

Chairman's Report April 2025

I would like to start my report by first thanking Ann Lyons who stepped down at the last elections after over 20 years as a Parish Councillor serving this community. She contributed in many different ways and her tireless efforts and commitment were exemplary.

The purpose of this report is to outline the main points of the work undertaken by the Parish Council in the village over the past year.

Traffic calming and parking

The PC was pleased to see that signage for village facilities like the shop was finally achieved this year, after some prolonged discussion with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). Last year I mentioned there had been a number of issues raised by residents over parking in the village and the PC had taken up this matter with OCC who suggested some 'solutions' of dedicated parking spaces. However, following a consultation, residents did not support suggested changes.

Community Speed Watch - With support from Thames Valley Police and the Parish Council, the Community Speed Watch Scheme is now up and running again in the village. New temporary signs will soon be erected around the village to indicate that volunteers will be monitoring the speeds of traffic and passing the information to Thames Valley Police. Melissa Zuydam is thanked for her work leading the project and thanks to all the volunteers in Melissa's team.

Adderbury Lakes Local Nature Reserve

The Lakes are always a very popular and well used amenity in the village. They are owned by the PC and managed by a volunteer group of residents and councillors.

Over the past year the Lakes group have worked with the PC to obtain a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) to employ a contractor to help remove excessive weed growth in the Lakes. This has worked very well but we do still have some weed growth which the Lakes team hopes to remove manually.

The management team is planning to update the survey of all the trees at the Lakes and will be applying for grants towards this in the coming months.

Work to repair the Lakes boundary wall in the Long Wall Footpath will be starting in May.

The Council wishes to thank all members of the Lakes Management Group for their hard work in managing the Lakes Local Nature Reserve, especially Rick Atkinson for his work on 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.

The Allotments and the Millennium Cup

The PC is always keen that the Parish allotments are well used and there are regular inspections made.

Last year the Millennium cup (awarded in honour of the PC's millennium) was awarded for the "best overall allotment". The PC also, for the first time, awarded a number of Highly Commended certificates to allotment tenants who had made considerable effort on their plots. This year the team have suggested the cup is given for 'Continuity of growing', in other words to the allotment which shows the best all year growing so that we can see spring, summer, autumn and winter vegetables/fruit on the allotment.

During this year the PC has provided a new water trough and had work done to remove ivy and other growth from the walls, as well as employing a regular contractor to keep paths and communal areas tidy. We hope all tenants will enjoy their allotments and make full use of them.

Grass cutting and Biodiversity areas

Grass cutting is a major cost to the parish each year and last year the PC decided to cut the verges less often over the summer (5 times instead of 8) in order to save on these costs as well as hoping to benefit wildlife and to encourage biodiversity. Other areas like the village Green and the Lucy Plackett Field were cut on the same regime as previously. However, we unfortunately hit the wettest spring and early summer for many years and found that the grass became virtually unmanageable in some areas. This

year the PC has decided to revert to the previous number of cuts for the verges, as well as other areas and we hope this will look tidier and be more manageable. The Lucy Plackett cutting regime is slightly changed this year to allow more cuts in the earlier season when the grass is fast growing. The Biodiversity areas, such as at the entrance to St Mary's Road, are still being kept for wildlife and the PC thanks residents who are involved with these projects.

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

The PC and Working for Adderbury Community (WFAC) team have continued working to bring this project forward. 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 as set out in the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan. The Planning permission has been secured and all the pre-commencement conditions have been discharged so the project is ready to start once funds are in place. At last year's Parish Meeting I reported that the PC / WFAC team were applying for large grants towards this project. Unfortunately grant funding has not come forward. However, following advice from Cherwell District Council (CDC) the PC has looked at how to progress this project and has discussed with the contractor to value engineer the building in order to provide a cost-effective project. I'm pleased to report that Section 106 funds have grown meaning our shortfall is now more manageable and also to confirm that CDC is now working with the PC and is developing a business case for the project with the intention of achieving completion. The PC/ WFAC team will also apply again for grant funding as the gap is now much smaller.

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 Fundraising' 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 Councillors and members of the WFAC for their hard work and time given in support of the new Community and Sports Centre project. These facilities will be a valuable asset to this village and will be a benefit to the whole community now and in the future.

Day of Dance

This year is the 50th anniversary of the Day of Dance on April 26th and the Parish Council has supported the Morris teams again this year. The High Street will be closed through the village during the day with access for residents and businesses from each end. The PC thanks Laura Walker from Sharp and Blunt for all her hard work organising the Day of Dance and also Tom Smith for providing the skip for the event. This day is always a highlight for the Adderbury community.

The play areas at the Rise and Lucy Plackett Field

These areas are inspected monthly by Councillors and are maintained by the PC. The PC thanks Councillor Simon Davies for this work.

News pages in Contact

The PC has continued with these over the year and we hope residents find them interesting as well as informing everyone about the PC's activities on behalf of the community. The official Minutes of PC meetings are a legal document and are published on the PC website. Thanks are due to Councillor Rachel Moffat who manages to pull everything together in time for the Contact deadline every month.

Adderbury Neighbourhood Development Plan (ANP)

As residents may be aware, Cherwell District Council (CDC) are updating their Local Development Plan (LP) . Adderbury has been allocated a target of 75 new homes over the life of the plan to 2042 which is in line with the allocation across all larger villages in Cherwell.

The PC is currently reviewing the ANP in order that it can be updated to reflect the emerging LP and, in particular, this allocation of housing. We have been taking professional advice and are pulling together recommendations which will then be put to the Parish along with the proposed updated ANP. The PC has liaised with a number of professional consultants to produce reports including a Housing Needs Survey and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which will help inform the revised ANP.

Many of the existing policies are still relevant but the revised ANP will include a Design code and we will be examining potential sites to accommodate the new housing allocation. The PC will consult with

residents once, following professional advice, options have been narrowed down. The PC has agreed that we need to allocate potential sites in order to ensure that the community has a say as to the location of any new development and any development complies with the revised ANP. All of the larger villages in CDC (except one) are also allocating sites.

The PC wishes to thank all residents and councillors who are working on revising the ANP.

Flooding in Adderbury

The Adderbury community has often been the victim of flooding over the years but during the major storms of autumn 2024 over 20 homes and two businesses flooded and the PC has voiced its concern for those residents involved. Since the flood events the PC has spoken to all the authorities with any responsibility for flooding and has held a number of site meetings. Flooding was both pluvial (when the water courses have overflowed) and fluvial (due to surface water) largely through poor road drainage. We have managed to get action taken: Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has taken measures to clear the road drainage network and is investigating improvements to the system. At the last PC meeting (March 25th) Peter Collins from the Environment Agency (EA) spoke to residents particularly with reference to flooding which had stemmed from the Sor Brook and Mill Stream and a number of actions were agreed. The PC has now applied for funding towards some actions, though nothing is guaranteed, and the OCC, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, is preparing a Section 19 Report to address all the flooding issues and hopefully support actions to mitigate the effects of flooding in the future.

I would like to thank all Parish Councillors who have given their time and commitment to this community throughout the last year, and finally to thank Theresa, our Parish Clerk, who the PC relies on for all her excellent and knowledgeable advice.