

**MINUTES OF DUCKLINGTON  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 10 MAY 2012  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL, DUCKLINGTON AT 7.30 PM**

- 1. Present:**                   **Parish Councillors:**  
Edmund Strainge (Chairman)  
Peter Almgill  
Richard Border  
David Duthie  
Peter Godwin  
Catherine Maddison  
Glyn Rees  
Sarah Stanley
- Helen Sandhu (Clerk)  
Steve Hayward – West Oxfordshire District Councillor  
Flight Lieutenant Eoin Sands – RAF Brize Norton  
Martin Layer – Smiths of Bletchington  
Lucy Binnie – Land & Mineral Management Ltd (working with Smiths of Bletchington)  
Acting Sergeant Sam Moore, Thames Valley Police  
Sarah Nisbett – Headteacher, Ducklington Primary School  
Ruth Edy, Chair of Ducklington Jubilee celebrations co-ordinating committee  
38 members of the public
- 2. Apologies:**           Adrian Armitage – Parish Councillor  
Don Seale – Oxfordshire County Councillor  
Ally Souster, Sally Craig – Jubilee committee  
Graham and Rosemarie Lenton
- 3. Welcome**  
Edmund Strainge, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 4. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting on 10 May 2011**  
The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 5. RAF Brize Norton**  
Flight Lieutenant Eoin Sands of 30 Squadron gave a presentation about the activities of the Hercules squadrons based at RAF Brize Norton. The Hercules squadrons moved over from RAF Lyneham during 2011. There are two Hercules models based at RAF Brize Norton. The C130K first came into service in 1967 and are due to be completely retired during 2012 – there are now only 8 left. The newer model, the C130J, entered service in 1999. The C130J performs better, is operated with fewer crew and can carry more passengers and more freight than the old K model. There are three Hercules squadrons – one squadron carries out training activities, one is responsible for air mobility and the third carries out air mobility and aerial delivery activities. Air mobility involves the moving of passengers and freight, much like a commercial airline would do. Aerial

delivery is specific to the military and involves dropping parachutists from high altitude. Stores can also be dropped, from the size of a rucksack up to a Landrover or piece of artillery.

The vast majority of the operational work is currently being carried out in Afghanistan. The aircraft are based at Kandahar and fly out to Bastion and Kabul, delivering supplies to troops on the ground. Flying supplies in gets past some of the problems experienced with ground vehicle transport which is very vulnerable to attack. 8000 people and 1000 tonnes of freight are transported within Afghanistan every month on average.

One other function fulfilled by the Hercules within Afghanistan is aeromedical evacuation and repatriation. The injured and fallen are transported by Hercules from their location in Afghanistan to Bastion where they are put onto a strategic aircraft which transports them back to the UK.

The Hercules also has a presence in the Falkland Islands and took part in the operations around Libya in 2011. More rarely the aircraft are used for trips to the US and the Far East. The Hercules is also used for urgent medical tasking in the UK, including for civilians.

A lot of training has to be carried out to ensure that the aircrew remain current. As much training as possible is done using simulators. Training exercises have to include the simulation of working in high threat environments as the insurgents have access to anti-aircraft weaponry. The best way to reduce this threat is for aircraft to be flown at night using night vision goggles. This is a very demanding skill which every pilot going to Afghanistan needs to be competent to use. As much of this training as possible is done in a simulator, but the pilots do have to practise flying at night around RAF Brize Norton using the goggles. This is why residents will have seen an increase in the amount of night flying since the Hercules were transferred here. The utmost effort is made to avoid the direct overflight of villages when this training is being done.

*Q: Would it be possible for there to be a reduction in the number of flights at the weekend when the weather is nice?*

*A: Weekend flights are avoided wherever possible. Training circuits where aircraft take off, fly a three minute circuit, land and take off again are an essential part of the training for the pilots. They gain knowledge about how to handle and operate the aircraft which can't be gained by sustained flying at altitude. Doing the same activity repeatedly leads to it becoming inbuilt. When the Hercules squadrons moved to Brize Norton the pilots were shown the local area and villages in detail and will manually avoid flying over villages wherever possible. The problem for Ducklington is that it is situated close to the final part of the circuit where the aircraft need to be lined up with the runway in order to land, although the pilots still avoid overflying the village where possible. Training circuits are not done at the weekends; if residents believe that they are being carried out, they can report this to the RAF. Weekend flights are only done where there is an operational need.*

*Q: There seems to be a lot of engine repairs being carried out at night which wakes people up. This didn't happen before.*

*A: This noise is likely to be generated by the Hercules undergoing ground engine runs. It does seem to be causing more issues here than it did at RAF Lyneham where there was an earth bund between the runway and the residential areas. Every effort is made to minimise the amount of ground engine running at the weekends and overnight. It is only done for essential operational tasking, when the aircraft needs to be ready to go to Afghanistan the next day. Flt Lt Sands agreed to report this concern back to RAF Brize Norton.*

*Q: Why does the noise generated by the ground engine runs differ in volume – is this because of the direction the aircraft are facing on the ground?*

*A: Parish Councillor Peter Almgill who has some professional expertise in acoustics explained that the variation in the noise levels can be caused by several things, particularly atmospherics including wind direction. Mr Almgill explained that there are regular meetings between the local councils and RAF Brize Norton, where the issues caused by ground engine running are often discussed.*

## **6. Thames Valley Police**

Acting Sergeant Sam Moore provided an update from Thames Valley Police. In the past year the local neighbourhood team has been trying to address anti-social behavior, speeding, parking and litter. The Witney team has had a successful year in terms of crime reduction and detection. There has been a 31% reduction in anti-social behaviour, a sharp reduction in burglaries to houses and a reduction in violent crime. The Witney team has the best detection rate for violent crime across the whole of the Thames Valley Police area. The team carries out Operation Night Safe on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights in Witney. More police officers are put on foot in the town to make it a safer place for everyone. The team also concentrates on policing the peripheries of the night-time economy on these evenings – covering the thoroughfares from town which can be the target of criminal damage and other crimes carried out by those leaving Witney having had too much to drink. Ducklington seems to have suffered from this type of criminal activity in the past.

There have been two residential burglaries in Ducklington in the past year and several break-ins to garages/sheds, although fewer than in the previous year. There has been an increase in the number of thefts, although a lot of those recorded have been at Cokethorpe School. Historically there has been an issue with damage to vehicles. Only three incidents have been recorded this year which is a sharp reduction. Overall, crime is down in Ducklington as it is throughout West Oxfordshire.

Sergeant Moore said that he knows that residents have been concerned about vehicles perceived as speeding on Witney Road. This is being addressed as much as possible by the speeding control team and they hope to carry out a survey soon in order to measure the issue. Parking enforcement is now carried out by the District Council, although the Police will still deal with parking which causes obstructions, such as blocking driveways. There has recently been an increase in the amount of anti-social behaviour at Witney Lake. The neighbourhood team will try to deal with this better over the summer months. Sergeant Moore urged people to report all crime that happens in the parish. The neighbourhood team patrols are focused on “hot-spots” which are designated because of the number of reported crimes.

*Q: Please advertise the non-emergency contact number.*

*A: The non-urgent number to report concerns and crimes on is 101. If people know the name or shoulder number of an officer they want to speak to they can get hold of them on this number.*

*Q: Are there any measures an ordinary person can carry out to prevent lead and cable theft?*

*A: This is a big problem across the country and Ducklington school has been targeted. Vigilance is important – residents should report anything suspicious, particularly unfamiliar vans which are seen at night. Residents should report any concerns on 101. Lighting, particularly lights controlled by a movement sensor, and CCTV can be helpful.*

Q: *If people are seen working at a cable access point with an unmarked van, should residents report this as suspicious?*

A: *Sometimes the cable companies employ sub-contractors who use plain vans, but if people report concerns to the Police, the neighbourhood team can check this out if they have time.*

Q: *How long does it take the Police to attend an incident if someone calls 999?*

A: *At the moment the actual time to attend in West Oxfordshire is being recorded as less than 7 minutes. The targets for attendance are within 15 minutes if a crime has been committed and the offender is still on the scene, 45 minutes if the offender has left the scene.*

Q: *A member of the public encouraged people to report incidents to the Police, no matter how small. They said that they had informed the Police when someone had thrown a milk bottle at their house. The PCSO who followed the incident up had told them that this was part of a trend – milk had been stolen from 10 houses in Ducklington but only 2 residents had reported the theft to the Police; the rest of the information had come from the dairy.*

A: *Sergeant Moore agreed with this point – the Police work on the identification of trends. If people don't report incidents, the Police won't be able to put the right resource into dealing with the problem. He explained that there had been a spate of cars being sprayed with yellow paint when parked at the roadside – the Police had identified that this was a trend affecting the whole of this area and across south England. The offender has now been identified.*

Q: *In the early hours of New Years Day in 2010 there was a lot of car damage in Ducklington. Was this people coming into Ducklington from outside? How can the Police identify where the offenders come from?*

A: *There are sometimes peripheral crimes from people coming into the area after a night out. It is difficult for the Police to prevent these crimes as their incidence is very unpredictable. The Police do try to be in the villages and the estates more at these times to prevent crimes, but can't be everywhere. The Police rely on witnesses, forensics and CCTV in the towns to identify the offenders.*

## **7. Presentation by Smiths of Bletchington Ltd – Gill Mill**

Martin Layer, Planning and Estates Manager, gave a presentation about activities at Gill Mill. Mr Layer said that this is the third time that he has addressed the Annual Parish Meeting on the proposals to extend Gill Mill. This illustrates how long and complicated the planning process is.

Gill Mill opened in 1989 and the last major planning permission to extend the operating area of the quarry was granted in 2001. Gill Mill is the biggest producer of sand and gravel in Oxfordshire – 350,000 tonnes are extracted each year. Three quarters of the minerals extracted travel no more than 16 miles from the site. 40 people are directly employed at the site, and there are many other service jobs associated with the site. Gill Mill also imports inert excavation waste, including from demolished buildings, which is either recycled for re-use or is used to restore the dug areas at the quarry. Most of the dug areas have historically been restored to open water. Rushy Common nature reserve and Tar Lakes which are both well used amenity areas have been created from dug areas in the last couple of years. Smiths is obliged to maintain and manage these sites for 25 years.

Mr Layer showed the meeting a map of the extension area which was first proposed in April 2010. At that time the proposed extension covered 140 hectares of land either

owned or controlled by Smiths, from the north of the existing plant up to the A40. The 140 hectares contained an expected 9.26 million tonnes of sand and gravel.

As part of the planning process an Environmental Impact Assessment was then prepared. This is a detailed document covering 12 areas of potential environmental impact. The outcome of this assessment is an Environmental Statement which will accompany the planning application. Smiths has also undertaken an extensive programme of consultation and communication with the local councils, communities and relevant non-Government organisations.

Following the detailed technical work carried out since the initial proposal, the proposed area for the extension has been reduced and now covers 97 hectares which are expected to contain 5 million tonnes of sand and gravel.

Detailed work has been carried out on how the extension will be worked. It has been split into 14 phases. The work will start on the area which is furthest north and will be worked southwards back towards the existing quarry. The areas will be dug in the same way as the existing areas.

Mr Layer explained that the planning application will also contain the proposal that the time at which lorries will be permitted to leave the site will be moved to half an hour earlier in the day, starting at 6.30am instead of the 7.00am start time currently permitted.

Mr Layer then talked about the work which has been done to ensure that Ducklington Mead (the fritillary field) will be protected. The Flood Plain Meadows Partnership was engaged to investigate how and why the fritillaries grow so that Smiths can understand how to protect them and to ensure that their operations won't affect the Mead. Boreholes and wells have been installed to monitor the water levels and there has been an annual survey of flora on the Mead so that the relationship between the mix of flowers and the water table can be analysed. Mr Layer explained that when the minerals are extracted the water-table has to be artificially lowered and this draws water away from the surrounding areas. In order to prevent water from being drawn away from the Mead when the neighbouring areas are dug Smiths have experimented with the creation of recharge trenches. Water extracted from the area to be dug is put into the trench so that the water level of the area on the other side of the trench is maintained. The use of recharge trenches has been trialled for three years and is proving to be very effective.

Mr Layer went on to talk about the issue of flooding, which has been a source of concern for the whole country and the Environment Agency since the major incidents in 2007. A flood risk assessment on the proposed extension has been prepared and this indicates that once the areas are dug and restored the land's flood storage capacity will be increased, meaning that the proposed work reduces rather than increases the flood risk in the local area.

The restoration proposals for the new extension have been the subject of much examination and discussion. The previous permitted after-use of restoration to open water is no longer acceptable because open water attracts large numbers of birds and this increases the risk of bird strike on aircraft, including aircraft operating out of RAF Brize Norton. There have been a lot of discussions about the after-use of the extension areas with the Ministry of Defence to make sure that the proposals won't increase the risk of bird strike. The current restoration plan is for a mixture of uses. The main after-use will be nature conservation, with areas of reed bed, wet woodland, woodland and marsh. Reed beds have been identified as a priority habitat by the Council. It is hoped that they will attract bitterns and other endangered and protected species of birds. The RSPB is very supportive of the proposals. There will also be areas for recreational use, including 10 kilometres of new footpaths, cycleways and bridlepaths for public use. Discussions with West Oxfordshire District Council have also led to the proposed creation

of a series of small lodges which will be used as short term holiday lets attracting people who want to stay on a nature reserve. The lodges will generate income to support the nature reserve and also across the wider local economy. The land won't be restored to its afteruses for 25 years or more, but the proposals will create a legacy for future generations.

*Q: Some lorries have been observed driving too fast down the A415 – are the drivers on a bonus scheme?*

*A: The drivers do have a bonus scheme, but this doesn't encourage speeding. All the lorries have GPS which can be used to monitor the speed they are being driven at from within the office. If people have any concerns about the lorries, including the routes used, non-observance of weight limits or speeding, they can report these to the Smiths office so that they can be investigated. It will be helpful if people are able to note the registration number, but if not the date, time and location of the incident should be sufficient for it to be investigated.*

*Q: Steve Hayward told the meeting that he is the Chair of the County Council's Planning Committee which deals with all planning applications for gravel extraction in the county. He said that in his opinion Smiths is a good neighbour. He also complimented Smiths on the work they do in the community and in support of wildlife. There was general agreement from the assembled members of the parish.*

## **8. Ducklington Primary School**

Headteacher Sarah Nisbett gave a presentation on behalf of the Primary School. Mrs Nisbett expressed appreciation for the welcome the community and school had extended to her since her appointment in September 2011. The Primary School works very closely with St Bartholomew's Church, with many school events taking place in the church. The school and the church had worked together to produce the Easter displays which had been put up in the church. The Primary School is working with the Jubilee committee to support the events in the village although the timing of the school holiday means that the school will be closed for the main Jubilee celebrations. The school is holding a 1950s day to celebrate the Jubilee, with a mock coronation and a street party on the field starting at 1.30pm to which the local community is invited.

Mrs Nisbett said that new volunteers had started to come into the school to listen to readers following the articles she had written for the village newsletter and that more volunteers would be very welcome. The school reception class for September 2012 is oversubscribed. 30 children will be joining the reception class, with only 20 children leaving to go to secondary school.

The school recently held a "Vision and Values" evening to which the local community had been invited. The school will now formulate a mission statement from the work done at that evening.

Mrs Nisbett explained that she is now identifying refurbishments needed at the school – work needs to be done on some of the windows, and the dining tables for the children will be replaced. In the longer term there will be changes and improvements to the outside of the school to facilitate more outdoor learning.

The parent teacher association, now called FODS (Friends of Ducklington School), was reformed in September and is very active, with current events focused on raising money for things like the new dining tables. The next event is a Handbag Auction which will take place on 11 May. The school summer fete will be on 23 June.

## 9. Ducklington Parish Council

Edmund Strainge, Chairman of the Parish Council provided an update on the work of the Parish Council.

Two people have joined the Parish Council during the past year – David Duthie and Sarah Stanley.

There have been fewer planning applications for extensions on private houses in the past year, probably due to the difficult economic climate.

The recent change of use planning application for the Dudley Motor Homes site caused a lot of concern. The District Council granted the planning permission, but West Oxfordshire Motor Auction is not now buying the site. It is not clear what will happen to the site.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> September a two foot layer of sludge was removed from the village pond. Mr Strainge expressed the Parish Council's thanks to Smiths of Bletchington who had done an excellent job free of charge. Later in the summer a swale will be constructed on the Bell Inn side of the pond to filter the water which runs towards the pond from the road drainage pipes. The County Council is funding this work through their new Area Stewardship budget and Smiths of Bletchington is providing the aggregates needed free of charge.

A new sign has been erected at the Ducklington roundabout which will hopefully encourage HGVs not to drive through the village.

The yellow parking restriction markings have still not been painted on the road near Fritillary Mews. The County Council says that this work should be done in June.

The Parish Council is having three village information signs made. One will be fixed near the roundabout by the Four Pillars hotel, one will be put in the bus shelter and the third will be put in the car park behind the school. The signs will have a map of the village showing the recreation areas, footpaths and other amenities and will hopefully be useful to people visiting Ducklington and to new residents.

Barley Park Farm has a snow plough and the Parish Council has agreed with the County Council that this could be used in the village if there is a need to clear snow. The Parish Council has also had a salt bin installed at the entrance to Tristram Road.

*Q: Who is supposed to put the salt on the road?*

*A: Anyone who is able to do so – the Parish Council does not have anyone who can do this; it is up to people to help themselves and the wider community.*

Mr Strainge continued by saying that there has been a problem in recent months with dog fouling on the Glebelands playing field. A byelaw was passed some years ago forbidding anyone from going onto the playing field with a dog at all. The Parish Council has put new signs up informing people of this.

Mr Strainge expressed the Parish Council's regret that the zipwire had been out of commission for so long – the old timber one had rotted and had to be removed. A new one should be in place before the school summer holidays. Two thirds of the cost will be covered by a grant from WREN, with the rest of the money being put in by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council wants to plant an oak tree to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee. The intention had been for this to be planted in the spring but the low ground water level and hosepipe ban means that this has now been delayed until the autumn. The tree will be planted on the grass at the corner of Aston Road and Standlake Road between the pond and the school.

Mr Strainge thanked Margaret Hellowell who retired at the end of 2011 after having edited the village newsletter for 25 years.

Mr Strange ended his presentation by thanking his fellow Councillors for their help and support and the Clerk for her efficiency and for keeping the Parish Council compliant with the rules and regulations.

#### **10. Parish Council Accounts**

Helen Sandhu, Clerk to the Parish Council, spoke about the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012, the most recent accounts which are as yet to be audited.

The Parish Council receives the majority of its income from the precept which is collected with residents' Council Tax. This was increased to £26,500 for 2011/12 and has been kept at this level for 2012/13. The other notable receipt in the year was £6,313 received from the County Council for the installation of the swale at the pond which will be done during the new financial year.

The main expenditure over the year was £8,387 for sports and recreation. This includes the maintenance of the field, the rent of the field extension and some of the running expenses of the pavilion. Income of £3,021 received from the Sports Club is offset against this, reducing the net expenditure to £5,366.

The next main area of expenditure covered costs relating to the management of the open spaces. The Parish Council owns and/or manages several areas of open space – at Chalcroft, Barthlomew Close, the cemetery, Peel/Lovell Close, the village green and pond. Regular work has to be carried out at these locations over the year, including grass cutting, hedge cutting, tree inspections and remedial arboricultural works.

Mrs Sandhu told the meeting that at the end of March 2012 the Parish Council had total reserves of £49,156, which is broken down into five designated reserves and one general reserve, including specific reserves for the Parish Council's contribution towards the proposed new sports pavilion and the new reserve which has been created to hold the money received from the County Council for the construction of the pond swale.

Mrs Sandhu then spoke briefly about the budget for 2012/13, which includes the planned contribution towards the installation of the new zipwire.

#### **11. Oxfordshire County Council**

Parish Councillor Richard Border read out the report which had been prepared by County Councillor Don Seale who was unable to attend the meeting.

The County Council has not increased its share of the council tax for 2012/13, partly due to good management and also to an increase in the grant received from central government. The County Council has improved its cost effectiveness by reducing staff, improving procurement and trimming back on items which are nice to have but not essential. The Council has protected children's social care and the fire and rescue services from cutbacks.

A new area stewardship scheme has been created to give local communities some say in highways spending in their areas. Funding for road maintenance will be increased in 2012/13 by £1million.

Although many schools are transferring to academies, the County Council retains responsibility for providing sufficient and good standard school places and is allocating a further £25million to ensure it meets this responsibility.

The County Council recognises the importance of the local military, their personnel and dependants in the county. The Council has embedded the £100,000 initial annual

allocation into its continuing budget to ensure their well-being. The Council has also appointed County Councillors, primarily ex-military, to act as liaison officers for each of the major military units based in Oxfordshire. Don Seale has been appointed as the liaison officer for RAF Brize Norton.

There are many planned changes to NHS provision and closer co-operation will be required between the NHS and the county and district councils. Despite what the media reports, doctors will have a greater say in the provision of health and social care and public health will become a county council responsibility.

The provision of care to the increasing number of older people and those with learning and physical difficulties and the protection of vulnerable children and adults are the County Council's primary and most expensive concerns. The County Council is also working, with the support of increased funding from the government, to help troubled families overcome their difficulties.

The library service will be preserved and no libraries in Oxfordshire will be closed, although some, including Bampton, will have reduced funding and will be open for fewer hours.

Flood prevention measures are being taken although more needs to be done to prevent flooding in normal downpours. Whatever measures are undertaken a rain storm similar to the event in July 2007 will always present difficulties.

The County Council works closely with district councils with regard to waste management – the district councils collect the waste and the County Council disposes of it by landfill, which the council is working to reduce. A significant step forward will be achieved when the new waste facility at Ardley is constructed.

Mr Seale's report finished by stating that the County Council has had to make many financial savings but has preserved essential services.

Steve Hayward, as a County Councillor for Witney, added an update to Don Seale's report. Mr Seale will soon be appointed the Chairman of the County Council, which is an honour given to the more long-standing county councillors.

The proposed County Council ward boundary changes are now official. From 2013 the ward which includes Ducklington will be increased to include Deer Park, Thorney Leys and Burwell Meadow. The Localism Act will be enacted which includes changes to the infrastructure levy for new housing. If new homes are built in Ducklington a percentage of the infrastructure levy will come straight to the Parish Council, although the actual percentage is not yet clear.

## **12. West Oxfordshire District Council**

Steve Hayward, Ducklington's District Councillor spoke about matters relating to West Oxfordshire District Council. Mr Hayward told the meeting that he has represented Ducklington as a County or District Councillor for 15 years.

There has been no increase in the District Council's share of the council tax with an additional grant from central government.

In 2000 the District Council had £80million in its bank account after the sale of its social housing stock. Over the last 4-5 years £45million has been invested into commercial developments both in and outside the district. These produce a financial return of 6-7%, much better than the return of 1-2% which would be achieved had the money been left in the bank. It now appears that the District Council will recover approximately 95% of the £10million which had been invested in the failed Icelandic banks.

Mr Hayward informed the meeting that the District Council spends a lot of money promoting tourism which is very important to the West Oxfordshire economy. West Oxfordshire has bucked the national trend and has experienced an increase both in the number of tourists coming to the district and also in the amount of money they spend.

193/94 social housing properties have been built in the year to 1 April 2012 and it is hoped that a similar number will be built in the current year. Mr Hayward told the meeting that he is consulted before social housing properties are allocated in Ducklington. 5 properties have been allocated in the past year and he tries to ensure that the people to whom the homes are allocated actually want to live in a village rather than a town so that they will settle into the village.

Mr Hayward told the meeting that the District Council worked with the Police and the local secondary schools to successfully identify young people who were responsible for painting graffiti tags around the area, including in Ducklington. The District Council can only remove graffiti from its own properties but will negotiate with the County Council and private individuals to get them to remove graffiti from their properties.

The District Council is still in the process of preparing the new Local Development Framework. This will not have much of an effect on Ducklington, although it is hoped that the new large estate which is planned for between Deer Park and Curbridge will release funds for a new roundabout on the A40 which should reduce the amount of traffic using the Station Lane traffic lights. Mr Hayward ended by saying that he enjoys being the District Councillor for Ducklington.

*Q: There are quite a few road signs missing; have they been stolen?*

*A: Oxfordshire County Council is responsible for the directional road signs. They are now making them out of non-metal which is cheaper and deters people from stealing them.*

### **13. Ducklington Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**

Ruth Edy spoke on behalf of the committee co-ordinating the celebrations. She told the meeting that she was acting as the spokesperson for many people who have been working hard for the past 6-9 months to organise the events. Many different groups have been represented at the committee meetings and a wide range of plans have now been put in place for the long Jubilee weekend. There will be displays of the history of the village, crafts and flowers in the church. Refreshments will be served in the village hall and there will be a musical event on Sunday evening. On Bank Holiday Monday there will be a procession through the village to the playing field where there will be a Big Lunch and games and activities for the whole family. The Primary School will be open so that people can go to see the work prepared by the children to commemorate the Jubilee. On Tuesday afternoon there will be a Good Companions tea party and a peel of bells. Mrs Edy said that she believes that the plans put in place genuinely reflect the interests, talents and wishes of the people who have attended the co-ordinating meetings. A colour flyer will be delivered to all households in the village, thanks to the Parish Council which has agreed to meet the printing costs.

Mrs Edy closed by saying that all that is needed now is good weather and for people to come to the events.

### **14. St Bartholomew's Church – toilet appeal**

Peter Hamilton told the meeting that the church has just launched an appeal to raise funds to build a toilet in the church. If there is a toilet the church could be opened more. It will also be helpful as the church is being increasingly used by the children from the school and would also be useful for weddings, funerals and baptisms. The toilet won't just be used by people worshipping at the church, but will be extremely helpful for the school children and visitors to the church and village generally. Mr Hamilton said that leaflets explaining the appeal have been delivered to all households in the village inviting people to make a donation, no matter how small. Donations can be passed to the

Treasurer in Church Street or left in the collection churn in the church. Trusts, charities and local businesses will also be approached for donations.

**15. General questions and comments**

*Q: The road through the village is in a very bad state, particularly on the bends and where a trench has historically been dug and filled.*

*A: Edmund Strainge replied that the Parish Council does contact Highways about specific areas/holes that need attention. The County Council does not seem to have enough funds to carry out a proper repair or resurfacing work, but the Parish Council does its best to prompt the County Council to carry out repairs.*

*Q: What does the Parish Council think about solar/photovoltaic panels on the roofs of properties in the Conservation Area. The District Council website seems to suggest that people need planning permission if they want to install these panels on roof elevations which front the highway, but this does not always seem to be obtained.*

*A: Parish Councillor Glyn Rees said that he has installed solar panels on his property in Chalcroft Close and was told by the District Council that planning permission is not required for them, whilst consultation with the Building Regulations Department at the District Council is required.*

*Edmund Strainge said that the Parish Council has never been asked to comment on a planning application for solar panels and has therefore not discussed this issue in general.*

**16. Closing Comments**

Edmund Strainge thanked everyone for coming and hoped that the evening had been of interest. He especially thanked all those who had contributed to the evening.

Signed .....dated.....