

WESTBURY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING GENERAL REPORTS 2020

Buckinghamshire Councillor Charlie Clare

It is an extraordinary time to be writing a report - so firstly let me thank the Parish Council and all the residents of Westbury for coming together to support those who are most vulnerable. This is a time to demonstrate how powerful community is and thank you to everyone who is helping their neighbours, but just as importantly to everyone for staying at home to protect the NHS. It absolutely will save lives!

However, so much else has happened this year and I want to focus on just three – extremely important elements.

1. The New Buckinghamshire Council: I am delighted to be a Councillor for the new Unitary Authority and am delighted to be working with Cllr Patrick Fealey – as a united duo. Patrick and I have worked together as Council and District Councillors for 4 years and between us have good knowledge of all aspects of the Unitary Authority. We hope that you'll see no difference in the provision of services or any change in the level of representation which you receive.
2. HS2 – Although HS2 is currently paused in most areas due to the virus, we will start to see much more disruption in the area over the coming year. I've been working closely with HS2, the Parish Council and local business to try and ensure that the A422 isn't crippled by HS2 HGV traffic. However, there is no doubt that the A422 between Brackley towards Westbury will get much more traffic once HS2 starts constructing the route. Currently HS2 plans to move materials and staff to the site from a hub in Brackley to the construction site via a new junction to be built on the A422 between Turweston and Brackley. So although this traffic won't get as far as Westbury itself, there is likely to be significant levels of traffic joining and leaving the A43. I am doing all I can to mitigate this disruption...not least by still opposing the project in its entirety.
3. Roads – The new Council is investing an additional £5 Million on a pothole and patch programme to improve the network after an extremely wet winter. This programme is based on the numbers of pothole reports made over the previous months as well as surveys of the roads. Please keep reporting potholes and failed drains on fixmystreet.com and if it is a persistent issue, please report them to me too and I will do my best to have them sorted out.

Lastly, I was disappointed that the Local Elections were postponed, but it was of course the right thing to do. So, I am aware that I serve as your Councillor for an extended year and I hope to represent the community in an energetic and productive way. Please do contact me if you have any problems that I might be able to help with.

Best wishes,
Charlie

Buckinghamshire Councillor Patrick Fealey

Firstly, it is with much sadness that I am unable to be with you but I would like to start by saying how immensely proud I am by the way in which the Parishes have handled the current Coronavirus health crisis, working together in their communities, identifying and supporting those most vulnerable or in need. My heartfelt thanks to everyone.

HS2 - Whilst obviously disappointed with the announcement to continue to go ahead with this project and although temporarily delayed because of COVID-19, I am sure that work will resume but I will continue to work with HS2 contractors in order to try to mitigate the impact on your area.

Expressway - Although not directly affecting your area, I will continue to oppose this project as there will be an obvious impact by the scale of the construction and the provision of a million homes between Oxford and Cambridge. It was good, however, no reference was made to it in the recent budget.

I am pleased to be able to support a number of projects which has attracted grants from New Homes Bonus or S106 as a result of planning applications.

Planning has continued to be a major element of my work over this past year dealing with both individual applications and appeals. As you are aware, I have been chairman of Strategic Planning for AVDC and am pleased to tell you that I have been appointed Chairman of the new North Bucks Planning Area under the new Buckinghamshire Council for the forthcoming year.

There has been a lot of time spent in preparation for the new unitary authority and whilst I am disappointed that elections have been delayed for 12 months, I am delighted to be able to continue to serve you going forward in order to ensure full representation of the most northern towns and villages of North Bucks. This is especially important whilst the new council is 'bedded in'. It is with great pleasure that Charlie Clare and I will continue to work closely together to cover aspects of local interest and concern.

I would like to thank all the members of the Parish Council for the work and dedication in their role supporting their immediate community. There are many different services and responsibilities of the new Buckinghamshire Council and, of course, if you have any issues, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Charlie.

Councillor Patrick Fealey

Westbury Village Hall Association (WVHA) February – April 2020 Brief Overview

The WVH was fully utilised by Hirers, bookings and events as recorded in monthly minutes up to March 2020. In all respects, the community was offered and availed itself of the hall – for events such as the Quiz night, Valentines night, the bar for the Rugby 6 nations and for planned hirings and bookings. Finances remain satisfactory and it was pleasing to see that a Hirer with financial difficulties was able, with WVHA committee assistance (bookings and Treasurer), to get “back on Track”.

The Chair took the opportunity to endorse a review of security measures by a resident Policeman on the committee, for the hall, shop and café. Revised protocols will be followed.

The team are working on an improved booking system for introduction sometime in 2020. We are currently trialing “Skedda” a system for booking with automated accounting.

At the mid-point of March the UK Government information concerning COVID-19 was acknowledged and actioned and the hall and bar closed until further notice. After a final tidy and clean, the building was declared available for NHS/Bucks CC use if ever needed for the provision of lower tiered healthcare as part of the Bucks CC action programme or for the quartering of health service / military personnel supporting the NHS.

As part of the above, Bar stock was sold on to the shop.

Active WVHA support has been given to help the shop and take out café service to provide a community facility at these times.

It is noted that events for the period March – end of June 2020 have been suspended. This includes the VE Day commemoration, possible concerts and hiring's. The Chair wrote to the village advising that the next likely event would be a simple “Westival” on 8th August next. It remains under the authority of the UK Government to allow mass gatherings but “if we can we will” deliver something.

There is little else that can be reported on at the moment

The Chair is able to declare that the WVHA team worked very hard to deliver each of the outputs in months 1-3 and remain committed to opening the WVH facility once the lockdown has been completed.

Ian Towner.

Chair WVHA. 14.04.2020

Westbury Community Shop and Café Ltd

Report to the Annual Parish Council Meeting, April 2020

The last financial year continued uneventfully until 20 March. With the stability of regular staffing and a core of volunteer help, the shop maintained a steady income, consistently higher month-on-month than the previous year, though still not forecast to make a profit over the year (see 'Finance' below). The café also attracted a regular clientele and there were increased sales.

However, all changed this spring. The café closed as soon as restrictions to contain the coronavirus outbreak were announced by the government on 20th March. In response to the changing needs in the village and nearby, the shop remained open, first with severe restrictions in customer numbers and then, serving from the door to the playing field with an increased range of items stocked to include fresh fruit and vegetables and fresh meat, customer numbers significantly increased as villagers used the shop for vital supplies although sales of non-essential items have recently dropped due to the coronavirus crisis.

At the time of writing we are therefore operating only as a shop, though providing takeaway drinks and sandwiches

Throughout the year we have continued to source and stock local crafts and produce, which includes bread from the Artisan Bakery in the village, yew wood artefacts from the churchyard made by John English, Jo's local preserves, Steve's Westbury honey, eggs, local cosmetics from Padbury and local beers and wines from the Chafor vineyard at Gawcott.

Management Committee

Roger Sermons was elected on to the committee at the Annual Members Meeting on 25th September 2019

At the October committee meeting, Jo Lee was elected Chair and Sue Lucas Vice-Chair. Suzie Walton and John Heal continued as Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

As result of the Chair taking on the complete operation at the shop during the coronavirus emergency, it was agreed by the Committee that Sue Lucas should be Acting Chair for the time being.

Staffing

Hellen continued as Manager until 21st March when Jo Lee took over. At this time, for age reasons, Hellen followed the government instructions and has remained at home. Maddie Coxhill joined us in September, and she has also remained at home as recommended for health reasons since 21st March. Jo Lee has taken over running the shop as temporary Manager, with increased volunteer support.

Before these latest developments, we had a number of staff changes over the year. Emily Winks left in March 2019, and Maria Campailla took over as assistant manager working on Wednesdays and Saturdays until September when her academic commitments meant she could no longer do the days when she was needed, and Maddie Coxhill joined us. Toby Brody worked part time over the summer holidays.

Volunteers

We have had a core group of loyal and now long-standing volunteers to whom we are very much indebted. Those under the age of 70 are continuing to work in the shop alongside Jo in the current crisis. A number of new volunteers have joined to help out in the last two weeks, and this has made it possible to keep the shop stocked and open to serve the village when it really needs it. We are deeply grateful to all of them.

During the year we continued to offer volunteering opportunities to youngsters for the Duke of Edinburgh awards.

We have regular social occasions for our volunteers and staff, including an evening at the Chafor Vineyard in Gawcott in March last year and a Christmas dinner in Brackley. These events are financed from the

gratuities given by customers and we see this as an appropriate way to provide a little reward to the volunteers.

Catering

Hellen has continued to provide catering for events in the Hall, including wakes, birthday parties and village events. These have all been successful.

Events

We have been fully involved in events in the Village Hall, including:

- The Village Hall Valentine's Day event.
- Westival in July, serving curry and chilli as well as café food.
- The Christmas fair in December: the shop was open and provided food during the event.

Hellen also provided cricket teas throughout the cricket season.

Café Society

The Café Society has held four events during the year: 'The Sound of Violins' in May, 'The Fall of the House of Usher' in September, 'The Origins of Bad Words' in November and 'A Story for February' in February. These were all well attended, stretching the capacity of the café. There are now 51 members. The annual membership is now £20 per year for 4 meetings, with a reduction for couples.

Administration

The Committee continues to meet monthly to oversee the work and direction of the shop and café. The Annual Members Meeting is held in September each year. The Committee reports to the FCA each year.

As ever, we are particularly grateful for Suzie Walton's contribution as Treasurer, and to Rosemary Vigus who supports her.

We belong to the Plunkett Foundation which offers help and support, and is sharing valuable information to keep us up to date as the coronavirus pandemic develops. We also belong to the South Northants Volunteer Bureau which provides practical information for local community organisations.

Finances – 2019/20

As mentioned earlier, sales throughout the year increased on year earlier levels with the full year sales figure of £51,996, up £6,890 on 2018/19. The provisional result for the year was a loss of £2,730, reducing the previous year's loss of £5,548 by £2,818.

Sue Lucas – Acting Chair

John Heal – Secretary

8th April 2020

Westbury Parish Hall Charity (WPHC)

Westbury Parish Hall Charity was set up when the new Village Hall was built. Its role is to oversee the running of the Hall as landlord and legal entity of Westbury Parish Hall. It receives regular reports from both WSC and WVHA and supports both entities in their respective roles. It receives rent from both WSC and WVHA and as a charity supports different projects that benefit Westbury Village Hall, users of Village Amenities or residents of the Parish.

Joint meetings with WSC and WVHA are held in April and October to ensure that they are supported by the charity where needed.

WPHC also ensures all appropriate insurances and safety certificates are in place.

2019/2020

In April 2019- sadly Ron Parsons resigned after several years of very valuable contribution to the Charity- we all thank Ron for his contribution. In July 2019 we were delighted to welcome Ellen Watson to join the Charity Committee.

2019/20 Grant awards:

- Funding for Tree Bank tree
- Grit bin Orchard Place/Church
- Support for WVHA Marquee plus other sundry items
- Goal posts for playing field
- New broadband installation for the hall
- Support with the Village Christmas Fayre and light switch on
- Support with the Village celebration of VE day May 8th (currently postponed)

The only outstanding issue is supporting a Youth Club venture - currently the Charity is liaising with the School to hold a joint event in May (postponed in the current environment).

Sue Barrett
Chairman of Trustees

St. Augustine's Church Report

The Vicar Liz Simpson left the benefice to take up an appointment at Adderbury on 31st August 2019. Representatives from the six parishes prepared a West Buckingham Benefice profile and a job specification and the vacancy was advertised in January, but no applications were received. The job was re-advertised in March, but again sadly there were no applications. The job will remain on the various websites and we hope that a suitable applicant will be found soon.

Remedial work was carried out in the church to the Nave and Chancel, and the Vestry wall, and a trench dug around the outside of the South Aisle walls to remedy damp inside the church. This completes work on the fabric for the time being.

During the year there was one wedding, one baptism and one funeral. The Remembrance Service was very well attended and the Memorial to the airmen killed in the air crash was dedicated. Arthur Lewis led a special service with moving tributes from family members of the aircrew. The Christmas services were also very well attended and we are very grateful to Margaret Tilley, who conducted friendly and happy services.

We carried out our usual fund raising events over the year and the Plant Sale. Bazaar and Quiz were well supported by villagers, funds going towards church maintenance.

There are a small number of parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll who come regularly to services and serve on the PCC. We are very grateful to villagers who volunteer to help out with keeping the church open, cleaning, flower arranging, mowing and keeping the churchyard tidy. Beachborough School regularly use the church for services and we are very grateful for the donations of collections taken at the Leavers and Christmas Carol Services, also for the help given with minor maintenance matters. We are also grateful to the Parish Council for their ongoing support – this year they arranged for reprinting more copies of the Remembrance Day service sheet.

These are unusual times and following government guidelines, the church is no longer open during the day. However, the PCC decided to open the Church on Easter day for quiet contemplation and private prayer. We look forward to returning to happier times when St.

Augustine's will once again be available for baptisms, weddings and funerals and our usual services with a new vicar.

Pat English

Annual Report to Westbury Parish Council from Beachborough School – April 2020

Another busy year has flown by at Beachborough school since our last report. The title of 'new Headmaster' has now long gone as this is now my second year at the helm!

At the start of the year, the school appointed Mr Matthew Barrett as the school's new Deputy Headmaster. Matthew joined the school with his wife Laura and two sons Harvey and Miles. The family live in the village at 'The Orchard' on Mill Lane and are already playing a full and active role in school and community life.

Since our last report, Beachborough School has been inspected by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). This was a full inspection that occurs on a six-year cycle and reviews all the school's policies and procedures as well as looking at the quality of teaching and learning, pastoral care and extracurricular provision. The school secured the highest possible rating of '*excellent in all areas*' which the school and our community were delighted with.

Beachborough School has also continued to invest heavily in the curriculum areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM). We continue to support local Primary schools with this venture and welcome children from our neighbouring Primary schools to join us for several STEAM events as well as for Sport events. The Independent Schools Guide awarded Beachborough school with the accolade of '*Top Prep School in the Country for STEAM*' this year. At this difficult time, with COVID-19, the school has been manufacturing visors for the NHS. Over 500 have been made so far and have been distributed to the hospitals and care homes in our local area.

Helping and supporting the village community continues to be an important development for us. We enjoyed sharing in the village Christmas festivities and welcomed village members to our Christmas concert at school. We are attending the monthly parish council meetings and are always open to ideas and suggestions that allow the school to support the community.

We are in the planning stages to help the children in the village that attended the village youth club to take part in some planned activities on site during the year. Further details will follow when this has been finalised.

Westbury church continues to play a key role in village life and the school enjoys using the church for its services and helping in its ongoing upkeep. The village has started to publish a new format newsletter and the school is helping with printing and distribution.

The school has also granted a permissive path across its land for walkers and dog owners so that they can complete the circular walk from the current end of the footpath (details are available on the noticeboard at the end of Mill Lane). We just ask that villagers kindly use this route out of school hours (before 8am and after 7pm) and that dogs remain on leads and owners pick up after them.

We are very proud to have been part of this wonderful parish for over 75 years and we wish the Parish Council every success in the year ahead.

Best wishes
Christian Pritchard
Headmaster

Westbury Wilds report

For newcomers to the village, Westbury Wilds is an old woodland covering about 20 acres, held in trust for the residents of Westbury.

This wood lies about half a mile north of the Village towards Biddlesden, on the left- hand side.

The origins stem back to before the Enclosure Act of 1764, an extract of which is painted on a board which resides in the belfry of our Church St. Augustine's.

There are five trustees (however at the moment we don't have a chairman or vicar).

The trust has two functions:

- to keep the woodland in a semi wild environment, offering lovely walks
- and the collection of fallen wood to which every villager is entitled.

This wood can only be accessed on foot or horseback.

Hopefully when life returns to some form of normality the Trustees will get together and report back to the Parish Council.

Jacky Owen (trustee)

Report for Westbury Cricket Club – 2019 Season

The 2019 season was one of continued success and consolidation for the senior cricket teams who have successfully established Westbury's reputation in the Cherwell League.

The First Team:

Following promotion to Division 1 of the Cherwell Cricket League, the 1st Team had a good season under Tom Gurney who captained both a youthful and local side, with the majority of the team having come up through the junior cricket club set up. They played 18 matches, winning 6, drawing 2 and losing 9, to finish 6th in the table and secure their place in the top division for the 2020 season.

Tom Gurney- First Team Captain

The Second Team:

The 2nd XI had another very good year, just missing out on promotion on the last day of the season. The team had a great mix of youth and experience and it was encouraging to see the talent coming through from the younger members of the senior club. Exciting times ahead for this year in Division 6 and for the club's future.

Tom Boardman – Second Team Captain

The Third Team:

The Third Team had a successful season finishing top of the Division 10 in the Cherwell League. It is also the first time they have won a trophy in its 5th year since its formation. It was encouraging to see young players involved and especially those that live in the village and have come through the youth teams. The stats for the season are as follows:- Played 18, won 11, drew 3, lost 2, tied 1 & 1 abandoned. 24 point lead to top the table.

Phil McComb - Third Team Captain

Over the 2019 season the senior club had a strong core of both current and former Westbury villagers and continued its close collaboration with WVHA, WPC and Beachborough School. First and second team games were played on alternate Saturday afternoons at the village playing field with the third team playing

home matches on Beachborough School grounds. The club were delighted that Westbury Community Shop and Café agreed to provide the teas for the home matches both in the Village Hall and as a take away service for the home matches at Beachborough grounds.

Whilst pre-season preparations got underway with net sessions at Winchester House School and Radley College in early March, these were unfortunately cut short by the Covid-19 outbreak. On 18th March the English Cricket Board announced the suspension of the English recreational cricket season until further notice which meant cancellation of all planned pre-season net sessions and warm up matches. The Cherwell League matches due to start on 9th May are currently on-hold. The Cricketer Village Cup competition, in which Westbury progressed to the County final stage in 2019, will also not run to its original schedule with all planned fixture dates being postponed. This competition, due to start on 3rd May, may be played over a shorter period of time later in the year. We remain hopeful, however, that we will see some cricket played in Westbury later in the Summer. We are also keen to hear from new players of all abilities and particularly individuals with an interest in cricket and are keen in developing their umpiring or scoring skills.

Covid-19 has also curtailed the launch of the All-Stars/Dynamos Cricket initiative which was due to start in May for boys and girls aged 5-8 years and 8-11 years for an 8 week programme of cricket skills development on Friday evenings. Our Activator is Toby Brody who will be supported by a team of level one and two coaches from the senior section. We are still keen to hear from parents interested in coaching or volunteering as this remains vital to re-establishing our junior cricket section.

Contact numbers and email addresses for senior and junior sections of the club are available via the Westbury Village website. For further information see our websites at westburycc.play-cricket.com or contact us via email westburyccbucks@gmail.com or social media.



[@WestburyCricket](https://twitter.com/WestburyCricket)



<https://m.facebook.com/WestburyCricketClub/>

Angela Gee – Halse Utd FC - U15 Season 2019/20

This has been a very strange season for all involved in football, the weather has proved a massive impact on us this year, with so many games having to be postponed due to the rain, and to try and save pitches, hoping we could get the games played in the better weather.

We had a great start to the season, winning all our games and putting us either at or very near the top of the table. Then the injuries started; we lost a couple of key players due to injury with one of them out from January to at least April with a broken collar bone in two places. We then had a bad run and lost/drew a few games back to back, which put us to mid table.

But now, with the current situation, we have been informed that the season has finished, there will be no rearranged games, no winners gaining promotion to the next league and no relegation, so for us and the team the season seems to have ended a little flatly.

Once again, the working relationship we have with Westbury Men's team has worked well for us, now we play on the same size pitch and use the same size goals (no more marking out in blue paint).

The village hall has again been praised by the opposition, many of them looking forward to the games at Westbury, as they know what facilities we have.

On a personal note, I would just like to make everyone aware that Andy and myself will be stepping down from the team. Andy feels he has taken the boys as far as he can and they will start next season (September) preparing for adult football the following season. Andy is staying as a coach at Halse, he has been running the new U8 squad and will continue to do that.

As of yet, we don't know who is taking the team over, but they will continue. Once the club has found a new coach for them, I will send Cathy the name and contact details. I will of course, let them know the procedure especially with Westbury Men's team.

We are also waiting to find out who is taking over the finance for the team and again, once this is confirmed I will let you know. We still need to clear the cupboard ready for cricket season, but obviously we'll do that once the lockdown is lifted.

We would both like to thank you all for your support over the last 5 years that we have been involved with you, but I am sure we will still be there on Sunday afternoons supporting the team as they progress further.

Kind regards
Angela Gee