



ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

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 30th April 2015.

Reports from Sir Edward Dashwood, The National Trust, West Wycombe Community Library, West Wycombe Community Association, West Wycombe Events Team, West Wycombe Parochial Church Council, West Wycombe County Combined School, West Wycombe Pre-School, Downley Dynamos Football Club, our County and District Councillors, Lavender Green (Garden Centre) and Thames Valley Police can be found in the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on the website

www.westwycombe.org.uk



@WestWycombePC



LOCAL COUNCIL
AWARD SCHEME
FOUNDATION

Parish Work

West Wycombe Parish Council was formed in 1987 which means we are now in our twenty-ninth year.

I have been a member of the Parish Council since the beginning and would like to say how grateful I am that over these years we have had 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 have contributed to the safety, wellbeing and leisure of the residents of West Wycombe.

The Burial Ground



It took well over ten years of constant nagging of every department you can think of, much form filling, reporting and submissions of applications, together with many hours of deliberation and planning to complete the burial ground behind St Paul's Church which we opened for residents in 2000.

The Pedestal Playing Field



The 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! These, together with the Burial Ground, are on land leased from West Wycombe Estate because the Parish Council does not own any land or property.

Parish Work

Defibrillators

Recently we purchased two defibrillators that are linked directly to the NHS Ambulance Service.

One is installed on West Wycombe Village Hall and hopefully, soon, the other 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.



Grit, Poo and HS2

We have now placed and filled grit bins on most of our roads to help in bad weather conditions but please remember that the grit is for you to use on the public road and pavements.

Recently we have installed dog poo bins and we pay for these to be emptied as often as required. But we are still having problems with dog walkers on the Pedestal Playing Field who let their dogs run free and then don't clear up after them. We will ban dogs completely if people don't respect the rules.

We are actively still trying to get the route for HS2 construction traffic removed from coming through our Parish. This is an on going consultation. Sharon has worked hard on this for many months taking our petition up to London and delivering it to Parliament by hand.

Christmas Fayre 2015
WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER
Have Fun While You Shop

A Personal Message From The Chairman

All of 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.

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.

We are about to take on a few of the jobs that BCC have done for us in the past because we realised that we could do more grass cuts and sign washing, for instance, than BCC have been doing for us, which will keep our parish looking neat and tidy. BCC have had to cut back on these jobs due to their budget constraints. There's more information about grass cutting and hedge/tree maintenance on page eleven.

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.

Finally I'd like to thank Mike Henson at mh-p internet who maintains our website and finds some fascinating news items. He also produces this annual report.

**We're now on Twitter - follow
@WestWycombePC
www.westwycombe.org.uk**

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Councillor Neil Harris

Neil, 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 annual Summer and Christmas Fayres.

Councillor Kate Cheshire

Kate works incredibly hard for the events team, she is indispensable. Most of our Parish Councillors are on The Events Team and lend a hand when it comes to Events days. Kate is also 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.

Councillor Neil Timberlake

Neil 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. Neil is also our Transport guru.

Councillor Roger Seymour

Roger is very active all over the Parish but for the Parish Council he keeps and eye on the Allotments and the Burial Ground

Nothing is constant but change.

Our thanks must go to Frank Downes and Lisa Cook who are no longer Parish Councillors. Frank, who also represented our interests at Bucks CC for many years has also retired from the County Council. Lisa Cook 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. However, we have two new members in Simon Cope and Michael Hogan, I'm very much looking forward to their fresh, new ideas and contributions.

and finally.....

West Wycombe is 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.



Summer Fayre 2015 - It



Keep The Date - Next Summer



It's All About The People



Fayre - Saturday 9th July 2016

Quality or Award Scheme Council

The keen eyed amongst you will have noticed that the Quality Council Logo has been removed from the website and this publication; that is because the scheme no longer exists. It has been replaced by the Local Council Award Scheme. Councils who qualified for the Quality Council status have been given, on application, Foundation status in the new scheme.

There were many rumours and suggestions that becoming a Quality Council would make various benefits and enhancements available, but these never materialised.

It cost the Council £150.00 to achieve Quality status and a considerable amount of work for Sharon, our Clerk, upon whose knowledge and ability the Quality status is based so, we are keeping an open mind about the new scheme before venturing down another yellow brick road that has no pot of gold at the end.

Planning

We are noticing a small increase in the number of planning applications which we are being asked to comment upon by Wycombe District Council.

One area that we are not involved in is Neighbourhood Planning. If you visit other parish council websites, Longwick cum Ilmer being the latest, you'll see that they have spent considerable time and money in constructing their plan which will hopefully enable them to control the building in the parish through to 2030.

Fault and Problem Reporting

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, flooding, broken kerbstones, empty grit bins, or damaged street furniture or signs or non-working street lights, please report it directly to Transport For Bucks.

0845 230 2882

www.transportforbucks.net

Emergency Service - 01296 486630

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Parish Council Accounts

Year Ending 31st March 2015

INCOME	31/3/2014	31/3/2015
Administration	£41332.93	£39291.51
Allotments	£228.00	£366.00
Pedestal Playing Field	£180.00	£300.00
Burial Ground	£415.00	£300.00
VAT Refund	£0.00	£4005.78
TOTAL	£42155.93	£44263.29

EXPENDITURE		
Administration	£18044.33	£20580.66
Allotments	£2220.34	£969.60
Pedestal Playing Field	£8222.17	£4561.04
Burial Ground	£4272.25	£3350.94
Highways	£503.54	£4474.58
Street Lighting	£4970.47	£4617.07
Reserves	£0.00	£4616.60
VAT	£4005.78	£3397.79

SUMMARY		
Opening Balance	£12572.26	£12489.31
Income	£42155.93	£44263.29
Total	£54728.19	£57752.60
Expenditure	£42238.88	£47168.28
Balance	£12489.31	£9584.32

CUMULATIVE FUNDS		
Barclays Community Account	£10221.95	£6956.81
Barclays Business Saver Account	£1134.04	£2627.51
Bank of Ireland Account	£1133.32	closed
Total	£12489.31	£9,584.32

Parish Council's are funded from what's called the Precept. This is a sum of money that is taken out of the Council Tax. Parish Councillors receive no income - all their time and efforts are given voluntarily.

Website

Visitors and Usage

Our website still attracts many visitors, far in excess of what would normally be expected from a parish with only 1000 people. During the period May 2014 to 2015 the site received 953 visitors who generated 3,569 page impressions.

In addition to the UK we had visitors from the USA, Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, India, Isle of Man, Japan, Netherlands, South Africa, Cayman Islands, Cote D'Ivoire, Croatia and many more.

Three quarters of all search results came from Google with Chrome and Safari sharing top spot for most popular browser, followed by Firefox and Internet Explorer last.

When it came to search terms, the most popular was, obviously, "west wycombe parish council" followed by "west wycombe" but some of the more unexpected were "lesslie watson", "abandoned village west wycombe", "dr faith spicer cave cottage west wycombe" and "r s troutt accounts"

Do you run a business, club, organisation in the area?

We have three directories on the website together with a News and Forthcoming events column which you can use for self promotion. If you serve the local community in any capacity please let us know and we will add your details to the appropriate directory.

If you're putting on an event send us the details, we'll publish it on the website and on Twitter for maximum exposure.

Information

Having undergone a major facelift last year development hasn't stopped. We continue to provide news and details of forthcoming events and we recently added a new page with details of the grass cutting that we have taken over from Buckinghamshire County Council.

We will be pleased to hear your comments and suggestions about the website, 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 very keen to increase the quantity of historical information and want to include any photographs, cuttings or publications that you or your older friends and relatives might have, particularly in relation 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. Please contact the Parish Clerk on 01494 448048.

Parish Council Officials - 2015/2016

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

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

Cllr. Simon Cope, 20 Rosemary Close, West Wycombe, Bucks. HP12 4AG
Tel: 07890 898256

Cllr. Michael Hogan, Steps House, High Street, West Wycombe, Bucks.
HP14 3AG

District Councillors:

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

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

County Councillor:

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