

Adderbury Parish Council Chairman's Report 17.4.24. (2023-2024)

Membership of the Parish Council (PC)

The Parish Council is due to stand for election on May 2nd. However only 8 residents stood for election (for 12 seats) so all 8 have been elected in an uncontested election. These residents are the current members of the Parish Council as no other residents have come forward. The PC would like to thank Rob Yeatman and Lucy Wells who have stepped down during this year. If any members of the community are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, please contact the Clerk for more details.

The Precept.

The Parish Council's Precept for 2023/2024 was £55,264 and was increased to £69,080 for 2024/2025. The Parish Council felt it needed to increase the Precept to cover the cost of its increasing bills. Many other Parish Councils have also increased their Precepts for 2024/2025, as well as having much larger reserves than Adderbury. The increase this year is partly necessary because Adderbury has not increased its Precept by very much in recent years, in an effort to help keep down household bills for residents. The Parish Council has been advised by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils that it should use the Precept to cover all of its budgetary costs for the services it provides in the village. The Parish Council should also try to build up its reserves to be able to use in the future.

Although the percentage increase appears large for the Parish Council's part of the annual Council Tax bill, the actual figure per household is quite low at £51.09 for a band D property, which equates to less than £1 per week. When residents consider the work and responsibilities of the Parish Council to maintain many village amenities the Parish Council feels the increased amount is good value for the community.

Adderbury Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANP)

The PC has progressed in reviewing the ANP to take account of CDC's new Local Plan and thanks Mark Gerold who is leading on this. A consultant has been appointed and he has provided initial advice. The PC has now also received a Housing Needs Assessment which will provide very useful information to feed into the revised ANP.

The PC has had a number of meetings with CDC and is now arranging further discussions as CDC progresses with reviewing their Local Development Plan (LDP). The ANP is an important document which has a significant role as part of the Planning process. Cherwell's Local Plan will have direct implications for our village, particularly in the context of potential new housing allocations.

If you would like further information please contact the Parish Clerk at adderburypc@hotmail.com

The New Community and Sports Centre Project (Milton Road).

The PC and residents group, Working for Adderbury Community have progressed with this exciting project which will have an intergenerational benefit across the whole community of Adderbury.

The ambition is to provide a new community hall as a hub for social and community events as well as for a number of different sports, and to also improve the facilities in the Lucy Plackett Playing Field as set out in the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan.

All the pre-commencement conditions have now been discharged and the project is ready to start once funds are in place. Following a Tender process the PC has appointed a preferred contractor and will look to provide a cost effective project. The WFAC residents and Parish Councillors group are now looking at grant applications from large funding bodies. Applications have been made to the National Lottery and to the Government Communities Fund; we have reached the second stage of applications for a Valencia (land fill) grant, and are involved in positive discussions with the FA and Football Foundation.

Fund-raising events in the village during the year have raised just under £10,000, making around £38,000 altogether raised for this project so far from events in the village. The most recent event was a very successful bingo evening in March organised by Adderbury Park Football Club, who are also assisting with the grant application to the Football Foundation.

Ongoing fundraising campaigns include 'Buy a Brick' which has raised nearly £4000 so far. The PC hopes that all residents will join in and support in whatever way they can, especially those groups who will be

using the new facilities. Residents can also help with fund raising by signing up to the Cherwell Lottery which raises funds for all sorts of causes, including the WFAC, and by using 'Easy Funding' when buying online, which provides a contribution from companies every time you shop with them online. There are links to both of these on the PC website.

The PC would like to thank all those involved in the WFAC for their hard work and time given in support of the new Community and Sports Centre project, especially Councillor Jacky Atkinson who has led on the recent fund-raising and Councillor Joel Greenberg who has led on the grant applications.

These facilities will be a valuable asset to this village and will be a benefit to the whole community now and in the future. If you would like to be involved in helping the Parish Council and WFAC team to achieve this project on behalf of the community please get in touch with the Parish Clerk, Parish Chairman or any Parish Councillor.

Adderbury Lakes Local Nature Reserve

The Lakes are always a very popular and well used amenity in the village.

Over the past year the Lakes group have taken action to deal with excessive weed growth in the Lakes and we are very grateful for the help of the Wild Banbury volunteer group who have helped with weed removal. The Lakes Management group have also applied for funding to enable using a company in the autumn to remove further weed.

Wild Banbury have also recently constructed a dry hedge to protect the Ice House, which is a listed building.

The Council wishes to thank all members of the Lakes Management Committee for their hard work in managing the Lakes Local Nature Reserve, especially Rick Atkinson for his work on day to day management and raising funds, and Rachel Moffat who organises the Volunteer work parties, and also to thank the volunteers, who help at the monthly work parties held between September and March. The contribution of all these residents is invaluable and shows how popular the Lakes are within this community.

News pages in Contact

The PC hope residents like these news pages which are instead of putting the Minutes in Contact. The Minutes are the official record of the PC meeting and are available on PC website. The PC thanks Councillor Rachel Moffat for all her efforts on the News pages each month.

Biodiversity Project

This initiative will continue this year and a number of areas around the village will be left unmown during the summer months to encourage grass and wild flowers to grow, as they were last year, including some areas in the Lucy Plackett Field. Also there will be less cutting of the grass verges around the village and none in May, as part of this initiative. The PC thanks all residents who have been involved in this project.

Grass cutting

This is a major cost to the parish each year and the PC has decided to cut the verges less often over the summer (5 times instead of 8) in order to save on these costs. This should also benefit wildlife and to encourage biodiversity the verges will not be cut in May. Other areas like the village Green and the Lucy Plackett Field will be cut on the same regime as previously.

The PC hopes residents will agree with this decision but any residents who wish to mow verges near their own properties may do so.

Play Areas

The PC inspects the play areas at the Rise and the Lucy Plackett Field monthly and undertakes repairs where necessary.

Grants

The PC annually supports a number of village organisations with grants such as FOCAL, adderbury.org, First Adderbury Scouts, Theatre Workshop, History Association, the Bowls Club and many more.

The LPPF Survey

A huge thank you to everyone who completed the survey with regard to usage and dogs on the Lucy Placket Playing Field. The PC has analysed the responses and has decided that for the moment, dogs will continue to be allowed on the field on a lead. However, we will be monitoring the situation and if it appears that this rule is not being adhered to, this may have to change. We encourage all dog walkers to pick up after their dogs, there are plenty of bins around the park and field to put your waste in, or please take it home.

The responses about the usage made of the playing field showed a very wide range of uses including dog walking and use of the play equipment and the PC has recorded all the new things residents suggested. The full results are available on the Parish Council web site.

Traffic calming

The introduction of the 20mph following the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) consultation has been fairly successful but the PC has requested a number of changes, notably on the A4260 along Oxford Rd, the Green and the School. We are hoping OCC will review the 30mph in these areas.

The PC has been successful in getting some signage changed.

The PC and the Traffic calming group have raised a number of issues with OCC with regards to signage for village facilities like the shop, safety railings around the school and dedicated parking spaces but have not yet reached agreements on these.

The PC is aware of parking issues and is trying to work with OCC as this is a County Council responsibility.

The Community Speedwatch now has a new group of residents who have been trained and have identified areas to check speeds. This was very successful previously and offenders details were passed to Thames Valley Police (TVP) who then sent approximately 100 letters. TVP also welcome the traffic data as they can additionally follow up with any vehicles that are drawn to their attention for other reasons (like insurance or tax) and visit and/or prosecute accordingly.

The PC wishes to thank all residents who are helping on these groups and especially Melissa Zuydem who is leading on these initiatives. If you would like to know more there is further detail about the Speedwatch scheme please contact the Clerk.

Planning

The PC has commented on many planning applications this year and all details of planning applications are available on the CDC web site and residents are also able to make comments too.

The PC will continue to comment on any further consultations on behalf of residents including the next stage of Cherwell's Local Plan. The PC has raised issues with CDC over an application behind the Secombe Care home and spoke at the Council's Planning Committee in November with regard to this. The PC has raised issues over the lack of affordable housing and other community benefits.

Day of Dance

Just a reminder that it is the Day of Dance on this Saturday (27th April). The PC offered to pay for the road closure but this year the Morris teams have decided they will not need one as they do not have one for other dancing events, like on Boxing day. Next year is the 50th Anniversary and the PC has advised they will need to plan ahead. The PC will support the anniversary if the Morris teams wish.

Finally, I wish to thank the Clerk and all councillors, including our District and OCC members, for their time and efforts over this past year in working to support the Adderbury community.

Diane Bratt, Chairman Adderbury Parish Council.

April 2024