



Oxted Parish Council Annual Parish Assembly

AT

**THE YORK ROOMS, ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST,
HURST GREEN**

TUESDAY 21ST APRIL 2015, 8PM



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A very warm welcome to all Parishioners and guests here tonight and thank you for coming. I thank all my fellow Councillors for their hard work and assistance during this past year during which I have had the privilege of serving as Chairman.

My very sincere gratitude for the hard work our Clerk, Mrs. Maureen Gibbins, has put in over the last year, it is greatly appreciated by all.

2014/15 has been a year for consolidation after the business of previous years. Having had the upheaval of embarking on a revised meeting schedule as reported last year, we have had the opportunity of settling into the new pattern of meetings. We have also produced our second Newsletter. I hope this has been well received by all living in the Oxted Parish area.

The weather this winter has been calm in comparison with last year. We suffered a great deal of damage to the trees in our burial ground which had to be paid for. This winter having been milder has not been anywhere near as hard on the finances.

All Council and committee meetings are held in public and members of the public are most welcome to attend. Meetings are advertised on our Notice Boards in advance.

I have just been attending meetings in respect of the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which came into being in December 2014. The aim of the CIL is to levy a cost on new developments to be built in order to raise funds to support the infrastructure of the area in which the development is to be built. Parish Councils have a percentage entitlement to this levy. This will be a very interesting process to follow as it develops. It is very much in its infancy.

I would like to thank you all for attending this evening.

Karen Weightman

Chairman

Oxted Parish Council 2014-15

OXTED PARISH COUNCIL BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE REPORT

Thankfully, there has not been the intensity of storms over the Christmas/New Year period as last year. As a result, there has not been the work or the cost of dealing with the resultant tree damage to keep the roadway clear and ensure that the burial ground remains available and safe for burials, interments of cremated remains and visitors.

The Burial Ground Committee has met five times as planned during this last year. These meetings are preceded, as far as possible, with a walk around the burial ground. Items noted are then discussed at the meeting together with any others raised with the committee. Work and projects are ongoing within the constraints of the budget agreed at the outset of the year by the full Parish Council.

The Council's maintenance contractor has kept the Burial Ground in good order with the Clerk making regular visits to ensure that the contract is being fulfilled. As always, most of the comments received have been very complimentary.

The Burial Ground income is always variable. In the last year this has been better than last year and has meant that expenditure has not exceeded income by as much.

The Burial Ground Regulations were thoroughly reviewed and were adopted in July 2013. The Burial Ground Fees were also reviewed and adopted at the same time.

Once again, the Committee is indebted to the Clerk, Maureen Gibbins, for all her unseen hard work in connection with the administration of the Burial Ground. That it has been a quieter year from the Councillor's perspective is all down to our brilliant Clerk. Thank you.

As always, The Burial Ground Committee, on behalf of the Council, trust that those who visit the Burial Ground will always find it an attractive and tranquil memorial to those whose lives are remembered there.

David Weightman

FINANCE REPORT

Once again we are pleased to report that Oxted Parish Council has one of the lowest parish rates of all parish councils in Tandridge. The cost to the band D tax payer in 2015/16 will be £5.90.

In spite of this low level of charge on the local taxpayer the Parish Council will be able to maintain its support to Master Park, and many other local organisations through Grant Aid, and continue to maintain the Oxted Parish Burial Ground as a pleasant and peaceful environment.

This year has seen a significant increase in burial ground income reversing the trend of the last two years which has helped in producing a significant surplus. However, over the last four year there has been a combined loss of (£8,044) which indicates that the Precept or charge on Council tax payer is at an appropriate level bearing in mind that we have healthy reserves of £31,677.

This year we were able to support the Chamber of Trade with its Christmas lights and purchased a "Curvy Seat" for the King George V playing field in Hurst Green.

As we have only just reached the end of the current financial year, these are draft accounts for the year to March 2015 which are subject to audit in June.

Martin Fisher

PROFIT & LOSS	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
	Audited	Audited	Audited	Draft
INCOME	£	£	£	£
Precept (charge on Council Tax)	26,500	26,500	27,000	28,000
Burial Ground	26,930	20,220	15,649	30,879
Interest	15	15	13	8
TOTAL	53,445	46,735	42,662	58,887
EXPENDITURE				
Administration	19,253	25,013	20,049	19,852
Elections	5,593	2,448	4,083	0
Grant Aid	3,484	4,000	4,000	3,828
Master Park	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Burial Ground				
- Routine	9,951	9,743	12,651	13,030
- Non-essential	3,370	545	12,879	3,413
Notice Boards	460	-	705	0
Maintenance	1,650	-	852	60
Special Items	3,675	5,464	1,320	2,402
TOTAL	51,436	51,213	60,539	46,585
MOVEMENT IN RESERVES	2,009	(4,478)	(17,877)	12,302
BALANCE SHEET (extract)				
Cash - Current account	10,871	4,033	4,260	13,226
- Deposit account	28,421	31,224	16,238	16,246
	39,292	35,257	20,498	29,472
Debtors (money due to us)	2,788	2,345	5,021	3,767
Creditors (money we owe)	-350	-350	-6,144	-1,562
TOTAL RESERVES	41,730	37,252	19,375	31,677

PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

The planning committee of OPC meet regularly every three weeks. Our role is to comment on applications which is duly considered and taken in to account by TDC. We do not however have the deciding vote. Over the last year we have commented on various applications from a basic loft conversion to the more recent development of the old school house in Old Oxted.

There is no denying, people need homes-but we must think about infrastructure. It's all very well to fill up fields full of houses but where are children going to be educated? Where will all these people shop? not to mention whether there are sufficient medical facilities close by.

The countryside belongs to us all, and we need to cherish it so that we can enjoy everything it has to offer.

Denize Wallace

GRANT AID REPORT

Oxted Parish Council Grant Aid Committee meets once a year to consider grant aid applications received by 1st May from local charities, clubs and other local organisations.

The criteria for applicants are that they must serve the Parish of Oxted. Applicants must complete the appropriate application form and this needs to be submitted with their most recent set of accounts by the due date. The Parish Council also prefers to fund specific projects rather than just contribute to the running costs of the organisation.

Our budget, for the year 2014/15, was again £4,000.00. The committee discussed all applications received. After consideration and discussion, each Councillor awards a score of up to 5 points per application. Any Councillor who declares an interest is not permitted to discuss the application or award a score. If a Councillor declares an interest, the remaining councillors' total score is divided to give a mean average, then that mean average score is added to the final total to ensure no application is penalised in any way.

This year, eleven applications totalling £7,846.00 were received and ten were successful.

The grant aid awards are as detailed below:

Age Concern Oxted, Limpsfield & District	£550.00
St. Mary's Oxted Parochial Church Council	£172.00
St. Catherine's Hospice	£172.00
Oxted Young Persons Theatre (OYPT)	£540.00
Oxted Citizens Advice Bureau	£400.00
Matthew's Friends	£172.00
The Orpheus Centre	£172.00
Art & Gardening Project	£900.00
The Woodhouse Centre	£750.00
The Bluehouse Festival 2014 (Human Zoo Theatre Co)	£172.00

Karen Weightman

OXTED UNITED CHARITIES

Registered No: 200056

Oxted United Charities 2014/2015

The Charity provides help to the poor, sick and elderly in the Ancient Parish of Oxted, that is Oxted and Hurst Green. Our main source of income is the Henry Smith Charity, although small amounts are received from a number of other charities.

Throughout the past year we have continued to assist the poor, sick and elderly in the Parish by making grants of cash and issuing vouchers for goods.

We commenced the year with a cash balance of £3424.84, received income of £5470.25 and made payments of £4993.92. As at our Financial Year End (28th February 2015) there was a cash balance of £3901.17. We issued 76 Christmas Vouchers to people in Oxted and Hurst Green, and assisted 11 families in need.

During the year we have continued to work with the Link Porter Trust and the Royal Oak Charity Fund to better assist individuals and families in the area. Our thanks go to these organizations for their help.

The Chairman and the Clerk would like to thank their fellow Trustees for all their hard work during the year. Mrs Vi Lea has had to resign as a Trustee because of poor health, and we particularly thank her for her work over many years and for her warm friendship. Additionally we thank the retail outlets in Oxted and Hurst Green for their courtesy in accepting our vouchers and dealing with them so efficiently. Donations and bequests to the Charity are always gratefully received.

Trustees **The Rev'd Prof Mary Seller (Chairman)(715675)**

Mrs Gill Fairs (713188)

Mrs Anne Pullar-Strecker (730883)

Mrs Barbara Harling (723034)

Chris Berry - Clerk (714553)

MASTER PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Stewardship Review for the year 2014

Overview

The land forming Master Park was donated by Charles Hoskins Master in 1923 to be held in trust for the recreation and amusement of the residents of Oxted, Limpsfield and Hurst Green. The park is a registered charity, not a local authority provided facility. Finance and maintenance are managed by volunteer trustees forming the Master Park Management Committee (MPMC). Money to maintain the park is raised by charging the sports clubs, fairs and events, and from donors.

Activities

The Tennis, Cricket and Football clubs continue to use the park regularly. Oxted and Limpsfield Cricket Club run senior Saturday and Sunday elevens and weekday junior cricket. Oxted and District Football Club first and second XI play in local leagues and an increasing number of young players are joining the club. Other events on the park during the year included the annual carnival organised by the Oxted Carnival Committee; the Donkey Derby and Bike Sales organised by the 1st Oxted Scouts; a visit by the fun fair; the Car Boot Sale organised by Titsey Rotary Club, the Pram Race, the Real Ale Festival, a Food Fair and a Summer Ball.

Communications

The Master Park website (www.yourmasterpark.co.uk) has been regularly updated. The Annual General Meeting of the charity is held in July of each year and all residents of Oxted and Limpsfield of 18 years and more are entitled to attend and vote. For 2014, the Chairman gave a PowerPoint presentation describing the year's results. The Treasurer then thanked the benefactors, including the Friends of Master Park who make regular subscriptions. MPMC is particularly indebted to Tandridge District Council for arranging grass cutting of the main area of the park and to Oxted Parish Council for grant aid towards the emptying of litter bins and the cutting grass and hedges. Details of donors can be found on our website.

Maintenance and Improvements

Annual routine running costs amount to some £21,000. In addition, the estimated cost of outstanding major maintenance items is £31,000, but £80,000 of major maintenance has been done since 2006. This year the park trees, including the large lime trees along Church Lane, were inspected and cleared of deadwood and £2,500

was spent on playground maintenance. Litter clearance, graffiti and vandalism are a continual drain on resources. To help control littering by school children who gather in the park on warm days, MPMC has liaised with Oxted School and pupils have organised litter picking. A dialogue is maintained with local police to help reduce anti-social behaviour.

In early 2014 the cricket club enquired if a permanent installation of practice nets might be permitted. The club presented details of their scheme for discussion at the AGM but subsequently withdrew the proposal.

Children's Playground

The playground continues to prove a real asset to the park and is very well used. MPMC has long hoped to add suitable playground equipment for disabled children, so in 2014, planning permission was obtained for a specially designed roundabout and swings. Donations towards the cost have been received from BiffaAward, Titsey Rotary Club and Oxted Pram Race and installation is planned for early 2015.

Henry Webber CBE

Chairman

Master Park Management Committee