

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 25th MARCH 2021
AT 8.00PM VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT:

Cllrs Mr. S Cope (Chairman), Mr. N. Harris, Mr. N Timberlake, Mr. P. Brown, Mrs. V. Smith,
Mrs. K. Cheshire

Mrs. S. Henson, Clerk & RFO

Alison Rimmer - West Wycombe PCC; Tabitha Rowley, Ed Tang - West Wycombe Combined
School, Susie Chester West Wycombe Pre School, Emma Copley, Louise Brown, Mr. Iqbal

APOLOGIES: Cllr Mr. R. Seymour, Buckinghamshire County Cllr Mr. D. Hayday,
Sir Edward Dashwood, Mary Hilder - West Wycombe Estate; Rosie Jones- West Wycombe Pre
School; Christine Barry – West Wycombe Library and West Wycombe Cricket Club; PC Danny
O'Driscoll, PCSO Penny Ling - Thames Valley Police Andy Stafford - Downley Dynamos

Due to current restrictions in relation to the pandemic the meeting was held on Zoom with a
publicly available link.

Cllr Mr S Cope, West Wycombe Parish Council Chairman's Report for 2020/21
Chairman's Report for 2020/21

It has been an exceptional year in the life of the parish of West Wycombe. In my report last year, I
said the following:

"We none of us know for how long or to what extent we will continue to be affected by the current
coronavirus pandemic. I am sure I speak for all of us when I express the hope that we as a
community can find ways to look out for one another ... for as long as is necessary."

Seeing the many ways in which people have indeed come together during the last 12 months -
helping out neighbours with shopping, checking on those self-isolating, coming out on Thursday
evenings to clap for our carers, and in so many other ways - has been truly heart-warming, and
indicative of the strength in our local community.

We continue to live and work through the pandemic, but now with an end hopefully in sight as the
vaccine rollout continues. The restrictions that were put in place to try and stem the spread of
covid-19 meant that we were unable to organise so many of our regular activities - amongst them
the Summer and Festive Fayres, the community litterpicks, and the events that had been planned
to mark the anniversary of VE Day. Nonetheless we have still managed to make progress with a
number of projects across the year - and, having had to cancel our April and May meetings whilst
we awaited changes to the legislation, like the rest of the world we have become all too familiar
with using Zoom in order to continue to meet each month.

With the move to a unitary authority across Buckinghamshire completed, our parish is now
covered by a new body, the NW Chilterns Community Board, which aims to involve residents,
partners, local groups, and organisations in understanding what the local issues and priorities are
in the areas it covers. As Chairman I attend the Board's meetings, but any local resident is able to
do so. The Board's priorities for 2020/21 are: Crime and Antisocial Behaviour; Economic
Regeneration; Environmental and Climate Change; Traffic and Road Issues; and Young people
and older residents. There are working groups for each of these areas which identify and discuss
issues linked to them and consider project ideas and requests for funding.

The project to convert our heritage streetlights to using LED technology, which will result in
reduced energy costs and fewer repairs and replacements, has now been completed. We
continue to report any non-functioning lighting columns that we become aware of across the
parish, something that any member of the public can of course do themselves via the Fixmystreet
website.

The series of lockdowns necessitated by the pandemic resulted in a dramatic reduction in the
numbers of vehicles on roads throughout the parish. Whilst in many respects this might be
regarded as a silver lining, one unfortunate effect of this has been to make it easier for motorists

to drive at excessive - and sometimes horrifying - speeds. In order to try and mitigate this, we relocated the MVAS that we had been using on Chorley Road, and that had been superseded by two permanent units, to West Wycombe High Street, on the eastern entrance to the village. Although there are of course still many people who seem to disregard its warning, it does seem to be having an observable effect on much of the traffic. We have recently learnt that with the easing of lockdown restrictions Community Speedwatch programmes will be able to restart, and we hope to be able to instigate something locally once we are permitted to do so.

As well as speeding traffic, another effect of lockdown has been a significant rise in the number of people visiting the parish for their daily exercise. We are all delighted to see more people out and about enjoying our beautiful countryside and patronising our local businesses, but this does bring challenges. The ongoing battle against litter has continued unabated, and we have often seen the litterbins in West Wycombe village filled to overflowing - so I would urge everyone to dispose of their litter at home wherever possible. We are fortunate to have a number of residents who take it upon themselves to go out and regularly pick litter; our thanks go to all of you. There have also been issues reported across the county with walkers apparently being unaware of the importance of closing gates, keeping dogs under control, and sticking to footpaths, causing problems for farmers and landowners; so again, I would encourage everyone to play their part and be mindful of the Countryside Code when taking a walk.

I hope people have spotted that we have replaced four of our noticeboards at various points in the parish - the old ones had become very tatty, and in some cases decidedly dangerous for our clerk when attempting to change notices in a high wind! We are very pleased with the new ones, which look very smart.

We continue to look at ways to address issues of traffic flow and parking in West Wycombe village. At the end of October, a group of us, including Jim Stevens, met with a Project Manager from Transport for Buckinghamshire in order to explain to him the complex set of factors in play along the High Street and the A40 on either side of the village. Inevitably, work on this has been impacted by the pandemic, but we will be continuing work on this project in the months ahead.

Covid-19 restrictions meant that we have had to declare the play area at the Pedestal Playing Fields closed for much of the past year, and Downley Dynamos are only now about to resume their activities there. However, we have not seen a similar pause in the amount of litter, with 52 sacks being removed from the site over the course of the last year, just two fewer than the previous 12-month period. As we expect to soon be able to reopen the play area, we are currently in the process of having some more of the swings replaced in response to the most recent RoSPA safety report. One thing that the lockdown did enable us to do was to close off the car parking area temporarily in order to have it resurfaced; we have also had more robust half-height barriers installed at the entrance in order to further discourage any incursions onto the site.

Our Chorley Road allotments gained some new residents in the summer, when a hive of bees was placed in the top corner of the site. Following the easing of lockdown restrictions in the summer, we were able to hold our inaugural competition for our allotment holders, and on 29 August Cllr Vicki Smith and I enjoyed inspecting the plots in order to make our decision - we were impressed both by the variety and abundance of produce being cultivated, and by the inventiveness of the allotment holders in such fields as rainwater capture and composting. Congratulations once again to the winners Mike Beattie, Judith Gerrard, Peter Towersey, and Steve Heggie; we look forward to seeing what people have been able to achieve when we run the contest again this year, though I will not be able to participate in the judging, since my wife and I recently became plot-holders ourselves.

Our website has undergone a significant upgrade and is compliant with the accessibility legislation that recently came into force. I would like to thank our website provider Mike Henson and of course our Clerk Sharon (who is Mike's wife) for all the hard work they did to get the new site up and running, it represents the Parish Council very effectively and is a very useful source of information on all matters of relevance to our community. Many thanks also to Hugh Mothersole for his generous provision of a wealth of attractive photographs from across the parish.

Despite the lockdown in force at the time, I am pleased to report that the sacrifice made by the men of West Wycombe in the two World Wars was properly commemorated with the laying of wreaths and reading of the roll of honour on Remembrance Sunday. Thanks must go to Alison Rimmer and the other members of the PCC for organising this, and for all they have done throughout a very difficult year to keep our local congregations in contact with one another.

Others who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic and its attendant restrictions have included many of our contractors, who have continued to provide excellent service in keeping the parish looking at its best for residents and visitors to appreciate. And of course, we are all hugely appreciative of the efforts of our local businesses who have often gone above and beyond to ensure that local residents have easy access to essential supplies.

As I have mentioned, one event that fell victim to the pandemic was the Festive Fayre, but we were at least able to bring some Christmas cheer to the village when we spent a (bitterly cold!) day rigging up the Christmas lights in the Village Hall car park and on the triangle at the Chorley Road/A40 junction - we hope that the sight of them twinkling away in the darkness helped to generate some yuletide spirit at a time when we were all feeling the strain of being apart from friends and family.

As the new year began, and amidst the ongoing lockdown, we were all absolutely delighted to hear the news that our longest-serving member and former Chairman Vicki Smith had been awarded the British Empire Medal in the 2021 New Year Honours, for services to the community in West Wycombe. I would like to congratulate Vicki once again on this richly deserved honour, and we all look forward to seeing the medal itself once the presentation has taken place. As we said in our statement at the time:

“Vicki’s enthusiasm, initiative and love of West Wycombe and its residents has led to the development, under her chairmanship, of a parish council which is forward-thinking and is highly respected at both district and county level. By representing the community at every opportunity, she has ensured the needs of our residents are fully understood and delivered. By her enthusiasm, hard work and wonderful sense of humour she has encouraged people to stand as parish councillors; consequently, we now have a group of people committed to looking after this parish and its residents for many years to come.”

My thanks as always go to all of my fellow Parish Councillors for their many hours of hard work, their enthusiasm and their humour; it really is a pleasure to work alongside you all as we strive to keep West Wycombe flourishing and vibrant.

Sharon Henson, Responsible Financial officer, Presentation of the Financial Statement Financial report for 2020/21

The accounts can be viewed on our website www.westwycombe.org.uk

When we went into the pandemic restrictions and the change to a new Unitary Authority at the very beginning of our financial year i.e., 1st April we had no idea how the working of the parish council would evolve. We had several projects planned for the year, but we were not sure how or when we would be able to deliver them. As it worked out, we were able to achieve more than we could have hoped for.

We have finished the financial year with a balance of £29,531.46 . We will be able to claim £3502.23 back from HMRC VAT payments.

Administration covers things like £1000 per annum to insure all the parish council assets, e.g., the streetlights, defibrillators, play equipment, gates, signs. Administration also includes the Clerks salary, software, telephones, the audit, stationery, training and subscriptions to organisations which can help us carry out our role. We developed a new Accessible website and have purchased a mobile phone and changed our phone supplier to reduce our telephone costs. We donated £300 towards the maintenance of the village clock. As with all organisations and businesses we have to pay into a pension scheme.

Our energy costs for lighting have gone down to £919 this year since we converted the majority of our lights to LED and we have now converted all of the heritage lights which should mean our energy costs go down again for the coming year. The heritage lights in the High Street belong to Buckinghamshire Council but those in Church Lane and the bottom of Chorley Road belong to the Parish Council.

All our allotment plots have tenants, and this brings in £535 per annum from allotment rents, however the cost of the water and general maintenance does mean we run the allotments at a loss, but we know that the allotments have provided a peaceful haven for many people during the last year and they are a 'service' we are proud to provide for our residents. The allotments and the burial ground are costs to the parish council in order that we can supply a service to our residents and in both cases the running costs will always be more than our income.

The Pedestal Playing Field is also a very valuable asset to this parish with hundreds of play hours for the children of this community and those in adjacent parishes. We were unable to comply with the government restrictions on the use of play equipment and it is all officially closed and down to those people who choose to use it to take the precautions we have listed on the equipment. During lockdown we were able to undertake maintenance work to the car park, which with the COVID restrictions has attracted many more cars as people use it as a base for walking. We will have to monitor this as Downley Dynamos football club resume their training and competitive game sessions. We also had to pay for increased barrier security.

Due to COVID some of the necessary tree work on the allotments, the burial ground and the Pedestal Playing Field has not been completed hence we have more left in our finances at the end of the year than would normally be the case. We aim to have £25,000 in our bank account at all times as this allows for running the parish council for 6 months.

We pay to have the verges within the 30mph speed limit cut, trees cut back over lights and the pelican crossing and over pavements. We also look after the areas by the Pedestal Roundabout, Cutty Alley, Park Farm Road, Rosemary Close and Portway Drive as well as both ends of Towerage Lane. We pay the Chiltern Society to clear 4 of our footpaths; we pay a contractor to spray weed killer along the road/pavement edges. Currently, and for the next year, we get £2033 from Buckinghamshire Council towards this work but it costs far more than we receive from them. As Simon has mentioned we have money put aside for a feasibility study to be carried out on traffic in the High Street.

We ensure that we have our Christmas trees lit and support the Village Clock. We keep our defibrillators maintained. This year we replaced four of our noticeboards.

We pay £1200 for dog waste bin emptying and this price will increase from April.

As a parish council we are allowed to claim back all the VAT we pay out. This year the figure is quite high due to the expenditure on the heritage lighting project.

By careful management we have a secure financial position, and it was therefore agreed to reduce our Precept, which is the Parish Council element of the Council Tax – we have taken it down by 1.6% to £43,500 for the coming year.

Report submitted by Sir Edward Dashwood Bt., West Wycombe Estate

Farming has continued on the Estate as normal as possible throughout the pandemic although we have seen increased incidents of walkers' dogs disturbing livestock, often well away from footpaths and growing crops being trampled. Similarly, the amount of litter dropping and fly-tipping we have to deal with is daily and at an extraordinary level.

We took advantage of the frozen ground to cut all the hedges ready for the Spring. Ash clearance of diseased trees continues throughout the woodland and replanting has already begun. The National Trust similarly recently undertook some tree work on the track by West Wycombe Hill and will be looking to tackle some of the mature ash in the Park which are dangerous. We are working hard on grey squirrel control to prevent damage to the newly planted trees.

Filming for Landscape Artist of the Year took place in the Park last year and two episodes aired on Sky Arts over the last couple of months. The water levels on the lake and river Wye looked amazing and we hope last for the whole year. With luck we can hold an exhibition for the competitors here in the summer assuming we can open the Grounds in line with the National Trust and Government guidelines. We have also just finished providing locations for part of the next episodes of Midsomer Murders.

Cllr Neil Harris, Head Ranger National Trust

This year will not be forgotten! The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the finances of many firms, institutions, ordinary people and small businesses has caused so many changes to the lives of us all. The Trust lost over £200M due to the closure of Heritage attractions, this led, sadly to many redundancies through the organisation. A major reset programme, which was designed to streamline the Trust and make it more robust for the future, has brought about other changes, especially in the Whole Trust and Consultancy, that part of the organisation that manages central processes and assists the properties (the operational side) with financial systems, buildings, visitor experience, compliance and its Food and Beverage operation.

On the property we lost staff in all sectors, and we spent the year keeping the organisation going, managing visitors through a booking system and once initial lock down had finished, trying to cope with the 300% increase in visitors to our open spaces.

Smaller properties, such as West Wycombe Park did not open, we could not guarantee the safety of staff and volunteers alike with the ever-worrying threat of Covid-19.

The interior of Hughenden remained closed, apart from a brief month, the garden and parts of the café staying open.

80% of staff were furloughed at the start, we operated on a skeleton crew for some months, with other staff working from home where possible to keep to the Government Regulations.

However, not everything could be put on hold! Ash dieback was still spreading and many of our sites were found to have large quantities of potentially dangerous trees, particularly in some of the high usage zones, such as those adjacent to roads, paths and houses.

The Rangers spent a great deal of time preparing and planning for major contract work to begin, work was completed by the end of February at Aston Wood, Juniper Bank, West Wycombe Hill and Pulpit Hill. This was done just in time, as trees were showing a large degree of decay and weakness, caused by the fungi, especially in the crown and stem. This work of planning will continue this year, starting further felling in the Autumn.

Work to replant where appropriate will start next year, particularly in some of the larger woodland blocks.

Early in the pandemic, the number of void properties in both Bradenham and West Wycombe was high. The Lettings team worked hard to get properties turned round and re-let to new tenants.

Including some of the significant properties. All this contributing significantly to the finances of the Trust.

The new world is still opening out as I write this, we hope for a more positive year and an eventual return to more normality.

Report submitted by Denise Hurst, West Wycombe Community Library

There is not much to report for the very difficult last year as we have been closed for most of it. Before Covid, in February 2020, we held a quiz night in the village hall which was enjoyed by all and was a huge success making a profit of over £800. We served hot food, had a raffle and lots of fun. We are hoping to do another, when allowed by Covid restrictions.

We closed in March 2020 for the first lockdown and re-opened in June. We invested in a huge gazebo to use in the courtyard which enabled us to host the 2 weekly craft groups in safety under cover. Unfortunately, due to a freak hail/rain storm in West Wycombe during the end of July, our Gazebo was destroyed. We carried on until the next lockdown but have been closed since then.

We have been very lucky to receive 4 charity grants from the government which enabled us to replace our 3 ancient heaters with the latest efficient models, which hopefully will reduce our heating bills in the future and keep the Library at a steady temperature, especially during the Winter.

With some of the grant money, we will also be looking to make some other improvements to the Library, subject to a meeting to discuss, when we are allowed to meet after 29th March.

Financially, we have been lucky to receive the grants as our biggest earning periods, being the Summer teas and Christmas were lost due to lockdowns.

The Government have announced Libraries can re-open after 12th April but, as of today, we have not heard a definite date from the Library headquarters at Aylesbury when we can re-open. We will, of course, advertise when this happens and look forward to welcoming customers again. We are hoping for the villages' full support, when we are eventually allowed to re-open, so we can continue to serve the village and the local community.

Report submitted by Christine Barry, West Wycombe Cricket Club

The season got off the late start due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic rules.

We eventually started matches in mid July, fulfilling most of our fixtures right up to the end of September. Things were a little strange as we could not provide teas or have players using the changing rooms. Everyone came ready in their whites and brought their own food and drink. We made the best of the situation and everyone enjoyed themselves.

We also managed several coaching sessions on Tuesday afternoons for the primary school aged children. This year we hope to run sessions on Tuesdays as before and for slightly older children on Sunday mornings.

The quarterly club draws have fallen a little behind, but as soon as we are able to meet, we will catch up on these – holding three draws on an evening. Always a good laugh when we pull out numbers not paid for, of which there are several! So, if anyone wants to join, contact Christine at The Swan. It only costs £8 per year with four good cash prizes each quarter.

Financially we are fairly solvent even though we had very little income from membership and matches as we received a COVID grant.

Report submitted by Mrs. Vicki Smith, BEM, Chairman, West Wycombe Community Association

West Wycombe Community Association are the Trustees of West Wycombe Village Hall and the Committee known as The Village Hall Committee manage the Hall on a daily basis. We are a Charity and completely self-sufficient.

The Village Hall Committee held their AGM in January 2020 and on March 21st, 2020 the Committee took the decision to close the Hall because of the Covid19 Pandemic.

The Committee planned to open the Hall again on October the 1st 2020 making sure it was Covid compliant with the safety regulations and guidelines set out by ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) to keep safe all who use the Hall.

Unfortunately, we could not open because the Covid19 virus had started to spread again and the whole of the UK was in lock down.

As I write this on March 17th, 2021, we have still not been able to open the Village Hall.

We have been very fortunate to receive grants from Buckinghamshire Council which has helped with our loss of income.

Whilst the Hall has been closed, we have had the ceiling in the main hall repaired and painted which we could never have achieved without the closure because it took four weeks to do, and we would never close the hall for that length of time.

We have had the wiring checked and light bulbs replaced.

The water system has been run regularly to avoid legionnaires disease.

We hope to have the stairs and upstairs room decorated before we open again, plus the floor and stage will be given their usual professional clean and wax and the windows cleaned inside and out.

We hope too, to have Wi-Fi connected.

Judith Gerrard and Emma Copley have kept a close eye on the Hall for last year and we are immensely grateful to them.

Our Hon Treasurer, Graham Wood has kept our accounts immaculately again in past year, as he has been doing for the last 25 years.

Marion Brown, our Hon Secretary continues to support us all with her secretary skills.

My thanks to all the members of the Village Hall Committee for their constant support of the Hall and the time they freely give to make West Wycombe Village Hall a viable, safe, clean and welcoming venue for many to enjoy.

Tabitha Rowley, Interim Head, West Wycombe School

What a year we have had as a school! This time last year, as with the rest of the country, we had to rearrange our working pattern and teach ourselves how to go techy!

The children and staff responded brilliantly to the change of working. In the first lockdown, we were lucky enough to be able to use Stokenchurch School for our critical worker and vulnerable provision as we had lots of staff who were shielding so couldn't staff the bubbles needed at West Wycombe School.

During lockdown, the new porches were completed on the front of the school. They are lovely rooms, and the windows are incredible! They really show off our amazing view – we are biased but it must be the best view from a school!



The Year 6, 1 and Reception children who came back to school in June, worked incredibly hard and enjoyed being with their peers again. The Year 6 children were disappointed not to have a residential, but they worked hard at putting together an end of year production and leavers' assembly. They filmed their version of Robin Hood and Sherwood Hoodies on location in the hills around school (to the amusement of passers by who were interested in the Sherwood Hoodies singing and dancing in the woods!)

In September, we became part of the Great Learners' Trust, a multi-academy trust specialising in primary education based in Buckinghamshire. The Great Learners Trust was established in 2014. We are now a dynamic group of 8 schools, working generously together to provide the best possible education for our children. As part of the academisation, we changed our school name to West Wycombe School and now have a shiny new logo! The classrooms were all painted, and we have new furniture throughout the school. Our Early Years environment has had a major overhaul as well and is now a very inviting learning space for the children.



The whole school returned, and the children settled in very well. They all benefited from seeing their friends and teachers in the flesh and worked hard with their learning.

In December, we said goodbye to our headteacher, Ms. Abi Preston. She had worked very hard over the three years leading the school with great commitment and we would like to thank her for everything she did for the school. We had a lovely assembly for her on the last day of term which was the first time the whole school had been together since March.

Mrs. Rowley took over in January as Interim Head of School. An interesting time to take charge when the first task was closing the school to all but critical and vulnerable children again with the third national lockdown. Again, our school community adapted incredibly to remote learning. The staff went above and beyond to ensure all our children were safe and learning to the best of their

abilities. We had weekly phone contact with all families as well as weekly Zoom lessons/catch up sessions with our classes.

The staff were all thrilled to welcome all the children back to school on 8th March. The children have settled back into the routines of school really well and are doing us proud. We have had lots of donations of books for our library and gardening equipment for so we can get growing. The children are currently competing to grow potatoes – there are 4 lots of potatoes planted in bags around school and we can't wait to see what happens. We are hoping to get out into the local area a lot more so keep your eyes out for children looking for animal habitats or signs of Spring/Summer.

As a school, we are very excited to welcome our new headteacher, Mr. Tang, after Easter. It will be an exciting new chapter for the school, and we are looking forward to being able to take part in normal school activities!

Report submitted by Rosie Jones West Wycombe Preschool

Preschool has certainly been through a difficult year as we all have. During each lock down preschool has remained open and determined to support critical workers and vulnerable families as much as possible. We have diversified with online singing sessions, story groups and sent home multiple learning packs to families that have had to isolate or shield. We have certainly missed being able to participate in so many wonderful events with the West Wycombe Events team, local churches, West Wycombe Park and our walks around the village. We are looking forward to putting on our high vis jackets and once again coming back out into our welcoming community.

Although our occupancy levels dipped during last summer with many families nervous to sign up to preschool, we have now become busier than ever with a healthy waiting list and registers are set to be busy once again in September.

We have still been able to have lots of fun with the children. This term we have been growing vegetables ready for our garden, studying insects and conducting all sorts of strange and wonderful science experiments. It is safe to say the children have kept us in a positive mindset during what has been a really tough time for many of our staffing team. We are so very thankful to them for keeping us busy and providing us with a sense of normality.

Our committee has had a tough time with fundraising but despite this have managed to achieve a great outcome for the children during the last two terms. We have used these funds to purchase new resources for the children including a great new wooden play kitchen and 30 caterpillars that the children will watch and nurture until they become butterflies.

We would like to thank all of the residents of West Wycombe for your support during this year. We are thankful to be located within such a supportive community and look forward to seeing you all in the not-so-distant future.

Alison Rimmer, Church Warden, West Wycombe PCC

As for everyone, the last twelve months have been absolutely unprecedented in terms of our Parish life. Weekly services suspended, a church open for private prayer for a short time, no singing when the occasional service was allowed to take place, masks, sanitiser and social distancing in our village church and the congregation sorely missing each other. One wedding in 2020, and sadly, many funerals; our hearts go out to those who have been affected so badly by the Covid-19 pandemic. A live streaming of the annual West Wycombe Chamber Concert was thankfully able to take place in its 10th Anniversary year, but no concerts, and how we have missed the music and our West Wycombe Chamber Choir in particular!

However, everyone's efforts and determination to achieve as much as possible in this bleak time have been hugely important and we're very grateful to the Ministry Team for their constant care and contact, the Wycombe Deanery team for supporting us, the church's PCC and Standing Committee and our community's extraordinary care in looking out for each other. Although we are still without a Rector, and the future of the post is all part of our journey forwards and together, the determination and mutual support across the Benefice is really helping us though this gap. Oh – and Zoom! Not a way we would ever have envisaged conducting church life, but it's enabled weekly worship again and get-togethers when we can carry on our tasks and chat to / see each other. And we certainly look forward to a brighter future together again.

The church is – and should be – all about people and especially our local community, and we are truly blessed to be part of this wonderful village and people. We have many decisions to make about the future of the churches and of the wider Benefice of West Wycombe, Bledlow Ridge,

Bradenham and Radnage parishes. The church should always be evolving and people at the heart of it. However, there will always be concerns about our churches, and St Lawrence in particular needs a huge amount of repair and renovation to address building issues which have been left for so many years, and for various reasons. Heritage Lottery funding was suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic but we were fortunate to qualify for funding to resolve the most important building worries from the interim Heritage at Risk fund. The future of the church building, and its needs are beyond the means of the PCC to resolve alone, and the Oxford Diocese are sharing this journey with us. We certainly missed seeing all the visitors at concerts and at weekly Teas in 2020, always such happy occasions, and of course the loss of fundraising has been significant. Our thanks as always to Neil Harris and the National Trust who are always swift to help us on West Wycombe Hill whenever needed!

Any services possible take place at St Paul's church at present, which has been quite an oasis over the last year and in an ideal setting on the High Street. We continue to strengthen links with Fr Stefan and the Serbian Orthodox Christian church who worship there once a month and share plans to improve and develop the facilities there, they value their time in the church enormously. There is ongoing care given to the churchyard, and we are very grateful to the Parish Council and Ian Wright who are always supportive.

The Church Room and Loft have remained inactive during the last year in the absence of any Coffee Mornings, clubs or social events, and we are constantly trying to establish the future use of the historic, popular but very challenging building. Thankyou as always to the Parish Council for their financial support for the iconic village clock and to Brian Palmer for his constant care. Our heartfelt thanks again to all the people of West Wycombe and local area, and to all the supportive and generous organisations who make this such a special community.

Report submitted by Andy Stafford, Chairman, Downley Dynamos

Downley Dynamos continue to grow and evolve every year and this season has been one of toughest for many reasons for the children. Following the first lockdown, we were able to resume some training in the late summer of 2020, where we could use the 'social bubbles' set up ahead of the new season.

We were delighted when the schools returned in September, as most of our children came back to the club, which we made sure as a club we followed all the GOV.uk advice and managed to keep all the year groups COVID free. On the pitch, our children got back to fitness very quickly and continued playing up to the schools finishing in December.

However, we have not been able to return this term, but we will be opening back up for training 3rd April and have games scheduled until June so we can ensure the children are able to enjoy their football and interact socially, which is certainly a benefit to their wellbeing.

Following the sad passing of Ollie Darlington last year, during the months between lockdowns to mark what would have been Ollie's birthday, a memorial bench at the pitch side was put in place. Again, we would like to thank the parish council and Sir Edward for the amazing speed gaining approval getting this arranged. The rest of the funds are to be used (at the family's request), to tidy up the pavilion and make 'Ollies Café' which will be a place for his team mates to meet and remember him and certainly grieve in their own way. These efforts have been slowed by COVID, but significant progress has been made.

Downley Dynamos has become an extremely stable club both in terms of children coming in through all year groups, we have over 300 registered this year, and moving to electronic payments which means the pitches can be maintained with more ease. We can now invest in grounds maintenance when required which is aligned to our responsibilities across all pitches, and this is something I wish to make sure we follow all our responsibilities with the parish council.

We continue to persuade parents to try and limit the use of cars when training or games, I hope this has not caused issues as in the past, Ben Stupples has placed the matting down on the extended area in the car park which will provide much needed extra capacity.

Finally, I'm delighted to announce that we are now a Football Association Charter Standard Club. What this means is wider FA support including contributions to develop the pitches, wider support

for the welfare of the children, opportunities to place more coaches through badged courses, and the one we're most delighted to see is the youth players (16-18), having the option to gain qualifications. We hope that many of these will come back to club when they may have children of their own in future years.

Once again, on behalf of our committee, I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to the Council, this is my 4th year as chair and 7th including vice chair, and the close bond we have has gone from strength to strength and wish everyone well during this exceptional time. I do intend to step down at this year's AGM, mainly due to both my children now out of the age groups, but also fresh ideas and vision would continue this amazing club.

Kate Cheshire, West Wycombe Events Team

The COVID pandemic made it necessary to cancel the Summer Fayre due to be held in July and our Festive Fayre which would have been held in December. As the pandemic regulations are still in place and social distancing will be in place for the foreseeable future, we have not organized a Summer Fayre for this year.

With the current worldwide situation, all future dates for events in 2021 are on hold until further notice.