



Drayton Parish Council

www.DraytonPC.org

Annual Parish Assembly Minutes

held on Monday 3rd April 2017 at 7:00pm
in the Caudwell Day Centre, Gravel Lane, Drayton, OX14 4HF



Present: Richard Williams (Chairman), Richard Wade (Vice Chairman), Graham Webb, Patricia Athawes, Colin Arnold, Tamsin Meredith, Colin West, Pervin Shahin (arrived at 7:45pm), Laura Billington.

Not Present: Matthew Lowy.

In attendance: David Perrow (Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), Christopher Price (Deputy Parish Clerk and Meeting Administrator), Stuart Davenport (VWHDC), Richard Webber (OCC).

Parishioners: There were 14 members of the public present.

1/2017 Apologies for Absence. Matthew Lowy, Pervin Shahin (late arrival).

2/2017 Minutes of the previous Parish Council Assembly Meeting were **confirmed** with no amendments. Richard Williams (Chairman) signed the minutes as a correct record.

Proposed: Patricia Athawes

Seconded: Colin Arnold

Resolved: Unanimous

3/2017 Report from Parish Council Chairman. Richard Williams (Chairman, Drayton Parish Council).

This has been a very busy year, albeit with a rather transitional feel about it. For some time now, it has been apparent that the village is approaching a period of considerable change – more so in a relatively short time than Drayton has undergone in many years - and yet, so far, the pace of that change has been fairly modest. You will have seen that the Walnut Meadow/Barrow Road housing site is well under way, but the fact is, a further four sites in the village have received planning permission in the last 12 months, and it is likely that work on all four will begin before the end of 2017. In fact, at South of the High St it has already started. This will be a step change in the amount of construction work going on in the village.

Potentially, this is an exciting prospect, not least because of the provision of new recreational facilities on the three main sites, but there's no denying that overseeing these developments will be a challenging task. Anyone following the progress of the Walnut Meadow site will know that the relationship with Miller Homes has been problematic – for many reasons, but primarily because the developers have not been abiding by the contracted planning conditions. Communication between all parties has been an ongoing struggle, making everything more difficult than it needs to be. The enforcement authorities appear to have their hands tied by bureaucracy, but they are also very stretched, as similar problems are being experienced right across the Vale.

As you will be aware, there were three allocated sites in our Neighbourhood Development Plan: a further two have been imposed on us, which is unfortunate, but such decisions are indicative of the extreme, countrywide pressure being applied by central government to get more houses built. We managed in January 2016 to overturn the Vale's original recommendation to approve the Halls Close site (28 homes, possibly now only 21), and last August, at an all-day appeal hearing, we battled our case against the developer's highly-paid QC. Sadly, when the Planning Inspector's report was finally published, in early November, it ruled in favour of the developer.

One of the reasons for the decision was that the Vale still did not have a 5-year land supply of suitable sites, so it was all the more galling to find that the Vale's Local Plan was finally approved only a couple of weeks afterwards, and that it confirmed an actual land supply of just over 7 years. We argued that the Vale's Inspector has said as much in his Interim Findings, published in June, and why had this not been taken into account at our hearing? Evidently, another Planning Inspector had taken a much more sympathetic view of the land supply issue when dealing with another site at Chilton, which was refused planning permission. But it seems that, as long as an Inspector observes correct process, such variations of interpretation are regarded as not unusual, even normal.

Another unwelcome site, at the back of Eastway, was approved by the Vale's planners in November. This is much smaller (9 houses), nevertheless the Vale's recommendation was a surprise, if only because two previous applications to build a single house on the same site had been turned down in the last 20 years. The objections back then, mainly on grounds of access, still apply, so we conclude that, as the physical condition of the Eastway has not improved, what has changed is the attitude of the authorities towards development. At this same meeting we were alarmed to hear from the Vale's senior planning managers that, despite a 5 year land supply now being established, the authority intended to continue granting planning permission for so-called 'windfall' sites, which could be 'of any

size'. The usual understanding of 'windfall' is the handful of sites of one or two houses which are built every year in small plots, people's gardens, and so on. Subject to the normal planning conditions, this small-scale development goes on everywhere, and is generally considered acceptable. We met with the Vale last month to voice our concerns about their new approach, and also to discuss ways of strengthening the Neighbourhood Plan, the better to resist further speculative development.

The situation is currently in flux, as a new Neighbourhood Planning Bill is going through Parliament as we speak. It will, among other provisions, make it easier to amend or update a Plan. At the same time, the Government's new White Paper on housing policy talks about imposing target figures on Neighbourhood Plans. It remains to be seen how this will play out if the proposal is adopted. It's worth mentioning that Drayton's NDP was short-listed for the National 2016 Planning and Placemaking Awards. Andrew Bax attended the event in London as a representative of Drayton 2020. We didn't win, but it was an honour just to reach the last four, out of a large number of entries.

Moving on from planning matters, the Lockway Playground upgrade was completed last summer, and an 'official' opening took place on 27 th June. The Chairman of the Vale Council attended, as did a sizeable crowd of parents and their children, the latter having plenty of opportunity to test out the new equipment. Light snacks and drinks were supplied by the parish. Judging by the increased amount of use the playground received over the rest of the summer, the changes were a resounding success, and we thank Councillors Tamsin Meredith, Laura Billington and Pat Athawes for the work they put in consulting the community and researching the options. Needless to say, the Parish Clerk, David Perrow, was also responsible for considerable behind-the-scenes organisation, including the securing of substantial grants from WREN and the Vale.

Another tour de force of organisation by David was the Mott VC service which took place in January at St Peter's Church. If anyone present here doesn't know, this was to celebrate the 100 th anniversary of the action in the First World War in which Edward John Mott, born in Drayton, won the Victoria Cross for his bravery. I won't elaborate because last month's Drayton Chronicle was almost entirely devoted to the event – and the man. However, I can report that the commemorative stone has now been laid in the path beneath the lych gate war memorial – at the entrance to the Church.

Another Church service took place at the beginning of March, this one to mark the 60 th anniversary of the Sutton Wick Air Crash. A Blackburn Beverley transport aircraft on its way from RAF Abingdon to Cyprus crashed soon after take-off due to an engine fault, killing 15 RAF personnel, 2 civilians on the ground, and a number of RAF police dogs. This service was organised mainly by The Memorial Mob, a group of military personnel who got together to highlight incidents which they felt were little known yet deserved in some way to be remembered. In fact, the Sutton Wick crash is one of the worst ever peacetime accidents involving military personnel in the UK. Brian Eastoe hand-carved the wooden memorial board currently on display in Sutton Wick, with financial assistance from the Parish Council. Brian says it will shortly be moved up north to the museum housing the single surviving Beverley aircraft, while he makes a new one for the village. What was particularly pleasing to note about both these services was the excellent attendance from village residents. In both cases the Church was so full it was hard to find a seat, so these were truly occasions which brought the community together.

The Millennium Green Trust continues its excellent work maintaining the Green in good order, and several councillors have helped with the widening and clearing of the footpaths. The Right Royal Picnic, held last August, a sort of belated celebration of the Queen's 90 th birthday, was a great success. The bake-off stall was particularly popular and there were lots of games and races for the children, including a treasure hunt. Thanks to all who helped to organise this event or who came along on the day to support, including our PCSO, Sue Haynes, and Bridget from Sutton Courtenay Neighbourhood Watch. As part of the Neighbourhood Plan, there is an ongoing programme to improve and extend the existing footpath network. The Parish Council is looking at signposting, and modifying gates and barriers to make access easier for mobility scooters, prams and buggies etc.

In December, Roxy Elford and Holly Freeland reported on the recent activities of DAMASCUS, which included running workshops on Staying Safe Online, Staying Safe in the Community, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, and Healthy & Unhealthy Relationships. They have provided one-to-one support to 20 young people and helped 5 more into employment, one into college. We do not take this terrific work for granted, and are very much aware of its value not just to the young people directly concerned, but to the community as a whole. Thanks to all concerned, and congratulations to Gary Hibbins as he takes up his new post at the Bridge Project in Abingdon. Gary has moved on, but fortunately not out of the locality, and we are sure he will continue to work with and alongside DAMASCUS in the future.

Also in December, the Parish Council adopted the General Power of Competence. This conveys a wider range of powers than parishes customarily possess. In short, it means that the Parish Council can do whatever is lawful for an

individual. It could for example run a pre- school or establish a community shop, although I should make clear it doesn't plan to do either of these things in the foreseeable future. It does however intend to run the new pavilion, which will be an integral part of our sports provision and hopefully a resource for all the village. The architect's plans have been submitted and we have applied for planning permission. The application is currently out for consultation and should be heard by the Vale Planning Committee in May. As an aside, the criteria for acquiring these new powers are twofold. Firstly, we must have a suitably qualified Clerk (we do), and secondly, at least two- thirds of the current councillors must have been elected (also the case).

With the pavilion and the several other projects planned for the village over the next 3-5 years in mind, the PC's Finance Committee has decided to substantially increase our precept, i.e. the portion of your Council Tax which goes directly to Drayton. The increase sounds steep, we have doubled the precept from £40,000 a year to £80,000 a year – but in practice, for an average Band 'D' household, this represents an increase of about one extra pound a week (from the current one pound to two). There is an article in the current issue of the Chronicle about this, but rather than explain it more fully in this report, I'd be happy to answer questions later in the meeting. Suffice to say that we are aiming to anticipate the coming expansion of our responsibilities, so that we can support the Drayton 2020 projects without compromising the Council's financial stability.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Parish Council. Two years into term, everyone has found projects to get stuck into, and we have as effective and enthusiastic a body of councillors as at any time I can recall. I'd just like to remind everyone that we do have one vacancy, so if you feel inclined to join us, please let us know, or come along to a couple of meetings to see what goes on. Thank you all for coming to the Annual Parish Assembly. The usual Parish Council meeting will follow at 7.30pm or a bit later, depending how we go.

4/2017 Reports from Parish Council Committees and Working Groups.

(a) Planning Committee. Richard Williams (Chairman, Planning Committee).

The Planning Committee now hold regular monthly planning meetings (usually held immediately before the monthly Parish Council meeting).

Planning statistics for 2016-2017: Drayton Parish Council received 60 planning applications, 20 more than last year.

Parish Council

Support	17
No Objection / Comment / Response	11
Objection	12
No response	17
Pending	3

VWHDC

Permitted / Consent	39
Refusal	6
Withdrawn	1
Amended	3
Pending	11

(b) Rights of Way and Conservation Working Group. Graham Webb (Chairman, ROW&C Working Group).

Following the previous tree survey by Jenks, and the remedial work that resulted, we do not seem to have had so much of a problem with fallen branches blocking footpaths. As ever, the sooner any problem of this nature is reported, the sooner it can be rectified.

We have surveyed some of the footpaths linking the village to Abingdon: the Bridleway from Sutton Wick Lane to Oday Hill (FP 29), and that joining it from Sutton Courtenay Road (FP 8). Both are affected by water courses and field run off, and then badly chewed up by frequent use, making them difficult for cyclists. However they are bridleways and so this is to be expected. It is planned to use Section 106 funding from new developments, allocated to "cycle ways", to improve access along these. We have had a positive response from OCC.

Restricted access to FP 13 and 14, with hurdle type footpath barriers and a kissing gate, have been examined. Statutory usage of footpaths (to exclude motorcycles and horses for example) appears to be at odds with the need for disabled access, and so this remains under discussion.

On the footpath to Marcham the unsafe bridge remains closed, awaiting an OCC and Highways decision on its repair. The footpath to New Cut Mill (FP 7) appears to have been cleared, by OCC, of the brambles and undergrowth that had made it impassable. Steve Sadler and the Deputy Clerk did a thorough job clearing the thicket growing across FP 11, along the southern boundary of the Burial Ground, and this can now simply be kept back by mowing.

The Millennium Green Trust has, with its excellent working parties, continued reinstating the paths to the original width. Quotations have been obtained for extending the paths in the NE corner of the Green to the original specification, thus completing the circle. The Parish Council has also taken the opportunity to discuss, with the same contractors, remediation of some of the village's footpaths to the same standard. This is a long term project.

We are grateful for the continuing involvement of Steve Sadler and of Jennifer Pooley for the benefit of the rights of way through the village.

Lastly, we would repeat our seasonal request that, if your property adjoins a footpath, please trim back any overhanging branches or shrubs that might be obstructing it. An early clipping is far easier than the prospect of major tree surgery later in the year!!

(c) Leisure and General Purposes Working Group. Patricia Athawes (Chairperson, L&GP Working Group). During the year, the major action was confirming and then completing the installation of new equipment for the Lockway play area. This all happened and was completed so that an official opening took place on June 27th 2016. It is clear that the new area and equipment is very successful it is very popular and used daily. The area is monitored and maintained on a regular basis and so kept clean and up to date with requirements.

Time and thought has been given to looking at new play areas following the NDP plan. Whilst discussions have continued to look at requirements, nothing has been decided/agreed as to final needs but a working group is looking at the 3 potential areas to determine best options for all ages. It is recognised the importance of covering all ages with the additional areas that will be available.

(d) Drayton2020 Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Committee. Tom Shebbeare (Chairman, Drayton2020 Implementation Committee). 2016 has been the first full year of our Committee's work and we have not been short of issues to address and problems to solve. We meet every month and in between a torrent of emails bear witness to an enormous volume of practical activity and hard work.

Our job is to oversee the work of the three (soon to be four) sites within Drayton which have permission to build almost 300 homes and to ensure that all the Community benefits which accompany these are planned, funded and constructed. These range from the upgrading and creation of foot and cycle paths to ambitious new building works-including a new pre-school, sporting facilities and a purpose built sports pavilion.

To help our volunteer committee we are lucky to have an outstanding Clerk in David Perrow who remains undaunted even when confronted with apparently intractable problems, great and small, and a volunteer 'Implementation Director' in Nigel Porter who brings a lifetime's experience in the construction industry to help us solve the multiple challenges that our Neighbourhood Plan brings with it.

(e) Finance and Personnel Committee. David Perrow (Clerk/RFO)/ Richard Wade (Chairman, F&P Committee).

Finance Report

Comparison: 2015-16 Outturn with 2016-17 & 2017-18 budgets

Income (VAT excluded)	2015-16 Outturn	2016-17 Original Budget	2017-18 budget
Precept	£40,000	£40,000	£80,000

VWHDC & Other Grants and Donations	£5,160	£1,000	£474
Other Grants	£0	£0	£0
Allotments	£571	£600	£600
Burial Ground/Memorials	£1854	£1,500	£1,550
Public Amenities/Open Spaces	£0	£0	£0
Interest	£247	£70	£0
Other Income	£962	0	£0
TOTAL INCOME	£48,794	£43,170	£82,624
Earmark from Reserves	£0	£19,000	£0
Total	£48,794	£62,170	£82,624
Expenditure (VAT reclaims excluded)			
Administration	£15,793	£17,690	£17,800
Grants and Donations S19	£7,460	£16,000	£16,000
S137	£875	£1,000	£1,000
S142	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000
Burial Ground/Allotments	£1,972	£2,500	£2,500
Play/Recreation	£2,651	£2,500	£3,000
Public Amenities/Open Spaces	£6,080	£6,500	£6,500
Press & Public Relations	£80	£300	£100
Rights of Way/Conservation	£492	£1,000	£1,250
Miscellaneous	£869	£680	£474
Drayton2020 Administration	£2,991	£3,000	£5,500
Drayton2020 Projects		£10,000	£27,500
TOTAL	£41,849	£62,170	£82,624
Lockway Playground Project	£0	£46,097	£0
Funded by WREN £17,485; VWHDC £3,750 and £24,862 PC			

Grants 2016-2017	
Drayton Pre-School (s19)	£5,000
DAMASCUS Youth Project (s19)	£3,500
Drayton Village Hall (s19)	£3,500
Drayton Millennium Green Trust(s19)	£1,776
Drayton MGT – Right Royal Picnic (s19)	£394

Drayton Football Club(s19)	£1,631
FODSA Fete (s19)	£200
Great Ormond Street Village Fun Day (Angie Colenutt)	£250
HomeStart Oxfordshire (s137)	£200
Blue Plaque installation/celebration (s19)	£789
Placemaking Awards (s137)	£253
Traffic Workshop Catering (s137)	£18
Total Grants	£17,511

Drayton Parish Council

Summary Receipts and Payments for Year Ended 31st March 2016

Last Year Ended
31st March 2015

Current Year Ended
31st March 2016

Operating Income

40,000.00	Precept	40,000.00
1,950.00	Grants Received	5,160.00
569.01	Allotments	570.50
2,740.00	Burial Ground	1,854.00
232.88	Interest Received	247.12
1,916.15	Other Income	961.98
10.00	Public Amenities & Open Spaces	0.00
1,700.00	Drayton 2020 NDP	0.00
49,118.04	Total Receipts	48,793.60

Running Costs

147.50	Burial Ground	0.00
11,888.74	Administration	15,360.69
0.00	Employee Pension Contribution	107.60
0.00	Employer Pension Contribution	324.75
3,629.03	Grants S19	7,460.00
1,125.00	Grants S137	875.00
1,000.00	Grants S142	1,000.00
1,445.84	Burial Ground/Allotments	1,972.47
1,625.13	Play & Recreation	2,651.18
130.99	Press and Public Relations	79.52
4,979.41	Public Amenities & Open Spaces	6,080.18
672.28	Rights of Way & Conservation	491.63
8,378.63	Drayton 2020 NDP	2,991.30
3,218.00	Miscellaneous	869.30
1,426.41	VAT Data	1,585.57
39,666.96	Total Payments	41,849.19

Receipts and Payments Summary

48,540.28	Opening Balance	57,991.36
49,118.04	Add Total Receipts(As Above)	48,793.60
97,658.32		106,784.96
39,666.96	Less Total Payments(As Above)	41,849.19
57,991.36	Closing Balance	64,935.77

These cumulative funds are represented by:

57,991.36	Current and NS&I Bank Accounts	64,935.77
0.00	Spare Account	0.00
57,991.36		64,935.77

Reserve Balances are represented by:

9,451.08	Current Year Fund	6,944.41
8,540.28	General Reserves	14,241.36
20,000.00	Recreation Reserve	23,750.00
20,000.00	Drayton2020 Projects Reserve	20,000.00
57,991.36		64,935.77

5/2017 Reports from Drayton Community Organisations.

(a) DAMASCUS Youth Project. Roxy Elford.

We are engaging with around 20-30 different young people at youth club - it is always busy! We also still have a great team of parents who volunteer each week running the tuckshop and engaging with the young people. We have been playing lots of different group games to help build on the young people's team work skills. Now the clocks have gone forward we are enjoying spending time outside. We have a few young people who are on the ASD spectrum and it is really nice to see them joining in and the other young people being inclusive. The parents to these young people have expressed how the youth project has helped their child grow in confidence. We also have a couple of older young people who have been volunteering each week, planning different activities with the young people. The older young people have also gained an AQA qualification in Young Leadership and a DBS check form volunteering at the youth club which all helps to build their CV and develop their confidence.

February Half Term. We engaged with 25 different young people in Drayton through delivering a sports session outside with the gazebo followed by cooking pizza. It's really nice in Drayton because all of the parents come and sit under the gazebo and engage with young people and staff – it has a real community atmosphere! We also spent some time with a group of young men who enjoy exploring the village and the surrounding fields learning about Drayton's history – this time we managed to find the old Drayton lock!

121 support. We are supporting several young people through 1-2-1 support around drug and alcohol awareness, building self-esteem and confidence or looking for Education, Employment or Training support.

School work. We are working in all 3 schools which are attended by Drayton young people who can access support through us under the gazebo at lunch times.

Street work. Street works is a bit hit and miss since the half term the park is normally heaving or it's empty! The park seems to have been kept well. The young people have also enjoyed hanging around the millennium green and you may see them walking round the village in groups Pokémon hunting (The Church seems to be a popular place to find them!)

Stone Hill Community Garden. We are currently looking at future partnership work with Stone Hill Community Garden and planning a project for Easter with them.

(b) Drayton Diners. Daniel Scharf.

Drayton Diners continues to meet on the third Thursday of the month in the Wheatsheaf. There are normally about 8 people out of the 5 couples and a number of individuals on the email list together with guests. Any Drayton resident, past or present, would be welcome to join in.

(c) Drayton Almshouses. Camilla King.

Almshouses had full occupancy in last 12 months; all 6 bathrooms completely refurbished during the year; just had all 6 professionally cleaned; getting the gardens tidied; buying a lock up shed for one resident's mobility scooter & replacing one resident's cooker.

(d) Caudwell Day Centre. Vicky Malin.

Vicky Malin has taken over from Barry Winter. Looking for a 3rd trustee.

(e) Stonehill Community Garden. Rachel Hammond.

The Stonehill Community Garden welcomes people from all walks of life to get involved. We are currently in very early stages of getting set up and are working on a medium sized plot of land that will be transformed into a vegetable growing patch.

(f) Drayton Village Hall. Tamsin Meridith / Tony Holmes.

Available for private and public functions including: Wedding Receptions, Sports, Theatre & Music, Corporate Events and Training, Activity Groups & Meetings. Only a new main front door achieved this year and general maintenance, so not a lot else to say. Hall is busier than ever, almost in constant use. Heating survey complete and taken note of glass washer to be sorted asap.

(g) Drayton Community Trust. Andrew Bax.

Drayton Community Trust continues to have an active role in Drayton 2020 and the implementation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. It is possible that this role may be expanded in the future as the village acquires

its new amenities. In the meantime it is also the organisation through which the Drayton Chronicle and the village website are published.

(h) Allotments. Tim Atkins.

5 on waiting list.

(i) FODSA (Friends Of Drayton School Association). Tamsin Meridith.

We help to support the teachers and children of the school with extra funding to help pay for activities and resources. Our summer fete which the PC gave us a £200.00 grant help raise £2,000.00. This was used towards a new reading scheme and the purchase of new books that was implemented throughout the whole school.

We provide gifts for the children at Christmas and we are supporting a theatre company to come into the school.

We are hoping to help towards a whole school trip in the summer term.

(j) Millennium Green. Keith Clough (Vice-chair of the Green Trustees).

Thanks to the support and help of Drayton residents, the Orchard has been pruned, woodland trees have been trimmed, some ivy cleared from trees, the paths have been widened and some further plants have been added.

More people are using the Green and, surprisingly, the amount of litter has reduced. The grass is being cut regularly and more grassland is now easily accessible. Some areas will only be cut once a year to provide a habitat for insects and butterflies, and hopefully, wild flowers.

It is the unexpected or unplanned events which tend to cause disruption and need addition resources (often urgently) and, sometimes cost us financially. Some trees blew down across paths, a section of the hedge fell into Sutton Wick Lane, one muntjak died in the middle of the pond, at least one tree will have to be felled to avoid danger to the public, there have been two acts of fly tipping and some unapproved planting. Remedial action has been (or is currently being) taken. Some of these events are avoidable and hopefully reoccurrences will be prevented.

It is hoped that, this year, with the co-operation of the Parish Council, the paths on the Green will be refurbished and that the paths leading to the Green will be improved so that they provide easier access for buggies and for the disabled. We hope to install two more seats – similar to the one near the gate.

We hope that there will be a summer picnic and will encourage each local organization to set up a table (or display) at the event to attract future members or users of their organization.

6/2017 Report from OCC Councillor (Richard Webber).

Unitary Local Government for Oxfordshire. At its budget in 2016, OCC committed to working towards a Single Unitary Council for Oxfordshire as soon as possible. This was seen as the only way to protect local services in the mid to long term. Going Unitary would save us at least £20m a year – enough to reverse cuts to Children’s Centres, Bus subsidies and to repair many potholes. In February 2017, 2 of the Districts which had previously been fiercely opposed to a single Unitary Council, changed their position and together with OCC have now produced a “Better Oxfordshire” proposal based on the original OCC “One Oxfordshire” proposals. The new proposals have now been presented to DCLG for the Minister to consider. It will be the Minister who makes the final decision.

Adult and Child Social Care. There is a growing problem of how to fund Adult Social Care which currently swallows up more than half the OCC budget of £650m pa. As more of us live longer, the problem is going to become more severe. This is why OCC has allowed Council Tax to increase this year – with Government permission.

Roads and Highways. The budget for this has been cut by more than 40% over past years with the consequent impact on road maintenance. There is a growing problem of potholes and inadequate pothole repair all across the County. Something which the new Council will have to address quickly.

Health and Education cuts. Austerity cuts and the need for the Government to protect us from some of the potential effects of Brexit, have resulted in a fierce unanimous response to Government. The closure of local Hospitals is strongly resisted. The proposed new Schools funding formula is also being strongly resisted as it affects small rural primary schools across the County disproportionately.

Should the Minister decide in favour of the “Better Oxfordshire” proposals, many of the financial pressure and problems will reduce as the certainty of future savings can be built into the County budget there and then, and would not have to wait for eighteen months for the re-organisation.

Pervin Shahin arrived at 7:45pm.

7/2017 Report from VWHDC Councillor (Stuart Davenport).

It has been an interesting year at the Vale, not least because this report could be the penultimate one a Vale as there is a good chance that Oxfordshire will move to a unitary model of Council. Councillors of all parties at the Vale voted in favour of moves to unify all councils to exploit the savings this would bring.

On planning, the year has been a traumatic one for Drayton. The Vale adopted its Local Plan Part 1 in latter part of the year, but prior to this was considered not to have a five year housing land supply. This meant, for a period, Drayton's NDP was considered "out of date". The adoption of the Local Plan has revived the plan meaning it now, once again, sits as part of the development plan.

During the hiatus an application for 28 houses at Halls Close was approved by the Inspector after initial rejection by the Council.

The NDP has been shown to have certain deficiencies in its drafting. Whilst not surprising, given being at the vanguard of the NDP process, it does mean that developers are probing at our weak spots. An application for 8 houses at East Way was approved because it wasn't a large scale site and therefore was considered to fall outside NDP site allocation. The Vale and the Parish Council are looking at ways of re-drafting the NDP to overcome these shortcomings.

Services at the Vale continue to be lauded by objective outsiders. Recycling at the Vale is said, by DEFRA, to be the fourth best in the country. The Council is investing in leisure facilities, with the Abingdon Leisure Centre receiving a £1.6m improvement, Abbey Meadows pool being replaced for £600k and the Wantage Leisure Centre looking likely to be replaced in the coming years.

8/2017 Public Participation.

FP20 Arrows. It was noted that this footpath was blocked by a barbed wire fence between Sherwood farm and Oday Hill, a stile has now been installed making it accessible again. It was also noted that some footpath arrows may be needed to indicate the direction of the footpath.

ACTION: Deputy Clerk and Graham Webb to take a look and suggest recommendations.

9/2017 Chairman's Closing Remarks. Richard Williams thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

The following accounts were available for inspection.

- (a) Parish Council.
- (b) DAMASCUS Youth Project.
- (c) Millennium Green Trust.
- (d) Drayton Village Hall.
- (e) Caudwell Day Centre.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:13pm.

Signed:

Date: TBC May 2018.

Name: Richard Williams (Chairman, Drayton Parish Council).