

SIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING **18TH MAY 2016**

PRESENT

Cllrs. J Hall (Chairman), N Deller, C Rumble, Mrs A Wagstaff, A Painter, Mrs M Painter, Mrs M. Turner
J Hayward and seven others.

Cllr Hall opened the meeting at 7.50pm as Chairman and welcomed all those present. He then handed over the immediate past Chairman, Cllr Wagstaff, to make her report.

Cllr Wagstaff then reported on her final year as Chairman of the Parish Council

Post 2015 election

- We began the 2015-16 year just after a general and local election that saw some changes for Siddington.
- Water Park Ward became the Siddington and Cerney Rural Ward.
- We went from 3 to just one district councillor – Shaun Parsons, also our County Councillor. Concerns about loss of support but Shaun has responded promptly to any concerns raised.
- The Parish Council reconvened with just nine councillors, but Neil Selby rejoined us after a brief sabbatical and we have recently co-opted Ellie Jones, taking us up to our full council of 11 members.

Planning

North Hill Road

- Work began on the site this year and the first residents have moved in.
- John has maintained regular contact with Bloor Homes on the North Hill Road site and our relationship with the builders is very good. They've listened to any concerns we've raised and have tried to deal with them.
- There have been no incidents of theft or damage on that site, which is apparently unheard of.
- They plan to complete the site by November this year.
- The Village Hall has received the £32,519 S106 payment from Bloors.
- As soon as they have permission from Highways Bloors will begin work on the new bus shelter. The old shelter is in the way of the continuation of the pavement so has to be demolished, but Bloors have undertaken to build a new shelter in the same style using the same block work as the houses. That will sit on the grass bank at the front of the site and the entrance will face the road. There will be an 'arrow slit' window so that the bus can be seen and there will be a bench.

Severalls Field

- In Upper Siddington we've seen a planning application from Great Gable Ltd, who are dealing with the Severalls Field site. And we still don't know the outcome of that.

- We raised concerns with Great Gable over drainage, sewage provision and road capacity and there are proposed solutions to those concerns but it remains to be seen whether those solutions are financially viable and whether they'll happen.

On the plus side, I don't think it's entirely detrimental to have new housing in Siddington and I hope that the new residents will be eager to become a part of our community and bring new blood to many of the groups and organisations.

Playing field

Last June we negotiated a new contract with Siddington Sports FC, who use the playing field as their home ground. Unlike the previous contract, which was for a fixed period, this contract will remain in place unless terminated by either party giving three months' notice. I'll speak more about the plans for the playing field later on.

Highways, footpaths and hedges

Throughout the year the Parish Council has made numerous representations to the Highways department requesting urgent repairs to roads. We have also requested repairs and replacement of various road signs in the parish. The severe restrictions on the Highways budget have meant that we now have a long list of outstanding issues that are unlikely to be dealt with in the short term. However, there is some hope that Siddington Road will be resurfaced in the coming year.

Looking briefly at other groups and organisations in the parish, I'm pleased to report that the **Village Hall** is doing well under the chairmanship of Denys Young. The S106 funding will be used to replace the floor in the main hall, replace the antiquated heating and improve the main entrance.

The **school** continues to thrive under the headship of Carole Dougill and our local policing team has reported that **crime** levels in the parish are down this year.

I'd just like to finish by pointing out some of the recent changes at the parish council.

John Hall has taken over the role of Chairman. For those who don't know, John lives on Siddington Road opposite the Bloors site. John is supported by Neil Selby as vice-chairman. Neil was chairman from 2004 to 2008, so we have a very able team at the helm.

We also have Robert Cowley joining us as our new clerk, replacing Kent Harrison who has retired after 29 years' service. He comes with a wealth of experience, as he's also clerk to South Cerney Parish Council, and although he now lives in South Cerney he was a Siddington resident for many years.

Playing field

Various plans were put in place to improve the playing field and these will come to fruition in the coming year.

New climbing frame

The much-loved spider climbing frame has reached the end of its useful life. This attracted some press interest! But the legs are rusting so it has to be replaced. We've decided on an exciting new model, a Woodland Climber. When Marcia ran the idea past some of the children at the school they were very excited. Work commencing 6th June.

Nature area

There will also be a new nature and picnic area in the under-used south-east corner of the field, which has been partially funded by a grant of £2,550 from the County Council's 'Active Together' fund. The plan is to have two new picnic benches. Additional native planting to encourage wildlife. The planting will take place in the autumn and Ellie is hoping to get the school children involved. There will also be new benches around the perimeter of the field, 'Stepping stones' and balance bars, a noticeboard in the vicinity of the play area/football club, new litter and dog waste bins.

Alison Wagstaff
Chairman, Siddington Parish Council 2015-16

A member of the public present suggested provision of additional dog bin to go near Nursery View in addition to the new nature area at the playing field.

Cllr Hall read the police/crime report for the past year. The Sidwatch scheme was working well, and crime levels were way down on the previous year.

Cllr Rumble presented the Rosie Rumble Award to Chris and Lucy from the Greyhound Inn in recognition of their active involvement in the community, their charity work in the village and their help for the younger people of Siddington.

Cllr Hall reported that although there was already a Siddington website which covered everything in the village, it was a legal requirement now that the Parish Council had its own website over which it could exercise control, and which the Clerk would be able to regularly update.

It was reported that Siddington Village Hall was short of one Trustee.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all those present for attending at the meeting closed at 8.10pm.