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# PARISH NEWS

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News from Lower Heyford Parish Council -- Number 77 -- FEBRUARY 2008

## VACANCY FOR CLERK

The present Clerk has given notice that he wishes to step down no later than 30th April and the quest is on to find a successor – **the Council cannot function without a Clerk**. It is an awkward job to sell; there are no fixed hours, the work load cannot be predicted from one day to another and the pay is, as it were, somewhat nominal. However, the post does offer the opportunity to work for the benefit of your own community and this can be most rewarding.

Would anyone who is at all interested please phone Clerk, Roger Bowen, on 340406. He will be pleased to talk over the job with you and will be glad to give un-reserved assistance to the new Clerk for as long as that may be necessary.

### Village Hall Sale

The Managing Trustees of the Village Hall Foundation Trust have resolved to return to the original plan of selling to Jehovah's Witnesses and it hoped that, at long last, the process of legal transfer will be completed reasonably soon. The Trustees are aware that the alternative prospect of a Montessori Nursery School on the site was very attractive to many residents and would like to assure the Beneficiaries (the people of the Parish) that the decision has been made strictly in accordance with charity law on the basis of the bid which in their opinion would ultimately be more beneficial.

### Precept

The Council has raised a precept of **£6,600** for financial year 2008/9. This compares with £5,600 for the current year 2007/8 and works out at an increase of 21.8% from £25.81 to £31.43 in the Band D rate (used to represent the average) council tax per household (without taking account of single occupancy reductions etc). Full details of the Council's budget for 2008/9, which will include money brought forward from the previous year, will be included in the April edition of Parish News.

### Community SpeedWatch

TV Police and OCC are setting up a scheme whereby local volunteers man a roadside speed device, from which those volunteers can record a vehicle's speed, with the registration numbers of those exceeding the speed limit being noted. The Police will process the numbers taken and a progressive response would be triggered: 1st hit → warning letter; 2nd hit → final warning and 3rd hit → offender targeted by Traffic Police. Whilst the Council has some misgivings about this scheme, clearly it cannot in any event work without a team of volunteers and those willing to take part should contact the Clerk.

### Annual Spring Clean

Each year the Council participates in this exercise, which is promoted by CDC, and this year is to operate from 15th March to 15th April. Those Members of the Council who wish to take part and the Clerk each litter-pick a designated area in their own time during the period of the campaign. Members of the public are welcome to take part too – just let the Clerk know and a mutually agreeable area can be allocated. Gloves, sacks, litter pickers and high visibility jackets will all be available and the filled sacks are collected by CDC.

The ANNUAL PARISH MEETING IS TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH APRIL EITHER IN THE VILLAGE HALL OR THE CHURCH STARTING AT 7.00PM

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE ON THURSDAY 20TH MARCH IN THE VILLAGE HALL (OR THE CHURCH) AT 7.00PM  
THE NEXT EDITION OF PARISH NEWS WILL BE APRIL 2008

## Parish Meeting 12Jan08 – Parish Plan for Lower Heyford?

An abridged version of the Minutes follows:

The Chairman opened the meeting referring to the necessary community involvement in the project at hand, before handing over to guest speaker Aimée Evans, who introduced herself as the Community Development Worker for the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council before giving a slide presentation.

Presentation - This commenced with some background details regarding the ORCC, before moving on to the purpose of a plan, which was described as a business plan for parishes that would identify a priority for the issues which were central to the concerns of the community. The role of the Council was clarified as endorsing, but not leading the process, though it would be expected to be represented on the Steering Committee. A prime reason for carrying out a plan was given as the sense of community spirit which was engendered and the steps towards a successful progression and conclusion were outlined:

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|--|---|--|
| a) Initial meeting (ie this meeting)                             | c) SG to take forward                       | g) Printing and distribution of final version                        |
| b) Steering Group to be formed (diverse representation up to 12) | d) Community consultation                   | h) Implementation (might be possible about 1 year from commencement) |
|  | e) Prioritise results and form focus groups |  |
|  | f) Consult on first draft                   |  |

Vote – The result of a show of hands on the basis of those in support resulted in 16 electors being in favour, which was seen to be a **majority for the proposal**.

*Parish Cllr Graham Morley has agreed to be the point of contact for those prepared to take part and he can be reached on 340871*

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS TO BE A FOLLOW UP MEETING ON SATURDAY 5TH APRIL**

### Carol Singing – 14th December

A goodly crowd assembled on this bitterly cold winter evening and thoroughly enjoyed the supreme performance of the Bletchington Silver Band, with some even being moved to sing! Although this was not strictly speaking a fund raising event, sale of the mince pies and mulled wine generously provided by the Bell, cleared the cost of the band with £10 to spare!

### May Day Fete

Plans are well under way for this event which is to be held on **Saturday 3rd May** and which is to be preceded by a revival of the traditional May Day celebrations which will involve a procession of children (see 'Wanted' notice below) and their parents from the Village Hall down to the Market Square and back to the Sports and Social Club for lunch.

**HELP! CHILDREN WANTED! Please come along to a preliminary meeting at the Village Hall on Saturday 23rd February at 11am**

## SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF 17JAN08

**Station Road Rail Bridge replacement** – Noted very late advice received from Network Rail that temporary footbridge not to be provided because of 'unforeseen ground conditions coupled with sheer size of structure'

**Heyford Station - Improvement scheme\*** - Noted key plants removed from planted up embankment to minimise damage by footbridge (since abandoned) and that will be replaced when all works have been concluded

**Affordable Housing and new Village Hall\*** – Preliminary sketch plan of such a development in King George's Field received from CDC and observed that could not be progressed until the outcome of the updated Housing Needs Survey (closes 31Jan08) was known

**Valley View-staggered barriers at way in to King George's Field** – Noted Council had been able to thwart CDC's intention to take these away and that in fact CDC was now to improve the surface and provide a pathway across the grass bank approach as well as leaving the barriers in place

**Planning matters** – Outcomes noted as follows: **07/01878/F** (Old School House, Market Square-erection of Cedar summerhouse/greenhouse) - Approved; **07/02044/F+07/02242/LB** (Owls Nest, Market Square-2 timber framed arbours) – Approved; **07/02102/F** (Old Steam Mill Cottage-first floor and two storey side extension) – Approved with conditions on amended plans; **07/02252/TCA** (Corpus Christi College Estate-various works and maintenance to trees) – Approved; and **07/02609/TCA** (Purcell Cottage, Freehold Street-fell Poplar Tree) - Approved

\* Indicates matter arising from previous issue

The aim in this synopsis is to publicise just those items considered to be of greatest public interest, which have not been covered elsewhere in this publication, within the available space – full copies of the Minutes may be purchased in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (10p per sheet) by arrangement with the Clerk or may be inspected (shortly) on the notice-board inside the church porch or may be accessed via the Council's website [www.lowerheyford-pc.gov.uk](http://www.lowerheyford-pc.gov.uk) - It should be noted Minutes remain 'draft' until such time as they have been approved by the Council