

FULBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF FULBROOK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Date: Monday 09th May 2016 at 7:00pm

Venue Parish Church of St James the Great

Present:

Councillors	Mr Gavin Beveridge GB (Chairman)
	Mrs Lynn Newman LN
	Mrs Patricia Picking PP
	Mr Robert Warner RW
Clerk	Mrs Jo Glyde

County Councillor Neil Owen (NO) and 25 electors attended

For convenience the following abbreviations may be used in some instances in these Minutes.

FPC	Fulbrook Parish Council
MEWRRRA	Meadow End & Walnut Row Residents Association
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
WODC	West Oxfordshire District Council
ORCC	Oxfordshire Rural Community Council
AONB	Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty

1. **Apologies:** Miss J Capon, Mr D Cotterill (District Councillor), Mr and Mrs W Ingleby, Mr B Kay, Mr P Lewis, Mr and Mrs M Vessey.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th April 2015**

2.1 GB signed the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27th April 2015 as a true representation of the business conducted.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the meeting held on Monday 27th April 2015

4. **Reports from the County and District Councillors**

4.1 **OCC – Neil Owen**

This was moved forward in the meeting from agenda item 5 because the County Councillor had another meeting to attend.

NO then presented his report. A copy is attached with these minutes.

Questions from the floor

- Ms G Byron asked about the possibility of a by-pass for Burford and surrounding villages, up to Banbury, and also for explanation of the ‘devolution quango’. *NO thought that with the on-going issues of cuts/savings that the by-pass was not a likely possibility. He talked about the plan for an HGV free zone, explaining that opposition has grown to non-local traffic HGVs in both Burford and Chipping Norton. He suggested that Ms Byron e-mail him for further discussion.*
- Mr R Newport asked who holds the road contractor to account, as some of the repairs they have been completing do not seem fit for purpose. *NO answered that the current contractors are checked and monitored by OCC and that he has monthly meetings with the area Highways Steward, Ian Clarke.*

Signed

Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

Date

4.2 **WODC Derek Cotterill**

In the absence of DC his report had been circulated to the members of the meeting with the agenda. A copy is attached to these minutes.

5. **Financial Statement**

5.1 The summary financial statement had been distributed before the meeting. The Clerk explained to the meeting that the receipts were decreased on the previous year because of one off grants arranged by NO in the previous year. The grass-cutting grant had also been decreased by 50% on the previous year..

5.2 Acceptance of the financial statement was proposed by RW, seconded by PP and approved by the meeting.

Questions from the floor

Mr J Harrington (JH) asked why some road verges in the village were cut and others were ignored. *GB explained that it was not possible to cut the entire village. Priority was given to visibility for road safety. RW suggested that if JH wished to discuss this further he attend the next FPC meeting and raise the issue under public participation.*

6. **Annual Parish Report**

GB presented his report. A copy is attached with these minutes.

7. **Reports from Support Groups**

7.1 **Maggie Thompson (MT) Chair, Amenities Group**

MT presented a short report detailing activities of the Amenities group for the past year. She also stated that the tickets for the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations (QBC) would be on sale soon. A copy of her report is attached with these minutes.

7.2 **Patricia Picking (PP), Burford and District Society**

A short and informative report was presented by PP, a copy of which is included with these minutes.

7.3 **Jacky Harrington (JYH), Fulbrook Meeting Place**

JYH presented a short report on the activities that have taken place at the Fulbrook Meeting Place over the past year and plans for the future. She asked for volunteers to come forward to help raise funds for the up-keep of the church. A copy of her report is included with these minutes.

7.4 **Joan Lilly (JL), Bio Diversity Group**

JL presented a short report detailing the work that has taken place to improve bio-diversity in the village, and stating that she will not be reporting in the future. A copy of the report is included with these minutes.

7.5 **MEWRA**

Mr P Lewis had sent apologies to the meeting. Although he had hoped to encourage this group to continue, it had been difficult to sustain and there was no report to present.

8. **AOB**

8.1 Mr L Balbes asked villagers to consider the role of Fulbrook Fellowship Secretary as the current secretary is standing down in June 2016 and the role will be vacant.

8.2 Mrs A Weir asked FPC to support the current landlord of The Carpenters Arms, (the remaining public house in Fulbrook) with the suggested planning application (yet to be submitted to WODC) in which they may lose half of the car-parking capacity at the pub with the land being used for development. This is being suggested by the owners of the pub, Hawthorne Leisure. *GB stated that FPC would consider the application when it is submitted. He suggested that his initial view of the application was not favourable.*

9. Date of Next Meeting

9.1 A date of Monday 24th April 2017 was proposed for the Annual Parish Meeting 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed

Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

Date

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2016

PROPOSALS FOR UNITARY COUNCIL

Without consulting the public or the County Council, on Thursday 25th February a surprise announcement was made by Oxfordshire's District Councils and Oxford City Council. It called for the abolition of the County Council and the establishment of four district quasi-unitary councils, to include parts of Gloucestershire and Northamptonshire. (A unitary council combines the functions of a county council and a district council into one body.) In addition, the announcement called for the creation of an unelected quango to be known as a 'Combined Authority' to take on difficult areas of responsibility currently with the County Council, such as social care and major road projects. So, this would mean four councils spread across three counties, plus an over-arching unelected quango.

The Districts are now in the process of commissioning management consultants to produce a report to evaluate their proposals. Initially their brief to consultants stated: "The District Councils' view is that a single county-wide unitary authority is not the right solution for Oxfordshire". It went on to say that any finding suggesting a single county-wide unitary is best would not be approved.

The Oxfordshire County Council view was that a single county-wide unitary authority was an option that should be considered (along with the Districts' proposal and other options for two or three unitary councils), and had thus been forced to begin the process of commissioning a separate management consultant's report. Any change along these lines will need powers devolved down to local areas, and appropriate funding to match. A larger unitary authority could not properly oversee small local planning and other general issues. Charlbury could well benefit from more local powers, should it wish to, provided they are suitably funded.

As a result of County and public pressure, District Council leaders have now agreed to commission a report covering all the options. It is hoped Council-Tax payers might not now have to fund two separate reports. However, the terms of reference of the Districts' revised brief to management consultants has not yet been agreed between County and Districts.

DRAGON IGNITES BATTLE AGAINST POTHOLES



A new weapon is being deployed in the battle against potholes on Oxfordshire's roads. The 'Dragon' – so called because of the fire breathing nozzle it uses to dry out potholes – is a mobile patching machine that has already fixed many hundreds of potholes and a multitude of other defects on the county's roads. Skanska, OCC's highways maintenance contractor, has added the Dragon to its arsenal against potholes and is using it to good effect across Oxfordshire, Cambridge and Peterborough. The machine repairs an average of 20 defects day and has filled up to 44 potholes in one shift. So far it has fixed just short of 2,000 in Oxfordshire. The traditional method of pothole repair consists of a two-person gang and a lorry manually filling the potholes with hot tarmac. In the right circumstances, potholes filled using the Dragon can cost as little as £10 compared to £70 for traditional methods. It is also safer and provides a more environmentally sustainable solution. The potential savings that Dragon brings allows additional focus on repairing many of the defects that have yet to form into potholes. These repairs can be done at the

same time due the multi-function repair capabilities of the Dragon. It can fill pot-holes, seal cracks and provide a thin overlay to minor surface damage. This preventative maintenance saves money in the long-term as the repairs are all undertaken at the same time. The "beast" is photographed in Sipton under Wychwood, and will be seen in our area in the future.

Signed

Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

Date

RECYCLING CENTRES

Opening hours on Thursdays at OCC's Household Waste Recycling Centres will be extended from 7 April to 29 September. The sites will be open until 8pm on Thursdays in addition to the normal hours of 8am-5pm every day (including Sundays). The Household Waste Recycling Centres can accept a wide range of materials for recycling including garden waste, textiles and electrical items. Food waste should always be placed in the food caddies provided by the district council and collected as part of the kerbside collection scheme. More information about the sites, including layout and a full guide to what can be recycled can be found at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk>.

KEEPING HGVS MOVING WHILE REDUCING THE IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

A free online mapping tool has been launched to help freight and logistics companies plan their routes through the county. Oxfordshire Freight Gateway is linked to the National Freight Journey Planner and is designed to help logistics managers and drivers of large goods vehicles to select the most appropriate routes for their journeys in Oxfordshire. A suitable route is provided based on the vehicle's weight and dimensions and journey details. Details here:
<http://freightgateway.co.uk/oxfordshire/>

TRANSITION FUND

Amendments to the budget in February put £2million back into Children's Services and an extra £4million grant from Westminster will also be used to soften these and other cuts. A cross-party board will now be looking at how this money is distributed.

Some changes may occur in bus subsidies and day centre funding this year or in the next 2 years. I will be trying to make sure my electorate gets the best value from this. My discussions with the Villager Bus and Pulhams Coaches will continue, as ALL bus provision should not stop with the cuts to subsidies.

Fulbrook Annual Parish Meeting -2016

WODC Councillor Report.

1. Introduction.

Having walked around and through Fulbrook many times during the past year everything seems to be in good order and well-tended. Broadband has arrived and the planning regime has ensured that the heritage assets and general appearance have been maintained. The following points refer to general matters which impinge upon Fulbrook.

3. Barry Norton and leader vacancy.

After many years, Sir Barry Norton has retired as a District Councillor and Leader of the Council due to health reasons. His time has been one of steady progress for West Oxfordshire both structurally and economically. Witney has been improved beyond recognition and, with Marriotts Walk and the Woolgate Centre, the town is a thriving place to shop. Free car parking is an added bonus. Council Tax is low and the tourist economy in the Cotswolds is also vibrant.

During the latter part of his sojourn cost savings and efficiencies have been achieved by sharing Chief Executive and Directors with Cotswold District Council. This sharing of back office functions is being progressed further with the 2020 Vision, and now across four Districts, is anticipated to save £25m in total by 2020,

He can retire knowing that he has achieved a great deal for the benefit of West Oxfordshire and its inhabitants.

Following the 5th May District Council elections the prospective Conservative group candidates will start canvassing for the Leader of the Council position. At present three candidates are known and tomorrow one will be selected to succeed Sir Barry.

4. Planning.

After many years West Oxfordshire published its Local Plan 2031 requiring 525 houses per annum up to 2031. This figure was lower than the SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment) which consultants for Oxfordshire had proposed. WODC believed they could argue for the lower figure with the Planning Inspectorate and get the plan adopted. Wrong. The plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in July and the first examination by the Inspector in November rejected it saying that the WODC arguments were invalid and not substantiated. The SHMA figure of 660 is a mid-point projection, realistic and the Inspector expects WODC to propose targets closer to that mark. He also questioned the delivery of affordable housing and the use of windfall sites to claim housing targets could be achieved.

So, there is no local plan and the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) governs planning with its “presumption to develop” except in the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.). The 2006 -2011 Local Plan and the emerging 2031 Plan policies carry some weight but the NPPF rules.

WODC has one year to revise its plan and allocate more housing sites.

At present all major developments are being refused, Milton-u-Wychwood, two at Long Hanborough, Woodstock and Shilton Road, Burford. Probably they will all go to appeal but, currently, the outcome of the Gladman appeal for 260 houses on the Burford Road, Witney, which Gladman elevated to the Secretary of State level is awaited.

Gladman have lost one appeal for a site in Bampton, partly in flood plain! But Richborough won another appeal for a site in Bampton, about 160 houses, which CALA will build.

4. Environment.

With extensive house building at Carterton currently under way, much more anticipated across the District, winters which are now sudden deluges of vast quantities of water and sewage flooding

occurring in various parts of the District, it is necessary to plan for an enhanced sewage and flood protection system.

Regular meetings are taking place between Thames Water, their consultants and WODC to study the existing situation and cope with today's requirements while also planning the five year strategy for larger systems and pipework. Much of today's expedient planning involves tankers pumping out systems which cannot take what is being fed into them. Burford has 20% spare capacity so we are luckier although the pipework down the High Street is smaller than standard bore and joints are displaced.

The Waste Contract is due for renewal in 2017. Kier (May Gurney) admit that they have lost money on the existing collection system so we expect quotes for higher priced options during this year. The current thinking is for two wheelie bins, one for household waste and one for recycling, with this co-mingled recycling sorted mechanically. Food would still be collected in the smaller bins (and used for electricity generation) and garden waste would become a paid service. Glass is the most valuable recyclable item so thought is being given to how that could be kept separate, if contaminated it loses value.

The "Bring Sites", as in the Guildenford car park, are a continuing headache. They are messy and used for fly tipping. I send in a weekly email for the one in Guildenford to be tidied up and the fly tipped waste to be taken away. WODC does not have an answer to the problem, yet, as closing the site would consign more rubbish to the hedgerows.

The premix concrete which was fly tipped into the car park was cleared by WODC and the investigation continues to find the culprit. Regularly offenders are prosecuted and fined several thousand pounds.

5. Finance and Management.

Cuts, cuts, cuts and efficiency savings is all we hear nowadays. Fortunately, WODC is debt free and has used past monetary assets to purchase commercial property. The income from industrial estates, office blocks and various restaurants in Oxfordshire and much farther afield brings in more money than Council Tax and yields 7% return on investment.

WODC does not view the proposed County plans for a County Unitary Council with enthusiasm and has countered with alternative ideas to form a District Unitary Council with Cotswold.

The County continually cuts budgets. Grants to WODC this year for services provided on the County's behalf have been cut by £494,800. This means District will draw on reserves this year to balance its budget.

If County take over as a unitary council that will place free car parking at risk and also the WODC reserves and income policies. Currently it takes months or years to get anything done by County so one wanders what efficiency they could offer if unitary ambitions prevail.

Central government is cutting back on money it pays to local councils and expects them to be able to raise their own revenue by 2020. This will be through the Business Rate and Council Tax if no other revenue earning stream exists. Small Business Rate relief does look as though it will become permanent as one piece of good news.

6. Local Issues.

Most of the above constitutes local issues but a few words on car parking will not go amiss. The Guildenford car park has 166 spaces and these are fully occupied by 11:00 am on sunny weekends and sometimes more inclement ones. We have been asking for a larger car park since 2011 and especially as the new Warwick Hall nears completion. An extension 90 mtrs by 34 mtrs would accommodate another 100 cars and would cost approx. £160,000. WODC owns the car park and would want to own any extension also maintaining a free parking policy. For years they have said that they have not got the money. However, at last, a questionnaire and consultations have taken place to determine what should be done about parking in West Oxfordshire, what needs to be built, maybe park and ride, maybe multi storey. We currently await feedback.

As we have entered another financial year tenders have been invited for the repair of the mill stream walkway in the car park. Returns were expected at the end of April and we await further information.

Another local issue is the removal of bus subsidies by OCC. At present we have obtained preliminary information from the Villager about the V12 service through Burford. They would be looking for £1,000 per annum from the town council to maintain it; £250 from parish councils along the route. The Pulhams 33 service is more expensive. Discussions are ongoing.

Derek Cotterill
7 May 2016

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

Your Parish Councillors for the period covered by the report are Gavin Beveridge (Chairman), Lynn Newland, Tricia Picking, Bob Warner and Wally Ingleby. Our Parish Clerk is Jo Glyde.

These are some of the achievements of the Parish Council in the last year from May 2015 until now:

- Oxfordshire Highways are still repairing the backlog of potholes in the village. Please remember that potholes need to be reported by residents to Oxfordshire Highways and they will be logged and dealt with. This can be done on the website (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) or by phone (0845 3103111).
- The second phase repair work to the war memorial has been completed, with the replacement of the stone copings and re-fixing of the bollards.
- The play park in Meadow End is being continually maintained and upgraded. It was approved as being listed by WODC as an Asset of Community Value.
- A total of 7 planning applications have been dealt with on behalf of the local community. These can be viewed on the website (www.fulbrookvillage.net).
- Extra funding from WODC has allowed for additional landscape works to the highways to be undertaken.

In addition, the Amenities Group has again been very active this year including:

- Raising funds via the Annual Plant Sale
- Organising the village clean-ups
- Arranging the village carol singing event

Plans for 2016/17 include:

- The third phase of refurbishment work to the war memorial, namely the replacement of the damaged stones to the plinth, pointing and general cleaning of the monument.
- Following the award of Listed Building status to the memorial, it will be necessary to apply for Listed Building consent for this work.
- The council is currently seeking estimates of cost for the war memorial project and it is envisaged that work will be undertaken during 2016/17.
- To work closely with the Amenities Group on events for the benefit of the village.

In September 2015, OCC launched its Oxfordshire Together Highway Services Initiative. This is to give communities control over local services that OCC will no longer be able to deliver in the future, or will only deliver to the statutory minimum standard. This is as a result of Government cutbacks to local authority funding.

In February 2016, OCC issued a list of highway services offered to town and parish councils for delivery. These services include:

- Grass cutting
- Weed control
- Vegetating cutback and footway siding
- Serving of Section 154 notifications letters
- Salt bin management
- Drainage notifications
- Grip maintenance (these are 'V' shaped cuts in verges which allow water to drain out of fields, etc)

FPC was subsequently contacted by the Mayor of Burford to see if we would be interested in forming a 'cluster', along with Taynton Parish Meeting, to jointly provide certain highway services

Signed

Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

Date

under a Section 101 Local Agency Agreement with OCC. We have met twice as a group to discuss this proposal; the second meeting was attended by Tim Shickle of OCC to discuss potential shared services in detail. FPC considers the concept of shared services such as grass cutting, vegetation cutback and salt bin management as having potential and discussions are on-going.

With the termination of OCC bus subsidies from 20th July 2016, we are awaiting full details of the outcome for Fulbrook residents. The bus companies are still considering the effect on current services. In addition, we are looking into the possibility of setting up a community transport service if appropriate.

The Precept has been set for the year to 31st March 2017 at £4,300.00. This represents an increase of £100 on the 2015/16 level. The full financial statement will be available at the meeting for discussion and is available on the Website from the end of April.

As mentioned above the Amenities Group, chaired by Maggie Thompson, does great work for the village. The Parish Council would like to thank the members of all their efforts during the past year, The last village clean-up was held on 16th April, with the plant sale to be held on 21st May at Woodgrove House (by kind permission of Sue and Richard Newport). The Amenities Group is also organising a lunch/afternoon event on 12th June as part of the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations. Please ring Maggie (824852) for more information about these future events.

The Editorial Team of the Fulbrook Newsletter deserve a vote of thanks. With the increasing number of groups and activities and with the regular use of the Fulbrook Meeting Place (FMP) they help to keep us up to date. There is a diary of events for the FMP on the notice board and all information is now available on the Website. This has proved to be a valuable resource for improving communication. Do have a look. Any suggestions or comments will be welcome. (www.fulbrookvillage.net).

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to all the Councillors, and to our Clerk, for their hard work and commitment during the past year. We are a small team and everybody has been involved and pulled their weight. After the disappointing turn out last year we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the **Annual Parish Meeting on 9th May**.

Please do come and join your Councillors for drinks at 7pm before the meeting starts formally at 7:30pm.

<p>Fulbrook Meeting Place</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting on</p> <p>Monday 9th May 2016</p> <p>Drinks with FPC Councillors at 7pm</p>
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Gavin Beveridge (Chairman 824352)

Signed

Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

Date

FULBROOK AMENITIES GROUP

2015/2016 REPORT

The continuance of the Amenities Group, Committee Membership has been a little shaky with only 2 Members remaining in the Group towards the end of 2015. This made it increasingly difficult to organise events and was the main reason for not having a Village Social Event in 2015. We did, however, have Carol Singing at Christmas and in February 2016 held our first meeting of the year. To great joy, and some relief, we now have a newly formed group of 6 members who are keen to bring fresh ideas and have lots of enthusiasm.

The Group organises a range of activities for the benefit of the village which includes the Spring and Autumn Clean-ups, the Plant Sale and an Annual Social Event. We could not realize any of these activities if it wasn't for the abundance of help from volunteers, generous donations from local businesses, and, of course, support from the majority of villagers at our Events.

Carol Singing 2015

Just before Christmas we were delighted that so many people took part in the Carol Singing walk. The highlight of which was the Children joining in the singing of Carols whilst enjoying the best of local hospitality offered by Jack and Sandra Swift who made delicious mince pies, sausage rolls and warm drinks for everyone in Meadow End. It was, as always, a real treat! Thank you.

Spring Clean-up -2016

THANK YOU to all those hardy residents who turned out on Saturday 16th April, to help with Keeping Britain Tidy and our Village Spring Clean. It was remarkable that so many people came along that morning in spite of the drizzle, sleet and snow. I imagined most people would want to be tucked up inside. None of it, we had a great turn-out and all the pruning of shrubs, removal of fallen trees, weeding of verges, strimming of hedges and carrying out of innumerable general maintenance tasks took place.

Plant Sale 2015 and 2016

We had one of our most successful Plant Sales in May 2015 where we raised approximately £800 which has contributed towards the refurbishment of the War Memorial. This year the Plant Sale is on 21st May from 10am 'til Noon at Woodgrove House, Fulbrook, by the kind invitation of Sue and Richard Newport. We hope to have a great attendance as we would like to raise even more funds to contribute towards Fulbrook's Celebrations of The Queen's 90th Birthday to be held on 12th June in Bob and Pauline Warner's Field.

The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations 2016

The Queen's Birthday celebrations are, as mentioned, taking place on 12th June and we hope that the majority of the people of Fulbrook will be to join in the party. We are having a Fulbrook family day with music, food, quizzes, games and a best Crown Competition to be followed by afternoon tea served from the grand Cake Tent. Tickets will go on sale this week and will be available from The Carpenter's Arms, Jo Glyde and myself.

Signed

Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

Date

Summary

Contributions from Funds raised during 2015/16 have been made towards a variety of projects and improvements including; the renovations and upkeep of the Fulbrook War Memorial, the Millennium Steps and The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations.

Our Committee Members are:

Frankie Fowkes	Jo Glyde
Gavin Beveridge	Simon Dean
Jamie Long	Margaret Thompson

We welcome all newcomers to the sociable meetings, held about 4 times a year in the Carpenter's Arms Pub, Fulbrook. If you are interested in joining us please contact me Margaret Thompson on 01993-824852.

A web-page containing information about the Group's activities is on Fulbrook Village's website. If there are any photographs on the web-page you would wish to be removed, please contact Jo Glyde, on 01993-823023.

Margaret Thompson
Chair Fulbrook Amenities Group.

BURFORD & DISTRICT SOCIETY

Report for Fulbrook Parish Council annual Parish Meeting May, 2016.

Historically Fulbrook Parish Council have elected a representative from the Parish Council to attend the committee meetings of Burford and District Society. I have enjoyed being your representative for many years. They have supported us with planning issues over the years and have made grants to support several projects in the village.

It is also a social society providing 5 speakers a year most with local interest meeting at the Methodist Church in Burford and a lunch time event is at Bradwell Village. New members are welcome, the subscription is still only £5.

The programme continues with a car outing to Rousham House on 24th May, a tea party in Signet and talks by Debbie Dance, OBE, the Oxford Preservation Trust director, Jeremy Burton, lately a Royal Equerry and Robin Mills. Burford & District Society Chairman is now Peter Radford.

Signed

Chair of Fulbrook Parish Council

Date

The Fulbrook Meeting Place Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 09.05.16

Now in its eleventh year, the Fulbrook Meeting Place continues to house regular events that our residents enjoy: the weekly Keep Fit now run by Pat Ferrett, the monthly Fulbrook Fellowship, Lunch Club, WI and Coffee Morning now run by Gilly Kay and the quarterly Afternoon of Bridge.

Last year we held just three events at the FMP to raise necessary funds for the maintenance of our church. In April, John Harrington was delighted to accepted Michael Bochmann's offer to give us an amazing concert. Deborah Knight organised a Safari Supper in October which was very successful, as was Diana Lethbridge's concert with Nick Hooper and Friends in November. Our thanks go to the organisers who so generously gave their time for the village.

At the end of the year, I put it to Richard Coombs that the Fulbrook Meeting Place Management Committee was running very smoothly, so much so that I didn't think it was necessary to have committee meetings and I am pleased to say Richard agreed. Chrissy Wright has kindly agreed to continue as our Booking Clerk, I will continue to collect monies that come in under the FMP and to raise invoices as necessary, for example the WI, and John and I will be available for any queries that may arise. John will report to the PCC and the Parish Council in the future.

We started 2016 fundraising events at the Fulbrook Meeting Place with David Foster's Quiz and Quiche Night. This was a great evening and raised just over £700. Coming up on 5th June we have the Fulbrook Open Gardens. Many residents have been good enough to open their gardens for the occasion and we hope you will bring all your family and friends. Coffee and cakes, light lunches and teas will be served as usual in the FMP so your support will be much appreciated. We are pleased to say we finish the year off with another great concert, courtesy of Brian Kay.

We still need people to come forward with their own events to run for our church. At the APCM our PCC Treasurer, Tom Douglas, pointed out that the Fulbrook Meeting Place has been key in keeping the church solvent. The church needs around £8-9,000 each year over and above the regular giving in order to cover its costs. So why not come forward to organise your own fundraiser for the church: perhaps a wine tasting, a Fulbrook Feast, a Summer Pig Roast or even a Bingo Night! Come on, give it a go.

Jacky Harrington
09.05.16

FULBROOK PARISH BIODIVERSITY, MAY 2016

I am aware that I have reported to this Meeting for some years now, and have been fortunate enough to be in a position to enjoy planting, do maintenance and to see some growth and change. This will be the last report I write, but I will go on working for as long as I can. There are some very capable people who can follow this mission if they will.

Firstly, I want to thank all those residents and others who have taken this cause to their hearts, and who do as much as they can to share this patch with all the indigenous creatures, even those too small to see. Some promising food plants, such as vetches, and cowslips, are spreading and developing in good mixed habitats, which will help wildlife survive alongside the agricultural monocultures stretching over much of the parish.

Connectivity is stressed yet again, by researchers looking into the sad decline of such as hedgehogs, and we are urged to leave corridors of wildness along which they and most creatures need to travel, on paws, and also on wings.

Secondly, I'd like to thank Groups who are involved in a wider area which includes Fulbrook. The most local is The Wychwood Project, (www.wychwoodproject.org) and their newsheets are both interesting and enticing, giving suggestions for walks, talks, and practical conservation opportunities. They have just secured a grant from the Cotswold Sustainable Development Fund, and are also likely to get help from TOE2 (Trust for Oxfordshire Environment) to include some vergeside restoration. We have here a unique bedrock, and an endangered flora, and by becoming a member and or supporting the Annual Forest Fair on Sunday 4th September at Cornbury, everyone can help, be they old or young and whatever their level of fitness!

Joan Lilly 6.5.16