

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 13TH MAY, 2009

Since our annual parish meeting here in Turville last May we have had five parish council meetings – three at Northend and two in Turville.

The council has commented on about 13 planning applications during the year, fewer than in past years. The recession seems to be biting even in the relatively prosperous Chilterns. Only one of the applications is giving any cause for concern - not because of the work needed at the Old Bakehouse in Turville but because it has yet to be carried out.

Thank you to Garrick Steventon for his continued attention to liaising with film companies wishing to use Turville as a set, though there has been less interest of late, perhaps because of the plastic-swathed Old Bakehouse.

As mentioned in my report last year, the public lane to Turville Court is once again the subject of an application to the parish council to agree to it being taken over by the new owner. However the parish council continues to have grave reservations about this unnecessary change to the footpath and bridleway network in the Chilterns AONB.

This time last year I reported that work was about to start on Drovers Lane to address the severe flooding and potholes at a low point towards the southern end. Work was carried out during the summer to raise the road at this point and adjust the drainage and this, with some resurfacing, has more or less solved the problem. Ian Sharp, Bucks County Council area technician, has been very helpful and came and spoke to the council at our meeting last November. Anyone with concerns about potholes or other road hazards should continue to contact Highways On Call on 0845 230 2882.

James McConville is continuing to do valuable work with Neighbourhood Watch and is now working on a project, with the backing of the parish council, to have defibrillators available throughout the parish. Dick Tracey of the South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust has given two presentations about defibrillators and community responders at the village hall, on 7th February, despite very heavy snowfall, and again on the 25th April. Roger Emmett, our district councillor, has authorised a contribution of £200 from his budget towards the purchase of these machines.

The neighbourhood action group for the Hambleton Valley parishes meets every six or so weeks. This group addresses concerns about speeding, burglary and theft, and other matters relating to policing in the valley. Anyone who is interested in being involved in these meetings should contact WPC Claire Marchant, or the parish clerk. Jon Bateman, who was our first Hambleton Valley PCSO, has now moved to the Metropolitan Police and a new PCSO has been appointed and is undergoing training and expected to be in post soon. All contact with the police can be made through the Thames Valley Police number 0845 8 505 505.

An important part of the village scene, the red telephone box at Northend, has been purchased from BT at a cost of £1. Now we need some ideas about its best use. Of course it no longer contains a telephone.

The Turville Times, the parish council's newsletter, at last arrived on the scene in February this year thanks to the hard work of editors David Cairns and Lauren Fois, and will be a valuable source of information and news about what's going on in the parish, delivered every two months to every household.

David Cairns also carries out the parish council's internal audit, and we extend our grateful thanks to him for that valuable service.

After twelve years in post, Michael Wicks has decided to retire as parish clerk, and the parish councillors and parishioners owe him a huge debt of gratitude for all his hard work. His final duty is to present the finance report tonight, but I am sure that his interest in the work of the parish council will continue.

We extend a warm welcome to our new parish clerk, Deirdre Hansen, who comes to us highly recommended and with the bonus that she also clerks for neighbouring Ibstone and for Bradenham, and is very up to date with all parish council procedures.

Thanks to everyone for coming to our meetings and taking a continuing interest in the parish.

Valmai Pickett – 13.05.09