobs that Buckinghamshire County Council do at present because at the moment we are not restricted by what we can claim from your council tax. But we certainly would not want to significantly add to our residents council tax bills. We did take on grass cutting, curb weed killing and sign cleaning in the 30mph areas in our Parish a couple of years ago and at present receive money from Bucks CC to do this. We organise more grass cuttings on our verges in the year than BCC could do and this does keep the Parish looking tidier.

Sharon, our Clerk, organises our contractors to do this work for us. We do not have a work force or vehicles.

Whatever happens within the new council structure we will rise to the challenge. We have a wealth of knowledge and experience between us.

Chorley Road

A couple of years ago Chorley Road residents presented us with a petition asking us to do something about speeding traffic on their road.

Since then we have been working with BCC to try and help this situation. We purchased a speed indicator device straight away at a cost of over £2000. We also commissioned a Transport for Bucks (TfB) report to provide 3 different road-calming measures and we have recently received this report.

The cost of each road calming measure was £11,700 for the cheapest option, £21,900 for the second and the third option was £ 81,100.

We have studied and discussed each traffic -calming measures at length and decided at our last meeting, that, as far as we can see none of the traffic-calming measures they propose will stop vehicles speeding on the majority of the road as they only cover the beginning and end of this long straight road.

So, after much deliberation we decided not to go with any of TfB suggestions but have instead decided to buy 2 more speed indicator devices for Chorley Road. We believe they do help to slow most speeding drivers down.

At this point I would like to thank Cllr Paul Brown because he collects all the data from the SID/MVAS and changes the batteries in the device. You will often see him up a pole. We hope to purchase SID/MVAS's that are solar controlled this time.

We are still looking at costs but will be ordering the new devices very soon.

HS2

Along with the other members of the A4010 Group, WDC, Bradenham PC and Risborough Town Council we are still working with BCC and HS2 on getting our requests for a pedestrian refuge on Bradenham Road and better hard standing at the bus stop opposite the houses on Bradenham Road. We are sure many construction vehicles will be using this road to get to the HS2 building sites although HS2 are disputing this at present. You may remember we got a commitment from HS2 not to use the A40 to and from the M40 at Stokenchurch for their construction vehicles, which means their traffic not coming through West Wycombe Village. I am not sure just where the big open back lorries are going that come through our village these days but there are certainly more of them than there used to be.

Lighting

We have been saving money for the last few years to be able to change to our street lights to LED to help with light pollution and cost. Most of our lamps have now been converted. The reduction in our first electricity bill since they were converted was £100, cutting our costs by half.

Troughs

Last October we decided to order galvanised cattle troughs this Spring to stand by the entry gates into the Parish and in the next couple of weeks they will be put in place and planted up. We hope they will be far too heavy to "disappear"!

Litter

Cllr Simon Cope and his wife Louise clear the playing field of litter every week and Simon organised another litter picking morning on March the 9th this year. We were very pleased that so many people turned up to help tidy our Parish. Compared to our other litter picking days ...the weather on this day was very good. We have since bought our own litter picks and hoops for the bags and will buy yellow jackets very soon. We have been lucky to have been able to borrow the National Trust's litter picking equipment in the past and we thank them for that.

Christmas trees

Cllr Neil Harris makes sure our Christmas trees are decorated and safe every year.

Meetings

We attend meetings though out the year to make sure we know what is going on in the other parishes and councils around us and pick up any snippets that might be of interest for our parish.

I am sure most of you know that Parish Councillors are not paid. We Parish Councillors do more than just attend monthly Parish Council meetings. Your Parish Councillors put in many hours throughout the year and always consider if what they are deciding or spending is value for money and will benefit our residents.

We all feel the huge responsibility of looking after our Parish and its residents.

Most of our councillors are on other volunteer organisations in the Village too and those organisations all help to keep West Wycombe vibrant and flourishing.

Our thanks go to Bucks County Councillor Mr. Darren Hayday who keeps us informed of news from County that could affect our Parish.

Our thanks too to our Wycombe District Councillors Mrs. Jean Teesdale and Mr. Ian McEnnis for their support. We know we can rely on them when we need help with planning issues.

Our thanks to Mr. Mike Henson too who looks after our Website and Twitter accounts. Please do look at our sites as they contain lots of up to the minute information not just council related information.

Mrs. Sharon Henson, our only member of staff works part time but manages to pack in enough in those hours to always have any fresh information, details and quotes that we need for our meetings.

She does all the P C paper work and the financial work needed for the Parish Council and liaises with people and contractors plus knowing all she can about Parish Council Law and its rules and regulations. Anyone who wants to talk or write to the Parish Council should always do it through the Parish Council Clerk.

Sharon and all your West Wycombe Parish Councillors work very hard to make West Wycombe a good place to go to school in and to live in and work and play in.

I thank them for their support and especially for their good humour!

Sharon Henson, Responsible Financial officer, Presentation of the Financial Statement

The accounts can be viewed on our website www.westwycombe.org.uk

We have finished the financial year with a balance of £25,636. For the past three years we have been building up a reserve so that we could convert 45 of our street lights to LED. We were getting to the situation where the lights which were 25 years old were beginning to get faults and the parts were not available. This year we spent £16,000 on converting these lights, this is already saving us £100 per month on the energy costs and by reducing the lighting levels from 10pm to 6am we are also causing less light pollution. We also paid to have 27 of the black heritage lights cleaned. 9 are ours and the rest belong to Bucks County Council. We will eventually have these lights converted. All the new lights have a 10 year warranty.

Administration

This covers things like £1000 per annum to insure all the Parish Council assets, e.g. the street lights, defibrillators, play equipment, gates, and signs.

We donated £500 towards the maintenance of the village clock. We had to purchase a new printer which is also a scanner.

We replaced the batteries in our two defibrillators one at the village hall and one at St Lawrence on top of the hill, and pay to ensure our checking system and defibrillators are on the 999 system. Downley Dynamos also installed a defibrillator on the playing field.

This year we paid £100 for the Silent Soldier and paid for the entertainment at the World War1 memorial dance as well as our annual poppy wreath.

Allotments

We had to spend money on getting rid of a rat infestation and then cutting the grass and hedges. After 18 months wrangling we got a £350 credit back from Castle Water. They had been charging us for waste water which we do not have.

Pedestal Playing Field

We pay for regular maintenance as well as reacting to the annual play inspection and grass cutting. Last year because of the extremely dry weather we had to ban barbecues.

Burial Ground

This year we had to pay out for major tree works on the trees in the burial ground as they needed crown lifting. The branches were too low for carrying coffins. We have an annual maintenance contract and we automatically look after the graves for families. The burial ground was designed and the rules were created to ensure that we could easily maintain the land. This year we have suffered from severe badger damage and we are going to have to reseed the grass and keep our fingers crossed.

Highways

We paid £842 for dog waste bin emptying and this price will increase from August.

We cut the grass along the West Wycombe road and the entry to the village as well as cut back trees over traffic lights; we pay the Chiltern Society to clear 4 of our footpaths; we pay a contractor to spray weed killer along the road/pavement edges; cut back the trees, shrubs and grass at the Sands end of Toweridge Lane

As a Parish Council we are allowed to claim back all the VAT we payout. This year the figure is quite high due to the large expenditure on the street lighting project.

This in the next couple of months we will be installing three galvanised metal troughs in front of the village signs and gates and these will have shrubs planted in them along with bedding which will be changed twice a year.

We will also be paying for the feasibility study which has been undertaken to reduce the speed of traffic along Chorley road. The results of this have been considered and the Parish Council has agreed to purchase two more speed indicator devices.

We also plan to replace our noticeboards and are considering adding to the seating facility at the play area.

PCSO Ben Rackstraw, Thames Valley Police

Ben highlighted the fact that we are a very low crime area and that they would be holding sessions for marking up garden and allotment equipment. He also reminded presidents to take care over scams as there had been residents in our parish who had been affected by these scams. They will be attending our Summer Fayre on 13th July.

Marlow Police station is no long open to the public but is contactable via MarlowSouthWestRuralNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or via 101 and in emergencies ring 999.

Sir Edward Dashwood, West Wycombe Estate

Sir Edward gave us an update on the activities in the park and surrounding areas. The Netflix organization had spent a lot of time at the park earlier in the year filming parts of the next series of The Crown. He highlighted the fact that West Wycombe Estate often has to sign non-disclosure agreements with many of the film companies and they are not allowed to tell the rest of the world what is happening behind the park gates.

Once again they have made it possible for local charities including our West Wycombe Churches to raise funds through opening the park for Snowdrop and Daffodil Sundays.

Sir Edward told everyone that he had now ceased the agreement with Lavender Green as they had not been able to finance the garden centre idea and he will be looking for a new company to take over the garden centre. He had like their ideas but felt he had given them more than sufficient time to start the project.

He has recently spent money on tarmac areas of the car park. He is now considering having the recycling bins removed as they cause an awful lot of litter which he as landowner has to pay to clear up and he is also considering installing CCTV which will help if fly tipping becomes an issue and he is also considering installing machines to charge for car parking. It will probably have 1 or 2 hours free of charge which will allow school parents free parking and for those people visiting the village. It costs a great deal of money to look after an area that size which is being used by the public.

He let everyone know that major tree works are taking part on his land at the top of the hill on the right hand side of the track– this is because of ash die back. The trees have to be cut down before they become dangerous and while the timber still has some use and value. There will also be tree work on the limes around the Pedestal Field as they are coming over the pavements and covering the road signs and street lights.

Christine Barry, West Wycombe Community Library

We again held a fun day on August Bank Holiday in Swan Yard with games for children, stalls food and drink. We didn't do as well this year mainly due to the weather. We also held a very successful Christmas themed Quiz night in the Swan in November. Everyone enjoyed it and we made a good amount of money.

The Library is being well used by a number of groups, namely – The Crochet Ladies on a Monday, the Craft Group on a Tuesday and the new Book Club once a month. Their contributions are gratefully received.

We also have some very nice gifts for sale in the Library, Jewellery, Greeting Cards, Knitted goods, second hand books and much more. All proceeds go to the Library and everyone is welcome just to come in and browse, enjoy a coffee and cake and sit in the courtyard on sunny days or by the fire when it's cold.

We have received a very generous donation from the Bledlow Ridge Fireworks committee of £150 for which we are very grateful.

We have 2 new volunteers. Mike, who is a retired Librarian and Alison. They are busy sorting and

recataloguing books at the moment and arranging them into our new bookcase. We welcome and thank them for coming to help. This has also enabled us to open on Wednesdays from 10am – 4pm which means we are now able to open 6 days a week.

The Apple Orchard donated a glass display cabinet to us which, lit up, displays our jewellery beautifully. We thank them very much.

As well as the £5, 000 we are obliged by the Charities Commission to hold as an operating balance, we have at present £2123.00 in our current account.

I would like to thank our Volunteers who carry on year after year to keep the Library going, without whom we couldn't survive.

We are very proud to have succeeded in keeping the Library, a very valuable local resource, open for nearly 12 years and hope to continue, with support from our Community, for many more years.

Christine Barry, West Wycombe Cricket Club

The Cricket Club continues to survive partially due to our ongoing partnership with High Wycombe Cricket Club. This means we do not have to worry about mowing and pitch preparation. We use the ground on Sundays and on Tuesday evenings for club night and High Wycombe Cricket Club use the ground on Saturdays and for school matches during the week. We will, for the second year running, be involved in the All Stars Cricket scheme in conjunction with the ECB. This is a scheme for children between the ages of 5 and 9. Last year, with the aid of a grant from Bucks Cricket, we replaced heavy wooden shutters on the pavilion with new bi-fold doors. This year we hope to replace the kitchen. During January, February and March we run indoor nets at Cressex School. To raise funds for the club we organize one quiz a year and run a quarterly club, these are supported by members of the community.

Cllr Neil Harris, Head Ranger National Trust

National Trust report 2018/19

Staff changes. This year has been one of change at the portfolio. A new General Manager, Laura Burrows joined us in October. Coming from a visitor experience background, her skills are proving very valuable as Hughenden continues to grow in quality as a visitor attraction. The Ranger team lost several long term members as they either retired or moved on, and we now have a younger, and very enthusiastic Ranger team, taking forward our ten year Estate Management Plan. This document is a blue print for how the property can respond to the challenges of the future, especially in terms of the ambitious National Trust targets for improvements in the quality of our landscapes and wildlife habitats. With particular emphasis on our priority habitats, such as SSSI's and SAC's and our woodland areas. The Rangers are at the forefront of this work.

Some minor changes within the teams now see Nick Charon leading the countryside work on the Hughenden and West Wycombe properties. He is supported by two assistant Rangers, Callum Askew and Simon Allison, both new to the property.

The Park

This year has seen significant works to our veteran trees around and within the park; some have had to go, whilst others have had work to keep them safe.

The yew trees adjacent to the village have been pollarded to make a low thick screen, this work will carry on, funds permitting.

The Hill

Hay was taken from the hill this year, the lower slope early on and the main slope in the Autumn, this will continue to enhance the biodiversity of the chalk grasslands. The hay removed, whilst no good for fodder will make good compost!

We have recently restored the surface of the parking area on the hill, and we are still intending to re-organise the parking arrangements. The bin will be replaced with a dog waste bin.

This year also sees us getting some robust data on the populations of birds, plants, butterflies and bats. Regular surveys throughout the year will begin to give us good evidence of the effectiveness of our conservation management and where we might need to alter the focus. We are looking forward to the Summer events and welcoming visitors to the hill, village and park. The park has just re-opened for the season, proving a haven of tranquility in a busy part of the world.

Mrs. Vicki Smith, Chairman, West Wycombe Community Association

West Wycombe Community Association are the trustees of West Wycombe Village Hall
The committee known as the Village Hall Committee manage the Hall on a daily basis.

Hall use

I am pleased to say that we have our regular weekly Hall hirers who take up most evenings at the Hall. They are The Art Club on a Monday, Masque Players on Tuesday and Thursday, Cycle Club on Wednesday and a dance Club on a Friday.

We have not managed to secure whole morning hire for the time that previously the Pre School hired but we do have hourly bookings for Pilates, kickboxing and yoga classes and a toddlers group on a Wednesday.

The Hall is used for West Wycombe's Christmas Fayre and many other craft sales during the year. It is used for teas for various charities during the early part of the year for their fundraising "Snowdrop Walks" in West Wycombe Park.

The hall is in demand for quizzes, birthday parties for children and grown ups.

In September a film company hired the Hall for a production of Horrible Histories, The Movie. This was an interesting and profitable hire and we thank our regular users for their understanding that week.

Each year, to support the community, we give the Hall free of charge for the day to the annual West Wycombe New Year's Day Walk and on another day in January for The Senior Citizens Christmas Party.

Maintenance and Car Park

We have had the kitchen door replaced because the original one was rotten and has had to be repaired over the last few years.

Most of the work done in the Hall this last year has been annual checks and repairs on the storage heaters, the key safe locks and general plumbing jobs.

We intend to do some resurfacing of the car park this coming year especially near the exit.

We employ a gardener every couple of months to tidy the garden.

One of Committee members Neil Harris of the National Trust, kindly had the dead tree cut down in the garden on the west side of the Hall.

Neil also put the Christmas lights on the Christmas tree in the Hall garden.

Our cleaners do an excellent job keeping the Hall in a good clean condition and they report any problems and the need to order cleaning supplies to Mrs. Judith Gerrard our letting Secretary.

Thank you

We could not run the Hall without Judith's diligence. She works hard to keep our hirers happy, she shows potential hirers around and liaises with anyone who needs to deliver, or pick up the Hall rubbish or do maintenance jobs.

She also keeps an eye out for unauthorised people who park in the Hall car park.

I would like to thank our Honorary Treasurer Mr. Graham Wood who for 23 years has kept our finances in order and liaises with the car park permit holders.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Marion Brown, our Honorary Secretary, who issues our agendas, writes our letters and our Minutes.

Both are invaluable to this Committee.

We are sorry to see Mr. Roger Seymour leave the Village Hall Committee and thank him most sincerely for all the work and time he has given the Hall over very many years.

Indeed I would like to thank all the Committee members for their support and commitment to West Wycombe Village Hall.

The Hall cannot look after itself so all their time and decisions help to keep it a viable, clean, safe and welcoming venue for all who use it.

West Wycombe Pre School

West Wycombe Pre-school is doing very well. Our occupancy levels have remained high and we are set to be full for September 2019. We are still waiting for OFSTED to complete our 30 month inspection but feel we are ready for their arrival. We are set to have a busy term with 27 of our 45 children leaving us in July to go to primary school. Numbers feeding in to West Wycombe School this year have again increased which we are really pleased about. We are getting more families joining us with a view to joining the combined school after pre-school.

We are aware that parking has remained an issue and feel sadly this may always be an issue. We have however amended our terms and conditions to read:

Parking for Pre-school will be located at the garden centre car park in West Wycombe. There is to be no parking around the village of West Wycombe unless within a parking space which is designated for the general public. There are no exceptions to this rule and parents cannot be granted special permission by business owners. Please note the car park located on church lane is allocated to business within West Wycombe and not to be used for Pre-school. There is to be no drop off or collections on Church Lane and parents must always consider the safety of others around the village when navigating their route and locating a parking space.

We have removed the section stating parents can park on the High Street as we feel this is dangerous for families. We have also added that permission for parking cannot be given by business owners. This is due to one company owner giving a parent special permission to use their business space on Church Lane which has caused a nightmare for us. This year we have given two families written warnings that they will lose their place with us if they do not park at the garden centre instead of Church Lane. Parking is very difficult to police but we will continue to do our best and understand this is important to the rest of the village.

We have enjoyed some great fundraising events, most recently an Easter Trail around the village which included a tea and cake stall up at St Lawrence for the church's fundraising. This was very successful and we are keen to be involved in the community as much as possible. We are looking forward to our Sports Day at the Cricket Grounds, the Summer Fayre and hoping to book in some summer events with the school.

I personally would like to thank the local churches, school, business owners and parish council for supporting the pre-school. We love being part of this community and look forward to the next year.

Alison Rimmer, Church Warden, West Wycombe PCC

This year has been another significant one in the life of our churches and local community, with major plans and decisions to be made regarding our church buildings and future, and several very meaningful events within the village.

There has been a very wide range of services during the year in both St Lawrence and St Paul's churches, ranging from the Sunday Eucharist services through to midweek services, evening services, Baptisms, weddings and funerals, celebration services for Christmas, Easter and Festival Days in between, and of course more recently the Vigil at St Paul's for Libby Squire whose tragic loss we mourn as a community. Sadly, there have been several tragedies in the village this year and our hearts go out to those affected. Our parish covers both West Wycombe and Piddington, with the roads radiating from the village, and several members of the congregation live further afield. None of what we strive to do would be possible without the immense work and dedication of our Rector and Associate Priests, and as Churchwarden I am hugely grateful to them and to the members of the Parochial Church Council and congregation who give such great support.

The Parochial Church Council has held eight regular meetings during the year with a separate emergency meeting, and the smaller Standing Committee meets regularly. As a parish we are currently facing several major challenges in terms of building work needed for repair and restoration and there are difficult choices to be made regarding the future of St Lawrence church, the Church Loft and the Church Room.

A vital part of our church life is the social and fundraising aspect – we cannot hope to meet all the financial targets set through this activity, but 'every little helps' and equally as important, the social events generate and sustain a real buzz of enjoyment for locals and visitors alike. There is huge energy involved, and both our churches offer warm hospitality in different ways, with wonderful concerts, Teas and hundreds of visitors at St Lawrence, and a quieter but very

meaningful church at St Paul's set in the heart of the village and where we also look forward to working more closely with the Serbian Orthodox community to nurture the building and community outreach. The Bellringers at St Lawrence are a very committed team who have really strengthened this year and we love to hear the bells ringing out on a Thursday, a Sunday, at weddings and at times of national tribute – we are so fortunate to have them.

The parish is part of the Wycombe Deanery, comprising 35 churches and PCC representatives attend their meetings four times a year. The meetings cover a wide range of topics, thankfully more about people than pound signs, and the Deanery Team are very supportive in helping us meet the current challenges. As a parish, we are required to pay £26,000 as our Parish Share which has been considerably reduced for at least the forthcoming year to enable us to manage our funds. The Archdeacon of Buckingham is also supporting us actively within the fuller picture. As a PCC, we have been sifting through the Quinquennial Inspection reports of St Lawrence and St Paul's churches, the Church Room and the Church Loft. Fabric and maintenance issues raised are immense and require a huge amount of thought and – inevitably – funding. We are faced with a few options and want to be as positive and creative as possible about the future of our church buildings at the heart of this village. However, we are not able to sustain all three buildings and it is most likely that the Church Room and Loft will have to be sold to enable us to manage the future of our churches. This is not an easy decision by any means, but without doing so we run the real risk of losing our churches in the village altogether. Times have changed enormously during recent years and we have to be realistic and take stock of just what we are able to do as a very caring church community. We are grateful to Sir Edward and Mr. Verne Grinstead for the advice and support which they offer us, and that of the Wycombe Deanery, this is very much team work all round.

I would like to thank the very special West Wycombe community who are increasingly supportive of church activities and fundraising, and this has made for so much fun. The Parish Council have been generous especially in maintaining the village clock costs with us, and the National Trust make this such a beautiful setting - not to mention filling the potholes on the Hill to the huge relief of church and concert attenders!

Reverend Allan has sent his apologies for this meeting, as you may know he is currently on extended sick leave and we wish him a steady return to recovery. Since joining the parish, he has had a very difficult and unforeseen task in revealing and explaining all the issues that we have to face up to, and there is no doubt that without his knowledge, courage and determination, the PCC and churches would be in a far more difficult situation than we are now. So we look forward to another year of challenge yes, but also a very united team with a common purpose which is to enable our church to play its part in this very special West Wycombe community.

Andy Stafford, Chairman, Downley Dynamos

The Club has over 320 children playing football and has teams from Under 5's to Under 16's. They also have a Youth Team and plan to have an Under 13 and Under 16 ladies team in the coming season. They operate from Mannings Field in Downley and the Pedestal Playing Field. They are aware that there have been issues over cars blocking the pavement and they intend to work on the furthest end of the car park, which floods and becomes boggy very easily, in an attempt to create more parking spaces. They will pay for all this as the parish does not need this extra parking space. As the area is very rural they will not be extending the area with a hard surface but installing drainage and tiles which the grass can grow through. They have installed a defibrillator on the pavilion and this is connected to the emergency services. They have moved the large goal post further to the right for a while to give the grass a chance to regenerate in the current goal mouth. This area is very heavily used on a daily basis by casual visitors to the play area. The club is in a very healthy financial position which has been helped by introducing online payments which makes it easier to monitor payments. They may be in a position to make a donation to the Parish Council on top of the annual rent.

Mr. Neil Harris, Chairman, West Wycombe Events Team

The events team have now completed six full years. With a lot of effort and determination we have delivered very high level events with only a very small group of dedicated volunteers. This year, the number of events were lower than normal, as we were unable to secure the village hall due to an abundance of quizzes already booked.

In July the Summer Fayre saw a huge amount of preparation and organisation to get equipment and facilities ready and set up for the event. Due to time constraints, this year we outsourced the installation of the main marquee to a local provider - unfortunately, this didn't go as well as planned, but after some teething problems we were ready to run our first event of the year at the pre-fayre summer quiz. 18 teams joined us for a beautiful summer's evening in the marquee in the park. Delights of a hog roast with a selection of gourmet salads along with a well-stocked bar left the quizzers fulfilled. We often get many comments about how wonderful this quiz night is and how much it is look forward to.

On Saturday 7th July the sun shone yet again, the crowds grew and the park became a hive of stalls, entertainment and fun for all the family. Tractor rides, Dog and Duck Show, Falconry, Dog Show and a wide variety of stalls were among many of the activities on offer. Plenty of food suppliers and the George & Dragon bar were offering their produce. The World Cup match that day was even available in the bar tent! Our thanks to Visual Synergy for supplying and installing this screen.

We had a footfall of over 3500 through the gates.

The Festive Fayre was held on December 5th - loads of food stalls throughout the village and craft stalls in the village hall and the George and Dragon, Crown Court and Black Boy Yard. Father Christmas arrived and told fabulous stories in the Christmas Grotto. The National Trust Rustic Produce team had a selection of wooden gifts for sale, all made from estate timber, along with the customary Mistletoe, from Bradenham Manor.

On New Year's Day – we guided a group of 60+ locals on a walk up Cookshall Lane and through the woods for an hour and a half before heading back to the Village Hall for delicious cakes and teas made by Vicki Smith and her helpers.

Our sincere thanks goes to all those that help us over the year, it makes such a difference to get support and help with the different projects and events. Our thanks to the National Trust, not only for their commitment, strength and resources, but for the continued use of the events store.

Future events

12th July – Pre Summer Fayre Quiz Night

13th July – Summer Fayre and Classic Car Show

4th December – Festive Fayre

1st January – New Year's Day Walk

Cllr Ian McEnnis, District Councillor, Chiltern Rise Ward

Cllr McEnnis reported on the current status of the proposed unitary changes.

Cllrs McEnnis and Teesdale will continue to support the Parish Council, in particular with planning applications and the work required to increase the availability of broadband in the whole of their Ward.

Cllr McEnnis gave advance notice of the Armed Forces day at Wycombe Air Park on 29th June from noon until 6pm. It is a free of charge event but people who want to attend will need to register for tickets by going on the website: www.buckscc.gov.uk/armedforcesday

County Cllr Darren Hayday

He continues to work on behalf of and with the Parish Council on the speeding issues on Chorley Road and the A40 DfT road safety scheme. Through working with the Local Area Technician identified Portway Drive as a road which needs resurfacing- preparatory work has been undertaken and resurfacing is due in the summer. Cllr Hayday had decided that he will stand for election for the new authority in May 2020

We had no representation from West Wycombe County Combined School

Cllr Mrs Smith invited everyone to stay for light refreshments.