

Mrs Herring gave the second report, advising the meeting that she has been involved with the flooding issue in Hogg End, gave an up-date on the situation and read an excerpt from a report. She will continue to monitor this problem and will forward a copy of the report to the Parish Council.

She sits on several committees, including Social and Community, HealthCare & Unity Partnership. A 'Save the Horton General Hospital' was very successful and there is a new initiative to encourage young drivers to take further training to help reduce road accidents.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR – Ken Melling complimented the chairman on his very informative presentation. He sits WNSP committee, which oversees planning issues in town centre and larger developments; he also involved with West Northants "Planning Ahead". Chipping Warden is untouched by either of these committees. On the Affordable Housing issue, he agreed with Mr Galletly that this initiative was instigated from the top – Central Government – it should not 'argue' but work with them as Government could ignore Northampton and South Northants Councils and carry on with their plans.

On a positive note, it is planned to hold council tax rises to inflation costs only. The County Council has a new Chief Executive, new directors and subsequently, there is a change of culture within all departments.

The downside is the poor road repairs, but more money has been allocated to Highways for maintenance. As Mrs Herring said, the county is also looking at ways in which road accidents can be reduced.

The council & European elections are to be held on June 4th

PARISH AWARDS – There have been two nominations: -

Paul Clements for his charity work and his wife accepted the award on his behalf.

Bet Allitt for her neighbourliness over many years when she has unobtrusively assisted several people.

VILLAGE REPORTS: -

Church – Mrs Bartlett reported that the Church was in good repair and that after over six years the kitchen/toilet installation is now almost complete. The Churchyard is slowly being reinstated following the disruptions. Electricians in the Church have been up-graded, the clock will be operational shortly and the Quinquennial work will be finalised in the near future. The path has been re-laid, but further work is required to reduce the incline.

The Rector visits the school on a regular basis.

The Bishop will be leaving on 29th June, in May, there are four christenings and a wedding and the Church/Sports Club Fete will be held on 3rd May. On-going fund-raising is a necessity as £10k is required annually for the Parish Share and day-to-day running costs plus maintenance must be found.

Kindergarten – Mrs V Woodford said that numbers are dropping in line with all areas. The School has obtained funding for the renewal of windows in the Kindergarten wing. In addition, an Early Years grant has been awarded; this will be used for carpet and toys.

PTA – Several fundraising projects have taken place or are planned – Bingo, Summer Fair, Quiz Night, Auction, Pancake Tea; the proceeds have been used for library shelving, visit by Falconry expert, high visibility vests and literacy equipment. A visit to the Science Museum is planned, some new benches for the playground and cookery equipment. The Summer Fete will be in early June.

N Galletly said that he has been informed that the 'white hatch markings' outside the Herries will be replaced.

School – Mr D Hussey reported that there were now 98 pupils between 4 and 11 with the intake in September of 12. The school continues to be strong both academically and in various sports. There have been visits to the Anglian Water Centre and to Silverstone ITC. The pupils took part in a Rock and Pop Busking Day, Harvest Festival, Christingle Service at Church and a disco. They also took part in the sports at Woodford Halse and did some basic First Aid training. Unfortunately, the school's laptop computers were stolen during a break-in recently. Plans are under way to increase the staff car parking.

Sports Club – Mr D Dalrymple gave the Sports' Club report. Cricket team had a good start to the season but unfortunately ended poorly. It has been a quiet year but luckily, the club is on a reasonable financial footing. There would support for anyone wishing to start the football team up again

The Sports Club is co-organiser of the Village Fete and other fundraising events will be - Beer Festival, Annual Duck Race, Quiz Night and some of the money raised is donated to charity. At the end of September, there will be the Annual Dinner held in the Village Hall; non-Sports Club villagers are welcome. The lease of the field expires on 1st October but club is hopeful that this will be renewed. A mower has recently been purchased for £3k, new members are encouraged and the AGM will be in May.

Village Hall – Mr C Lambly did not wish to give a long report as this will be done at the Hall's AGM on 8th June and he hope that people will come along. The refurbishment of the small hall was almost complete, the path has been re-laid and lights put along its length. It is hoped to improve the heating in the large hall in the near future.

The committee has to find £5-6k running costs annually, but currently the finances are sound despite four break-ins.

He announced that this will be his last year as Chairman and N Galletly thanked him for all his work over the years; the meeting endorsed this vote of thanks.

WI - Mrs Boardman reported that the WI currently has 24 members and that they are involved in a number of interests; skittles, darts competitions, theatre visits. There is a competition every month, a potluck supper is held annually and a craft group meet regularly. As president, she attended the AGM in Liverpool where a motion concerning Mental Health in Prisons was endorsed. There were other good speakers and each attendee was given an oak sapling, which Mrs Boardman would like to give to the Parish Council. The annual Christmas Fair and Carol Evening were held and a donation was made to Helen House. Many of the members also visit the county events and some interesting speakers have been engaged for the coming year.

REPORT of the PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman returned to the PowerPoint presentation.

Finance – there were several slides for this item as circumstances have changed since the budget was prepared.

The accounts for 2008/9 were noted without comment.

The budget for 2009/10 has been revisited as changes to the lease at Appletree Road Industrial Estate mean that the Parish can no longer expect free grass cutting as from July. Costings for this service have been estimated as £2k and this will impact on the precept in future years (this has already been set for 2009/10)

Website – www.chippingwarden.org is now on-line. Currently this is information download site, but hopefully it may become interactive in the future.

Play area – The meeting was asked “do you feel that a play area is needed/” and “would you be prepared to pay for one?” The proposition by Mr Bannister was raised again, but as before, the whole issue will need to be investigated before any comment can be made. The meeting felt that there was a need for a play area.

Emergency list – this had been mentioned in one of the village letters but only two responses have been received. The meeting was asked to re-consider if they knew anyone or felt they could be included on this list. It is for emergency use only and is strictly confidential.

QUESTION TIME

Andrea Ledsham, future Conservative Representative for this area, introduced herself to the meeting.

The footpaths throughout the village are in poor order, especially in Arbury Banks and Hogg End.

The Chairman explained that anyone can contact Street Doctor to report faults, a number is given and this can be traced to completion.

A further brief discussion took place concerning Affordable Housing and the meeting felt unanimously that the Parish Council should go back to SNC to obtain answers to the questions raised and the discrepancies highlighted by Mr Galletly's presentation.

There being no further questions or comments, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.45.

Chairman's Signature.....Date.....