



North Hinksey Parish Council

2017 Newsletter



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Annual Parish Meeting

We would like to encourage all parishioners to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm on Thursday 16th March in Seacourt Hall** (refreshments served from 7pm). Please send any questions in writing (an e-mail will do) to the Parish Clerk by 12 noon on Monday 13th March to receive a reply at the meeting.

Defibrillators

Currently there are no defibrillators sited within North Hinksey Parish that can be accessed by the general public in an emergency.

Several months ago NHPC decided that this was not a satisfactory situation, and investigations began to see if we could hit a target of three defibrillators being made available to parishioners 24 hours a day.

The good news is that we are fast approaching the dates for installation of all three; one at the Rugby Club in North Hinksey, one at the Louie Memorial Pavilion, and one in West Way shopping precinct (which will subsequently be transferred to the new community building).

The Rugby Club are providing their own unit, with a grant from NHPC paying for a security cabinet to avoid vandalism. The other two units have been obtained by NHPC and details about their instalment will feature on the NHPC website shortly.



Adam Hardiman
North Hinksey Parish Councillor

2017 Chairman's Report

Over the past year the Council has focussed on a series of five key objectives:

- To provide an improved range of leisure and recreational facilities within the Parish.
- To support, manage and improve spaces, buildings and services that are the Parish Council's responsibilities.
- To work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the redevelopment of Botley Centre proceeds with as little disruption as possible to the activities of residents and local businesses.
- To actively support the production and full implementation of an effective Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish.
- To support the setting up of a new charity enabling a range of services currently offered by Elms Road Children's Centre to continue in the long term, following the withdrawal of County Council funding.

The R&A Committee update on page 3 includes progress on the first two of these objectives with news about potential new leisure facilities and plans for the Pavilion.

Regarding the Botley Centre redevelopment you may well be wondering why there is nothing happening yet, as we are now well past the original date that work was expected to start on the site. With a number of loose ends gradually being tied up Mace are now hoping to start demolishing the buildings along Westminster Way at the start of July. Keep an eye on the NHPC website where we will be issuing updates as work progresses on the new development. See page 4 for an update on other Planning issues.

Work on the Neighbourhood Plan continues, but despite the best efforts of all the volunteers (including a number of Councillors) it is a lengthy, drawn-out project, and we are still some way off a full draft Plan. Hopefully this year will see us break the back of this process with a Plan that meets our community's needs for future development.

Sadly this month sees the closure of Elms Road Children's Centre, but thanks to the efforts of a team of community-minded individuals, backed by both Cumnor and North Hinksey Parish Councils, the new charity Botley Bridges is preparing to launch very shortly, taking over some of the key services. We wish them well in their endeavours.

Another busy year, but plenty more to keep NHPC Councillors equally busy over the coming year.

Councillor David Kay,
North Hinksey Parish Council Chairman.

Planning Committee Report

The committee continues to comment on a wide range of planning applications, the number of which does not appear to have been changed by the Government's broadening of the extent of "permitted development", which allows building to go ahead without formal planning permission.

Details of planning applications near you and their progress can be found on the Vale of White Horse's Planning Applications website by inputting the reference number (if you have it) or the address. You can also sign up for alerts about developments near you. The Planning page on the NHPC website includes a useful link to live applications in our area. If you believe that what is being built is not in agreement with the approved plans, you should ring the Vale's Enforcement Team, who will then examine the case. The adoption of the Vale's Local Plan part 1 means that it now has more than the minimum of 5 years' land supply, removing an argument regularly put forward by developers for granting planning permission.

During the year Mace's plans for the redevelopment of the West Way shopping centre have been approved, and plans are now being finalized for sites to provide temporary homes for the Seacourt Hall, the Library and the Baptist Church until the new community building is complete. Work is likely to start on demolishing the first buildings in July.

All the units in the Harcourt Place development are now occupied, though at the time of writing the play area is still not finished. Another welcome addition to recreation facilities is the completion of the large MUGA on Brookes University's sports field. We look forward to the completion of the North Hinksey part of the Tilbury Fields development and the footpath connection to Hazel Road.

Two new applications have been put forward at the Seacourt Retail Park. The first of these was for a drive-through café at the northern extremity, and the second is for the units currently occupied by Homebase to be taken over by M&S Food, despite previous conditions excluding food retailers on that site. We again commented on the inconvenience of the removal of the petrol station, but this of course has been previously approved by the Vale.

Other significant developments, at "Forresters" in Hurst Rise Road, at 34 North Hinksey Lane, Diocesan House, and for a hotel at 4 North Hinksey Lane are still in play, but a proposal for flats at 47 West Way has been approved, despite our objections.

Councillor Andrew Pritchard,
Planning Committee Chairman.

Remembrance Day Service 2016

The Committee's focus is the organization of the annual Ceremony of Remembrance in the War Graves Section of Botley Cemetery. The November 2016 service was extremely well attended by hundreds of local residents and official delegates

The service was led once more by Reverend Richard Budgen. and we were delighted to



welcome the Reverend Hedley Feast to give the address. Hedley knows our area very well and is of course well known to local people through his many years as a broadcaster

on Radio Oxford. Hedley spoke very personally to us as residents of Botley and emphasized how important our ceremony is in being led by local people for local people. He particularly thanked all the voluntary organisations for their support and for all that they do and encouraged us all to work together for the common good. It was a very uplifting and affirmative message, delivered on an amazingly sunny morning in a week that had seen a great deal of heavy rain.

Many thanks to everyone who took part on the day- your presence is essential. Particular

thanks to the leaders of the children's groups who took part in the parade and also laid wreaths and to the pupils from Matthew Arnold who gave out service sheets beforehand. We were delighted to welcome Matthew Arnold pupil Imogen Perkins, who read confidently from 'For the Fallen'. Thanks to



the Botley Singers, who led the (very strong) hymn singing and to the Youth Brass Ensemble, whose playing was wonderful and to Radio Cherwell for the excellent amplification and simultaneous broadcast to local hospitals. After the service, we were all glad of the warm hospitality (and excellent biscuits!) provided by the Women's Institute.

Finally a big thank you to the Remembrance Day Committee members who planned the service and to all Councillors who supported on the day and to our Parish Clerk, Alan Stone, for the commitment he gives to making this very special event run smoothly every year. The Committee meets again soon to start planning for the 2017 service.

Councillor Voirrey Carr
Remembrance Day Committee Chairman.

Allotments Committee

Over the past year there has been a constant trickle of demand from would-be new gardeners, balanced by a similar number of people handing back their plots. We have just about managed to keep on top of the waiting list – it is cheering that so many people want a chance to grow their own food.

The well continues to be slow to fill, so we have relocated one of our water tanks to provide backup. Other work has been put in to create a



hand-sized gap in the fence so that the padlock to the Stream end of our Southern By Pass plots can be accessed more easily. We have also been able to

clear some of the more overgrown plots so that they can be offered to new gardeners knowing that they will not prove unmanageable.

Tree work has included removing a willow from the middle of a North Hinksey Lane plot. The Spring Plant Swap was its usual laid-back and enjoyable occasion – thanks are due to Chris and Elaine Sugden for organizing it - and the First Botley Food Fayre on 17th September, with its horticultural competition, was a splendid chance for some of our plot-holders to show off their efforts in a public space. Summer and Winter newsletters kept the tenants informed and *Spuds & Sprouts*, the allotments Facebook page, continues to provide a forum for discussion.

The allotment committee is also responsible for the orchard, meadow, nature reserve and memorial garden. Last year was not a great one for apples, and the new trees in the community orchard were no exception. But they keep growing taller, and we hope the coming year will be a good one. The dividing hedge, laid a couple of years back, is flourishing. It was trimmed back over the winter to keep it thick and in good shape. The pond continues to be a magnet for frogs and toads to spawn, thanks to the Toads on Roads volunteers who ferry them safely across North Hinksey Lane. The memorial garden continues in vigorous growth, which poses its own problems, and we are looking for ways to finance a maintenance plan.

Councillor Ag MacKeith
Allotments Committee Chairman.

Recreation & Amenities Committee

The R&A Committee is responsible for maintaining our parish's recreational spaces, including the Louie Memorial playing fields off Arnold's Way, its adjacent copse, and the North Hinksey churchyard and village green. Beyond their everyday upkeep, the R&A Committee's work over the last year has focused on how we might improve our parish leisure spaces for all to enjoy in the coming years.

This year the Leisure Working Group, a sub-committee of eight R&A members, has run two sets of consultations with local people about leisure needs. From April to October older and retired parishioners were asked through a short questionnaire about what they enjoy doing, any further activities that they would like to do locally, and any issues such as transportation that are important for getting out and about.

For the second consultation two Youth Forum events were held in May and July to ask people aged 10-18 for their ideas about leisure facilities in our area, and a larger-scale youth survey on leisure provision was conducted in early 2017. We will examine the results of both consultations in March, with reports of the results made available on the NHPC website and in hard copy at the next R&A Committee meeting in April.

You will hear more from us this coming year, as we make recommendations based on the results of our consultations. The biggest piece of work on the horizon is the replacement or substantial refurbishment of the Louie Memorial Pavilion, which could include improvements to its surrounding outdoor space.



This will be a big project, working with the Louie Memorial Pavilion Trustees and involving formal planning and fundraising, for which we need a lot of community input.

At such time that any specific plans come forward, we will run a parish-wide consultation to get everyone's views. But you don't have to wait until then to tell us what you think about the work we're doing – you can contact an R&A Committee member at any time (see the NHPC website and notice boards for contact details), and all are welcome to attend our next meeting on 6th April. We hope to hear from you soon!

Councillor Caroline Potter,
Recreation & Amenities Committee Chairman.

Parish Councillors to May 2017

Cllr. Pauline Allen

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E-mail: cllrpallen@yahoo.com

Cllr. Lorna Berrett

51, Arthray Road Tel. Oxford 722732
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Cllr. Andrew Pritchard

33, Laburnum Road Tel. Oxford 240014
E-mail: 3andrew3@tiscali.co.uk

Parish Clerk

Mr. Alan Stone

27, Long Close Tel. & Fax Oxford 861992
E-mail: nhpcclerk@msn.com

District Councillors

Cllr. Debby Hallett

Tel. Oxford 240031

Cllr. Emily Smith

Tel. Oxford 427891

County Councillor

Cllr. Janet Godden

Tel. Oxford 862095

Seacourt Hall Manager / Bookings

Eric Batts

Tel. Oxford 821565

Parish Council Responsibilities:

- Allotments
- Consideration/comments to the District Council on Planning matters
- Playing Fields, including the football pitch, MUGA, Trim Trail and children's play area
- Copse & concrete path from Cedar & Hurst Rise Roads
- Maintenance/upkeep of parish owned land / buildings including Louie Memorial Pavilion
- Parish owned bus shelters, notice boards and seats
- Maintenance of the Parish Council website

Parish Council Committees:

- Planning
- Finance and General Purposes
- Allotments includes the North Hinksey Nature Reserve and the Community Orchard
- Recreation and Amenities
- Remembrance Day
- Communications

Committee membership and meeting dates can be found on the Parish Council website:

www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk

Attendance at Council Meetings:

The following are the number and percentage of full Parish Council meetings attended by Parish Councillors over the year to January 2017:

Cllr. P. Allen	11 out of 11	100%
Cllr. L. Berrett	10 out of 11	91%
Cllr. J. Bolder	11 out of 11	100%
Cllr. V. Carr	10 out of 11	91%
Cllr. C. Church	5 out of 11	45%
Cllr. A. Dykes	11 out of 11	100%
Cllr. J. Hammett*	6 out of 11	54%
Cllr. A. Hardiman	10 out of 11	91%
Cllr. D. Kay	11 out of 11	100%
Cllr. L. Kunzemann	8 out of 11	73%
Cllr. A. MacKeith	11 out of 11	100%
Cllr. R. Mayne	11 out of 11	100%
Cllr. C. Potter	11 out of 11	100%
Cllr. A. Pritchard	9 out of 11	82%

* Ex-Councillor Hammett was unable to attend for 5 months and resigned on 2/2/2017.

Other useful Telephone Numbers:

Vale District Council Milton Park	01235 422422
Oxford City Council Town Hall	01865 249811
Oxon County Council County Hall	01865 792422
Oxfordshire C.C. Highways (potholes & local highways problems—not A34)	0845 3101111
Bus Shelter problems	01865 861992
Thames Water Customer Care Line (smelly drains & flooding problems)	08459200800
Thames Valley Police Non-Emergency Calls	101