

MINUTES OF THE RADLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 26th APRIL 2013, AT 7.30 PM IN THE CHURCH ROOM, RADLEY.

Those present: Parish Council Chairman J Standen (in the Chair)
Parish Councillors Crowley, Davies, Henderson, Johnston, Pasquire, J Platts, D Standen, Tomlinson.
Nine electors of the parish and the clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from: W Faulkner (Radley Guides), D Stone (Radley Youth Football Club), J Huddleston (Radley Village Shop), G Collett (Radley Village Hall & Clerk of the Green Cloth), L Askew (Radley Primary School Governors, Parish Councillor P Howard, County Councillor Fatemian and PCSO Adi Wright.

2. MINUTES

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES: There was none.

4. CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT ON THE WORK OF THE PARISH COUNCIL:

"I am delighted to welcome you to this meeting, and look forward to hearing the reports on some of your activities in the village during the year. It has again been a busy year for the Parish Council. This meeting comes at the end of the Council year so it is an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved in the last 12 months. I hope I have picked out the main points of interest from another busy year.

MEETINGS: The current Council is entering its third year. It has met 12 times in the last 12 months, taking the unusual step of having a meeting in August as it had planning applications to discuss. Members of the Finance and Administration Committee met another three more times.

Councillors also attended meetings at the Vale regarding the new Council Tax Reduction Scheme, Neighbourhood Planning and the emerging Local Plan; formal Liaison meetings with the local authorities and Thrupp Lane landowners about the future of the area; Didcot Power Station about Thrupp Lake; the Village Hall Management Committee; and with Mr Anderson, Estates Bursar at Radley College.

POLICE MATTERS:

PCSO Adi Wright has attended meetings when his shifts allow. He has reported on any relevant police matters and taken away concerns raised.

The Council has spent some considerable time over the last few months discussing problem parking on village streets. Much of this was thought to be overflow parking from the station and it was hoped that the problem would be solved by Network Rail's planned car park extension.

It dismayed the Council to discover, once construction had started that funding came from Department for Transport with the condition that Network Rail would generate revenue through parking charges to cover the cost of construction and the future operation, maintenance and repair of the new car park.

The Council has conveyed its concerns to Network Rail and the County Council who ask for 3 months' grace once charges are introduced to appraise the effect on village streets.

PLANNING:

The Council continues to monitor Planning applications which affect the parish and welcomes representations from neighbours and applicants to help with its discussions. 23 planning applications were considered this year, ranging from small porches and dormer windows to major developments at Radley College. This is a very similar number of applications to each of the last 2 years.

The Council has a standing item on every agenda to raise any issues concerning Thrupp Lane and there are two to be on gravel extraction to be aware of at present:

1. In November, the Parish Council supported Oxfordshire County Council's submission to the Secretary of State on its rejection Mr Curtis's Environmental Impact statement on the Renewal of Old Minerals Permission on his land. The Planners are waiting at present to hear whether he will appeal their decision.
2. The Inspector examining the County's minerals strategy has asked them to suspend its minerals plan until the end of May following the county council elections. Cr Fatemian has explained that was so that background data could be reviewed and updated and to give the new County Council the opportunity to look at the plan.

The Council was pleased to hear last month that Earth Trust has at last been given permission, with many conditions, for the proposed Wetland Centre at Thrupp Lake.

The most onerous of those is the requirement to submit plans for enhancing the condition of Thrupp Lane for the extra traffic that Oxfordshire County Council planners say will be generated. This seems particularly unfair as of the 28,000 visits recorded last year, two thirds were on foot or bike and a proportion of those would have come through from Barton Lane.

Another disappointment to report is several thousand pounds worth of damage done to one of the structures, which the Earth Trust will have to fundraise to repair.

HIGHWAYS: The Council continues to be active in reporting road and pavement problems to Oxfordshire Highways. This is a particularly big job this year after such a hard winter.

In Church Road, bus cages have been painted on both sides of the road outside the Church to restrict parking and Highways have altered the pavement in response to complaints about the width.

We are all aware of the serious landslip on the Oxford Road. Councillor Howard and I attended a meeting in Kennington earlier this week to Oxfordshire County Council's assessment of this. They hope to start the anticipated four months of work to strengthen the embankment and repair the road in August this year, but there may be a further delay in respect of British Telecom's fibre optic cable running along the road. If this has to be closed down during the work there would be a six-month delay. As this would bring the start date to October, then work would not begin until April 2014 to avoid winter working, with a projected completion date of August 2014.

CONSERVATION:

John Rogerson continues to do an excellent job collecting litter in the middle of the village.

Parish councillors (along with Maralyn Holloway) spent a misty Sunday morning in October filling a dozen bags of accumulated litter, the odd hub cap and a mattress from the Radley Road and Thrupp Lane.

A new litter bin has been installed in the Children's Play Area and is emptied every two weeks by the Council's contractor.

The Garden Competition is a major event in the Parish Council calendar, needing 20 volunteers including parish councillors to give up a whole day to judge, guide and cater on the judging day. Some of those come back two weeks later to present prizes to as many as 100 winners. The Guides help with delivering leaflets, Radley News gives us extra space and the whole event is funded by donation from local organisations.

Two people gave up their allotments during the year and they were re-let to people on the waiting list. The remainder of the waiting list was asked to restate their interest and the waiting list now stands at 4 people, all resident in the parish.

While the Bowyer Arms was being renovated, the Parish Council had discussions with Greene King about taking on of the patch of land behind the bus stop so that it could be tidied up. It is disappointing but they are not willing at present to let the Parish Council have any jurisdiction by over the land either by purchase or lease so the Council is not permitted to spend public money on it.

The Council's gardening contractor maintains the rose garden by the allotments, the Lower Radley Green, the Play Area and the perimeter of the Playing Field.

The playing field continues to be used by Radley Youth Football Club during the winter months, for the Fete and private functions in the summer and all sorts of casual uses throughout the year. Radley College's ground staff maintain the field and manage to keep it in very good condition even during this difficult year. The Council has agreed to the Football Club extending its season into May this year in order to honour matches delayed by bad weather over the winter. Training sessions in May will be confined to the Thrupp Lane field.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I am grateful to all our councillors for their dedication to our village, and for their varied expertise and advice on specific matters. In particular, I would like to thank Basil Crowley for his detailed work on our budget and on some of the more abstruse pronouncements from our higher councils; to John Platts as our Playing Fields Officer; and to Eric Davies for his attendance at and reporting on the Neighbourhood Action Group which is a liaison committee with the local police.

Finally, the Council has been funding our Clerk, Jane Dymock, to attend the course run by the National Association of Local Government (NALC) towards the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA), which is just short of degree level, and I know she has given a great deal of her own time to this. I and my fellow councillors would like to thank Jane for all her support and guidance of our Council, and not least for trawling through the year's minutes to draft this report. Thank you, Jane."

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND REPORT

Cr Crowley, as Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee reported on this item.

"A copy of the Parish Council summary of payment and receipts for 2012/13 has been circulated to the meeting and an annotated version is attached to this report.

Income:

You will see that at the start of the year, the Council held a balance of £124,995. The precept received was £49,850 and the remainder of the receipts amounted to £8,439. The miscellaneous heading includes part of the Jubilee event budget which was recouped by food and drink sales. Playing Field rent represents two years rental from Radley Youth Football Club, one paid in arrears.

Expenditure:

As you can see, the total expenditure (including VAT) for 2012/13 was 42,880.95, compared with £48,797 for the year before.

The main items of expenditure are:

Administration: This heading includes all running costs including wages, expenses, and insurance. Day to day running costs have remained stable but this item includes legal representations to the Secretary of State on the ROMP.

Donations (including Section 137 payments) are itemised below:

Radley News			250.00		
Open Spaces Society			30.00		
Friends of Radley Lakes			50.00		
Radley Good Neighbours			53.00		
Radley Brownies			Approved, sum to be confirmed		
Abingdon Street Pastors			50.00		
			433.00		
Other donations					
Abingdon and District CAB			1,000.00		
South and Vale Carers Centre			250.00		
			1,250.00		
Total donations			1,683.00		

Playing Field Expenditure: The Parish Council's expenditure under this heading covers the running costs of the sports pavilion and playing field.

Play Area Expenditure: MRH Services undertake a quarterly inspection and PlaySafety (RoSPA) undertake an annual inspection of the equipment and the Play Area and the Parish Council continues to carry out maintenance as needed.

Conservation budget: The main spend this year has been on gardening (grass and hedge cutting around the village) and litter collection
This item also includes the **Garden Competition** and the Council is always grateful for the donations received from local businesses which offset the cost.

General:

Expenditure was lower than anticipated last year for two main reasons:

- The Council had intended to pay part of the cost of resurfacing Footpath 8, but the contractor paid for some repairs at his own cost. The sum that was allowed has been put into earmarked reserves for future repairs.
- An allowance was made for setting up a new allotment site in Lower Radley, but the land which was offered for lease for this purpose proved not to be suitable.

The annual Play Area report recommended some repairs, the most costly of which was sealing the edge of the play surface. This should not be required again in the near future, but the Council expects some wear and tear to the equipment each year.

The Council budgets each year for adding to reserves earmarked for replacing play equipment and for the purchase of land for amenity uses.

Future plans:

We estimate that in 2013/14 we will spend £51,050. This includes the sum of £7,000 for measures to improve the pavilion's energy efficiency and £3,500 for tree planting and pruning.

You will be aware that the Parish share of the Council Tax on a Band D property has increased from £54.69 to £60.07. The Council deliberated for a long time and sought advice before concluding that it should increase the precept from £49,850 to £51,050. There were several reasons for this:

- The tax base (the number of band D equivalent properties) has decreased significantly this year through changes to Council Tax benefits laid down by Central Government.
- The Precept had been unchanged since 2008.
- The Government has been expected for several years to cap precept rises for Parish Councils.

Since setting the budget, the Council has received a grant to offset the decrease in the tax base. This was not budgeted for so it has been agreed that it should be spent on replacing the brick bus shelter at Pebble Hill.

The 2011/12 accounts were approved by the External Auditor in June 2012.

We are submitting the accounts and estimates to the meeting for discussion, and if you have any queries please do say.

6. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS:

Radley Good Neighbours:

Mrs Yvonne Milward reported that the scheme had come into operation in January; it had made a slow start, but had done some befriending. It was publicised in the shop, post office, pub and on noticeboards. Mrs Milward thought that Radley already had lots of good neighbours, but this would plug the gaps.

Radley News: Mrs Ann Blake reported:

“We as the Editors as the Radley News would like to thank the Parish Council for their grants and sponsorship has enabled the News to add a touch of colour on the front cover from time to time and as you will see, May's edition has a colour centre spread as well.

We struggle sometimes to get numbers right each month so as not to have any wastage but at the same time so not want anyone to be deprived of the opportunity of seeing the village magazine. We have increased the amount of advertising a little in spite of having to put up the costs. However, I think we are quite competitive with regard to advertising. The feedback from various people has shown that colour is popular and with this in mind, the number of pages increasing this month (the last two have been 44 pages) and the rising cost of printing, we will be increasing the price of Radley News for 2014, regrettably.”

Retirement Group: Mrs Carol Milward reported on the group's activities during the year. As well as the regular monthly meetings, there is at least one outing every month; this year including to the greyhounds in Oxford and down the Avon by boat where members were able to see the preparations for the Olympic torch and acrobatics over the river. Members visited Lacock Abbey and Sudeley Castle. The group has... members and about 60-70 attend each meeting.

Radley Village Hall Management Committee: Graham Collett (Chairman) was not able to be at the meeting but sent a written report:

“We as a committee continue to raise funds to keep the hall shipshape. At the moment we are getting quotes to replace the tiling on the annexe floor as the existing ones are brittle and breaking up. The main drains were cleaned out to rectify an ongoing problem with the sinks blocking.

One source of income for us is the fortnightly bingo on a Wednesday evening, but numbers have fallen recently so we would encourage any new faces to come along and have a game.

The hall is reasonably well used with many children's parties plus regular users.

We think the hall is looking the best it has for a long time and will endeavour to carry on the good work to provide a pleasant venue for all occasions. “

Clerk of the Green Cloth (Graham Collett):

My 3 year term as clerk will soon be coming to an end; the time has just flown by. It was an honour for me to be elected to this post and one that I have enjoyed. Besides my duties on Palm Sunday, the fete opening, The Good Friday Walk, Christmas Bazaar and so on, I have been raising funds for the Alzheimers Society, the Youth Club, Brownies and Guides, and have donated the Good Friday Walk proceeds to the Wednesday Lunch Club.

I will continue fundraising until the election in June and would like to thank all those that have helped me during my 3 year reign.

Radley Youth Football Club: Written report sent by David Stone:

“The Football club this season is currently running with 7 boys and 2 men's teams this season.

At the beginning of this season we had to increase our fees from £85 to £110.00 per player as our costs were due to increase dramatically through us losing two boy's teams and knowing we were had to fund further rent increases on the Gooseace pitch and pavilion.

We also had to fund more equipment and the costs of many items and expenses have generally had to increase over the last 12 months.

We managed recently to agree a fixed fee of £2000 for the Gooseacre pitch and Pavilion to Radley Parish Council for this season and would like to thank you for accepting our offer.

We mainly use the Gooseacre pitch for only three teams with other 6 teams playing on the Thrupp Lane pitches.

This winter we have been hit hard by bad weather and we had many games cancelled between December and March, we are currently playing these postponed games and we plan to have all games finished before the end of May.

We are currently organising our main fund raising event in our own six a side tournament that will be held over the weekends

8th/9th June and 15th /16th June

This tournament brings us some much needed revenue to help towards our running costs.

This year I have been dealing with the Parish council trying to improve all communications between the football club and Parish.”

Radley Lunch Club: Report from Dot Hewlett:

“Radley Lunch Club is still proving successful, meeting every month in the Church Room. It is run by volunteers providing a cooked lunch for people who might otherwise be on their own and would welcome an opportunity to have a social meal.

Our numbers are still 24 having lost some because of the age of members but we have also gained some and would welcome more, but it is restricted to people who live in Radley.

We still get our meals from Long Furlong School. We would like to use Radley Primary School but at the moment they have not got enough kitchen staff for them to be able to provide it for us.

In August because of school holidays we are very grateful to Sandra Kramer and her helpers who cater for that meeting.

We have a stall at Radley Bazaar to help our funds and we were very pleased to receive a donation from the money raised at the Radley Walk this year.

Friends of Radley Station: Mr Denis Standen reported that the Friends were a small team from Abingdon and Radley who try to keep the station spick and span. Litter and graffiti are removed immediately. They were fortunate to receive donations of flowers and these garner favourable comments from passers-by and passengers. More members from the village would be welcomed.

Mr Tony Garrard remarked that the responsibility for the car park had been handed over to First Great Western who would introduce charged, but these had not yet been implemented.

Radley Village Shop: Mrs Kayla Tomlinson read out a report from Mrs Joyce Huddleston who could not be present:

“Radley Village Shop – report to Annual Parish Meeting 26 April 2013

The past year at Radley Village Shop has seen slightly reduced profits but, given the economic climate, the management committee views this as a good result. Turnover increased to just over £250,000 in 2012 but purchases and overheads also increased – the former due to higher prices and the latter primarily to higher bank charges and greater expenditure on repairs and maintenance.

A major highlight of the past year was the distribution in September by the management committee of a total of £975 from the shop's 2011 profits in grants to village projects with a social or charitable purpose. Those organisations that benefitted were:

- 1st Radley Brownies
- 1st Radley Guides
- Earth Trust
- Friends of Radley Lakes
- Radley Flower Show
- Radley Good Neighbours Scheme
- Radley News
- Radley Youth Club
- St James the Great Church

This was the first time that the shop has given grants to the community since it opened in 2007. The management committee is very pleased to again be recommending to members at the AGM of Radley Village Shop Association next month that a total of £1000 be awarded from the 2012 profits.

In August 2012 Radley Village Shop was honoured to be one of three organisations shortlisted for the Oxfordshire Charity & Volunteer Awards 2012 for the Best Community Project Award. The other two shortlisted were Oxfordshire Playbus and Reading Quest. Oxfordshire Playbus was declared the worthy winner at a special event at Oxford Town Hall on 23 October 2012.

At Christmas we said especial thanks to Sue Ward for all her hard work for three years in the key role of rota manager. Barbara Ellis has taken over the demanding but vital task of making sure the shop stays open with two people present to serve customers and deal with deliveries.

Spring 2013 saw an increase in our display area with the fitting of additional shelves to increase the height of the central unit. This has not only allowed us to show off products better but to stock more lines, with a significant increase in our range of cakes and stationery.

As ever the shop's success depends not only on its customers from the village and surrounding area but also on our shop manager and dedicated team of volunteers.

Radley Village Shop celebrates its sixth birthday in May. We look forward to many more years serving the Radley community."

Radley Primary School: A written report was received from Lisa Agnew, Chair of the Governing Body:

"The school continues to go from strength to strength under our Head Mrs Rachel Fleming. We have received an interim report from Ofsted stating that the school's performance has been sustained and that it will defer its next full inspection till the summer term of 2014. (See the report here: http://www.radley-pri.oxon.sch.uk/_files/Reports/radley_primary_interim_assessment_2013.pdf). Popularity amongst parents in the community continues; we were, once again, oversubscribed for entry at year 1 and to the Foundation Stage Unit. There are currently 127 pupils on roll, 97 from reception to year 6.

Key results

- Key Stage 2 results were outstanding, with 93% L4+ in English and Maths and 100% L4+ in Science. (L4 = the expected level for all year 6 pupils.)
- Overall, the school in the top 20% of schools nationally.
- Key Stage 1 results were very good overall, and were above national attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths.

We continued to develop the extra-curricular opportunities (through afterschool clubs and other events) for the children, of whom 78% take part: Science Club, Book Club, Football, French, Latin, Netball, Choir, Sewing, Cherobics, Tag Rugby, Story Theatre, Gardening, and Cookery. Sport flourished with participation in Cross country, Football, Netball, Hockey and Athletics. Some of our children participated in the Abingdon Passion play over Easter, and we ran a very successful and enjoyable Bringing Books to Life dance workshop for all pupils.

We also introduce Forest Schools, an enormously popular programme for children. We continue to offer swimming lessons in Radley College to all classes from year 2 upwards, on a rolling basis.

School plays in 2012/2013 have included the Nativity play, 'Peace Child' (Isis Class) and 'Bugsy Malone' (Thames class).

Friends of Radley School continues to thrive, raising over £4000 in the past 12 months, through various events open to the community, and continues to use these funds to enhance the outdoor facilities.

Please see the school website for more information and for photos of our various activities - <http://www.radley-pri.oxon.sch.uk>.

Radley Guides: Report from Wendy Faulkner: 1st Radley Guides Guider

“What a year!! 2012-2013 was certainly one to remember for Radley Guides. This time last year we talked about our forthcoming Switzerland trip – this year we are reporting what a great time we had and also a new Guiding qualification for the Guide leader which we hope will lead to further trips abroad for the Guide unit. Switzerland had to be the highlight of our year – a full report of our trip has also been sent- but a very short account of the trip now follows..... Extremely long journey but reached our idyllic chalet in the mountains after 18 hours on the road. Activities during the week included zip wires, a rope bridge across a very deep river, visit to a cheese farm, swimming in an outdoor pool, visit to Our Chalet [one of the four Girlguiding World Centres and the main purpose of our trip], tobogganing, and trips to waterfalls and wood carvers all filled an action packed week. The highlight of the whole trip was a visit to Jungfrau Mountain Railway – the highest mountain station in Europe. How absolutely amazing it was – a group of Girl Guides playing in the snow in beautiful sunshine with ice glaciers in every direction we look. All who went on the Switzerland trip will tell you what an excellent time they had.

It was certainly worth all the hard work fundraising for the trip and several weeks after our return was made even more special when I was presented with my travelling abroad module qualification thus allowing me to organise further trips abroad for the unit.

During summer term 2012 the weather played a major part in our activities. Ten girls from the unit enjoyed an activity day at Girlguiding Oxfordshire's H/Q at Stanton St John where they enjoyed challenges all centered around a diamond theme as it was to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. They completed outdoor cooking challenges, crafts, orienteering, pioneering, and an assault course. The sun shone and many new friendships were made. True Guiding spirit!! We enjoyed outdoor cooking at Youlbury, crazy sports competitions on the field, and orienteering at Cutteslowe Park. The girls really enjoyed the summer weather when we could get it – unfortunately our final meeting of the summer term had to be cancelled – we had arranged to be punting but the rivers were flooded and unsafe for us to continue – disappointment for everyone. The new term in September started with a few new faces at unit meetings. With so many girls needing to be introduced to the traditions of Girlguiding we thought what a good opportunity it would be for all Guides to complete the Traditions of Guiding badge. Even those girls who had been with us for a couple of years probably didn't understand some of the traditional parts of Guiding – we taught them how to march into a horseshoe, lay a table for dinner, light a match, fold napkins, do simple knots, and sing simple graces. The majority of the unit were awarded the Traditions of Guiding Interest badge some even managed to complete enough clauses to gain two badges. Other meetings during the autumn term included an Italian International evening where the girls made pizzas and were challenged to build the Leaning Tower of Pisa from spaghetti and marshmallows, a Hanukah night, Christmas Crafts, delivery of the church Christmas cards and our termly Go for Its when the girls choose their own activities. Hobbycraft Oxford invited us during half term to enter a Pudsey Bear competition for Children in need but unfortunately we did not come amongst the winners [it depended on how many votes you received not how good your entry was and many people said ours was one of the best]. We also attended the Remembrance Day parade in Abingdon with other members of Abingdon Division Guides. Our fundraising initiatives continued with the Scout and Guide Christmas Post and supporting Abingdon Lions Christmas float – both events very important for our fundraising for the year – it is hoped that these two events each year cover our census bill to Girlguiding UK which adds up to at least £600. The highlight of the autumn term was a visit to Oxford Castle when we enrolled an amazing eleven girls into the unit. Any enrolment is special but this was even more special having so many girls officially enjoy the movement all at the same time in such an amazing location. Our final meeting before Christmas was a trip to the New Theatre Oxford to see Starlight Express.

After such an exciting previous term we thought, as leaders, the New Year should bring a more serious tone. Our assistant Guider, Karen, a qualified anaesthetist, spent three weeks teaching the girls First Aid. Some time later we are pleased to say that the majority of Radley Guides now hold the first aid badge. We continued our 'emergency services theme' for the term with a visit to Abingdon Police Station. Other events this past very busy term include two visits to LUSH in Oxford, a visit to the Scout and Guide Gang Show which this year was held at Radley College, a circus skills workshop during half term, a Fair-trade evening, a Ready Steady Cookies evening and several different Easter crafts.

All in all an extremely busy year as you can see.

As I write this report we have twenty two Guides and only two leaders. Both leaders have jobs which involve evening and weekend working and we are finding it increasingly difficult at the moment to cover every single weekly meeting/event we would like to. We are continually asking for help from the District Commissioner, who herself has a young son, to attend weekly meetings. One more leader would make running the unit so much more efficient but to date no one has come forward. Anyone interested does

not need to commit to being in uniform but just needs to be available every Thursday night for 1.5 hours.

After such a positive report I now must say that the unit has taken the decision that within the next six months we will be disposing of all the unit outdoor cooking/camping equipment that we own due to lack of space to store it. This is a very sad decision because it means we will not be able to go camping as Guides any more as a unit and will have to rely on doing indoor residential events. At present our equipment is spread between five different locations – the present Guide leaders garage, loft space and the ‘Guide shed in her garden’, her parents garage and car port, assistant Guide leaders garage, shed and loft space, previous Guide leaders shed and garden and also the Guide Division store. Wendy herself has ten tents, three porta loos, loads of spare sleeping bags, numerous billy cans, lots of cooking utensils, and hoards of other camping equipment that all belongs to the Guide unit in her loft space [as well as other Guide resources] which she is no longer willing to store so as a result we have decided just to concentrate on indoor residential events. If anyone in the village could supply us with a garage to store such items then we would be interested in renting it at a reasonable cost and move all our camping equipment into one place.

I will finish this report by thanking the Parish Council yet again for their very kind grant towards our Switzerland trip for which we were extremely grateful. “

History Club: Mrs Christine Wootton made a report on the Club’s activities:

Radley History Club continues to attract a membership of about 80 people. We have had some excellent speakers at our meetings, which are held in the village school’s hall, and fairly detailed reports of these can be found on the club’s website with a simpler report in Radley News.

The website has proved to be very popular and because of it we have been able to answer enquiries about Radley’s history for people all over the world. It has also been one of the ways of selling our publications, which have sold steadily throughout the year. The village shop is another good outlet and they are also sold at November’s village bazaar and the June fete. We will have a stall at the Abingdon Air Show on May 5th.

Following the success of the exhibition and book about Radley farms and families, the sub-committee of the club has embarked on another project, which is about the railway in Radley and the people who used it and worked on it. The book to go with the latest project will be launched on the weekend of November 2/3 this year when we will be holding an exhibition in the village hall. Abingdon Model Railway Club will be showing their layout of Abingdon Station and there will be displays by the club. The WI will be doing the refreshments.

During the course of the year project sub-committee members have continued to record local people in the ‘Tale to tell’ series. We are gradually building up a good collection of CDs, which feature some extremely interesting tales.

We try to make people feel welcome at our meetings and hope they will continue to enjoy them for many more years. The programme for next year is already planned and looks to be very interesting. “

Café Radley: Ann Blake and Carol Milward reported that four teams take it in turn to run the café every Friday from 10am to 12pm. Fifteen to twenty people come every week and £15 to £20 raised. When the money builds up, it is donated to various charities including Radley News, the swimming club and Teddies to Africa.

The ladies in the team bake all the cakes, with cheese scones and bread and butter pudding being the most popular.

Radley Village website: Dr Basil Crowley reported

There had not been much development in the last year and the Huddlestons had not been replaced yet and only he and Lynda Pasquire were able to input information at present. Moves were afoot to engage someone to bring the site up to date and the council was engaged in writing a brief and setting a budget.

Police Matters: Cr Standen read the annual report from the area superintendent.

7. ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

- i. A member of Friends of Radley Station reported that the County and Vale disability groups, of which he was also a member had recently carried out an audit of access for disabled people at Oxfordshire Stations and were anxious to push for improved access from the southbound platform.

He asked the Parish Council to consider its stance on improving access and it was agreed that this would be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting.

- ii. Councillor Bob Johnston stated that had been asked by some of the older residents of the village to draw to the Council's attention the condition of the seats in the Spinneys Close garden.
- iii. In answer to a question from the floor, the Chairman reported that the allotment waiting list stood at four.
- iv. The meeting was asked whether people were troubled by bird scarers and some discussion ensued. Those present generally thought that they were necessary and that some of those heard were over the other side of the river.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm. The Parish Council Chairman thanked everyone for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

Date:

Chairman