

The Harwell News

www.harwellparish.co.uk

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HARWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Budget Review

At the January meeting, the annual budget and precept for the year was agreed. In past years the Council has been determined not to increase the precept unless absolutely necessary. In 1993 the precept was £25,000; 12 years later it has only risen to £30,280, an average increase of less than 2% per annum. Although an admirable policy, costs continue to rise to the extent that the Council's income no longer meets its expenditure. The Council is keen not to burden residents with an unreasonable increase, but has to weigh this burden against its dwindling reserves and the need to maintain village amenities.

There are 3 major projects that the Council would like to instigate this coming year – the purchase of a new mower, pavilion shower renovations and upgrading of play equipment. The Council is seeking grant funding for the latter two projects, and has already received a generous donation from UKAEA towards the play area. However, generally a grantee must fund a proportion of the cost of any project.

After due deliberation, the Council agreed a precept of £35,580 – an increase of £5,300 (from £30,280 to £35,580). For a Band D property this represents an increase from £29.75 to about £35 per annum.

The increase of £5,300 is divided into 2 separate segments:

- a) £1,500 annual increase (to gradually bring income to a level where it will cover expenditure) and
- b) £3,800 as a one-off payment this year (to cover part of the cost of the new mower, upgrading showers and play area). This portion of the precept will vary annually; it is totally dependent on any projects required in the village and availability of grants.

Planning Matters

New applications have been received in respect of;

HAR/19349 - Demolition of 2 storey side extension at 7 Jennings Lane.

HAR/17102/5 - Proposed extension and dormer windows at Upper West Field, Reading Road.

HAR/4612/3-LB - Proposed modifications to link building previously approved at Princes Manor Farm, Church Lane.

HAR/19385 - Replacement conservatory and verandah at 14 Tyrells Close.

The Council asked that neighbours' comments be borne in mind regarding the above applications.

HAR/19415 - Relocation of milestone to the north of present position at Milestone approx 300m East of Zulu Farm, Wantage Road, for Taylor Woodrow Developments Ltd. & George Wimpey UK Ltd..

The Council requested that the milestone be kept in safe storage until final plans have been approved for the new road. That care be taken once it is resited that the milestone is not in danger of being damaged accidentally, eg by turning traffic.

Nine permissions have been received as follows;

HAR/14892/2 - Erection of a garage and porch extension at Bluebells, 8 Broadway Close.

HAR/19327 - Reinstatement to 2 separate dwellings at 5/6 North Drive.

HAR/15307/4 - Retrospective application for the erection of wooden boundary fence at 4 Hengest Gate.

HAR/17102/5 - Proposed extension and dormer windows at Upper West Field, Reading Road.

HAR/19349 - Demolition of existing extensions. Erection of 2-storey side extension at 7 Jennings Lane.

V.14/05 - Proposed demolition of existing changing rooms and erection of telescopic pool cover for existing pool at Harwell Primary School, The Styles.

HAR/9868/7 - Erection of timber open fronted gazebo at Wellshead House, Wellshead Lane.

HAR/7437/1 - Loft conversion with rear dormer at 7 Broadway Close.

HAR/17774/X & PO2/W0848/0 – Great Western Park development. There are a number of concerns, which will be passed on to the relevant Planning Departments. Copies of the letters will be kept in the Council Office.

Meeting for the people of Harwell (Parish)**Harwell Primary School****Wednesday 8th February. - 7.00 – for 7.30 start**

Do you remember the Village Plan when you received questionnaires about what you felt was important for the village in the future? One of the recommendations in the plan was that new changing facilities were needed on our recreation ground. Proposals are already available for discussion and will be displayed on the night for people to see and to make their feelings known about their design and possible location.

Since discussion started on these proposals several other projects have come to light and it requires many people working together to bring these to a realistic conclusion. Would our community like the use of a covered heated swimming pool? Would local clubs like the use of an all weather training and playing facility? Is it time to consider relocating the Freeman Hall for the use of the youth of the village and where would this best be?

If you have feelings for or against any of these ideas we would like you to air them at this meeting. You are all entitled to an opinion and encouraged to share them in this open forum. Up to this point in time all discussions have been with individual groups or interested parties. No decisions have been made. After this meeting however it is hoped that substantial moves in the direction of planning and fundraising in earnest can begin.

If you want to play a part in the future of our community this meeting will give you that chance.

OFFERS INVITED

The Parish Council has two mowers which are surplus to requirements. They are a Hayter Osprey mower – 16 years old and producing a “rough cut” and an Allen Flymo. Expressions of interest to the Parish Clerk 01235 820006.

From our MP – Mr Ed Vaizey: As well as concentrating on local issues it is important for MPs to have a national and international perspective. Some of the issues I intend to concentrate on in this Parliament include the environment and climate change. I am therefore delighted to have been appointed to the Environmental Audit Select Committee. We will be conducting hearings over the next few months on reducing carbon emissions in transport. I would be interested to hear the views of any constituents on this issue. Given our enormous science and nuclear heritage I suspect I am one of the few MPs who can expect to receive many learned contributions.

I also expect to look closely at the Middle East and India. I am particularly pleased to have been appointed to the Conservative's Globalisation and Global Poverty Group. It is chaired by Peter Lilley MP and Bob Geldof will be consulting the group.

My friend (but not necessarily political supporter!) Sjoerd Vogt has set up a discussion group on global poverty at <http://groups.google.co.uk/groups/mphwantage> to let people air their views.

Partly with this in mind I recently visited India. If you would like to hear more about the trip or have concerns about local issues like the reservoir, housing or community hospitals then please get in touch at House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA or vaizeye@parliament.uk. My website can be found at www.vaizey.com.

SURGERY DATES:

All are Fridays 5.30 – 7.00 pm

Feb 10th Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre

Feb 24th Wallingford Town Hall

March 10th Grove, Old Mill Hall, Old School Lane

April 7th Didcot, King Alfred Drive Community Centre.

Christmas Competition Winners

Our thanks to all those who entered, and for your kind comments - there could well be something similar in the summer.

1st with 20/20 Kate & Sara Lee

2nd with 19/20 David, Susan, Lucy & Max Rippington

3rd with 19/20 Caroline and Roger Thetford

Five entries located the garden with Holly, Ivy and Mistletoe growing (it's on Didcot Road), and Richard & Helen Sharp were drawn for the prize of an Orchid. The answers are on the web site.

Martin Ricketts

UPDATE ON STAGECOACH ROUTE 32

Recently there have been one or two incidences of the Route 32 arriving late, especially those that have to interconnect at Harwell IBC to proceed onward to Wantage. Councillor Stewart Lilly has not forgotten about this problem and is continually speaking with Allan Field, Bus Services Manager, Oxfordshire County Council (**DIRECT DIAL: 01865 815826**). Mr Field will deal with any complaints concerning problems with the village service, timetables or any other difficulties.

The County Councillor responsible for our bus services, County Councillor David Robertson, has officially told Stewart Lilly that there is no money left in the County's bus subsidy budget to consider any modifications to Bus Route 32. However, Stewart has discovered that out of the transport budget for which Councillor Robertson has full responsibility, some £12 million pounds has been allocated for an internal road improvement within the town of Witney (coincidentally where Councillor Robertson lives).

Stewart says, "*I leave people to make up their own minds about this very disappointing news. I have written to Councillor Robertson again on behalf of the Parish, with a copy letter to the Oxford Times, to see if any further discretion can be offered by Councillor Robertson to our Parish*"

Poppy Appeal 2005

Amounts collected during November Poppy Appeal

Harwell -	£1243.75
Chilton	£472.41
Harwell Laboratory Campus	£1036.10
Membury Services	£274.99
Total	£3027.25

This is a fantastic amount, an increase of over £1200 from last year and I would like to thank all, businesses, collections and individuals for their efforts and kind generosity.

GARDENING CLUB

The last meeting of the year in **December** was our members Christmas party and the Annual General Meeting. Adele Harris decided to stand down after many years service as chairman to the Club and she was presented with an orchid and a book as a thank you. Our new chairman is now Wendy Sinclair and we also have another new committee member Mr Mike Kerswell. Members enjoyed good party food and also the usual party games organised by Ken Hill. We look forward to another year of interesting speakers and garden visits in the summer of 2006.

The first meeting in 2006 was very well attended due to our annual visit from Timothy Walker from the Oxford Botanical Gardens. He gave his usual amusing and informative talk this time on 'Plants, Borders and Gardens', illustrated with some wonderful slides of plants and gardens from around the world. He likened a garden to a piece of art but unlike a painting, which once finished cannot be altered, a garden is always changing.

The Club annual membership stays the same at £5 and new members are always welcome.

Shirley Walker

W.I. NEWS

Being a member of the W.I. is a great way of getting together with fellow villagers and enjoying interesting talks together but it doesn't just stop there.

All members are also affiliated to the Oxfordshire Federation of W.I.s, which means that a whole massive range of opportunities and trips is opened up. Here are a few examples of what has recently been on offer:

A trip to Tate Britain, the Masters Tennis, Guys and Dolls, British Legion Poppy factory, Oxfordshire Heritage Lectures, Talk about the EU, Polly Vacher 'Pole to Pole' – a whole world opens up with something for everyone.

One of our members who was always very involved in County affairs sadly died last August. Joyce Millward was a much-loved member of Harwell W.I. and we were greatly honoured to have such a committed and caring person. She will be remembered by many, for countless things as her contribution was so great but we will especially miss her wisdom, humour and courage.

We ended last year in style with superb Christmas Celebrations - Dinner out at the Home Farm Trust followed by a party where we were entertained by the Baggs Tree Buskers

Our January meeting was a talk on Dales and Downs when we had an excellent talk about our National Parks and in February we are going on the wildside as David Marsh takes us On Safari.

In March we have our AGM when a whole new and exciting programme starts again. Watch this space for details and do come and join us if anything appeals.

Joyce Doughty

Against Breast Cancer Pamper Yourself Evening

Thursday 16th March 2006
at Harwell Primary School

£10 includes
glass of wine and pudding

Tickets: - Barbara Jackson
Tel: 835698

ADMISSION TO HARWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2006

Was your child born between 1st September 2001 and 31st August 2002?

If the answer is yes, Harwell School would like to hear from you because your child can start school in September 2006.

Please telephone 01235 835337 to make an appointment for an informal visit to your local, friendly, village primary school.

LICENSING ACT 2003 Application for Premises Licence

To whom it may concern, take note that I, Peter Cansell, give notice that I have applied to Vale of White Horse District Council for a Premises Licence in respect of Harwell School, The Styles, Harwell OX11 0LH, and that I have applied in respect of provision of regulated entertainment, provision of entertainment facilities and sale by retail of alcohol. Anyone wishing to object to this application should give notice in writing to The Licensing Officer, WHDC, Licensing Unit, Abbey House, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3JE before 3 March 2006 and where a copy of the application can be inspected between 9am & 4pm Monday-Friday. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application, and a person convicted of such an offence will be liable to a fine up to £5000 based on summary conviction.



FUN CLUB NEWS

We meet in the Village Hall on Tuesday mornings in term time between 9.30 and 11.30. All parents and carers of babies and toddlers, as well as mums-to-be, are welcome. Just to make it clear, we do also welcome men – some dads do come and one is even on the committee!

Each week we provide a variety of toys and puzzles, a craft table, juice and biscuits for the children and tea and coffee for the adults – all for only £1 per family (first visit free).

Our next **Nearly New Sale** of baby/toddler/pre-school clothes, books, toys & equipment will be in the village hall on **Saturday 13 May** 10am-12pm. Great bargains to be had. For those wishing to sell at this event, please note that all the tables for this sale have already been reserved (plus there is a waiting list) but we can still sell a small number of items on 1/3rd commission for.

The date of the November Nearly New Sale has been **moved** from Saturday 4th to **Saturday 11 November**. Again, all the tables for this sale have already been reserved.

We have even taken a booking for our May 2007 sale, and the date for this will be 12 May 2007, so if anyone else can think that far ahead, let us know if you would like a table for then!

We were delighted to have 2 people respond to our plea last time for some additional **temporary refreshments volunteers** – thank you so much to **Celia Lockwood** and **Sally Liguorish** for stepping forward, together with Kath Lay while June Blissett awaits her knee operation.

The **health visitor** will be visiting us during our **14 March, 9 May and 27 June** sessions. This is a convenient way of accessing a health visitor without having to go into Didcot. Please bring your child's red book. You don't need to pay the £1 entry fee if you just want to come to see the health visitor.

The next **committee meeting** will be on **Mon 6 Feb at 8pm** at High Drive, Townsend (ring Sally below for details). We always welcome more committee members, or anyone who would just like to come along to see how Fun Club is managed.

Contact: Jane Woolley Tel 22 10 30 or Sally Poyton Tel 831 456.

The Speedwell & WellBeing Trust

HELP yourself to better health with The Speedwell & WellBeing Trust! Find out more about complementary therapies and the health benefits they can offer, useful contacts and helpful books for particular illnesses, the talks programme and newsletter, speakers/therapists/taster workshops for clubs, companies and school events - Helpline 01865 554089 or visit www.speedwellbeing.org.uk for further information.

The Speedwell & WellBeing Trust Health Talk – Wednesday 22nd March at Green

College, Oxford starting at 7.30pm. Admission £2 in advance, £4 at the door.

TONGUE TO TAIL - A JOURNEY THROUGH THE DIGESTIVE TRACT

by Lorraine Perretta, author of 'Brain Food', who will explain how our overall health is dependent on healthy digestion. The talk will cover common complaints including IBS offering practical ways to address them. Further information from the Trust's Helpline 01865 554089.

Mobile Library

(Apologies for an incorrect date given in the December issue. The Didcot Library changed their schedule after we went to press. Ed).

The Mobile Library will be outside the Harwell Village Hall between 2.45 – 3.20 on alternative Wednesdays 1st, 15th February and 1st, 15th and 29th March 2006.

DIDCOT VOLUNTEER CENTRE

New year resolutions.

If you, like some others I know! Have difficulty in deciding what to resolve here is a ready-made solution!

The Didcot Volunteer Centre can provide the opportunity to help your fellow citizens in any number of ways. We have a large number of clients who need help of one kind or another. This can include anything from just sitting and chatting, to gardening, DIY, or, as is most common, providing transport to and from health centres, hospitals, surgeries and so on.

Our clients contribute a registration fee to be on the list and will contribute a mileage charge to cover the cost of petrol.

We are always in need of more volunteers and calls on our services can vary. We don't often have to reject calls for help but at holiday times a number of volunteers can suddenly not be there! So a reserve of members can always be justified.

So! There you are, the ready-made resolution, **'Help us to help!'**

Thank you, James Mein. (Secretary DVC)

Contact DVC on 01235/816709 or, at the office at the rear of the Methodist Church Mereland Rd. Didcot. 10.00am to Noon on weekdays.

Little Pippins Pre-school

We welcome Charlie Bullock, Alastair Pickles and Fred McIntyre to our group this term, we hope they enjoy their time with us.

We were really busy at the end of last term and hope that all who attended our Christmas Nativity Play on December 9th enjoyed it. The children certainly enjoyed taking part. Our Christmas raffle raised nearly £300 so a great big thank you to everyone in the village who bought tickets.

Our other big fund raiser last term was the cake stall outside Bob the Butchers on the 26th November. This was very successful raising £250. A big thank you to Bob and Danyelle and also to their customers and all the villagers who both made and bought cakes.

On Shrove Tuesday (Feb 28th) we will be holding our annual Pancake races together with a stall selling books and videos and also games for the children to play.

TREASURE HUNT – this will take place around the village during the February holiday. Entry forms will be available from Little Pippins and The Post office shortly before hand.

Our AGM is on Monday March 6th and all parents, carers and anyone in the village interested in Little Pippins is invited to attend. We will have a guest speaker as well as a review of the past year and the election a new committee.

The last day of term is Friday February 10th and we start back on Monday February 20th.

Nicky Mercer
Pre-school Supervisor

Children can start with us from the age of 2.5 years initially with their parent/carer and by the time they are 3 years old, they should be ready and able to stay unaccompanied. The term after their third birthday, your child will be entitled to 5 free sessions with us and this carries on until children start school. You can choose from any of the 10 sessions available and increase the total number of sessions your child attends depending on need.

If you would like to know more about Little Pippins Pre-school or are interested in supporting the pre-school please call **01235 821741**. Alternatively contact **Lorraine Moore on 832713** e-mail littlepippins2004@yahoo.com or visit our website <http://home.btconnect.com/harwell>

Make a Difference!

Could you spare 2-3 hours a week to support a young person?

Would you be available to do this for a year or more?

Would you like some excellent training (leading to a locally recognised qualification) to prepare you to work with young people?

MENTORING

The Oxfordshire Youth Mentoring Service is part of the Oxfordshire County Council Youth Service. We train and support volunteers who, in turn, support young people who are at risk.

There is a big emphasis on FUN BUT HIDDEN IN THERE IS THE CHANCE TO:

- Listen in a way no-one else does
- Guide by giving information
- Help develop social skills
- Provide a positive role model

For you there will be the chance to:

- Receive accredited training
- Develop your own skills and understanding of the issues facing youth today
- Know you are making a real difference

If you would like to know more about mentoring or think this is the opportunity you have been looking for then visit our website at www.oyms.org.uk or Ring Karen on 01235 537272 or Maxine on 01865 848181

Coming Events

Alan Bennett's 'Talking Heads'

Presented by Abingdon Tourint Theatre Company

Harwell Village Hall on Saturday 18th March at 7.30pm

'Under Milk Wood'

O.T.T.C.

Harwell Village Hall on Saturday 15th April at 7.30 pm

**All tickets £7 and £5 concessions
Available in due course from Bob's**

If you have never seen any of the visiting theatre companies do consider coming to one – the quality is always excellent and there are no travel expenses!

Village Hall

The big event in the Village Hall in January was the staging of the pantomime, Robin Hood. The whole thing was entirely conceived and produced by Janice Markey and I salute her great achievement in putting it together. A hundred village people from all age groups were involved and nearly 400 others paid to see it. Thus it was a great boost to the social cohesiveness of the village as well as being an enjoyable show to watch.

I thank everybody, particularly Janet Spence who used her theatrical expertise to direct the show. It raised about £1500 for Village Hall funds, which will enable us to buy some much needed new furniture.

Don't forget that Beauty and the Beast will be staged on Saturday, 4th February and Under Milk Wood on 15th April. Both are professional productions.

Colin Lamont
Chairman, Village Hall Management Committee

CAB

Didcot & District CAB have recently appointed a new Manager, Nicola Webb (Ab 512839), to manage both the Didcot and Wallingford Bureaux and an outreach at RAF Benson. Nicola has worked for CAB in the past as well as having extensive experience in the management of volunteers in the NHS and charity sector and frontline advice services.

The CAB offers free, impartial, independent and confidential advice on a range of issues including: welfare benefits, debt, housing, employment, and consumer. The Didcot Bureau adjacent to the Civic Centre is open from 10-4 Mon, Thurs and Fri, from 10-7 on Tues and 10-1 on a Weds.

Wallingford Bureau which has just recently been refurbished is open on a Mon 10-1, Tues 10-3.30 and Fri 10-1. Web Site: www.adviceguide.org.uk

Wantage and District Beekeeping Association

What a change! After many days of mist, rain, frost and snow (a bit!), today lovely sunshine and my bees have broken their winter cluster to enjoy the sun! Lots of bees around both hives. This is the beekeepers reward for the care he/she has given. But it is not over yet! There will be another month or so to weather before we can be sure our charges have properly survived the winter. Nevertheless we Beekeepers have to look ahead and that is already in hand. The Wantage and District Beekeepers Association have published their programme for the year! The first meeting happens at 7.30pm. in the Wantage Civic Hall Ickniel room on 27th January. With a very appropriate subject "Beekeeping for Beginners, including description of different types of equipment", this will be presented by Golly Sturt. Golly is a member of the Newbury association and is a lecturer at the Newbury Technical College. This info' will be too late for the Jan edition but the programme is available from Secretary Mike Taylor (Tel: 01235/751646).

There are 4 evening meetings for beginners and anyone interested. These will be on Wednesdays 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July and 2nd August, at 7.00pm. These will be at member's apiaries, protective clothing will be provided. Exact locations will be decided nearer the time but information is available from Mike Taylor or Lillian Valentine (Tel:01235/767524).

James Mein (Secretary)

The Diamond Project

The news from the Project is that it continues to be on schedule and on budget. The schedule for 2006 demands tight deadlines on machine installation and beam line commissioning to ensure that the facility will be ready for the user community to embark on experiments in the early part of 2007. Around 4am on 8th October 2005, a sensor in a first floor office in Diamond House registered a disturbance. The signal it detected stemmed from the earthquake that devastated Northern Palestine 3,8000 miles away. The sensor is part of a seismometer, which will be installed in the experimental hall of the synchrotron.

POLICE MATTERS

The Beat Officer for Harwell is now PC Yates. A number of vehicle break-ins were recorded over the Christmas period.

A new telephone number (0845 8 505 505) for all non-emergency calls is now available – it is no longer possible to call police stations direct.

Editorial Notes: Harwell News is published at the beginning of alternate months. Other than in reports of Parish Council matters, any opinions expressed are not those of the Parish Council or the editorial team. Items for the next Newsletter should be with the editors **before the 28th March 2006**. Items received after this date may not appear in the April issue. Articles to 12A Kings Lane, ☎221073 or e-mail d.levy@ntlworld.com
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