



Tetsworth Parish Annual Meeting

Record of the Annual Meeting of Tetsworth Parish held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th April 2022 in Tetsworth Memorial Hall

Present

Parish Councillors: Paul Carr – Chairman
Seb Mossop
Kim Bhagat
Sue Rufus
Chris Thompson
Sean Whitehead

Meeting Clerk: John Gilbert

In Attendance: Cllr Kate Gregory (OCC)

Members of the public: 12, including representatives of village organisations

1. Welcome – Paul Carr

The Chairman welcomed all attending this first opportunity since 2019 to hold the Annual Meeting of the Parish as a live event. Covid pandemic restrictions over the past two years had resulted in the simple compilation of written reports submitted by representatives of village organisations which were then published as an Annual Parish Newsletter.

He explained that the Annual Meeting of the Parish was not like formal meetings of Tetsworth Parish Council, and was an opportunity for all registered electors to hear about and question community activities within the village. The Parish Council was required to convene, chair and make a record of the meeting.

2. Tetsworth Parish Council – Paul Carr

Tetsworth Parish Council had seen a major turnover of Councillors since the last Council elections and all current Councillors were present at the meeting. The Chairman also paid tribute to Ali Dewson, Helen Johns, Kirstie Andrews and Karen Bennett who had each served on the Council during this period. He was also grateful to Karen Harris, the previous Chairman of the Council, who had continued to lead the Travellers' Site Planning Appeal through to its dismissal in January 2020.

The Council had been without an employed Parish Clerk since Helen Croxford's resignation in May last year, and John Gilbert had taken on the voluntary role of Minutes Clerk since then. However, replacement candidates had very recently been interviewed on 4th April for appointment to the full role.

An overview of Council responsibilities and the arrangements for management of green spaces included:

- Council contract for grass-cutting of council-owned land and weed clearance of cobbled paths.
- Responsibility for village allotments, some trees on public spaces, and maintenance of the War Memorial.

- Being part of complex management arrangements of Village Green, with a private registered landowner, a separate Village Green Management Committee, and maintenance and use handled by Tetsworth Sports and Social Club through the Parish Council.
- Ownership of Tetsworth Common designated as Open Access land, but with grazing rights owned by local farmer. Permitted access is on the signed bridleway only.

An overview of Council activities covered the following topics:

- Weekly checks, independent annual inspections and repair of the Patch and skate-ramp equipment.
- Weekly inspections of the defibrillator mounted on the Memorial Hall wall.
- Provisional arrangement of a First Aid Course for village residents.
- Installation of additional dog waste bins, and making several waste collection contractor changes due to poor service.
- Upgrade of the Council website, www.tetsworthparishcouncil.co.uk, in 2021 to achieve required standards of accessibility.

The Council had made the following grants from its Section 137 funding allocation:

- 2019/20 – Citizens Advice, Royal British Legion.
- 2020/21 – Santa Parade, Childrens’ Air Ambulance, Royal British Legion, Heartbeat Trust, CleanSlate.
- 2021/22 – CleanSlate, Aspire, RBL, PDA Oxfordshire, Citizens Advice, Village Platinum Jubilee Event.

It had also made a grant of £100 in 2021/22 towards the village enhancement project to plant thousands of daffodil bulbs in village verges.

The Council also has responsibility for allocating its share of Community Infrastructure Levy charged on new housing. To date, it has supported the following projects with some co-funding:

- 2019/20 - £2000 for Memorial Hall insulation, VAS/School signs with 25% grant from OCC.
- 2020/21 - Bus shelter refurbishment, Bench replacement x3 on Village Green, and new Noticeboard covered by SODC grant.
- 2021/22 - £5000 for memorial Hall heating, £5000 earmarked for Tetsworth primary School trim-trail.

Ongoing CIL projects include:

- Wicket gates at A40 entries to village, a pedestrian crossing across A40 between Memorial Hall and Patch, another 2 benches in public areas, and possibly a more durable surface for the Patch

3. Tetsworth Sports and Social Club (TSSC) – Anthony Bottone

Like the rest of the hospitality sector, TSSC has faced some financial challenges over the last few years. Luckily, it received a grant of £8000 in July 2021 which has enabled it to stay afloat.

It has hosted several celebrations and community meetings over the year and it was lovely to have Father Christmas come to visit after a break of two years.

The end of cricket season celebration was especially joyful as both teams won their respective leagues. The football teams were also successful and both finished fifth in their leagues.

As well as its regular grass cutting on the Village Green, TSSC has had the hedges trimmed back and will soon be clearing the ditches. The posts to prevent parking on the green are in the process of being replaced.

The high winds earlier this year unfortunately caused some damage to equipment belonging to the club and a neighbour’s fence. To pay for repairs, TSSC considered submitting a claim to its insurance company but decided that it would not be cost effective to do so. The power cut caused by recent high winds made TSSC realise that a standby generator should be acquired as the club building is a nominated community hub in the village’s emergency response arrangements. It is reviewing the options available.

To increase the range of sports that our community can access, TSSC IS in the process of installing tennis nets on the Village Green. If it is financially viable, it is hoping to purchase a shed this year to store football equipment and a cricket roller

TSSC membership currently stands at 176.

4. Tetsworth Memorial Hall – Caroline Cann

We are very gradually returning to a near-normal hiring position. We still have some restrictions to comply with but are welcoming hirers back. Some groups have not been able to return, such as the weekly coffee shop and the monthly parent and toddler group, both due to changes of circumstances of the organising volunteers. We hope that some new volunteers will come forward to help us restart these most valuable groups.

During lockdown we held 2 take-away coffee and cake sales, initially as part of the national 100 challenge where we set ourselves a target of selling 100 slices of cake. We gave up counting at 250 slices sold on the first day; it was so wonderful to see so many villagers coming to support us.

After many years of fundraising, we have managed to reinstate the doors from the hall into the back garden and installed a music system with hearing loop attached. We are still fundraising and applying for grants to install air source heat-pump heating to replace the 1980s heating which is due to be installed at the end of May. 50% of the cost of the system has been given by SODC and £5,000 has been granted by Tetsworth Parish Council. A big thank you to them both. We still need to raise another £11,000 to pay for the system but we have to go ahead with its installation as one of the grants is time sensitive and we may have to take a loan to cover the final funding needed.

We have recently been able to run 2 successful fundraising events: a jumble sale and a ukulele night. The profits from these events are going towards the new heating cost shortfall.

Our thanks to all who have helped us through lockdown and are continuing to support us. We are currently looking for help as trustees, committee members and volunteers. If you would be able to help, please do get in touch.

We hope that you will all return to using the hall again as you always did.

5. Tetsworth Primary School – Alison Charlton

As in previous years, we are oversubscribed but continue to work hard to accommodate new families as they move into the village. We currently have 74 children on roll consisting of 65 Reception to Year 6 pupils and 9 part-time Nursery pupils. We have 3 Classes, each with mixed aged year groups.

Since 2009, the school has been part of a hard federation with John Hampden Primary School in Thame with a combined roll of 460+. The federation has a single governing body and the Headteacher at John Hampden Primary School is also the federation Executive Headteacher; he has been in post since 2016. The present head of teaching and learning at Tetsworth will be retiring at the end of this Academic Year in July 2022 after 13 years at the school. She will be replaced by Mrs Anna Bowden who is currently Deputy Head at Long Crendon Primary in Buckinghamshire.

Since Covid restrictions eased, we have been able go to a more normal school life and have been pleased to be able to return to hold whole school assemblies, allow the children to mix at break times, and be able to take advantage of village facilities – St Giles Church, the Memorial Hall and the Sports and Social Club. One of the strengths of our school is that our older pupils have always been good role models for the younger ones, and have nurtured and looked after them both inside and outside of school. The end of ‘bubbles’ and restricted mixing of staff and pupils has been welcomed by all. However, we have continued to ensure that strict infection controls, such as enhanced cleaning, adequate ventilation and good hand hygiene have remained in place.

These measures have helped to minimise the impact of Covid-19 and, while we have still had staff and pupil absences, we have managed to avoid any class or whole school closures.

A highlight of the Academic Year was celebration of the 140th Anniversary of the school being on the present site. A number of former pupils came in to talk to the children about their time at Tetsworth Primary School and what they had gone on to achieve. The message was certainly 'Small School, Big Ideas!'.

Despite being one of the smallest schools in the county, our Sports Co-ordinator continues to make sure that we are represented at county as well as local events. This often requires mixed age teams, so our younger pupils can be seen playing against much older pupils from other schools. We perform well in these competitions and recently won the Year 5/6 Small Schools County Football Tournament. As a result, we went on to play the rest of the country in Bristol.

We take every opportunity to become involved in county initiatives and, on Comic Relief Day, took part in the Oxfordshire Schools attempt to enter the Guinness Book of Records for having the largest number of people playing musical bumps at the same time. I am pleased to say that the record was well and truly broken.

As a school, we are committed to training new teachers and we are pleased to have on our team this year a trainee teacher who was previously a member of our support staff now, on a temporary contract, an Early Careers Teacher in her first year of teaching.

Our Tetsworth Primary School Association continues to work hard with fundraising events and took full advantage of the lifting of Covid restrictions to organise a Valentine's Disco that was attended by not only the majority of the pupils in the school but by past members as well.

As many of you will be aware, obligations on the developers of new housing in Blackthorn Rise included funding and land intended for expansion of the school's capacity. Our ambition is to build a school hall on the piece of land adjacent to Judds Lane that has been earmarked for Tetsworth Primary School. A hall would really enhance our curriculum offer for the children as well as enabling us to use our present hall as a classroom and thereby increasing our capacity for more pupils. The current status of this project is:

- The earmarked land currently remains in the hands of the developers. They will need to complete the agreed works before they transfer ownership to Oxfordshire County Council, our Local Authority. If all is in order, the Local Authority will then transfer the land to the school.
- A sum of money available to the school as part of the developer's obligations is held by the Local Authority. However, the project will require significantly more than this amount. Therefore, once a Feasibility Study report has been issued, the school, with the support of the Local Authority, will investigate the funding opportunities that are available.
- The Local Authority has begun work on the Feasibility Study and will report back to our Governing Body once this has been completed.
- In terms of planning, the Local Authority will work with us to ensure the building proposed is of a good quality and is fit for purpose.

As a school, we feel privileged to be part of such a welcoming and thriving community and look forward to our continued involvement in local events such as the planned Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

6. St Giles Church – Carolyn Carr (for Tetsworth PCC)

St Giles church is part of a benefice of six villages, with Adwell, Lewknor, South Weston, Stoke Talmage and Wheatfield, all of which are the responsibility of the Team Vicar, the Revd Peter Waterson. The congregation at St Giles church remains small but continues to flourish. We have a regular pattern of services at 10.30 throughout the year, with only few exceptions. Revd Waterson officiates at communion services on the first and fourth Sundays of the month and at special services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance. We have a Morning Worship service on the second Sunday of the month, led by Jeneva Paul, and a more informal

service on the third Sunday led by members of the congregation. When there are five Sundays in the month, we do not have a service and can attend a service in one of the other churches in the benefice. In addition, St Giles church hosts a number of marriages, baptisms and funeral services together with services, assemblies and special facilities for Tetsworth Primary School.

The average attendance at our services is still low (generally around 10-12) but the sense of community is strong. Although we were not able to gather at church at times over the past two years, we continued to hold services via Zoom. That did mean we couldn't share in coffee and cake at the end of each service which, in normal times, is an important part of our time together each Sunday, except during Lent.

Financially, the contributions from the Friends of St Giles continue to cover the cost of insurance, with a small surplus to pay for minor repairs, and the weekly collection pays the parish share and other bills for the day-to-day running costs.

In conclusion, the congregation of the church is strong and supportive and we welcome any who wish to join us on a Sunday.

7. Senior Citizens' Christmas Party – Paul Silver

The Tetsworth Senior Citizens Christmas Party's activities have been limited since the start of the pandemic. Our last Christmas event took place in December 2019 at the Village Hall. The restrictions in 2020 meant that the event could not take place, so we delivered Christmas cards and chocolates to those on the invitation list (and did the same again in December 2021). In September 2021, we held an afternoon tea at (and supported by) The Swan. Our reasoning was that a December event might not have been wise if restrictions were to tighten, and that the room temperature would be unacceptable if windows needed to be kept open for ventilation. We kindly received donations from the Santa Parade, from Lynn Redman, and support from The Swan - thank you to all for your support.

For 2022, our plans are currently undecided. We may consider an event away from the winter months, or nearer Christmas, depending on how the year unfolds. Also, the style of the event will depend on our fundraising capacity, which is currently reduced.

8. Cozens Bequest – Carolyn Carr

The Cozen's Bequest was founded in 1923 to provide pensions to poor widows and spinsters of good character professing the Protestant religion and living in Tetsworth or adjacent parishes, which comprise Thame, Great Haseley, Stoke Talmage, Wheatfield, Adwell, Lewknor and Aston Rowant. In 1991, the scope of the Charity was extended to relieving, either generally or individually, persons resident in the area of benefit who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons.

The Trustees of the Charity are Carolyn Carr as Chair, Steve Lingard as Treasurer, The Revd Peter Waterson, Sue Rufus and Martin Paul. In past years, we have provided funds to support school trips, for the Forest School, for the provision of the defibrillator on the Village Hall, and for individuals in need. Requests for funds should be made to any of the trustees.

9. Tetsworth Outdoor Learning Centre - Heather Ashton

During the long periods of Covid restrictions, the Forest School was not able to operate on an organised basis. As a result, income has taken a hit, and the facility has become less well known, particularly to new families coming to live in the village. However, we are always looking to attract new users and helpers, and plan to start sessions again soon after Easter.

The site has been subject to littering and minor acts of antisocial behaviour, but we have managed to keep the place safe and tidy for children to use. We have every expectation of completing the installation of a composting

toilet this year and are in negotiation with the Parish Council and a local tree surgeon on management of the tree line on the site.

10. Tetsworth Trust – Martin Paul

The Tetsworth Trust was set up as a charity to provide funds for local services and has been best recognised for its provision of Christmas hampers to pensioners of the village. However, this ceased in 2018 due largely to food safety concerns. Although it continues to receive donations from Individuals, its main source of income has come from organised Bingo sessions. These started as long ago as 1966 in Tetsworth, but transferred to Little Milton village hall in 1981. The driving force behind these events, and donation of income, was David Spiller who sadly passed away recently. Bingo sessions have been suspended since the arrival of Covid and, without the commitment of David and facing ever-rising costs, it is doubtful whether the Bingo sessions will start again.

The Trust currently believes that it should be able to continue with its charitable aims without the Bingo income.

11. Thames Valley Police (Statement by Paul Carr)

Tetsworth's designated PCSO was unable to attend the meeting, and the local representatives of Thames Valley Police had not submitted a report to the meeting.

The village had experienced a recent rise in reportable illegal activity. In particular, a resident had suffered the theft of a commercial vehicle and others had reported thefts of catalytic converters from their cars. There had also been occurrences of antisocial behaviour and graffiti appearing on public facilities.

While the Tetsworth Community Facebook account was a useful forum for sharing information on suspicious activity, the Chairman of the Parish Council urged residents to report any illegal activity by phoning 101 or, if the circumstances warranted it, to call 999.

12. Tetsworth Platinum Jubilee Committee – Lucrezia Green

The Jubilee committee is planning to hold two events. Saturday will be a family sports day aimed at fundraising. The idea is that villagers will make a small donation for each sport they participate in. As there will not be a Village Fete this year, the beneficiaries of funds raised will be those Tetsworth organisations and facilities which usually receive grants from the Fete profits.

On the Sunday, we are organising the Big Jubilee Lunch on the Village Green. It will take the form of a bring-your-own picnic, but we will have a BBQ from Lambs Catering and a Cocktails/Pimms Bar. The TSSC bar and the Red Lion will, of course, also be open. As entertainment, we have a lady singer from Swan gardens who will be doing two half-hour sets. For children, we are planning to have a crown-making table and a hunt around the village to find seven platinum swans. There will be plenty more, and we want all new and old residents to join in the fun.

The Parish Council has granted us £2,000 towards our costs, and we are also planning a series of events leading up to the Jubilee weekend. We have a fundraising Disco in the Village Hall on 9 April, and launched a children's competition to design a Jubilee Celebration poster. Entries are to be handed in to the Red Lion and winners will be judged by Jacqui. In May, we are planning a Royal Scarecrow competition, and our judge for this will be Paul Carr.

We will also be asking villagers to help make some decorations and add to our already wonderful collection of bunting.

13. Village Plans – John Gilbert

Tetsworth has 2 village plans: a Community-Led Plan, and a Neighbourhood Development Plan.

At the beginning of 2015, your Parish Council published the Tetsworth Community-Led Plan 2015-2025 which had been developed by a team of volunteer residents. Its purpose was to identify and document projects and activities which residents believed would make Tetsworth an even more attractive place to live and work in, and to encourage an even greater sense of community. Although this plan has no statutory status, it examined all aspects of village life – the pace of growth, infrastructure, amenities and services, community life and environmental issues. Essentially, all of the near-50 actions in the plan placed responsibility for taking projects forward on Tetsworth’s own resident groups or organisations.

We are now more than 7 years into the plan. So how has it gone? The colour-coded Action Chart shows that we have achieved a lot. Some of the ideas have been treated as ‘business as usual’ while others have called for considerable funding and commitment from sponsors. Some of the proposals have been absorbed into the later Tetsworth Neighbourhood Plan or have fallen by the wayside, while a few have actually been given a boost as a consequence of the Covid pandemic. One notable success during the past year has been achievement of Action 45, the planting of approximately 10,000 daffodil bulbs along the village roadside verges – and don’t they now look wonderful.

Digital copies of the Tetsworth Community-Led Plan 2015-2025 and the annual update of the Action Chart are available on the Tetsworth Parish Council website. Take a look at them.

Neighbourhood Plans form the third formal tier of UK Planning Policy under the Government’s Localism Act of 2011. Their purpose is to reflect community aspirations on future land use and development within a neighbourhood area. In 2016, with Parish Council oversight, a group of volunteer residents started to define the plan’s vision and objectives, and to assemble and document the evidence base necessary to support its policies. Themes covered the extent, location and design of future housing growth, the protection of heritage and environmental assets, and the preservation of the character and setting of our village community.

Progress was significantly interrupted by Covid pandemic restrictions and the protracted debates over examination and adoption of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035. Nevertheless, the final bureaucratic (or democratic) hurdle was successfully negotiated in May 2021 when our Neighbourhood Plan was supported in a local referendum by 93% of voters on a near 50% turnout. Tetsworth Neighbourhood Development Plan 2035 was subsequently adopted by SODC and now forms part of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035.

It is reassuring that SODC planning officers have so far taken our Neighbourhood Plan policies into account when making recommendations or decisions on current local planning applications and issues. Digital copies of the Tetsworth Neighbourhood Development Plan 2035 and its suite of supporting documents are available on the Tetsworth Parish Council website and hard copies are in the Memorial Hall foyer. Take a look at them.

14. South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) – Cllr Caroline Newton (Post-meeting report)

COVID

COVID continued to affect work at SODC over this last year. Officers worked hard to deliver high quality services despite the various restrictions imposed throughout the year.

SODC has been responsible for distributing Government-funded grants including over £1.5 million of Additional Restrictions Grants to businesses before the scheme closed at the end of March, and £360,000 in Test and Trace isolation grants. Checks continue to be carried out on people who may have fraudulently applied for the £500

isolation grants during lockdown in accordance with Government instructions.

Ukrainian Refugees

South Oxfordshire has seen some of the highest number of host applications for the Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme in the country, a testament to the spirit of generosity and compassion of people here. Amongst non-metropolitan areas in the UK, South Oxfordshire is second only to South Cambridgeshire, with over 230 hosts approved. SODC has worked with other Oxfordshire local authorities to check the suitability of accommodation and help Ukrainian families settle here. Of course the arrival of so many people, many having experienced trauma on their journey, will put pressure on schools, and health & social services etc. I'd like to pass my appreciation to everyone in this ward who - whether in the course of their jobs, by opening their homes, or in untold other ways - are helping so many find sanctuary here.

Planning

Local Plan 2035: The administration at SODC has continued working towards the implementation of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 (LP2035), the strategic development plan which determines where housing, employment and infrastructure will be focused up to 2035.

The site in LP2035 that most affects the Haseley Brook ward is Chalgrove Airfield. Like most local residents I have been most concerned about the impact this would have on surrounding villages. Apart from the sheer scale of the development, I have been worried that the local road network does not have capacity for the additional traffic it will bring (during construction and afterwards); and I was also very unhappy about the height of the buildings in the first outline planning application, which rose to 6 storeys in the centre of the new town. Following the Civil Aviation Authority's objection to the outline planning application for the site, Homes England (the agency responsible for bringing forward the development) has been working on developing a new application that will allow Martin Baker to continue to operate safely. If - and when - that comes forward residents will be able to respond to the consultation, and I would strongly encourage you to do that.

Local Plan 2041: Work has been underway throughout the year on the next development plan - Local Plan 2041 - which is due to be adopted in 2024 which SODC is creating with the neighbouring Vale of the White Horse District Council. The scale of LP2041 will be driven by the longer-term 'Oxfordshire 2050' strategy being determined by the Oxfordshire Growth Board (a high-level body which brings together businesses, local authorities and civic bodies from across the county). The Growth Board was recently renamed the Future Oxfordshire Partnership.

I will be working hard to ensure that any developments proposed in, or near, this ward are small scale and will be well-supported by infrastructure. I will strongly resist any attempt to include a new town at so-called Harrington near Tetsworth and Great Haseley.

Biodiversity: The Environment Act 2021 (one of the Government's flagship pieces of legislation last year) includes provisions to make the achievement of '10% biodiversity net gain' mandatory for all permitted building projects from the end of next year. This means that any development needs to ensure that habitats are protected, and that any that are lost or degraded must be compensated by enhancing or creating habitats that are of greater value to wildlife and people.

Enforcement: An integral element of a strong Planning function is effective Enforcement of breaches of planning rules - with homeowners confident that SODC will take action if they - or their neighbours - break rules. That is why I was so concerned last year when SODC announced a new Enforcement policy which would lead the council to enforce only the most grievous breaches. The new policy was introduced to help the council deal with an exceptionally heavy case-load, and whilst it may be helping with that, I fear it is at the cost of a real deterrent to abuses of the planning system. I will continue to monitor the situation. Please let me know if you think planning abuses are not be adequately enforced.

Solar Farms

We are currently seeing a concentration of large solar farms in this ward. The first two - Cornwell and Harlesford, covering over 130 hectares of open countryside between Tetsworth, Great Haseley, Wheatfield and Adwell - received planning permission in the last year. There is a further application for a 112 hectare solar farm at Dodwells (Milton Common); and plans are being drawn up or under consideration around Lewknor and Postcombe which together could cover as much as 70 hectares.

Whilst I recognise the importance of generating green energy close to the point of use, I feel it's really important that we balance that with the value of our beautiful local landscape and our production of food. These solar farms seek 'temporary' planning permission - but 'temporary' in this case means 40 years. They will outlive many of us.

I will continue to make the case to SODC that it's vital we focus on installing solar panels on new residential and commercial buildings to prevent even more of our countryside being lost.

SODC Headquarters

Work continues to make a permanent home for SODC. The Council has been based at Milton Park (near Didcot) since our old home was destroyed by arson in 2015, and the council has now decided to develop land in central Didcot as a new HQ. However, it is now looking for interim accommodation until that site can be developed.

Electric Vehicle Charging

Residents in Oxfordshire have been amongst the most enthusiastic buyers of electric vehicles, but till now, there have been very few open-source EV charging points in South Oxfordshire. SODC has now installed EV charging points in all the SODC-run car parks across the district. As a representative of this rural ward, I am keen to ensure that EV points are available in villages as well as our market towns: I will continue raising my concerns on behalf of residents who don't have driveways in which they can charge EVs.

Energy Support payment

Many people in this ward will be anxious about the huge rise in their heating bills. The new £150 grant from central government (sometimes referred to as a Council Tax rebate) will be administered by SODC. Where possible, it will be paid to all qualifying properties (Bands A-D) using bank account details already held within the council tax data base. A separate discretionary fund will be made available for households in need who would otherwise not be eligible (Bands E-H) for the rebate.

This is a major piece of work for the Council Tax team, and its administration will continue for many months.

Local Grants

I was delighted, this year to be able to support wide range of local activities and communities through the award of my Councillor Community Grant, which gave me £5000 to distribute to schemes designed to benefit residents in the Haseley Brook ward.

I allocated money to refurbish the skate ramp at Tetsworth, to install new bins in Postcombe and Little Milton and some new picnic benches at the playground in Lewknor. Seeing the war horrors in Ukraine, it was particularly poignant to have been able to contribute to restoring the War Memorial in Great Haseley and to buying trees for Little Milton recreation ground to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. I was also pleased to fund a First Aid course for residents in the Haseleys - and, across the ward, an awareness campaign about urology cancers, activities for elderly people delivered by Age UK, and support from Wild Oxfordshire for communities seeking to regenerate nature.

Finally, it has been an honour to serve for another year as the representative for the beautiful ward of Haseley Brook in South Oxfordshire District Council. I work with your parish council and other organisations - but am always happy to hear directly from residents or businesses that need my support. Please do get in touch.

15. Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) – Cllr Kate Gregory,

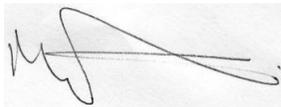
Cllr Gregory explained that she and Cllr Nigel Champken-Woods had been elected to represent the Thame and Chinnor Division, which includes Tetsworth, at the May 2021 elections. Although they were members of different political parties, they had committed themselves to work as a team in support of residents across the constituency.

Central Government grant funding of OCC had fallen 52% over the past 10 years placing severe constraints on funding of facilities and services. However, OCC's priorities for the next 3 years were: climate and biodiversity, social care and special educational needs (SEN) provision, and active and sustainable transport. Already, strategies on youth services, transport, 20mph speed limits and SEN provision had appeared.

At a local level, our OCC councillors had provided a 25% grant towards Tetsworth's High Street speed warning signs, arranged for the easing of a blind spot at the junction of the A40 with the Thame access road, and supported the village in progressing its school extension project and investigation of the case for a High Street pedestrian crossing.

16. Open Forum

No questions were raised. However, Revd Peter Waterson proposed a vote of thanks to Tetsworth Parish Council for all of its work on behalf of the community. This was endorsed by all present.



John Gilbert
Meeting Clerk

10 April 2022