

**Minutes of Sibford Gower Annual Parish Meeting  
held in the hall of Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School  
on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**Present**

Parish Cllrs Peter Abbott, Muriel Chandler, Martin Layer (Chairman), twenty local residents and the Clerk.

County & District Cllr George Reynolds, Mr Ralph Grant (Area Engineer, Oxfordshire Highways) and Mr Ed Potter (Head of Environmental Services, Cherwell District Council).

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Oswyn Murray.

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**Highway & Footpath Matters**

Mr Ralph Grant (Area Engineer, Oxfordshire Highways) gave a brief presentation which included the fact that Highways had taken on a new contractor and service provider as from 1<sup>st</sup> April this year which he anticipated will result in a much improved service. His department has worked under increased pressure dealing with highway problems resulting from the severe winter weather. The department had been granted an additional £1M to deal with these problems although the overall budget for the year had not been increased. However, the new service provider is expected to produce more results for the same expenditure.

Mr Grant responded to matters raised which included blocked drains in Acre Ditch and The Colony. Clearance is in hand and should be effected within the next seven days. Reference was made to the pipe overflow from the village pond and the Clerk will speak with the Highways Inspector.

Cllr Martin Layer referred to snow and ice clearance during the severe weather conditions in respect of which the Parish Council had seriously questioned the local route for clearance vehicles set down by Oxfordshire Highways. The Parish Council had proposed a much more satisfactory one. Mr Gant undertook to revisit the situation.

The Chairman thanked Mr Grant attending the Meeting and the information that he had provided.

**Recycling Presentation**

This was made by Mr Ed Potter (Head of Environmental Services, Cherwell District Council) who gave a power point presentation taking the meeting through from the introduction of coloured bins to the current times when bins of three colours for different purposes are in use plus the quite recently introduced food caddies. The Meeting learned how waste matters are sorted and how the contents of brown bins are converted into compost. He went on to say that the District Council is performing well against target levels.

The Chairman thanked Mr Potter for his contribution to the Meeting.

**Chairman's Report**

Cllr Martin Layer reported that the Parish Council had met six times since the previous Annual Parish Meeting and is grateful to a small number of regular residents who invariably make a valuable contribution. A warm invitation is extended to all residents to attend meetings, the dates of which are advertised in the Sibford Scene and on the notice boards. He thanked County and District Cllr George Reynolds for attending many of the meetings and the advice and information that he is able to give on a range of matters.

To 728

Cllr Layer spoke on several subjects including Planning Matters, the Draft Core Strategy, Oxfordshire Highways, OCC's Rights of Way Officer, Holy Trinity Churchyard, the Burial Ground, the Annual Litterblitz, the Bishop Blaize, the Village Pond, and Allotments.

He referred to the loss of Robin Spicer as Chairman following his move to Thailand and he thanked his fellow Parish Councillors for their involvement and input over the past twelve months and thanks were extended to the Clerk for carrying out his duties. Special thanks were expressed to Cllr Muriel Chandler who, after eight years, is stepping down from the Parish Council. She has made a great contribution with her knowledge and understanding of the village and her determination to voice concerns on a range of social issues in our community. Her input will be very much missed.

He was pleased to announce three new Councillors, Mrs Gilian Soden, Mr Roger Alder and Mr Alan Parkin.

Cllr Layer's report is given in full at Appendix A.

#### **Clerk's and Financial Report**

The Council's Financial Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 have been completed and are ready for submission to the External Auditors having been approved by the Internal Examiner. The Clerk is grateful to David Soden for once again taking on this role. The financial year started off with £7,732 in the bank and ended with a balance of £8,120. Of this sum, £3,283 relates to the residue of a bequest of £5,000 by the last Miriam Tebbs. She bequeathed this money to the Parish Council to be used for the benefit of the Parish and it is used as and when suitable situations arise. The money is also used to pay for the maintenance of the plot of land that she bequeathed to the Parish Council to be used for the enjoyment of residents. So far, despite invitations for suggestions as to its use, nothing has been forthcoming. Use as allotments was mentioned but it is understood that it is not suitable for that purpose. Within the present bank balance, £775 is there for expenditure in respect of the Churchyard. £1,085 is in place for the maintenance of the new Burial Ground. The balance of the monies in the bank is for general administrative purposes, grants and other appropriate outgoings. The Council will receive a precept of £5,000 from Cherwell District Council for this financial year (£1,000 less than last year) giving sufficient to cover anticipated outgoings and give a prudent amount to deal with any contingencies.

As was mentioned in the Chairman's Report, in November last year the Council lost its Chairman with the departure of Robin and Ann Spicer. He had been a Councillor and Chairman for a considerable period of time and his presence is very much missed. However, very competently, Martin Layer, who had been a Councillor since May 2004, took over the position and the Clerk is extremely grateful to him for his support and his technical and practical knowledge, especially on planning matters, has been of tremendous benefit. He expressed his thanks to and appreciation of Muriel Chandler for all that she has contributed to the work of the Parish Council. Both she and Martin Layer are now standing down as Parish Councillors because of outside business pressures.

Finally, he thanked all the Councillors for what they do in the interest of the Parish.

#### **Report by The Town Estate Charity**

The report was given by Mrs Jean White (the Charity's Secretary). She said that the Trustees took a decision last July to sell two acres of Epwell Wood and the sale was completed in March of this year. Unfortunately, an insurance claim failed to pay out on expensive repair work on utilities at the farm. A request to plant thirty trees in the Wheathills field had been refused as it was felt that the cost of protecting and maintaining them would be too great. The school had again been the main beneficiary of funds and a large donation was made to the refurbishment of the Friends Meeting House. As a result of the large sum paid out in maintenance of Heath Farm, the accounts showed a loss for the year of £1,230. In accordance with the Charity rules, income from this year had been distributed as follows:-

Relief in Need	£3,259	General Benefit	£2,530	School	£7,432
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The full report and the accounts are given at Appendix B

The Chairman thanked Mrs White for her report.  
To 729

*Osage Murray*  
12th May 2011

**Report by The Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator**

Mrs Mollie Mulley said that she had a team of fourteen to cover Sibford Gower and Burdrop. Each member receives information by email or the Ringmaster Telephone Messaging Service and such information is then passed on to residents in the respective areas.. She referred to her attendance at a recent Neighbourhood Watch Conference at Kidlington and the various subjects covered by speakers. Mrs Mulley has applied to the Neighbourhood Watch Manager in Warwickshire to join their Messaging Service for messages for the Brailes and Tysoe areas,

The full report is given at Appendix C.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Mulley for her report and leading the Neighbourhood Watch Team

**Village Hall Report**

The report was made by Cllr Muriel Chandler in her capacity as Secretary to the Village Hall Committee. In the report she referred to the regular usage of the Hall, the fundraising activities and mention was made of this year's Annual Fayre on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> June when outside help would be appreciated. Successful applications for grants had been made resulting in the double glazing of all the windows and the fire door in the large hall at a total cost of £5,000. A grant of £1,000 was obtained to replace all the crockery at a cost of £1,047. The Committee is still looking at enlarging the under-stage storage. During the year, the time given by volunteers to run and improve the Hall has been very much appreciated and special thanks are given to Mr David Soden for once again working hard to keep the front and side lawns looking good, to the Horticultural Society for keeping the front borders tidy and to Mr Keith Hicks for all the extra duties that are continually asked of him.

The full report is given at Appendix D

The Chairman thanked Cllr Chandler for her report and for all that she and the Committee do for the Village Hall

**Thames Valley Police Matters**

Unfortunately, because of staffing problems and the fact that Thames Valley Police had some thirty eight Annual Parish Meetings in a short period of time to handle, there was no police presence. The Chairman enquired whether anyone wished to raise any matter but nobody did. He said that should a topic crop up in the future, it should be raised with the Clerk who would take matters forward.

**Bishop Blaize Report**

Mrs Eileen Hayes, on behalf of the Bishop Blaize Support Group, gave a brief report informing the Meeting that two planning applications (one to add letting rooms and the other to convert from licenced to private status had been submitted but subsequently withdrawn). A careful watch continues to be kept in respect of any activity.

The Chairman thanked her and the Support Group for their continued vigilance.

**Any Other Business**

Mrs Mollie Mulley expressed her personal concerns about the proposals laid out in the Draft Core Strategy and the implications that they may have for the peace and quiet of the village. The Chairman advised that many of her concerns had been addressed in the comprehensive response by the PC to Cherwell DC and recommended her to the report.

Mr Fred Inns referred to reports that the drake on the Village Pond has become somewhat aggressive and is causing alarm to some mothers and children passing the pond area. The Chairman promised that the situation would have attention.

**There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman thanked all present for attending and declared the Meeting closed at 9.35pm.**

## **Sibford Gower Annual Parish Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Parish Council has met six times since last year's Annual Parish Meeting. The numbers of local residents attending these meetings has varied but we are grateful to a small number of regulars who invariably make a valuable contribution. They know who they are and our thanks go to them for their support.

A warm invitation is extended to all residents to attend the meetings. The dates are advertised in the Sibford Scene and on the notice board and provide an opportunity for residents to express views and opinions and to raise any concerns they may have on anything from parking to potholes, footpaths

I would also like to thank George Reynolds for attending many of our meetings and for the advice and information he is able to give us on a range of matters. Bearing in mind his very busy schedule at Cherwell and with the County Council we appreciate the time he gives to us.

Matters discussed at Parish Council Meetings are always set out in the reports published in the Sibford Scene and your councillors and Clerk are available if further information is required.

Turning now to planning matters which increasingly seem to take up more time at parish council meetings.

#### **Planning Matters.**

Since this time last year 26 planning applications have been considered by the Parish Council. Although the majority of these are not in our view contentious there have been some this year that the Parish Council has objected to and which consumed time and effort by the councillors.

Most of the planning applications the Parish Council is consulted on by Cherwell District Council relate to householder applications for extensions and new build often in the Conservation Area and

involving listed building consent. We have noticed that the quality and detail of many of the applications received by the Parish has varied considerably over recent years and appears to have further deteriorated. This can make it difficult to understand the details of the development proposed and to decide on the Councils response to it.

Earlier this year we made tabled these concerns to the planning department at Cherwell. We requested that all applications received by the Parish Council should be capable of being understood by councillors and residents, that the building proposals are clear and that the plans are up to date and accurate. In addition we have also expressed our concern about the loss of mature trees particularly in the Conservation Area.

The Parish Council has also agreed some guidance for councillors on the grounds and reasons to be used when assessing individual planning applications.

The Parish Council has also taken the opportunity to make the voice of the village heard through representations to some of the very many public consultations that are made by Cherwell District Council as part of its Community Involvement programme. This has included representations on local public transport, rural housing, future provision for gypsies and travellers and most recently the Draft Core Strategy.

### **Draft Core Strategy**

The Draft Core Strategy includes proposals for distributing new housing across the District in the period to 2026. For this purpose Cherwell combined the two parishes of Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower together in order to create a village with services and amenities sufficient to receive a significant allocation of new housing over the next 16 years. This proposal was debated at a well attended joint public meeting with Sibford Ferris held on 6<sup>th</sup> April and was firmly rejected. The two Parishes recognise and accept the need for some growth to maintain a vibrant mixed community and to support and protect the existing rural services and facilities. However both Parishes are of the view that any future allocation must recognise the distinctive rural character of the area, the distance to urban and employment centres, and be in proportion to the current size of the villages. A representation was

submitted to Cherwell on behalf of both Parishes and the Clerk has copies available here this evening if you would like to see it.

### **Oxfordshire County Council**

Roads and footpaths are probably the next biggest item for discussion at meetings and in this regard regular contact had been maintained throughout the year with Oxfordshire County Council who has responsibility for highways and rights of way. Highway issues covering kerbs, drainage, potholes and the like are matters of very regular concern and complaint from residents. I would like to express my thanks to our Clerk for the way he handles all requests for work to be carried out by the highways department. It is not any easy task for either the Clerk or for Oxfordshire Highways but Peter Hardman remains both tenacious yet courteous at all times. We have already touched on this with Ralph Grant.

We also have a good working relationship with the rights of way section at the County Council and our local field officer Sarah Aldous is always able and willing to provide advice and sort out particular questions on footpaths and bridleways. I would also like to thank Andrew and Lesley Bishop for carrying out at the request of the Parish Council a comprehensive audit of the condition of all of our local footpaths. This is a valuable aid in maintaining access to our local rights of way.

### **Holy Trinity Churchyard**

The Parish Council, under the powers available to it, has financed the ongoing maintenance of part of the churchyard of Holy Trinity church. This work programme is carried out in collaboration with Sibford Ferris Parish Council who have taken on responsibility for the maintenance of the remainder of the area on a volunteer basis.

### **Burial Ground**

The Parish Council, again under the powers available to it, purchased, jointly with the Ferris Parish Council, the land adjacent to the Churchyard to create a burial ground. The Churchyard currently has only one burial plot left and so it would seem that in the relatively near future we will have to move into the new area. Developing plans for the management of the burial ground have absorbed considerable amounts of time and once again we are grateful for the hard work of our Clerk in getting to grips with the

issues, concerns and regulations involved with this new responsibility.

### **The Annual Litterblitz**

This annual clear up of the verges along our parish roads took place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April. Councillor Peter Abbot took over the organisation this year from Robin Spicer and my thanks to him and to all the residents who took part.

### **The Bishop Blaize**

The Parish Council were consulted by Cherwell District Council on two applications submitted in the last quarter of 2009. The first of these was for the development of 4 en-suite letting rooms swiftly followed by another attempt at a change of use from closed public house to dwelling. The Parish Council made robust objections to both on the basic principle that the pub is a village service essential for the sustainability of our rural communities. The applications were both withdrawn.

Our thanks are due once again to the Bishop Blaize Support Group and most particularly to Mrs Eileen Haines for the vigilant watch they are keeping regarding any activity at the Blaize and for energising the village as and when it has been necessary. This involved considerable effort but resulted in very significant numbers of local people expressing their continued support for the Blaize. Mrs Haines will present a report on behalf of the support Group later on this meeting.

### **Village Pond**

At the Annual Parish Meeting last year it was reported that the Parish Council had taken the decision to withdraw financial support from the Pond Action Team and with it the plan to develop the village pond for wildlife. A wildlife management plan for the pond had been introduced in 2006 but the subsequent reintroduction of ducks by a local resident conflicted with the agreed management principles. In short the ducks destroyed the new planting. The upkeep of the pond is now largely carried on by Mrs Glennis Hardman who maintains the wildflower grass area and keeps a watchful eye on the frog and toad populations.

However the ducks continue to present the Parish Council with a problem. Their aggressive behaviour has resulted in complaints from residents both young and old and advice has already been

taken from Cherwell District Council. It is likely that the matter will have to be referred to environmental health to be resolved if concerns continue.

### **Allotments**

In response to an expression of interest in allotments the Parish Council looked in to the availability of allotment plots for residents of the Parish. It was concluded that there wasn't any existing allotment space available and that there wasn't any suitable spare land coming forward within the village.

During the year we did of course lose our Chairman Robin Spicer to a new life in Thailand. He and Ann were key players in the life of the village giving generously of their time and resources to a wide range of organisations. Robin brought great local knowledge to the Parish Council and his contribution is very much missed.

I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their involvement and input over the past 12 months. In addition to the 6 parish meetings there has been attendance at various other meetings arranged by Cherwell District Council as well as planning applications and the regular bundles of material requiring reading and comment.

Perhaps the most important role in any Parish Council is the Clerk and at Sibford Gower we should fully appreciate how lucky we are to have Peter Hardman in the role. It's a big task for a meagre salary but Peter does far more than should be reasonably expected and carries out the role brilliantly. On behalf of all of us thank you.

8 I would also like to extend special thanks to Muriel Chandler who after ~~xx~~ years is stepping down from the Parish Council. She has made a special contribution to the Council with her local knowledge and understanding of the village and her determination to voice concerns on a range of social issues in our community. Her input will be greatly missed.

In addition I am standing down but am pleased to announce three new councillors; Gil Soden, Roger Alder and Alan Parkin. It is testament to the health of the village spirit that we have three people who have volunteered to take on the role and have not had to be co-opted. They will be joining our existing councillors Peter



Abbot and Oswyn Murray. I wish them well and hope they enjoy the role as I have done.

In light of the emerging plans by Cherwell for new homes as part of the growth of the district and our requirements for housing for local Sibford families I believe the village is likely to be faced with some challenging times ahead. We value our existing community, our primary school, village hall, church, surgery and social network but some careful decisions may be needed by the Parish Council and the village to ensure a living dynamic and sustainable future for Sibford Gower.

Thank you.

APPx B

THE TOWN ESTATES CHARITY  
SIBFORD GOWER AND BURDROP

CHARITY NO 253440

REPORT TO THE PARISH COUNCIL for the year 2009-2010

Much time and effort has been spent this year in dealing with solicitors and insurance brokers.

The Trustees took the decision last July to sell 2 acres of Epwell Wood after some negotiation with a suitable buyer and finally in March of this year this sale was completed. Unfortunately, an insurance claim failed to pay out on expensive repair work on utilities at the farm.

A request to plant 30 trees in the Wheathills field had been refused as it was felt that the cost of protecting and maintaining these would be too great.

The school has again been the main beneficiary of funds and a large donation was made to refurbishment of the Friends Meeting House. Many individuals have benefited from the chiropody service and the personal alarms which we organise and supply. Once again coaches used for outings for the Friendship Club have been half financed by the Trust. Two sums of money had been allocated to help with medical care of local residents; and one university student had been given funds to help with purchase of equipment.

As a result of the large sum paid out in maintenance at Heath Farm the accounts showed a loss for the year of £1230.

In accordance with the Charity rules income from this year has been distributed as follows:

Relief in Need	£3259	General Benefit	£2530	School	£7432
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Jean White  
Secretary  
May 2010

THE TOWN ESTATE CHARITY – SIBFORD GOWER AND BURDROP

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009

~~NOT~~ AUDITED

on 15/4/2010  
copy with Secretary

2008

Receipts

£	10,850	Rents :	Heath Farm	£	10,850	
£	2,345		Other farmlands	£	1,610	
£	3,600		School House	£	4,800	
£	4,500		Mast Site	£	5,026	
£	140		Wayleaves	£	144	
£	350		Wheathills	£	350	
						£ 22,780
£	-	Interest :	Natwest	£	-	
£	797		Coventry Building Society	£	64	
£	-		Capital gain/loss on sale of investments			£ -
						£ 64
£	534	Charitable Funds :	Barings Funds Managers	£	437	
£	1,473		Schroders	£	1,110	
£	1,028		Charities Official Investment Fund	£	1,028	
						£ 2,575
£	25,617					£ 25,420

Payments

£	2,585	Maintenance :	School House	£	443	
£	441		Heath Farm	£	5,715	
£	643		Wheathills	£	-	
£	100	Secretary's Expenses		£	21	
£	2,184	Insurance		£	1,933	
£	1	Sundry Expenses		£	7	
£	3,408	Valuations / Legal expenses		£	5,410	
£	9,362					£ 13,529
£	16,255	<u>Surplus receipts before distribution</u>				£ 11,891

Distributions

£	-	Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School	£	7,432	
£	4,772	Relief in Need	£	3,159	
£	5,782	General Benefit	£	2,530	£ 13,121
-£	19,112	<u>Net increase/decrease in Distributable Funds</u>			-£ 1,230

THE TOWN ESTATE CHARITY – SIBFORD GOWER AND BURDROP

~~NOT~~ AUDITED  
15/4/2010

APPORTIONMENT of SURPLUS RECEIPTS

Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009

<u>2008</u>							
£	-		<b>Surplus Receipts before Distribution</b>	£	11,891		
<b>Balance divided into three one-thirds</b>							
£	<u>16,256</u>						
£	5,419		1/3rd Sibford Gower Primary School	£	3,964		
£	-	5,419	Less Paid out in year	£	7,432	-£	3,468
£	5,419		1/3rd Relief in Need	£	3,964		
£	4,772	647	Less Paid out in year	£	3,159	£	805
£	5,419		1/3rd General Benefit	£	3,964		
£	5,782	363	Less Paid out in year	£	2,530	£	1,434
		<u>5,703</u>				-£	<u>1,230</u>

SUMMARY of DISTRIBUTABLE FUNDS

	Sibford Gower Primary School	Relief in Need	General Benefit	Total
Balance at 1st January 2009	£ 20,277	£ 76,564	£ 4,201	£ 101,042
Add 2009	-£ 3,468	£ 805	£ 1,434	-£ 1,230
Add Growth in assets	£ 2,815	£ 2,815	£ 2,815	£ 8,444
Balance at 31st December 2009	<u>£ 19,623</u>	<u>£ 80,183</u>	<u>£ 8,449</u>	<u>£ 108,256</u>

THE TOWN ESTATE CHARITY – SIBFORD GOWER AND BURDROP

~~NOT~~ AUDITED

STATEMENT of ASSETS & LIABILITIES

As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009

2008

15/4/2010

**PERMANENT ENDOWMENT**

£	671,000	Sibford Heath Farm (includes Fuel Land and Fields)	187.16 acres	£	671,000
£	60,000	Allotment lands	33.91 acres	£	60,000
£	30,000	Woodlands	4.22 acres	£	30,000
£	25,000	Site for Transmitting Equipment	0.18 acres	£	25,000
£	210,750	School House		£	210,750
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£	996,750	Valuation at 1st December 2007		£	996,750

**OTHER FIXED ASSETS**

£	62,500	Wheathills		£	62,500
		Barn at Wheathills			
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£	1,059,250			£	1,059,250

**CURRENT ASSETS**

£	14,245	Barings Fund Managers Ltd		£	30,196
£	5,567	Schroders - Fixed Interest Fund		£	5,285
£	19,997	Schroders - Charity Equity Fund		£	24,905
£	21,363	Charities Official Investment Fund		£	23,249
£	24,858	Coventry Building Society		£	24,922
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£	15,011		Natwest Account	£	13,717
£	-		Club Society Reserve Account	£	-
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£	101,042			£	122,275
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£	1,160,292	<b>Total assets</b>		£	1,181,525

**REPRESENTED BY**

£	996,750	Permanent Endowment - at 1st December 2007		£	996,750	
£	62,500	Other fixed assets ( Wheathills )		£	62,500	
£	101,041	Distributable Fund				
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		Balance at 1st January 2009	£	101,042		
		Growth/loss in assets 2009	£	22,463		
		Net increase/decrease in Distributable Funds	-£	1,230	£	122,275
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£	1,160,291			£	1,181,525	

The above Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31st December 2009 and the attached Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2009 have been prepared from the books and records of The Town Estate Charity and are in accordance herewith

Michael J Lewis  
3rd February 2010

**NOT AUDITED**

*20/10/2016*

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS  
Year Ended - 31st December 2009

Distributions

**1 Relief in Need**

Bus Service	£	120.00
Chiropodist	£	1,435.00
Charter Community Alarms	£	-
Distribution to individuals	£	1,603.93
	£	3,158.93

**2 General Benefit**

Sibford Friendship Club - Coach Hire	£	530.00
Religious Society of Friends	£	1,000.00
Sibford Scout Group	£	-
Sibford Society	£	-
Sibford Cricket Club	£	-
Village Hall	£	1,000.00
Holy Trinity PCC	£	-
	£	2,530.00

**3 School**

*Decorations  
Curtains*

	£	7,432.00
	£	7,432.00
	\$	

**TOTAL**

	£	13,120.93
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APPx C

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Sibford Gower Parish Council Meeting May 2010.

I am the Village Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator and have a team of 14 to cover Sibford Gower and Burdrop. Each member of the team receives information by E-mail or the Ringmaster Telephone Messaging Service. We aim to keep people informed and aware and to pass on advice we receive.

We were very sorry to lose Robin Spicer but have been fortunate that Harriet Mountford who purchased his house has replaced him.

The Neighbourhood Watch Manager Deborah Tonks is now Deborah Hextall. She is always friendly and helpful. She arranged an interesting Neighbourhood Watch conference at Kidlington.

Talks were given by:

Superintendent Howard Stone.

PC Terry Paxton –Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.

PS Kate Becket- Neighbourhood Policing.

Jackie Murdock from the Force Intelligence Bureau explained their work and how they try to keep ahead of the criminals by looking at the future developments. The roll out of digital television in 2011 will offer a good opportunity for distraction burglaries. Identity Fraud is a serious concern.

One can be a victim at any age but the average is a 79 year old female.

Maddy Radburn gave a very informative talk on the “Message In A Bottle” Scheme, which we have been trying to promote.

The scheme is recognised by the emergency services, it can save time and life.

It is for anyone of any age on regular medication or who suffers from allergies or asthma etc. It is free and provided by “The Lions Club”

Martin Woodley and Bert Pridgeon from Trading Standards talked about their work and the link up with Thames Valley Police.

Cold calling, distraction burglaries, bogus callers and rogue traders.

Trading Standards have set up an Approved Traders Scheme “Buy With Confidence”

Jayne Taylor The Crime Prevention Officer is also very helpful and if asked, she will give anyone advice on the security of their property, alarm systems etc.

PCSO Lana Smith is our Community Police Officer. She attended the two Neighbourhood Policing Team Drop In Surgeries at the Village Hall.

PC Rebecca McLeod Neighbourhood Specialist Officer has approached me to join the Key Individual Network (KIN) this is to provide a two-way information flow about community issues.

I have applied to The Neighbourhood Watch Manager in Warwickshire to join their Messaging Service for messages for the Brailles and Tysoe areas.

APP D

## ANNUAL VILLAGE HALL REPORT

(For the Annual Parish Meetings in the Gower on 5.5.2010. & in the Ferris on 25.5.2010.)

**DURING THE PAST YEAR SIBFORD VILLAGE HALL, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF JOAN BROADY, HAS AGAIN BEEN SUPPORTED BY ALL OUR REGULAR GROUP USERS PLUS WEEKLY CLASSES, WHICH NOW INCLUDES PILATES (twice a week), KARATE (3 times a week), YOGA, KEEP FIT (twice a week), DANCING AND ART. PRE SCHOOL GROUP CONTINUES TO MEET TWO MORNINGS A WEEK.**

**FUND RAISING CONTINUED WITH A PROFITABLE ANNUAL FAYRE, TWO LIVE CONCERTS. QUIZ, AN EASTER EGG HUNT ENJOYED BY 43 YOUNGSTERS AND THE POPULAR EVENING WITH THE "DAMN RIGHT I GOT THE BLUES" BAND. FILM EVENING PROVIDED BY CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL WERE WITHDRAWN BUT SHOULD BE STARTING AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER. THE HALL LOTTERY GAME FINALLY RESTARTED IN NOVEMBER WITH 152 MEMBERS GIVING THE HALL A PROFIT OF £912, WITH THE SAME AMOUNT BEING DRAWN IN PRIZES THROUGHOUT THE 12 MONTHS.**

**THIS YEAR OUR ANNUAL FAYRE IS ON SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AND WE WOULD AGAIN APPRECIATE ANY OUTSIDE HELP ON THE DAY, AND ON SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JULY "DAMN RIGHT I GOT THE BLUES" BAND RETURN.**

**AGAIN WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF AN ANNUAL DONATION BOTH FROM THE GOWER AND THE FERRIS PARISH COUNCILS AND A LOCAL RESIDENT.**

**WE OBTAINED A GRANT FROM THE OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRASSROOTS FUND OF £1,500 ENABLING US TO REPLACE THE VERY OLD STAGE CURTAINS AND FITTINGS AND WE WILL BE REPAINTING THE INNER BOARDS ON THE STAGE.**

**WE ALSO OBTAINED GRANTS FROM THE TRUST FOR OXFORDSHIRE'S ENVIRONMENT (TOE) WITH THE HELP OF THE VIRIDOR CREDITS ENVIRONMENTAL COMPANY OF £2,500, AND ANOTHER £2,500 FROM THE OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY FUND GRASSROOTS FUND, ENABLING US TO DOUBLE GLAZE ALL THE WINDOWS AND THE FIRE DOOR IN THE LARGE HALL AT A TOTAL COST OF £5,000, MAKING IT A WARMER ENVIRONMENT BUT ALSO SHOULD MAKE A SAVING ON HEATING COSTS. WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED REGULAR USER'S COMMENTS THAT THE HALL IS WARMER.**

**WE WERE ALSO SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING A GRANT OF £1,000 FROM THE DORIS FIELD CHARITABLE TRUST TO REPLACE ALL THE CROCKERY, AFTER RECEIVING MANY REQUESTS FOR MATCHING CROCKERY. 150 EACH OF CUPS, SAUCERS, TEA PLATES AND DINNER PLATES WERE PURCHASED, TOGETHER WITH SOME BOWLS AND HALF PINT GLASSES FOR THE TOTAL COST OF £1,047.**