Tetsworth Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Tetsworth Residents  
held at 8pm on Monday 18th April 2011  
at Tetsworth Memorial Hall**

Present Councillors: Jenny Kellond – Chairman  
 Hazel Bottone  
 Karen Harris

Martin Petheram

Martin Redman

John Thompson

Officer: Sarah Pullen

County Councillor: Roger Belson  
District Councillor: Dorothy Brown

In attendance: PCSO Michelle Jacques

Members of the public: 36

1. **Apologies for Absence**Chris Bishop, Jeneva Paul, Lynn Redman, Jo Bale, Maurice Thomas.
2. **WELCOME – Annual Report by Parish Council Chairman – Jenny Kellond.**Firstly I should like to thank everyone who has made the effort to be here tonight. As Parish Councillors we very often feel as if we are working in a vacuum and it is always good to hear the news and views of others.  
     
   We strive to make Tetsworth a better place to live in and to make the wheels of the village turn more smoothly for the benefit of all residents. Sometimes we succeed and at other times we fail, but your input is invaluable to us.  
     
   This year Alan Martin, who has worked tirelessly for the Council for many years left us and was replaced with Martin Petheram, who has to date been an asset to our group.  
     
   This year we have an election. The current Parish Council is challenged by the application of five other villagers, thus the way ahead is unclear as of yet. However, the rest of my report is to bring you up to date of what has been done and what hopefully is planned for the future.   
     
   John Thompson is still our eyes and ears with the M40 Group and as of today any resurfacing on our stretch of the M40 will be done with a quieter surfacing. He is still having no joy with trying to get the end of Chiltern View paved.  
     
   The area behind the Green which we had hoped to get up and running as Garden Plots ran into several problems and we were forced to abandon that project. However, we are now hoping that this area could be the siting for our new youth project. Karen will report later.   
     
   At our last village meeting, we did announce the installation of a PC Clerk. This, of course, added to the budget but has been a very worthwhile outlay to provide in depth information and to keep us up to date on the ever mounting paperwork.   
     
   The PATCH has been resurfaced since our last report and many minor repairs have also been done. This is an area that is still popular with our younger generation. I should like to thank hazel for overseeing this village facility and also those that turn out to help when needed.   
     
   Whether or not this Council is returned to work for the village, I should like to take this opportunity to thank all who have taken up this challenge in the past and have worked well to provide solutions to village requirements. There are several other projects on the cards for the time ahead which should improve life in our village. The outcome of these will, of course, depend upon the result of the forthcoming election and decisions made by your new Parish Council. Please use your vote for those you wish to work for your future.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th May 2010 to be signed as a correct record.**  
   Resolved: To accept the minutes as a true record and sign.
4. **Report from County Councillor - Roger Belson.**
   * **Council Tax**The County Council agreed a Council Tax increase for 2011/12 of 2.75% on 9th February 2011. This represents a Council Tax (for Band D equivalent properties) of £1,161.71. The County Council also agreed the five year Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme to 2013.
   * **Libraries**Oxfordshire has 43 libraries and 82% of the visitors use 23 of them. We plan to keep these open and cease funding the remainder. The Council is seeking other ways of funding these which will no doubt involve local communities. Watlington Library will remain open.
   * **Youth Services**The council will cease funding satellite youth provision and concentrate on a number of hubs. Watlington is one of those that will lose funding. However, all is not necessarily lost as the funding for Watlington came from another source which may still continue.
   * **Additional Highway Maintenance Funding**Following another harsh winter our roads have been hit hard. Government has recognised this by allocating us an additional £3.5 million of capital to help address the problem. This is to be used to invest in improving the structure of our roads which in turn will prevent pot holes developing. It is not available to simply fill potholes. The types of work will be:
     + Large areas of patching;
     + Resurfacing of areas of road;
     + Full reconstruction – in doing this we will be investing in the long term future of the roads not just firefighting.

The Council is required to publish what this funding has achieved by the end of September 2011. Therefore, our plan is to have a programme of works agreed during April and for work to start during May. This will enable us to deliver the schemes during the period of better weather.   
  
It is essential that the work starts quickly and is spread throughout the summer to achieve the best value for money.  
  
In addition, we will be ensuring that the programme is communicated widely to the public to ensure that wide coverage can be given to what is achieved.

* **Speed Camera Update**Cameras are now back in action at TVP’s cost. There will be more emphasis on the mobile units. Expect a greater than normal presence from the police.   
    
  The funding is coming from speed awareness courses, TVP being able to both lift the level at which these courses are offered, and also the cost which they charge. The cost of the courses has gone up from £79.50 to £95.00. Prior to this you could be eligible for a course rather than prosecution up to the speed limit plus 10% plus 6mph. The new process is the speed limit plus 10% plus 9mph. The table below gives a couple of examples.

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| **Speed Limit** | **Before** | **Now** |
| 30 | 39 | 42 |
| 50 | 61 | 64 |

* **Oxfordshire Boundary Review**The County is currently conducting a boundary review with the intention of reducing the number of Councillors from 74 to 63. Once we have agreed details with the Boundary Commission I will forward to Parish Councils the plan.
* **Landfill**The County has recently signed a contract to build an incinerator at ARdley in the NW of the county. This facility will dispose of all of Oxfordshire’s residual (non recyclable) waste.

1. **Report from District Councillor – Dorothy Brown**

South Oxfordshire District Council has:

* reduced management and staffing costs by about £500.000 through shared working with the Vale of White Horse District Council.
* Delivered fit for the future savings of £1.3 million, through working more efficiently.
* Froze council tax for the second year running as a result of shared management savings and savings delivered through more efficient working, specifically the joint waste service.
* Slashed sundry debtor arrears by 65%, from £700.000 to less than £250.000.
* Processed benefit claims in an average of 16.5 days, below our target of 20days. Much of the credit for this goes to Capita who deals with area of our business who are performing better now.
* Staff sickness levels are very low at an average of 3.5days per full time employee per year. This is below the level that many firms in the private sector achieve.
* Re-launched our website this is much more focused towards customers’ needs and encourages online services.

**Protecting our Environment**

The Council has cut their Carbon Footprint by seven per cent, with an ambition to reach a target of 30% by 2013. We continue to be one of the best performing councils for recycling with a recycling rate of 71 per cent. This is one of the highest in the country, all thanks to the residents of South Oxfordshire.

The Core Strategy Planning Document which sets out where new homes are to be built and new business areas this plan also includes the necessary infrastructure that is required the plan takes us to 2027. The plan is with Government Inspectors at present.

**Delivering Homes for all**

The number of homeless people in temporary accommodation is falling despite the economic situation and is way below our government set targets.

At Didcot the Great Western Park development has started, this will deliver 3.300 new home and much needed community facilities in the next ten to twelve year.

Fairmile near Cholsey Wallingford is also underway with 354 homes and other facilities, this is the old hospital site near the river.

Last but not least is the Chinnor Cement works site, which is underway and some homes already occupied. 174 homes.

**Supporting Economic Growth**

Funded three part-time market town co-ordinators to promote each market town, most of the funding came as a grant from SEEDA, Thame is bringing forth various ideas. Please speak to Alison Isherwood who is at Thame Town Hall if you wish to have your say.

No change to Car Park fees and charges and free parking in the towns for Christmas Shopping.

**Helping People feel Safe and Secure**

A number of Elderly and Vulnerable people in the district have been given Purse Bells to help with their security.

Scores on Doors was introduced a year ago the scheme for the inspection of Food Premises has taken off very well and five star premises, from 6 in the first place to over 50. We have worked with the restaurants etc to help them achieve this good safety inspection.

We continue with the police and some town councils to fund 61 CCTV camera’s.

We have staff at the Council trained to deal with reports of domestic violence and share information where suitable with the most appropriate organisations.

**Improving Opportunities, activities and support for young people.**

The Council gave £12.300 to 51 young people for their achievemnets in sports, arts and citizenship.

Launched the young people’s exchange, this give young people a chance to speak directly to councillors about issues close to their hearts.

We also arranged to young people in the 14-18 year age group to visit one of the top UK science centres, giving them a good insight into the world of science.

**Strengthening Local Communities**

The Council gave £500.000 to various voluntary/charity organisations to help them with projects, the council also gave £440.000 towards the running costs of local organisations.

I would like to thank all the residents of South Oxfordshire for all their help in many ways in keeping the District a great place to live in.

1. **Report from Police Community Support Officer – Michelle Jacques**Although we haven’t been immune to budget cuts, the Police front line has not been affected. Michelle took over Tetsworth half way through the year. There have been several operations taking place in the area including:
   * Operation Magpie  
     Prevention of theft from vehicles. Owners of vehicles with valuables left on view have received a letter.
   * Following local break-ins (including at the Swan Centre in Tetsworth) an operation was launched along the M40 corridor using vehicles with ANPR capability.
   * Speeding  
     Speed cameras which have been off for some time have now been switched back on. Offenders will be sent fines through the post.
   * Drugs Mapping  
     In Thame and surrounding areas we have been working with licensees as a preventative measure. This has involved some swabs being taken at random looking for drug use.

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| Q | What is being done about speeding through the village. |
| A | The Chief Engineer for traffic visited the Parish Council during the year. He suggested that we have the white lines removed from the road. However, we have since been advised that this cannot be done by the new Engineer.  He also arranged for a speed survey to be carried out. However, these results do not show that we have a serious speeding problem in the village. The Clerk made these figures available for anyone who requires them.  John Thompson also reported that he contacted the Chief Constable about the chaos caused on Friday 26 Nov 2010 when the motorway was closed and people were stuck for up to 3 hours on the A40 due to lack of traffic control at the Lambert Arms etc. This led to a visit from the Bucks traffic Inspector, who has taken the points on board and should be reporting back to Cllr Thompson shortly to advise that the police and Highways Agency will set up a better procedure at both the Lewknor and Milton Common ends of the A40 to deal with the consequences of motorway closure. |
| Q | What is the speed at which drivers are considered to be over the limit? |
| A | 1% over the speed limit – i.e. at 33 miles per hour in a 30mph limit. |
| Q | Is there much crime in the rural fraternity? |
| A | Although there has been an increase it has not been since Michelle has been working in this area. The main crime has been in diesel theft and farming equipment. |
| Q | Can you give us an overview of figures of crime in the village. |
| A | During the early part of the year there was a spate of distraction burglary. However such crimes were mainly prevented due to quick thinking by residents.  There was also a high value theft of jewels. The offenders have since been brought to justice. |
| Q | Have there been problems with underage drinking in pubs? |
| A | The Chinnor and Thame area have a strong Pub Watch scheme. If an offender is ejected from one pub then they will be ejected from all. Twice a year test purchases are done on each premises to check if sales are being made to underage drinkers. |
| Q | Has there been an improvement in drug offences? |
| A | I haven’t been made aware of any drug problems in the village, but can find out more if you believe there are problems. |

1. **Proposed Youth Project – Report from Cllr. Karen Harris**

The Tetsworth Parish Council was recently approached by children (9 of which are represented here tonight) in the village who have requested a safe area to skate and BMX cycle. They would like to build ramps.   
  
The Parish Council decided that an area of land behind the green, originally earmarked for allotments would be suitable for this project. A previous attempt to start an allotment project here failed.

The children have looked into raising money themselves and so far have approximately £3,000 promised. The Parish Council have also promised £10,000 from earmarked funds towards the project. An initial outline quotation from a specialist company is approx. £40,000.

On display tonight are some ideas of schemes which may be available and also a sign up sheet for anyone wishing to form part of a committee to steer this project. An outline proposal for this project is also available.

This will be an agenda item at the May meeting of the Parish Council following the elections.

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| Q | What’s happening to the hedge for access to this area? |
| A | We have looked into making a small access point for pedestrian access only. To do this will require the ditch to have a pipe fitted. |

1. **Reports from local organisations:  
     
   Tetsworth Primary School – Sarah Bhagat**

As you know Tetsworth Primary School is now part of the John Hampden and Tetsworth Primary Schools Federation.

* It has been a very busy year for Tetsworth and I shall try and give you a brief synopsis.
* Current roll is 19 as we have just lost 2 pupils who have moved to Manchester. 3 children will leave in July for Lord Williams’s and 4 are due to come in September.
* We continue to have a strong relationship with Little Kites Pre-School and ensure that all resources are shared. New timetable in place to allow for greater cohesion in planning, practice and the use of resources.
* We have contributed to the community by helping out and taking part in various events such as; Village Fun Day, Village Fete, Displays at Thame Health Centre, Harvest Festival, Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch, Christmas Decorations to church as a Christmas message from the children to the congregation in the village , charitable contributions to Children in Need and Red Nose Day, Festival of Music in Thame, Christmas Craft Fair, Invited all local senior citizens to their nativity – sadly snow kept many away, Carol Service at St.Marys Thame, World Book Day, Chinese New Year when the children visited a Chinese restaurant in Haddenham, Easter service and culminating at the end of this term with an amazing performance of Joseph and his amazing technicolour Dreamcoat.
* School trips and events so far have been; Annual Quiz night 2 bingo events, Sports day and picnic on the green, Joseph at the Waterside Theatre Aylesbury, where the children’s level of concentration and behaviour was impeccable, Christmas lunch at John Hampden, Class 1 to Odds Farms, Pitt Rivers Museum focusing on Ancient Egypt, coming up ; Residential trip to Kingswood, a whole school sleepover on a Crackerjack Evening.
* Separately; we were very excited and thrilled to be part of a world record breaking attempt for sign2sing. This was an initiative to get as many school children as possible to sign and sing the words to the New Seekers song ‘I’d like to teach the world to sing’. They needed to have more than 32,000 and in actual fact had more then 100,000 taking part on the day – the rehearsal for this was recorded at Tetsworth by BBC radio Oxford and local press.
* Throughout all of these events and trips the children’s behaviour has been exemplary and they are a credit to the school and their parents.
* We’ve had a contribution from Waitrose for equipment for the outdoor area. Thank you for all your green tokens!
* Years 2 & 6 are on target to achieve their full potential and will do well in their SATs in May.Staff and Governors have attended a number of courses relating to curriculum, leadership, management, strategic planning, safeguarding as well as health and safety.
* The Federation is proving to be a great success within Oxfordshire and we have the full support and encouragement of the County Council and particularly from our Councillor Roger Belson and our local cabinet member for school improvement Michael Waine.
* There is planned investment for a new outdoor trim trail and entrance. So as soon as we have the go ahead from planning we are in a position to proceed.
* Due to the odd unfortunate intrusion we have also had to invest in increased security around the school and pre-school.
* I would like to assure the local community that our School is here to stay - and we will do everything in our power to ensure that Tetsworth Primary School stays firmly on the map and continues to produce well educated, capable children who are ready to move on to the next stage of their educational journey.
* Forgive me if I have omitted anything and if anyone has any questions or would like to look round the school please feel free to either talk me afterwards or call in to school and make an appointment.

**Tetsworth Primary School Association – Petra Eden Parish**

It’s been another busy year for the TPSA. Since last year’s Parish Council AGM we have been involved in and organised 8 different events and raised a total of £2540.48, in support of Tetsworth Primary School. In particular our regular Bingo nights have proved popular with families and have been a good source of fund raising together with our annual quiz night, which this year raised our best ever profit of £1345.75 and saw a packed village hall with great support from the local community.

We have taken part in the village fun day, the fete & beer festival, the Christmas craft fayre and have also raised money via easyfundraising and the fonebank which recycles old mobile phones. All the of the money we have raised has gone straight back into school and in the past year we have paid for travel for the children on a number of school trips including trips to Joseph the musical and Odds Farm Park amongst others. We also covered the cost of Christmas dinner for all the children at John Hampden primary school and the cost of their own school Christmas party. We have maintained our commitment of £400 per school year on account at the Bookhouse which enables staff to buy new books for special projects on a regular basis.

We were also thrilled this year with our purchase of lighting equipment which we premiered at the school performance of Joseph earlier this month. Performing arts is fast becoming a real strength at the school and the purchase of the lighting system and mixing desk means that the children have learnt yet another theatrical skill and has proved a valuable outlet for those children that are happier backstage than front of house.

We are now planning future events and look forward to being involved in the village fun day and village fete where we plan to run our very popular cake stall again.

We are still very committed to making sure that parents have to pay for as few extra curricular school activities as possible and we pride ourselves on the fact that the school rarely has to ask parents for contributions for school trips. We have the next residential trip to Kingswood coming up in June and the TPSA are very pleased to have been able to cover the cost of transport to Kingswood for every child going. We are a small school and therefore have a limited pool of parents to tap into for fundraising, however our parents are all very dedicated and we consistently achieve good fundraising results year on year.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL members of the village for their continuing support with our fundraising this year and we look forward to seeing you at future TPSA events.   
  
**Tetsworth Little Kites Pre-School – Adrian Cannon – Chair**  
  
The village pre-school has had a very successful year since my last report to this meeting. For those who don’t know the school is co-located with the Primary School and operates from facilities that have been rated by external authorities as “excellent”.

Tetsworth’s Little Kites provides affordable childcare for children from age 2 to 5. The school is a charity that aims to be the first choice early year’s resource for all children in the Tetsworth area, providing a sound development foundation and fostering a sense of community in the children as they progress to full time education.

The school has recently conducted a survey of parents and we are happy to report that we achieved very high scores for the standard and quality of the service we provide. But we are never complacent and continue to work hard to improve the school.

The school has benefited from the support of the village who have generously supported Tetsworth’s Got Talent and a recent jumble sale kindly hosted by the Sports and Social Club. The next Tetsworth’s Got Talent will be held on Saturday 18th here at the village hall.

The school also received grants from the county council and Local education Authority. The money has been used to replace all the toys and play equipment, increased security to meet the latest OfSted requirements and to otherwise improve the facilities.

Our close collaboration with the Primary school is producing great results and our children benefit from being cared for in a great setting by a great team.

Finally we have recently welcomed many new members to the management committee and more volunteers are always welcome.  
  
**Tetsworth Trust – Paul Silver (Read by Cllr. Hazel Bottone)**  
  
The Tetsworth Trust had a reasonable year; however our outgoings slightly exceeded our income.

As usual, the Trust delivered Christmas Hampers to the senior citizens. With slightly more difficulty this year than normal, due to the heavy snow! We would like to thank all of the deliverers!

Our only source of income in 2010 was the donations from the bingo. The trust would like to thank all of the bingo helpers for their kind donations. Their Christmas Bingo was also slightly delayed, due to the snow!

The Blackpool Trips & Market Trip took place as normal, numbers have dwindled slightly.

Our AGM is due to be held on Wednesday 22nd June, 6.30pm, at the Memorial Hall.

**Cozens Bequest – John Thompson**  
  
The 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. We still have seven such pensioners, although the Charity Commissioners forbade us from adding to the list after 1995, and required us to broaden the qualification for support.

Income from the Bequest has diminished somewhat in the past two years, due to the continuation of ridiculously low interest rates. However, in the past year we have given £1,000 each to Watlington Hospital Charitable Trust and to the Meadowcroft Old Peoples' Home in Thame, as well as helping needy children at Lewknor Primary School to go on residential school trips.  
  
**M40 Environment Group**  
  
In 2009 we put in a submission to the Government under the Sustainable Communities Act, sponsored by Wycombe DC, and supported by South Oxon DC and Oxon and Bucks County Councils, for noise mitigation measures on the M40 junctions 3-8.

Of over 300 submissions, we heard in December 2010 that ours was one of 40 that were accepted for action. This is less than it sounds, since it does not bring any new funds, but it does require the relevant Government Departments to note that there is a special need.

We have at least got a written commitment from the Minister of Transport, Theresa Villiers, that all future repairs and maintenance on our stretch will be done using the latest very quiet surface materials. This was subsequently used last autumn for repairs between junction 3-4, where the contractor did about twice as much carriageway as was strictly necessary, so this is a start.

We also have agreement with the Highways Agency that they will notify us in advance of their maintenance schedule on our stretch, so that we can discuss with the Operator any enhancements which would diminish noise for the adjacent residents.

**Tetsworth Sports and Social Club – Frank Eley (Read by Cllr. Jenny Kellond)**I must apologise for not attending but these meetings are always held when the Sports Club has it’s monthly meetings and I must attend.  
  
The previous year has proven as successful as previous years even with the current economical situation but with few problems not withstanding it has been satisfactory.  
  
The membership was 220 and the Club is open six nights a week and continues staging entertainment on every Saturday evening.   
  
The square has had three full seasons with the new system and is proven to be successful.  
  
The football pitch has been slowly deteriorating over the years with sinkage and flooding and dog fouling remains a problem.   
  
There were no trophies for the Cricket team this year, but plans are in place to increase playing membership and hopefully be in the running for trophies this season. The Sunday team was successful and also saw the introduction of many village players.

The Football team has had a reasonable season using many local players but the bad weather around Christmas has caused rearrangements or cancellations.

A Beer Festival, incorporating a Fete was held and was successful with Help for Heroes being the main beneficiary. This year we plan to hold a standalone event over Mayday weekend.

The Green will again be used for a Village Fete in July. All local groups have been invited to participate but turnout at meetings has been poor.

A children’s event was held prior to Christmas with Reindeers being the attraction. A Christmas party for members children was held with probably 30 attendees and was successful.

Real Ale is continuing to be successful and currently we are selling two casks per week.

The car park has been gravelled and now keeps cars off the local roads when the Green is muddy.

**St. Giles Parochial Church Council – Jeneva Paul (Read by Martin Petheram)**

Membership  
Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, or elected by the APCM in accordance with Church Representation Rules. During the year the following members served:  
  
Incumbent Rev. Peter Waterson

Churchwarden Mr Martin Paul

Churchwarden/Secretary Miss Jeneva Paul

Treasurer Dr. Carolyn Carr

Mrs Heather Moore

Miss Jacqui Moore

Mr Maurice Thomas

There were 34 members on the electoral roll.

Review of the Year

Church Services

During the 12 month period 44 services were held.

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| Service Type | Number of Services | Average Attendance |
| Morning Worship | 9 | 6 adults |
| Family Communion | 9 | 8 adults 2 children |
| Parish Communion | 15 | 9 adults 2 children |
| Time | 6 | 7 adults 2 children |

Special services were held for the licensing of the Rev. Peter Waterson, Remembrance Day, Harvest Festival, and a service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Average attendances for special services (excluding the Licensing) was 26 adults and 5 children.

There were during the year 0 Babtisms, 0 Weddings, 0 Funerals, 1 Interment of Ashes.  
  
Leadship  
Our new incumbent the Rev. Peter Waterson was licensed in St. Giles on 20th July 2010. However, his ministry in the village began a good month before that – whilst in the process of moving into the vicarage he and his wife June joined the PCC members running the Church’s stall at the village fun day to help out and then walked around meeting other stall holders and villages. Thanks to the Rev. Waterson, Mrs Heather Moore, Dr. Carolyn Carr and Miss Jeneva Paul we have managed to maintain a full calendar of services over the past year.

General Activities  
Our thanks go to all those in the Parish who have continued to contribute to the upkeep and running of the Church, particularly those who have helped to maintain the churchyard. We would also like to thank all of those people who help out with fundraising working on Church Stalls and providing cakes and other items to raise funds.

We have been lucky enough to have several concerts staged in the Church by the Festival Choir, these are continuing to raise money for the Church and provide wonderfully sociable and entertaining evenings.

**Tetsworth Senior Citizens Christmas Party – Chris Bishop   
(Read by Cllr. Bottone)**

The Christmas party was held on 22nd November, at The Memorial Hall (a little early due to ill health).

Various people helped on the day, including some of the older pupils from Tetsworth School. They gave gifts to the senior citizens made by school children.

The event was well attended, and the afternoon was rounded off with tea dance.

The recession has affected us a little, income is down a bit, events generally are taking less money, and of course, costs are as ever, always rising.

I would like to thank all of our supporters and helpers, and all of the individuals and organisations which made donations, your continued support is much appreciated.

**Memorial Hall – Caroline Cann**

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who has been involved with the hall, not just the committee members, but also the building project sub committee, coffee shop team and everyone who hires the hall and those who come along to support our events.

We have spent the majority of the past year working on our extension plans. We were successful in renewing our planning permission and are now applying for grant funding from SODC, Leader, Garfield Western and OCC.

We will be continuing to hold our fund raising events and we are re introducing the Farmers Market. The Market will be held on the third Sunday of each month from 10.00 until 12.00 pm starting on May 15th.

**Village Fete**

Cllr. Redman reported that there will be a meeting of the Village Fete committee on the 10th May. All are welcome.

1. **Open Forum and Questions**Comments:

* Cllr. Harris congratulated Caroline Cann on the garden plot scheme in Swan Gardens.
* The Clerk reported that the Swan Gardens pavements should be done within 6-12 weeks following a meeting with the Highways Engineer.
* Mr Megiley thanked the Parish Council for their hard working during the previous year.

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| Q | Why has the precept been raising this year? |
| A | We have now had to employ a Clerk. |
| Q | Are Parish Council candidates going to canvass the village so that the electorate know who they are? |
| A | Mr Bhagat, Mr Cannon, Mr Margan, and Mr Papworth all stood up to introduce themselves. |
| Q | The road at Parkers Hill is very bad, can we do something? |
| A | The Clerk has been chasing the Highways people to see what can be done and will continue to do so. |
| Q | What’s happening with the local buses? |
| A | This will be an agenda item for May. However, Cllr Dorothy Brown reported that the 124 Service is being reduced to 1 in each direction, but now going to be 6 days per week.  Cllr. Thompson has been attending meetings in Thame. |
| Q | Mr Papworth stated that he felt the School receives no backing or encouragement from the Parish Council. |
| A | A discussion followed about the history of the relationship between the School and the Parish Council. However, it was unanimously agreed that everyone should work together in the future for the good of the School and the Village. |

The Meeting Closed at 9.45pm