

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR HACKLETON 17th MAY 2022

Chairman of the Parish Council Frances Billingham welcomed everybody to the meeting

Hackleton Parish Council – Chairman’s Report 2021-22

Welcome to our first Annual Parish Meeting after 2 challenging years of the COVID pandemic - we are delighted that you can join us here this evening. In spite of the difficulties facing us all the Council has endeavoured to meet the needs of Parishioners and continue to improve the lives of everyone in Hackleton, Piddington, Horton, Preston Deanery and part of Wootton Fields. Here is a flavour of what the Parish Council has been up to since March 2021.

May 2021 saw the Parish Council elections with Hackleton Ward uncontested and an election in Piddington Ward. It also marked the end of South Northants District Council and Northamptonshire County Council as West Northants Unitary Council took over the reins. We welcomed our ward Councillors Fiona Cole, Stephen Clarke and Andrew Grant.

During the year we have said farewell to Jo Willmer and Godfrey Tobutt as Parish Councillors, thanking them for their long service to the Council; and welcomed Steve Coombes and Damion Noble, who join us from Piddington and Horton respectively.

Alison Benson has now been our Clerk since September 2019, and we thank her for all her hard work, we are very lucky to have Alison. Claire Sparkes our very conscientious litter picker has recently taken on additional duties in Piddington Cemetery and on the Recreation Ground to help keep our villages looking neat and tidy. We were very sad to lose Colin Wills our Groundsman, who passed away following a period of illness. Most recently we have welcomed Colin’s replacement, Steve Taylor, who is doing an excellent job.

In order for the Parish Council to have a clear vision as to what it should achieve for our residents over the next few years, we have written a Business Plan to keep us on track. The Business Plan is now available to view on our website.

Environment

The Parish Council has adopted a Wildlife & Biodiversity Policy, and Management Plans have been put in place for Longland Meadow and Piddington Cemetery.

Additional bins including a recycling unit have been installed on the Recreation Ground. Worn out and broken benches have been replaced by recycled plas4c benches and a new memorial bench which overlooks the War Memorial.

Repairs to both Horton and Hackleton bus shelters have been completed

Additional dog waste bins have been installed on the corner of Brafield Road, Newport Pagnell Road at the St George’s Fields development and the next one will be installed on the corner of The Banks and Main Road.

We continue to use contractors to mow the Cemetery, Longland Meadow and the Recreation Ground.

Tree and hedge works have been undertaken to improve safety, visibility and the general appearance of our locality

Additional trees have been planted in Longland Meadow including the Jubilee Tree, and funding has been received from the WI so five new trees have been planted in the Cemetery - we are very grateful for their contribution.

We would like to thank our local Wombles for all of their hard work litter picking around the Parish.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following the referendum the Neighbourhood Plan has been written into supplementary planning policy by West Northants Council and each planning application is now considered against the policy to ensure that your voice continues to be heard in relation to planning decisions. We are very grateful to the Steering Group for all their hard work

and for the many valuable contributions you have made, without which the Neighbourhood Plan could not have been made.

The Following report was presented by the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

The Neighbourhood Plan made was approved by referendum on 2nd December 2021 and was approved by a massive majority. Our Plan forms part of West Northants Council Local Plan and it will be used to help make sure planning decisions are made with local considerations in mind.

In April 2017, at a meeting at Horton Cricket Club, there was a unanimous decision to proceed with the Plan, and the nucleus of the steering group was formed to oversee its development. Following considerable research and consultation with the district council, our consultant, government agencies and the public, a draft of the Plan was submitted by SNC/WNC to an External Examiner. After many amendments, the final version was put to a vote by you, the people of the parish.

Initially the purpose of the Plan was to give us more of a say in planning, to preserve what is good about the parish and, at the same time, to provide the opportunity for affordable housing for the local community. Several objectives and policies emerged during the research undertaken by the steering group, which had to be underpinned by evidence. This is why the Plan is such a large document, full of information about the area in which you live.

The Plan contains a large number of photographs, diagrams, maps and information on the environment, including the types of housing, the individual character of the villages and communities, biodiversity, geology, archaeology and history. Importantly, it will be the eleven policies that will help to shape the future of the parish. As our new Unitary Council develops its strategies and policies, we want to ensure that account is taken of our needs and objectives.

Hackleton Parish Council Chairman's Report continued

Communicating with residents

We have seven new noticeboards around the parish which always have our agendas posted on to them, all information about the Council can be found on our website. We are using the local Facebook pages more regularly and continue to fund and contribute to the Parish Mag' which I am sure you will agree is a great asset to the parish and our thanks go to Alan the Editor.

We are also pleased to offer residents the chance to speak in person with the Parish Council at our monthly surgeries which take place here at the Coffee Shop.

We are also about to launch an E-Bulletin service directly to your email inbox so we can update you in real time about anything from road closures to forthcoming events. Look out for further information in the next Parish Mag' where you can sign up to receive it.

Supporting local groups

Grant funding has been provided to Hackleton Village Hall, The Village Firework Society, Group 8 and Just Sing! In the previous financial year a grant was provided to Coffee@Carey which part funded the amazing community hub that the coffee shop has developed into. We also continue to provide financial support to the ABILITY Community Transport Scheme.

If any local organisations would like to be added to our website to advertise services or events, please contact Alison.

We would like this coming year to put together a directory of voluntary services and local businesses in order to promote what we have available within the parish

Events

The Parish Council supports the Remembrance Sunday Event each year.

A full weekend of events is planned for H.M The Queen's Platinum Jubilee and we hope to see as many of you as possible. You will find full details in the Parish Mag and on our website.

Highways

We continue to report all highway and footpath issues to West Northants including potholes, blocked drains, unsafe surfacing etc. We urge you all to report issue on Northampton Street Doctor because the more reports they receive the more likely they are to be remedied.

We are in regular contact with the local Police team and the mobile speed camera is often seen in the parish. We have recently agreed that there will be a Police drop-in surgery for residents every 2-months at Coffee@Carey. They will also be canvassing residents for their opinions in various places for example the shop and the football shelter which has been added to their patrol list.

We tried to get a Community Speedwatch team of volunteers together but unfortunately insufficient residents came forward but we will re-visit this again next year.

Our next big project

We have been negotiating with West Northants Council, and with the School's support are about to apply to draw down funding to go ahead with our plans for an outdoor gym and running track. I would like to introduce Richard Taylor from Caloo who will be installing the project to tell you a little bit about it.

Richard Taylor - Caloo

We have been working well with the Parish Council to finalise a design which fits into the locality on the Recreation Ground and is as inclusive as possible. The project will provide equipment for children and adults including a trim trail, cardiovascular equipment and strengthening equipment. The equipment will be on a wet pour surface. The running track will be approx. 403m long and 1.2 m wide and made of a mix of rubber and stone which drains well and is highly durable. All steel items will be guaranteed for 25-years. A free App will be available called the Caloo Pulse to explain how to use the equipment and give various levels of fitness routines. Signage will also be provided.

Final Thoughts from the Chairman

Although the Parish Council is responsible for some assets and services the bulk of responsibility remains with West Northants Unitary Council - for example We do look after such things as dog waste bins, play equipment, Piddington Cemetery and street lighting, amongst other things, as well as working to improve amenities within our villages. All of this is funded through the precept. Any spending is subject to rigorous scrutiny and we endeavour to get great value for money at all times.

I would like to thank all Councillors for their hard work. We couldn't do what we do without the people involved either directly or indirectly. We would like to thank you all for your hard work and commitment to our community. We hope that you will agree that the Parish Council provides good value for money. If there is anything that you would like to suggest to us that we could do to make our parish an even better place to live, work and play then please do contact us. I am sure you will agree that the following reports show what a busy, vibrant and thriving parish we live in.

The Parish Council Business Plan can be found at <https://www.hackletonparishcouncil.gov.uk/uploads/business-plan-2022-01-11.pdf>

Fiona Cole – West Northants Unitary Councillor

The new unitary council has been in place for a year and hopefully residents find it easier to deal with one council rather than previously the County Council and District Council. The task of amalgamating 4 councils into 1 was harder than anticipated but progress has been made and finances are stable. Systems are being merged and as contracts come up

for renewal they are scrutinised for value and sustainability. For example there is a new highway contract being put in place which has a value of £30m pa. Good support services are in place for residents and residents are urged to have their say on any consultations for example the New Free Special school consultation.

Within Hackleton Parish specifically over the last 12-months we have dealt with traffic and speeding issues, planning, the lease on the recreation ground, planning applications and land protection issues.

Presentation of Reports from local Clubs, Organisations and Groups

Get Fit Today

A group of friendly residents who meet on a Tuesday & Thursday at 9:15am and Saturday at 8:15am on the Recreation Ground to enjoy fitness classes aimed to build health and wellbeing. Full details on the website.

Hackleton Bowling Club

Meet on a Tuesday afternoon and evening in the Village Hall. A friendly group in need of new members. Tuition given first 2-sessions free all very welcome.

Hackleton Football Club

AFC Hackleton have just finished their 12th season and for the past 10 seasons we have run both a first and a reserve team. We pride ourselves on running these teams with nearly all players who live, have lived or have a very strong connection to our parish. Sometimes this goes against us as we cannot scout for better players from the town but the togetherness, we have is second to none.

This season the reserve team had some excellent wins but also found themselves on the end of narrow defeats. They also had a good cup run in the Alan Dimmer trophy and lost out on a quarter final place on goal difference.

The first team have significantly improved going from a mid-table Championship team to a very strong premiership side. They had some good cup runs and were finalists in the Nene Cup where they were unlucky to lose to one of the best teams in the town.

Covid has affected the teams and at times both teams had depleted squads for matchdays which was obviously not ideal but we carried on regardless. We hope that with isolation rules etc now relaxed that both teams will flourish.

AFC Hackleton are always looking for local lads to boost the squads and we are currently trying to recruit any local lads who are 16+ to add to our pool of players. If you know of anyone who would like to become the newest member of the AFC Hackleton family, please ask them to get in touch either via Facebook or tell them to just come down to a training session where they will be made to feel very welcome. We train every Thursday from 6.30pm down the rec in the summer and at CCS in the winter months. We have a very vast age range of players, the youngest being 16 and the oldest 45 and all are welcome.

We lay a wreath at Remembrance day every year and we also hold events such as Stars in their Eyes, from which we donated £625 to Cynthia Spencer this year and our annual presentation night where we recognise lots of players with numerous trophies. This year we are holding it at NTFC on 18 June and we welcome not just the players, but family, friends and anyone else who likes a good night out. Details from any AFC Hackleton player.

As we say in the club – Up the Magpies!

Police Liaison Representative/Neighbourhood Watch

INTRODUCTION

I am Phil Renshaw the Piddington NHW Coordinator. Also in the parish we have Barbara Bayes the Coordinator for Hackleton, Carol Lloyd is kindly covering the role in Horton on a temporary basis until a replacement found and Nikesch Jani who has the responsibility for St Georges Fields

ROLE

I have also recently become the Police Liaison Representative which is a new role to link with the police and your Parish council. The intention of this role is to improve 2-way communications with both the police and the parish council resulting in an improved partnership with the police to help fight crime and protect residents. One important initiative recently that has been organised is the start of regular meetings with the Neighbourhood Police Team during the Coffee@Carey mornings. This will give residents the opportunity to raise concerns, provide useful information to the police if there is any suspicious activity in the area or just have a general chat. The first one is next Tuesday and then at 2 monthly intervals. The police have also launched their Beat Bus again manned by a member of the Neighbourhood Police Team which has started to visit villages to gain intelligence and support the local residents. Very importantly these actions will show a police presence in our community deterring criminal activity.

CRIME

The crime figures reported to the police for our parish in the past 12 months include:

3 for Piddington – neighbour dispute and report of a person seen on driveway in suspicious circumstances and a vehicle broken into

2 for Horton – a burglary and the theft of a metal sign

7 for Hackleton - Theft of building materials from building site, neighbour harassment, neighbour disputes, theft of a vehicle, tools stolen from van, the theft of crocheted seagull (which was duly returned).

SCAMS

There have been a large number of scam calls by people saying they are from banks, the DWP, Tax Office, delivery companies etc. There are so many that it is impossible to list them all. Always be vigilant of scams especially if you are being asked for personal and/or bank details. Please talk to a trustworthy friend or neighbour if you are concerned. Do not be rushed into responding to any email or phone call. If you can report any suspicious scam emails to report@phishing.gov.uk. NEVER CLICK ON ANY LINK contained in these emails

JOIN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Finally a request for all residents to join their Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Please access the Ourwatch.org.uk website and follow the instructions to enter your details and you will receive police crime prevention information together with reports on local crime incidents.

Phil Renshaw (Piddington NHW Coordinator) Tele 07541 959836

Email address - Philip.Renshaw@yahoo.co.uk

Coffee@Carey

Today is Coffe@Carey's 1st birthday! Yes, we opened as soon as restrictions allowed, last year. In that time, we have served: 3846 drinks, 239 tasty treats, 246 portions of homemade soup and co-incidentally received 246 donations, mostly for food from the food table. We have hosted 38 Pop-Up Shops. One very enjoyable Valentine's live music event featuring Roy Hawkesford. A MacMillan's coffee morning which raised just over £600 and are currently selling the remainders from the WI plant sale (please have a look later). Monthly opportunities to Talk with the Parish Clerk and will be hosting opportunities to talk to our Community Police Officer

One of our aims, was to see people of different generations talking to each other. It is gratifying to see this happening. It's lovely to have people come in with their old friends and see them make new friends. We have customers who have lived in the villages all their lives and those who have only just moved in and want to support the local village life.

The book, magazine and jigsaw library continue to be popular – both with those donating and those borrowing. We have re-donated excess stock to charity shops. I am very grateful to those who have spent hours sorting books.

The library hosts weekly Rhyme Time and Mums & Tots which is usually attended by 6 or 7 Mums/grandparents with their under 3s; not always the same 6 or 7. It continues to be a meeting point for new mothers which offers mutual support and friendship.

We want to say a very warm thank you to:

the Parish Council which funded the initial start-up costs along with gifts from the WI, some generous individuals and Hackleton Baptist Church

Tim Nunn who co-ordinated the building work

the WI crafts group who made bunting which has been changed with every season

and the WI gardening group who come in every Monday to change the flowers. They really help to make the atmosphere.

We also want to thank all the volunteers – our youngest volunteer is 9 and our oldest is 81.

The volunteers have cleaned, sorted books, looked after social media communications, designed, printed and delivered publicity materials and serve regularly as baristas.

They have gardened, cut the grass, put up mirrors, put together book-cases and secured them to the walls.

They have decorated the library and made it look fun; they have hand-written signs. Volunteers book and manage the Pop-Up shops.

They have donated cable drums for tables, sun umbrellas and stands, outdoor chairs, fairy lights and cake forks.

They have baked, made soup, helped set up the coffee shop for the day and managed the Coffee Shop when I have been away.

Without you none of this would be possible.

It's amazing, thank you!

Footpath Warden

Again, our aim during this reporting period was to be as self-sufficient as circumstances allow. This entailed taking on jobs of improving signage, clearing light obstructions and repairing Way marker posts. Anything requiring a fix outside our capabilities were reported.

Following our previous request, that was approved, for a small budget to purchase materials such as Way marker posts, we can report that as yet, through scavenging and repairing, we have not had to request any funding.

During the reporting period, members have continued to use, self-purchased non industrial, battery/ manually operated tooling such as hedge, brush and grass trimmers. These appear to be adequate for our need.

Key Achievements:

KM37: Vertical support on the footbridge broken causing distortion and instability of the bridge. Action - after reporting entire footbridge replaced.

KM19: Footbridge over drainage ditch damaged tread boards. Action - after reporting, entire bridge replaced. **KM46:** Kissing Gate on the Newport Pagnell Rd. Low hanging, branches, nettles and other vegetation causing obstruction to the gate itself. Action - cleared.

KM29: (side of water treatment works). Thick and deep growth of brambles etc. was reducing width of path. Action - growth pruned back.

KM44: Between Lucas and Great Lane, footbridge heavily obstructed by vegetation and branches split from main tree trunk. Action - cleared.

KM58: Top of Great Lane; nettles, brambles encroaching on the footpath. Action - cleared. **KM19:** Bridleway leading away from the Roman Dig; brambles nettles overhanging branches within the spinney, causing difficulties for horse riders (this had been reported to us). Action - cleared.

KM41: Bridleway Newport Pagnell Road side. Storm displaced branches and general vegetation causing obstructions. Action - cleared.

KM26/ 47: Footpaths leading across the paddock from byway leading to St John's Church. Grass, cow parsley, nettles etc. can be prolific. Action - cut frequently.

KM12/ 13/ 55: Junction near Preston Wood; Post snapped at base. Action - repaired, repainted, re-sited.

Many thanks to the landowners who, in generally maintain access to the network of RoWs to a high standard. Thanks also to all those who have reported problems.

Additional volunteers to assist with helping to maintain the many footpaths, bridleways and by-ways within the parish would be very welcome. If you would like to find out more, please contact us using the e-mail address hpfootpathwardens@outlook.com

Please use the dedicated e-mail address for reporting problems. Alternatively, reporting of obstructions or other, can be made directly to the Row authorities using Street Doctor <https://fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk/>

ABILITY Community Transport Scheme

Hackleton no longer has public transport but it does have the community transport bus 3 times per week leaving at around 9:30am. During Covid numbers have been depleted and more users are now needed as we emerge from the pandemic. ABILITY provide a service not just a bus with many trips organised to various places including Banbury, Beckwith Emporium, Market Harborough, and Cotton Manor. The service is aimed at tackling isolation and loneliness and bus passes are accepted. There are currently 45 members within the Parish. It is an on-demand service which needs to be booked at least 1 day ahead. We have a great working relationship with the parish council and urge residents to make use of the service.

Hackleton CEVA Primary School

As a school, we are bouncing back from all the restrictions created whilst dealing with the COVID epidemic. We are now operating as normal through the school day and starting to reinstate many of the things that took place before to enrich children's experiences and learning opportunities.

It has been lovely to see the whole school together on the playground at break and lunchtimes playing and getting along with each other. We are able to come together as a whole school in the hall for worship and singing. Rev. Julie and Mrs Watson, as part of the church school team, have been able to come into school to lead worship too.

School trips are back on and this year children are visiting Bletchley Park, Holdenby House, Woburn Safari Park and Class 6 will be taking part in their residential at a PGL centre in Lincolnshire.

We have been able to take part in Strictly Northampton due to the hard work and dedication of Mrs Corbyn. We were placed second overall with our Year 5/6 team and first place with our Year 3/4 team and our Year 2 team. Our trophy cabinet is becoming rather full!

We are also taking part in lots of sports competitions with other local schools as part of our local sports partnership. Our oldest children are trained as sports leaders so that they can lead activities at lunchtime and help at events like sports day.

We offer a range of sports clubs at the start and end of the school day including football, tennis, dodgeball, basketball, gymnastics, Udance and Strictly. We have just begun to offer a drama club. These are all operated by outside clubs and agencies.

We can welcome parents back into school as we did before. We held our first Parent Forum meeting a few weeks ago as a way to gather parental views in a relaxed atmosphere. We plan to hold these 3 times during an academic year. Class 3 held their first performance in two years for their families to watch and they were fantastic! All the classes will be taking part in a performance during the rest of this academic year which families will all be able to attend.

Our Jubilee celebrations are well underway and we are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our Art Exhibition on Thursday 26th May. On the last day of term, we are holding a Jubilee themed activity day in school where the children will be mixing across the school and taking part in different events. At the end of the day, they will have a small gift to take home from the Hackleton School Association to commemorate this special event.

This is really only a snippet of what will be taking place over the coming months. For all the information and updates, please keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter pages.

Adopt a Grave

The Churchyard Wildlife Group was delayed due to Covid and has been going for less than 12-months. Working towards a bronze in the Churchyard Conservation Award Scheme. Some quite rare species have been identified in the Churchyard and the group aims to protect and preserve them as well as enhance the biodiversity. The group initially consulted the public then the parish council and parochial church council and is working to adopt older kerbed graves. Already some wild flowers are coming through on some of the grave. The group would like to thank the parish council for the bird/bat/bee boxes. The group is currently 12 strong and new members are extremely welcome.

Women's Institute

Despite the enforced separation at the beginning of last year, we not only kept going, but initiated several new activities.

Our monthly meetings during lockdown allowed us to embrace the opportunity to find speakers on-line who would normally have been unavailable to us, as they live so far away. In June we prepared for the end of lockdown by a Zoom talk on Walking the Camino Way.

And then – at last, in July, we could all join in the sunshine for a picnic – our first face-to-face meeting since the previous February. We continued to be outside for the August meeting, when we had our ramble. These two outdoor events were good preparation for our first Village Hall meeting in September. Our Christmas meal was again in the Village Hall, where we were entertained by members of WIsians as well as having a delicious meal and carol singing -and we were joined by Quinton WI, keeping the community spirit which was a feature of lockdown. We also had a very successful meeting that we opened up to WI members throughout the County, when Mark Francis, a contestant in The Sewing Bee, came and shared his experience with us, and showed us the clothes he had made. Our most recent meeting reflected the resolution we had put forward last year about supporting British horticulturists, when we had a Northamptonshire farmer talk to us about her business growing flowers near Towcester.

We not only kept our special interest groups going by Zoom, we even extended them, and now we have a gardening group, Greenfingers, who meet in each other's gardens to swap ideas and knowledge, as well as having outings to public gardens and providing flowers for Coffee at Carey each week and we started a second book club, Bookworms, as the first one was at full capacity. The first book club, Wireworms, continues to thrive, along with the Family History group who have been researching Reginald Hall whose grave is in Piddington Churchyard. Poppies, the craft group, decorated the church Christmas tree and created seasonally themed bunting for Coffee at Carey.

We have contributed to several local organisations and events. We held a plant sale again, thanks to Elaine, Jane and Barbara, although plants were ordered and paid for in advance and delivered to people at their homes. The profits were donated to the Judith Willoughby charity. This year, our plant sale has been in the village Hall again, and we will be able to contribute more to local charities. We bought three trees for the church cemetery and donated money to the Community Coffee shop, Association of Country Women of the World and NCFWI. We also provided cakes for Cynthia Spencer and cakes and teas for the Village Charities sale. To publicise all our activities we have a revamped Facebook page, and are working now with other local organisations so that we can all publicise each other's events.

So, despite all, we have not only survived but thrived and grown new skills and subgroups through this year and have gained new members.

Longland Meadow Volunteers Group

The Meadow became an even more popular haven during the lockdowns than usual and provided a safe restful place for our allowed exercise.

The volunteers in the meadow were busy during lockdown as soon as Govt. measures were introduced which allowed voluntary outside activities with social distancing to occur. Work sessions involved pairs of volunteers " dotted" around the meadow with members of each pair maintaining social distancing. Planning meetings continued once allowed out of doors, with a different 2 of our group absent each time to adhere to the group of 6 rules and social distancing followed too. Only in the coldest months of '20/'21 did we stop. As somewhat less work was done because of the measures, Colin, the late departed Parish Groundsman, took up the slack doing what we couldn't. As a result, as normal life resumed the meadow was looking as lovely as always.

Both fruit harvests in the Community Orchard were poor for different, weather-related, reasons- extreme dryness in the spring and early summer months of 2020 and very late frosts plus a poor summer in 2021. What fruit was available was enjoyed by many visitors to the meadow and some was harvested to make jam to sell in aid of the Judith Willoughby Charity last year.

the pond has maintained its water level through both seasons and although the variety of wild flowers in the butterfly patch is reducing it still looked very pretty.

We have been working to increase the biodiversity in Church Spinney by planting many woodland flowers: - primroses, wood anemone, bluebells, snowdrops & wild garlic and we have created a woodland clearing there too where villagers can sit in a shady location during hot weather.

As always, I would like to thank the volunteers who come together for our regular " green gym workouts!" Sadly 3 have had to drop out owing to ill health but we have welcomed 2 " younger models", Helen and Fraser, to our band which is great news.

Just Sing!

The choir was established in the autumn of 2019 and then stopped until May 2022. They meet on a Monday evening 7:30pm-8:30pm. New members extremely welcome.

Hackleton Village Hall

The year 2021 turned out to be the start of another strange year with the Covid 19 pandemic still with us.

There was little activity with regard to the use of the hall except for Preschool Playgroup. As the year progressed and with the guidelines changing often, we gradually began to return to some sort of normality. Most of our regular users had returned by the end of 2021. Unfortunately the return of parties did not happen until this year.

One thing that did not stop was the tote which continued to raise money for the day-to-day repairs. Thank you to Viv Harrison for her continued support and also that of the collectors.

Although there was less activity with hirings Diana, our lettings secretary, still kept a watchful eye on the diary. John did his part by making sure health and safety was still at the forefront when the hall was in use.

As always finances did not stop during the year and extra cleaning materials were need and cleaning was even more stringent than usual. Thank you to Barbara for dealing efficiently with the accounts and also for her work running the bar together with her helpers.

This brings me neatly on to the cleaning of the hall which has been very onerous during the 12 months ending December 2021. Because of the severe guidelines inflicted by the pandemic this has been extremely difficult at times. Godfrey and his team ensured that every surface was sanitised, washed and everything else done as required. Our sincere thanks to all those involved.

The film shows continue to be popular and thanks go to David and his team for making sure the show goes on.

Thank you to Charmaine, our excellent Secretary, for ensuring we get minutes and agendas on time (not quite the same as on the rare occasions I have typed the minutes!!

Finally, thank you to all of the Trustees for their support of me during what has been on occasions a very odd year.

As usual the accounts are clear and understandable but I would like to highlight one or two items.

The income from hiring our facilities was way down on previous years at just under £10,400 which did not cover the cost of cleaning, heating, lighting and insurance which was approximately £12,000. The income from the hire of the Annexe was less than £1,900. Despite all of this Hire charges will remain as they are at present.

Despite the pandemic, fund raising events together with donations was still nearly £5,000. This meant that we could continue to update/renew equipment etc.

The repairs and renewals were £9,468.32 which includes £8,932.81 for the shelter and landscaping at the rear of the main hall.

The Tote again raised just over £2,000 providing money to carry out minor repairs and renewals.

Income from the bar provided a profit of £2,514.48. Having once again spent a considerable sum of money on the buildings the accounts show a very healthy balance. Thank you, Barbara, for all the work you put in throughout the year and to Hannah Ray for checking that everything is alright.

Platinum Jubilee Group

Events have been months in the planning. Please volunteer your time even just for an hour to help set up on Longland Meadow on Saturday 4th June from 9am or to man as tall. Tombola prizes much needed and Tug o War teams. Please do all come along Thursday 2nd June 9:15pm Piddington Cemetery for the Beacon & Fireworks and Saturday 4th June Longland Meadow picnic & fete noon – 4pm.

Village Firework Society

Has been running for 21-years. The November display is usually at the Spread Eagle PH although did move to The White Hart PH for 4-5 years during the time. Covid stopped the display but we hope to return in 2022. Fundraising activity has stopped because of the pandemic but the group continues thanks to sponsors and donations. Each display costs £2-2.5K. Always looking for more volunteers so please do come forward.

Group 8

The group is back in business following a successful Pantomime and Spring Play.

The new staging is arriving at the beginning of June and then we need to make the attachment points to allow it to be tied to the stage and various other tasks. Our Chair will be arranging a meeting once that is done with other potential users to show them how to build and strike and store the staging.

G8 would like to thank all those who supported us by helping fund the staging and we would like to thank those who attended our recent plays.

We intend to have a pantomime at the beginning of December this year but have not chosen which one yet and have some great ideas for the next spring play.

The Ecclesiastical Parish of Piddington with Horton

Since the last Hackleton Parish AGM, here in the Piddington with Horton Ecclesiastical Parish we have had a change of clergy. Canon Beverley Hollins moved to Weston Favell in February and, following a short period where visiting priests led our services, Revd. Julie Scott was licensed in November to be the vicar of Living Brook Benefice and Far Cotton Parish.

Rev. Julie and her husband Adrian came to us from Bridgewater in Somerset, where Julie served the final part of her curacy. Julie is a mother and grandmother who's passionate about protecting the environment embracing it with her love of the arts, particularly photography and painting. Although Julie is the vicar of our whole Benefice, and will remain so, she will be joined in the next couple of months by Rev Margaret Simmons, a partially retired priest, who will be working part time, as an assistant priest, with a special responsibility for Piddington with Horton Ecclesiastical Parish and Quinton and Preston Deanery Ecclesiastical Parish. We are looking forward to welcoming Rev Margaret.

Like everyone else COVID affected us too, but we constantly kept embracing the changes. We held open-air services in 2021, whatever the weather, through to the Autumn – this meant we could also socialise after the service as we were outside, especially as most of us were fully vaccinated and weatherwise God smiled on the righteous!

Having been on a steep learning curve in 2020, most of us had come to terms with the intricacies of ZOOM, which allowed the chilly mortals and more vulnerable to carry on taking part in services and meetings.

But it seems we're back in business now and it was lovely to see the church bulging on Christmas Eve at the Crib Service.

Sadly, last year, once again, our fundraising events took a dip but in spite of everything we held a very successful Harvest Quiz and the Christmas Tree Festival and Wassail service was well attended.

But now we have a full programme planned for this year: TRAILER: We have a Banger and Boules afternoon next month on 18th June at 1pm at Temple Cottages - tickets available!!!

Finally we are indebted to the continuing generosity and co-operation of the Parish Council especially with regards to the upkeep of the Churchyard and particularly in their support of the Piddington Churchyard Wildlife Group recently formed but seem to be swelling in numbers each week.

The Chairman of the Parish Council closed the formal part of the meeting stating that we have an amazing parish and the future is bright.

Refreshments and informal discussion followed.