

HINTON WALDRIST PARISH COUNCIL
Annual Parish Meeting – 11th May 2016

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2015/2016

Welcome to the AGM of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council. According to legend, and my predecessor, this ought to be the 122nd such meeting.

It is my first Annual Meeting as Chairman and I intend to keep this brief. If there are any questions feel free to interrupt, but I will answer questions, if there are any at the end.

According to our Clerk, there have, including this meeting been nine meetings during the reporting year.

The Parish Council year has, as in past years, been overshadowed by the ongoing possibility of a residential housing development on the allotment site but nothing concrete has emerged as yet to which the Parish can formally respond. Recent evidence suggests that the owners may be considering further action but until they communicate their clear intentions as to what they want to do with the land there is not a great deal to say for the moment.

There has also been some concern expressed by the application by Thames Water to protect the land north of Hinton Waldrist and Longworth as a potential site for a reservoir. For the reasons I provided at the last meeting we don't need to trouble ourselves with this issue for a good many years, if ever.

Planning -The Parish Council has considered a variety of planning applications, 7 in all I think, but none which I think merits any particular mention here.

Community Led Plan We continue to prepare a Community Led Plan to encourage more village activities in the Parish such as the Queen's Birthday Lunch on June 12th, and the emergence of the HW Mountain Rescue Society and the more recent Potholing Society are examples of this.

What we are really seeking to encourage are any activities within the Parish which enhances community life and which promotes greater contact among our residents.

Fibre Broadband Gigaclear came online in June 2015 and I believe it has provided a really excellent service from which all villagers can benefit. In addition the provision of a Free Wi-Fi Router for the village hall enhances the services on offer to those who use the hall. Unfortunately, they did not extend the provision to Duxford, but there was I think very little financial incentive to do so.

Bus Review - We are about to see the end of our local bus service Route 63, as a result of the withdrawal of the subsidy from Local Government. Whilst various organisations are looking at local transport options, no concrete plans have emerged and I fear that for those in the village without access to cars this will prove to be a significant loss.

Parish Website Thanks to the ongoing help from Martin Taylor, the parish website <http://www.hintonwaldrist.net/> provides useful information about the village, the Parish Council and local events. It is proposed that the Parish Council now pay for the hosting of the website.

Parish Council - 5 Councillors were elected unopposed last year and a further two were co-opted. As you can all well imagine the PC meetings are riveting events and not to be missed, so I do thank all the Councillors for the time which they give to the village.

Finally, I would like to say 'Thank you' to Tian, our Clerk, without whom nothing would ever get arranged, but who has sadly indicated that she wishes to step down after 5 years in post. We hope to hold interviews for the new clerk later this month.

Hugh Hamill
Chairman of Hinton Waldrist Parish Council