

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 28th APRIL 2022
AT 8.00PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, WEST WYCOMBE**

PRESENT:

Cllrs Mr. S Cope (Chairman), Mr. N. Harris, Mrs. V. Smith, Mrs. K. Cheshire, Mrs. E. Copley
Mrs. S. Henson, Clerk & RFO
Buckinghamshire County Cllr Mr. D. Hayday; Angie Wright, Jo Brookfield (Manager) and Sarah
Deputy Manager - West Wycombe Pre School, Sarah Sampson – West Wycombe Estate, Ben
Stupples – Downley Dynamos, David Surtees Dawson – The National Trust, Louise Brown, Peter
Towersey, Nicola Hannam, Nick Phillips

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mr. J Carstensen, Cllr C. Rowley, Alison Rimmer - West Wycombe PCC, Ed
Tang - West Wycombe Combined School, Sir Edward Dashwood, Christine Barry – West
Wycombe Library and West Wycombe Cricket Club; PC Danny O'Driscoll,

Cllr Mr S Cope, West Wycombe Parish Council Chairman's Report for 2021/22

This year I am pleased to be able to give a report that is not dominated by the effects of the
pandemic; whilst Covid-19 is still with us, it feels as though we are finally through the worst and
are now able to focus on more positive matters.

The past 12 months have nonetheless been productive ones - our plans for a Community
Orchard in the field above the parish burial ground have been put into effect, and the area is now
taking shape. In early March, Chiltern Rangers, who are working with us on this project, held a
very successful day with the children of West Wycombe School, during which they helped to plant
apple, pear and plum trees, and built bird boxes which were then fitted to the trees surrounding
the burial ground and orchard area. They also prepared the ground for the sowing of wildflower
seed, which is planned to take place next month. We have also had a volunteer from our local
community who has attended a training course to learn how to prune the fruit trees. It is a real
pleasure to see this coming together, and we hope that once established the orchard will become
an important asset for the community to use and enjoy.

The orchard will also be the setting for one of the events that we are planning for the Platinum
Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II, which the nation will celebrate in June. The Parish Council is
organising two main events to mark this important occasion: on the evening of Thursday 2 June a
beacon will be lit on West Wycombe Hill, part of a nationwide event to mark the start of the
extended Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend; then on Sunday 5 June we are holding a
Community Picnic Lunch in the orchard area, with a variety of events and activities to suit all
ages. We are also arranging for the decoration of West Wycombe High Street, and are
encouraging local residents to join in by creating window or garden displays themselves. All in all,
it should be a hugely enjoyable celebration of the Queen's 70 years as our monarch; and as a
more permanent commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee, we will be placing a new bench in the
burial ground area and giving out jubilee mugs to the children of West Wycombe School and Pre-
school.

Last month we were able to hold another community litter pick, to prepare our local area for
springtime and the expected rise in visitor numbers. Once again this was well-attended, and a
substantial pile of filled sacks showed that there is always work to be done to keep our
community tidy. Our thanks go out to all those who took part, as well as to those many local
residents who take it upon themselves to regularly go out litter-picking. We will be organising an
autumn event in October, so do look out for details of that.

The main roads that run through our parish continue to be the focus of much of our activity
throughout the year. Our application to the HS2 Road Safety Fund was approved in full, which will
cover traffic calming gateways on Bradenham Road, improvements to the warning signs and
work to improve visibility at the railway bridge and the right of way that crosses the road there,
and white lining along the edges of the A4010 from West Wycombe. On the back of a petition
launched following the tragic deaths of two cyclists on Dashwood Hill, a campaign was mounted
by our local Buckinghamshire Councillors to reduce the speed limit between West Wycombe and
Studley Green to 50mph; happily, this was successful and the new limits are now in place. The

Community Speedwatch scheme is being relaunched across the Thames Valley area, and the Parish Council are intending to get involved; we are currently on the lookout for volunteers who will receive the necessary training and support to get involved in keeping our roads safer.

One important aspect of road safety that was brought to our attention by local residents is the issue of footway incursions on West Wycombe High Street - vehicles mounting the kerb and continuing to drive along the pavement, a serious hazard to pedestrians and to those whose homes front directly onto the street. After much discussion and a site visit with Transport for Bucks in July, it was agreed to run a feasibility study to assess the potential impact of a suspension of parking along a short stretch of the High Street, as well as a number of other measures such as the introduction of bollards and the removal of centre lines. This study was carried out in January, and the resulting report has recommended that a number of these measures be implemented. The prime concern of this exercise was the safety of residents and other members of the public using the footway in West Wycombe, and on that basis the Parish Council has accepted the recommendations from Transport for Bucks; we are now looking at how best to consult on these with residents, and how these would be funded. We recognise that there will be legitimate concerns about the possible negative aspects of these measures, particularly on traffic speed and the availability of parking, but these have to be set against the current risk to pedestrians posed by frequent footway incursions. Introducing these sorts of measures is a lengthy and expensive process, but we are hopeful that once carried through they will improve public safety on our High Street.

Information on this and many of our other activities can be found on our website, and also on our Facebook page which we established this year as another means of making residents aware of what we do. Our thanks to Sharon, our hardworking and invaluable Parish Clerk, for setting this up and maintaining it.

As well as the Platinum Jubilee activities, our other major project this year is to establish an outdoor 'green gym' at the Pedestal Playing Field for use by the whole community. There is a great deal of evidence of the benefits of such facilities on both the physical and mental health of those who make use of them, so we are hopeful that we can get this set up in the coming year, as it is a project that we were originally considering before the pandemic took hold.

None of the activity that I have described here would be possible without the time, energy and dedication of my fellow Parish Councillors and our Parish Clerk; and in July we were happy to welcome onto the Council Chantal Rowland as a new Councillor, and Angie Wright as a non-voting member - their contributions to our discussions and the work that then ensues have been most valuable. My thanks to them and as always to the rest of the team whose hard work and enthusiasm continue to add so much to the life of our community here in West Wycombe.

Sharon Henson, Responsible Financial officer, Presentation of the Financial Statement Financial report for 2021/22

The accounts can be viewed on our website www.westwycombeparishcouncil.gov.uk

The financial year 21/22 was the first proper year of the Parish Council getting back to normal and for the unitary authority and all its different departments that we work with also becoming more active and supportive. Projects which had been considered before the pandemic and lockdown started to move forward. Due to COVID some of the necessary tree work on the allotments, the burial ground and the Pedestal Playing Field had not been completed hence a reduction in the end of year balance.

We started the financial year with an opening balance of £29,531.46 and have finished the financial year with a balance of £27,731.36 .

Administration covers things like £1000 per annum to insure all the parish council assets, e.g., the streetlights, defibrillators, play equipment, gates, signs. Administration also includes the Clerks salary, software, telephones, the audit, stationery, training and subscriptions to organisations which can help us carry out our role. By changing our phone system, we have gone from £1011 last year to £300 this year.

We donated £300 towards the maintenance of the village clock.

As with all organisations and businesses we must pay into a pension scheme and currently the Parish Council has to pay 25.10% of the Clerks salary each month. During the year we had elections for Parish and Buckinghamshire Councillors, and this cost us £1375.

We also completed the conversion of all the streetlights owned by the parish council, and this kept our energy cost to £920, it was £919 the previous year and had been £2000 per year before this.

Our budget is worked out and discussed and agreed in December each year, I had allowed an increase to £1500 for lighting but we now know that it will be in the region of £2800 for each of the three coming years. At least by converting to LED it is not as high as it could have been.

All our allotment plots have tenants, and this brought in £570 from allotment rents, however the cost of the water and general maintenance means we run the allotments at a loss, but we know that the allotments have provided a peaceful haven for many people and they are a 'service' we are proud to provide our residents. The allotments and the burial ground are costs to the parish council in order that we can supply a service to our residents and in both cases the running costs will always be more than our income.

The burial ground figure is higher than the previous year as the delayed tree work came into this year as well as the beginning of the expenditure needed for the Community Orchard. Future budgets will have a separate heading and budget for the Community Orchard We have been helped tremendously by volunteer work and subsidised costs from the Chiltern Rangers as well as help from Year 5 children from our school and The Chilterns Conservation Board who supplied us with trees, plants, seed and the owl and small bird box kits for £175 at a value of £1150 The Pedestal Playing Field is also a very valuable asset to this parish with hundreds of play hours for the children of this community and those in adjacent parishes. This year, after receiving the annual inspection report for the play equipment we spent money on replacing three of the swings and after a tree safety report a further £4000 was spent on tree work. We are about to carry out maintenance on the car park – through lockdown it was extremely heavily used by visitors who wanted to walk in the area and with the garden centre car park now charging we have seen an increase in use by walkers.

We pay to have the verges within the 30mph speed limit cut, trees cut back over lights and the pelican crossing and over pavements. We also look after the areas by the Pedestal Roundabout, Cutty Alley, Park Farm Road, Rosemary Close and Portway Drive as well as both ends of Towerage Lane. We pay the Chiltern Society to clear four of our footpaths; we pay a contractor to spray weed killer along the road/pavement edges. Currently, and for the next year, we get £2033 from Buckinghamshire Council towards this work but it costs far more than we receive from them. As Simon has mentioned we have money put aside to pay for the feasibility study carried out on traffic in the High Street.

We ensure that we have our Christmas trees lit and support the Village Clock. We keep our defibrillators maintained.

We pay £1200 for dog waste bin emptying and this price will probably increase.

Our two solar powered Speed Indicators in Chorley Road are now out of warranty, and we have therefore had to pay £600 to set up an annual maintenance contract.

As a parish council we are allowed to claim back all the vat we pay out. We have claimed back £4145.75 back from HMRC VAT payments this is quite high due to the expenditure on the heritage lighting project and the replacement play equipment and all the tree works.

By careful management we have a secure financial position, and it was therefore agreed to reduce our Precept, which is the Parish Council element of the Council Tax. It was taken down by 1.6% to £43,500.

As mentioned, we set our budget in December for the coming year and for 2022/23, we reduced our precept to £42,500 as we felt that families would be watching their finances very carefully in the coming year. We have had to revise our budget as we now have the potential costs for implementing the High Street feasibility study and also the incredible increase in electricity neither of which we were aware of when we had to set our precept and budget. We will be watching our expenditure closely and for the first time may dip into our reserve to pay for everything we would like to do for the benefit of this community.

Sarah Sampson, West Wycombe Estate Manager

West Wycombe Garden Centre

Work is continuing following the schedule, with further works planned. Currently all services are being bedded in below the ground and exterior works to the enclosure are going well. As with any major renovation works, further work is unearthed which adds time onto the project, this meaning that no final date has been confirmed, but it is very doubtful that it will be completed in 2022.

Eventually, Sir Edward along with members of his family are planning to open a café. The target market will be dissimilar to The Hellfire Caves, therefore bringing a new different clientele to the village.

Ukrainian Appeal Weekend

Sir Edward & Lady Dashwood opened the Park on Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th March for visitors to pay on entry for a walk around the grounds. It was a hugely successful weekend with visitors arriving from 10am – 5pm. We asked for donations of cakes to sell on both days, and we received a vast number of cakes, everyone was so generous & kind.

The weather was glorious, and the public were out in force and were thoroughly enjoying their time spent in the park. WW Brass Band came and played on the South Colonnade on the Saturday to a large audience. The Sunday afternoon we had a jazz band playing which was lovely and enjoyed again by many. The Hellfire Motor Vehicle Club also joined in the weekend, with members of their group bringing their vintage cars to show, this was also extremely popular. Susie & Noah Chester organised a Bottle Hoopla and Claire Carter a Raffle, both again received such a wonderful quantity of donated bottles and prizes.

It was an amazing weekend, and we want to thank everyone who volunteered their time for such a worthy cause. The total amount of money that was raised was £16,409.71 which was paid to the British Red Cross Ukrainian Appeal. I would just like to add that every penny raised was paid to the appeal.

Filming

We have a number of different productions that will be filming through the summer months and into the Autumn.

Cllr Neil Harris, Head Ranger National Trust

West Wycombe Hill- National Trust Countryside

Apart from the obvious, the last two years have seen the devastating impact of Ash dieback on our landscape.

Surveys carried out in June 2019 & 2020 showed that over 90% of Ash trees within a tree's length of our usage zones i.e., footpaths/houses etc. were showing crown dieback of between 50-100%. This means that the rapid decline in health and consequently the likelihood of catastrophic failure of the tree will increase the risk of danger to visitors/ adjoining landowners/ tenants and last but not least any operators working on the trees.

The Trust has used regional funds to help properties tackle this issue and has been following guidance issued by the Tree Council and the Forestry Commission in its approach. For instance, individual open grown ash trees such as those found in parkland will be retained wherever possible and managed by conventional means such as tree surgery. In other areas such as the hill, ash trees are predominantly in areas of secondary woodland. This has grown up since the 1950s when myxomatosis devastated rabbit populations who were responsible for keeping scrub and tree growth at bay.

Because of the number and form of ash trees alongside paths we have employed mechanical means, such as a walking excavator with a grab saw. This enables the safe dismantling of trees on very steep slopes, and placement of brash in safe piles as wildlife habitat. Where terrain allows timber has been removed.

The beacon to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty will be built with some of the ash trees removed from the hill.

Similar work has already taken place at Aston Wood, Juniper Bank, Howe Wood (Watlington), Hughenden and Bradenham. This year will see further work at Coombe Hill, Juniper Bank and Greenfield Copse (Watlington).

Whilst most of the work on the hill is about removing trees and scrub that threaten the chalk grassland, we have been replanting yew trees on the front face of the hill. These trees frame the view of the Mausoleum from West Wycombe Park and will replace trees lost in storms over the last 30 years.

Butterfly, flowering plant, and bird surveys have also been carried out. Highlights include breeding firecrests and Adonis blue butterfly! We have also seen a huge increase in the amount of yellow rattle growing in the grassland on the hill, which suppresses vigorous grasses allowing the more interesting plants to thrive. During lockdown, we took the opportunity to reduce the size of the parking area to give more of the hill back to walkers. This has resulted in the return of the finer-leaved grasses on the plateau and provided a safe area for families to picnic and children to play.

National Trust Let Estate – West Wycombe Village Report by David Surtees- Dawson, Senior Estate Manager – Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire

External decoration

We have instructed the first phase of 2022 external decoration and repair works along the High Street. Works will require scaffold and traffic management so we will ensure that the tenants are informed when we have a start date.

We are also awaiting quotes for a second and third phase with the aim of undertaking additional redecoration in 2022, subject to cost.

Fence & Gate Repairs and Replacement

Building upon the work in 2021, we continue a program of fence and gates replacements throughout the village in 2022. Earlier in the year we also completed the reconstruction of a brick and flint boundary wall behind the village shop.

36/37 High Street, (the former Sweet Shop)

Due to Covid, and staffing, this project was delayed however we have now instructed Savills to act as our project managers. They are already undertaking surveys and preparing proposals and recommendations for works that will be presented to the National Trust for consideration.

Outbuilding and Garages

We are preparing to commence upon a phased program of repairs to outbuildings and garages throughout the village. Surveys are already underway, which will enable us to prioritise the repairs before we place the works out to tender.

Lettings and Voids

Floras Temple and 43a High Street have recently been relet.

12 High Street has become void this week. Repairs and decoration will be undertaken before the property is brought back onto the market.

Commercial Property

The National Trust are aware that the licensee for the George and Dragon has left and that the tenants (Stonegate Group) will look to find a new occupier. As this property is let on a long lease (let in 1932) the National Trust do not have any involvement in the search for a new licensee although we hope that a new occupier will be found as soon as possible.

Tenant Repairs Helpline

It is about a year since the National Trust tenant repairs helpline came into operation. We feel that this provides our tenants with a consistent, and high level of service, to report repairs. If our

tenants have any particular feedback, then please do contact one of the local estate management team.

Report submitted by Denise Hurst, West Wycombe Community Library

As with most organisations, it has been a very difficult two years with COVID and the lockdowns. We are gradually getting back to normal, but we are still on reduced hours as the footfall has not fully recovered.

We only have three volunteers left, which makes it very difficult to maintain services. Even after numerous requests for more volunteers in the Contact magazine, we have been unable to recruit any more.

We are lucky to still have the Monday Crochet group who are all back after the lockdowns, 8 – 10 each week. They also enjoy a social side, lunching once a month. The Tuesday Craft Group have been reduced, as only a couple of them have returned, which is a shame as it was a lively group and is very much missed.

We have been donated £350 from the Bledlow Ridge fireworks group which was very generous of them and we thank them enormously.

We also had some government funding in relation to COVID, which has left us in a healthy financial position for the next year.

I would like to thank our volunteers who carry on year after year to keep the library going, without whom we could not survive.

We are very proud to have succeeded in keeping the library, a very valuable local resource, open for nearly 15 years and hope to continue, with support from our community, for many more years.

Report submitted by Christine Barry, West Wycombe Cricket Club

2020 started out with promise. The quiz held in January raised £600. We started Winter nets at a new venue – Bucks University – and completed 10 sessions when along came COVID and lockdown.

Eventually we were able to start playing games on July 19th with certain restrictions – no cricket teas – everyone had to bring their own food. Changing rooms could not be used – everyone came in their kit and went home in their kit.

In 2021 we fulfilled all of our fixtures following the same guidelines regarding teas and changing rooms. We also held cricket sessions for children – All Stars for 4 – 8 years; Dynamos for 9-11 years; This year these will place on Sunday mornings starting on 8th May.

We are planning on holding a quiz later in the year. We are also working into upgrading the pavilion although we are aware that this will be limited as we can only work within the footage we have now.

Report submitted by Mrs. Vicki Smith, BEM, Chairman, West Wycombe Community Association

West Wycombe Community Association are the trustees of West Wycombe Village Hall and the committee known as the Village Hall Committee manage The Village Hall on a daily basis. The money to build the Village Hall was raised by residents of West Wycombe over many years and it was opened in 1960.

The Hall could not function without our Letting Secretary Mrs Emma Copley, Emma is on our Village Hall Committee and is in charge of hiring out the Hall. She keeps the diary and is constantly busy with questions from potential hirers, our regular hirers and liaising with our cleaners. It is a very demanding job. If I tell you one children's party that Emma had to deal with recently took over 18 emails! We are so lucky to have Emma and The Village Hall Committee thank her for care and patience in dealing with our clients.

All of our Committee Members are volunteers and each person brings invaluable knowledge and support to help us look after the building and car park.

When the Hall was closed for many weeks through the Covid 19 lock downs we were able to have the main hall ceiling repaired and decorated and the whole of the upstairs room and stairs decorated too. We would never normally be able to do these types of jobs because the Hall is busy almost every day and evening.

We installed WiFi this last year for the benefit of our hirers and we have recently installed a new sink, taps and work surfaces in the kitchen.

At the moment we are looking to see if there are better ways to heat the building but being in a conservation area and an area of outstanding natural beauty this is proving difficult. Our bills have been around a breath taking £5000 per year but with energy bills increasing this could double. We have big decisions to take re our hiring charges this coming year.

Our car park is something we talk about at every meeting.

I don't think many people realise we own all of the car park and whilst we like to be good neighbours, the car park is really only for the use of people hiring the Hall.

We do issue a limited number car park permits to Village residents and businesses to be neighbourly, as I said and this last year have put an extra sign in the car park entrance to make sure people know it is a private car park and we have given our permit holders window stickers to prove they have paid and have the right to park there, we also have stickers to go the windscreens of cars that shouldn't be parked there.

The Village Hall Committee continue to work hard to keep West Wycombe Village Hall viable and a clean and welcoming building for all to use and appreciate.

Jo Brookfield, West Wycombe Preschool

I am Jo the Manager of West Wycombe Preschool.

I joined the Preschool in September and I have enjoyed getting to know this lovely village, which is so welcoming, inclusive and supportive of the Preschool, it is a lovely place to work.

We have had a busy year at the Preschool over the last twelve months. The end of the academic year last year was a busy one with good numbers in the Preschool, though we were still working with some restrictions left from COVID, generally the Preschool has been able to run mostly back to normal. Since September we have continued a few of the COVID changes but are now able to welcome back our parents into the Preschool and able to invite people in to look around the setting again, which is great for the business. As a result, our numbers are extremely positive and we are currently full with a waiting list of people signing up for the September start.

We have had a fun year so far this year, we have enjoyed a Halloween disco, Christmas Carols at St Paul's Church, Easter Dancing on the hill, visits from a Shetland pony and a paramedic and we are now waiting for our eggs to arrive so we can watch them hatch into chicks, which the children will thoroughly enjoy.

Our biggest news from this year, is that we had our Ofsted inspection in March which, despite being a busy and long day went extremely well and we got the Outstanding result that we had been hoping for. Some quotes from the inspection report include:

"Staff are especially caring towards the children, creating an extremely nurturing environment"

"Support for the children's developing communication and language is outstanding"

"Staff expertly weave mathematics into many aspects of their curriculum"

"the Preschool is a highly valued part of the community"

The team and parents have all been very pleased. As a charity we are pleased that this means we will continue to have a high demand for the childcare we offer and we can continue to run all our parent partnership and fundraising events successfully. We have had a successful year so far fundraising, we have raised 3,198.30 of our £5k.

Coming up we have got a Sports Day, Walk around the estate for National Bee Day, Father's Day event and hopefully a big Summer Fun Day. Thank you for the support we have had from everyone in the village to run all our events this year.

Alison Rimmer, Church Warden, West Wycombe PCC

There is definitely a different feeling about writing the report this year! We are so relieved and encouraged to see opportunities and activity opening up again after the crushing pandemic, although mindful that a measured caution and respect for others' concerns are still essential. However, I think I speak for all the PCC and congregation when I say that we really do believe that things are getting brighter!

The West Wycombe Benefice comprises the parishes of West Wycombe, Bradenham, Bledlow Ridge and Radnage. We are now officially 'in vacancy' which means that we are able to begin the appointment process for our next incumbent. That is such good news! We have been without a Rector for effectively four years and the gap has been felt acutely. It is hoped that our next priest will be with us before the end of the year. However, the Benefice has definitely grown up and strengthened in that time, and we feel in a much stronger position now, working together well whilst recognising the individual nature of each parish. The Ministry Team comprises four voluntary priests whose support has always been unstinting and they are much loved and respected. However, with one priest retiring this month, and a second leaving in August, the challenges continue!

During Lockdown, our churches were closed, and parish worship was moved from St Lawrence to St Paul's church, due also to the huge amount of repair and refurbishment work needed at St Lawrence. The Diocese of Oxford has assumed responsibility for exploring the future of the church building. And of course we have mixed feelings, St Lawrence is loved by so many, but the PCC are simply unable to shoulder the financial and building commitment required. We also need to re-build our congregation post-pandemic and offer far more to the local community. We hope that St Paul's ideal position on the High Street will give us those opportunities and have firm plans to enhance the building and make it a community asset. The effect of the pandemic and also the absence of a village priest has undoubtedly affected church life, and our aim is to rebuild this, slowly perhaps but steadily; there is a small but dedicated congregation and team of volunteers and I am so grateful for their ongoing support.

We have now conducted a survey of both our churches, with different questions due to their different profiles. A Public Consultation held at St Lawrence in October was very well attended and encouraging, with generous community offers to share people's skills. Although St Paul's is officially our parish church now, we're delighted that concerts can still take place at the church, and of course the burial of ashes in the churchyard.

The survey taken in February at St Paul's is instrumental in telling us how the church can best serve our local community in worship and activity. We are very grateful for the feedback and excited about the future possibilities. We are also formalising the sharing agreement with the Serbian Orthodox church; this has been an informal agreement over several decades. The church is first and foremost an Anglican church, but we welcome this ecumenical move, are in regular contact and share plans to improve the church building to serve our local diverse community. We are currently planning how we can support the growing number of Ukrainian refugees locally who wish to worship in an Orthodox setting.

Our third building is the Grade 2* listed Church Room and Loft which also houses the distinctive village clock. Although a much loved part of our church history, its use as a meeting place has waned considerably, the building needs major repair work and the PCC are actively looking for new owners who can refurbish and cherish the building as it deserves.

As you can tell, although the fabric of the buildings has been a concern over many years, resolving the issues is long overdue - hence the activity over recent months and years!

We are so pleased to be strengthening links with West Wycombe School again and have been delighted to welcome class groups to see the churches, Class 5 volunteered to clean the church and plant summer bulbs in the churchyard which was great fun; the school were also very generous in supporting our Harvest Appeal for the One Can Trust.

Thank you to Neil Harris and the National Trust who often help us with situations and advice around our churches, to Bucks Council who maintain the churchyard at St Lawrence, to the West Wycombe estate who advise on film location bookings, to West Wycombe Stores who supports us in many ways, Ian Wright and Graeme Slocombe who maintain St Paul's churchyard, Brian Palmer who cares for the iconic clock and Susie Chester who maintains our social media with regular links to other groups and individuals. And last, but definitely not least, our sincere thanks to the Parish Council who work tirelessly to support us as well as all those in and around the village. You support us practically in maintaining the clock, there is the peaceful and very pretty Parish burial ground behind St Paul's with the car park available to us, and your constant interest and generous support means much to us all.

The ongoing Rural Review of the 14 rural parishes in the western part of the Wycombe Deanery has been a huge help to us, the various focus and discussion groups opening our eyes to how our village churches can best serve their communities. The topics of worship and mission, schools and young people and community engagement have been particularly significant. As we share ideas and resources with those around us, the future is encouraging with new and exciting initiatives before us.

We certainly look forward to the year ahead, with more social events and new opportunities. We are so blessed to be part of this unique West Wycombe community and thank everyone who makes it so very special.

Ben Stupples, Downley Dynamos

I have been involved with Downley Dynamos for the past 9 years and run the Under 15 team. We have 300 plus children starting with the Under 6 age group. The area we can use in Downley has limited space especially in the summer when cricket resumes. The Pedestal Playing Field allowed us to expand. The Parish Council had been extremely co-operative and we work well together and Sir Edward Dashwood allowed us to restore and develop the pavilion. We found some interesting items in the building when we started our work – an old WW2 stretcher which has been donated to a museum and a mummified rat! We had to repair and check all the water and electricity as well as the structure of the building, but we now have a very good hub for the teams and for socialising and is named after Ollie Darlington – Ollies Café.

We have worked with the Parish Council and undertake the grass cutting during the season and have installed matting with the grass section of the parking area as we needed more space than the hard standing area.

In the new season the Under 8's will use the field.

COVID had an effect on our finances as we decided to refund parents for the subscriptions they had paid and the children could not use. Any money raised is reinvested in the club.

We were very grateful to the Parish Council when they granted us permission to install a seat in memory of one of our boys – Ollie Darlington – who sadly died suddenly from sepsis – his family appreciated the gesture and we raised funds for the Sepsis Foundation.

Kate Cheshire, West Wycombe Events Team

The COVID pandemic made it necessary to cancel the Summer Fayre due to be held in July and our Festive Fayre which would have been held in December 2020 and 2021. Due to the Platinum Jubilee this Summer we postponed the Summer Fayre for 2022 but we will be holding our Festive Fayre on the first Wednesday in December. We do however plan to hold the annual Summer Quiz on July 8th. We are busy planning the Platinum Jubilee Beacon with the National Trust and Community Picnic with the Parish Council as well as launching the Platinum Jubilee Trail.

Cllr Darren Hayday, Buckinghamshire Councillor

I or my wife Orsolya Hayday who is also an Independent Councillor for the West Wycombe Ward have attended the parish council meetings in this parish and the other parishes in our Ward which covers Sands, Booker, Piddington and Stokenchurch. We have just experienced the first year as a Unitary Council. We have helped with the litter pick events in this parish and dealt with individual cases for both the parish and residents who have needed our support. We were instrumental in

getting a reduced speed limit – 60mph down to 50pmh from West Wycombe to Studley Green after the accident causing the death of two cyclists on Dashwood Hill. We are trying to get average speed cameras installed on this stretch of the A40 to reduce the speed through the parishes of West Wycombe and Piddington and up to Studley Green. The police are not convinced it makes a difference and therefore trials and the collection of data is vital to support our case. We have to wait and see whether we will be successful.

Thames Valley Police

Due to a shortage of officers, PC Danny O'Driscoll was not able to attend. He gave us this short report.

'Its been a bit of a hectic couple of months I am afraid. I have just returned to the Neighbourhood Team at Marlow Police Station after being placed on the reactive shift at Wycombe Police Station for the past 5 weeks as they are so short of officers.

Every Neighbourhood Officer in the Wycombe Area is taking it in turns to cover the reactive shifts at Wycombe for 5 week periods over the next year or so until more officers are recruited.

Unfortunately we have also lost our only PCSO, Callum Smith, as he has just joined up to be a PC and is currently in training. He has not been relaced yet, so for the first time that I can recall we do not have a PCSO on our team at all. I am not sure when we will be getting a PCSO assigned to our team but when I find out I will let you know.

We currently only have 3 full time PCSOs at Marlow, we used to have 8 or 9, so we are a bit swamped.

I am sorry but I am not going to be able to attend the Annual Parish Meeting but I have been allocated to an operation on that day, again in Wycombe. Sorry about this, hopefully I can attend a parish council meeting soon.

Cllr Cope invited everyone to ask questions and stay to take refreshments and meet everyone.