

Chair's Report

Good evening,

Welcome back from your summer! We haven't had a break in our meeting schedule as there has been a lot going on. However, some of you have managed a holiday and I hope you feel refreshed. I've had to take a stretch of time as sick leave but feel encouraged that I am on the mend. Thanks for your support during this difficult period.

Gigaclear

The follow up for outstanding Gigaclear work in the village is positive. A list was assembled of issues and they were thoroughly discussed at the meeting with the Gigaclear team in July.

To date a number of problems have been sorted but here are a few outstanding issues. Connecting The Manor Hotel – this work is managed by the commercial team and there is some recent progress but it appears to be slow. Other commercial complexes are just beginning to consider connecting. The house across from Southfield is interesting as it does not have access to the grey box situated at Southfield. It would need to be accessed under the B430. Funding may need to come from a specific government grant. Work is currently being done on North Lane to manage the dark spot identified in the middle of the road due to ageing poles. I'm unclear about the situation at the south end of the village and am waiting to hear if there is progress.

I've approached the family at the end of Mill Lane regarding possible ways forward for them to receive faster broadband but have not heard of any progress.

Airfield

I sent a letter on behalf of the PC to the Commanding Officer of Brize Norton. I copied in several councillors who were most concerned about the commercial project as well as the Clerk for official purposes. The September trial has also been postponed and no reason has been given although I know that Wendlebury has formally opposed the project as well. The very latest news is that the enterprise has been advertised and is now open for bookings - so we'll see what occurs and also what response we get to our letter.

I've asked Councillor Gemma Coton about the need for planning permission and she has spoken with planning officers and ultimately David Peckford, Head of Planning & Development. However, his response was more about a change of use of the site. Gemma is absent tonight but has been very helpful all summer.

Fairly exciting news is that we now have a Who's Who at Cherwell complete with emails. Now we need the one promised from OCC. Also I've read through the KEY PRIORITIES for Thames Valley Police and am impressed with the consideration of the local community. Their focus on Neighbourhood Policing has borne out in a quick response

to an incident in the village this past week – light and sirens and serious attention to the problem. That should be reassuring for many villagers.

There are a number of houses for sale in the village. Perhaps we could keep an eye out for newcomers and welcome them into the village. We hope that new arrivals would settle in as part of the village and uphold the values of rural life – that isn't necessarily evident to people when they move from a city or large town. Some work needs to be done in this regard. A talk on the history of the village will be held this Monday evening as part of Weston Society -Paula promises to shed light on two relevant areas!!

Finally, the Oxfordshire Neighbour Plan Alliance has a meeting in the village hall on October 12th. The team is working hard to make sense of the new planning reforms. If anyone is available to help – that would be appreciated.

Thank you

Diane. Sept 4th, 2024

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