

Chairman's Report APM 14 May 18

LITTLE MISSENDEN PARISH COUNCIL  
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE FY ENDING 31 MARCH 2018  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MONDAY 14 MAY 2018

Welcome to everyone.

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Rita Whitten and I have been Vice-Chair of the Parish Council since February this year and I am currently Acting Chair.

We also have with us this evening C Cllr Peter Martin representing Little Kingshill & Little Missenden and District Cllr Michael Smith representing Holmer Green. Apologies have been received from C Cllr Isobel Darby, D Cllr Mark Titterington representing Holmer Green and Parish Cllrs Burke and Geraghty

Thames Valley Police had accepted our invitation to be present dependent upon operational requirements but were not able to attend. An invitation was sent to TfB for this evening but unfortunately no-one was available.

### Personnel

We said goodbye to our Vice Chairman & Chair of Finance Nick Vigart in January this year followed by our Chairman Jeff Dominy in March 2018.

We also said goodbye to Chris Summers as Parish Clerk who unfortunately was only with us until the end of May 2017 but we were joined in August 2017 by Melanie Franklin, who I am pleased to say is still with us. Once again we have to thank Ken Williams who joined us as a locum for the intervening period.

We have therefore had another interesting and challenging year within LMPC.

We currently have 10 Parish Council Members: and I will introduce those that are present this evening:

**Les Giles** and **Walid Marzouk** representing Little Missenden and Little Kingshill Wards

**Jane Fallon**, **Peter Rawbone**, **Gerry Spiller**, **Ruth Werberski** and **myself** representing Holmer Green

**Danny Baker** representing Hyde Heath

As our full complement is 13 we therefore have 3 vacancies to fill, 1 each in LM, LK and in HG and just prior to this meeting we have met with 3 prospective candidates.

I'm sure I don't have to remind you that all Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers who give freely of their time.

### What did the Parish Council do in 2017/18

#### Planning

Cllr Giles as Chair of Planning and myself as Vice Chair Planning worked on the LMPC submission regarding WDC's Local Plan regarding HW8 and its effects upon the Parish and are continuing to monitor this.

We are also monitoring HS2 and held a meeting with HS2 Ltd representatives to discuss various matters affecting the Parish. However, since that time things have changed with HS2 Ltd – such as Carillion - and we hope to be able to arrange another meeting.

LMPC is consulted regarding planning applications within the Parish and routinely make comments to CDC including taking notice of planned developments in the Green Belt and AONB, but we have no responsibility for the final decisions made. We also monitor enforcement measures with CDC where necessary.

### **Finance**

With the departure of Nick Vigart we are currently without a Chair of Finance and I admit I am not an accountant.

A summary of our year end financials will be addressed as item 4 on the agenda and will be available on the website after the meeting. There are a few hard copies available this evening if anyone would like one.

### **Open Spaces**

Cllrs Burke and Spiller have been working hard on behalf of the Parish especially on play areas which, as mentioned last year, remain a key priority.

Their tendering process for all maintenance work has reduced costs and repair timescales from an average of 3 weeks to one week with all work being quality checked and verified.

A new quick drying safety surface has been installed at Holmer Green play area on The Common .

Swings have been refurbished with new seats and chains and equipment painted in various play areas

All play areas in the Parish are checked and logged on a weekly basis by Ward Cllrs to ensure that equipment is in good order and any necessary work is reported. In addition a quarterly play area inspection form is completed.

Open Spaces has also opened dialogue with Village Societies/Groups in the Parish to ascertain key issues.

And an annual maintenance programme covers:

- Eradication of nettles and brambles in hedges that face public areas
- Bi-annual pressure washing of all play surfaces
- And a three year repainting programme of equipment

### **Rossetti Hall**

Three Ward Councillors have been on the Rossetti Hall committee, Cllrs Geraghty, Spiller and Rawbone with Cllr Rawbone as Chairman for which we thank them.

### **Youth**

A donation was made to Holmer Green Youth Club which was put towards Safeguarding Training for older Youth Leaders and Cllr Fallon has been our Youth Representative this year.

### **Local Area Forum**

Our past Chairman and Cllr Fallon have been our LAF representatives where such matters as potholes and antisocial behaviour are discussed. Unfortunately as I mentioned earlier TFB could not be present this evening.

The safety barriers outside the school in Little Missenden which had been approved in FY 2016/17 have now been installed.

### **New Website**

It was reported last year that I would be updating the LMPC website. This was delivered this on time as promised and has been online from January 2018. There are lots of links to other websites for reporting matters such as dog fouling issues, abandoned vehicles, fly tipping, potholes etc as well as links within the Parish and BCC/CDC websites and Councillors. If you haven't done so already please take a look.

### **Street Lighting**

As at November 2017 134 street lights had been converted to LED in Holmer Green and it is anticipated that this project will be completed by June 2019.

### **Holmer Green Pond**

Work has been carried out by LMPC to refurbish the duck houses and clear undergrowth , overgrown trees and shrubs. I understand from Cllr Marzouk that residents have made complementary comments regarding this.

### **Litter**

Littering continues to be an ongoing problem but we are grateful for the work carried out by all village societies on their litter pick days.

### **Best Kept Village Competition 2017**

Little Missenden entered the Gurney Cup and achieved 6<sup>th</sup> place out of 16 entrants

Hyde Heath entered the Morris Cup and scored 77 points out of a possible 100.

Additionally:

You may have noticed Increased movements of MVAS (Moveable Vehicle Activated Signs ) equipment in the Parish.

LMPC has made efforts to assist our Neighbourhood policing team regarding adequate cover in the area.

2 New dog litter bins have been installed at Hyde Heath: at the 2 entrances to the woods in Chalk Lane

A new litter bin has been installed in Little Missenden

Our thanks go to

- Thames Valley Police for attending Open Evenings
- PCSO's Nicky Hinkley and Chris Ging who no longer cover our area
- All members of the Rossetti Hall committee
- Local Area Forum and Neighbourhood Action Group members
- Lucy Coppin our Internal Auditor
- Ian Harvey for the safe keeping of the flag pole and re-erection and raising of the flag on HG Common
- Mark Roberts for his kind donation of the Christmas trees and lights in Holmer Green
- All fellow councillors who give up their time without reimbursement for the benefit of the Parish.
- Our Parish Clerk

### **LMPC Plans for 2018/19 are**

- Continuation of the plans for new equipment for major play areas together with safety surfaces. **However** new equipment purchases will be heavily reliant on local fundraising.
- We will make submissions to CDC/SBDC regarding the Local Plan once it is released – proposed for June but may be delayed to September
- Ongoing submissions to WDC regarding proposed development on the area known as HW8
- Involvement with local government regarding the proposed One Unitary Council in Bucks
- Open Ward meetings (3 Sept Hyde Heath and 1 Oct Little Kingshill)
- An annual survey of trees which are the responsibility of LMPC
- Further meetings with HS2
- Best Kept Village Competition - Only Little Missenden has expressed interest in entering this year

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Also I need to mention that Allotment plots are still available at Hyde Heath and Holmer Green. Please contact the Clerk

**R Whitten**

**Acting Chairman**

**Little Missenden Parish Council**

**14 May 2018**