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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish of Tackley held in the Village Hall on Friday 24th of April 2009 commencing at 7.30pm under the Chairmanship of Councillor June Collier, in attendance were, Cllr Robin Gibbons, Cllr Jim Howard, and Cllr Robert Clow. Also in attendance, District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer, and County Councillor Ian Hudspeth.

The Chairman welcomed all councillors and parishioners to the meeting.

09/029 - MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2008 were circulated and approved. Cllr Jim Howard proposed that the minutes were signed as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Robin Gibbons and the motion was carried. Cllr Collier signed a copy of the minutes.

09/030 Chairman's report.

This year once again has been quite busy; our main project has been restructuring the car park, which we did in January, with as little disruption as possible to the parishioners and the village shop. We hope that the inconvenience was worthwhile. There are two small projects still to complete, one is to widen the entrance to gain a specific access for pedestrians and upgrade the access to the school. Oxfordshire highways will augment this and they have a grant for such projects to encourage children to walk or cycle to school. We have no date for this project but it should be underway very soon or as soon as OCC projects happen (their time is slightly different to ours!!!). The other is to formalise the overnight parking. As we can't allow it to become an extension of peoples drives for all extra cars in the family! This will be implemented with the next month.

One aspect of the car park is causing concern, the recycle bins were moved into a purpose built area to keep them out of sight and the area tidy, unfortunately because it is out of site it is being used as a dumping ground for unwanted items. We will be asking people to take their rubbish home if the bins are full or to the local amenity tip if it does not fit into the bin or is not a recycle object, fly tipping is offensive and we will not tolerate it in the village.

The millennium play area is to be upgraded to enable tennis to be played, we have just secured a grant from WODC and a small contribution from the parish to purchase nets and paint the lines. This should be underway within the next two weeks and our thanks to Kate Hoffman for making this happen. We look forward to seeing everyone playing over the coming weeks. Certain times will be set-aside for tennis so as not to disrupt the other activities. Players are most welcome and should contact Kate to register and interest.

We purchased a shed for the allotments to house the mower and some of the tenant's tools. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Lester Brookes for mowing the paths and grass areas, keeping the site tidy and accessible. Lester is leaving the village and will be missed. We will be reminded of him and his partner Jean who sadly died recently as we see the Rowan Tree grow, which he has planted in her memory.

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All of the allotments are now being worked and the area is looking smart and very productive.

The children's play area has been re-fenced to protect the villagers from the children, again a grant was obtained to pay for this project.

We had a very successful visit from Gifford's Circus, who will be returning in 2010 as they are not touring this year.

We carried out a thorough and comprehensive survey of all the public trees in the village and remedial work carried out on some of these trees, this work is ongoing.

Unfortunately the post office axe man carried out his threat and downgraded our post office. Unfortunately our shop manager Angie has decided to move to pastures new, she has done a great job, increased the productivity of the shop. I think it appropriate to write to her and thank her.

The Oxfordshire Conservation Volunteers (OCV) a long section was erected last year and will be completed this summer is re-fencing Crecy hill nature reserve. OCV have workdays planned to do some clearance of the pond opposite Little Heath Farm on the edged of Tackley Heath, this will be under the guidance of Craig Blackwell our county ecologist.

We are hoping to get the Jubilee garden seat refurbished within the next month and the memorial plaque replaced.

We have had 13 planning applications this year mainly for extensions – people seem to be extending their houses now rather than moving on, we hope it is because they can't bare the thought of leaving the village! These applications included 2 new houses to be built one already started in St Johns rd and the other in Medcroft rd.

An idea has been put forward to have an extra bus stop outside the village hall. We will be discussing this and seeking advice from the bus comp.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Mrs. Margaret Evans whilst crossing the track at the station last July. She was a fantastic character and a very valued member of the community, a report on the accident has been published and recommendations for remedial actions to make the crossing safer. Councillor Gibbons will elaborate in his railway report later.

We have a village website where anyone can find out about village activities including those of the PC.

I would like to thank John Harding for organising footpath week and Olive Richardson for being our bus rep, my councillors for the support this year, and welcome Bob back from the wilderness! I would also like to thank our clerk Julie who has worked diligently to not only do the job but learn the ropes and cope with all of us, she has the role now off to a fine art and us all in order!

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Thanks to Charles our District Councillor and Ian Hudspeth our County Councillor who we or may not see in the future depending on the results of the election next month!

09/031 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The council tax has raised by 3.75% .

Five million pounds in invested in the Icelandic banks. It is likely that OCC will get some of this money back but not interest.

The Baby P abuse case has lead to an increase in the amount of child abuse referrals both nationwide and in our county. In response to this, 8 additional social workers have been employed to deal with this increase. This obviously leads to an increase in expenditure in this area.

The Parking decriminalization is being handed over to the WODC.

The Eco-town at Weston-Otmoor is still not resolved. There has now been an alternative application for North West Bicester put forward from Cherwell District Council. This is thought to be a favorable alternative.

The incinerator applications at Sutton Courtney and Ardley is still on going. This should be resolved in September.

Transport - The repair costs for the county's road network is running at 6 million. There was a severe winter this year and the supply of salt although stretched to the limit, didn't run out in the most severe weather. This meant a £600,000 overspend. However this money will not come out of the transport budget.

Cllr Hudspeth then offered to answer any questions from the floor.

A member of the public made a comment that he thought there were an excessive amount of signs for the 50 mile a hour limit. He asked whether there could be less signage.

Answer: There has recently been a review looking at all the signs between the Oxford City Centre and the edge of Gloucester. The aim of this review is to de-clutter the countryside of signs. 177 signs have been removed.

Cllr Robin Gibbons also asked if you knew how far along the proposed application for the Eco-town at North West Bicester and what impact it will make on the rail infrastructure.

Answer: There is a station proposed at Water Eaton and £300 million is proposed to be spent on the infrastructure.

09/032 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer firstly thanked the Parish Council and the clerk for being running an efficient council.

He then report that the proposed development at Upper Heyford had a public enquiry in September, but the issues still aren't resolved. The biggest impact on Tackley of

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this development is that there is a new primary school planned in Upper Heyford and it will take pupils away from Tackley Primary School.

It was also reported that a letter had been received from Network Rail to say that reporting all the various work they had done to the rail track around Tackley. The clerk reported that the Parish Council hadn't received a copy of this letter and Cllr Cottrell-Dormer agreed to forward a copy to the clerk for circulation to the Parish Councillors.

Cllr Cottrell-Dormer also reported that the District Councils precept is the second lowest in the country. However he reported that the District council had 9 million pound in the Icelandic banks.

He also reported that the planning application trend that is happening in Tackley is in line with planning throughout the District in that people seem to be extending their properties rather than moving. There is a development of new affordable housing planned for Woodstock.

09/033- AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Cllr Robert Clow read the report prepared by Cllr Paul Joslin, who was absent from the meeting.

There were the usual three meetings over the past year and the main points and issues discussed were as follows.

1. The number of aircraft movements between January and December 2008 was some 47,000 which is a decrease of 7.6% over the same period in 2007. Total aircraft movements have now fallen by about 70% since their peak 10 years ago.
2. However, the movement of jets increased by 29% over the last quarter of 2008. The new £2.5 million business passenger terminal is now operational and every effort is being made to increase business and charter jet traffic.
3. The illuminated landing system was completed last year and a major upgrade of emergency services cover has enabled the airport to handle larger aircraft with up to 50 seats.
4. The new 150,000sq. ft. hanger which is principally for the maintenance of jets is now under construction.
5. Finally in answer to a request about the minimum height of 'planes over Tackley, a formal reply has now been received confirming that 'planes should not fly lower than 762 ft above the village! There were a number of complaints from different Tackley residents at our last meeting regarding low flying and noisy aircraft. The complaint number has recently been changed to 01865 290664.

09/034 RAIL REPORT

Richard McRory and Robin Gibbons have remained in good contact and met with Richard Rowland, regional Manager of FGW over the past year. We are hoping that he will be able to attend one of our Parish Council meetings in the near future.

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First Great Western matters

1. Ticket collectors on early morning trains. Situation now improving greatly. Collectors say that scheduler in Reading has a directive from The Regional Manager saying they must sort this out. However occasionally there are no ticket collectors and the situation at Oxford can be rather fraught. Passengers who want to carry on with their journey have a lengthy queue to contend with.
2. We are looking into possibility of village shop selling carnets of Tackley - Oxford tickets.

3. For new time tabling -

- (a) aiming for shuttle type service.
- (b) try to ensure around 10 min connections to fast Reading/London trains and returns (early morning ones very good, but then connections often too tight or too long)
- (c) there is now a major gap between 7.40 and 9.50 Tackley to Oxford. Got worse over years as early trains get earlier. There must be (and all comments to us confirm) a significant commuter market to Oxford now being lost because getting into Oxford is too early for many but the 10.00 too late. There could be much good will if FGW can locate an extra train within that time. If there is any option on timing both Richard and Robin are happy to arrange local consultation on preferred time.
- (d) Summer Sunday trains now fixed. But publicity leaflets need to be produced much earlier for wide distribution. FGW to liaise with Robin on this .

4. Station

- (a) live information screens for Tackley progressing. Will also investigate an introduced 'permit to travel' machine.
- (b) adopt a station -to be handled at Oxford end, now in progress.

5. Shipton on Cherwell and the Bicester Link proposals by Chiltern Rail. At present this is in a consultative stage and there are various plans one can see, the next is 25th April at Exeter hall in Kidlington.

Obviously the Shipton arrangement will affect our line, what the proposals will do for us if the Bicester link is introduced remains to be seen, but we shall make sure we are involved.

6. Crossing.

The Independent report into the fatality on 31 March 2008 was published on 31 March 2009 and made a few recommendations several being the installation of a light system at the gates, clearance of vegetation on the track, a rethinking of the distance necessary for trains to sound their horn and a look at the 'passenger decision point' at the gates themselves. It was also pointed out that there needed to be clear communication between interested bodies. Whilst Network Rail has been involved in dealing with a number of trackside changes, clearing of trees, new gates etc, the meeting which Councillors Collier and Gibbons attended in the summer at Witney (2008) gave the distinct impression that Network Rail would like to close the crossing altogether and there is still the necessity to provide information about the work taking place. We are waiting for network rail's response to the Report.

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09/035 - END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS 2007/08

Annual Audit Return for the year ending 31st March 2008

	Year Ending	Year Ending
	31 st March 2007	31 st March 2008
Balance brought forward	£26,334	£9,848.00
(+) Annual Precept	£15,000	£15,000
(+) Total Other receipts	£320.00	£2,787.00
(-) Staff Costs	£1,984.00	£2,090.68
(-) Loan Interest/ Capital repayments	£1,773.00	£0.00
(-) Total other payments	£8,121.00	£8,447.83
(=) Balances carried forward	£9,848.00	£17,096.89
Total cash and investments	£9,848.00	£17,096.89
Total fixed assets	£32063.00	£76,353.55
Total borrowings	£0.00	£40,000

Audited accounts for year ending March 2008 were accepted and approved.
The Annual Governance Statement on the Annual Return was approved by the council and signed by Cllr Collier as chairman and Julie Farren as Clerk.

08/036 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Olive Richardson (the bus transport representative) addressed the meeting stating that she was unable to attend the next bus route planning meeting which will be held at county hall and asked if another representative from the Parish Council could attend as they will be discussing the X59 bus route.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.50pm

Signed

Dated