



HAGLEY PARISH COUNCIL INTO THE MILLENNIUM

The first Parish Council meeting was held on December 15th 1894. The meeting was chaired by Lord Cobham and there were 9 parish councillors. The meeting was held in Lower Hagley Mission Hall and the Rector was paid one shilling (5 pence) in rent.

The population census for Lower Hagley in 1901 showed 381 people lived there in 98 houses. The following census in 1911 showed that the population had increased to 232 females and 180 males.

Amongst items discussed during the first year were street gas lighting from the Lyttelton Arms to Station Road, the unsatisfactory sanitary condition of Hagley/Blakedown which was listed as having only three earth closets, three hand-flushed closets and 59 ashpits!

During 1895 the clerk wrote to the local police asking for extra police for Hagley during the pea picking season and a letter is recorded from the Rector complaining about the smell of pig styes in the area. Complaints were also made about the lack of Great Western Railway trains which were failing to stop at Hagley. Other items on the agendas were the dangerous state of the footpaths in Middlefield Lane and Lower Hagley. Somethings never change!

Recent chairmen of the Parish Council include Geoff Bache (whose wife is still a Parish Councillor) and Geoff Pardoe. The present council has 15 councillors and is chaired by Jim Austin. Some councillors have lived in Hagley all their lives and some have recently moved here and are keen to be involved in their new community.

The present Parish Council is responsible for 40 allotments, 1100 graves in Park Road Cemetery, 8½ acres of playing fields, the village car park and 138 street lighting columns. Improvements that have been made in recent years include planting 3000 daffodils in the grass verges, providing Christmas lighting and a Christmas tree for the village, making donations to the recently formed Youth Club and the Colts Football Club. As we move into the new century improvements that have recently taken place include a new noticeboard area on the car park and a large contribution towards improving the Community Centre. A firework display and Millennium Book have also been organised.

Plans in hand for the year 2000 include improvements to the lighting on the car park and playing fields and extra street lighting. Further improvements will be made to the play area. It is hoped the new medical centre will finally be started and provide a much needed larger surgery for a village which is expanding rapidly.

J. Dudley
Clerk to the Council