



North Hinksey Parish Council

2016 Newsletter



What's in this issue?

- ⇒ **Page 1:** 2016 Chairman's Report, Annual Parish Meeting & our Neighbourhood Plan
- ⇒ **Page 2:** Planning Committee Report and Remembrance Day Service 2015
- ⇒ **Page 3:** Recreation & Amenities Committee and Allotments Committee Reports
- ⇒ **Page 4:** North Hinksey Parish Council contact and operational details, and other useful telephone numbers

Annual Parish Meeting

We would like to encourage all parishioners to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting** at **7.30pm** on **Thursday 17th 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 14th March to receive a reply at the meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan

Our independent teams of volunteers have made great progress over the past year, gathering information and starting to draw up our draft Plan, however there is still a long way to go. The full draft Neighbourhood Plan might not be completed until the end of 2016.



Many thanks to the 100 plus individuals who came to our public feedback event on 30th January and told us what they thought of our progress to date - mostly in positive terms I'm glad to report.

Please also visit www.nhinkseynp.org.uk - our own website where you can find out more about our Neighbourhood Plan in detail.

Although we already have a team of eager volunteers beavering away behind the scenes, additional hands are needed to complete the Plan more quickly. Please contact me or any other member of our Steering Group if you are interested in volunteering.

Andrew Pritchard, Chair
Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

2016 Chairman's Report

Over the past few months we've been expanding and improving the ways that we provide information about North Hinksey Parish Council and other associated local community activities in many ways:

- Improved layout and content on our website
www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk
- The launch of our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/northhinkseypc
- A new quarterly e-newsletter (please e-mail info@northhinksey-pc.gov.uk or submit details at <http://bit.ly/1MVoluH> to be added to the mailing list)
- A website for the Neighbourhood Plan (this is run independently with input from NHPC)
www.nhinkseynp.org.uk
- Regular committee updates in The Sprout

We want to continue improving communications so please send me your ideas by e-mail, or post. Please note that this annual printed newsletter will continue, and news included in any e-newsletter will also be reported here.

We'd also like to achieve more involvement by parishioners in Parish Council activities *and* more involvement by the Parish Council in the community as a whole. In addition to support for the Botley Fete we held our first 'Best of Botley' Awards on 11th December in Botley School as reported on our website and in the local media. We hope to achieve repeated success in 2016.



To find out more about the Parish Council please attend one of our meetings - they are all open to the public. Hot topics at the moment include:

- Mace redevelopment of West Way and new community facilities within that development
- Dealing with County Council cuts (e.g. the potential closure of our Children's Centre)
- Expanding NHPC owned amenity land and increasing leisure facilities for all parishioners

Councillor David Kay,
North Hinksey Parish Council Chairman.

Planning Committee Report

During the past year the committee has commented on some 68 planning applications, some of which are modifications of previous applications for the same site. Many are minor and non-controversial, though several involve the demolition of family homes to build flats. Too many of these do not provide what we consider, on the basis of experience in the Parish, an adequate number of parking spaces.

We have so far been able to stop the development of several flats at "Forrester's" in Hurst Rise Road, but not at the end of this busy road, at 13 Cumnor Hill. A more modest proposal at 2 Cumnor Rise Road aroused few objections, and we managed to get the developer to provide an improved access to Cumnor Hill.

Other developments about which we have serious concerns, and which are still under consideration, are for flats at 34 North Hinksey Lane, at 47 West Way (a former wine shop), and for a hotel at 4 North Hinksey Lane.

Unfortunately the ongoing lack of a five year's supply of developable land in the Vale provides developers with strong arguments to support their views under the government's National Planning Policy Framework, and we look forward to the Vale (the local planning authority) establishing such a supply to provide a better balance.

We again argued to the Vale's Planning Committee against the removal of the petrol filling station in the Seacourt Retail Park, but this was almost unanimously approved by them. With the Oxpens filling station already removed, this will create great inconvenience and reduce sustainability for parishioners and businesses such as car hire firms.

The Vale has recently approved their draft Design Guide, which will provide us with extra arguments to improve the quality of planning applications, where appropriate.



Councillor Andrew Pritchard,
Planning Committee Chairman.

By the time you read this we expect to have Mace's plans for the West Way development – do let members of the Planning Committee have your views.

Remembrance Day Service 2015

The Committee's main focus is the organization of the annual Ceremony of Remembrance in the War Graves Section of Botley Cemetery. The November 2015 service was extremely well attended by hundreds of local residents, serving and ex- servicemen and women, representatives of foreign Embassies and High Commissions and uniformed youth groups. We were also very pleased to welcome our M.P. Nicola Blackwood, representing H.M. Government. Over 30 wreaths were laid.

The service was led once more by Reverend Richard Budgen. This year's guest speaker, Dr David Henderson-Slater, reflected on the nursing care given in the makeshift hospitals set up in Oxford's colleges during both world wars. He reminded us of the recent 100th anniversary of the execution of Nurse Edith Cavell, the World War1 British nurse who saved the lives of over 200 soldiers—from both sides in German occupied Belgium. Found guilty of treason and killed by firing squad, Cavell's brave words before death were these : 'Patriotism is not enough. I must have no bitterness towards anyone.'



After the service, we were all glad of the warm hospitality of the Women's Institute who coped expertly with the huge numbers . Thanks must also go to : The Oxford Youth Brass Ensemble, who played so well; Matthew Arnold pupil Isidore Hiscock, who read confidently from 'For the Fallen'; the Botley Singers, who led the hymn singing; the Remembrance Day Committee members who planned the service and supported on the day and our Parish Clerk, Alan Stone, for the commitment he shows to making this very special event run smoothly every year. The Committee meets again soon to start planning for the 2016 service.

Councillor Voirrey Carr
Remembrance Day Committee Chairman.

Allotments Committee

The Allotments Committee, for the first time in a while, has more gardeners on it than not. There are two allotment-renting Councillors (Louise Kunzemann and Ruth Mayne) and two co-opted from the roll (Martin Dowie and Chris Sugden). The other committee members are Judi Bolder, Adam Hardiman and myself.

The past year has seen some notable developments. The hand pump installed to provide water at the school end of the Southern Bypass allotments has been replaced by a well with a modern and effective pump (still manual). It has been slow to fill, and we will be monitoring it over the coming year to understand better how the water supply works.

There is now an occasional email newsletter keeping tenants in touch with developments, and communication is greatly helped by a Facebook page, 'Spuds and Sprouts'. We are keeping an eye on the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, which we hope may reduce flooding on our North Hinksey Lane allotments (under water as I write this). Inspections could be more regular, and have been set for 20th March, 17th July, 16th October.

All in all, the allotments are healthy and thriving, and morale is good. Thanks are due to Chris and Elaine Sugden for the twice yearly picnics and plant swaps they initiated, to Jenni Carr and Mairi Brookes for setting up 'Spuds and Sprouts', to Michele Sanders and Andy Gill for help with the well, to Carol Kramer for keeping an eye on the water tanks, to Riki Therivel for coppicing the hazel trees in the Nature Reserve, to her and Ian Marriott for help scything the meadow, and to Bob Johnston, who gave this year's talk at the AGM.

The allotment committee is also responsible for the orchard, meadow, nature reserve and memorial garden. The community orchard is still in the early stages, but we hope to see more fruit in coming years. The wildflower meadow provided some hay last year – next year we'll get to work earlier so the hay is less full of tough old stalks.

The newly laid hedge has been trimmed, the pond is full of wildlife, and the memorial garden continues to struggle with an infestation of bindweed. New gate posts are being installed around the perimeters, and the dividing fence strengthened. The willows along the river bank are due to be pollarded shortly.

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 and its adjacent copse. Since the May elections the R&A Committee has been looking at how our parish recreation facilities are currently used and how they might be improved. The Leisure Working Group, composed of nine R&A committee members, has examined the results of the 2015 Leisure Survey (available on the NHPC website R&A Reports/Surveys page and in hard copy at the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting) and is exploring future provision of new or improved facilities.

In line with the survey results, most of our efforts are focused on improving facilities for older children and teenagers. Ideas that we are considering are teenage / adult sized leisure equipment, a skatepark, and a youth club for ages 14+. In parallel we are developing ideas for leisure provision aimed at older people and those with limited mobility. In the coming months we aim to gather your feedback about these ideas – please watch the Parish Council noticeboards and website for further details.

One of the R&A Committee's current aims is to work more effectively with partner organisations, to improve recreation opportunities across the parish. Since May we have welcomed the



Sport for Streets Initiative trialling its street hockey sessions at the Louie Memorial Upper

Field, worked with the Louie Memorial Pavilion Trust to undertake much-needed work on the football pitch (which is available for public hire), and engaged with the North Hinksey Youth Club to initiate a summer camp-out event.



We are in discussions with the Tilbury Lane developers in hopes of securing public leisure space there, and R&A Committee members have fed into the consultation process about the community facilities proposed for the West Way redevelopment. So plenty to keep us busy, but please let us know how we're doing and if we've missed anything! All are welcome to attend our next R&A Committee meeting on 21st April.

Councillor Caroline Potter,
Recreation & Amenities Committee Chairman.

Parish Councillors to May 2016

Cllr. Pauline Allen

79, Hurst Rise Road Tel. Oxford 862353
E-mail: pollyallen@live.com

Cllr. Lorna Berrett

51, Arthray Road Tel. Oxford 722732
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Cllr. Judith Bolder

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Cllr. Julia Hammett

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Cllr. Ag MacKeith

South View House, Tel. Oxford 724452
Old Botley
E-mail: agmackeith@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr. Ruth Mayne

94, North Hinksey Lane Tel. 07966533303
E-mail: ruthmayne1@gmail.com

Cllr. Caroline Potter

6, Seacourt Road Tel. 07590194768
E-mail: cllr.caroline.potter@gmail.com

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

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
- Louie Memorial Pavilion
- Copse & concrete path from Cedar & Hurst Rise Roads
- Maintenance/upkeep of parish owned land/buildings
- 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

Details of Committee members and dates of meetings can be found on the North Hinksey 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 past twelve months:

Cllr. P. Allen	10 out of 10	100%
Cllr. L. Berrett	8 out of 8	100%
Cllr. J. Bolder	7 out of 8	87%
Cllr. V. Carr	9 out of 10	90%
Cllr. C. Church	8 out of 10	80%
Cllr. A. Dykes	10 out of 10	100%
Cllr. J. Hammett	10 out of 10	100%
Cllr. A. Hardiman*	3 out of 10	30%
Cllr. D. Kay	9 out of 10	90%
Cllr. L. Kunzemann	6 out of 8	75%
Cllr. A. Mackeith	9 out of 10	90%
Cllr. R. Mayne	7 out of 8	87%
Cllr. C. Potter	6 out of 8	75%
Cllr. A. Pritchard	9 out of 10	90%

* Councillor Hardiman was unable to attend for several months due to poor health

Other useful Telephone Numbers:

Seacourt Hall Hall Manager/Booking Clerk –
Eric Batts 01865 821565
Vale District Council Abbey House 01235 520202
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, water & flooding problems 08459200800
Thames Valley Police Non-Emergency Calls 101