



THE WARBLER

A newsletter for the Parish of Wardington, Williamscot and Coton

November edition DEADLINE

10TH October 2024

Contact the editors with any news, articles, photos, etc for the next issue
Wardingtonwarbler@gmail.com

Read all about the Village Fete and how much was raised on pages 4 and 5. Help our community and attend the Memorial Hall AGM on September 25th @ 7pm

News about the Hare & Hounds pages 10 & 11

Wardington Garden Club

Thank you to everyone who donated plants to the Garden Club stall at the fête. We raised £450 and were delighted to contribute to the success of this event and its chosen charities.

The Wardington Garden Club, founded by Lady Wardington, has been running for 30 years and visits a number of wonderful, private gardens each year.

This year started with the AGM and a fascinating talk from Norman Hudson about “Changes in styles and fashions of historic gardens over the years”. So far we have been to see garden designer Angel Collins’s garden in Wormleighton, Pettifers in Wardington and Everdon Hill House in Newnham. Our latest visit was to Priors Marston Manor, winner of the NGS “Nations favourite garden” for the Midlands. All of these have been a real privilege to be able to see and we are immensely grateful to the generous owners for opening their gardens to us.

We will be rounding off the season with a visit to Anna Brown Flowers in Wardington to see the amazing cut flower business she has created and in particular the dahlias which should be in full bloom.

Next year’s AGM will be in March 2025. For more information about the Garden Club contact ginny@asteven.com.



Ken Taylor

by Anne Wilkins

After the recent death of my uncle Ken Taylor I thought it might be interesting to put together an obituary for those who might remember him and also as a small insight into what village life was like through the years.

Ken was born on 4th March 1928 to Arthur and Dora Taylor and grew up with his younger siblings Barbara and Edward living in Kendora Cottage (now Maltings Garth) on Edgcote Lane. He attended the village school up to the then leaving age of 14 when he starting working for the Dunlop family at Wardington Lodge. He worked there all through the war years and in 1946 began his 2 years National Service in the Royal Navy. He never left port and was stationed at Portsmouth throughout. After his national service he returned to Wardington and started work at Alcan in Banbury where he remained until his retirement.

Ken and his wife Gwen were both standard bearers for the Wardington Branch of the British Legion for many years attending competitions and even taking part in the Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall. They both played a huge role in the social life of the village organizing Darts and Domino competitions in all the local pubs in turn. They lived in Kendoline on the main road (now known as Taylor's Cottage) with Gwen's son Tony, Gwen working in the village shop which was just around the corner. As there was no garden attached to the house he had an allotment and was always a competitive gardener and loved to compare his produce with other allotment holders.

During the 1960's Ken played a major role along with Countess Rayburn (then living at Wardington Lodge) in setting up and running the over 60's club. Organizing outings and Christmas Parties for many years.

He also was a keen cricketer and played for the village team for many years along with his brother Edward. He also became groundsman and took a pride in producing wickets for the then very successful team.

Gwen died in 1983 and you may have spotted her gravestone in the churchyard as it has listed her many achievements as a British Legion Standard bearer.

After losing Gwen, Ken renewed his friendship with Margaret who he had first met when competing in standard bearer competitions over the years. Ken and Margaret were married in 1987 and Wardington's loss was Charlbury's gain as they for many years ran the Evergreens in Charlbury much as he had over the years with Wardington Over 60's.

Ken passed away at home with Margaret by his side on 4th June this year aged 96. Having spent the last 37 years of his life with her in Charlbury he is now buried there.



xxxxxx Dave Merry Clive Watts Mick Steel Mary Baker Tony Baker Michael Watts xxxx Rex Anson
George Reynolds Vic Bateman Donald Watts Gerry Watts Ken Taylor Edward Taylor



Wardington Over 60's first committee meeting



Taylor family photographs

Garden Centre, Café and Antiques

 <p>Plants Spoilt for Choice</p>	 <p>Pots Wonderful Selection</p>	 <p>Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 27th September 9.30am-12 noon</p> <p>Join us for ... Delicious cake and coffee, raffle and lots more</p>	 <p>Water Features Ideal for any garden</p>
 <p>Gifts and Cards Great Range</p>	 <p>Food and Drink Delicious Treats</p>		 <p>Bird and Pet Fantastic Selection</p>

	<p>Opening Hours Monday to Saturday 9.00am-5.30pm Sunday 10.00am-4.00pm www.barnfarmplants.co.uk</p>	<p>Upper Wardington Banbury Oxon. OX17 1SN   01295 758080</p>
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With a very big thank you to our generous sponsors and all of you: together we raised over £5,000 for your various chosen charities!

FANTASTIC!



Showcasing some of the prize-winning entries from the produce and art and craft tent, and a special commendation to Flora, who won the Junior shield.



**Memorial Hall AGM Wednesday 25th September at 7pm.
Just turn up and have your voice heard.**

ST. PAUL IN WARDINGTON

COMMUNITY, KOINONIA, AND THE SUMMER FÊTE

The internet changed us.

For millennia, a person's entire universe would have been contained within the borders of their village or town. It would have been unlikely that they knew what was happening in the next valley over, let alone in a neighbouring country. Back then, you knew everyone's name, and everyone knew your business. You'd probably have only cared about what a hundred people or so thought – your family, friends, and the people who made up your neighbourhood. That was it.

But then came the internet.

Out went the village, and in came the global village of broken barriers and borderless communities. The internet has allowed us to reach across thousands of miles, offering convenience and connection without having to leave the house. The problem, though, is that if we spend so long looking out into the distance, we miss what's close at hand. We spend so long on the phone, that we forget to talk to those around us.



Credit: Oxfordshire Villages

You can form communities in a hundred different ways. You can join an art class, a running group, or stay late at Friday's after-work drinks. But one of the most enduring of all communities is the geographical one. It's with the people who live in the same tiny corner of the world as you. These are the people who know where the garden centre is and who will roll their eyes at that person who did that thing. Again. These are the only other people in the UK who you can talk to about 'Wardington' without having to add, 'Oh, it's a

village just north of Banbury.'

There is a shared understanding when you live in a village. You become village-minded.

Be famous within five miles

The poet Gary Snyder once wrote that we should each aim to "get famous within five miles." Do not aim for celebrity, but to be known in houses up and down your street. Meet the neighbours, help fix a fence, go to community events, and wave at people in the street. Add a bit of yourself to the village. Leave a mark.

I always remember how my grandmother would unflinching and painstakingly sweep down the small bit of pavement in front of her house. She didn't own it, and she paid her taxes, but it mattered to her that her bit of the community was tidy. Her small part of the whole was perfect. Life in Wardington is the same.

"One of the most enduring of all communities is the geographical one."

In a village, we all represent a small part of the whole. When you type your address into Amazon, you are reduced to a postcode. Your home becomes a data point on a delivery driver's GPS. But if you say to someone in Wardington that "I live in the Maples" or "We're the ones opposite the church," then that means something. You exist not as a postcode but as a geographical reality in someone's life. Our lives rub up against each other, and what we do ripples down the streets.

The community we once knew

We don't tend to talk like this, anymore. These days, self-sufficiency is a chief virtue, and an island is as good a home as any. We don't want to be a bother or bother other people, so we keep our interactions few

and suffocatingly polite. But this was not always the way.

The Ancient Greeks used the word *'koinonia'* to describe a kind of mutual dependence with someone that comes in sharing concerns. For Aristotle, this *koinonia* was necessary for both justice and virtue. Without a sense of belonging or loyalty, there is neither outrage at deviancy, nor any desire to help one another. We have to identify with a village like Wardington in order to protect it, nurture it, and defend it.

The Apostle Paul adopted *koinonia* as an important part of the early Christian church, and, from here, it disseminated into the European intellectual tradition. In Christian theology, there are two elements to *koinonia*. The first is participation in some shared venture – in Paul's case, the worship of Christ. As he put it, 'We, though many, are one body in Christ.' when a diverse multitude comes together into a single unit.

“That sense of coming together and making the Wardington fete succeed was koinonia in action”

The second aspect to *koinonia* is the connection within the community involved. It's the love between members of a congregation, or the affiliation and warmth you feel with others who live like you. It involves, “no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.”

***Koinonia* in Wardington**

It takes a rare kind of Luddite to entirely damn the internet. Most of us enjoy a world where we can watch pandas in Shanghai, order furniture from Frankfurt, and videocall a friend in Johannesburg, all from the sofa. But, the unqualified joy of living in a village is the sense of community and shared purpose it elicits. We each have our pavements to sweep.

One great example of this is with the recent fête.

It's no Warbler secret, but there's a stuffed tombola's worth of fêtes around here in the summer. From May to August, you can't drive five miles without bumping into some village's fête. But on June 1st, only one fête mattered. Only one fête was ours. And that sense of coming together and making the Wardington Fete succeed was *koinonia* reinforced connection.



Credit: Colin Adams

Of course, living in a village is not some Edenic idyll. After all, there's not much going on at the weekends, and we don't have a shop. More than that, the conversations can tend to fall into a certain grumbling pattern. It's easy to sigh as you listen to someone moan, again, about the lack of an HS2 bypass or when they complain about a new housing estate proposal just along the A423. But even these gripes and groans are the happy bubbling of *koinonia*. When we rage against the 'outside world,' we reinforce the group. We are telling the person we're talking to that they belong here and that they are part of the tribe. We are both standing on the ramparts looking out, and inside is a place we both call home.

Jonny Thomson lives in Lower Wardington. He runs the Philosophy Minis social media accounts (@philosophyminis) and is the author of three books published by Hachette. His latest book, Mini Psychology, is out now and available in all good bookshops.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

PROVIDED BY: JANE MACKENZIE-LAWRIE

Courgette Bread

This recipe is very quick and simple to make, as it is based on low-fat soda bread, which means there is no need for yeast and no waiting for the bread to rise. The courgettes give moisture and texture to the bread and the recipe is a novel way of using up any gluts of the vegetable and also any oversized ones.

Courgette bread is best eaten freshly baked but can be kept for up to 2 days

Makes 1 loaf: 1 small, firm courgette (about 115g/4oz)

400g/14oz plain flour, plus extra to sprinkle

2 tsp bicarbonate of soda, 1 tsp salt, 1 tbsp light muscovado sugar

1 plump garlic clove (finely chopped), 1 tbsp sunflower oil

400ml/14fl oz buttermilk (or as needed)

1. Preheat the oven to 200C/400F. Coarsely grate the courgette (including the skin) and press in between several sheets of kitchen paper to remove excess moisture
2. Sift the flour, bicarb, and salt into a large bowl. Add the sugar and garlic then stir in the grated courgette. Drizzle in the oil and gently stir in the buttermilk. Stir until the mixture is combined into a soft dough (over mixing will make the bread tough).
3. Gather the dough together and turn it out onto a lightly floured work surface. Knead VERY briefly until smooth
4. With floured hands, very gently make a round ball. Lift the loaf onto a greased baking sheet and sprinkle over a little extra flour. Make a deep cross with a sharp knife
5. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until risen and brown. Transfer to a wire rack and leave to cool slightly before slicing.

Are you signed up to receive email updates from the Waddington Village website?

To find out information about the Film Nights, upcoming events and other things happening in the Village.

Visit Waddington.net and subscribe to email updates.

Are you on FaceBook?

Join the “**Waddington Community**” Page for village updates



Wardington Film Night

Friday 20th September 2024

Wardington Memorial Hall
Doors open at 7pm, 7:30 start

One Life 12(A)

Starring Anthony Hopkins
& Helena Bonham Carter.
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THE HARE & HOUNDS



Hello everyone, we would like to introduce ourselves to you.

We are *Steve, Niki & Millie* the new family who will be taking over the running of The Hare & Hounds on the 30th July 2024. We will be bringing with us our 2 ex-racehorses (hopefully, still working on their accommodation) & our Dutch Shepherd, 9 month old, rescue puppy.

We would like to start by saying a HUGE THANK YOU. I am writing this on the 3rd July from The Star Inn, and within the last week we have been overwhelmed by the show of support we have received from Wardington and Chipping Warden already. Many of you have visited us at The Star, you have all been extremely welcoming and friendly.

We do keep being asked one question by you all. Why are you leaving the beautiful Star Inn? Well, I can assure you The Star was not beautiful when we took it over in June 2018! The walls inside were all painted army green, black, deep red and dark purple. It was in need of a deep clean, the B&B rooms were a state, and the beautiful Star Gardens as everyone knows them today, we could not even see. The 7ft stinging nettles and the 8ft thick thistles were certainly challenging. With help from family and friends we repainted the whole pub including the B&B rooms. The garden was a longer project that we did ourselves, it was usable by mid-July.

We now feel we have taken The Star as far as we can for us. If we could pick up The Star and move it away from HS2 and put it in a better position with passing trade and a village with a bit more going on, we would. Honestly, our winters are feeling longer out here. We also want to come away from doing B&Bs every day, we do everything ourselves.

We had spent a few Sunday evenings in The Hare & Hounds, chatting with friends and enjoying being the other side of the bar on our night off. We quite often said to each other, this pub has so much potential. It was on a road, but still had plenty of countryside around it. We walked in one winter night and were warmly welcomed by locals sitting in the bar, it really felt like a lovely place to be.

SO, when we decided NOW was the right time for a new challenge for our family! We gave our notice in (holding our breath) to Hook Norton Brewery. Are we doing the right thing we kept asking ourselves? We have an amazing relationship with the brewery, and they have supported us from the beginning, so we began talks about other Hooky pubs that were available. We were offered The Bell, Adderbury and The Butchers Arms, King Sutton. None of these were what we were looking for. The Hare & Hounds had stuck in our minds. This would be our kind of pub, a pub that needed the love put back into it just like The Star 6 years ago. A pub we could put our mark on again, a pub where we think our quality pub food would work? A pub with a bigger village and passing trade. A pub with a wider customer age range. We have made the right decision, and we are very much looking forward to making The Hare & Hounds a wonderful welcoming place to be for everyone.

Of course, we will be sad to say a fond farewell to The Star and the many families and four legged friends that we will be leaving behind in Sulgrave, they have all promised to visit. Having lived in 22 years and Millie having lived nowhere else, it will be a BIG change for us. Wardington you are certainly making it easier for us with your warm welcomes, thank you.

The Hare & Hounds is going to be an ongoing project that we will not make perfect in a week! However, we will aim to open the doors ASAP to you all and continue to do the work on the garden tidy up, and the children's play equipment etc whilst we are open. We need to be up and running quickly as much as you need the pub back quickly. So yes, at the moment we are aiming for a week from changeover to opening (fingers crossed). BUT please bear with us as the gardens will not be completed fully, as well as some other changes we would like to make.

Our first priority is to get the bar, restaurant and kitchen up and running, plus the amenities for the younger crowd. Hook Norton Brewery have a great deal of work to do upstairs on our accommodation too. We have promised the Darts Teams we will open for their match on the 7th August, and we have honoured a Star lunchtime food booking for 28 people on the 8th (Hopefully if we are ready this will be at The H&H, if not the booking will remain at The Star). We will keep you all updated on Facebook and with signs outside the pub. Going forward we would like to transfer our events to The H&H. This includes Steve's Quiz Night and Niki's Bingo Night (monthly throughout the darker evenings). We hope to run our Christmas Menu, Classic Car & Bike Shows, Live Music & possibly our Music Festival in 2025, also our annual Family Fun Day. All these events will depend on how interested you all are and of course space allowing. We will be able to judge this better when we are in.

We are very heavily involved in supporting Ukraine and have many direct contacts now. This is for the soldiers and now predominately the many Ukraine orphans. We will continue supporting Ukraine from Wardington going forward. We have been supporting Ukraine since March 2022 and have raised an outstanding amount of money, just over £24,000. This does not include the donated aid that everyone has dropped off. We have a vehicle now that was purchased with fundraising money, this has been kept making repeat trips to the orphans. Steve and other volunteer drivers from Sulgrave and surrounding villages have made 4 trips to Ukraine so far. Trip 5 is planned for later in the year. We will keep you updated on how you can help (if you want to) with items for the Ukraine Shoebox Appeal. Always lovely to get your children/grandchildren involved with this. Many children loved getting involved for Trip 4 in April 2024, they sorted out their toys and teddies they no longer needed (as new condition) and donated them. They also wrote letters to the orphans using Google Translate. We also have a raffle running with fantastic prizes including a morning on the gallops with Ben Case Racing, Hook Norton Brewery Tour Vouchers & T-Shirts, A Giant Teddy Bear, Ukraine Bears made in Ukraine + Baby Ukraine Bears made here (Heartfelt Fancies), Colin the Cockrel for you garden (Just Luv It), Crystal Glasses, Handbags etc – Raffle tickets are £2 each and 100% of ticket sales goes towards Trip 5. Tickets will be available from the bar. Winning tickets will be drawn on the 30th August.

We also support the local Freedom Sanctuary Trust which we will continue to do – We are a drop off point for donated food and items for the animals.

We will have a lovely opening night where we will lay on a free buffet & cheeses spread for you all, unfortunately the drinks will not be free (I know sorry). Until we are in The Hare & Hounds, we cannot give you an exact date. We would love to do this on a Friday/Saturday evening, although due to the work involved and time constraints needing to be back open, it is likely to be a weekday evening.

Our email address is enquiries@hareandhoundswardington.co.uk Everything else is still in the process of being set up.

We look forward to meeting you all soon!



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WARDINGTON MEMORIAL HALL

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Please remember our village has a defibrillator. The defibrillator is located outside Wardington Memorial Hall

Did you enjoy the Village Fete this summer? Or the Big Breakfast on New Year's Eve. Do you enjoy Film Nights? Maybe you have other ideas? All these events are put on by the Hall team and your ideas are actively welcomed! You can be involved and be part of the team supporting this essential part of Wardington Community

**Come to the AGM on Wednesday 25th September at 7pm. to hear more .
Venue: The Memorial Hall!!**

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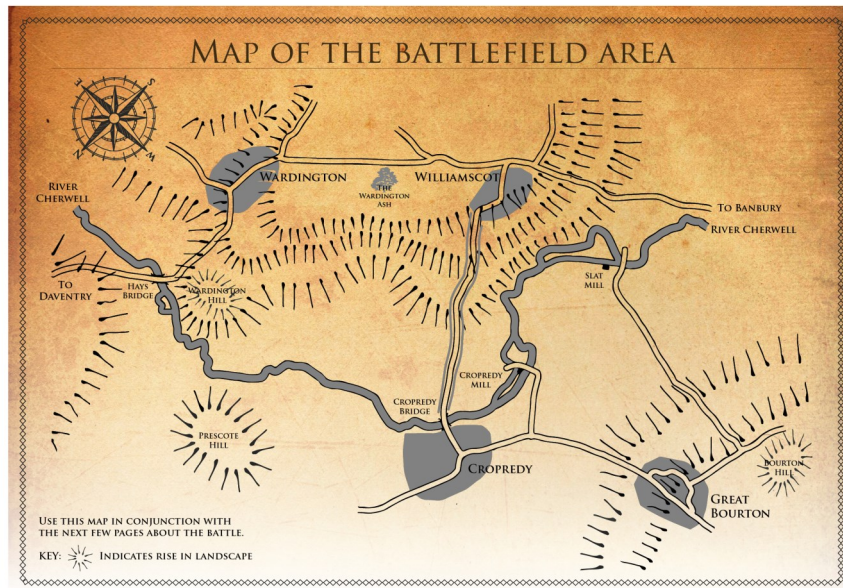


CROPREDY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Monday August 26th, Free entry

10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Cropredy Village Hall

Schedule in August issue of The Crier, Light Refreshments available



Watch the films

Cropredy films with the 1970 and 1994 Sealed Knot re-enactments on the Big Screen in the morning. Plus new interviews and photomontage from 375th anniversary re-enactment.

Find your photo in the year 2000

Three Millennium Photo Albums belonging to the Parish Council with 1984 photographs and recent village celebrations on display

Discover more about the history of Cropredy

Display Boards; Exhibits; Books by Pam Keegan and Ray Cherry; Extracts from local newspapers – and lots more





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Every Tuesday 12 noon Holy Communion, Cropredy

Every Friday 9.00 am Morning Prayer (said) Wardington

St Mary Magdalene Church Services

August 4th No service at Wardington
August 11th 10.30am All Age Service
August 18th No service at Wardington
August 25th 9.30am Family Communion

September 1st No service at Wardington
September 8th 10.30am All Age Service
September 15th No service at Wardington
September 22nd 9.30am Family Communion
September 29th 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion

October 6th No service at Wardington
October 13th 10.30am Harvest Festival
October 20th No service at Wardington
October 27th 9.30am Family Communion

Please check Church Notice board or the Church monthly newsletter for further information and confirmation of times

When no Sunday service at Wardington is planned, please see Church noticeboards for details of ser-



HOLD THE DATE !

Harvest Supper

Saturday 5th October 6pm

at the Memorial Hall

Ticket information to follow

Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

Council: Mr R Jarrett (Chairman), Mr M Patterson, Mr G Page, Mrs A Gordon-Finlayson.

Present: Mr R Jarrett (Chairman), Mr G Page, Mr M Patterson, Mrs A Gordon-Finlayson.

In attendance: Clerk, 0 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies received from - Cllr N Bankes. Apologies accepted – None. Apologies also received from District Cllr Chapman.
2. **Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** – Cllr George Page declared an interest in planning application 24/00807/F.
3. **Public participation session** – None.
4. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 12th March 2024** – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.
5. **Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings**
 - 5.1 HS2 update – HS2 have advised that from April to October Monday to Saturdays will be working from 6am to 10pm.
 - 5.2 Defibrillator/CPR training session – Defer to next meeting due to Cllr Burnett's absence.
 - 5.3 Maintenance/repairs to the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in the village – No update.
 - 5.4 Update re concerns raised by parishioners about the state of the grass outside Post Office Cottage, Mount Pleasant, due to vehicle access – Planning application still in progress.
6. **Play Area**
 - 6.1 Play equipment safety inspection – Cllr A Gordon-Finlayson has completed the inspection and advised there are no issues to report.
 - 6.2 Proposal to get the equipment pressure washed at a cost of £375 – It was proposed and agreed to go ahead with this. **Cllr M Patterson to instruct contractor.** Cllr G Page asked that it be minuted that he does not support this proposal based on the cost.
 - 6.3 To consider repairs and possible relocation of the dog bin near the play area behind the village hall – A parishioner has requested that the bin be moved away from their property. A parishioner has offered to provide the post and complete the repair but as the bin is sited on land owned by the Memorial Hall their committee will need to agree the location. It was noted that the new location must not be further away from the Highway as there are limits as to how far from the Highway Cherwell District Council (CDC) will go to empty the bins. **Cllr M Patterson to inform the Memorial Hall Committee that they should decide on the new location for the bin and inform the parishioner who will fit the bin when they have made their decision.**
 - 6.4 Proposal to arrange repairs to the post on the gate nearest the football field due to the existing post being rotten – Proposed and agreed. **Clerk to contact a contractor who lives in the village to ask if he can quote to provide a replacement post and fit it.**
7. **Request from parishioner for the PC to publish maps of the village including house names on the noticeboards** – After some discussion it was agreed to put the relevant map of the village in each noticeboard. **Clerk to print copies of the maps and laminate.**
8. **Planning applications received**

24/00807/F - OS Parcel 0927 East Of And Adjoining, Wardington Road, Wardington. New offices and agricultural buildings for a new agricultural seed. **The Parish Council supports this application as a permanent building for the business will help to keep this employer in the area.**

9. Planning decisions received

23/03428/OUT - OS Parcel 7921 South Of Huscote Farm And North West Of County Boundary, Daventry Road, Banbury. Outline planning application for the construction of up to 140,000 sqm of employment floorspace (use class B8) with ancillary offices and facilities and servicing and infrastructure including new site accesses. Internal roads and footpaths, landscaping including earthworks to create development platforms and bunds, drainage features and other associated works including demolition of the existing farmhouse. **Refused on appeal.**

24/00482/TCA – Judges, Banbury Road Through Wardington, Wardington. T1 x Cedar - Remove major deadwood over garden side. Remove Major and Minor deadwood roadside. Reduction of larger lateral limbs by up to 2 metres where possible to reduce loading on limbs with altered wind loading from historic failures. Reduce limbs above included union by up to 2 metres to reduce weight on union. **Approved.**

10. Finance

10.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 06.03.2024 – Noted.

Bank balances

PC Current	£6,414.59
PC Savings	£24,428.69
Uncashed cheques	£0
Total	£30,843.28

	WPC Main	Williamscott	Total
Cashbook balances as at 10.04.24	£23,585.83	£7,257.45	£30,843.28

10.2 To note and approve payment of the following invoices already paid using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

18.03.24	Kirsty Buttle	Salary March	£453.81
18.03.24	HMRC	Tax March	£5.80
28.03.24	NEST	Pension March	£17.61
18.03.24	Brent Harris	Bench installation	£79.00
31.03.24	Unity Bank	Account fee	£18.00
08.04.24	Wardington Memorial Hall	Room bookings from Apr to Nov 24	£142.08

10.3 To note the following receipts: Noted.

31.03.24	Unity Bank	Interest	£174.38
10.04.24	CDC	Precept	£6,300.00

10.4 To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed.

CDC	6 month charge for dog bin emptying - 7 bins	£432.43
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- 10.5 To confirm completion of the final quarterly internal financial check for 2023-24 – Cllr Jarrett confirmed the check has taken place and all was found to be in order.
- 10.6 Proposal to add 7 dog bins to the asset register at a value of £1 each – Proposed and agreed. **Clerk to make the update to the register. Cllr M Patterson to send the clerk a list of the bin locations.**
- 11. Information exchange** – None.

Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on **Tuesday 21st May 2024** at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

Present: Mr R Jarrett (Chairman), Mr G Page, Mr M Patterson, Mrs A Gordon-Finlayson, Mr N Bankes.

In attendance: Clerk, 0 members of the public.

- 13. Election of Chairman-** It was proposed and agreed to elect Cllr Bob Jarrett as the Chairman. Cllr Jarrett completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office which was countersigned by the Clerk.
- 14. Apologies for absence** – Apologies received from - Cllr J Burnett. Apologies accepted – None.
- 15. Election of Vice-Chairman** – It was proposed and agreed to elect Cllr Julie Burnett as the Vice-Chair.
- 16. Members’ declarations of interest for items on the agenda** – None.
- 17. Public participation session** – None.
- 18. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 16th April 2024** – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

19. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- 19.1 HS2 update – There have been some changes to the road closures advertised but HS2 have been keeping everyone informed. HS2 have invited the PC to a tour of the site. **Cllr Bob Jarrett to arrange the tour with HS2.**
- 19.2 Defibrillator/CPR training session – Defer to next meeting due to Cllr Burnett’s absence.
- 19.3 Maintenance/repairs to the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in the village – There has been no further progress on this as it is still with Oxfordshire County Council to arrange the repair/replacement.
- 19.4 Update re concerns raised by parishioners about the state of the grass outside Post Office Cottage, Mount Pleasant, due to vehicle access – The planning application on this property has been refused. **Clerk to contact planning enforcement** re the open enforcement case and advise them that there are a number of additional issues but of particular concern to parishioners is the mess at the front of the property and that the wall now needs to be reinstated given the refusal of their application.

20. Play Area

- 20.1 Play equipment safety inspection – Cllr Lexi Gordon-Finlayson has completed a check and the only issue raised is a large amount of nettles coming out of the wooden plant container. **Cllr Malcolm Patterson agreed to clear the nettles.**
- 20.2 Proposal to arrange a number of repairs to the fencing and gates around the play area at a cost of £160 – Proposed and agreed. **Cllr Malcolm Patterson to instruct the contractor.**

21. Planning applications received

24/00424/F – Fern Hill Farm, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Extension to existing agricultural building by way of a lean-to. **No representation made.**

22. Planning decisions received

23/02516/F - Pits Cottage, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Remove existing porch and replace with new enlarged porch to front elevation, related external works and replacement windows. **Approved.**

23/03061/F - Post Office Cottage, Mount Pleasant, Wardington. Two storey rear extension, garage and carriage house (revised scheme of 23/01965/F). **Refused.**

23. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023-24

- 23.1 To receive the Internal auditor's report, agree any actions to be taken and to appoint an internal auditor for the current financial year – The internal audit was received with no issues raised. It was agreed to appoint Annette Reed as the Internal Auditor for the 24/25 financial year.
- 23.2 To complete and approve the annual governance statement for the 23/24 audit – It was proposed and agreed to tick 'yes' to all statements except statement 9 which is Not applicable'.
- 23.3 To approve the accounting statements for the 23/24 audit – The accounting statements were approved and duly signed.
- 23.4 To agree the dates for the notice of public rights – proposed dates are Monday 3rd June to Friday 12th July 2024 – Proposed and agreed.

24. Finance

- 24.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 15.05.2024 – Noted.

Bank balances

PC Current	£2,259.34
PC Savings	£28,428.69
Total	£30,688.03

	WPC Main	Williamscott	Total
Cashbook balances as at 15.05.24	£23,430.58	£7,257.45	£30,688.03

- 24.2 To note and approve payment of the following invoices already paid using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

30.04.24	CDC	6 month charge for dog bin emptying - 7 bins	£432.43
30.04.24	Clear Councils	Annual parish insurance	£563.82
30.04.24	Kirsty Buttle	Salary April	£459.61
30.04.24	NEST	Pension April	£17.61

- 24.3 To note the following receipts: Noted.

15.04.24	HMRC	VAT Refund	£450.66
23.04.24	OCC	Grass cutting grant	£867.56

24.4 To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed.

Parish Magazine Printing	Printing newsletter May edition	£366.75
N R Prickett	Grass cutting 8th and 30th April	£859.20

25. To re-adopt the following policies/documents with no changes made: Proposed and agreed.

- 25.1 Financial Regulations
- 25.2 Standing Orders
- 25.3 Subject Access Request Procedure
- 25.4 Data Breach Policy
- 25.5 Data Protection Policy
- 25.6 Role Holder Privacy Notice
- 25.7 GDPR Privacy Notice
- 25.8 Records Retention Policy
- 25.9 Freedom of Information Policy
- 25.10 Data Protection Policy
- 25.11 Publication Scheme
- 25.12 Scheme of Delegation
- 25.13 Code of Conduct
- 25.14 Grievance Policy
- 25.15 Disciplinary Policy
- 25.16 Financial Control and Internal Audit Procedure
- 25.17 Complaints Procedure
- 25.18 Risk Assessment

26. Proposal to adopt a Biodiversity Policy as part of the new Biodiversity Duty – Proposed and agreed.

27. Information exchange – The play equipment will be cleaned next week. Concerns were raised about various areas of overgrown vegetation next to the Highway causing problems tall vehicles when driving past. These really need cutting back asap.

28. To review the Clerk's payscale for the 2024-25 financial year – current payscale is SCP 24 – It was agreed to keep the clerk on SCP 24 for now but this will be reviewed when the national payscale increases have been announced.

Meeting closed @ 8:45pm

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Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on **Tuesday 18th June 2024** at 7:30pm in the Lady Wardington Room at Wardington Village Hall

Present: Mr R Jarrett (Chairman), Mr M Patterson, Mr N Bankes, Mrs J Burnett, Mr G Page, Mr R Reid.

In attendance: Clerk, 2 members of the public.

29. Apologies for absence – Apologies received - Cllr Lexi Gordon-Finlayson. Apologies accepted – None. Apologies were also received from District Cllr Phil Chapman.

30. Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None.

31. Public participation session – The parishioner who owns Post Office

Cottage referred to in item 33.4 advised that the tree stump is going to be removed on 20th June, the wall will be rebuilt and the drive will be left as it was. The planning permission recently submitted on this property was refused so the parishioner is not going to continue with this.

1 member of the public left the meeting at 7:33pm.

A parishioner asked what the Parish Council (PC) considers a reason to explicitly support planning applications as he has noticed that over the last 4 ½ years the PC has only supported 5 applications and they appear to be applications that relate to parish councillors. Cllr Jarrett advised that the only time the PC actively support planning applications is when it appears that they would be beneficial to the village. Some councillors expressed the view that when the PC submits a 'no objection' response that is also supporting the application. A discussion was held about the impact that the different planning responses have on how the planning application is dealt with by the planning team at Cherwell District Council (CDC).

A parishioner raised concerns about unauthorised excavations completed by Cllr George Page down the Chacombe Road with all of the dug material having been left strewn across the Highways verge. The parishioner advised that Cllr Page did not seek permission from the landowner or Highways before completing the work. The parishioner would like the situation rectified within the next 4 weeks by a licensed contractor and asked if the PC could help with this matter. Cllr George Page disagreed with the parishioner's version of events but as this is a personal matter it was agreed that it was not appropriate to go into the details of the disagreement. It was also agreed that although the PC does not have the power to officially instruct anyone (which includes parish councillors) in relation to any matter that is not Parish Council related, the parish councillors were willing to have an informal discussion with Cllr Page after the meeting to see if they could help move things forward to some kind of resolution.

The Clerk advised that the PC has no power to instruct any individual, whether or not they are a Parish Councillor, to do any work on property that is not PC owned.

It was agreed that in this case the PC would have a private discussion with Cllr Page after the meeting to see if they can help get this issue resolved amicably.

32. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 21st May 2024 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.**33. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings**

- 33.1 HS2 update – The PC has been invited on a tour of the site which has been arranged for 5th July at 11am. If any other councillors wish to attend they should let Cllr Bob Jarrett know.
- 33.2 Defibrillator/CPR training session – **Cllr Julie Burnett will speak to the person who was trying to organise this to see if they still want to go ahead.**
- 33.3 Maintenance/repairs to the Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in the village – No further update.

33.4 Update re concerns raised by parishioners about the state of the grass outside Post Office Cottage, Mount Pleasant, due to vehicle access – Given the information provided by the parishioner at item 31 it was agreed that the **Clerk should respond to the planning enforcement team advising that the parishioner has attended the meeting and advised that the issues are going to be dealt with but that the PC request that they don't close down the case until the work has been completed.**

34. Play Area

34.1 Play equipment safety inspection – Defer to next meeting due to Cllr Gordon-Finlayson's absence.

35. Planning applications received

24/01492/F - Pubstuff, Williamscot Road Industrial Centre, Williamscot Road, Cropredy. Warehouse/ industrial storage and light assembly/workshop. **Objection.** The application says that you can't see the site from the road but that is incorrect. The application refers to 'light assembly' which suggests a different use of the site from its current use which the PC believe is likely to create additional vehicle movements, particularly in relation to large vehicles. This is inappropriate for the rural roads and road fronted dwellings leading to the site which can only be accessed using these roads due to the weight restrictions on the Cropredy bridge. The PC disagrees with the applicant's statement in their travel plan/transport assessment that there will only be a nominal increase in vehicle movements and wonders how they can suggest this if the capacity of the site is going to increase? Surely a higher capacity requires a higher number of deliveries?

APP/C3105/W/24/3341576 - Barn Farm Plants, Barn Farm, Thorpe Road, Wardington. To develop the site for 7-9 dwellings with associated access, parking and amenity space. It was noted that many parishioners want the business to stay in the village as it is valued facility but there are also some parishioners who have contacted councillors advising that they would like to see some housing on the site. It was agreed that there will be no response from the PC on the appeal.

36. Planning decisions received

24/00424/F – Fern Hill Farm, Thorpe Road, Wardington. Extension to existing agricultural building by way of a lean-to. **Approved.**

37. Finance

37.1 To note the bank balances and cashbook balances as at 12.06.2024 – Noted.

Bank balances

PC Current	£96.17
PC Savings	£28,228.69
Total	£28,324.86

	WPC Main	Williamscot	Total
Cashbook balances as at 12.06.24	£21,067.41	£7,257.45	£28,324.86

37.2 To note and approve payment of the following invoices already paid using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

29.05.24	Annette Reed Bookkeeping	Internal Audit 23-24	£125.00
29.05.24	Kirsty Buttle	Salary May	£459.61
31.05.24	NEST	Pension May	£17.61
03.06.24	Surface Clean Banbury	Playground equipment clean	£375.00
04.06.24	Jack Goode	Repair to posts in play area	£160.00

37.3 To note the following receipts: None.

37.4 To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed.

DRAFT

N R Prickett	Grass cutting 17th and 29th May	£859.20
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38. Proposal to adopt new Financial Regulations – Proposed and agreed.

39. Information exchange – It was agreed that councillors should make friendly requests to parishioners who are responsible for overgrown vegetation that is impacting the Highways and footpaths, to ask if they will cut it back.

Fairport tickets have been confirmed at £25 each. A note will go out advising people how to get tickets when they become available. Emma Reed is the contact.

A parishioner has asked if one of the ‘Thorpe Road’ signs could be replaced as it is in poor condition.
Clerk to report on Fixmystreet.

A Cllr asked if anything is happening re the possible grants from HS2 re the play area. As the equipment still has a few years of life left this has not been progressed. It was agreed that **Cllr Malcolm Patterson should obtain some quotes for new equipment and bring back to a future meeting for the PC to consider making an application to HS2.**

A Cllr advised that a parishioner has spoken to him about the footpath from Wardington to Prescott not being easily walkable due to the amount of rapeseed there. **After the meeting the landowner contacted the clerk and acknowledged the issue and advised that the area will be harvested soon.*

Meeting closed @ 8:53pm.



You may have seen the new bench outside the cricket Pavilion?

The bench is in memory of Tom Cochrane and Ted Moore who both gave a great deal of time and support to the cricket club.

Tom was for many years club secretary and Ted was involved as a player, fund raiser and mowing the outfield.

Their widows Barbara Cochrane and Mary Moore are seen here sitting on the new bench

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information printed in this newsletter, the editors cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any errors that may occur.



Wardington Short Mat Bowls Club

Club Night: Monday 7pm – 9pm
Wardington Memorial Hall

**We would be delighted to
welcome **NEW** members.
All equipment is provided.**

Everyone is welcome.

**For further information contact:
Tony Limb (Secretary)
Tel: 07984 871716
Email: tony.limb@tiscali.co.uk**

Wardington Parish Council Contact Details

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Whilst there are three district councillors representing our area, each can have a different role to play depending on the nature of the interaction a parish/individual is having with various district or county council committees. Your first point of contact is usually Cllr Phil Chapman.

Parish Council Meetings for the rest of 2024: 1st October, 26th November

What's on in Wardington

If you have an event/group to be included please let the editors know

Group	When	Where	Contact Name	Email
Artery Art Group	Every Monday 10-1	Memorial Hall	Barry Whitehouse	Theartery@hotmail.co.uk
Indoor Bowls	Every Monday 7-9 pm	Memorial Hall	Tony Limb	Tony.limb@tiscali.co.uk
Shiny Stars: Baby & toddler Group	Every Thursday 9.30– 11.30 am	Memorial Hall	Louise Oliver	info@rio-shiny-stars.co.uk 07368 448303
Ballet Workout	Every Friday 9-10am	Memorial Hall	Ginny Steven	ginny@asteven.com
Pilates	Every Saturday 0830– 0930 am	Memorial Hall	Tracey Trembl	Thepilatesplaceinfo@gmail.com
Cropredy Festival & Brasenose Fringe	8th-10th August & 8th-11th	Cropredy Brasenose Arms		See Wardington.net and Brasenosefringe.co.uk
Cropredy Scarecrow Festival	8-10 August	Cropredy	See Cropredy Village face- book	Fund raising by Friends of Cropredy Primary School PTFA. Registered Charity
Cropredy Historical Society	Monday 26th August 1030-4pm	Cropredy Village Hall	Free entry	
The Battle of Cropredy Bridge 380th anniversary £15 per family	25th & 26th October	Cropredy Bridge		Living History and demonstrations from 11 am each day. Beer tent Tickettailor.com/events/ thesealedknotLtd
Wardington Film Night In aid of Memorial Hall	Friday 20th September 2024 7pm 7.30 start	Memorial Hall	Julie Campbell	ejulie.campbell@btinternet.com Tickets £6 (incl ice cream) in advance or £7 on the door
Memorial Hall AGM	Wednesday 25th September 7pm	Memorial Hall	Julie Campbell	Just turn up and find out what the team is up to and/or how you can help
Parish Council	1st October, 26th November	Memorial Hall (Lady Wardington room)	Kirsty Buttle (Parish Clerk)	Wardingtonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk
Harvest Supper In aid of Church funds	Saturday, 5th October 6pm	Memorial Hall	TBC	TBC

Please don't hesitate to forward any suggestions or contributions to Julie Campbell and Jane Mackenzie-Lawrie at this email : wardingtonwarbler@gmail.com