

## **Adderbury Parish Council Chairman's Report 12.4.22. (2021-2022)**

### **Covid 19**

The Parish Council is now largely back to normal for monthly meetings in the Church House but requests that residents do not attend if they have any possible symptoms. Should the pandemic worsen again the PC may revert to Zoom meetings.

The Council has been able to help a number of voluntary organisations and groups during this unprecedented time and a grant from Cherwell District Council was secured by the Parish Council which provided funds for both the Christopher Rawlins Primary school and for the Adderbury library.

Please contact the Parish Clerk or any councillor if anyone needs advice about where to get support.

### **Membership of the Parish Council**

At the election on May 7<sup>th</sup> (2021) 9 residents stood for election (for 12 seats) so all 9 were elected in an uncontested election. Since May there have been a number of new Councillors who have been co-opted for the vacant places. All Councillors represent the whole of Adderbury Parish and the current 10 Councillors live across all areas of Adderbury.

### **Adderbury Lakes Local Nature Reserve**

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

In the high winds last autumn and this spring some trees were blown over, including a huge cedar tree which fell across the whole of the lower lake. This had to be removed with winches and the PC is grateful to the owners of neighbouring land for allowing access for the necessary machinery.

The Lakes group have also been discussing the issue of weed growth and silt in the Lakes with the Environment Agency, Thames Water and Oxfordshire Highways. This is ongoing but a number of actions have been taken and it is hoped the weed growth will be lessened this summer and in the future.

Special thanks are due to Rick Atkinson and Nigel Claxton for their efforts at the Lakes throughout the year but the Council wishes to thank all members of the Lakes Management Committee for their hard work in managing the Lakes Local Nature Reserve and also the large number of volunteers, especially Rachel Moffat who organises the group, who help at the monthly work parties held between September and April. Their contribution to the Lakes is invaluable and shows how popular the Lakes are within this community.

### **Biodiversity Project**

This has been taken up by residents and a number of areas around the village have been left unmown during the summer months to encourage grass and wild flowers to grow. These include Lake Walk Green, and St Mary's Rd entrance as well as two amenity areas on the Aynho Road. There is also a small area of meadow flowers on the Rise, near the Children's play area. A number of these are being monitored by residents and the areas on the Aynho Rd (Longwall Close and Sydenham Close) are being managed for meadow plants through agreement with Cherwell District Council (CDC) which has responsibility for these two areas. The project is now in its second and third year so it will be interesting to see how the areas develop. The PC thanks all residents who have been involved in this project.

### **Traffic calming**

This is an important issue in a number of areas across the village. In the past the Parish Council has achieved a number of traffic calming measures, like the VAS signs and gateways and road markings at village entrances. During last year, following the liaison between the PC and the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) officers, and after public consultation traffic chicanes on the Milton Road and Berry Hill road were built.

The PC is now considering further possible traffic calming throughout the village. The PC has commissioned OCC to conduct a survey of road speeds and vehicle types in the village which will provide up to date details with regard to traffic.

The PC has registered with OCC to be included in their consideration of 20mph limits in villages and the PC has set up a public consultation on this and also on the suggestion of closing off the western arm of the Oak Tree corner to prevent vehicles entering Hornhill Rd from the Milton Rd at speed. The public consultation is online (accessed from the PC website) and in the 'Contact'. The PC wishes to thank all residents who are helping on this group and especially Melissa Zuydem who has been involved in setting up the public consultation.

Alongside these developments the PC's Environment Committee and a dedicated group of village members have developed the Community Speedwatch. This had to stop due to Covid but has now begun again. It is hoped to have several speed watch teams established in different parts of the village if there are enough volunteers from among residents. This was very successful before Covid and teams logged in excess of 100 significant offenders whose details are passed to Thames Valley

Police (TVP) who then sent approximately 100 letters. TVP 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 work in Adderbury has been commended as an example of a community working with the authorities successfully.

The PC wishes to thank the OCC and all those Parish Councillors and community members who are working hard to achieve this scheme and also to especially thank Bob Meadows who is leading the Community Speedwatch team. There is further detail about the Speedwatch scheme on the Parish website.

### **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations**

This will take place over the June bank holiday from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June until Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. The PC has been working with a group of residents to plan events for the Saturday. These are advertised in the Contact and on the PC website and Adderbury.org. The PC has applied for a grant from Cherwell District Council towards the event.

## **Dog Fouling**

The PC was working with residents on a 'Poo Means Paint' initiative where any dog faeces not picked up is spray painted by volunteers to draw attention to it, which had been trialled elsewhere with positive results.

This initiative ended during lockdown but the PC would like to restart this if some volunteers come forward.

## **Planning**

The Council has considered a large number of planning applications throughout the year including an application for a large number of houses extending the Longford Park site closer to Adderbury and the appeal for 40 houses on the Berry Hill road.

The Parish Council has also made representation on the Cherwell Local Plan consultation, OCC Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, OCC's Oxfordshire 2050 Plan, the Northamptonshire County Council's Local Plan (for where it affects Adderbury).

The PC will continue to comment on any further consultations on behalf of residents. This will include OCC's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan consultation once it starts (probably after the local elections on 5 May 2022) as the PC has been asked by residents to support a cycle route/footpath from Milton to the new Community and Sports Facility on the Milton Road.

The PC is also beginning to consider how the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan will need to be revised to take account of CDC's new Local Plan. The PC Chairman has attended meetings with other parishes who have Neighbourhood Plans and we will be discussing this further with CDC.

## **The Milton Road Sports and Community Project.**

The Parish Council's ambition for this project is to provide a facility which will have a number of different sports, as well as a new community hall and to also improve the facilities in the Lucy Plackett Playing Field. This is set out in the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan under policy AD18. This project has been the subject of two Parish Polls as well as other consultations.

The Parish Council and residents group (Working for Adderbury Community) have made significant progress so far.

— The pitches are sown so they will be ready for playing when the changing rooms are completed (all following the original advice of the Oxford FA/ Sport England and Cherwell District Council).

— The Highways entrance has been completed and a new footpath and a pedestrian crossing linking the site with the village have been completed.

All of this has been done under budget.

---All the planning permissions for the new building have been agreed, including a revised version to make the building more cost effective, and the majority of reports from consultants are now ready for determination of the planning conditions required before the build can start.

— the PC is working with the architect and a Structural engineer to discuss with potential builders to obtain costs and to finalise the building materials etc. We have indicative costs from HMB (local quantity surveyors).

The WFAC held a community day in September 2021 which was very successful. The residents and Parish council group are now looking at grant applications and fund raising. There are over 30 village sports and Community groups who have expressed a wish to use the new facilities, including the Christopher Rawlins Primary School. This is an exciting project which will have an intergenerational benefit across the whole community of Adderbury.

The PC would like to thank all those involved in the WFAC for their hard work and time given in support of the Milton Road project, especially Jackie Head. These facilities will be a valuable asset to this village and will be a benefit to the whole community now and in the future.

The Parish Council has now begun a campaign to raise funds to help build this new facility. We are hoping that all residents will join in and support in whatever way they can, especially those groups who will be using the new facilities. There will be further events including the Platinum Jubilee Celebration on Saturday 4th June, the Adderbury Community Activity Day in September and a Community Fundraising Spring/Summer Ball in 2023. Also residents can 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 every time you shop online. There are links to both of these on the PC website.

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.

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. Particular thanks go to District Councillor Andrew McHugh who will be stepping down at the coming elections and who has been a great support to this Parish Council and to all our residents.

Diane Bratt, Chairman Adderbury Parish Council.  
April 2022