



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2024 held at Weston Turville Village Hall.

PRESENT: Parish Councillors: M Baylis, R Blackmore (Chair), M Collins, L Cook, S Dawkins, M Jarvis, P Routledge and C Terry
 Parish Clerk: Mrs S Copley
 Sixteen members of public

1	WELCOME, APOLOGIES, ANNOUNCEMENTS Cllr Blackmore welcomed everyone to the meeting, Cllr Buchanan had sent apologies.	
2	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING The minutes of the meeting held in April 2023 were agreed and signed as a true record.	
3	THAMES VALLEY POLICE Unfortunately due for operational reasons no representative from Thames Valley Police was able to attend. They had sent an update stating that vehicle break ins around the Holiday Inn were being investigated, along with incidences of youths riding motorbikes around the recreation ground.	
4	PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S REPORT The Chairman's report on the work of the Parish Council was read out to the meeting, a copy of the report is attached to these minutes as appendix 1.	
5	COMMUNITY WILDBELT PROJECT Amanda Barnicoat gave an interesting and informative presentation on the work of the Chilterns Society, in particular their Community Wildbelt project which was set up with Community Board funding. They are working on various local projects, including with Weston Turville Parish Council at The Glebe Field, wildflower beds and at the recreation ground.	
6	CLIMATE ACTION WESTON TURVILLE Malcolm Allison explained the background and work of the local climate action group and highlighted some of its successes, including energy surveys using a thermal imaging camera which allows homeowners to see what improvements can be made to reduce heat loss. CAWT works closely with the parish council and other local organisations on climate initiatives. The group meets monthly on the first Wednesday, all are welcome.	
7	WESTON TURVILLE COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS This presentation did not take place.	
8	WIDOW TURPIN CHARITY Mr Hugh Chamberlain the local Trustee & Hon Treasurer provided a report on the activities of the Charity. The charity derives a small income from the rent of a field left to the charity, the income is used to distribute food vouchers to people in need in Weston Turville or they can arrange delivery of food. Anyone who knew of someone in need were urged to contact the Charity for help.	

9	<p>VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE</p> <p>CLr Cathy Terry, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee had provided a report on the village hall, a copy is attached to these minutes as appendix 2.</p>	
9	<p>OPEN FORUM AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS</p> <p>There were no matters raised under this item and the meeting was closed and followed by a buffet and informal networking.</p>	

Signed: _____ Dated: _____

Appendix 1 – Parish Council Chairman’s report

Intro

Lovely to see you all. I’m Rachel Blackmore and am enjoying being part of WTPC and would like to share what we do, what we have done over the past year and plan for the future.

We are very fortunate living in this beautiful area with our public footpaths, recreational facilities, reservoir, canal, open countryside, Chiltern Hills and woods nearby.

With our current climate and ecological crisis, it is more important than ever that we work together locally as a community to support each other and influence the situation for the better, so all that we do as a parish council keeps this in focus.

Councillors

I am delighted to say that we currently have 9 councillors, and welcome Amanda Buchanan and Peter Routledge who have joined us recently. We still have room for 1 more, so I hope we can enthuse and inspire one of you to join us over the course of this evening! Many thanks to all our councillors for all their hard work and commitment to our whole growing parish community. You may know our parish extends up to and over the A41 to Aston Reach and Woodlands developments and over to the A413 up to Hampden Hall. We will be welcoming more people into our parish in the near future to our Hampden Fields development, as we in turn were welcomed here, when we were born here or arrived later.

Meetings

We meet once a month on the third Thursday, except August and December, time for breaks. Agendas are put on our 6 notice boards around the parish and minutes are posted on our pc website. Residents are welcome to attend our monthly pc meetings, bring their suggestions and feedback at the start and find out more about what we do. We have 2 sub committees: ‘Planning and highways’ and ‘Finance, governance and personnel’ and 2 working groups, one to update our Neighbourhood Plan, thank you to Laura’s enthusiasm leading this NP working group and our new councillor Amanda brings a lot of expertise in this area. The other is our Climate Working Group.

Working with other residents and organisations:

Our Climate Working Group works closely with residents and with Chiltern Wildbelt on biodiversity, and we have Amanda Barnicoat from there speaking shortly.

We also work closely with our community group Climate Action Weston Turville CAWT. Malcolm will be talking to you shortly about some of our CAWT initiatives. We plan to start a community Repair Café in the village hall here in the autumn. So if any of you are good at repairing things do come and speak to us after.

Events

The Parish Council host community events through the year. We have children’s Easter activities with games and an easter egg hunt on the rec. (Jubilee Park) (Memorial Playing Field) and village hall. We are hoping to resurrect our summer fair in 2025, organised so well in the past by former councillor Mandi Simons, who has stepped down as a councillor after many loyal years. Now we have Laura Cook keen to lead on this and we will all support the event. We have summer play sessions booked on the rec or hall, we organise a Christmas Tree and Christmas carols round the tree with mince pies in December. We also support the Street Food events, started again this April and continuing on the 1st Friday of the month across the summer, again thanks to Mandi Simons for starting and continuing to organise these. This year we look forward to a D Day commemorative event on 6th June evening, WTT tickets free, book early as limited capacity. All these events bring us together as a community and are very well attended and the feedback positive.

Plans for the coming year include:

- Electric vehicle charging points in the village hall car park Oct ‘24– March ‘25 liaising BC procurement
- Replace old, worn out benches, bins, styles to gates as not accessible etc

- Bucks highways own our verges, the pc organise cutting and can apply for areas not to be cut to increase biodiversity. We have done this for some areas with wild flowers, which residents have planted and are looking to increase these areas
- Installation of outdoor table tennis and gym equipment on the rec
- Hot off the press we now have planning permission for a café at the back of village hall as a changing room conversion

Residents' Concerns

One of the key concerns of our residents is the new housing developments and vehicles involved in its construction. Obviously people need homes and we are working with the developers to mitigate disruption and will support residents where they have issues over planning. In particular we have represented our parish on the strategic planning meetings and have all been able to give feedback on the Hampden Fields development through Reserved Matters, which will continue with each new section of the building and will be on the pc website. We are working with developers on plans for traffic calming and new recreation facilities through section 106 agreements.

We are grateful to the Hampden Fields Action Group HFAG for all of their work. This has meant the development has been delayed by over a decade, which means there are now more stringent climate and environmental regulations. The new housing should not have gas supplied, all heating and other energy needs should be supplied by airsource heat pumps, solar or the grid, which is slowly being decarbonised. We need to keep them to that.

Update for the Hampden Fields development we can update you on the current expected program, It is still being refined, but the headlines are as follows:

- The Southern Link road has been started, the first part, with a roundabout on the A413 / Wendover Rd, near Hampden Hall and a planning application has been submitted for the Woodlands roundabout, after which works will commence there
- Reserved matters have been commented on for the 1st development parcels of housing
- Housebuilding to commence, when planning accepted - Currently looking at late 2024 to commence the infrastructure for the 1st housing parcel in the Western neighborhood.
- Completion (and opening) of Southern Link Road – target date September 2025
- Weston Turville Traffic Calming - within 6 months of southern Link Road Opening, late 2025 at the earliest.

Litter

Litter can be an issue and to help with this, a litter pick station has been installed at the Village Hall for anyone to do a "2 minute litter pick", toddlers have been seen with parents doing a litter pick with the equipment provided around the park. The Parish Council also has litter picking equipment that residents can borrow to help keep their areas litter free. The PC and CAWT run 4 of litter picks per year for residents to join with us. Our next ones are on Saturday 27th April and Saturday 13th May from 10am for 2 hours or however long you can manage. Look out for information on our noticeboards and pc facebook page.

Successes

The new Recreation facilities have been a big hit: Pétanque court, skate park, zip wire enjoyed by the children and adults, with plans for a table tennis table coming soon and adult gym equipment underway from section 106 money. Our new village sign is in place and I believe that this is a welcome addition to our parish.

Huge thanks our Clerk Sarah and her assistant Francesca for their amazing hard work on many projects, quotations for the plans we have spoken about as well as our statutory obligations, keeping trees inspected and safe, bench, bins etc maintenance around the parish which often goes unseen and makes our Parish a better place.

Our next full council meeting will be Thursday 16th May starting at 7pm. We usually meet in the back room of the pc office. You are welcome to all meetings. There is 15 minutes allocated at the beginning for parishioners to ask questions or raise any issues.

Appendix 2 – Weston Turville Village Hall Annual Report 2023-2024

The village hall is run by the Weston Turville Village Hall charity of which the Parish Council is the sole trustee.

The objectives of the charity are to provide a community-owned venue for a range of activities for all ages, from tiny tots through to senior citizens. This includes clubs, classes, early education, entertainment, parties and celebrations. The charity raises the majority of its income through hire of its premises for such events.

Bookings

Regular weekly bookings remain steady, although there is still some availability on Monday and Thursday mornings. All evening slots are taken with a waiting list for availability.

Weekends are kept available for children's parties and other one off events/activities and there was rarely a day without any hires at weekends.

We continue to refuse bookings for evening events due to previous noise complaints although still support the annual barn dance and charity quiz nights.

The 'Street Food' events continued to be very popular in 2023 and returned at the start of April for the 2024 season. Street food takes place at the hall on the first Friday of each month and has been a welcome source of income for the hall.

The village hall also supports other community events by providing the venue for these – including the annual Easter event for families, Christmas carols and summer play sessions.

Finances

Our total income for 2023-24 was £27,645 (2023 - £22,562.83)

Our annual expenses were £22,716 (2023 - £21,174.19)

(figures subject to audit)

Maintenance

There has been no large maintenance carried out in 2023-2024 but we have decorators booked for May 2024 to repaint all areas of the hall interior. We have also planted up in the garden area around the bug hotel to encourage insects to the area.

Future plans

The village hall charity will be submitting a grant application to HS2 to provide more facilities to encourage greater use of the hall. Suggestions put forward so far include a new piano, badminton nets, table tennis, new curtains and microphones. Community support is needed for the grant application so please forward any suggestions and comments to the Clerk.

Cafe

The planning application submitted a few weeks ago to convert the changing rooms into a cafe has this week been approved. We will now be going out to tender for the building works needed for the conversion.

Cllr Cathy Terry