

The Parish Council of St. Helen Without
Annual Newsletter 2018

Parish Councillors Dry Sandford Ward	Parish Councillors Shippon Ward
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Currently vacant ; if you are interested in being co-opted as a Parish Councillor for Dry Sandford Ward please contact the Clerk	Currently vacant ; if you are interested in being co-opted as a Parish Councillor for Shippon Ward please contact the Clerk
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Clerk: Anna Clarke

Tel: 01865 321555; e-mail: clerkshwpc@gmail.com

County and District Councillors

County Councillor: Mr Richard Webber

Tel: 01235 534001; e-mail: Richardwebber777@gmail.com

District Councillor for Dry Sandford: Mr Henry Spencer e-mail: henry.spencer@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

District Councillor for Shippon: Mrs Catherine Webber Tel: 01235 534001; e-mail: Webbercatherine1@gmail.com

Message from Madeleine Russell, Former Chair St Helen Without Parish Council

This year has been one of considerable change and activity for the Parish Council with so many changes in local government being introduced as a result of the gradual adoption of the Localism Act 2011. The economic constraints imposed by Oxfordshire County Council. The Vales new Local Plan 2031 Part 1 which after consultation locally was submitted for inspection and after modification and consultation was adopted in December 2016. The publication and consultation on LPP2

Roads and Transport

With OCC having considered considerable financial constraints they published Oxfordshire Together in which they wanted to devolve services from Highways to Parish Councils. A Highways Sub-Committee was set up by the Parish Council to consider these proposals and they recommended that as the PC did not have sufficient personnel and legal expertise to undertake these services the legal responsibility would remain with OCC. As OCC intend to reduce the grass cutting of highway verges to once per year and maintaining vision slays at junctions the SC will continually monitor the situation. If it becomes necessary, the PC will have to pay for an additional cut to the verges.

The PC is considering purchasing a Speed Indicator Gun and joining Community Speedwatch to monitor traffic speeds throughout the Parish. We are reviewing the speed limits on Honeybottom Lane and It is hoped that the VAS sign on Barrow Road will be installed by June, which will give us speed and volume figures for the road.

Dalton Barracks

We continue to have a good liaison with Dalton Barracks and our thanks go to Derek Kelso who has diligently attended PC Meetings in his role as Liaison Officer for the Commanding Officer.

He informed us in Oct that a review was being undertaken on the Airfield, but the announcement in December 2016 that the MOD intended to relinquish Dalton Barracks for disposal by 2029 has caused considerable anxiety with all residents.

It was with regret the we attended the Flag Lowering service in August as 612 Squadron was disbanded after the many years its volunteers gave to the training of local young people.

This month we have had a liaison meeting with the Commanding Officer Col Hanson who was informative with what information he had but the Army is still working to the 2029 date and upgrading work is still being undertaken on the site to the medical centre and the heating system.

Vale Of White Horse DC

The Vale's new local Plan Part 1 2031 come back for consultation in July with the modifications following the Inspector's report. The Inspector only agreed for 4 sites to be taken out of the Green Belt, 2 in North Abingdon, 1 at Radley and 1 at Kennington. Part 1 was adopted in December 2016 and with the development across the Vale as they start the building of the strategic allocation of 20,560 houses, the infrastructure is not in place resulting in many problems particularly on the roads.

The Vale called for sites for Part 2 of their plan, which has to be adopted by December 2018, in July for their remaining allocation and the proportion of unmet need they have to fulfil for Oxford City. This was published for consultation in March 2017 and included the redevelopment of Dalton Barracks on garden village principles for up to approx 3500 houses and including Shippon Village and Whitecross, the whole area being taken out of the Green Belt.

We have had many meetings with the Vale, stakeholders and other organisations during this year. A Public Meeting Exhibition was held in Shippon on 23rd April to obtain residents opinions. Our response to the Vale was to contain development within the operational area of the site and remove no further land from the Green Belt. Also, to ensure infrastructure was in place before the development commenced.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following the MOD announcement on Dalton Barracks, the PC agreed in December that a Neighbourhood Plan should be initiated in conjunction with the Parish of Wootton as the results would affect both Parishes.

A public meeting was held in January at which numerous people offered support.

A Joint Monitoring Committee of the 2 parishes was set up and a Steering Committee selected, who have worked hard to start the process. The designated area for the whole of the 2 Parishes was published on 21st April and is out for consultation until 26 May.

Planning

We have received 25 planning applications over the year some of which have been very contentious with local residents.

The Manor School development which is for a sports complex and additional classrooms was passed as an exceptional case in the Green Belt and considerable objections were made. We held a public meeting to ensure all residents were consulted which was well attended. A Project Manager has been appointed and work is commencing. We will be meeting with the School in early June hoping to improve liaison between the School and the Village.

The enormous 2 houses being built on Elm Tree Walk have caused considerable problems with drainage and the surface of the road. They should be completed soon and the surface of the road will need to be addressed.

The application for 4 houses on the paddock on Barrow Road were considered to be too large for the site and the proximity to listed buildings. The application has gone back to the landowner and we are awaiting the result.

The developer Vortal approached the PC about the site on Lashford Lane which they wished to develop with co-operation from us under Community Right to Build Order. Again, we held a public meeting at which many residents expressed their objections.

The development on Wootton Road for 200 houses which is within our Parish, has had a Screening Option undertaken and we are meeting with Gatesby Estates this month for an initial consultation.

Sovereign approached us about an Exception Site in Dry Sandford but we are still awaiting site detail information from them.

Other News

Abingdon Town Council informed us in February that they had requested the Vale to undertake a Community Governance Review as they wished to extend the boundary of Abingdon to take in Shippon Village and the MOD land. We strongly objected, and we await the Vales response.

The Prince of Wales Feathers Pub in Shippon has been approved as a Community Asset, however we wait to see if the owners appeal.

Finally, I would like to thank all Parish Councillors and particularly our Clerk for all their hard work over this year which has been onerous. Also, Richard and Catherine Webber for their attendance at many PC meetings.

Madeleine Russell

Message from County Councillor Richard Webber and District Councillor Catherine Webber

Council Report

Air Quality / Traffic and Infrastructure

Whether or not you live in Appleford, Milton, Sutton Courtenay, Drayton, Marcham or Shippon, you will be aware of and affected by the number of housing developments in our area. The expansion of Didcot and Abingdon and the threat of coalescence of our villages are going to affect us all, if it has not done so already.

Most of us accept that the country needs more houses and that our part of Oxfordshire, with its high employment and thriving economy, is an obvious prime target if houses are to be close to jobs.

Unfortunately, in the keenness (some might say desperation) to get houses built, the problem of lack of infrastructure (particularly adequate roads) has been playing second fiddle. Our road system is beginning to reach capacity. Every new development has an impact on every other. There are increasing traffic jams on major roads through our villages; even the rat runs are filling up, and air quality is becoming a major problem in many areas.

It is hard to see a solution to this, without a large-scale investment in new roads. Housing developments do not, in themselves, generate enough money to pay for this, so we depend on Government money to make up the shortfall.

And Government is beginning to address this problem. In north Abingdon, a pot of £9m is to be provided to make the Lodge Hill interchange 4 way to allow for over 1,000 more houses. If Marcham is to take another 500 houses, Shippon another 2000, and Sutton Courtenay any more at all, even more investment is needed. OCC transport officers, who have the unenviable job of trying to make our road system work, are pointing out the problem to government and District planners with the result that we can expect many more objections to planning developments. The message is stark, but clear – “Without more infrastructure, we cannot take more houses”.

But is the solution simply building ever more roads? We know that more roads generate more traffic. Would the major investment be better spent on better bus services and cycle ways?

Richard Webber Cllr OCC
Sutton Courtenay and Marcham Division

MOD

News from Dalton Barracks; Major Laura Clarke, 3 Regiment RLC 3 Regiment RLC, Dalton Barracks

3 Regt are busy making final preparations for their impending deployment to BATUS on Ex PRAIRIE STORM. Most recently, 31 Sqn deployed to Caerwent to conduct Collective Training (CT) 1, with the emphasis being on fieldcraft and personal administration. Experience gleaned on a recent dismounted exercise in Italy, in partnership with 151 Regt, proved invaluable. The week included sections being tested by a host of challenging serials; culminating with a deliberate platoon attack. The troops impressed under the surprising, yet very welcome, Welsh sun. It was a quick turn-around before 31 Sqn were joined by elements of 21, 32 and 35 Sqns to deploy on CT2; this time to Salisbury Plain. Throughout the week troops practiced distribution points, running replenishment, night navigation, and tested their ‘actions on’ procedures. Special consideration was given to a peer (+) adversary and how that would affect harbour layout, security, communications and control measures. Some innovative and alternative solutions were trialled and this bodes well for the new dynamics of the 2017 BATUS season. The weather would play its part with strong winds, freezing temperatures and heavy rain testing individual skill and vehicle-garage construction. Kit dry, weapons cleaned, vehicles rehabilitated - the focus now turns to Canada for more of the same. On return from Canada, it will be a quick turn around and then back on the plane to deploy to Cyprus for Ex LION SUN, which is being run by 32 Sqn. A round robin of stands throughout their time should see them return fully trained and ready for action.

In addition to training ourselves, we also help to train others. Recently, the Regt, led by 32 Sqn, has supported RLC HQ in recruiting the future personnel of the Corps with Ex LOG SAFARI and Ex LOG CHALLENGE. The exercises saw approximately 40 OCdts from Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst (RMAS) deploy on a two-day exercise to experience the capabilities of the RLC. 32 Sqn provided the distribution stand, concentrating on convoy operation, Distribution Points (DPs), Protected Logistic Moves and transport planning. This involved the OCdts being shown a CP tent and taught the layout of a DP. Cross country driving followed, giving soldiers the opportunity to demonstrate the off-road and self-recovery capability of the vehicles used within a Close Support Sqn.

On a slightly lighter note, LCpl B Maidens and Cpl M Limbu were chosen to represent the chefs at the Bde Easter egg competition. They saw them using their artistic skills to produce a wonderful Easter egg to enter into the competition. Unfortunately for OC 35 Sqn, who looked forward to consuming the decorative chocolate eggs, they did not return back to Dalton barracks with their creations! Our Communication Specialists deployed on Ex TIMBER TRUSS with 31 Sqn. This exercise, in support of the Troop Commanders’ Course, will ensure the next generation of Lt’s are best prepared for their role! We have also sent some soldiers out to Normandy, France, for Ex POPPY KEY. This battlefield study was aimed at developing our JNCOs and learning from our history.

The Regt has managed to squeeze some sport and adventurous training (AT) into the calendar, with seven members of the Regt completing their Level 4 skiing qualifications. This provided the opportunity for novices to experience the benefits of AT as well as gaining a foundation skiing qualification. The Regiment’s skiing team spent four weeks training in Austria followed by divisional races in France and the RLC championships in Ruppolding, Germany. Special mention must go to Pte J Topping who attended the Army Alpine Championships and was positioned in the Top 40. 35 Sqn’s Pte S Farrell was selected to represent the Corps at Women’s football, and the Regt produced an excellent boxing night, with 32 Sqn winning the Inter-Squadron Competition. Cpl C Beasley and LCpl H Want, the 3 Regt boxing coaches, did well to train complete novices Pte J Lewis, Pte J Stainton and Pte S Pun for their first foray into a boxing ring. Pte K Samuelson, after success at the Regimental boxing night, went on to represent 3 Regiment at the Corps Boxing Championships. He won his final to become the Corps Super Heavyweight champion!

The final CO's Cup event was a 'Tough-Mudder' that saw all 3 Regt personnel running around the airfield going over inflatable obstacles, under electric shock wires, and through deep puddles. The race was won by Capt G Holdcroft, but all competitors finished with a, albeit weary, smile!

The Regt are now looking forward to the Autumn to see what new challenges await.

Friends of Shippon

The Friends of Shippon meet on the second Friday of each month at 7.30pm in Shippon Church Hall.

We have a range of speakers and presentations. If you are interested in what is happening in the village then please come along and join us.

Membership is £12.50 per year, which is excellent value for the events that we hold, and visitors are always welcome and are just charged £3.

Forthcoming events are;

- 2nd March : Wildlife in our back garden – May Parker
- 13th April : Ladies in the Tower – Tony Strafford
- 11th May : Children and War – Liz Woolley
- 8th June : Toffs in Trouble – Julie Ann Godson
- 7th July: Afternoon Tea (please note this is on a Saturday)
- 14th September : Pudding and Pimms Evening
- 12th October : Musical Evening with Pandemonium
- 9th November : Shelley's Chocolates demonstration
- 7th December : Christmas Social

For more information contact Carole Page on 01235 797319

We have three affiliated groups;

Book Club

The Book Club meets once a month at 7.30 at member's houses to discuss the latest book and to decide on future reads.

For more information contact Carol Gibbins on 01235 527211

Bridge Club

The Bridge Club meets at Shippon Church Hall at 7.30 on alternate Wednesdays and Thursdays.

For more information contact Mo Hinkley-Smith on 01235 521657

Singing for Pleasure

This group meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm in Shippon Church Hall. It is open to all and there are no auditions! There is a small charge of £2.50 per meeting, which includes tea and cake.

For more information contact Madeleine Russell on 01235 523557

Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council meets, normally on a Monday evening, approximately every 6 weeks. The venues alternate between Dry Sandford Primary School and the Church Hall, Barrow Road, 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. The dates of the meetings to be held in the next 9 months are as follows.

14 th May AGM Shippon Church Hall	25 th June Dry Sandford Primary School
6 th August Shippon Church Hall	17 th September Dry Sandford Primary School
29 th October Shippon Church Hall	10 th December Dry Sandford Primary School

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 above:

Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre

The Community Website;

The community website has information about facilities and activities in the parishes of Wootton and St Helen Without. It can be accessed on www.woottondrysandfordshippon.co.uk

Parish Rate 2018-19

The Parish Precept has been set at £17,051 for the financial year 2018-2019.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR COMMUNITY

The Parish Council makes every effort to ensure that the infrastructure of the village is kept in good order. Residents and landowners can, however, be a tremendous help by –

- Ensuring that their hedges are cut back to avoid impeding highways and footpaths
- Helping to keep the villages tidy, for example by maintaining stone walls and other features.
- Ditches are kept clear to prevent flooding
- Cars are parked appropriately – parking on the pavement can make it difficult for mobility scooters
- Speed limits are observed within the Parish
- Potholes, littering, defective street lights and crimes are reported using the contact numbers below.
- Residents' co-operation would be appreciated in keeping the Sandleigh Road recreation ground free of litter. Please take your litter home
- Reporting incidents of dog fouling to the Environmental Warden

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Thames Valley Police: Serious crimes 999; non-emergency crimes 101. The Parish PCSO is Rich Osborn.

Vale of the White Horse District Council: Litter and domestic waste & reporting Fly Tipping: Waste contractor Biffa Tel. 03000 610610 or admin.vale@biffa.co.uk

Vale of White Horse Environmental Health: env.health@southandvale.gov.uk Tel. 01235 422403

Vale of White Horse Planning Department, Vale of White Horse District Council; Tel: 01235 422600

E-mail: planning@whitehorsedc.gov.uk; **Planning Enforcement:** Tel – 01235 422600

E-mail planning.enforcement@southandvale.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council Street Lighting: Tel. 0800 317 802 or online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk **Oxfordshire**

Highways: potholes and other problems relating to highways and footpaths can be reported

online: fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk or for urgent potholes by telephone on Tel. 0345 310 111

Military Aircraft Noise Issues: SWK-lowflying@mod.gov.uk Telephone: 01780 417558

Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 4:00pm