

2010 SHEET NO. 15

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Tackley held in the Village Hall on Friday 14th May 2010 commencing at 7.30 p.m. under the Chairmanship of Councillor June Collier. In attendance were Councillor Paul Joslin (Vice Chairman), Councillor Richard Banbury, Councillor Bill Denver, Councillor Robin Gibbons, Councillor Robert Clow, Councillor Jim Howard, District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer, County Councillor Ian Hudspeth, PSCO Phil Workman – Thames Valley Police

The Chairman welcomed the Parishioners to the meeting.

10/035 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th May 2009 were circulated and approved. Councillor Paul Joslin proposed that the minutes were signed as a true record. This was seconded by Councillor Jim Howard and the motion was carried. Councillor June Collier signed a copy of the minutes.

10/036 THAMES VALLEY POLICE REPORT

PSCO Phil Workman gave the report for Thames Valley Police on behalf of PC 3235 Gordon Richardson, Neighbourhood Specialist Officer.

TACKLEY CRIME FIGURES, APRIL 2009/10

There have been 14 offences reported during this period, compared to 13 offences during the same period in 2008/09.

The offences are as follows:

- 3 x Nuisance messages
- 3 x Domestic incidents
- 2 x Fraud
- 1 x Arson
- 1 x Theft
- 1 x Harassment
- 1 x Racist incident
- 1 x Criminal damage to a motor vehicle
- 1 x Burglary Dwelling

There are no major concerns for the Village and we are a low crime area, although everyone should be aware of an increase in house burglary and theft from motor vehicles across Oxfordshire. Parishioners need to ensure that they do not leave valuable items on display both at home or in their vehicles when they leave them unattended.

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Parishioners were also reminded to ensure that:

- house alarms are set and that windows and doors are locked, especially as the weather gets warmer;
- garages and sheds are locked

even if you only go out for a short time. The same applies to vehicles - valuables should be either put in the glove box or boot at any time when the vehicle is unattended.

Tackley and the neighbourhood in general is one of the safest places to work and live in Oxfordshire and the neighbourhood team will do their best to ensure that it stays that way.

PSCO Phil Workman emphasised that that Parishioners should contact the Police if they are at all suspicious of a person/vehicle or if they feel that anything is out of place. Never be frightened that you may be wasting Police time.

District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer asked if anyone could request copies of the Police Community emails. PSCO Phil Workman informed the meeting that anyone can sign up for the Thames Valley Police Community Newsletter and he will provide the email address for the Parish Newsletter.

PSCO Phil Workman also reported that the Police are currently undertaking speed monitoring throughout the Village, further to complaints from Parishioners. Today at 5.15 p.m. until 6.00 p.m. they monitored motorists entering the Village on Church Hill. Of the 72 vehicles that passed 8 were speeding (over 35 mph) and will be notified of the offence. Further speed monitoring will continue in the Parish.

10/037 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer report that the Council is still having to take money out of reserves, and needs to make savings. Currently they are sharing the Chief Executive and Treasurer with Cotswold District Council which is working well and it is hoped that this sharing scheme can be expanded.

Councillor Robert Clow expressed his concern over the job sharing arrangement stating that he felt this could lead to a possible merger of the two Councils.

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Councillor Robert Clow also asked whether any of the money lost due to the collapse of the Icelandic Banks had been recouped. County Councillor Ian Hudspeth reported that approximately £5 million of the £9 million invested was due to be returned to the District Council and £2 million of the £5 million invested by the County Council was due to be returned. The District Council are now spreading their portfolio and investing in property as currently this is providing at better rate of return. £29 million can be invested at any one time in order to ensure that Council Tax is kept down. County Councillor Ian Hudspeth said that he would provide the exact figures.

10/038 – COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

County Councillor Ian Hudspeth reported that this year's budget will be extremely tight due to reductions in Government spending. A complete spending review was not undertaken last November but will be held this year.

Winter Maintenance and Salting – Earlier this year we saw the worst winter weather for 20 years. Roads are usually prioritised for salting as A roads and high usage B roads, although the aim is to visit every village with a snow plough. Due to the severe conditions and the shortage of salt this was not always possible.

Due to the extreme conditions and lack of salt the Government instructed Councils to salt only A roads, and only allowed them to re-stock with salt every three days.

A review is undertaken at the end of every winter season. This year it is unlikely that there will be sufficient supplies of salt at the start of the winter season to supply all authorities.

Liability was a huge issue this year leaving people uncertain whether they should clear pavements and roads in front of their houses. District Councillor Ian Hudspeth stated that if the snow clearing was "reasonable and practical" there should be no liability issue.

County Councillor Ian Hudspeth also stated that they were looking into the possibility of teachers living local to schools, which were not the ones which they taught at, manning them during adverse weather when they were unable to attend their school of employment.

Councillor Robert Clow asked whether bus route 59 was a priority route but was informed that only A roads were a priority.

Councillor Robert Clow also stated that it would have been nice if the sand/grit which had been placed on the footpaths had been swept. County Councillor Ian Hudspeth noted the comment.

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10/039 PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor June Collier reported that no huge projects had been undertaken this year, but that some of those started last year have been completed.

The car park entrance was widened to allow safer pedestrian access and the path to the school upgraded with a new section across the corner made to encourage children to walk or cycle to school. This was funded by special funding from the County Council.

Overnight car parking in the Village Hall car park was formalised providing residents with permits who need to park off road but have no access to their own land.

The Millennium Play Area/Tennis Court is working well and it is a pleasure to see many Parishioners of all ages play.

There is a new School development plan to include a purpose built Pre-School classroom, which is a great relief as the current temporary building is too small and antiquated to continue much longer. The new development will increase the size of the school, thus enabling the temporary classrooms to be removed. The increase in children being born in the Parish and children attending from other villages will ensure a bright future.

Following the national trend for growing your own produce all our allotments are in use, and in fact we have created two new plots and still have one person on the waiting list.

At Crecy Hill Nature Reserve the fencing project has been completed, further scrub clearance has been carried out and a start has been made on the Heath Pond. The majority of labour for these projects has been provided by Oxfordshire Conservation Volunteers plus stalwart supporters in the village. Farewell was said to Craig Blackwell, who retired, having been with use from the start of the projects. He will be missed.

We have on-going repair plans in place to put the Parish notice boards in good order, and a huge thank you to Jim Pitts for repairing them.

Our most controversial project this year was the creating and upgrading of our bus stops. We were encouraged to do this by Stagecoach, the bus company, and Oxfordshire County Council as all stops needed to meet a certain criteria for safety and ease of use. With the onset of free travel for those over 60 there has been a marked increase in the use of the buses lately. We as a Council took the decision that as one of the most fortunate and envied villages in England for public transport and with energy and environmental issues uppermost in our minds we should accept their recommendations and go ahead with the work. We were very much aware that this decision may

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not be popular with all of the villagers, but we could not jeopardise the safety of our Parishioners and the continuation of the service.

We thank Olive Richardson for representing the Parish Council's interest on the Public Transport Consultative Committee.

The Village has been successful in its bid to be part of a major energy saving scheme introduced by British Gas, "The Green Streets Project", which is on-going at the moment and various projects are underway to produce energy for the Village Hall, two churches and the residents who signed up to the project. Currently we are awaiting the supply of Smart Metres from British Gas which will enable those involved to become more aware of their energy usage and possible savings. An Energy Day is planned for later in the year, and prizes will be awarded to those involved in the project. Thanks go to Barbie Vaughan, Gill Withers and David Kydd for putting the bid together and all the team who are currently involved in the project.

We continue to badger Oxfordshire Highways with regard to maintenance of our roads and after the severe winter have had quite a task getting the potholes filled. They are not brilliant, but are better than some villages in the country.

An application was submitted to Oxfordshire County Council to improve and upgrade the children's play area, but unfortunately this was not successful. Our thanks go to Claire Rusher and Dawn Evans for the enormous amount of work they put into this project.

Thanks also go to John Harding for organising the footpath week. Our network of paths are the envy of other Parishes and we are hoping John will have the energy and enthusiasm to undertake the task this year.

We have received numerous planning applications for a variety of extensions and conservatories, etc., and have seen two new houses built.

Unfortunately the vehicle access gates at the Tackley crossing have been lost. Tackley Estate having given up their "right of access." Our thanks go to Robin Gibbons and Richard McCrory who are our railway representatives.

We have noticed an increase in traffic at the London/Oxford airport and we would like to thank Councillor Paul Joslin and Mark Crocker, who has taken over recently from Councillor Joslin, on the Oxnag Committee.

Our last concern is the village pub which again is without a landlord. A letter has been sent this week to Green King to ascertain their intentions with regard to its future.

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A welcome to Linda Jones the new Parish Clerk. Linda has been in post since September and has become a valued and indispensable member of the team. Thanks also to the six other Councillors who support me, especially Councillor Richard Banbury, our Chancellor, for keeping a very firm hold on the accounts, to Councillor Jim Howard for keeping us in order, District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer and County Councillor Ian Hudspeth for representing the Parishes interests.

10/040 OXNAG REPORT

There were three meetings of the Oxford Airport Consultative Committee over the past year and the main points and issues discussed were as follows:-

- The number of aircraft movements between January and December 2009 was some 36,500 which is a decrease of 21.9% over the same period in 2008. Total aircraft movements have now fallen by 77% since the last peak 11 years ago. Prior to this there were 175,000 movements in 1971.
- The reason for the large fall is that the initial circuit training now takes place in the USA where fuel is cheaper and the weather more reliable. More of the pilot training at Oxford is now performed with the use of simulators on the ground.
- However, the movement of jets increased again by 22% over the last quarter of 2009 compared to the previous year and as reported last year every effort is being made by the owners of the airport to increase business and charter jet traffic. The chartered flights to Jersey and Geneva which started up last year proved popular and more chartered flights to other cities and countries are anticipated.
- Helicopter arrival and departure routes should avoid directly flying over Tackley but this does not seem to be happening. Further monitoring and reporting is required.
- The Oxford Airport Noise Abatement Group is to have a General Meeting on Monday 17th May at Woodstock Town Hall to consider whether or not to continue. Dr. Robert Edwards who has been Chairman of the Group for very many years, now wishes to step down.
- Finally, I have stepped down as the Parish Council Representative but am pleased to say that Mark Crocker (telephone 331820) has agreed to represent the Council in future and will be attending the aforementioned meeting on 17th May, future Oxford Airport Consultative Committee meetings and will be writing an article in the June/July Tackley Newsletter.

Councillor Robert Clow mentioned that a letter from the RAF was currently being circulated to all Parish Councillors stating that the Skyvan was coming to Weston-on-the-Green on 22nd May 2010 for the day in order that charity tandem parachute jumps could be completed for "Breakthrough Breast Cancer".

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District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer queried why some of the planes landing at the airport did not fly over Tackley. Councillor Paul Joslin explained that this depended on the flight direction.

10/041 SCHOOL GOVERNOR'S REPORT 2010

Tackley Church of England Primary School has a current role standing at 118 pupils with 67 boys (56%) and 51 girls (44%) and continues to flourish with 25 families having chosen our school as their first choice for the academic year 2010/11. The school would normally accept 20 children for the academic year, but the Governors' have agreed that the numbers could be increased without any adverse impact on the standard of education provided. We have already been considering the school structure for next year and are pleased to announce that all Foundation and Key Stage 1 classes will have under 30 children.

Over the past year we have been in consultation with the County Council and architect to discuss the building of two permanent classrooms to replace the existing temporary structures currently in the school. In the past weeks the contracts have been agreed and work is scheduled to commence on 24th May 2010, with completion of the first phase of the classrooms and administration area by February 2011, with full completion of the outside areas and landscaping by August 2011.

Councillor Robert Clow asked Councillor Bill Denver if there were currently any male teachers at the Primary School. Currently the school is staff by all female employees.

District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer stated that he thought it was possible for children from Heyford to travel to school on the Heyford Park bus. Parish Clerk to contact Oxfordshire County Council for details.

10/042 RAILWAY REPORT

- **The Crossing**
Network Rail negotiated with the Tackley Estate for the Crossing to cease being one with vehicular access, this was done in return for compensation so that another access route can be constructed under the railway bridge that crosses the Cherwell in Whitehill. Work took place earlier this year to change the gates and re route access in a direct line across the rails. It is hoped that further changes especially to sight lines can be made. It must be acknowledged that information about these activities has not always been easy for the Council to obtain. This is being resolved, the problems associated with the Crossing are closely monitored and Councillor Robin Gibbons is in communication with Stewart Firth of Network Rail.

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- **Timetables and First Great Western issues**

Richard Macrory and Robin Gibbons met with David Cameron's Advisor in November and following that with the FGW team in Reading on December 8th to work out issues with travel, timetables and fares on the FGW route. This was particularly helpful and has resulted in good liaisons with FGW.

Topics discussed were:

- ❖ Connections and time table consultation. This is taking place and we have been included in any projected ideas.
- ❖ Information Screens. Tackley will be having an information screen in the future, though this will have to be carefully monitored.
- ❖ Carnet tickets. These are being investigated but there does not appear to be an issue with them.
- ❖ Summer trains. FGW have kept the summer train Sunday service and encourages people to use it as much as possible. Adrian Saunders of the County Council has produced a small pocket timetable which has a number of extra details which will be given out to every householder. Extra copies will be left in the Shop and Pub.

- **Future Events**

There will be major engineering work between Reading/ Didcot and Oxford during Christmas 2010/New year 2011, this will mean a number of changes to trains for Tackley and a shuttle service will operate between Banbury and Oxford during this fortnight. The development of the line between Oxford and Bicester means that our line may have additional trains during the period of work, but this has yet to be finalised.

FGW are aware that they need to capitalize on the good will of our village and are making every effort to do so, though Richard Rowland has moved on in FGW, his successor Matthew Golton has met with our representatives and we are in good contact with his team. One area of concern which has just emerged is the need for a suitable contact for the Cross Country trains as they are the high speed users of our line and there are a number of issues which we need to raise with them.

- **Adopt a Station**

FGW have been in negotiations concerning the 'Adopt a Station' programme, Tackley has been chosen for this. A small group, friends of Tackley Station has been formed to take this forward. They are meeting to approve a constitution for the group and will be involved in risk assessment. We met with FGW and Network rail to assess our Station and permission has now definitively been given for the small plot of land behind the shelter to be used for 'garden' development. FGW will donate a 'one off' sum of £750 towards tools etc for this purpose and it is hoped that money from 'The Margaret Evans Memorial Fund' will also donate some funds so that we can do something in her memory. It is hoped this initiative will help keep our station and railway as an integral part of our village life. Anybody wishing to be involved is welcome to make themselves known.

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Councillor Robert Clow asked whether it was possible for the land at the rear of the station of be used for allotments, but Councillor Robin Gibbons said this was not an option.

Councillor Robert Clow asked if an interchangeable bus/train ticket was currently being looked at. County Councillor Ian Hudspeth stated that the County are currently looking at a joint ticketing scheme between the two major bus operators in Oxford and it was hoped that it might be possible to extend this to the trains in the future.

Councillor Robert Clow stated that he thought it would have been useful if the train timetable produced by the County Council also incorporated the bus times like that produced by Alan Diver.

Les Summers commended Councillor Robin Gibbons on this report but said that timetabling is still a serious issue and that an earlier off peak train, say at 9.00 a.m., should be provided along with better connections to London. Councillor Robin Gibbons said that he would continue to pursue this with Richard McCrory.

Linda Jones asked if there was a time for trains to start/stop hooting. Councillor Robin Gibbons said that trains should be hooting their horns as soon as the first service runs in the morning, although this may cease during the night as it is assumed that no one is closing the track. If trains are not hooting then a record should be kept of the date, time and name of the train company and fed back to him.

10/043 END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2008/09

Annual Audit Return for the year ending 31st March 2009

	Year Ending	Year Ending
	31 st March 2008	31 st March 2009
Balance brought forward	£9,848.00	£17,096.89
(+) Annual Precept	£15,000.00	£15,000.00
(+) Total Other receipts	£2,787.00	£45,872.82
(-) Staff Costs	£2,090.68	£2,352.04
(-) Loan Interest/ Capital repayments	£0.00	£0.00
(-) Total other payments	£8,447.83	£71,117.71
(=) Balances carried forward	£17,096.89	£4,499.96
Total cash and investments	£17,096.89	£4,499.96
Total fixed assets	£29,353.55	£7,4050.52
Total borrowings	£0.00	£40,000.00

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Audited accounts for year ending March 2009 were proposed by Councillor Jim Howard, seconded by Councillor Paul Joslin and accepted and approved by all at the meeting. The Annual Governance Statement on the Annual Return was approved by the Council and signed by Councillor June Collier as Chairman and Julie Farren, Parish Clerk at the time.

Councillor Robert Clow asked what the precept was for 2009/10 and was told £20,000. The same precept has also been set for 2010/11.

10/044 TRANSPORT REPORT

Olive Richardson reported that she had attend a meeting this week and had been notified of drop in workshops to be held across the county relating the Local Transport Plan 3 (2011-2030) Consultation 5: Scenarios. The Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan will set out the strategy for transport across the County for the next 20 years. The aim is to hear views on what overall scenarios should be followed to develop future strategies for transport in the county. Olive asked whether any of the Councillors would like to attend a workshop with her on 26th May 2010 at the Town Hall in Banbury. As responses can be given via email this request will be given consideration.

10/044 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Brian Richardson stated that people were driving over the kerb when turning left out of the Village Hall car park due to the tight angle. Councillors felt that people would still cut the corner regardless of how much was taken off.

Les Summers asked if anything further had been received about the appeal for 44a St. Johns Road. Councillors are still awaiting the appeal decision.

District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer asked what the future intention was for the Shipton -on-Cherwell Quarry. County Councillor Ian Hudspeth stated that currently the County Council did not know.

There being no further business Councillor June Collier declared the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Signed

Date