

Chairman's Report April 16th 2019

I am happy to welcome the public and Councillors to the meeting.

Since the last annual Parish Meeting we have welcomed two new councillors, Garrad Millier and Victoria Head, both of whom are already making a valuable contribution to Council matters.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those Councillors who stood down during this year, Chris Shallis and Penny Clarke.

The Parish Council has had quite a busy year in 2018 -2019.

The Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan

Following the hard work of the Neighbourhood Plan(ANP) team the plan was passed by a majority of residents voting in a Local Referendum, organised by Cherwell District Council. It has now been 'made' which means the Plan is now accepted as part of CDC's Local Plan and its policies are now part of the Planning process for Adderbury and must be taken into consideration for any Planning application.

There are 21 policies in the ANP which seek to guide development in the Parish. The ANP makes no extra allocation of land for housing, but it does allocate land for new sport and leisure facilities on the Milton Road. The Plan has 11 Design policies aimed to maintain the character of our historic village, which were highly commended by Historic England as 'an example of good practice in Neighbourhood Planning that adds the benefit of local understanding to the application of national and local policy at the neighbourhood level'. The Plan also seeks to protect the landscape in open countryside and maintain and enhance Adderbury's green infrastructure, as well as supporting local businesses and employment.

Once the Plan had been accepted at the referendum there was further work to do to ensure particular policies were clear and met Cherwell's standards. I and other members of the ANP team worked with Cherwell's officers on this final stage of the Plan and I would particularly thank Sam Brown, the ANP Chairman for her continued effort at this time. The Neighbourhood Plan is already helping to guide planning in Adderbury.

The Friends Meeting House

Last year I reported that the PC was intending some major maintenance and repairs to the Friends Meeting House. This work was completed during the summer last year. The plastic rainwater goods have been replaced with cast iron and repointing has been completed to all the elevations. All the windows have been repaired and repainted and new metal grills to protect the windows have been installed. This has been funded from the New Homes Bonus, a grant from Oxfordshire Historic Chapels Trust and the Precept. The Friends Meeting House is one of the most important historic buildings in the village, after the Church, and I would recommend anyone to visit this hidden gem if you are able.

The Milton Road Land

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 village hall and to also improve the facilities in

the Lucy Plackett field. This is set out in the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan under policy AD18.

Towards this end the Parish Council applied for change of use of the land at Milton road and this planning application was agreed by the District Council in September 2018. The Parish council has since been working to discharge three pre-commencement conditions, which relate to field drainage and an archaeological survey. I am pleased to say that two have been discharged and the third is now being considered by the OCC archaeology officer and should be dealt with in the next few weeks. Once this is completed the Parish Council will progress with the preparation of the pitch area of the field.

The Parish Council has also appointed an architect to work with the Working for Adderbury Community (WFAC) group to produce initial concept designs based on their research of potential user groups in the community. Once these have been completed they will be put to the Parish Council for agreement and will form the basis of a planning application for the next phase of the project which is the building and associated car parking, muga and highway entrance.

The Parish Council has also agreed to the appointment of a Quantity Surveyor to provide indicative costs for building this design. This will inform the business plan and also applications for grant funding.

I would like to thank all those involved in the WFAC for their hard work and time given in support of this project.

Adderbury Lakes Local Nature Reserve

The Lakes continues to be a very popular and well used amenity in the village. Most recently the Lakes have hosted a children's Easter treasure hunt to raise funds for Katharine House Hospice.

This year has seen the completion of the path renovation project. Also repairs to the Ice House, including improved conditions for bats, were completed during the summer.

I wish to thank all members of the Lakes committee for their hard work in managing the Lakes Nature Reserve and also the large number of volunteers 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.

Forest School Project

The Chairman of the Parish Council has liaised with Christopher Rawlins School to allow the school to use the area of land next to the Adderbury Court amenity area for open air and Forest school activities. The Parish Council has secured an access from Vera Wood Close in the Barwood homes development so that this area can be maintained by the Council's contractors. There has also been a number of working parties which involved parents, teachers and pupils from the school as well as nearby residents and members of the Lakes volunteer group. The children from Christopher Rawlins have planned out the area for wildlife and are hoping to enhance the natural habitat with such things as bird feeders and boxes for hedgehogs.

Almost all of the children at Christopher Rawlins have been involved in activities for this project during the past year.

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 gates and road markings at village entrances. Last year the Parish Council worked with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to improve the timing at the traffic lights and this should be in effect later this year. Also the Parish has liaised with OCC to produce surveys on all major roads which has now informed the Traffic calming discussions. The ideas developed by the original working group have now been progressed to the Parish Council's Environment Committee. This committee is currently working closely with OCC officers to develop a plan for traffic calming throughout the village. I would like to thank all those Councillors on the Environment Committee who are working hard to achieve this and also Jonathan White who has provided his expertise and advise to the Parish Council in this matter.

Strategic Plan

Last year, following the Hoey Ainscough review of Parish Council procedure, the Council set up a working group to develop a Strategic Plan for the Parish. It will draw on the policies set out in the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan.

So far the Council has agreed on an overriding vision and four sets of objectives with actions linked to them. Not all these objectives can be achieved by the Parish Council alone, some require agreement and input from other bodies like CDC and OCC, or from the community itself.

The intention of the Strategic Plan is that this will enable Councillors to agree priorities for the various projects in which the council is involved and to link this with the Parish Council's financial planning.

I would like to thank members of the Strategic Working Plan group for their efforts on this and especially Councillor Mitchell in leading on this important work.

Application for Judicial Reviews

I am pleased to announce that the Parish Council have now received back all the costs (£6100) incurred in defending against the two failed applications for judicial reviews. The Parish Council now considers this matter closed and has passed a resolution to that effect.

Day of Dance

This will take place on April 27th. This is a very traditional village event and I hope all residents will want to join in what is a very sociable community occasion. In order for the event to take place safely the police request that the road through the village is closed from Green Farm to the Tithe Barn, except for access. The road closure is 'manned' by volunteers throughout the day. This is run by the Parish Council but we do need residents to help during the day. There are currently some gaps on the rota and if anyone can give up an hour to help with this, could they please contact the Clerk or myself.

I wish to thank all residents who have volunteered to help and also Councillor Martin Rye for organising the signs and the Clerk for organizing the Road closure with CDC and delivery of bins for rubbish on the day.

Shop Closure

It is disappointing to note that Adderbury's village shop has closed again, after re-opening some time ago.

The village shop is a community asset and local service and the Parish Council is committed to supporting it, as under Policy AD19 of the Neighbourhood Plan and also in our Strategic Plan.

The council will discuss the shop's closure at their next meeting. If any residents would like to be involved in discussions on this or have ideas for how this important community asset can be re-opened and helped in future please contact myself or the Clerk.

Last year my report was quite long as I wanted to demonstrate the large number of ordinary activities and work that Parish Councillors do 'behind the scenes' in the community throughout the year, so it included items like maintenance, grants and planning. However, this year I hope I have demonstrated how the Parish Council is involved in many forward looking, positive projects throughout the community which are aimed at benefiting and enhancing life in this village for everyone. This is what I believe a Parish Council should be aiming to achieve.

Finally, I would like to thank all Councillors for their time and efforts and continued support over this past year on behalf of this community and especially thank the Parish Clerk, Theresa Goss, for all her professional and excellent advice to the Council during this past year.

Diane Bratt, Chairman