## Padbury Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 14th April 2022 at 7pm.

Those present were:

Councillors: P Burton, S Dickens, V Murray, F Morris and D Miah

Also present: P Molloy (Clerk), Buckinghamshire Councillors: Sir B Stanier & D Goss. A representative from the Greener Padbury Group and one resident.

1. The meeting was opened by Councillor Burton, Chair of the Parish Council.
2. Apologies - Councillor D Green & Buckinghamshire Councillor J Chilver.
3. The minutes of the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed by the chairman.
4. **Period of Public Questions:**
* The police speed van has been operating in Padbury – can we see results?
* Buckinghamshire Councillors hold a surgery on the 1st Sunday of every month at Winslow Town Council.
* Question raised by the Parish Council: Can anyone at Buckinghamshire Council assist with the planned redevelopment of the pavilion i.e. planning department – D Goss advised he would look into.
* Greener Padbury Group – Advised they are going through the process to become a charity. Consultant due at the woods on the 19th April. They will be running coffee mornings. Forest School and woodland activities are going well.
1. **Reports provided:**

**Chair’s report – Peter Burton (Chairman)**

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to reflect on some of the activities of Padbury Parish Council (PPC) over the last year. I was elected as chairman of the PPC at the December 2021 council meeting to take over from Mike Long who stood down following his (and Diane’s) decision to move out of the village.

Routine Business

Pam Molloy is our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and her diligent work is much valued.

As well as the PPC’s own meetings, the Parish Councillors have continued to attend various meetings and briefings on many issues which are relevant to the Village.

Cllrs. Fred Morris and Stephen Dickens continue to carry out some of the more practical tasks in the village. These had included repair to gates, tree and hedge cutting, repairs to doors at the Pavilion, maintenance of the war memorial garden and general maintenance of parish property. They have been aided in their endeavours by the village stewards and details of their work can be found in the December/January edition of the Padbury Pump.

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 PPC continues to receive support from our county councillors, and we are always thankful for their guidance and advice.

Infrastructure and Environment

The toucan crossing on the A413 by the housing development on Winslow Road is now installed. We are still waiting for details of when Ox Lane and Main Street will be repaired, following the activities of East-West Rail. All that can be said is that the problems we have faced are much less than other nearby villages.

Planning

We have dealt with the usual planning applications within the village for relatively simple extensions or alterations to existing buildings. The PPC can only comment on planning applications, the decision is made by Buckinghamshire Council.

The future of Old Oak House, 23B Old End, which has been through many planning applications, refusals and appeals, is still unclear. After a High Court judgement the matter is back with the Buckinghamshire Council planning department.

The Four & 20 Public House had its application to change into a house refused. Although the Padbury Hub Group was not successful in its aim to purchase the property it is now leased to a local publican and we wish it well.

Devolution

Some services, previously supplied by Aylesbury Vale District Council and now Buckinghamshire Council, can be devolved to parish councils. We have again renewed the devolution to us of grass cutting around the village. Although we receive money from Buckinghamshire Council to pay for the grass cutting, this does not cover the cost of the task devolved but to leave this with Buckinghamshire Council is likely to lead to a lower level of service. The grass cutting contract was again awarded the contract to Lynch Gardening Services as it was considered by the Council that they offer value for money.

Speed Monitoring

Speeding traffic through the village along the A413 and Main Street continues to be a major concern, exacerbated by the work on the East West rail line and the housing developments at Steeple Claydon. Despite the impact, the former is temporary but the latter will be permanent.

As mentioned last year, the PPC has purchased three speed indication displays. These were 50% part funded by Winslow & Villages Community Board. Their delivery was delayed due to the ‘chip’ shortage but they have recently been installed. Pending the installation of the new devices the supplier lent us some temporary devices and using information provided by these Thames Valley Police have undertaken speed camera control exercises in the village.

We will continue to monitor this issue and are looking at ways of putting other measures in place.

Playing Fields and Play Area

The playing fields continue to be well used but use has been restricted due to covid regulations.

The Council is at present working on the refurbishment of the pavilion. An architect has been appointed to take the proposals forward for planning, but again, issues with covid have caused delays.

The play area on Main Street continues to be well used. The play equipment has been inspected and repairs made where appropriate. The PPC has ordered some new play equipment, chosen with help from the children at Padbury Church of England School. As with all things at the moment, delivery is not as speedy as we would like but we are hoping for delivery by May.

The rocking horse, which is old but how old is unclear, has been completely refurbished and repainted and should hopefully continue to give pleasure to children for many years to come.

Millennium Wood

The PPC is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Millennium Wood although it is leased from the Woodland Trust. The Greener Padbury group has engaged a consultant to examine how the wood can be used and the PPC will consider any proposals put forward. In the meantime, Padbury Church of England School are starting to use the wood for a forestry school.

Crime and Anti-social Behaviour

Padbury continues to be a relatively crime free area although dog fouling continues to be an issue, around the village and particularly at the Springfield playing fields. In the latter case we are investigating what other steps can be taken. The PPC has provided disposal bins for dog excreta and articles were published in the Padbury Pump to try and educate the few who are irresponsible dog owners.

Finances

We have issued the precept for the next financial year and this now appears on your rates bill from Buckinghamshire Council. The increase of approximately 5% may seem large in comparison with the increases in other parts of your total rates bill but this follows a 0% increase last year. We are faced with the same increases in expenses as all rate payers, for example in the cost of street lighting.

Our total income from the rates paid by villagers is just over £26000. Requests from around the village for ‘action’ have to be considered in the light of the impact it will have on the rates demand, both in terms of the immediate cost and any ongoing costs such as maintenance. Sometimes grants may be available, and we did get a grant contribution to the cost of the play equipment and the speed indication displays. Also if the many volunteers from around the village cease their contribution, we will see an increase in our costs.

A report from our Responsible Financial Officer (Pam) follows.

Conclusion

I am grateful for all the support I have received from my fellow Councillors and the Clerk and from volunteers around the village who are too numerous to mention. 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.

**Responsible Finance Officer’s Report – Pam Molloy (Clerk/RFO)**

The annual audit for 2020-21 was completed successfully, with no issues. Work is currently underway completing the annual audit report for 2021-22.

As at 31st March 2022, Padbury Parish Council’s bank accounts totalled £56,601.31

• £22,474.52 in the Barclays Bank Community Current Account.

• £15,689.39 in the Barclays Millennium Wood Account.

• £18,437.40 in the Barclays Savings Account.

Total expenditure for 2021-22 was £29,094.18. This covers the general day to day costs with some additions as follows: maintenance works carried out in the playground, new poles for the speed signs, new bus shelter (although most of the cost is covered by our insurance) and material costs for works carried out around the village by our volunteers.

Income received from the Pump advertising was £642. The Football Club and Tennis Club fees have been received in full. The parish council also received £847.80 from the Youth Club which is to be used towards paying for new playground equipment.

After careful consideration, the precept for 2022-23 has been increased to £26,400, which represents approximately a 5% increase, but follows a zero percentage increase the previous year. This decision was based on the budget that was agreed for the next financial year, although agreed before many of the cost increases that we are all facing.

It has been confirmed that we would be receiving the devolved services grant of £1,801.43 to cover 2022-23. 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.

Funding

We have been successful with two funding applications:

* 50% of the costs of our new Speed Indication Devices
* £8,000 towards the cost of the new playground equipment (expected to be installed April/May)

For 2022-23, we have already applied for funding for the following and await decisions:

* £25,000 to go towards the redevelopment costs of the pavilion
* Feasibility Study / Traffic Calming Measures

We will also be looking at other funding opportunities over the coming months.

**Buckinghamshire Councillor’s Report – Cllrs John Chilver, David Goss & Sir Beville Stanier**

It has been an honour to represent Padbury on Buckinghamshire Council over the past year since last May’s elections. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind welcome to Council meetings and their support over the year. We try to ensure that at least one of us is in attendance at every Parish Council meeting.

John Chilver is the Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources, Property and Assets. Sir Beville Stanier is Vice Chair of Winslow and Villages Community Board and a Member of the Licensing Committee, Trading Standards Committee and Planning Committee (Northern Area). David Goss is a member of Winslow Town Council and of the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

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. 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 we have regularly followed this up with their community liaison teams and traffic officers at Buckinghamshire Council. We have lobbied for better signage along the A413 to enforce this. We have also chased East West Rail for action on the resurfacing of Ox Lane which has been designated a failed road due to the damage caused by HGVs.

We have regularly raised highways issues relating to the village in our monthly meetings with Matt Whincup, our Local Area Technician at Transport for Bucks. These have included the repair of potholes along the A413, drain clearance, flood mitigation work along Main Street, and improvements to signage and white lines.

We are glad to see the recent installation of a controlled crossing on the A413 near the new Lagon Homes development which we have followed up on behalf of the Parish Council, which should contribute to traffic calming and ensure a safe crossing for our residents. We also look forward to the forthcoming resurfacing of the pavements in Springfields which we have secured as part of this year’s highways capital maintenance programme.

We have also been involved in following up a number of long outstanding planning decisions and enforcement cases. This has been helped by the recent introduction of fortnightly members’ planning surgeries, at which we have been able to raise local cases with the planning officers. The Vale of Aylesbury Plan is now in place which should provide a clear planning framework.

We have been happy to support the Greener Padbury group with their plans to improve the Millennium Wood and the proposal for funding which they have submitted to the Winslow Community Board.

We are always happy to hear from residents and our contact details are on the Buckinghamshire Council website. We hold a regular monthly surgery at the Winslow Town Council office, 28 High Street, Winslow from 10.30 -12.00am on the first Sunday of every month, at which all are welcome – no booking required.

**Padbury C of E School – Lucy McFarlane (Headteacher)**

I’m pleased to say we have had a year of returning to things we used to do pre-pandemic! School visits have resumed with our visit to Padbury village, Winslow earlier in the term but also Maple class (Reception children) have been to Rectory farm for a Lambing day and learning about life on a farm while Beech class (Year 1 and 2) visited Whipsnade Zoo in the wind and the snow to learn more about animals they have been studying in science! Next term, Oak class (Year and 4) are off to the Living Rainforest when they study the rainforest in Geography and Sycamore Class (Year 5 and 6) are heading to Hudnall Park in Hertfordshire for their long-awaited residential visit. It feels good to know we are getting back out there and learning beyond the school grounds.

We also held an outdoor Mother’s Day event last week where the weather was thankfully glorious. Children from Maple and Beech sang beautifully for the Mummy’s and said some very special things about why their Mummy was a superhero. They then enjoyed time together playing with some of the new equipment in the Maple outdoor area, the field and the playground. A special day for them all.

World Book Day was also back to how it used to be with costumes, reading sessions, drama and lots more!

Last week, it was lovely to welcome the parents of Oak class into school to see their Viking performance-again, this will be a first since pre-pandemic. While Covid is still very much in the air, we are finding ways to get around it and keep going. We will also be back with parents together in the church for our Easter assembly in the last week of term which will be a real treat.

Residents of Padbury will have noticed Forest School in Millennium Woods has got underway. The children are loving the time spent in the woods on Fridays and standing back and watching them play and interact with each other to problem solve and find solutions has been great. Hopefully we can look forward to some sessions soon where the mud has begun to dry up a bit!

As we look to the summer term, even more should fall back into place. Sports Day for example in July is something everyone is looking forward to along with a French Breakfast for parents of Sycamore class. We will hopefully also be able to say a traditional goodbye to our yr6 children as they look to start their secondary education in September.

I hope everyone has a peaceful term and I look forward on sharing news at the end of next term to see what we have been able to achieve.

**Padbury Pre-School – Barbara Foord (Vice Chair)**

The Pre School has made steady progress towards its goals in the last year. The pandemic presented us with many challenges and continues to do so but we have made changes and grown.

Our manager, Rachel Biswell has made changes to the outdoor area further developing it to allow the children to investigate and explore. We have a new roofed sandpit, physical challenges where the children practice the skill of personal risk assessment (supervised of course!) and lots of environmental “toys” to help with learning about the environment. The outdoor space is an option for most of the day, weather permitting. The children enjoy the growing areas and have a variety of plants to tend. There are other ideas afoot to expend our outdoor provision but this is not our priority at the moment.

The indoor area is well equipped and cosy. At times a little too cosy and the committee and parents are working hard fundraising with a view to providing another room so that the children can have group times away from the hubbub of the main classroom. This would be useful for the older children when they need a place to concentrate and focus and the younger children when they need a little nurturing and peace.

Our staff have continued to work hard through the pandemic. We have sometimes had staff shortages due to isolations and illness but staff have given the children the best possible experiences and maintained staffing levels through voluntary cover. The Committee is very grateful to have such a dedicated and loyal staff.

Lockdown continues to have its effects on the younger generation. Some of them have missed vital interaction and milestone appointments during the lockdown and this continues to have an effect on their learning outcomes. We have worked with other childcare/education agencies to support the children with special needs. We (and other settings in the area) have more children with special needs than would normally be the case.

During the last year we have had changes to our committee. Hanh Jelff left us after serving on the committee since the foundation of the pre-school and we miss her very much. We welcomed a new chair, Ricky Brown who has knowledge of education and is a parent of one of our children. We are pleased that we have a number of parents who are committed to supporting Pre School, helping to run it, doing odd jobs and fundraising.

**The Greener Padbury Group – Felicity Mallam (Chair)**

Greener Padbury Group was successful in receiving a grant of £8,701 from the Winslow Community Board.This will be used over the next 12 months to conduct the woodland survey, pay for the creation of a woodland management plan to increase biodiversity, cover costs to train preschool/school staff as forest school leaders, run a series of free woodland activities for children, families and adults, run a series of community engagement events for villagers (more detail below).

GP has been awarded Highly Commended for the Best Community Group in the Pride of Bucks Award. The award is to be displayed in the Village Hall. Several councillors have visited the woods and been in high praise and support for the GPG plans and ambitions.

Parish Council

We have worked with the Parish Council over the year in consultation over the development of the Terms of Reference when we initiated our Request for Quote to environmental consultants and selected the final consultant to undertake the work.

Together the PC and GPG have moved tree stumps to the woodland in readiness for weekly Forest School starting – March 2022. The PC have also been made aware of all activities planned for families and in the woodland over the past 12 months.

Earlier in 2021, the GPG ran ‘Greener Gardens’, which replaced the annual Open Gardens event with a more environmentally and sustainability focused weekend of events. Many village groups joined in the organisation of the weekend which allowed them to raise funds for ‘green’ focused projects of their own. Greener Padbury was also able to raise funds for their plans throughout the year. Padbury WI, the Allotments, the School and Pre-school, local music groups, individuals and smaller interest groups all joined to make the weekend a success. There is no intention to run this event in 2022 as it will clash with the Jubilee celebrations but this may be revisited in 2023.

Forest school

Forest school began on 4th March and the Reception, Year 1 & 2 children have enjoyed their woodland activities very much so far.  To date we have not received any further contact from Philip Webb (owner of the track alongside the woodland). We will continue to address and resolve this issue. For now the children continue to use access to the woods via the paddocks.

Woodland activities

Julie Lloyd-Evans, Learning without Walls is running two consultation groups with young residents – to understand how we can engage them in the work over the coming months. Two sessions have been held with the Eco Warriors (10/11 year olds) and a small teen group will take place in April. They will be exploring, making woodland jewellery and collecting, observing and recording wildlife in the woodland and around the village. They are thrilled to be involved in this planning.

In the Easter holiday, we have three family activity sessions scheduled (Sun 10th April, 10.30-12, 1.30-3, and Tues 19th April, 10.30). Information has gone out in the school newsletter – and most of the places are already filled. We will continue to run similar sessions throughout the year – for free.

Woodland development plan

Future Nature is scheduled to undertake the survey on the 19thApril. They anticipate the Habitat Management Plan report being completed and with the Parish Council by mid-May. The report will be relatively brief, with information available in bite-size chunks so that this can be reviewed by the Parish Council to identify any required amendments. The consultants will attend the Parish Council’s May meeting for a half hour presentation including Q&A.

The plan will then be shared on 18th June at a village consultation event from the village hall. A range of activities will be organised around the consultation and in attendance will be the consultants, an engagement officer from BBOWT, GPG members. The purpose of the consultation is to gather views from villagers, make them aware of the plans, elicit interest in future activities and involvement in community greening activities in the woodland.

Village Engagement

We have a range of village engagement activities planned for the year. A few examples are below:

**Initiate regular, monthly litter pick group -** with a social drink at the Blackbird afterwards. Possibly the first Saturday of every month. The date is to be confirmed but the first litter pick will happen in May. We hope to raise funds to purchase high visibility tabards for those involved. EWR have been asked to support the first litter pick concentrating on Ox Lane.

**Climate Conversations Cafe** – we aim to organise one or two cafe events at 1-1.5 hrs for people to come and sit in small groups around a table to discuss certain climate related questions… over tea and cake. The first will take place during the village consultation event on June 18th.

Partnerships

EWR are keen to become involved and offer labour to GPG activities. They will visit the wood with GPG members in the coming months. We anticipate that it may be possible to use their volunteer workforce in a number of ways throughout the year. We will share more details with the PC once discussed.

Greener Winslow

Greener Winslow have visited the woodland and attended GPG meetings. They are keen to form a stronger working relationship. GPG will share details of all events with them and vice versa. It is hoped that once both are more established there may be scope for some joint work in the future.

Converting to Charitable status

Greener Padbury Group is undergoing conversion to full charitable status. This is driven by the fact that any group in receipt of funds above £5k requires charitable status and accountability to the Charity Commission. This may help with future bids for funds when considering any management works to the woodland as a result of the management plan.

Members of the Greener Padbury Group:

Felicity Mallam – Chair, Lucy Read, Cassie Rigg, Tina Mitchell, Sarah Morris, Rachel Hine, Karen Gillie, Robert Manasse, Vicky Murray – PC liaison.

**Padbury Village Football Club – Peter McHenry (Chair)**

On the pitch the Club continues to grow to meet local demand with mixed (boys & girls) teams at Mini Kickers, ages 5 to 7; Falcons u8s; Cougars u10s; Raptors u12s; and Rovers u16s. Next season these teams will progress to their next age groups respectively and the Club plans to introduce new teams at u7s and u8s. There is an increasing representation across the teams of Padbury youngsters and pupils of the school, supporting the objective that the Club is providing access to leisure activities to Padbury residents and the local community.

The Club has invested several thousand pounds into the Padbury Recreation Ground facilities in 2022 including the installation of the defibrillator; purchasing new portable goal posts; and pitch maintenance work (including scarifying; verti-draining; weed spraying; resurfacing and reseeding activities). With different pitches required for different age groups, these measures are necessary to support the long-term sustainability of the Club and the ground.

Such investment has been funded through a combination of grants, sponsors, club registration fees, the match day tuck shop and the Parish Council (e.g., funding the installation of the defibrillator case). Like most Clubs, it is reliant on a limited number of volunteers and ensuring that the Club is accessible to all is a continual challenge as costs continue to rise.

As communicated to the Council, dog fouling (bagged and unbagged) continues to be a problem. On the worst incident 10 bags of dog mess were collected and disposed by the Club from the ground in a single occasion. Parking is a challenge as Springfield can become overwhelmed with visitor cars on a Saturday morning. We would recommend that the Council considers providing additional capacity onsite for parking in the development plans for the pavilion.

**Village Hall – Gilly Beach (Chair)**

Looking back to last year’s report, written in the midst of Covid-19, it is really great to reflect that we are finally getting back to normal!

The village hall committee has been working hard to support the running of the hall. So it is really heartening to see the number of organisations and individuals that have hired the hall for functions. They deserve our thanks for supporting the Village Hall as a great community asset.

The hall has hosted, many birthday parties and it has also been great to welcome back the organisations that are regular users of the facility. We have enjoyed two village hall functions which were a sell-out and we plan to do at least two more this year including the Jubilee disco.

Financially we are stable but, as with the any old building, we must make plans for maintenance. This year we will be investing in renovating the village floor which hopefully will give us a few more years before it needs replacing. We expect this work to be competed in August, during our quieter period of the year.

As always, we provide a service to the village through our well-attended coffee mornings and Friday bingo and hope to enhance our range of organisations using the hall in the future.

I can safely say that the village hall remains at the heart of Padbury village, and it is still beating strong! Thank you all for your support.

**The Alice Bessie Potter Trust – John Wrigley (Clerk)**

At the AGM in 2021, the Trustees received with sadness the decision by Rene Depear to retire both as Trustee and Chairman. Having served as Trustee since 1988 and Chairman since 2009, her retirement was well earned and the Trustees expressed their gratitude for her dedication and commitment.

Tony Picketts was elected Chairman for the coming year. At the AGM it was also resolved to co-opt Kevin Hodges as a Trustee. Subsequently, at the Trustees’ request, Kevin Hodges was appointed as a Parish Council nominee for four years.

These changes result in a new line up of Trustees: Tony Picketts, Arthur Cox, Jamie Beckenham and Kevin Hodges. Mary Chappell’s appointment as Trustee lapsed as she has left the village. It is good to see new blood coming in to secure the future of the Trust. John Wrigley continued as Clerk, although this post, too, will need a new appointee as he has recently said that he intends to move house, out of the area.

The financial position of the Trust remains very strong with total assets in the region of £240,000, enabling the Trustees to meet all qualifying requests. Distributions in the year to 31 January 2022 were 21 payments of £175 to single applicants and 9 payments of £225 to double applicants. There was also a single payment of £200 to a person with a specific identified need.

**The Sick Benefit Society – Tony Picketts (Committee Member & Clerk)**

Sadly, Padbury Sick Benefit Society has been in an enforced hibernation period for the last two and a half years. Even so, the committee have remained in constant touch throughout this period and care has been taken that the club does not fall by the wayside and become a distant part of Padbury’s history.

Our financial position for such a small Benefit Society is strong and a careful watch of our accounts is looked at annually and over seen by our advisor.

Our members have stayed loyal to us even though we have been unable to provide them with the weekend they deserve, our membership currently stands at 85 or just above, including honorary members serving 40 years’ service or over of which this year I feel privileged to be one.

I am very pleased to report that in just a few weeks we will see the Society as it should be seen, parading our village with a full program of events over the May bank holiday weekend.

We have recently made some donations to local and national organisations and I am confident that following the feast weekend we will be able to do more, as always, at the discretion of the committee.

Apologies for such a brief report but I am sure you will understand given the last two years or so. As always, “LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE”

**The WI - Sue Chadbund (President)**

On November 2021 at our Annual Meeting, Sue Chadbund and Sue Christelow were elected as President and Secretary. Kay Bradley continues as Treasurer. Our membership to date is 35 with a committee of nine.

Our meetings are back in the village hall and the Programme for 2022 has been distributed to members, visitors and local WI’s.

The last two years has been difficult but the committee met monthly on Zoom and also held zoom meetings for member’s and gave flowers and small gifts throughout the year. We celebrated our centenary in November 2021 with a dinner and our certificate is now hanging in the village hall. We have also planted a cherry tree in Main Street opposite the playground.

Our programme is varied and includes a local visit in the summer. Our subscription from April is £40. We are regularly supporting the women’s refuge in MK and a charity in Kenya with knitted goods and children’s dresses.

We need to fundraise to keep ourselves buoyant, as well as showing support to village and Bucks Federation events.

Padbury WI will be organising a Pimms stall at the Queen’s celebration. We are looking outward and encouraging new members. We don’t want to be always thought of a cakes, jam and Jerusalem!

**Padbury Tennis Club – David Green (Chairman)**

The club has had a good year for membership, with a small increase to 85, of which 59 are adults. This was assisted by a 50% reduction in subscription costs last year to compensate for the significant loss of use during the Covid periods of lockdown. At point of writing, memberships are being renewed so not clear if this level will be maintained as tennis was one of few sports that could be played through some of the lock down periods, so some may not renew.

We saw a small number of casual users, although process is complicated to receive court fees and manage access.

The courts remain in fair condition, considering they are in their 9th year of use. However the paint is wearing significantly now and won’t stand another clean. A repaint is planned for next year, which will involve a cost of £3-£4,000. Without this, the surface will quickly deteriorate. We have seen failed lights due to use. Members have replaced 3 bulbs to restore all to working order, thanks to Ken and Mark Ryder. Their work saved the club several hundred pounds.

The courts have also been treated for moss, which is becoming a problem.

The club championship was run in September, first time for two years.

The club champions were Patrick Morris, who beat Chris Hill in the final, and Olivia Cruse, wining against Denise Green. David Heal and David Green beat Patrick and Greg Morris in the men’s doubles.

The MK League did not run any competitions last summer.

The twice weekly club sessions have not been well supported over the winter. Combination of poor weather and availability of the few core players. Efforts now under way to rejuvenate.

The club has contracted a new coach who will shortly start a new programme. Ed Harwood is qualified to level 4 and has played professionally. He has already completed two school visits to stimulate interest in tennis with the youngsters of the village.

The club has awarded life membership to Chris Hill in recognition of work done for the club. The club remains LTA registered for another year.

1. The chairman invited those present to raise any issues which were of concern to them but no matters were raised.

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

The meeting closed at 7.20pm

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