

MORTIMER WEST END PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting			
Date:	Thursday 30 th May 2019	Time:	7.30pm
Place:	Mortimer West End Village Hall		
Present:	Cllr Nick Thurlow (Chair) , Christine McGarvie (Clerk) and 11 members of the public		
Speakers:	Mortimer Quarry – Andrew Liddle, Divisional director of Hills Quarry Products Englefield Estate – Edward Crookes, Estates Director and Richard Edwards Mortimer West End Cricket Club - Jason Searancke, Chairman MWECC Burghfield Football Club – Liam Gillis, venue co-ordinator Mortimer West End Village Hall Management Committee – Andrew Arthur St Saviours Church – Ian Ewart, member of PCC and Treasurer Calleva WI – Jean Kyle Borough Councillor – Simon Mahaffey		

		Action
1	Apologies for absence	
	County Councillor Rhydian Vaughan , Borough Cllr Roger Gardiner and PCSO Emma Page sent their apologies and also sent reports which can be found in Appendices B, C and D	
2	Chairman’s Welcome and introduction to the meeting Cllr Thurlow welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the Chairman’s report which can be found in Appendix A.	
3.	<p>Andrew Liddle. Divisional director of Hills Quarry Products</p> <p>Gravel extraction at Mortimer Quarry in Benyon’s enclosure is being carried out in 8 phases. Hills are currently digging phase 1 and clearing phase 2. Footpaths have been redirected and wildlife moved using reptile fencing.</p> <p>The top soil is taken off at each phase and the archaeology is examined. A journal will be published outlining the archaeology found. The ecology of the site is also carefully considered as soil cannot be moved when wildlife may be hibernating.</p> <p>There is now a bagging facility at the site.</p> <p>There is a dedicated website where the public can find out information about what is going on at the site and communicate with Hills. https://www.mortimerquarry.co.uk/</p> <p>Hills arrange visits and try to get schools involved. Visits can be requested via the website.</p> <p>An open day was held on 21st July 2018 and over 100 people attended. The aim was to help residents understand the process of gravel extraction at the site.</p> <p>There are problems with recruitment at the site. Hills have been trying to recruit an apprentice aged 16 to 18-year olds but so far have been unable to.</p> <p>They have made charitable donations in the local community including toy trucks and gravel donated to Silchester Primary school, £100 donated to MWE village</p>	

	Action
<p>show 2019, £175 sponsorship in the form of 50 hay bales for the Padworth and Aldermaston Wharf show 2019.</p>	
<p>5. Englefield Estate – Edward Crookes, Estate Director.</p> <p>The restoration of Mortimer Quarry is very important to Englefield Estate. It will lead to a richer habitat with more tree planting.</p> <p>Englefield estate are a family owned, property and land owner. The objectives of the organisation are to make a profit as a business, to be community centred through direct employment in their offices, farms and recreation. They also want to provide homes.</p> <p>Rural policy and the issues that Brexit will bring continue to be a concern for the estate. In 2021 area payments will be cut and there will be a shift to environmental land management schemes but the exact content is not yet known.</p> <p>The estate has been working on a natural flood management programme in Pangbourne. This involves building timber structures which slow the water flow.</p> <p>A Natural Capital audit has been carried out in Englefield parish assessing carbon storage, biodiversity and measuring the value of the land.</p> <p>There has been refurbishment of some of the estates houses and they have also been involved in building new houses.</p> <p>A new farm shop has been opened at Englefield in old farm buildings that were no longer suitable for farming. This created about 30 jobs.</p> <p>The Englefield social club which was established in 1886 has now closed and they are working on converting it to a village hall.</p> <p>The dry weather continues to be a concern for farming on the estate.</p> <p>Anyone can sign up to receive the estates newsletter via their website. https://www.inglefieldestate.co.uk/</p> <p>Richard Edwards , Forestry manager.</p> <p>400 educational visits have been organised in the last 12 months including visits by the scouts and cubs. The estate is developing a role for an education officer with the aim of explaining sustainable forestry management. Silchester school are visiting on 14th June. Silchester fun run took place in Benyon’s enclosure, orienteering events and there are several geocaches located in the woods. Unfortunately, the beaver bench was vandalised and had to be removed.</p> <p>Tree safety surveys have been carried out and Ash dieback continues to be an issue. A new apprentice will be starting soon.</p>	
<p>6. Mortimer West End Cricket Club - Jason Searancke, Chairman</p> <p>The club is a family friendly village cricket club which welcomes everyone. There are 3 adult and 4 junior teams. The first team came second in the Berkshire league and second team won.</p> <p>The Junior side has 75 members.</p> <p>The Cricket club thanked the Parish Council for the grant towards the mower and for the investment in the village playground.</p> <p>There is currently only one girl playing for the team and they want to find out why this is.</p> <p>The pavilion also needs improving as it was built in the 70s so there are no unisex facilities. The club are starting to explore the options for improving the facility.</p> <p>Cllr Mahaffey offered to share information about successful funding applications that Silchester made for grants towards their pavilion.</p> <p>On 9th August MWECC have an international game against Singapore.</p>	

		Action
7.	Burghfield Football Club – Liam Gillis Venue co-ordinator Please see appendix E	
8.	MWE Village Hall committee – Andrew Arthur gave a report prepared by Heather Simms. The Woodland walk continues to be a popular event with 62 teams already entered. The event made £750 last year. Thank you to all those who helped with the refreshments and volunteered as marshals. A Quiz night was held in October. Monday evenings are regularly booked, Calleva WI are regular users of the hall and it is used by the produce show. There are also an increasing number of one-off bookings. This year the roof was repaired. The work was funded by grants from Englefield Estate and the Parish Council. A new barrier and security gate were also installed. The next project will be to repair the halls floor and to replace the heaters. The committee were thanked for all the hard work they put in to running the Village hall.	
9	St. Saviours Church – Ian Ewart Please see appendix F for the full report.	
10.	Calleva WI – Jean Kyle Calleva WI thanked the hall committee for the use of the hall. The group have 30 members and there is good attendance at meetings. They have had a number of interesting speakers over the year including a talk about zero gravity and debates about rural transport and mental health. In August there was a session on flower arranging and in September a talk from a lock keepers' wife. There is always tea and cakes at the meetings. There is an annual Open garden party. The group meet on the 2 nd Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.	
11	Cllr Simon Mahaffey – Borough councillor Cllr Mahaffey introduced himself as the new borough councillor for the ward. He has been on Silchester Parish Council for 8 years but recently stood down. He is also co-chair of the Calleva Society which was set up to object to the illegal development of a traveller's site in Silchester. There is currently an injunction in place and the site is unoccupied. The application is with the planning inspectorate to decide whether a 13-pitch site should be given permission to go ahead. A planning training session for councillors is planned to be held by Basingstoke and Deane in September. Cllr Mahaffey recently attended the Mayor making session. The mayor will be supporting 3 charities over the year including The Besom in Basingstoke which takes second hand electrical equipment and furniture to donate to those who need help. The Horizon 2050 document has recently been published. It outlines what the borough hope that the area will look like in 30 years. More information can be found at the following website https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/horizon2050 Basingstoke and Deane are revising the local plan in light of the new guidelines which have been issued by government. If the Parish Council are interested an officer from the borough can attend a meeting and explain neighbourhood plans. There is a plan to develop the Ice rink and leisure centre area in Basingstoke at a cost of £300 million. This would be funded by a new out of town retail area however Festival place are taking B&D to court over the decision.	

		Action
12	CLlr Nick Thurlow reminded everyone that there is currently a vacancy on the council and then closed the meeting at 9pm.	

Signed: **Date:**.....
(Chairman)

REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2018/19

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome and thank-you for attending our Mortimer West End Parish Assembly.

I am Nick Thurlow chairman of your Parish Council and it is my pleasure to welcome you this evening.

As Parish councillors we are also sole trustees of MWE Gravel Allotments Trust which makes us responsible for the Recreation Ground and the Allotments. Use of the Rec Ground is rented out to MWE Cricket Club and Burghfield Football Club on a yearly basis. To emphasise, the Parish Council and MWE Gravel Allotments Trust are separate bodies, albeit with the Parish Council as trustee.

Please let me introduce the other members of the Parish Council.

Jonathan Bray and Andrew Arthur are in their third years on the Council, and David Lister has been with us for just over a year.

Our previous Chairman, John Robertson, left the council earlier this year, bringing to an end many years of association with the Parish Council. I would like to thank John for his service, both as Chairman and councillor.

Lastly, I would like to introduce our Parish Clerk, Christine McGarvie – who manages all aspects of the operations of the Council.

I would like to thank Christine and all of the councillors for the time and energy they have committed over the past 12 months.

As you know, local elections took place on May 2nd. The election of Parish Councillors for Mortimer West End was uncontested, so all members were duly reappointed.

John's retirement from the Parish Council does mean that we have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor and we would be keen to hear from anybody that would like to find out more about this opportunity and what it means to be a Parish Councillor.

As members of the Parish Council, all of us participate in other local bodies and charities, notably Basingstoke & Deane Association of Parish & Town Councils (David and Jonathan), Clarke's Educational Trust (David), The Village Hall committee (Andrew), Mortimer Relief In Need Charity (Nick), the AWE Local Liaison Committee (Nick) and the Roman Town Advisory Committee (David).

I will now give you my Report for the past year.

One of our functions as a Council is to review Planning applications within the Parish and pass our comments on to Basingstoke & Deane Planning Department. These are, in the main, to do with building extensions. We make a point of speaking with immediate neighbours regarding applications and taking note of any comments.

The Parish Council acts as a liaison point with the local police services. Unfortunately, our PCSO Emma Page cannot be with us this evening, but we will hear her report a little later. One key development this year has been the engagement of the Parish Council in the Community Speedwatch programme. This is a national initiative that engages "civilian"

resources in working with the police to monitor and record speeding drivers at certain time and specific locations. No prosecutions result from these sessions, although speeding drivers will receive a warning letter from the police. Cases of truly excessive speed will result in a visit from the police.

As you may recall, 2018 saw the opening of the new Children's playground next to the cricket ground. This was organised by the Parish Council, and represented an approximate £50K investment in the infrastructure of the village. We sought and received funding from the following sources: Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, The Greenham Common Trust and Mortimer Relief-in- Need. Over the past 12 months, we have been dealing with "teething problems" with the playground, but are now pleased to see the facility being well used, especially in the summer months.

High speed broadband has become a necessity for business and leisure in the modern world. Over the course of the last 12 months we have seen ultra fast broadband become available to most parts of the parish, facilitating more flexible working practices and enabling access to a myriad of digital services. The Parish Council, and specifically Councillor Arthur, played a role in advocating the needs of the Parish to the various companies involved, and communicating progress. This is a major positive development for all residents of Mortimer West End.

In the course of. 2018/19, the Parish Council spent approximately £11,700 – on village maintenance, administration and a grant to support the maintenance of the Mortimer West End village hall, the building we are in this evening. The Parish Council received income of approx. £9,300, the biggest component of which is the precept of £8,500. Looking into 2019/20 – the Parish Council elected to maintain the precept at its 2018/19 level rather than add additional load onto Council tax bills.

I would conclude with a call to action for all residents. As a Parish Council we are here to serve the needs of the residents of Mortimer West End.

The Parish Council currently hold around £26,400 in liquid assets. Some of this money is committed to cover the normal running costs of the Parish, but some of it is available to be used for appropriate projects. As we plan our activities for 2019 and 2020 we would like to hear from everyone on how they would like to see our resources applied.

We would rather see it applied to projects in the village, rather than sitting in the bank. Please contact any councillor, Christine – our Parish Clerk – or simply give us some input on our web-site.

Lastly – I would like to thank you all for attending – and I hope you find this Parish Assembly a useful and informative session.

Nick Thurlow

30th May 2019

Hampshire County Council
Calleva Division
Cllr Rhydian Vaughan MBE
Annual Parish Meeting Report 2019

Background

Hampshire's population is 1,370,700 (2017) the third most populous county in England (85% is rural and 15% urban). 123,000 live in the Winchester District. Hampshire CC maintains 5400 miles of roads, 4300 miles pavements, 133,000 streetlights, 481 schools, 45 libraries, 16 care homes for older people, 9 residential homes for children and young people, 24 Household Waste Centres and 5 Country Parks. Every year 94% of all household waste is diverted from landfill (40% recycled) and powers 50,000 homes. Hampshire has an 80% employment rate (UKA 73.9%) and 3.5% unemployment rate (UKA 5%).

Budget

The population of over 75 year olds will rise by 30 per cent over the next seven years - an extra 5,500 people a year who may well need social care support, to varying degrees. The 2.99% increase in Hampshire's council tax will generate an additional £18 million. HCC council tax remains the 2nd lowest in England.

HCC's capital programme is a significant investment in Hampshire's infrastructure, delivering schemes totalling £491.6 million between 2019 and 2022 and providing a boost for the local economy:

- £160 million of investment in new and extended school buildings in Hampshire in the period 2019/20 to 2021/22 to ensure there is a school place for every child in Hampshire
- £122 million for structural maintenance and improvement of roads and bridges in Hampshire over the next three years
- £72 million for integrated transport schemes including £9 million specifically focused on walking and cycling improvements
- £94 million for major improvement of school and other County Council buildings over the next three years.

However since 2008, HCC has lost £476 million in Government grants and budget cuts from Central Government. We are required to produce further savings of £80 million for the years 2020/2021.

School Admissions

98.4% of children in Hampshire have been offered a place at their top three preferred primary school.

98% of children have been allocated a place at their top three preferred secondary school.

Road Maintenance and Operation Resilience

Over 5300 miles of road are maintained by HCC. £10m is invested annually on planned maintenance on top of government funding. The first of Hampshire's brand new Dragon Patchers has arrived to help repair the county's roads, damaged by the winter weather. The County Council has bought two Dragon Patchers for exclusive use in Hampshire

Sites of road works and road maintenance are listed on the HCC website where problems can also be reported:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance>

Connect to Support Website

(<https://www.connecttosupporthampshire.org.uk/home>)

Is a useful resource providing information about all aspects of independent living, such as advice about mental and physical health, help and support for carers, and equipment to help people manage at home. The website and app also includes:

- A directory of local services, activities, charities and helplines to supporting individuals with specific needs
- A directory of Care Quality Commission-registered home care agencies that can provide personal and nursing care in people's homes
- A directory of registered care homes and nursing homes in Hampshire.

Hampshire 2050 - a vision for the future

This commission of inquiry was set up to guide and contribute to the future prosperity, quality of life and protection and enhancement of the character and environment of Hampshire.

The Commissions themes are;-

- Demography and Societal challenges
- Economy
- Work skills and lifestyles
- Environment and quality of place
- Mobility, connectivity and energy
- Rural
- Cross- cutting themes (youth, digital, deprivation and diversity)

Please see Hantsweb for further details.

Member Grant Awards 2018/19- Calleva Division

<i>Amount (£)</i>	<i>Recipient</i>	<i>Detail</i>
1'000	Sherfield on Loddon	Speedwatch equipment
1'000	Stratfield Turgis	Gate barrier
300	Silchester	Beacon brazier
1'000	Bramley	Little Apples playground re-furb
1'000	Neighbourcare	Transport supporting independence
1'000	Sherborne St John	Speedwatch equipment
1'000	Stratfield Turgis	Defibrillator
1'700	Stratfield Saye	Church re-furb contribution

Transport & Local issues

The 14 bus service remains a work in progress. I am meeting with the Executive Member for Transport on 14th May to seek ways of making it a better (and therefore better utilised) service.

We are now entering the last year before the new boundaries and new wards come into effect in May 2020. The new wards will be Tadley and Pamber comprising Tadley South, Tadley Central and both the north and south wards of Pamber. The remainder of the Pamber and Silchester ward including Mortimer West End to be included with the Bramley and Sherfield on Loddon in a Bramley Ward.

I will be serving the fourth year of my existing term having been elected in 2016.

In the election of May 3rd, Simon Mahaffey was successful in being elected to replace Cllr Marilyn Tucker who stood down at the conclusion of 43 years of continuous service. I will forever be in Marilyn's debt for the advice and guidance she has provided since my first successful election back in 1992.

Simon insists he is not "the new Marilyn Tucker" and nobody could be or would even dare to be. Marilyn was a one-off and we were lucky to have her as our ward councillor.

The election resulted in two seats changing hands, with Baughurst and Brighton Hill North moving from the Conservatives to the Liberals. The new council comprising :- Conservatives 31, Labour 21, Liberal 7, Independents 1. The administration is still under Conservative control with a majority of 2.

The Council Leader Cllr Clive Sanders is standing down following the election, and will be replaced by Cllr Ken Rattigan.

The Mayor for 2019/20 will be Cllr Diane Taylor following the council meeting on May 9th and the Deputy Mayor will be Cllr Onnalee Cubitt.

In 2018/19 I was on the following committees :- Audit and Accounts (which I chaired); Licensing, and Human Resources, and I sat on the following outside bodies:- The Basingstoke Charities, The Aldworth Trust, The Northern Area Road Safety Council, AWE Local Liaison Committee, and The Pamber Forest Advisory Committee. There is no change for the 2019/20 year.

Over the past year, the most obvious change which has impacted on the Parish has been the change in Waste collection contractors in October 2018. This has not gone as smoothly as we had hoped, but in the Pamber and Silchester Ward most people I have spoken to have not had any adverse service. If anybody has let me know.

Like many councils including Hampshire, Basingstoke and Deane has seen its funding from Central Government reduced and our Revenue Support Grant is now nil. Fortunately, the council has a good level of reserves invested in property within the borough which cushions the blow. A band D property increase in Council Tax of £5.00 a year has been applied, bringing the Borough Council Tax up to £121.42 on a band D property, and raising £320,000. Not a great deal in relation to the Borough's annual spend.

The borough's annual expenditure is around £30,000,000 of which 26% comes from Council Tax.

However, the borough is committed to maintaining services, and picking up some of the service cuts being made by HCC where this is impacting our residents. Much is said about bus subsidies and the effect on Service 14. Although not a borough responsibility, Basingstoke and Deane spend more on bus subsidies in the borough than is provided by the county who are responsible.

Planning applications throughout the ward take up much of my time, and I try to balance the interests of the applicant with those of the objectors. Usually in such a way that I satisfy nobody. However, I am always here to press the case for any resident who has an application and always willing to listen to all objectors.

I said last year that that would be my final year as your councillor. Thanks to the boundary commission putting the boundary changes back a year, I will complete my term, but this will definitely be the last year that I will have the pleasure of serving you as your councillor. It has been and still is a rewarding task.

Basingstoke Rural East – Silchester and Pamber AGM

How to contact your Police Team

Pamber and Silchester is part of the Basingstoke Rural East area. Incorporated in these areas (in line with the Police system) are Stratfield Turgis, Turgis Green, Hartley Wespall, Mortimer, Stratfield Saye and Little London. The Neighbourhood Policing Team work from Tadley Police station. The Inspector is Hannah Luchesa who has taken over from Inspector Paul Pressley. The PCSO is Emma Page, she can be contacted at emma.page@hampshire.pnn.police.uk or Basingstoke.Rural.Police@hampshire.pnn.police.uk. There are two PC's, Lee Stanbrook and Kerstan Studd.

If you would like to know what is happening in your area, you can access Hampshire Alerts which circulate details of crimes and suspicious activity reported in your area. <https://www.hampshirealert.co.uk>

In addition a newsletter is produced at the end of each month. If you would like to be added to the distribution list then please liaise with PCSO Emma Page.

If you are a victim of crime and the incident is not happening, then report the incident by calling 101. Alternatively you can email details of the crime to <https://www.hampshire.police.uk>.

If you have information about criminality but wish to remain anonymous then contact crime stoppers. Crime stoppers is not the police. The telephone number is 0800 555 111.

Neighbourhood priorities

Neighbourhood priorities are reviewed every three months. The priorities are identified by the community who are asked to complete a short on line survey. The monthly newsletter will update what the neighbourhood team has done to address the priorities, alternatively you can get updates on line at <https://www.police.uk>.

Message from Inspector Luchesa:

"Many thanks to all of you who helped us with our recent Community Priorities Survey. We received 634 replies, which is an amazing return. Many of you remain understandably very concerned about burglaries, theft from motor vehicles and criminal damage within your local area. I accept that these are areas that we must be fully aware of, but I am also aware that reporting of all three types of these offences appears to be lower than the figures in our last quarterly review.

*In making a decision on what type of crime we should focus on in your local area, I have to use the resources I have in the most effective way I can. I also have to look at what our own, wider priorities are and what our current crime figures tell us about crime in Tadley Central, Tadley South, Pamber, Silchester, Bramley and Sherfield. While crimes of violence or serious harm still remain relatively low in Basingstoke, our principal focus, as you may well be aware, centres on preventing the most serious types of **violent offences**, whether they are linked to knives, drugs, domestic violence, the sexual and criminal exploitation of children and the protection of other types of vulnerable people, such as those who are repeatedly being reported as missing.*

*Given this, I have decided that focus for this quarter (May to July) in Tadley Central, Tadley South, Pamber, Silchester, Bramley and Sherfield will aim to reduce the overall number of **violent offences** resulting in injuries to victims. Please do continue to report all types of crime. Your local beat officers will continue to act to reduce the number of all types of offences in your local area and we will continue to monitor any emerging trends in offences."*

Rogue traders

This is an issue that is frequently reported to us. If you know somebody who is vulnerable then please keep an eye on who is visiting them. Trades people who COLD CALL which is selling goods and services at your door have to offer a 14 day cooling off period. They should also provide a contract with the company name and address on it.

People should be cautious when buying something at the front door and should STOP and question if they even need the work doing. Many people suddenly decide to have work done that they had never considered having done. Often they are told that the work needs doing because it is dangerous or an emergency. If somebody is told there is something wrong with their roof, or their trees need cutting then don't get it done there and then.

Get quotes from several reputable sources and preferably get quotes from a recommended trade's person. The following links could be helpful:

Selection of Incidents reported from 01/05/18 – 10/05/19 (in total there were 160 incidents there were classified as crimes by the Home Office during this period).

	Stratfield Turgis	Turgis Green	Hartley Wespall	Mortimer	Pamber	Stratfield Saye	Silchester	Little London	TOTAL
Burglary	9		4	1	4	3	3	1	25
Theft from Motor Vehicle	2				1	1	1		5
Theft of Motor Vehicle	1			1	1		1		4
Assaults		1		2	13	1	14	6	37
Criminal Damage	2			4	5		6	4	23
Public Order	1	1	2		3		5	4	16
Drug Offences					2	1			3
Suspicious Incidents									67
ASB (Community & Environmental)									24
Action Fraud					4	1	1		6

Community Speedwatch

Speedwatch has teams in Silchester and Hartley Wespall. Pamber is now up and running as of April 2019. Pamber have joined forces with Mortimer West End. If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact emma.page@hampshire.pnn.police.uk for more information.

Immobilise

Register your valuables to help reduce property crime and improve the chances of getting them back in the event of theft or loss. Further information can be found at: www.immobilise.com

What number to ring?

Call 101 to report anything non urgent including suspicious people, vehicles or activity. Go with your gut, if it doesn't feel right then it probably isn't. Please provide as much info as you can. Descriptions, vehicle details including registration numbers.

Call 999 in an emergency (Is it happening now? Life and/or property at risk? Suspect on scene?)

Burghfield Football Club

For the season 2018/19, we had 3 of our teams residing at Mortimer West End Cricket pitch. As a club we see it as a great introduction for age groups making the step from 9 aside football to 11 aside. The pitch is slightly smaller than most 11 aside pitches that are designed for Mens football so it gives the younger, and usually smaller players, the chance to learn the rule changes and positional sense of the game more easily.

This year we had 1 of our Under 15s teams and our 2 Under 13s, who made their first step into 11 aside games.

Here are the thoughts of the managers that have used the pitch this season.

Andy Willis - Under 15s Blues

U15 Blues had a very enjoyable season finishing runners up in Division 4 of the East Berks League. We had lots of comments from opposition regarding the good standard of our home pitch, including the use of the kitchen to provide warm drinks of those cold winter mornings.

How much we enjoyed being at MWECC really came home after the loss of the goals and our forced relocation to the pitches at Burghfield CSA.

The use of the village hall car park has come in handy on several occasions with the cross over of back to back matches.

Rob Harris – U13s Buffalos

What an absolutely wonderful season for the Buffalos!! Unexpectedly & somewhat worryingly, the Buffalos were promoted mid-season from Div 6 to Div 5 after placing 4th in December and with the prospect of facing teams dropping down from two divisions above, parents and coaches alike, expected a very tough second half. We need not have worried, as not only did the Buffalos (almost beat everyone) W7 D1 L3, we went on a 5-game winning streak to finish the season off, beating the eventual winners as well, only missing out on top spot by 1 point and eventually finishing an amazing second. An incredible effort by a team who have bonded, listened to their coaches and played with the passion and fight expected of a Buffalo!

Simon Timperley – Under 13s Bears and HOA

This was a special season for the U13s having finally reached “proper” 11-a-side football. Like the Buffalos, my Bears team were unexpectedly promoted, for us to the dizzy heights of Division 2. It proved to be a big challenge as the standard was very high as expected so wins were few and far between. But we won our first ever 11-a-side game, at home at Mortimer, winning emphatically 8-0 – a day which we will all remember for a very long time. We’ve really enjoyed playing at our new home, the pitch is great and the facilities are good. We’ll be back in Division 3 next season and we’re already looking forward to getting started again in September.

Only downside has been our crossbar being stolen from the garage roof which meant we couldn't play for the last few games of the season. I know Liam is working with you to find a solution to keep everything secure.

One final thing from me, having recently been on my First Aid refresher course it reminded me how vital having a defibrillator nearby is, so was wondering if we could look into jointly finding some funds to get one, maybe in conjunction with the cricket club?

To summarise, as a club, we really see the benefit of the MWECC pitch as a first step into 11 aside football. The car parking, changing facilities (although rarely used) and kitchen make for a welcome home ground for our teams and their oppositions.

As alluded to in the Managers write ups, we had one of our crossbars stolen from next to the clubhouse in March. This led to us having to fulfil our remaining fixtures at alternative locations, a move that was not met with pleasure from the teams and the leagues that they represent.

We have kindly been donated 2 new sets of goalposts by Reading FC, but we really need to find a more secure home for them before we commit to taking them. Currently we hold the 4 upright posts and nets in the Cricket shed and the 2 crossbars on the roof.

At the Burghfield Rec we have had some racking installed to the back on the pavilion to hold and lock the posts to the wall. Could we propose for a similar installation at MWECC. We could then move all of the goal posts out of the way for the Cricket teams and have our (rather expensive) goals more secure and accessible for our teams.

Lastly, Burghfield Football Club as a whole have 24 teams of ages ranging from U4s to U18. We also have our very successful 4 Mens team and even a Walking football team. Currently with the training and match locations we have available to us, we are running at an absolute maximum in terms of size. We are constantly receiving requests for local players to join our teams but are at a risk of having to turn them away.

With that in mind we are on the hunt for a location to call our official home for all training and senior matches for the future of our club. We are working with the Burghfield Parish Council to support our plans but are always looking for local people who could help us on our journey. We have the ability to apply for grants from the English FA, Sport England and the National Lottery, being that we are a Charter Standard Club, but the only thing we are missing is a piece of land that we could house 2 grass football pitches, a clubhouse with changing rooms and a full size artificial grass pitch for winter training.

It is an ambitious plan that we have, but if it were possible it would open the doors to many local community groups benefiting from the facilities. As well as helping us continue the growth that we forecast in the foreseeable future.

Thanks

Liam Gillis

Burghfield FC – Venue Co-ordinator

Review of St. Saviour's Mortimer West End 2018

The congregation continues to diminish for the regular services with a maximum of 4/5 at each service. However, there are bigger attendances for such services as Remembrance, Advent and Christingle. Consequently, it is becoming harder and harder to pay our Parish Share.

We do have a restricted fund for Church maintenance, this is called upon more than we would like because of the Church's age. Currently the brick wall is in need of repair and the toilet requires immediate attention. At some stage the heating will need modernising and a broken window replaced. This will further diminish the fund capital and it is not clear how it will be replaced.

It is apparent to members of the Parish Church Council that the Church is highly valued by the Parishioners of Mortimer West End and there is no appetite for closure, but unless there is more financial support that enables us to pay the Parish Share this year the future of St. Saviour's remains very uncertain.