

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without

Annual Newsletter 2009

Your Parish Council currently consists of the following members:

Dry Sandford

Mr. Stephen Grigson (Chairman), Loaf Cottage,
221 Cothill Road (01865 390540)

e-mail: thegrigsons@totalise.co.uk

Mr. Martin Gilbert, 6 Lansdowne Road
(01865 739544)

Mr. Ken Houlden, 4 Lansdowne Road (01865
730488) e-mail: ken@houlden.demon.co.uk

Mrs Wendy Rossiter, At Last, 205 Cothill Road
(01865 390555) e-mail:

wendyrossiter@btinternet.com

Mr Cyril Rudge, Church Farm House, Church
Lane (01865 390474)

Shippon

Mrs Madeleine Russell-Taylor, (Vice
Chairperson) 26 Rookery Close (01235
523557) e-mail: madbill@talktalk.net

Mr. David Calvert, 5 Rookery Close
(01235 523480)

Mrs Diane Livesley, 1 White House Close (01235
530257) e-mail: diane.livesley@tiscali.co.uk

Mrs Caroline Parkin, Applebrook, Faringdon Road
(01235 535969) e-mail: archie232@hotmail.co.uk

Mr. Bill Taylor, 26 Rookery Close (01235
523557) e-mail: madbill@talktalk.net

The Council meets, normally on a Monday evening, on nine occasions during the year. The venues alternate between Dry Sandford Primary School and the Community Centre, Dalton Barracks, Shippon. Meetings begin at 7.30 pm and the first item on the agenda is an opportunity for residents to bring their concerns to the Council avoiding the necessity to sit through a long agenda of routine business. A small number of residents

attend on a regular basis and members of the Council are grateful for their continued interest.

The Parish Council is available to deal with your concerns and you can contact the **Clerk** if you wish any matter to be discussed at the Council Meetings. Her contact details are:

Mrs. Christine Kerry, tel: 01865 321640
e-mail: sthelenwithoutpc@btinternet.com

The **Annual Parish Meeting** and the **Parish Council Annual General Meeting** will both be held on **Monday, 11 May 2009** at **Dry Sandford Primary School, Lashford Lane**, beginning at **7.00 p.m.** You are invited to attend and raise matters of current concern to you.

Useful Contact Numbers

Parish Transport Representative (PTR)

Mrs June Rowe has volunteered her services as the PTR, whose role will be to keep in touch with views and needs of bus users and the performance of local bus services and advise the Council accordingly. Any queries or comments should be addressed to her at **15 Elm Tree Walk, Shippon, OX13 6LX**, or telephone **01235 527210**.

Thames Valley Police

The Parish have a new police officer who will be covering Dry Sandford and Shippon (as well as many other places). Her name is **P.C. Katrin Gardener No. 1478**. She can be contacted on **0845 8 505 505**.

The Police Community Support Officer for the Parish is **Laura Schmid No. C9932**. She can be contacted on **0845 8 505 505**.

Vale of White Horse District Council

Anyone seeing a dog owner acting irresponsibly and not cleaning up after their pet can report them to the

Environmental Wardens anonymously on **01235 544066**. At present the **dog excrement bins** in this area are emptied every Monday, excluding bank holidays. To report any faults contact the **Vale** on **01235 520202**.

Dalton Barracks

If residents are concerned about activities on the airfield, the first point of contact is the **Guardroom** on **01235 543668**. If there is no reply on this number, the **Detention Centre** on **01235 543565** can be contacted.

Royal Air Force Benson

For information on flying activities conducted by RAF Benson, visit the following website: **www.raf.mod.uk/RAFBenson**, then click on "flying info" where the current programmes are listed. The procedures for flying complaints are also found here, or a direct dial telephone number is **01491 837766 ext. 5218**.

The following is a summary of the main issues dealt with during the past year.

Shippon Village Plan

The Shippon Village Plan is now nearly complete after consultation with the Parish Council. It will then be circulated for further consultation with the other organisations in the area, Oxfordshire County Council, the Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, John and Ruth Binning, Oxford Bus Company, the Army, the Police and any other involved parties.

An open village meeting will be arranged to present the Plan for further discussion.

Before the Plan is printed an electronic copy will be available. If you would like to receive one, please e-mail madbill@talktalk.net.

The traffic survey in Barrow Road over the period 26 September to 5 October 2008 showed an increase in volume and the speed of the traffic entering the village on this road. Consequently traffic calming measures requested in the village survey have been incorporated into the Village Plan.

The Friends of Shippon

The Friends of Shippon Society has now been meeting for a complete year and had monthly events in 2008 which were all well attended.

These have ranged from presentations with slide shows, Army liaison, practical demonstrations, historical visits and also social events.

The members of the Committee all agreed to continue and were re-elected at the AGM. Their hard work is greatly appreciated. The contact details for the Committee is:

Madeleine Russell (523557), Chris Gibbins (527211), Carol Gibbins (527211), Edwin Scott (532704), Val Dawson (529596), Eve James (523321), Judy Stublely (559055), Sylvia Bird (521162), June Rowe (527210), Carlos Radford, Padre Mike Thomason (543574).

The remaining programme for 2009 is:

Tuesday 12 May at 7.30 pm – Whist Drive

Wednesday 17 June at 7.30 pm – “How to get the best out of your Digital Camera” Chris Gibbins

Wednesday 8 July at 7.30 pm – “My Work with Schools in Uganda” Jean Jones

July – Church Barbecue [tbc]

Wednesday 23 September at 7.30 pm – Model Aircraft, Bob Bradford [tbc]

October – Visit to Bothy Vineyard [tbc]

October – “After Hours in the NHS” Phil Painting [tbc]

Thursday 19 November – Chocolatier [tbc]

In addition a Walking Group was formed in March and a Book Club commenced in April.

We are all pleased with the response to our meetings and our growing membership. Our central aim is to bring together people in the Village. Everyone is welcome.

Planning Contravention Notice

In May 2007 residents of Barrow Road expressed their concerns to members of the Parish Council about the activities taking place at 88 Barrow Road. A large number of cars were being parked on the drive and in the road suggesting an unauthorized used car business was taking place. The Enforcement Monitoring Officer of the VWHDC investigated this issue promptly and concluded that a material change of use had not occurred, but agreed to monitor activities.

It is understood further complaints were received by the Vale and observations by the Enforcement Officer resulted in a change of opinion. It was decided in December 2007 that a Planning Contravention Notice (PCN) would be issued to the occupant of this property.

Due to pressure of work in the Legal Dept. of the Vale, there was a considerable delay before this PCN was issued on 7 November 2008.

The Parish Council was informed by the Enforcement Officer in March 2009 that the authority agreed a change of use had occurred due to the frequency of sales and the regular changeover of vehicles. The occupant was requested to cease activities at this property within a 28 day period. If this is not carried out voluntarily the authority would seek enforcement action.

Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre Refurbishment Project

The W&DS Community Centre is a charity set up for the equal benefit of residents of both Wootton and Dry Sandford. The building was constructed in the parish of Wootton, a couple of hundred yards to the east of St Helen Without. It is extensively used by both parish residents for clubs, societies and social events. The facilities are available to Shippon residents if so desired.

The Centre is currently about to start on a major rebuild and improvement costing about one million pounds, much of it funded by the National Lottery. The Councillors of this parish agreed to make a donation of £10,000 to this fund, which amounts to one percent of the total cost. It is understood Wootton Parish Council is contributing a much larger amount.

The Chairman of the project has announced that the work will begin in the Spring and is programmed to last 45 weeks. The Councillors acknowledge the amount of work that has been necessary to meet the requirements of this project and look forward to seeing the new building.

Wootton & Dry Sandford Youth Club

The Parish Councillors have been informed by the organiser of the Youth Club that no alternative venue has been found during the period when the Community Centre is closed. It is therefore with regret, that the Youth Club will close, but the committee will be focus on recruiting a Youth Worker for the reopening when the refurbishment is complete.

Dalton Barracks Youth Club

Emma Link is the newly appointed Community Development Worker for Dalton Barracks. Her role is to work with all ages of the community. Unfortunately the Youth Club venue is in need of a major refurbishment and is currently closed. It is hoped that the expenditure can be approved soon. Other activities are currently running in

the community centre or white portacabin. Please contact Emma on 01235 543775 or text on 07768 465 559 for more details.

Bus Shelters and Stops

Members of Oxfordshire County Council met with Parish Councillors and the Parish Transport Representative to look at the bus shelters and bus stops in Shippon with a view to making improvements which would benefit residents of the village. The following was decided:

Faringdon Road

East Side: New hard standing has been added
West Side: New Notice added

Cholswell Road

East Side: A new shelter and hard standing added
West Side: Addition of new rubbish bin

Long Tow

North side: Second stop (Tyne Road) new hard standing
South Side: New hard standing on both first and second stops

Wootton Road

There will be new stops installed outside Dunmore Court on both East and West sides. This will facilitate people on the late bus that goes directly to Abingdon accessing Shippon.

Residents of **Dry Sandford** who use the bus stop in Sandleigh Road will be aware that during the past year there have been several accidents where a reversing bus has damaged the shelter. A meeting was held with representatives of OCC Highways Dept, the Bus Company, the Police, and members of the Parish Council and it was decided to relocate the shelter away from the pavement edge. The insurance company representing the bus company agreed to meet the costs of this relocation and repairs, therefore no costs were incurred by the Parish Council. It is hoped that this relocation will prevent further incidents.

Sandleigh Road Recreation Ground

Many Dry Sandford residents will know that there is a large open recreation area off Sandleigh Road. This is a wonderful amenity for local families, with plenty of space to walk and play and it is managed by the Parish Council. The recreation ground incorporates a children's play area which, in recent years, has been refurbished to a high standard with Wicksteed play equipment.

As we start to think about lighter evenings and longer days the recreation ground will no doubt get more use. Many of you will walk your dogs there. So that everyone can enjoy the facilities happily, please remember to clean up after your dog. There is a dog bin provided for this purpose (near the small copse at the entrance to the field). The Parish Council pay for this to be emptied regularly, so do use the facility! Dog mess is obviously unpleasant if it gets carried into your home. But more seriously, it can also be a health hazard to young children. This is why we try to keep dogs out of the (fenced) children's play area.

Please enjoy using Sandleigh Recreation Ground – and please help others to enjoy it too!

News from Dalton Barracks

12 Logistic Support Regiment RLC has now moved into Dalton Barracks, less one squadron which remains at Gutersloh with British Forces, Germany. 12 LSR is expected to remain in situ for 4 or 5 years before continuing to their final destination in Catterick.

31 Squadron of 3 LSR and 4 Squadron of 4 LSR will both deploy to Afghanistan in the near future. Abingdon Town are hosting a reception for the deploying soldiers and their families prior to their departure. Later in the year, about May, the remainder of 4 LSR will deploy to Iraq.

The MoD has recently released a considerable sum of money to improve soldiers living accommodation and Abingdon will be a major beneficiary of this initiative. New blocks will not be built but existing accommodation will be improved wherever possible. *Lt. Col. H. McCormack*

Freedom of Information Act: Model Publication Scheme

The new model publication scheme issued by the Information Commissioner's Office was adopted without alteration at the Parish Council meeting held on 12 December 2008.

The information available under this scheme can be found on the community website – www.wads-village.co.uk or by contacting the Clerk in writing as per the details on page one of this Newsletter.

Parish Precept 2009-2010

To enhance the capital fund the Parish Councillors have requested an 8.7% increase in cash terms from the VWHDC for this year's parish precept. However information provided by the Vale shows that the aggregate rateable value of the parish will rise by 4.7% next year. Therefore the actual parish council tax increase will be 3.8%. This amounts to a rise of £0.76 for a Band D House.

Planning Application: Stowford House

The Parish Councillors would like to report that the decision to redevelop this site in Shippon to provide a replacement 51 bedrooomed residential care home for the elderly and those with nursing and dementia needs has been granted.

Community Website

www.wads-village.co.uk

A community village website for Wootton and Dry Sandford was established a while ago. This website is maintained on a voluntary basis by a resident in Wootton. It contains information relating to: Our District, Leisure, Services & Amenities and Local Government. You will find SHW PC agendas and minutes listed on the local government page. It also contains a "Wiki" page where residents can "have their say" regarding local issues. The running cost of the website is divided between Wootton and SHW parish councils. The website will shortly be redesigned and will include information and news from Shippon.