
PARISH NEWS

News from Lower Heyford Parish Council -- Number 67 -- JUNE 2006

VILLAGE HALL

The Council's Village Hall Relocation Committee established to deal with all aspects of the relocation to King George's Field has held its first meeting.

The meeting of beneficiaries (the residents of the parish) held on 21st December 2004 to approve the sale of the existing hall, expressed the sentiment that the plans for the new hall should be acceptable to the parishioners. This can be satisfied by arranging a public exhibition of the plans for local comment, but clearly the best way to approach the matter is to base the plans on public opinion before that stage is reached. Consequently, a questionnaire in this respect will be issued shortly and this will include details of the Membership of the Committee.

In the meantime, it has transpired that when Corpus Christi College sold the current site, there was a covenant restricting use to that of a village hall only and a deed of release is currently being sought by the Solicitor to the Trustees. This will further delay the legal transfer to Jehovah's Witnesses, and may have financial implications, but is not considered to be in any way threatening to the sale.

Annual Report 2005/6

A copy has been attached to this edition of Parish News – The following might be an encouragement to read it or it might satisfy those who do not wish to read it?

Content

The Council - Names, positions (where applicable), addresses and phone numbers of the Members of the Council and the Clerk

Chairman's Review - Some of the main issues are: **Precept marginally up from last year; protection for The Green common land; Heyford Station improvements package agreed with OCC/First Great Western; talks with Parochial Church Council started about approaching exhaustion of apparent grave space; Station Road Railway Bridge to be replaced; Phase 1 of Parish Map project completed; all is not lost message following failure of Affordable Housing scheme to secure Housing Corporation grant and production of Conservation Plan/designation of Conservation Area brings revised Comprehensive Planning Brief for Upper Heyford Base closer**

Accounts – The Statement of Accounts is the statutory account which is designed to be of use to auditors and which means very little to anyone else

Statistics – An indication of the Council's level of activity along with demonstration of its involvement with the Ethical Framework by way of declarations of interest as required by Code of Conduct

Statement of Income and Expenditure 2005/6 – This is the account which really provides details of the Council's financial activity and comparison with 2004/5 is included

Villages of Banburyshire

The author, local historian, Martin Greenwood, provides a lively, knowledgeable, and entertaining guide to 10 villages (Cropredy, Fritwell, **Lower Heyford**, Horley, Kings Sutton (Northants), The Sibfords, Great Tew and the 3 villages immortalised by Flora Thompson in 'Lark Rise to Candelford', namely Juniper Hill, Cottisford and Fringford) in this comparatively little known part of North Oxfordshire.

The author also offers a spirited defence of the old Banburyshire name and reasons why Banbury, with links to some 140 villages, should be considered more of a county town than simply a successful market town

176 pages, 60 photographs, 11 maps - £9.00 from Heyford Wharf Shop (or £9.99 from local book shops)

Sunday Trains

There was considerable disappointment that the experiment of operating Sunday trains during the peak summer period last year was not to be repeated this summer. The Council now understands there is a very good chance that First Great Western will after all operate trains on Sundays this summer contingent upon a surety against financial losses. Individuals, businesses and local councils have pledged money in order to be able to meet this surety in the event of it needing to be paid over and the Council has guaranteed the sum of £200. If the trains do operate, please patronise them; the Council sees tourism as one of the keys to ensuring that the station does not slip into underuse thereby threatening its

SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING OF 18MAY06

Election of Officers for 2006/7 – Chairman: Alan Humberstone – Vice-Chairman: Robin Hepworth (both re-appointments)

BT Payphones – Selective changes from cash to cashless operation – Noted that Heyford Station box to be changed to cashless and Caulcott to remain a cash facility (opposite of Council's recommendation)

Upper Heyford Base – Noted that MoD Defence Estates has sold site to the NOC and that CDC designation as Conservation Area concluded

Freehold Street - After 10 months fruitlessly pursuing Charter Community Housing to cut back the hedge alongside Number 1, Bromeswell Close, which is obstructing drivers' vision exiting Bromeswell Close, agreed matter would be passed to OCC as Highway Authority

Valley View – Repair to loose kerbing setts (at Council's instigation) already breaking up again which has been reported

Lower Heyford Road – Caulcott Farm straight ahead arrow road sign on approach from the east installed by OCC at Council's request in order to try to eliminate Caulcott Farm bound HGVs, unaware of new access road, turning down South Street

Station Road – Council to advise OCC that it has no objection to the installation of 3 verge posts opposite the entrance to Oxfordshire Narrowboats, which are required to protect the 4 stop taps of the Old Timber Yard properties and to prevent further damage to a stormwater inspection cover caused by parking

Affordable Housing – Noted that despite failure to secure funding, CDC has rated scheme with highest priority

Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Noted that adopted by OCC and that whilst the preparation of the Plan has been required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, there is no duty to implement its proposals

First Great Western Rail Timetables – Opposition to proposals for wholesale changes to the timetable next December supported by the Council, which is concerned that Heyford Station could become marginalised thereby giving rise to fears about its future

Heyford Station – The Council is to take up with FGW the increasing volume of the loudspeaker announcements which are causing annoyance to neighbouring residents

Website – Council agreed to accept an offer of free service from The Local Channel utilising the Council's own registered domain name

Audit 2005/6 – Date of Audit by External Auditor noted as 19Jun06; Statement of Accounts approved; Statement of Assurance (acknowledgement of corporate responsibility) agreed in all respects and noted that the Internal Auditor had agreed all applicable tests and had made no recommendations

Planning Applications – Decisions noted as follows: 05/02481/F (Caulcott Farm-retrospective-change of use of site for cutting and bagging of timber logs *as amended by revised site plan*) – Refused; 06/00063/CLUP (The Beeches, Station Road-Certificate of Lawful Use proposed-single storey rear extension) – Approved; 06/00204/LB & 06/00205/F (47, Freehold Street-demolition of outbuildings and construction of single storey extension) – Approved (contrary to Council's wishes) with conditions; 06/00247/F (Tollbridge Cottage, Station Road-erection of timber garden shed) – Approved; and 06/00346/TCA (Merry's Farm House, The Lane-reduce height of Leylandii hedge by 6 metres and fell 2 Ash trees) – Approved

Village Hall – Report from Village Hall Committee that release of Corpus Christi covenant on original sale needed before sale can be completed noted and arrangements finalised for inaugural meeting of the Council's Village Hall Relocation Committee on 08Jun06

Timetable Display Case (Bus Shelter) - Noted that perspex cover smashed yet again and arrangements put in hand for replacement

Keep the Horton General Campaign – Acknowledgement from Department of Health to Council's letter of concern to Secretary of State for Health, Patricia Hewitt, received and noted

The aim in this synopsis is to publicise just those items considered to be of greatest public interest 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 on the notice-board within the church porch

THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE ON THURSDAY 20TH JULY AT 7.00PM (VENUE TO BE ADVERTISED)
THE NEXT EDITION OF PARISH NEWS WILL BE AUGUST 2006