



# North Hinksey Parish Council

## 2018 Newsletter



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### Annual Parish Meeting

We would like to encourage all parishioners to attend the **Annual Parish Meeting** at **7.30pm** on **Thursday 22nd March** in **Seacourt Hall** (refreshments served from 7pm). Please send any questions in writing (an e-mail will do) to the Parish Clerk by 12 noon on Monday 19th March to receive a reply at the meeting.

This year the meeting will include an important presentation by Nortoft about developing plans for upgrading leisure facilities and the Pavilion (see the R&A report on page 3 for details), plus an update on progress on the Neighbourhood Plan, which will have a final public consultation planned for June this year before it is submitted.

Overall this is an ideal opportunity to find out more about the local issues that are important to you, whether that is the much delayed West Way redevelopment, expansion of the Medical Centre, or possible impacts of the planned Oxford to Cambridge expressway.

Be there on 22nd March to find out more.



**Aerial view of Botley Centre looking north**

### 2018 Chairman's Report

Looking back over the past year it would be easy to focus on some of the negative aspects, especially the apparent lack of progress on some of the important issues highlighted in the NHPC 2017 newsletter.

The multiple delays on the Botley Centre redevelopment are an obvious example of this. At the time of writing works on the ground have yet to start, but now that the Botley Development Company have finally bought the land from the District Council we can be more confident that initial works on the temporary location will begin shortly.

Certainly if we include an aerial view of Botley Centre in next year's newsletter it is likely to look considerably different from the one shown here. As works progress the Parish Council will continue to monitor and advise as necessary to minimise any negative impact on local residents and businesses over the next few years.

Luckily there are also quite a few positive changes to report that have occurred around the Parish during the last year:

- Two defibrillators have been installed, at the Pavilion, and Rugby Club, with more to come.
- Botley Bridges are doing a sterling job, having taken over support services from the now defunct Elms Road Children's Centre.
- The Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion, with a final public consultation planned for June, and a referendum before the Plan is adopted later this year.
- Progress has been made on the provision of leisure facilities, with opportunities coming up soon to have your say on an emerging masterplan, and some of the extra facilities likely to be installed over the coming year.
- Elms Road Medical Centre are awaiting approval on plans to add two further consulting rooms, with much-needed extra GPs hopefully following close behind.

Sometimes progress can be frustratingly slow, but some good things are happening, so we can be positive about the future for our community.

**Councillor David Kay,**  
**North Hinksey Parish Council Chairman.**

## Planning Committee Report

We continue to receive a wide range of planning applications, though more and more minor ones are being treated under the (amended) 1995 General Permitted Development Order, so that we cannot comment on them. It is not clear how these are chosen. We can only comment on planning applications: decisions can only be made by the Vale's Planning Committee. Until recently, if we objected to an application, they automatically considered it, but now this only happens if the Ward District Councillor (Cllr. Debby Hallett) calls it in.

This year there have been three significant requests for *change of use* from commercial or business use to residential: at Riverside Court on Minns Industrial Estate, at the former wine shop at 47 West Way, now demolished to make way for flats, and at Diocesan House in North Hinksey village. On the Seacourt Retail Park the petrol station will be replaced by a drive-through coffee shop, despite many attempts by the committee and our ward councillor to save it from closure. In apparent contradiction of a covenant on the site and its own Local Plan 2031, which restricts food retail outlets to the West Way shopping centre, the Vale has given permission for a Marks & Spencer Food Store in place of Homebase. Recent reports of retrenchment by M&S may mean that this may not take place.

The interim accommodation on the West Way site for the Seacourt Hall, Baptist Church, Co-op and pharmacy should soon be being provided, so that Phase 1 of the development can start in June.

We hope that the concerns of the County Council about increased local traffic associated with the overdue expansion of the medical centre in Elms Road can be overcome – they did not appear to feature in a recent application to demolish a family house in the same road, and replace it with several flats.

Details of developments near you, and their progress, can be found on the Vale of White Horse's Planning website by inputting the reference number or the address. If you believe that what is being built is not in agreement with the approved plans, you should ring the Vale's Enforcement Team.

**Councillor Andrew Pritchard,  
Planning Committee Chairman.**

## Remembrance Day Service 2017

The Committee's focus remains the organization of the annual Ceremony of Remembrance in the War Graves Section of Botley Cemetery. The November 2017 service was well attended by hundreds of local residents and official delegates who enjoyed the autumnal sunshine.

The service was led once more by Reverend Richard Budgen, and local historian, Martin Harris gave the address. He spoke with enthusiasm about local events during the wars and the conversations he has had over many years with local residents who had first-hand experience of the war years and local events afterwards.



Many thanks to everyone who took part on the day as your presence is essential, especially those organisations, groups and individuals who laid wreaths at the Stone of Remembrance. The Parish Council were again delighted to welcome Matthew Arnold pupil Imogen Perkins, who read confidently from 'For the Fallen'. Thanks to the Botley Singers, who led the hymn singing, to the Youth Brass Ensemble, whose playing was wonderful, and to Radio Cherwell for the amplification of the service and simultaneous broadcast to local hospitals.

Due to their many commitments and postings worldwide the number of soldiers from Dalton Barracks was smaller than in previous years, however there were 16 present including 4 who provided the



the 'Guard of Honour' at the Stone of Remembrance. It was pleasing to see that many people continued the recent practice of leaving their poppies at one of

the graves to reflect personally on the enormity and tragedy of war.

Following the service many attended the Botley Women's Institute for tea, coffee and home-made biscuits and those in attendance continue to appreciate the warm welcome they receive.

Finally a big thank you to the Remembrance Day Committee members who planned the service, to all Councillors who supported on the day, and to our Parish Clerk, Alan Stone, for the commitment he gives to making this very special event run smoothly every year. Work is already under way to start planning the 2018 event, which will mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

**Councillor Ann Dykes  
Remembrance Day Committee Chairman.**

## Allotments Committee

The Allotments Committee is responsible for managing the waiting list, and have amended a number of the rules to help this. These have been circulated to all our tenants, and will come into force in January 2019. At present we have nine vacant plots, so now is the time to step forward if you want to grow your own vegetables.

We will be hiring a skip in March to dispose of rubbish from all our plots that can't be burnt or composted. A working party will assemble to fill the skip, repair the ruts in the School End path and pump the water into the tank from the well.

We now have two petrol strimmers for general use, and a petrol mower to help keep the grass tidy. The bank next to North Hinksey School has been tamed and turfed through the agency of Chris Sugden (plot 117) with a grant from NHPC, and will be sown with wild flowers shortly. We plan to provide communal bins to compost weeds, etc, at the Stream End and the School End plots. Bob Johnston (plot 63) has written some composting guidelines.

The allotment committee is also responsible for the orchard, meadow, nature reserve and memorial garden. Last year, Kevin Minns, a local businessman with a long association with Botley, approached us to ask if he could upgrade the path down the southern fence at the back of his grandfather's memorial garden, to provide an escape route from Minns Yard in times of flood. Having assured ourselves that this would not encroach on the space available for allotments in the future, the council agreed to accommodate his request in return for some help getting the garden back into good order.

We are also aware that the proposed Flood Alleviation Scheme will have consequences for our North Hinksey Lane plots, which will forfeit their rural tranquillity (*see photo*) as the trees are felled on the other bank of Seacourt Stream. Our plots may also become less prone to flooding.



**Councillor Ag MacKeith**  
**Allotments Committee Chairman.**

## Recreation & Amenities Committee

The R&A Committee is responsible for looking after our parish-owned recreational spaces, including the Louie Memorial playing fields off Arnold's Way, its adjacent copse, and the North Hinksey churchyard and village green. We maintain these spaces throughout the year with support from dedicated local residents including the North Hinksey Conservation Volunteers. A key focus of the R&A Committee's work since this Council took office in 2015 has been on improving our parish leisure spaces for all to enjoy in the coming years.

This time last year we were examining the results of our two consultations on leisure provision: the first with older and retired parishioners, and the second with young people. The results were presented at the R&A committee meeting in April, and the report is publicly available on the NHPC website. Based on evidence of broad demand for improved youth facilities, the R&A committee recommended that Council commit £30k in available funds towards the provision of new outdoor play facilities at Louie Memorial Fields for older children and teenagers. We are looking to consult, decide, and purchase new youth play equipment by this coming autumn.

Decisions on youth play equipment will be part of a wider consultation on all facilities at Louie Memorial Fields. With funding support from Vale District Council, in December NHPC appointed Nortoft planning consultants to develop a master plan for the longer-term improvement of facilities at the fields. A key focus will be the provision of an updated Pavilion / Scouts building to support current and future community groups in the decades ahead.

To find out more, please come along to the Annual Parish Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, when Nortoft will present their latest master planning work and will launch their public consultation. You can also contact an R&A Committee member at any time (see the NHPC website and notice boards for contact details) to tell us what you think about the work we're doing. We will need a lot of support from the community to secure planning permission and funding for any new facilities. Please get involved to help us make it happen – every bit of input helps, and no contribution is too small!

**Councillor Caroline Potter,**  
**Recreation & Amenities Committee**  
**Chairman.**

## Parish Councillors to May 2018

### Cllr. Pauline Allen

79, Hurst Rise Road Tel. Oxford 862353  
E-mail: cllrpallen@yahoo.com

### Cllr. Lorna Berrett

51, Arthray Road Tel. Oxford 722732  
or 07967 111014  
E-mail: lberrett.nhpc@gmail.com

### Cllr. Judith Bolder

2, Stanley Close Tel. 07838239939  
E-mail: judiboldernhpc@gmail.com

### Cllr. Voirrey Carr

63, Hurst Rise Road Tel. Oxford 863899  
E-mail: cllrvoirreycarr@virginmedia.com

### Cllr. Chris Church

47, Crabtree Road Tel. 07710409590  
E-mail: chrischurch@cooptel.net

### Cllr. Ann Dykes

19, Conifer Close Tel. Oxford 251821  
E-mail: anndykes1@outlook.com

### Cllr. Adam Hardiman

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### Cllr. David Kay

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E-mail: cllrdavidkay@hotmail.com

### Cllr. Louise Kunzemann

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E-mail: lisik58@yahoo.co.uk

### Cllr. Ag MacKeith

South View House, Tel. Oxford 724452  
Old Botley  
E-mail: cllr.mackeith@yahoo.com

### Cllr. Ruth Mayne

94, North Hinksey Lane Tel. 07966533303  
E-mail: cllr.ruthmayne@outlook.com

### Cllr. Caroline Potter

6, Seacourt Road Tel. 07590194768  
E-mail: cllr.caroline.potter@gmail.com

### Cllr. Andrew Pritchard

33, Laburnum Road Tel. Oxford 240014  
E-mail: 3andrew3@tiscali.co.uk

### Cllr. Adam Rankin

3, Toynbee Close Tel. 07989574862  
E-mail: cllr.rankin@gmail.com

## Parish Clerk

### Mr. Alan Stone

27, Long Close Tel. & Fax Oxford 861992  
E-mail: nhpcclerk@msn.com

## District Councillors

### Cllr. Debby Hallett

Tel. Oxford 240031

### Cllr. Emily Smith

Tel. Oxford 427891

## County Councillor

### Cllr. Judy Roberts

Tel. Oxford 864041

## Seacourt Hall Bookings

### Eric Batts

Tel. 07452 960100

E-mail: seacourt.hall@gmail.com

[www.seacourthall.org.uk](http://www.seacourthall.org.uk)

## Parish Council Responsibilities:

- Allotments
- Consideration/comments to the District Council on Planning matters
- Playing Fields, including the football pitch, MUGA, Trim Trail and children's play area
- Copse & concrete path from Cedar & Hurst Rise Roads
- Maintenance/upkeep of parish owned land / buildings including Louie Memorial Pavilion
- Parish owned bus shelters, notice boards and seats
- Maintenance of the Parish Council website

## Parish Council Committees:

- Planning
- Finance and General Purposes
- Allotments includes the North Hinksey Nature Reserve and the Community Orchard
- Recreation and Amenities
- Remembrance Day
- Communications

Committee membership and meeting dates can be found on the Parish Council website:

[www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk](http://www.northhinksey-pc.gov.uk)

## Attendance at Council Meetings:

The following are the number and percentage of full Parish Council meetings attended by Parish Councillors over the year to January 2018:

Cllr. P. Allen	8 out of 11	73%
Cllr. L. Berrett	10 out of 11	91%
Cllr. J. Bolder	11 out of 11	100%
Cllr. V. Carr	10 out of 11	91%
Cllr. C. Church	6 out of 11	55%
Cllr. A. Dykes	11 out of 11	100%
Cllr. A. Hardiman	6 out of 11	55%
Cllr. D. Kay	10 out of 11	91%
Cllr. L. Kunzemann	8 out of 11	73%
Cllr. A. MacKeith	10 out of 11	91%
Cllr. R. Mayne	7 out of 11	64%
Cllr. C. Potter	9 out of 11	82%
Cllr. A. Pritchard	10 out of 11	91%
Cllr. A. Rankin	8 out of 8	100%

## Other useful Telephone Numbers:

Vale District Council Milton Park 01235 422422  
Oxford City Council Town Hall 01865 249811  
Oxon County Council County Hall 01865 792422  
Oxfordshire C.C. Highways (potholes & local highways problems—not A34) 0845 3101111  
Bus Shelter problems 01865 861992  
Thames Water Emergency Customer Care Line (e.g. no water, sewer flooding) 0800 316 9800  
Thames Valley Police Non-Emergency Calls 101