2016 Sheet 19

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Tackley held in the Village Hall on Monday 11th April 2016 commencing at 7.00 p.m. under the Chairmanship of Councillor June Collier. In attendance were Councillor Paul Joslin (Vice Chairman), Councillor Les Summers, Councillor Neil Wilson, Councillor Robin Gibbons, Councillor Elizabeth Marshall and Councillor John Cook

District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer

16/40 – APOLOGIES – County Councillor Ian Hudspeth, PSCO Phil Workman

16/41 - MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th May 2014 were circulated and approved. Councillor John Cooke asked for a paragraph in the Railway report to be re written to make more sense. Councillor Paul Joslin proposed that the minutes were signed as a true record once this amendment has been made. Councillor Elizabeth Marshall seconded this and the motion was carried. Councillor June Collier signed a copy of the minutes.

16/42 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT- presented by Councillor June Collier

Well I was intending to say this may be the last time you see us here as a team, with an election looming on May 5th but our villagers must think we are doing a good job as no-one has put themselves forward for election therefore we are here for better or worse, for another four years!
Thanks to Ian Hudspeth O.C.C., Charles Cottrell -Dormer W.O.D.C., Police PCSO Phil Workman, PC Councilors, Julie our new Clerk (returning).
Reps Richard Macrory (Railway). Mark Crocker (Airport) Olive Richardson, (buses), who has left us after many years of keeping tabs on our public transport. We thanked her earlier in the year and are indebted to all her hard work. We are probably the best-served village in the county when it comes to public transport. Neil is taking over the role.
PALS - The team of villagers keeping our village tidy.

Green Scythe for keeping us in trim and doing "odd jobs" around the village.

Graham Agutter for also being our "Boy Friday" and mending things.

Finances - we have kept the annual precept the same as last year, made various donations to village groups and clubs. We made maintenance grants to our Churches. I obtained permission for the land to be used and we helped St Nicholas financially with their new car park.
The sub committee "TAG" group have successfully raised with PC backing a grant from Virador and fund-raising within the village, enough money to complete phase 1 of their challenge. On the playing field there is now a splendid Youth Shelter and an Outdoor Table Tennis Table. The outdoor sports pitch surround has been re painted and once again looks pristine.
After another relatively dry winter our historical sewage issues have not manifested themselves. Thanks again to Will Johnson for keeping TW on the case. The rain in the New Year and a very heavy downpour in February tested the new "bund". It held up well and prevented flooding in Rousham and Medcroft Rd.
Two major Planning issues this year have featured predominantly in the village. Outline consent for 26 dwellings on Street Farm was granted but has still to be signed off. There will be an appeal in September on the Balliol Farm proposal.
Parking always a contentious issue especially in Nethercote Rd, we are trying to encourage people to park considerately and not to resort to yellow lines.

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The pattern of meetings and surgery has, after many years changed, there now being one meeting on the second Monday of each month followed two weeks later by a surgery. Plus (*Wed. and Fri. 7-9 am!*). We hope that our parishioners will attend the meetings and take an active role in the council's business.

The minutes of each meeting are not only available in the "minute book" but also published on our Tackley Website.

We look forward to 2016, an interesting and exciting year ahead for our village.

16/43 - THAMES VALLEY POLICE REPORT

Crimes and Crime related incidents in the Tackley Area of the Woodstock NHPT

During the dates 01/04/14 – 31/03/15

Assault (all types)	1
Theft	6
Crime related incidents	13
Theft from motor vehicle	3
Criminal damage	4
Theft of motor vehicle	1
Fraud	1
Theft of pedal cycle	1
Burglary in a dwelling	1
Total	**30**

During the dates 01/04/15 – 31/03/16

Crime related incidents	14
Assaults (all types)	2
Harassment	1
Theft from Motor Vehicle	5
Burglary not in a dwelling	2
Burglary in a dwelling	1
Total	**25**

If the Crime Related Incidents (CRI) is removed from the listings, then reported/recorded crime was quite low.

CRI include incidents such as Domestic Incidents, where no criminal offences occurred but details of those spoken to/see are recorded in case of future problems. Adult and Child protection CRIs are

also included. This is we are informed of vulnerable members of the community we create a CRI and then pass on the details to partner agencies (social services etc.).
If CRIs are removed from the above list of recorded crime, then incidents have dropped from 17 to 11 in the latest years results.

16/44 County Council Report – written by County Councillor Ian Hudspeth and read by Councillor June Collier

County Budget - The year was dominated by the budget with some very challenging decisions that needed to be taken. Additional savings of £69 million had to be found on top of the £204 million of savings the Council has made since 2010 with another £88 million that had been planned by 2018. The total savings by the County Council will be £361 million from 2010 to 2020. The cabinet proposals were put before Full Council in February to debate the options. Despite the loss of a member of the Conservative Independent Alliance there was sufficient support for the budget that Cabinet put forward to be passed. However the difference between the amendments by the opposition amounted to around £4 million on a budget of £570 million. With that in mind negotiations took place between me and the Leaders of the opposition parties to see if we could achieve a united County Budget.

Full details of the budget can be found at:

http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=116&MId=4402&Ver=4

With the amendments the budget was passed with all Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Independents voting for it. Within the budget there were savings that none of us wanted to make however members were pragmatic to ensure a balanced budget was passed. We all need to work together over the coming year to deliver the budget savings.

It was welcome news from the government that we will receive £4.5 million transitional funding over the next 2 years to assist delivering those savings. The funds will be used to generate more income and deliver sustainable solutions for the re-provision of some services.

Devolution - Throughout most of the year the County Council was involved in a Devolution bid, by joining with our City and District colleagues we will deliver a more streamlined approach to deliver housing growth along with the vital infrastructure that is required not just schools and roads but medical facilities too. We would have a greater local say in this matter by working with the NHS locally in a different way.

At the start of December I joined other Council Leaders along with the CEO of the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group to put the proposal to the Secretary of State for consideration. In mid-February we had feedback that the governance arrangements were not robust enough for the bid to proceed. When I heard this I immediately contacted all the other Leaders saying that we should sit down and have a serious conversation about all forms of unitary authority from 1 to 4 including a mayor as the residents of Oxfordshire would not forgive us if we rejected the potential infrastructure because we could not agree to reorganise ourselves; I have still not had a reply.

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PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL - Just over a week later, with only 30minutes notification, the Districts announced a proposal for 4 unitary councils across Oxfordshire adding in Districts from Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire. There are very few details with the proposal and there was talk of a study into the viability of the scheme. Again I said I would be happy for the County to join the study so long as it looked at all options in an open and transparent manner. Unfortunately once again the Districts have started a process without involving the County to commission a report into the options available. The County only found out about the tender process after it had started. In that tender document it was made clear that the Districts were only considering two options. They have altered the document however it is still clear about their preferred option, leaving the tender flawed. The document is not publicly available and with the tender process finished on 8th April.

I have asked that an independently led report is commissioned that all parties can agree to look at all options in an open and transparent manner. If they do not agree to wasting taxpayer's money on flawed report then the County will have to commission a report to ensure that the residents have full details. We have published our draft tender document online to ensure that stakeholders can comment prior to starting the process. I urge the other Leaders to join in a truly independent report as there is nothing to hide. Full details of our report can be found by following the link: http://ow.ly/10lAnJ.

DRAGON IGNITES BATTLE AGAINST POTHOLES - A new weapon is being deployed in the battle against potholes on Oxfordshire's roads. The 'Dragon' – so called because of the fire-breathing nozzle it uses to dry out potholes – is a mobile patching machine that has already fixed many hundreds of potholes and a multitude of other defects on the county's roads. Skanska, OCC's highways maintenance contractor, has added the Dragon to its arsenal against potholes and is using it to good effect across Oxfordshire, Cambridge and Peterborough. The machine repairs an average of 20 defects day and has filled up to 44 potholes in one shift. So far it has fixed just short of 2,000 in Oxfordshire. The traditional method of pothole repair consists of a two-person gang and a lorry manually filling the potholes with hot tarmac. In the right circumstances, potholes filled using the Dragon can cost as little as £10 compared to £70 for traditional methods. It is also safer and provides a more environmentally sustainable solution. The potential savings that Dragon brings allows additional focus on repairing many of the defects that have yet to form into potholes. These repairs can be done at the same time due the multi-function repair capabilities of the Dragon. It can fill potholes, seal cracks and provide a thin overlay to minor surface damage. This preventative maintenance saves money in the long-term as the repairs are all undertaken at the same time.

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 - At the July 2015 Cabinet meeting Connecting Oxfordshire, the Local Transport Plan for 2015 – 2031, was agreed following public consultation. The Business Case for delivering the A40 bus lane scheme and developing the long-term A40 strategy was agreed. Work is progressing well on the Cutteslowe and Wolvercote roundabouts that will increase capacity and traffic flow.

Refugee crisis - In September 2015 like everyone in Oxfordshire, I was shocked and saddened by the images we saw of refugees fleeing brutal regimes such as Syria, where civil war is raging. After the

Prime Minister announced that Britain would need to accept more refugees from Syria, the County Council has been talking to partner agencies to see what we can do together.

The County Council has a legal responsibility to protect young children known as Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers; the number in our care has doubled over the last year to around 50. We are asking Government that we should have additional funding to minimise the impact on our services.

This led me to make to visit Calais in a personal capacity so that I could form my own opinion of the situation, speaking direct to the volunteers and those in the camp. I have to admit that expectations of what I would see were completely different from the reality of the camp. The authorities leaving a bleak and barren landscape with smouldering fires as part of the background had cleared the southern half.

As we walked through the remaining section of the camp the atmosphere was tense as obviously some people wondered why we were there and did not want to be photographed. We did have some interesting conversations with men from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq and Pakistan who expressed a desire to come to the United Kingdom to work. Obviously I cannot substantiate the claims but within the camp there were shops and building of new 'shacks'. There were children running around seemingly enjoying themselves unaware of the awful conditions they were living in.

I'm not sure what the answer is but we cannot ignore the situation that is only four hours from our comfortable lifestyle. We have to work in their own countries to make sure that they do not have to make the terrible journey across Europe to end up in such a terrible place. If people are prepared to make such a journey we have to consider how bad the conditions are in their own country.

There are a number of charity groups within Oxfordshire who are working to help the situation please contact them for more information.

It has been a challenging year and I am sure the coming will have just as many challenges however I will always ensure that I represent the residents to the best of my ability.

16/45 - DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FOR 2016 – Presented by District Councillor Charles Cottrell Dormer

The Council Tax has been increased. The D band is now £1.50 a week. There has been an amalgamation of lots of services. This has saved a lot of money.

There is a proposal for a development of 5000 houses in Lower Heyford.

There will be a new leader of the District Council as Barry Norton has retired.

16/46– OXFORD AIRPORT

No report available. Any concerns or comments do contact me Mark Crocker on 331820.

16/47– PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

Tackley Church of England Primary School has a current role standing at 110 pupils with 49% Boys and 51% Girls.

Despite the new school opening at Heyford, the school continues to have reasonable numbers starting in foundation stage with 14 starting last September. Allocations for September 2016 will be confirmed on 18th April and early indications are that we will have 14 children starting this September in reception.

Because of the lack of support and services now available through the Local Authority, the Governors have recently taken the decision to apply to join the Oxford Diocese ODST Multi-Academy Trust and will be consulting with parents, staff and the community about this during the summer term.

After a few years of uncertainty regarding the drainage problem from the foundation stage play area, the school has put in a new drain (for surface water only) direct to the stream, allowing the work on the area to finally start. So far it looks fantastic and is due to be finished in the next week or so. The main play area, which is coming to the end of its life, is also due to be refurbished this term.

The school would like to be more involved in the community and this process has started with a litter pick being done by the children on the field and the village playground in conjunction with Tackley PALs. Hopefully this will become a regular event. The school would also be interested to know if there are any other projects it could become involved in.

16/48 – RAILWAY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT presented by Councillor Robin Gibbons

1. a. **Communities Improvement Fund:** GWR franchise includes a Customer and Communities Improvement Fund (CCIF) to deliver projects that will benefit communities in areas of need. The fund is spread over three years with £750,000 available each year from April (2016).

"We want this to be a partnership fund, recognising and supporting schemes and projects identified by the communities we serve".

All the proposals will be presented to a panel of representatives from an Advisory Board (made up of local stakeholders), the Customer Panel and Executive. Their final recommendations will then be put to the Department for Transport (DfT) for approval.

Bids of all shapes and sizes are encouraged but they must relate to local rail services. The fund could help close the gap on projects where some existing funding has been secured, or could be available from other sources.

However, each proposal will be treated on merits and consideration of the benefit it would bring to the community.

b. In the bid we suggested several areas: Shelter and Noticeboard, Other signage, Fares, Sunday Service, Brochure, Marketing including designated web site for Friends of Tackley Station (FOTS).

We have been awarded 20 K in funding from the Customer and Community Investment Fund (CCIF) to increase interest amongst the wider community in Tackley Station! Both RM and RG met with the project leaders and identified the main areas, further meetings will be held as the various projects move forward.

“Richard Macrory and Robin Gibbons have been working on the submission and we were chosen from several hundred applications particularly because of the long standing engagement of the Parish Council and community with the railway and the formation of what is the new 'Friends of Tackley Station' group. The award is for enhancing projects to create more engagement and interest and we envisage that some of the money will be used for creating a designated 'railway web page’, new leaflets about the Cherwell Valley Railway, a special notice board, better signage including new ones for those using the Village Hall, Shop and Cafe. The exact list of projects has yet to be fully agreed on with GWR but we are very excited to be part of this initiative and delighted to have been one of the winning submissions!

2. Level Crossing

a. Report for the Parish Council.

Peter Brett Associates LLP (PBA) were engaged by Tackley Parish Council to undertake an outline feasibility study on a bridleway bridge to the north of Tackley Station in order to facilitate the closure of the existing level crossing to the immediate south of the station. The report was not intended to be a replacement for Network Rail’s deliverables on a project in accordance with their Governance of Rail Improvement Projects (GRIP), and only considers one option, there are in fact others including a bridge over the tracks at the end of the station.

Network Rail indicated that their safety fund could support works at Tackley up to the value of £1.9 million. The brief report considered the background, the challenges and an indication of whether Network Rail’s fund would be sufficient for this option.

b. Crossing:

Tackley crossing is defined as an unprotected crossing as it is neither manned nor an automatic level crossing. The line speed is 90mph at this location which combined with the horizontal curvature of the line gives a small sighting distance and timing, which was assessed by the RAIB with Network Rail as being as little as 120 metres, equivalent to 3 seconds at 90 mph. Although this may have improved due to replacement of a section of palisade fencing with open mesh fencing, the combination of curvature and speed still result in a low sighting distance and timing.

This does present a risk to users of the level crossings, especially mobility impaired passengers

Station usage data published by the Office of Rail Regulation indicates that there were estimated to be 20,996 entries and exits to Tackley station in the financial year 2013-2014 (http://orr.gov.uk/statistics/published-stats/station-usage-estimates). This means that there were

probably over 10,000 pedestrian uses of the level crossing by rail passengers in addition to recreational walkers, horse riders and cyclists.

c. Options: Northern Bridge Option via Balliol Farm Land

Recommendation of the report. This option appears to be feasible and deliverable within Network Rail's potential safety fund for closing the level crossing.

It is recommended that Network Rail review this option through their Governance for Rail Improvement Projects (GRIP) as soon as possible in order to secure formal agreement from the various stakeholders. A GRIP Stage 4-8 design and construction contract could then be progressed, all this depends on the result of the appeal!

There have been other suggestions about the crossing, our two rail reps have been heavily involved in meetings with various interested parties and continue to do so. In addition, discussions with GW Operatives revealed that a number of incidents have been recorded by drivers and are being filmed.in the train cab The key to this is knowledge of the dangers, traffic is increasing and will increase and the notices are clear.

c. Children and Safety: School Visit. Network rail came to the School on Thursday 26th Nov. to speak with the children about safety.

d. At present they are doing some repairs to the crossing. At the moment there is nothing further on bridge developments - will have to await Barwood appeal.

3. **Train Times.** There is nothing on train times at the moment although we are now liaising very closely with the Cherwell users Group and GW. The closure of the line for the Hinksey Project has been discussed with representatives and RG attended a meeting at which strategy was discussed, this was also useful as GW wish to keep the community informed of any train changes etc. and will use our media. The impact of Oxford Parkway on our line is also being monitored.

One of the items FOTS will be discussing is promotional stuff as per our strategy - including shopper's tickets and improved timings.

There is NO indication that our station is in any danger of being closed and it appears that we have a healthy passenger use!

16/49 – BUS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT presented by Councillor Neil Wilson

Tackley benefits from good public transport link particularly the hourly bus service to Oxford and Banbury.

The Stagecoach S4 service operates a fully commercial hourly service between the hours of 7am and 7pm Monday to Saturday using vehicles introduced a little over a year ago. These new buses provide a comfortable ride with high backed seats and offer Wi-Fi access. Unfortunately in May 2015 Tackley lost its Sunday service as the village was removed from the schedule in order to save 10 minutes on the end-to-end journey. This reduction in service time allowed for one driver to operate the entire

Sunday service in one 11-hour shift. This resulted in Tackley losing its Sunday buses.

The GoRide W10 service that currently operates one return journey to Woodstock on Mondays to Fridays is a fully subsided service. This service is likely to be withdrawn in July 2016 due to Oxfordshire County Council withdrawing all bus subsidies at the end of the current school year. Tackley does not have a bus shelter for Oxford bound services. This issue is to be addressed in the coming year.

16/50 – FINANCIAL REPORT 2014/15 presented by Julie Farren (RFO and Parish Clerk)

Year ending 31.03.2016

Overview: In December 2015 the Council approved a precept application for £22,500 thereby leaving it unchanged from the previous year. For three years, it has been the Council's intention to reduce the Capital Reserve in Accordance with the recommendation contained in the "Governance and Accountability For Local Councils – A Practitioners Guide 2010. The Guide advises that Local Councils should not accumulate unallocated funds in excess of their annual precept.

The Budget sheet indicates a reduction this year to £28,315 (from £32,429) with a further reduction to £20,815 next year.

Receipts: Income for 2015/16 was higher than anticipated by the budget, primarily due to contribution received from the PCC in connection with the church car park project. Refunded VAT from outstanding playground payments also increased receipts.

Payments: Staff costs are slightly higher due to a changeover of Parish Clerks and additional Administration associated with modified systems imposed on Local Councils. Training and expenses are now included in this category.

Purchases have been reduced this year with some intended acquisitions being delayed for further consideration, i.e. speed monitoring and a programme for replacing village notice boards. General Expenditure has exceeded the budget with additional costs of fees paid to Consultants in connection with a major planning application (traffic), sale of the pub (condition survey and valuation) and railway crossing (bridge). Subscriptions remain relatively unchanged. Grants and Donations are higher than anticipated with exceptional donations to the PCC (car park £1,000), the Methodist Church (building repairs £1,000) Scouts (camping equipment £500) and the apple press!

Projects costs have been associated with concluding outstanding/extra payments for the playground and the church car park. The TAG project – phase 1 – has been completed but the Council has not incurred any costs this year. Maintenance costs have increased slightly but remain within budget.

Conclusion: The intended capital reserve reduction is on track to reach the advised level at the end of the 2016/17 financial years and the Council is comfortable with the current financial position.

16/51 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Michael Watts said that the Tackley Mail out emailing service which is run by Mary Spicer who does a brilliant job. He thought that the emailing mailing list could be increased. At the moment 59% of the village has access to this service.

It was agreed that Mary would be asked to write an article for the next edition of the newsletter to encourage people to sign up to this service. It was also suggested that we put some posters up on the noticeboards and at the bus stops.

Michael Watts also suggested that the Chaundy Road/ Nethercote Road/ St Johns road area would benefit from a noticeboard. He has sourced a company in Cowley, which employs ex-offenders to make wooden articles. June Collier proposed that this subject be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

LS asked if the clerk could write to the PSCO Phil Workman to ask about the Police respond to the recent damage to the Village hall during a 18th Birthday Party which got out of hand. There was considerable criminal damage done to the village hall and it seemed curious that although the police were in attendance no action was taken.

The meeting was closed at 7.45pm.

Signed by ……..

Dated …….