

## WICKHAMFORD PARISH COUNCIL 2006-2007

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the Wickhamford Annual Parish Meeting.

I am Miranda Rogers, and I have been the Chairman of the Parish Council for the last year. I am going to outline some of the key things your Parish Council has been doing for you over the past 12 months before handing over to Mary Campbell, the Clerk to the Parish Council, who is going to provide you with a financial summary.

#### **Affordable Housing**

At the end of the last financial year, a Housing Needs Survey was undertaken by Nigel Potter. The results of this were available last summer and identified a need for a number of affordable housing units within the village. Several potential sites were proposed through the survey and early this year Nigel Potter visited the sites, accompanied by members of the Parish Council. We are currently awaiting a report into these sites before holding an open day where we will seek the views of the Parish before moving forward.

#### **RTB**

There were a lot of problems with RTB Traction using Manor Road to access their site with HGV's despite the 7.5 tonne weight restriction on the road. Following several meetings, with legal views from the Police and a public hearing in Stratford upon Avon, the final determination was that there was nothing anyone could do to prevent RTB from bringing HGV's along Manor Road as it was the only way they could access their site. This was clearly bad news, but since then, RTB has been taken over and the problem has ceased.

#### **Speeding and HGV's on Manor Road**

A large number of other HGV's have been using Manor Road, including very large B&Q lorries last summer. These are not only noisy and in breach of the weight limit, but they often travel at dangerously high speeds and cause damage to the verges. Speeding is not restricted to lorries, and a traffic survey has identified a significant problem. This is supported by more recent speed checks carried out by local police officers.

The Manor Road Group, led by Mr Thoms and supported by the Parish Council and Liz Eyre, our County Councillor, has been set up to look at possible solutions. Residents of Manor Road were asked to respond to a flier during the autumn, and more recently Liz Eyre has had a meeting with the County Highways Department to further push the matter. County Highways have agreed there is a significant problem and they are now investigating options for reducing speed along the road. We hope to hear something back in the next month or so.

#### **Burial Ground**

The Parish Council received complaints about a new burial which had installed in the graveyard but which did not appear to comply with the burial ground rules. In response, various people using the graveyard were asked their opinion on the site and the response was mixed. The Council decided not to take any further action, but it became clear that the old Burial Ground Rules were somewhat dated and in any case were not

sufficiently clear. The Parish Council has therefore updated the rules and re-issued them to all undertakers. Copies are also available from the Parish Clerk if anyone wishes to see them. Since the re-issue of the Rules there have been no further problems.

### **Newsletters**

Historically the Parish Council has occasionally produced a newsletter, together with a telephone list, and circulated it throughout the village. Last year the decision was made to produce a quarterly newsletter to update parishioners with the latest goings on in the village. So far there have been two editions, in December and March, and a third is planned for June. The feedback has been good, and we intend to continue producing Newsletters. If anyone has any comments or feels there should be additional information included, please let us know.

### **Website**

Perhaps the biggest change in the last twelve months has been the creation of the Parish Website. Launched in January this year, the main purpose of [www.wickhamfordparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.wickhamfordparishcouncil.co.uk) is to enable local residents to access Council agendas and minutes as and when they want them, and to provide contact details for your Councillors and other relevant bodies. The website also contains a history of the village and advertises the local services and facilities. So far the feedback has been excellent and my thanks go to Mike Smith who has spent many hours producing and updating the website. I must urge you all to have take a look and send Mike an e-mail with your comments.

### **Other Duties**

In addition the Council has continued to carry out its usual duties. These include:

- commenting on several planning applications;
- reviewing planning and other guidance coming through from the Region and the District;
- setting the precept;
- monitoring and maintaining the children's play area;
- supporting the village post office, the Memorial Hall and the Sports Club;
- agreeing and managing the grass cutting contract; and
- Responding to various requests and complaints from parishioners.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors, Mike Smith, David Folkes, John Poulter and Carole Smith for their hard work over the last twelve months, and to thank Mary Campbell, the Parish Clerk, who has to deal with a mountain of paperwork as well as numerous e-mails from me.

As you know the Parish Council was up for re-election last week and Carole Smith has stepped down after seven years. We will be sorry to see her go, but she has promised to continue to support us wherever possible. We welcome on board Roger Gilks and hopefully we will be co-opting additional Councillors later this evening. Our Parish Clerk is also stepping down in June and following interviews which are shortly to be held, next month I will be able to introduce you to our new Clerk.

# WICKHAMFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes to Meeting May 9th 2007 numbered 005/007

Held in the Memorial Hall Wickhamford

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies – None</b> Miranda Rogers, John Poulter, Mike Smith, Roger Gilks, and Mary Campbell (Clerk)	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Mike Smith declared in item 7d David Folkes declared an interest in item 6	
<b>2a</b>	<b>Election of Chairman</b> Miranda Rogers was proposed and seconded and voted in unanimously. No other nominations were received. <b>Election of Vice Chairman</b> John Poulter was proposed and seconded and voted in unanimously. No other nominations were received. <b>Co-option of Councilors</b> Kevin Moore and David Folkes were both nominated and seconded and voted in unanimously.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Review of Minutes of meeting held April 11th 2007</b> These will be signed at the meeting June 13th	
<b>4</b>	<b>Progress Reports</b>	
<b>4a</b>	<b>Report by Councilor Liz Eyre</b> Not present	LE
<b>4b</b>	<b>Report by Local PC Gail Greenhouse</b> Not Present	SB
<b>5</b>	<b>New and on-going items</b>	
<b>5a</b>	<b>Communication</b> Declaration of interest forms was distributed.	
<b>5b</b>	<b>Play Corner Maintenance</b> It was accepted that Maurice Parkinson was not able to assist with this. It was agreed that this item would be discussed further on the June meeting. The Clerk was requested to find out what the possibility of obtaining insurance cover on a temporary basis for the councilors and others to carryout this work.	
<b>5c</b>	<b>Affordable Housing</b> Francis Evans and Nigel Potter will attend the July meeting.	
<b>6</b>	<b>Planning</b> <b>41 Pitchers Hill</b> An objection will be raised for this application. <b>48/50 Pitchers Hill</b> No further comments to be made at appeal	
<b>7</b>	<b>Finance</b>	
<b>7a</b>	<b>Finance Review</b> New transactions distributed	
<b>7b</b>	<b>Rate relief</b> It was agreed that rate relief would be provided for the Post Office	
<b>7c</b>	<b>Purchase of Data Storage</b> It was agreed that the clerk could buy this to facilitate handovers and back ups.	
<b>7d</b>	<b>Review of CVs for Clerk (closed session)</b> After discussion it was decided to interview 3 candidates The clerk will arrange for 17 <sup>th</sup> or 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> or 24 <sup>th</sup> May.	
<b>8</b>	<b>Date of next meeting is 13<sup>th</sup> June</b>	