

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Piddington & Wheeler End Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 7.30pm in Piddington Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Mr T Willett, Mr S. Digby, Mr P Brown, Mrs T Gray, Mr J Smith, Ms A Pitcher, Mrs W. Pitcher.

Buckinghamshire Councillors Mr D Hayday, Mrs O Hayday.

Mrs H. Glasgow, Clerk

1 members of the public.

Apologies: None.

1. Chairman's Report

I was trying to think of something profound or witty to start this review – but I gave up on that pretty quickly.

Thinking about it I realised that it all comes down to one thing – community – that's why we turn up each month and try to do our bit to improve the lot of local residents and make this a better place to live.

I lived in North London until my late 30s and to be honest thought the idea of moving to the country was dreadful – something you'd only contemplate when you were three parts dead and had one foot in grave.

I could not have been more wrong.

We moved here in 2003 and I could not believe the strength of the community compared to what I'd been used to in London. It probably helped that we had a 6 year old daughter in a local school, a dog, enjoyed local walks and spent time in the pub – that pretty much had most bases covered in terms of becoming part of the local community.

I also had no idea what a Parish Council was – I was surprised when I found out (a) that it was not religious and (b) that it was not political.

Our focus as a Parish Council is primarily in two main areas – the community that we are part of and the environment that we live in.

This includes the social and recreational parts of our lives - local groups, the village hall and community events – we maintain and try to improve the local environment – planning controls, footpaths, open spaces, allotments, local services and amenities.

I think I speak for everyone involved when I say that we sincerely hope that we are making a genuine difference.

In addition to the routine responsibilities of the Parish Council, I'd like to just run through a few things we have achieved in the last year.

- Boundary Commission – we supported and lobbied for Darren Hayday's proposals for PAWE to be included in a smaller ward and not swallowed up in to the large Chiltern Villages ward. This seems to have been successful and should be in place for the next round of council elections
- We have a new website for the Parish Council – this also includes the village hall with an automated booking system and hopefully can become a genuine asset to local residents.
- The new site has a .gov.uk domain name – this is likely to become mandatory in the next couple of year so we're ahead of the game there.
- We have supported very successful Coronation celebrations in both Piddington and Wheeler End and will continue to support all types of community events.
- The Chipps Hill Project has made real progress this year due to Simon's efforts – you can see the benefits every time you drive up and down Chipps Hill and it's great to see this being acknowledged by residents.
- We have continued to improve the playground at Piddington Rec.

- Downley Dynamos local junior football teams are now regularly use the playing fields and despite some initial concerns this has all gone very smoothly and all being well this can become a long term arrangement.
- We continue to encourage everyone to use FixMyStreet to report issues; this is the best way as this reports go direct to the relevant department at Bucks Council and everything is documented. As a Parish Council we monitor all reports to ensure they reach a successful outcome
- We are making to make areas of Piddington Green and better habitat for the birds and the bees – once again our contractors will be leaving certain areas uncut
- We have entered the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village competition 2024. We all need to work together and involve the community to make the most of our parish for the judging which takes place in June
- Not something the Parish Council can take any credit for but it's great to see The Chequers open again as the local pub is such an important part of village life

A few thank you's and housekeeping – I'll keep it brief.

Massive thanks go to Darren Hayday and Orshi Hayday, our local Bucks Councillors for all their sterling work over the last year – their tireless efforts on local issues make a huge difference.

Thanks to my fellow Parish Councillors for your contributions over the last year – all your work contributes to making Piddington and Wheeler End such a lovely place to live.

Thanks to the two Parish Councillors who have left us this year – James Day and Ollie May – and welcome to our two new members – Tracey Gray and Alison Pitcher.

Not forgetting our long-suffering clerk, Hayley – she's the one who does all the work round here and without her the whole thing would probably fall apart.

Thanks Hayley!

Finally I'd just like to say how much I have enjoyed my short stint as Chairman – hopefully I've helped make a difference.

I'm now off on my "Mid Life Crisis" adventures.

Thanks very much.

2. Public Questions

A Parishioner raised questions, the Chairman answered these.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.40pm.