**Padbury Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting**

Minutes of a virtual Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 7pm.

Those present were:

Councillors: Long, Dickens, Murray, Williamson, Burton, Morris and Miah

Also present: P Molloy (Clerk), Councillors: J Chilver, L Monger & Sir B Stanier. L Dale (Community Boards) and representatives from the Village Hall and The Greener Padbury Group.

Apologies were received from Councillor S Renshell.

The meeting was opened by Councillor Long, Chair of the Parish Council, and the minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and accepted.

**Period of Public Questions:**

1. Concerns raised about the increase in traffic, damage to grass verges and road surface – question raised if possible to get a road weight limit or reduce speed to 20mph.

Councillor Chilver advised that he agreed and noticed the increase in traffic. Advised that EWR and HS2 should now not be going through Padbury. Weight limit/20mph – enforcement would be an issue. Buckinghamshire Council are unlikely to agree to the 20mph. Suggested looking into a feasibility study for traffic calming. Councillor Stanier advised possible funding via the Community Boards. Councillor Monger disagreed, council may agree to 20mph but couldn’t enforce. Also mentioned that unfortunately the EWR and HS2 drivers don’t always follow the routes. Monthly meeting held with EWR and HS2 that Councillor J Chilver chairs. One resident advised that traffic calming was considered in the past but was not possible as emergency service route.

1. Greener Padbury Group – Meeting held on the 8th April with Bucks, Beds, Oxon Wildlife Trust and two parish councillors also attended. Brief update provided. The group will look into options available that are sustainable and cost effective. Forest School was discussed. Fund raiser is planned for July this year – Greener Gardens. The group will look into opening their own bank account but grants may need to go through the parish council – to be discussed/agreed. Question raised if the parish council would fund the consultation report – advised would need further information, once received will be added to meeting agenda for discussion/approval. Advised that they would be using the greener gardens weekend to try and increase number of residents to sign up to the Greener Padbury Pledge.

**Chair’s report**

**Introduction**

The aim of this report is to reflect on the activities of the Parish Council over the last two

years. The Annual Parish Meeting for 2020 was cancelled due to Covid lockdown

restrictions.

**General Overview**

The Council continues to receive support from our Ward Councillors, and we are always

thankful for their guidance and advice. The Council has met monthly using the internet

platform Zoom.

The major issues over the past two years have been:

1. The establishment of a new Unitary Authority,

2. The construction of East West Rail.

3. The planning of the Oxford Cambridge express way.

4. The construction of a compound and preliminary works for HS2.

5. The construction of 40 houses on London Road.

6. The development and construction of houses in Steeple Claydon.

All of the above have had or will have an impact on the Village, especially with respect to

through traffic.

**Governance**

The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobility Applications) Accessibility Regulations

2018 required that all public sector bodies were to ensure reasonable adjustments were

made to Websites from 23rd September 2020 so they were accessible to people with various disabilities. Councillor Peter Burton has adjusted the PPC Website to conform with the “Website Content Accessibility Guidelines “. The PPC has entered into a contract with

TEEC to provide a suitable platform. The PPC thanks Councillor Peter Burton for his hard

work. All our procedures have been reviewed and updated and are now issued on the PPC website.

**Routine Business**

We would like to express our grateful thanks to Deborah O’Brien who stood in as Acting

Parish Clerk on the resignation of Rosie Geddes. Deborah remained in post until

Pam Molloy was appointed as Clerk to the Parish Council. Deborah continued in the

appointment as Acting Financial Officer until Pam received training and was confident in

her duties.

Cllrs. Fred Morris and Steven Dickens have continued to carry out the more practical tasks

in the Village. These had included repair to gates, tree cutting, repairs to doors at the

Pavilion, maintenance of the war memorial garden and general maintenance of Parish

Property.

The garage door at Springfields was replaced and the brickwork was repaired.

The Parish Councillors have continued to attend various meetings and briefings on many

issues which may or have impacted on the Village. The Councillors have to deal with

matters arising from other Authorities and from Parishioners. These vary from potholes,

broken streetlights and dog fouling to speeding traffic.

Cassie Rigg continues as the editor of the Parish Pump. She produces an excellent magazine which is inclusive of all organisations in the village. We all thank her for her efforts. The distribution is now organised by Wendy Smith. We thank Victoria Murray for undertaking

this task for many years.

**Infrastructure and Environment**

The housing development on Winslow Road by Lagan Homes began in January 2019 and is

now complete. The position of the toucan crossing across the A413 has been agreed with

Buckinghamshire Council. A possible construction date within the school summer holidays has been suggested by Buckinghamshire Council.

The provision of new bus stops with Real Time Information Boards were fitted at the New Inn bus stops.

The resurfacing and reconstruction of the footpath on Main Street from Bryne Lane to Old

End started in February 2020 and is now complete.

**Planning**

We have dealt with the usual planning applications within the village for relatively simple

extensions or alterations to existing structures. The main issues have been:

Old Oak House, 23B Old End has been through many planning applications, refusals and

appeals. Its future is now in the hands of the Buckinghamshire Council enforcement officer.

The Four & 20 Public House has had its application to change into a house refused. The

Padbury Hub Group Ltd has been formed to purchase the property and run it as a public

house and to provide other amenities for the village.

**Devolution**

We have awarded the grass cutting contract to Lynch Gardening Services again this year. It

was felt by the Council that they performed well last year.

**Speed Monitoring**

Speeding traffic through the village along the A413, Main Street and the Thornborough

Road continues to be a major concern. Traffic volumes have noticeably increased over the

last year. This has been the knock-on effect of the housing and infrastructure developments

at Winslow, Buckingham and Steeple Claydon. Speed monitoring through the village is continuing, and it shows that speeding traffic is still a problem to be addressed. The primary school on the A413 being a particular high-risk area.

Following many complaints from villagers about the speed of traffic through the village,

PPC has purchased three speed indication displays. They were 50% part funded by

Winslow & Villages Community Board, Buckinghamshire Council.

**Playing Fields and Play Area**

The playing fields, MUGA and the pavilion continue to be well used general but use has

been restricted due to Covid regulations.

The Council is at present considering the refurbishment or rebuild of the pavilion. An open

day was held on 7th March to collate the views of the parishioners. The views expressed

have been formulated into a proposed scheme. PPC is at present in the process of

instructing an architect to take the proposals forward for planning.

Bob Gough remains the part time caretaker. We thank him for his diligence and support.

The play area on Main Street continues to be well used. The play equipment has been

inspected and repairs made where appropriate. PPC are considering the replacement or

the addition of play equipment.

**Millennium Wood**

The parish council is responsible for its maintenance and management. The wood is

appreciated by the villagers who use it.

We continue to be grateful to our anonymous benefactor who provided regular donations

and has recently left a considerable sum in his will towards its upkeep.

**Crime and Anti-social Behaviour**

Padbury continues to be a relatively crime free area. There has however been an increase in

theft, mainly by distraction burglary, breaking into vans and cars and theft from sheds and

outbuildings.

Dog fouling continues to be a problem. The council has restricted dogs from playing areas

and have provided disposal bins for dog excreta. Articles have been published in the

Padbury Pump to try and educate the few who are irresponsible dog owners.

**Finances**

We have issued the precept for the following year. A full report from the Treasurer will

follow

**Conclusion**

I am grateful for all the support I have received from my fellow Councillors and the Clerks

over the last two years. The Council has had to deal with many and diverse issues. We are

grateful to all the villagers who have attended our meetings and for their help and

suggestions.

We acknowledge the hard work done by other organisations and their members within the

village to make this such a pleasant place in which to live.

**Treasurer’s report**

The annual audit for 2019-20 was completed successfully, with no issues. Work is currently underway completing the annual audit report for 2020-21.

As at 31st March 2021, Padbury Parish Council’s bank accounts totalled £55,389.77.

• £21,044.82 in the Barclays Bank Community Current Account.

• £15,909.39 in the Barclays Millennium Wood Account.

• £18,435.56 in the Barclays Savings Account.

Total expenditure for 2020-21 was £23,455.39. This covers the general day to day costs with the additions as follows: new signage, new laptop for the parish clerk, new picnic table for the woods and a new garage door and repairs to the brickwork at the Springfields playing field garage.

Income received from the Pump advertising was £548. The Football Club and Tennis Club paid their fees. The parish council also received £10,000 which was left in a residents will, for the maintenance of the Millennium Woods.

After careful consideration, the precept for 2021-22 has been kept at the same rate as the previous year, £24,480. This decision was based on the change in some residents circumstances due to Covid 19.

It has been confirmed that we would be receiving the devolved services grant (£1,748.96) to cover 2021-22. At present this is the only service that has been devolved to the Parish, but we should be aware that there might be additional services devolved in the future.

**Buckinghamshire Councillor’s Report – John Chilver**

It has been an honour to represent Padbury on Buckinghamshire Council over the past year. I would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind welcome to Council meetings and their support over the year as we have all adjusted to the new ways of working during the Covid period.

One of the biggest issues we have had to deal with has been the impact of the HS2 and East West Rail traffic through the village. I was involved with discussions with East West Rail on the impact of the temporary traffic lights at the Lenborough turn on the A413 and the removal of them at weekends when work was not being carried out. I am glad to see that the work has now been completed and the lights removed.

There have been many instances of HS2 and East West Rail construction traffic using Main Street, Padbury which is not a designated construction traffic route and I have regularly followed this up with their community liaison teams and traffic officers at Buckinghamshire Council.

Two actions have recently been agreed by East West Rail to improve relations with local communities: a Community Action Plan, currently in draft form, which is intended to better communicate and co-ordinate plans for works that impact traffic and communities in our area, and a new team of local East West Rail ‘traffic ambassadors’ based in our area who will report on issues such as speeding, wrong routes, damage to verges etc.

Another significant issue that had affected the village has been flooding particularly in Ox Lane and on Main Street. I have raised these issues at meetings of the Buckinghamshire Council Strategic Flood Management Group, of which I am a member, and also with Transport for Bucks. I joined a site visit to discuss actions to improve the situation, such as ditch clearance and new storm drains.

I have actively supported the Parish Council on a number of highways issues including the installation of a controlled crossing on the A413 near the new Lagan Homes development, the follow up of the remedial planting of grass verges following the new footpath installed along Main Street, and a number of blocked drains and noisy or damaged manhole covers.

I have also been involved in following up a number of long outstanding planning decisions and enforcement cases.

The Vale of Aylesbury Plan, which will provide a stronger framework for future planning decisions, is now in its final stages. The Inspector will be holding final hearings on a limited number of topics from 13th to 16th April, following which he will issue his final report. The adoption of VALP will take place as soon as possible after the receipt of the Inspector’s report through a meeting of Full Council.

I am always happy to hear from residents and my contact details are on the Buckinghamshire Council website. I am hoping to resume my regular monthly surgery in Winslow Library as soon as circumstances allow.

**Buckinghamshire Council Community Board – Leone Dale**

## Background

Community Boards started in 2020 with the aim of bringing key partners together to develop creative solutions to the issues that matter most. The Boards were backed by £3.9 million of funding to help them to support local communities strengthen their voices and work with the Council and other key agencies.

**Key contacts:**

* Susan Renshell, Chairman
* John Chilver, Vice Chairman
* Leone Dale, Community Board Coordinator

**Budget:**

* Community Priorities: £81,254
* Health and Wellbeing: £20,833
* Local Infrastructure: £217,629

**Key stats:**

* The population is over 20,000
* 3,600 young people
* 764 clinically extremely vulnerable
* 4,485 over 65’s
* 12 schools
* 6% of children are living in poverty
* 2% of households lack central heating
* The overall crime rate is lower than average
* 14% of people have a limiting long-term illness
* 17% of people have no qualifications
* 39% of people aged 16-74 are in full time employment
* 87.3% of people are ‘satisfied with their neighbourhood’

## Partners

The Community Board is made up of key partners and residents and facilitates collaborative working. The list of partners involved in Community Board continues to grow as more relationships are formed:

* Residents
* Town and Parish Councils
* Voluntary and Charity Sector Organisations
* Thames Valley Police
* Health
* Schools
* Places of Worship
* Local Businesses
* Community Groups
* Buckinghamshire Council

## Priorities

Area priorities were decided based on conversations with local Councils and the decision was taken at the Community Board meeting in July. The priorities have helped us to assess funding requests and ensure that funding is allocated to projects that align with the Community Board’s aims and objectives.

* Health and Wellbeing
* Transport and Road Safety
* Improving the Environment
* Covid Recovery

## Action Group Update

The Action Groups are the driving force behind the Community Boards. They bring together key partners, create conversations and support the development of creative solutions and projects. New members and ideas for new working groups are always welcome.

**Health and Wellbeing**

* Chairman: Vron Corben
* Areas of Focus: Activities for young people, LEAP activity packs, health facilities and COVID.
* Next Meeting: 2 June 2021, 2pm, MS Teams

**Roads and Highways**

* Chairman: Billy Stanier
* Areas of Focus: Speedwatch, average speed cameras and footways.
* Next Meeting: 3 June, 11am, MS Teams

**Public and Community Transport**

* Chairman: Trish Cawte
* Areas of Focus: Improving Rural Transport, Community Buses and Community Car Schemes.
* Next Meeting: 21/22 April (TBC), MS Teams

**HS2/EWR**

* Chairman: John Chilver
* Areas of Focus: EWR/ HS2 Updates
* Next Meeting: 15 April, 6pm, MS Teams

## Funding Update

The Community Board has already allocated a number of funding applications and dealt with a wide variety of enquiries.

* 2020/2021
  + 28 Requests received
  + 10 Agreed
  + 5 Did not meet criteria
  + Others have not progressed to application stage
* 2021/2022
  + 27 Requests received
  + 3 Transport applications passed to TfB
  + 2 Did not meet criteria

Many of these are still in development and have not yet progressed to application stage but the Community Board is working with organisations to ensure that the applications are thorough and have the support of local residents.

Below is a summary of the spend so far:

## Coming Up

## Contact

Email: [winvill@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:winvill@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01296 674821

Webpage: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/improving-your-local-community/winslow-community-board/>

**Village Hall – Diane Long**

Apart from a very short period during last summer, when the first lockdown was

lifted, the Village Hall has been almost completely closed for a year. Even when

we were allowed to open for a few weeks in summer and autumn 2020 we had to

restrict numbers to 30 and were only allowed to host very limited activities.

This enforced inactivity has meant we have had virtually no regular income and

we have been unable to run fundraising events. Outgoings have been lower too

in that utility bills have reduced, cleaning and maintenance costs have gone

down but insurance, annual fire safety checks and required repairs to the roof

have had to go ahead, so we have been paying out a lot more than we have been

receiving in hire fees.

Fortunately the Government recognised the issues that Village Halls and

Community Centres would face as a result of the lockdown and allocated money

to support them. This was paid via the Local Authority and we applied for and

received a substantial grant in June 2020. Since that time we have had some

additional small grants and as a result of this help from the Government, together

with reserves that we hold as an insurance against just such an emergency, we

remain in a financially sound position going forward.

We have had regular Committee Meetings via Zoom and held our AGM in

December. The existing Committee was re-elected and we were joined by a new

member which was good. It is a strong and pro-active committee and as soon as

we are able we will be planning social events.

What of the future, who knows?

We are planning our own **Roadmap to Re-opening** in line with Government

guidelines. In mid-April some supervised children’s activities will be permitted

and the Dance Classes will resume. In mid-May some sports, fitness and social

activities will be allowed, provided the Government is satisfied things are still

going well in terms of controlling the spread of Covid. Numbers will continue to

be limited to 30 and social distancing, sanitizer use and enhanced cleaning will

be required.

We are hoping to have the first monthly Coffee Morning of this year on 4th June

but this will be confirmed later.

The message remains “Slow and Cautious” and we will, of course, be following

Government rules and guidance.

We can only hope that things continue to improve and we will eventually return

to some sort of “normality”.

**Padbury C of E School – Lucy McFarlane**

Padbury CE School has, like every other school, had to manage a turbulent time of school closure due to the Pandemic since March 2020. Despite this, the school continues to thrive and adapt to meet the needs of the children.

The first lockdown in the Summer term of 2020 saw many families enjoying the summer months and enjoying having extra time with their children at home. With places at school only available for children of Critical Workers and children deemed to be vulnerable, the numbers attending were very low, Sometimes with only one child at school. The school operated on a rota basis for staff with teachers managing the remote learning from home.

The second lockdown in January 2021 was a different picture. This time with the increased Critical Worker list and the children who found lockdown one particularly tricky, the numbers of children in school each day ranged between 30 and 40. This meant all staff were in school and needing to manage the needs of those in school as well as those at home. During this lockdown the school embraced the Google Classroom remote learning platform alongside teaching those in school so very little learning time was lost and indeed, 100% of the children at home and at school were fully engaged. Feedback from parents was very positive, appreciating the hard work of all the staff at school but particularly the teachers for managing the blended home and face to face learning.

Now we are back as a fully open school, it is lovely to have all the children back together. The vast majority have loved being back with their friends and teachers and have settled quickly but there have been more anxieties this time round and we need to acknowledge that and continue to monitor and support children with their mental health as a priority.

We continue to hope that this will finally be the end of the school closure situation and through the Summer term we can rebuild everyone’s confidence academically as well as socially.

I am pleased to be able to say that we are almost at full capacity with 104 pupils in school. The school continues to hold a good reputation in the area so that when a family do move away, places are quickly filled.

The school website [www.padburyschool.co.uk](http://www.padburyschool.co.uk) is a good place to visit to ‘get a feel’ of what the school is up to and doing. There are some lovely examples of home learning as well as a virtual tour video and teachers reading stories for children through the lockdown months.

The school works well because of everyone who is involved in it. Not just the teachers but every member of staff, children and parents. The key for us to continue to be successful is the working partnership. Part of our vision is being part of a Christian Community. I hope as the restrictions ease, the community of Padbury will be able to see us starting to spread our work beyond the school grounds to support those around us.

**Padbury Pre-School – Barbara Foord**

As with all organisations, this has been a very odd year for the Pre School. The setting is in the grounds of the village school but does not come under the umbrella of school management. It is run by a group of volunteers who form the committee. We are always on the lookout for new members as the committee often consists of the parents of children who attend. The term of office for most committee members is therefore quite short. As a committee, we have continued our meetings via Zoom and have a WhatsApp group for day-to-day things.

Pre School closed at the beginning of the pandemic due to lack of staff. Key worker families who needed childcare used other Bucks facilities. Our manager left us in May 2020 to go to new employment and we completed the recruitment process for our new manager (Rachel Biswell) under the covid rules. We reopened in September. After Christmas we initially opened to key worker families only and were very pleased to welcome 2 new members of staff who enabled us to open fully. One of these employees was on furlough from another job and is male. His presence at pre-school has underlined again how important it is to have men in settings with young children. The children thoroughly enjoyed him being with them and his energy and enthusiasm enriched the setting.

Rachel has organised Pre School to make everyone as safe as possible and there are regular updates to the risk assessment. We have been kept informed about the latest developments in requirements for our children by the Early Years department at BCC as well as the national Early Years Alliance. The outdoor area of Pre School is being developed and nurtured and we hope to join the rest of the village by opening during the Greener Padbury Weekend. The children enjoyed contributing to the Village Christmas decorations and look forward to being part of many more celebrations in the village.

Our children are the most important part of Pre School and they seem to be happy and smiling! We are all looking forward to the next few months and hoping it is a more normal time for them.

**The Alice Bessie Potter Trust – John Wrigley**

The past year saw two changes in Trustees.  We were pleased and grateful to welcome Jamie Beckenham as a new Trustee and sad to lose the services of Mary Chappell who moved out of the village, following a spell of ill health.  Mary had been a Trustee for very many years and her knowledge of the village and its residents often proved invaluable.

There was very little change in those benefiting from the Trust's annual distribution, with the addition of a one-off donation to meet a special need.  This was a useful reminder to the Trustees that the constitution provides for support to be given to the sick and needy of the parish and is not necessarily age related.

Both of our regular meetings had to be rearranged due to the pandemic.  The autumn meeting to consider the distributions was accomplished by informal phoning among the Trustees.  The 2021 Annual General Meeting, due this spring, could not be done this way and had to be postponed until May.

**The Sick Benefit Society – Tony Picketts**

Thank you for your invite to provide you with a brief report regarding the above society.

As we are all aware things have been so very different for us all during the last 16 months or so, Padbury Benefit Society is of course no exception.

For obvious reasons our club dinner and weekend of celebrations did not take place in 2020 and indeed (very sadly) will not take place this coming May.

Last year was the first time the dinner had not been held since the 2nd World War.

Even so, the Society remains strong with a dedicated committee who keep in regular contact and when we are able we will pick up the reigns and continue to serve the members of the club and the village of Padbury as we have always done.

The club has a strong membership of approximately 90 members as well as many guests that return to the village each year to be with us all.

Financially we are in a sound position and when we are able we will continue to work hard to raise funds for our memorial fund which we put to good use at the discretion of the committee, supporting village, local and national charities.

We very much look forward to when the village will be able to celebrate with us once more, a tradition that has continued in Padbury since 1856 and God willing will do so for many years to come.

**The Greener Padbury Group – Felicity Mallam**

**Group members:** Felicity Mallam, Sarah Morris, Rachel Hine, Jim Lawson, Lucy Read, Kass Gillie, Cassie Rigg, Tina Mitchell, Vicky Murray, Yvonne Shuttleworth, Robert Manasse

**Purpose of Group:** The group formed in late Summer 2020 with a shared desire to increase the biodiversity within the village through increased community understanding and engagement. This is a voluntary group that has met monthly since September 2020.

**Key activities:** The following are key activities, many of which are ongoing. In the interest of brevity, this is a summarised list. More detail is available if required.

1. **Greener Gardens** – weekend of 3/4th July. This event replaces the previous Open Gardens which St Mary’s Church no longer wishes to run. The emphasis is on encouraging nature and greener gardening practices into the homes around the village. Including:

* A range of activities (a children’s bee trail following the ‘Flight of the bumble bee’ around the village, make your own bird feeders)
* Demonstrations (such as insect identification, viewing moth traps, building bug hotels, understanding about hedgehog highways)
* Food and drink stalls
* Live music around the village
* Stall holders with a green/eco/nature focus
* Gardens opened with specific wild/green or growing focus.

The School, Preschool, St Mary’s and a number of groups in the village are committed to being involved. Flyers have been distributed to every household. Info will continue on the Facebook ‘A Greener Padbury’ and ‘Padbury Village’ pages as well as in the Pump and on posters.

Any monies raised will contribute to eco/nature projects around the village. (ie: the school and preschool have specific green projects in plan, St Mary’s community orchard, as well as further plans of the Greener Padbury Group)

1. **A Greener Padbury Pledge:**  The website was created to encourage residents to commit to making small changes in their lifestyles. [https://www.greenerpadbury.com](https://www.greenerpadbury.com/) Jim Lawson writes a monthly blog on his apiary.
2. **Millennium Wood:** Robert Manasse is in touch with Bucks, Beds, Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) for advice on management of the wood and various areas of the village to increase biodiversity. They will visit on 8th April with members of Greener Padbury group. All Souls College, Oxford have been contacted with regard to their participation/permission to include some of their land in the Greener Padbury plans.(ie paddock in Old End, the village pond by the play area). To be updated. **Members of the Parish Council are welcome to attend.**
3. **Forest School in Millennium Wood:** Lucy Readand Cassie Rigg are working with Padbury School/Preschooland [Learning without Walls](https://www.learningwithoutwalls.org.uk/contact.html) to explore the possibility of running Forest School from the Millennium Wood. Grants would be sourced to train at least one member of school staff appropriately and support the forest/natural curriculum. Requirements would be a log circle and a safe fire pit. It is proposed that a site at the top of the wood, where children have already built dens, might be appropriate to cause minimal disturbance to the wood.

This would be a valuable asset for the school as, before covid, they travelled in coaches to a site over half an hour away for forest school. Forest School is a regular item on most primary schools’ curriculum. If the Council was minded and the project successful, there may be the possibility of renting out the Forest school to neighbouring primary schools once or twice a week, providing a small income for woodland maintenance.

**The Parish Council are asked if they would be involved in this project as the plans are developed.** Would we be able to install a compost loo in the woodland for school use only? Could we limit public access to the wood during Forest school sessions? Would it be possible to plant a small edible forest? Can we work together on a maintenance plan to increase the biodiversity of the woodland? All these costs would be met by grants.

1. **Padbury Pump:** regular items feature in the Pump on recycling and adopting more sustainable behaviour.
2. **Recycling:** The Group is considering how they could offer regular collection points for the recycling of unusual items – ie coffee pods, pet food pouches, crisp packets, medicine blister packs – on going.
3. **Greener Villages Competition:**  in a similar vein to the Best Kept Village, a county wide initiative has been established for the Greenest Village. Haddenham and Waddesdon are already entered. The Group are finding out how they could enter Padbury for 2021/22.
4. **Litter pick:** The Group plans to set up a regular litter picking group on a nominated day of each month. Any/all residents are invited to join. We will use funds raised from the Greener Gardens event to buy high vis tabards with ‘Padbury Litter Pick Team’/’Padbury Pickers’ name.
5. **Wilding verges:** The Group is very keen to understand if there may be patches of land/verges which could be used as a pilot for wilding. Small low lying, notices would be erected to explain this has been left unmown for nature/which insects/flowers to spot etc. Part of the green in Springfields was left unmown in 2020 to show off the poppies and wildflowers.

We request that the area in front of No 4 Arnolds Close is not mowed until October. There are some lovely mining bees (probably yellow-legged) making their homes in this grass at the moment and we would be very sorry to see them being disturbed. There is no possible traffic-associated danger.

Much research has been undertaken by the Group to date. We are in contact with Buckingham Town Council with regard to the lessons they learnt from planting, funding and maintaining the wild area in Bourton Park. We have taken advice and researched verge management documents from [PlantLife](https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk). The main recommendation is to mow once in August or September for optimum wildlife and biodiversity in verges. The PlantLife site also contains a number of valuable arguments to share with those who may be concerned about the messiness of unmown verges. These include mowing 1m from the road edge and leaving the rest wild. Using signs to explain the rationale for having unmown verges.

We would like to work with the Parish Council to understand where and what can be done.

The Group would be keen to understand what commitment the Parish Council has secured from HS2 and EWR with regard to making right the damaged verges in the village.

Councillor Long thanked everyone, those who attended and provided reports.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Signed…………………………………. Chairman / Date………………………………….