Appendix 1 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting Wixford Parish Council 14.05.2019

**WIXFORD PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT 2018 – 2019**

This report is a summary of the activities that the Council has undertaken over the last year, May 2018 to April 2019.

Membership

Your Councillors are Cllrs Jack Fryer, Colin Hales, Andrew Reekes, Jon Haworth and Dean Morris. Jon Haworth and Dean Morris were appointed as rotating Chairmen in May 2018 and Colin Hales Vice Chairman.

Our Parish Clerk, Lynne Reekes who kindly offered to replace our former clerk has been in post now for her first year and is to be congratulated for her sterling efforts over the last year appreciating that she has had to learn the ropes of her new role very quickly.

Meetings

The Council has continued to meet every 2 or 3 months, usually on the second Tuesday of the month.

The schedule for actual dates is posted on the village notice board and on the Parish Council website [https://www.wixford-pc.gov.uk](https://www.wixford-pc.gov.uk/)

Minutes of the meetings are published on the Parish Council website

<https://wixford-pc.gov.uk/category/council-minutes/>

Our meetings have been well supported by District Councillor, Sue Adams and by County Councillor Mark Cargill who attend regularly and impart their invaluable knowledge and advice.

The Council meetings are open to the public and provide an opportunity to ask questions on any issue relating to the village and generally to find out what is going on in the area. The meetings are generally attended by the same people and we look forward to more people from the village making use of this facility in the future including the new residents.

**Key activities and achievements for 2018 to 2019**

**Village Maintenance**

Highway maintenance has been a mixed success. After repeated requests the road through the village was finally resurfaced, but the resulting surface is sub-standard. We have been assured that the resurfacing will be carried out again when ideal weather conditions permit but have been given no idea of when that may be.

**Traffic volume and speed**

This is probably the biggest issue facing the village and the Parish Council at present and in the years to come.

Traffic calming and volume continues to be a priority issue for your Council. After a period of non-operation, the PC arranged for the 30 MPH “active” flashing warning sign to be repaired and they are now fully operative.

As well as ensuring the signs work we have also had speed and data logging facility installed into the flashing repeater signs in both directions. Our attempts to gain current and useful data via other sources proved fruitless so we had to take the initiative.

Cllr and Co-Chairman Jon Haworth has downloaded some provisional data (Appendix1)

A few initial observations arise:

* Every month (several times in the month) drivers exceeding 65MPH, with several instances at 70MPH and even 75MPH. People are travelling at 60MPH every day and these are not happening at 3:00 am but 5 to 6 in the afternoon and mid-morning.
* The 85th percentile speeds seem to be creeping up. i.e. the speed at which 85% of drivers are travelling at or below.
* Average speeds are generally creeping up too.
* It is believed that the sign designated “Unit 6” points towards Bidford and it sees significantly more traffic than the opposite sign designated “Unit 5” AND that traffic volume has grown month on month significantly. We don’t know if it is because of roadworks in Bidford encouraging commuters to follow this route but the growth is significant. i.e for the 3 months analysed the monthly traffic jumps from 61,611 to 87,886 to 146,322 (no, that is not a typo).

As you can see, the traffic volumes are significant and speed excessive. The new housing developments on this side of Bidford are likely to account for the current problem and as more houses are being built it is only going to get worse. How we deal with it will involve some ingenuity. The data has been passed to County Councillor Mark Cargill. **Anyone with any** **ideas, please contact us**. Our initial discussions with an independent traffic consultant have suggested that the more conventional methods of traffic calming (speed humps, island etc) require street lighting and traffic lights over the bridge will inevitably lead to queues of stationary traffic in the village. We are exploring the viability of a restriction at each end of the village (that may not require lighting) and average speed cameras (although these may be prohibitively expensive).

**Police Speed checks**

Police attend to randomly and infrequently to carry out speed checks but usually during the middle part of the day. We are told this is because of the distance they have to travel to get to Wixford. As a form of enforcement, they are ineffective.

**Water Pressure – Severn Trent**

Severn Trent laid a new water main which has successfully raised the water pressure to a usable level for all properties in the village. We thank Mark Cargill for his assistance in this regard.

**Defibrillator**

We now have a new defibrillator thanks to the kind generosity of the Throckmorton Trust. The machine has also been situated in a new cabinet affixed to the small brick-built outbuilding outside Wixford Grange caravan park/Three Horse Shoes. We thank Nic Allen for allowing us to position it there.

We are currently arranging some training sessions for those interested.

**Three Horseshoes – signage and lighting**

Concerns were expressed by residents about the positioning and quantity of signage and the level of illumination of the public house and surrounding areas. We are aware that in response, the Three Horse Shoes did act and reduce the level of illumination, however we understand this may not have been maintained. We shall continue to liaise with the owner to ensure these concerns are acted upon.

**A46 resurfacing**

One side of the A46 dual carriageway was resurfaced with quiet tarmac. The PC are petitioning for the other side of the dual carriageway to be upgraded also.

**Village Hall**

The village hall is important to village life and the Parish Council fully support the village hall committee in their efforts to upgrade the building and promote activities which utilise it more fully. The Village Hall committee schedule regular meetings and the Parish Council endeavour to send a representative to attend whenever feasible.

The Parish Council are happy to provide some financial assistance to make the existing village hall water tight, safe and to freshen it up to make it more usable whilst steps are taken to provide a replacement village hall.

We understand that there is a possibility of utilising a building structure situated at Oversley Castle as a potential new village hall. We thank Piers Daniell for his kind offer and we understand that the Village Hall Committee are in discussion with him to assess the viability of this as a possible replacement hall.

**Oversley Castle**

The original developer, Paul Harvey, has sold his interests in the castle site to Piers Daniell.

Many Wixford and Oversley Castle attended a recent Planning presentation/consultation at Arrow Mill arranged by Mr. Daniell, when he and his architect presented plans for a new Oversley Castle building to replace the current building, and plans for a new residence on the site of the Glasshouse adjoining, which will be occupied by Mr. Sam Taylor.

Those who attended are asked to provide feedback at the following address:

http://www.oversley.uk/

**Church Lane**

1. Some residents have expressed their disappointment at the closure of the public access to the new road built off Church Lane to access the castle. The Council have had discussions with the owner in this regard to express these views. As you may know, this new road is a private road and as such the owner does not have to afford public access to it preferring instead to direct people to access the castle from the pedestrian access further up the lane. The new owner has not ruled out affording the access requested but would like to explore other means of resolving the problem before doing so.
2. With the continued development and occupation of the Oversley Castle site we are seeing much more delivery traffic which is accessing the site via Church Lane . Unfortunately due to a combination of inaccurate SatNavs and indistinct signage many of these deliveries miss the correct entrance to Oversley and reach the top of Church Lane where they have difficulty turning around and generally cause unreasonable disruption . We have been discussing this issue with owner of the site and he has agreed to improve the signage and have further discussions with Google about the SatNav maps : new signs will be trialled and these are expected to be available this month .

**Village Security**

As you may know, there was an aggravated burglary in the village relatively recently. In response to this the Council arranged for a local representative of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to come and offer guidance. We have set up a village What’s App Group to help pass information “live”. Please email the clerk with your name/address and mobile number to be added to this group. We are also looking for a NHW Scheme Representative for the Village to lead a scheme. Please contact our clerk if you are interested.

**Website**

<https://www.wixford-pc.gov.uk>

The Wixford Parish Council web site has undergone a significant makeover. The site is now easier to navigate, faster (and more reliable) and hosts a lot more content.

**Broadband**

We are pleased to report that after significant efforts we have finally managed to get fibre installed into Wixford which was made “live” a few months ago. There is a green DSLAM box opposite the Three Horseshoes.

Generally this has seen a speed rise from low single figure Mb download rates to circa 35/36 Mb which is a significant improvement over the former speeds relying on using fibre from Bidford and should permit most households to stream HD and have a very useable internet connection.

The main restriction now is the copper from the individual houses to the DSLAM box. This is our next priority to secure fibre to the house but given the relatively few properties in the village we remain doubtful that this will happen anytime soon.

**Proposed Cycleway**

We are participating in a project which is examining the feasibility of establishing a cycleway/footpath between Evesham and Alcester along the route of the old railway line . This project has the support of seven local councils and a number of other organisations involved in cycling . If such a route came to fruition it would be a great benefit to Wixford by allowing safe cycle access to Alcester, Evesham and other centres in the area . The first stage of the project will be an initial feasibility study performed by Sustrans which is a charity whose aims are to promote cycling throughout the country .

**Planning**

We have assessed and provided local input on a number of planning applications. We refer you to the minutes.

**Finance**

The precept was set in November 2018 at £7000. The budget has been set for 2019 – 2020.

The 2018 / 2019 Internal audit by the appointed independent Auditor was completed successfully

Statement of Accounts

Balance brought forward 01/04/18: 15663

Add Receipts in the year: 10584

-----------

26247

Deduct Payments in the year 12525

--------------

Closing balance as at 31/03/19 13722

Communication with Parishioners

It is very important that the Parish Council communicates well with the Parish. Over the last year the Parish Council has done this in the following ways:

Public participation in meetings

Regularly updated information on the notice board and Website, including agendas for meetings: The website is the most up to date communication from the Parish Council and community forums and police newsletters are added as soon as the information becomes available, as are planning decisions.

Newsletters published at least four times a year. Shirley Talboys and Jain Drinkwater did an excellent job as Editor for some years, and have now handed over the reins to Lynne Reekes. The professional looking publication promotes many local activities and news stories. Input is sought from residents prior to publication.

**Contact details**

The Clerk’s postal address, email address and telephone number are publicised on the noticeboard and on newsletters, as are the Councillors’.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Councillors Details: | Telephone: | E Mail: |
| Cllr Colin Hales | 01789 772343 | n/a |
| Cllr Jack Fryer |  | jack@jackfryer.com |
| Cllr Andrew Reekes |  | aer@radley.org.uk |
| Cllr Dean Morris | 01789 778518  0796738421  01217111511(WK) | Dean@morrislegal.co.uk |
| Cllr Jon Haworth | 01789 772732 | jonathanhaworth@btconnect.com |
| Clerks Details: |  |  |
| Lynne Reekes |  | wixfordpcclerk@gmail.com |

Your Parish Council and Clerk are here to help. Do not hesitate to contact us.

Signed: *Dean Morris and Jon Haworth* Co-Chairman – Wixford Parish Council

May 2019

**Appendix 1 (Traffic volume and speed para above refers)**

Unit 6 traffic volume

Period Total Wkly 5 day avg. Wkly 7 day avg

24/01/19 - 22/02/19. 61611 2243 2057

22/02/19 - 22/03/19 87886 3442 3015

23/03/19 - 23/04/19 146322 5124 4648