

WHITCHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Whitchurch Annual Parish Meeting held in Whitchurch Combined School,
Whitchurch on Monday 12th May 2014 at 7.30pm

Report by Chairman Cllr Ashley Bond

It has been another busy year for the Council where a number of projects have been undertaken namely:

Mobile Vehicle Activate Sign – we have purchased the MVAS unit with the assistance of the BCC LAF and this will be installed on site over the coming months and should assist in slowing down traffic through all parts of the village as it can be moved to different locations. If you can assist with this project then please get in touch with the Council.

We are working with BCC to try and get a footpath to the bus stop from Church Headlands Lane. The proposal will be taken to the BCC LAF in June and hopefully this will receive funding.

£250 was received from Cllr Netta Glovers Leader Fund 13/14 to buy a plaque for the Jubilee Tree. The funds received allowed us to also purchase one for the Victoria tree outside the garage as well. – Thanks to Netta for this.

£250 has been received this year for bulbs which will be planted in the roundabout area on High Street. Cllr Sanders has kindly agreed to organise this project and our thanks to her and Netta.

Meetings have been held at the pub and our thanks to the landlords for always making us so welcome. However we are no longer able to use this venue due to the pubs popularity which is great news in a way, so thanks go to the school who have allowed us to meet here.

Overhead wires were removed at the Recreation field and instead put underground which has made the area 'feel' much safer.

The Council purchased and Automated External Defibrillator which has been put in the phone box on the High Street for anyone to use should the need arise. People should still call 999. Familiarisation session will be held once organised by a Cllr with Community Heartbeat Trust, however training is not necessary for its use however CPR training is also given. The BT telephone kiosk has been adopted by the Council and is now owned by us.

We have changed our lighting contractor to Aylesbury Mains Lighting as this will reduce costs in lighting maintenance and they have the equipment now necessary for accessing all our lights.

Steve Haywood has assisted the council by clearing up areas of overgrown foliage....in particular at the roundabout and the area is now clear and looking tidier.

We continue to try and obtain funding for a pedestrian crossing in the High Street. The Council has approved a plan of asking the LAF in June for funding for a feasibility study following which if successful the AVDC New Homes Bonus pot would be requested to fund the whole project.

A meeting was held with BCC regarding trying to obtain signage on Oving Road to restrict Heavy Goods Vehicle. BCC are not in favour of this however it was agreed that new road markings would be painted on the bend at Pitchcott and a traffic survey would be undertaken jointly by Whitchurch and Oving Parish Council in the summer to try and provide some data for BCC.

We continue to push BCC to install the second school crossing sign which they received the funding for a couple of years ago now from the Affordable Houses. It is hoped this will be installed shortly.

The village owes a huge amount to Heather and Robin Moore who continue to look after the land at the Meadows so well. Their dedication knowledge and advice has been a huge benefit to the Council in ensuring the orchard is well maintained and the Wild flower meadows continue to flourish. They have given up many hours of their time to look after the site for the village and we are all most thankful to them both. Our thanks also go to ----- for looking after the pond.

Thanks go to Betty Rose for the cleaning of the shelters and other aspects in the Village.

Also thanks again to Andrew Pain for communicating to parishioners through the website and his emails on a regular basis.

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Thanks to Cllr Foot for his regular inspections of the play equipment and emptying of the bins and general bits of maintenance in the area.

Due to changes in Government funding of Council Tax Benefit we have had to increase the precept this year as the grants were removed from AVDC as well this year and thus parishioners are paying an increased amount to cover this shortfall from the government (last year) and AVDC (this year). Actual income 14/15 will be £21,525 by way of Precept this year against a total of £22,775.44 last year (£21k Precepts and the rest AVDC grant). We will continue to try and keep the precept as low as possible.

I would also like to express my thanks to all my fellow Councillors, our minute secretary Michelle Jackson and also to County Councillor Netta Glover who frequently attends our meetings and has been a great help in many County issues keeping us up to date with developments.

This is the Clerks last meeting and following ratification at the next meeting we will have a new clerk. My thanks go to Sue for her many years of service as she is leaving parish councils to return to business world.