

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON 7th MAY 2009 AT 8PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, WEST WYCOMBE**

PRESENT: Cllrs Mrs J. Smith (Chairman), Mr R. Seymour, Mrs C. Dakin, Mr F. Downes, Mrs A. Harris, Mr N. Timberlake. Mr N. Harris (National Trust)  
Mrs S. Henson, Clerk

12 members of the public including Mr Jim Foy and Mrs V Webbon - The National Trust, Mrs Beverley Cope, Churchwarden West Wycombe PCC, Mr D. Winterburn, Bucks Free Press local correspondent, PCSO Penny Ling, Thames Valley Police.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mr D. Callaghan, Dist Cllrs Mrs J. Teesdale and Mr I McEnnis

The Chairman welcomed everyone.

**Chairman's Annual Report 2009**

Last year we mentioned that we were looking into taking on the Pedestal Playing Field. At the Parish Council Meeting in April we signed the lease for the Pedestal Playing Field. Sir Edward Dashwood who owns the land would like to see it kept as an open amenity space for West Wycombe. We will be paying an annual rent and the grass and hedge cutting will be just one of the on-going expenses.

We know from the Parish Appraisal we carried out a few years ago that a children's playground is something that many of our residents would welcome. Buying the equipment needed for the playground will be very costly and we would like to encourage our residents to organise some fund raising events to confirm and show their interest in the project. We hope this will also bring the community together and give a sense of ownership of the playground. The field could also be used for events and functions.

We did put a little money into the precept this year for the playground but it will not go very far once we start buying playground equipment.

The precept is the money we ask Wycombe District Council for each year to run the Parish Council and you find detailed on your Wycombe District Council Tax statement. Parish Councils are not capped with the amount they can ask for but we always want to give good value for the money you entrust us with. We start planning the next year's budget in November and our precept request has to be in by the beginning of January. We then receive one half of the precept in April and the other in October.

We have consciously lowered our precept this year in the light of the financial recession but of course it means we cannot do all the work we would like to.

Allotments hadn't been mentioned until February so we did not put any money aside for them this year. But when Sir Edward said he would be pleased if we could get the old allotments in Chorley Road up and running again we were happy to take on this task. As soon as we mentioned allotments in our monthly news piece in the Contact magazine we had many people asking for plots. Sir Edward has had the area roughly cleared and we will be marking out plots over the next few weeks. The ground has not been worked for a very long time and allotment holders will have to do a lot of work on their plots to get them into a good growing condition. Bearing this in mind we will not be charging for the allotments until the autumn. We have looked at other allotment agreements and now have our own set of rules and regulations for our allotment holders to sign. We would like the allotment holders to form an "allotment committee" with a couple of our Parish Councillors and our clerk to help things run smoothly.

Because we have suffered from flash floods in the High Street we sit on a Wycombe District Council Committee to consider and discuss issues relating to the safety of our residents. Over the last year or so we have had to put together an Emergency Contingency Plan for our parish.

We and Little Marlow Parish Council, the only other parish council in the Wycombe area who have completed this task, were asked earlier this year by WDC to put our plans through an emergency disaster situation. We were monitored by WDC staff and they were amazed by our local knowledge and highly commended us on our handling of the disaster, which was heavy falls of snow for three weeks cutting us off from all amenities, electricity, doctors, hospitals, shops etc. Sharon Henson, our Clerk, and the Little Marlow Parish Clerk were then asked by WDC to represent them at a Government Disaster Emergency conference in Manchester in March where they were in steering groups with Liverpool City Council, Greater Manchester Police and many other very large city councils and emergency services. Quite a feat for two small parish councils! We hope that we will never have to put our plans to the test here in West Wycombe but with a busy main road and the railway running through our Parish we have to be prepared.

Commenting on local planning applications and keeping an eye on the new buildings to make sure all their conditions are correctly adhered to, reading and being consulted on numerous documents that come out of local government departments, reporting street lights not working, holes in the roads and any highway problems that crop up are all part of the every day life of a Parish Council but they are the things that are important to our residents and we act on them as quickly as we can. During the last twelve months we were given the opportunity to name the two new developments along the West Wycombe Road – we chose Old Station Place for the Friend at hand site, and Gerrard Court, in memory of Mike Gerrard, a Parish Councillor and a member of an old West Wycombe family, for the flats opposite Beechwood Road.

You may be interested to know some of the things that over years we have instigated/organised and in most cases paid for.

A pathway across West Wycombe Hill for the School children and parents to get to the Garden Centre car park and paid for a path from the main road up to the School. We have always paid for the School Crossing Patrol person in Chorley Road.

Double yellow lines and ziz-zag lines outside the school for the children's safety.

We made a case and paid £20,000 towards the Pelican Crossing in West Wycombe Road.

Purchased and maintain 57 street lights in Bradenham Rd, Chorley Rd and Church Lane.

We paid for 3 grit bins. One in the Garden Centre car park entrance one in Church Lane and one on the junction of Beechwood Road and West Wycombe Road.

We continue to pay for the grit/salt at the Garden Centre. Bucks CC fill the others for us free of charge.

Bollards on the corner of Chapel Lane and West Wycombe Road and the ones near Copperfields to stop people parking on these areas and to ensure the safety of all road users.

We asked BCC and WDC for new and specially designed High Street lighting scheme in West Wycombe Village and paid £6000 towards the total cost.

We worked with BCC and Thames Valley Police for a Zebra Crossing in the High Street and 45 minute parking bays outside the post office and the newsagents. We have asked for 2 more bays outside The Apple Orchard shop.

Shrubs planted by the Pedestal Monument to stop cars parking there and blocking motorist's view of the traffic.

Verge grass cutting and gully clearing and occasional weed killing.

Dropped curbs for pushchairs and wheelchairs and scooters in all parts of the Parish.

Built Reg's Island at the top of Church Lane to slow traffic which uses the lane as a 'rat run' and reduces the flow of rain water down the lane.

Planted daffodils along the entrance to the village

5 information notice boards in the Parish where any residents can advertise their fundraising activities and functions.

Created a website that can also be used for advertising your activities as well as giving information about the Parish Council and other organisations in the Parish.

Hired vehicle speed activated signs to monitor and help control the speed of traffic through our Parish.

We paid for the electrical installations for the Christmas tree lights and for the Christmas tree lights and organise the erection of the two Christmas trees and lights each year.

Given donations to West Wycombe Library and West Wycombe Village Hall because we believe these to be essential to the wellbeing of our Parish.

We paid for repairs to the Church Room roof.

We have lobbied BCC and WDC for years to keep a bus service going through the Parish. It may not be perfect but without regularly meetings with BCC transport people it could be much worse.

Ordered and organised the placing of the kissing gates that we have on our walks in our Parish countryside.

Made a request to BCC and The National Trust to create the bund and install new drainage in the Swan Yard to reduce the possibility of flooding into The Swan, Troutts and the Community Library.

In the year 2000 we opened our own Burial Ground when the Church Yard at St Lawrence Church became full. This took many years to plan, finance and build but we know from the compliments we receive how local people appreciate having their own burial ground in their own Parish.

All these things take planning and commitment and your councillors dedicate a lot of time to make sure we make the right decisions. We don't always agree but we respect each other's views and come to decisions that we feel will benefit the community.

Parish Councillors do not get paid.  
Our Parish Clerk is our only paid part-time employee.

The Government continue to set new challenges for Councillors from Standards to Planning procedures and West Wycombe Parish Council continually support and instigate training for our councillors and our clerk.

The Parish Council belongs to the Wycombe District Association of Local Councils who keep Parish Councils up to date with all the rules and regulations needed for us to work legally and professionally. There are 28 Parish Councils in the Wycombe District area and it is good to be able to share views and ideas with each other.

Cllr Mrs Smith is on the training team of the WDALC and is also a Parish Council representative on Wycombe District Council's Standard's Committee. She is also part of a team who represent Wycombe Parish Councils on the Bucks Association of Local Councils.

We pay for Sharon Henson, our Clerk, to belong to the Society of Local Council Clerks so that she can keep up with new legislation.

Sharon is qualified in council administration.

We attend the local Neighbourhood Action Group set up by the police to help with local issues such as anti social behaviour, litter and speeding on our roads. Piddington and Wheeler End, Radnage, Lane End and Stokenchurch are all part of our NAG and it is good to hear other Parishes problems and try to solve them together.

We also attend Bucks County Council's Local Community Partnership meetings which cover the above Parish Councils plus Marlow, Marlow Bottom and Hambleden.

These two groups have been set up as a result of Government initiatives to encourage local people to become more involved in their communities.

We attend The Rural Forums at Wycombe District Council Offices because 80% of the Wycombe District area is farm land and it is useful to hear what the policies are for planning and sustaining the rural landscape and how local farmers are managing to diversify and survive in these difficult times.

As we live in an area surrounded by National Trust properties and land it is imperative to have a representative from The National Trust as part of our team. Our N T Property Manager Nick Phillips was a much valued member here but has now moved on to pastures new and we welcome back Neil Harris to the Parish Council as a non voting but equally important member of the this team.

We would like to thank our Bucks County Councillor Frank Downes for keeping us informed of BCC plans and ideas. Frank is of course one of our Parish Councillors too.

Our thanks too to Jean Teesdale and Ian McEnnis, our Wycombe District Councillors, who are always supportive and also keep us abreast of Council strategy and help with any planning issues we may have. Carol Burslem has been to almost all our meeting this year which we appreciate because she is BCC's Area Co-ordinator, Locality Working Team.

Our thanks too go to [Mike Henson](#) who looks after our Parish Council Website.

[www.westwycombe.org.uk](http://www.westwycombe.org.uk)

The Parish Council works closely with all departments at BCC and WDC and we are very highly thought of. Certainly we are said to be one of the best and most efficient Parish Councils in the area which is why we are a Quality Parish Council. Most of this is down to Sharon our Clerk who works tirelessly for this Parish. Well beyond the call of duty. We owe her an enormous debt of gratitude.

And lastly a big thank you must go to all the Parish Councillors for their continued support and for all the hard work they do for this Parish Council.

We all strive to keep West Wycombe a good, safe and pleasant place to live.

### **The Financial Report**

We have finished our financial year with a higher than normal balance. We increased our precept for the year 2008/09 by £3000 to allow for expenditure on The Pedestal Playing Field. For legal reasons not connected with the Parish Council we have not signed the lease for the field with West Wycombe Estate and therefore the money put aside for this project has not been used hence the high end of year balance.

We have had shrubs planted at The Pedestal in order to stop cars parking on this area of grass.

We have added proper refuse collection at the Burial Ground by Wycombe District Council and had tree works and fencing carried out in the Burial Ground.

We have made a contribution of £1000 towards the Community Library and £2000 to West Wycombe Community Association for improvements to the Village Hall and £100 towards the Old People's Christmas Party.

We continue to pay for the School Crossing Patrol at the Garden Centre.

We purchased a new printer and the cost of this was shared three ways between Piddington and Wheeler End PC and Hambleden PC, as is the cost of the telephone line.

The air pollution monitor, installed in the Village Hall Car Park by Wycombe District, continues to function and WDC refund all the costs of the energy used.

Insurance cost £1075.39 and energy for street lighting increased by £200

### **Report from Mr Neil Harris, Gardens & Countryside Manager, The National Trust and Victoria Webbon.**

Mr Harris introduced Jim Foy and Victoria Webbon who will be part of the team now responsible for the overview and properties in West Wycombe. He reported that The National Trust's main plan for land in our Parish is a Park and Restoration Plan for the borrowed landscape. The main activity is to control the scrub on the chalk grassland of West Wycombe Hill. They have to find a sustainable way of maintaining the hillside which is a valuable source of wildlife and plants. One juniper has been found growing on the hill and it is hoped that by clearing some of the scrub, it will be encouraged to multiply despite their slightly challenging way of reproducing – our tree is female and it is a fair distance to find a male tree – let's hope the birds and the wind will help the process. The National Trust are looking into conservation grazing on parts of the hill and have long term plans to try to create a smaller and restricted car park on top of the hill. Plans are currently being signed off by Natural England and then the project can proceed. In the short term they will improve the surface on the track and top of the hill as soon as possible.

Victoria Webbon explained the new structure for looking after the properties and village. Her department will be responsible for the everyday management of the tenants and houses with Elton Norris as the building surveyor. There is a real intention to work on the properties to get them up to a level where everyone can be proud of the village; there is an increased budget for repairs and improvement. There is an intention to make more of the village and West Wycombe Park and The National Trust will be working with Sir Edward Dashwood to achieve this. Jim Foy will be responsible for the overall view of the properties in the Region.

### **Report from Cllr Neil Timberlake, West Wycombe Community Library**

Madam Chairman, Members of the West Wycombe Parish Council, and residents and friends of West Wycombe parish.

West Wycombe Community Library continues to go from strength to strength.

It is almost astonishing to note that we have now been open as a community library, run by volunteers, and funded from within the community, for over two years. When we opened in February 2007 those of us involved in the Library group did so with a mixture of pride at what we had achieved in raising money and garnering support to rescue the library from closure, and trepidation at the scale of what we had taken on, and the continuing challenges of keeping going.

Now, two years on, we can report a reasonably healthy bank balance (much improved on this time last year!), a varied programme of fund-raising events to keep it that way, a committed stock of volunteers, and an excellent stock of books.

We have the security of a five year lease from Buckinghamshire County Council. I imagine it will not be too long before we must commence negotiations with the County Council over the renewal of the lease at the end of the current term.

The Library continues to be open for six days a week, (9am to 12.30pm each weekday morning, with afternoon opening 3pm to 7pm on Mondays and Thursdays, and from 10am to 1pm on Saturdays) and with Sunday opening in the summer months once again planned from June to the end of August.

Our book borrowings continue to hold up well, but we always welcome more people! It is good to have a good-news story to report, and we want to share it with more members of the community. The more people use the library, and the more books that are borrowed, the more we are vindicated in our central aim of keeping this valued facility in the heart of the community. Please visit us soon, and tell your friends and neighbours too!

Mornings also feature a tea shop with tea, coffee and cakes. Bacon rolls are served on Friday mornings. On Mondays from 3pm to 5pm we have a Seniors Drop-in, which includes tea and biscuits.

To support our fundraising we also sell a number of small items, such as bags, potted plants, jewellery, novelty chocolate items, and surplus books.

Our website – [www.westwycombelibrary.org.uk](http://www.westwycombelibrary.org.uk) – continues to provide a source of regularly-updated information on the library's programme of activities, and we are grateful too, for the support and co-operation of the parish magazine "Contact" and of David Winterburn and the Bucks Free Press for all they do to publicise our activities and raise awareness of the library.

No report of our activities can pass without a huge vote of thanks to the many people who have generously donated books. Almost every book in the library has been donated, and those that were not have been purchased with grants from such as the Gannett Foundation. We are blessed with a number of cash donations, including those from the Parish Council, our County and District Councillors, Sir Edward Dashwood, Christine Barry, and others who have made donations large and small; we thank also the efforts of our diverse band of volunteers – some librarians, and others working on fundraising events or other 'behind-the-scenes' activities.

At our recent AGM we were sad to note that Cllr Mrs Jean Teesdale and Cllr Ian McEnnis stepped down from their roles as Chairman, and Chairman of the Fundraising Committee respectively. I would like to thank them both warmly for their dedication and support. Both will remain members of the committee, but have been replaced in their roles by Rev Nigel Lacey as Chairman, and by Mike Cooper as Fundraising Chairman.

We have a healthy programme of fundraising events planned for the next few months:

Our Jazz and Barbecue event last Sunday was very successful, and we thank all those who helped to make it happen, and to all those who attended. Particular thanks are due to Duncan for the generous loan of his garden for the afternoon, and for the jazz band who stepped in almost at the last minute.

Our next event, on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, commemorates the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, and is a 1940s-themed dance. We hope that people will dress up in 1940s costume. I have been persuaded to dress as a spiv, and will be trying to sell the womenfolk such forbidden luxuries as nylon stockings and Hershey chocolate bars! We will be dancing to 40s music including "The Andrews Sisters" and the cast of Allo Allo (courtesy of the Masque Players) will be adding to the experience; the food will have a 40s theme too, so I hope you like spam! Tickets are available at £10 from the usual outlets.

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September in the evening we will be holding a library open day event.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October sees a Family Race Night - repeating a successful event from last year that was hugely popular and which is of appeal to people of all ages, and particularly family groups.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November sees our Dance Night at the Village Hall, with dancing to “Inside Out”

And at the village Christmas evening on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December we will be open, with seasonal refreshments and craft and gift items for sale.

Our fundraising events thus also contribute to the variety and to the jollity of the village social life, and we hope have a value far beyond their importance to us.

Finally – although we are an independent, volunteer-run and volunteer-financed library, we are nevertheless part of the County Council library network. As such, if you have a Bucks County Library card then you are automatically a member of our library, and can borrow items on the same terms as from other libraries. You can borrow books from West Wycombe and return them to other libraries in the county – and vice versa.

### **Report from Mrs Beverly Cope, Church Warden, West Wycombe PCC on the Parish Church of West Wycombe.**

We continue to have a parish communion at 11am at St. Lawrence Church every Sunday, except 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays, when a Family Service is held at 11am at St Paul's. Services draw a congregation of about 30 people, and it is encouraging that we now have several children frequently attending Sunday School. Carole Chambers provides suitable activities, and their artwork brightens up the church.

Life has become much easier since completion of the toilets, especially when people have travelled a distance for weddings, baptisms and visiting on Sunday afternoons when we open the tower, from Easter to the end of September, and on Bank Holidays, when teas are also served.

If anyone wonders where that rather odd looking ‘temporary vestry’ has disappeared to, it was dismantled on completion of the ‘new’ vestry-cum-kitchen. Not of sound construction, it had never had a faculty and was built only to appear in a film, several years ago.

In 2008 we had a wonderful flower festival once again, thanks to Ros Hilborne, June Stanton and their loyal team of helpers.

An exhibition was held in St. Lawrence's in June with the help of historic photos from the Wycombe museum, and a relaxing afternoon of music and teas also took place at this time.

A coffee morning in the Church Room raised £148 for Christian Aid, thanks to Alison Rimmer and helpers.

Simon Cope and Richard Sugg raised £174 on a sponsored ‘ride or stride’ event, which was shared between the Bucks. Historic Churches and our parish church.

Once again the university held their impressive MA exhibition in St. Lawrence Church.

A Harvest Supper was enjoyed in the Church Room, courtesy of the volunteer caterers.

In December St. Lawrence Church was the venue for a joyful Deanery Confirmation Service.

During Lent in St. Paul's Church a weekly course of study and contemplation, lead by Rev. Nigel Lacey was much appreciated.

During Holy Week a series of visual aids set up by Nigel in St. Paul's, gave an opportunity for quiet, thoughtful prayer.

The possibility of a lease with the Serbian congregation who use St. Paul's is still under consideration and awaits a formal reply from the Diocese. We are currently in the process of well over-due Quinquennial Inspections of both churches. The delay was caused by our need to find a less expensive architect, followed by awaiting his availability.

We have many weddings and concerts booked this year and we try to live out our vision statement of **'Welcoming, knowing, showing, serving and sharing in Christ's name'**.

### **Report from Cllr Roger Seymour, West Wycombe Community Association**

Firstly, I would like to make it clear that The Village Hall is run by a committee under the banner of West Wycombe Community Association. The Community Association was formed many years ago, long before this Hall was built in 1960 with money raised by local people. When The Parish Council was formed in 1987 they took over the civic responsibilities for West Wycombe and really the Community Association now just looks after the Village Hall. We are planning to change to The West Wycombe Village Hall Committee quite soon as it obviously causes some confusion. We are Registered Charity and are totally independent of West Wycombe Parish Council or any other body.

We are self supporting.

All the committee members give their considerable time, voluntarily.

The Village Hall Committee has worked hard again this year to keep the Hall on an even keel. We were aware that we had to improve the kitchen and decorate the areas that we left last year in the hope of getting a large grant to renovate the Hall. Unfortunately we did not get the grant and we had to think how we could move forward.

We have had to prioritise jobs and are gradually catching up on the maintenance needed to keep the Hall in good condition.

The outside of the windows have been painted and the guttering replaced where needed and also painted. The fire door has been repaired near the stage.

West Wycombe is in a conservation area. Therefore we have to use traditional cast iron guttering and wooden window frames and doors. We cannot just put in UPVC double glazing.

The quote we had last year to replace the windows was £48,000.

Our limited resources have paid for the maintenance jobs we have completed and we were very pleased to hear in November that we had obtained a grant from Buckinghamshire Foundation Trust for £5000 to put towards the cost of renovating the kitchen. We had hoped to make the kitchen larger but this was going to be too costly. The kitchen has been completely gutted and given a face lift with new cabling, electric points, plastering and new fitted units.

We intend to buy a cooker in the near future. The kitchen has never had a cooker, but our prospective hirers have asked for one on many occasions. This will be paid for with grants given to us by West Wycombe Parish Council and our County Councillor Mr Frank Downes. This money will also be used to redecorate the entrance hall.

Next on our list is to put a low hand basin in for children in the toilet by the stage as this will be of benefit to the Pre School children who use the Hall every morning.

We also intend to put another ladies toilet in the area now known as the electric cupboard because when the Hall is busy the one ladies toilet, which is a disabled toilet too, is just not enough at the front of the Hall. This will be an expensive project so we have to wait until we can afford to do it.

We realised this year that very soon the car park will have to be resurfaced. Some areas are in a very poor state because of heavy usage.

The car park is on our agenda every committee meeting.

Mostly because our hirers have complained that they cannot find anywhere to park in our car park, we lost the monthly antique fair for this reason, or the 3 people that have paid to park at the Village Hall feel it unfair that they are paying and cannot find a space because of the unauthorised parking. We too, feel this is unfair.



We understand all their grievances. To walk past early on a Sunday morning when the Hall is not in use and see 22 cars parked here with only 3 that have paid is quite annoying, especially when you know how much it will cost to resurface the car park they so freely use!

Over the years we have tried very hard to encourage people to pay to use the car park. The problem has become much worse over the last 5 years. Two years ago we put a notice in every house in the Village saying that if people didn't start to pay then we would take steps to instruct a car clamping firm.

Really, this was the last thing we wanted to do!

The letter said they could apply to our treasurer for a permit and gave his name and address. Because this was not successful, as I have said only 3 residents paid last year, we took the decision in October 2008 to instruct a clamping company who would also remove cars without a permit.

We would not have made this decision if everyone had paid their dues and we did not arrive at this decision lightly, far from it. But having thought through the options of gates or barriers for many years we felt it was the only option left.

We had to have control of our car park.

Our agreement with Central Parking Services says they do not come to the Hall when the Hall is in use and then, only when we call them out.

I put a letter through every house and business in the Village on November 24<sup>th</sup> 2008 saying that the new parking regulations would start on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> 2009.

Although the notices went up, on and around the Village Hall, in December, we have waited until everyone who asked for permit has had the permit handed to them personally. To date we have not called out Central Parking Services.

Obviously not too many of the residents who had been using the car park for free liked this idea but a good few did and most came forward immediately to pay the £100 per year asked to park in our private car park. If people could not afford to pay the whole amount in one payment we were happy for them to pay in instalments.

Unfortunately we can't always guarantee a parking space when the Hall is being used but for 26p per day one could not expect that sort of service.

We stated only one permit per household and up to now we have turned no-one away. We cannot take too many more vehicles because this will defeat our object. We hope by doing this we are helping our neighbours.

We must have room in the car park for people who hire the Hall.

In the last couple of years residents have abandoned cars in the car park and we have had to take steps to have them removed. This shows the contempt that some people have for their neighbours who pay to park here and those of us who look after the Hall.

Although unpopular for some, our decision has made local people aware of the Village Hall and maybe they will understand what it means in time and money to make sure this Hall is kept as a viable facility for the community.

Over 300 people use this hall in a week and on busy weeks that number can go up to 700. All the children and adults using the Village Hall pursue activities here that enhance their lives. The Village Hall has helped people raise thousands and thousands of pounds over the years for charities too.

I was asked recently what we do for West Wycombe.

This is what we do for West Wycombe. We provide a facility for people to use.

Regular weekly users that have been using the Hall for at least 30 years are a pre school every week day morning in term time, an art club on Monday evenings, an amateur dramatic club on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and a cycle club on Wednesday evenings. The WI holds their meetings here. It is regularly used for keep fit, coffee mornings, quiz nights and the occasionally jazz night. It is hired for almost any sort of meeting or party that you can think of, except teenage to twenty five old parties because we had problems with those and as soon as they affected our neighbours we put a stop to them.

We are licensed for 120 people so you can see that we need places for our hirers to park.

We value the people who choose West Wycombe Village Hall and we listen to their needs. The Hall has to be let to remain viable.

This committee works hard to keep the Hall in a good state of repair but after nearly 50 years there are many jobs looming, like replacing the windows or if the roof leaked, that quite honestly we don't know how we would finance.

Heating the place is one of our largest expenses.

I am aware that our website needs to be updated but it still gives details that are important such as who you get in touch with to hire the Hall.

I would like to thank our Treasurer Graham Wood for all the work he does keeping our accounts in order and Marion Brown our Secretary who does all our admin, our minutes and agendas. We could not function without them.

Roger Seymour and Mel Webster have been invaluable is year again. They have drawn up the plans for all the major jobs that we have done and were on site a lot of the time to make sure the jobs move forward correctly.

All the committee play their part in the decisions and work. And as I have said before, all give their time for free.

My thanks go to them all.

Jane Temple does a very good job as our letting secretary and also Jane and Eric between them clean the Hall.

Our thanks go to Mr and Mrs Bob Plumridge, who live next door to the Hall, because they keep the key, pick up litter around the Hall and generally keep a watchful eye on the place for us.

## **Report from Mrs Marks, West Wycombe County Combined School**

### **Introduction**

The school continues to go from strength to strength and remains oversubscribed. Once again, we were oversubscribed for the Foundations Stage. The recent OFSTED inspection agreed with the school's self-evaluation and the areas identified to work on are correct. There is a good, strong team.

### **Performance**

The school's performance in the league tables has been good, comparing favourably with other local schools.

Our Year 6 pupils have achieved pleasing results in the 11 + testing, with 12 of the 27 pupils who sat the test qualifying for Grammar School places. All children worked hard and should be proud of their achievements.

### **Curriculum**

We have launched the new Creative Curriculum which is developing well.

### **Extra curricular clubs**

There are a number of sports clubs available to pupils for example:

- Year 1 and Year 2 children have been offered to join gymnastics club on Tuesday lunchtime. The club is run by a professional gymnastics coach and the children seem to be very keen.
- Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been given the opportunity to join Cheerleading Club on a Tuesday after school for 6 sessions. This is run by a professional dance coach and is for both boys and girls. We also have a multi-skills club.
- Bucks Pyramid Programme has offered a 9 week after school activity club for a small group of children to attend to boost their confidence and self esteem. The club is being run by two experienced teaching assistants who have both undertaken training.

### **Staff Well-Being Week**

We held a staff well-being week to recognise the hard work our staff do for the children.

### **Governors**

The two parent governor vacancies have been filled by Mr David McGravie and Mrs Annie Avaliani. Miss Christine Barry has agreed to be our new Community Governor. We look forward to welcoming their support on our Governing Body and hope they will enjoy their association with our school.

In addition, an Extended Services Group has been set up to establish if there is a demand for before, after school and holiday provision and the questionnaires have been sent out.

### **Premises**

The library has a new automated system and our new library furniture was installed which has made an enormous improvement to the whole feeling of the building.

The whole school has been painted outside which gives the school a much smarter appearance. The new railings were installed and in doing so visibility of passers by has been improved; another improvement to security.

Finally, new doors and windows were installed to the rear of the bungalow building during half-term. The Fencing and handrails outside Year 2 were finished.

### **Conclusion**

There is a real team spirit and work ethic within the staff which has never been so strong, and as a whole, the willingness to develop and take on new responsibilities can only bode well for the future of the school.

### **Report from PCSO Penny Ling, Thames Valley Police**

PCSO Ling reported that the local NAG was working very well and that work carried out to reduce Anti Social Behaviour in Stokenchurch, Lane End, Piddington and West Wycombe has been very successful. The two youths who had been members of our group had just made a presentation to Bucks County Councils Youth Bank and been made an award of £50,000 for a MUGA at

Stokenchurch. The campaign to reduce the speed of motorists in our communities is under way with more speed gun patrols and a competition run for the primary schools in our area to produce posters to deter speeding motorists.

**County Cllr Frank Downes closed the more formal part of the meeting.**

Cllr Downes stated that it was a pleasure and privilege to be part of and work with West Wycombe Parish Council not only as a Parish Councillor but as the County Councillor for the Parish. West Wycombe Parish Council's Chairman works extremely hard for the community and is highly respected at County and District level for her commitment to West Wycombe Parish Council and to the role of Parish Councils in the community. Her determination has been the driving force to making West Wycombe Parish Council one of only two Quality Councils in Wycombe District. The team work of Councillors and Clerk is a very successful combination and have achieved a great deal for this Parish.

The meeting was then opened up for general questions from members of the public. The Chairman invited everyone to stay for light refreshments.