

## **Padbury Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7pm.

Those present were:

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

Also present: P Molloy (Clerk), Buckinghamshire Councillor: J Chilver. Two representatives from the Greener Padbury Group, one representative from the Tennis Club and one resident.

1. The meeting was opened by Councillor Burton, Chairman of the Parish Council.
2. Apologies - Councillors D Green, L Smith & Buckinghamshire Councillor B Stanier.
3. The minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

#### **4. Period of Public Questions:**

- Resident asked whether it would be possible to fit a map board in the village which provided street names.
- Tennis Club – Holding open day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Advertising for new members. Surface of the courts requires maintenance. Playing field path lights not working, need to get quotes and check who is responsible for the repairs/possible replacement.
- Concerns raised over wooden play equipment being replaced with metal.
- Councillor Chilver advised emergency repairs being carried out by EWR on Herds Hill. Ox Lane – works due Summer/Autumn 2023. Question raised whether the traffic lights would stay on the Ox Lane bridge. Chasing planning for the 81 dwellings as no decision as yet. Visiting woods on the 16<sup>th</sup> June. Provided update regarding Buckinghamshire Highways. Highways issues – update to be provided regarding restrictions on 7.5 tonne lorries, request for mobile camera at junction of A413 and Lower Way and chasing pothole repairs on the A413.
- Greener Padbury Group – Advised the 3 planting days up the woods had gone well (approximately 20 volunteers). 30 bird boxes being fitted. Plans for this year – to fit bat boxes, more planting and a scything course. Scallops – clear trees only and allow vegetation to grow. Plan to be provided. Muddy toddlers first session was fully booked. Currently working with the school.
- Village Hall – Chair retiring. Cream tea arranged for the coronation.

#### **5. 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. This has been a year of highs and lows. In June the village gathered together to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee, 70 years as our Queen, and much fun was had. Then came the low of her death in September. Two events that many of us will not see the like of again.

###### **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, Parish Councillors have continued to attend various meetings and briefings on many issues which are relevant to the village.

Councillors Fred Morris and Stephen Dickens continue to carry out some of the more practical tasks in the village. 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.

After five years at the print face Cassie Rigg has decided to step down as the editor of the Parish Pump. She produced an excellent magazine and we all thank her for her efforts. Stepping up is Derek Cooper who will take over after a handover from Cassie.

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

### **Infrastructure and Environment**

We are still waiting for details of when Ox Lane will be repaired, following the activities of East-West Rail. It is likely that something will happen in the late summer, but we were told that last year. 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.

There have been two planning applications, at either end of the village, which have caused much concern to village residents. Many residents voiced their concerns about both applications. At the time of writing, Buckinghamshire Council has yet to make a decision on one application and the other will be decided by a planning inspector after the applicant made an appeal.

Old Oak House, 23B Old End has finally been given the go ahead following a decision by a planning inspector.

The village may need to consider developing a neighbourhood plan, which may give villagers a greater say in planning. While the PPC will consider this, it is a matter that villagers must be heavily involved in.

### **Devolution**

Some services which are usually supplied by 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.

### **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.

The PPC has purchased three speed indication displays. The reports from these are posted on the PPC's website and do show a slowing of traffic through the village. Information from the displays is sent to Thames Valley Police who use the data to decide on speed camera control exercises in the village.

A community speed watch group is now in operation and many thanks go to the volunteers in the group. As with all such work, more volunteers spread the load so please consider offering to help.

We will continue to monitor this issue but it does seem that other measures are expensive.

### **Playing Fields and Play Area**

The Parish Council has moved forward with its plans for the refurbishment of the pavilion at the Springfields sports field. Planning permission for the changes was received in March and we are about to seek a builder who can turn those plans into reality. The plans include more parking spaces which should reduce what can sometimes be traffic problems on the Springfields estate. It is inevitable that there will be some disruption during the building work when this starts but we hope that this can be minimised.

During the year new play equipment, chosen with help from the children at Padbury Church of England School, was installed at the Main Street playground. The rocking horse, which has given many years of faithful service, was thoroughly refurbished and should serve children for many years to come. The PPC continues to monitor the equipment in the playground and is considering the replacement or repair of some other items.

### **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 put forward some proposals on how the wood can be used. The PPC has approved some of the proposals and is considering others but has to be mindful of the potential cost of future maintenance. In the meantime, the school is using 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 have installed a disposal bin for dog excreta which hopefully will reduce the problem.

### **Finances**

We have issued the precept for the next financial year and this now appears on your rates bill from Buckinghamshire Council. After a 0% increase in 2021/22, an approximate 5% increase in 2022/23, the increase for 2023/24 is approximately 22%. As explained in the February/March issue of the Padbury Pump article the PPC is facing the similar costs as village residents and a large increase was almost inevitable. We thoroughly examined our expenditure and made changes as we could to reduce the impact of cost increases.

Our total income from the rates paid by villagers is just over £32000. From that, for example, we have an electricity bill budgeted at £8000 and grass cutting etc around the village is budgeted at over £5500. 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 the many 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 2021-22 has been completed and work is currently underway completing the annual audit report for 2022-23.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, Padbury Parish Council's bank accounts totalled £70,903.78

- £36,997.62 in the Barclays Bank Community Current Account
- £15,428.51 in the Barclays Millennium Wood Account
- £18,477.65 in the Barclays Savings Account

### **Our income**

In addition to the precept (£26,400), devolved services (£1,801) and regular income received, such as: the Pump advertising (£704); the Football Club (£800) and Tennis Club (£827). We also received £12,732 for insurance claims for the bus shelter and subsidence at the pavilion, £10,000 from the National Lottery for the pavilion works and lastly funding towards the costs of the speed indication displays £4,150 and new playground equipment of £8,000. Our total income for 2022-23 was £67,720.88.

### **Our expenditure**

Our total expenditure for 2022-23 was £53,458.66 (which includes VAT where applicable). This covers the general day to day costs, such as: electricity, water and maintenance for the pavilion, street lighting, maintenance of the playground, woods and village grass verges and the emptying of both the rubbish and dog bins around the village. Some additional costs this year were: Two new items of playground equipment and the refurbishment of the lovely old rocking horse and three new speed indication displays, a new dog bin and some new signage, new tyres for our tractor and some costs towards the Queens Jubilee event last summer. However, please be aware that we did receive some funding to help with the costs of the new playground equipment and speed indication displays.

Details of all the parish council's income and expenditure can be found on our website.

### **Precept**

After careful consideration, the precept for 2023-24 has been increased to £32,600, which represents approximately a 22% increase, for those in Band D this equates to an additional 29p per week (other rating bands will be higher or lower). This decision was based on the budget that was agreed for the next financial year.

### **Devolved Services**

It has been confirmed that we would be receiving the devolved services grant of £1,963.56 to cover 2023-24. At present, mowing the verges 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. A new contractor has been appointed for this year, which has resulted in an increase in costs. To help reduce the costs slightly, it has been agreed to reduce the number of cuts to six between April and October.

### **Funding**

We were successful with two funding applications via the Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards:

- £4,150 towards the costs of our new Speed Indication Devices
- £8,000 towards the cost of the new playground equipment

These were both used at the beginning of the financial year.

Further funding applied for:

- £15,000 to go towards the redevelopment costs of the pavilion – via Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards
- £10,000 to go towards the redevelopment costs of the pavilion – via the National Lottery Community Fund.
- Between £500-£1,500 to go towards replacing a section of fencing at the MUGA – via Tesco. Voting is taking place in Tesco stores from April to June.

The above three applications have been successful.

Funding applications outstanding:

- Feasibility Study / Traffic Calming Measures via Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards – due to be considered in 2023-24. This has been delayed due to the high number of applications received by Buckinghamshire Council. Also a new contractor was appointed for Highways on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

Unfortunately the following applications were not successful:

- Traffic Calming Measures via HS2 Road Safety Fund
- £50,000 for the redevelopment of the pavilion via FCC Communities Foundation

We will continue to keep looking at other funding opportunities over the coming months to help with costs for the following: new zip wire, traffic calming measures and the redevelopment of the pavilion.

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

It has been an honour to continue to represent Padbury on Buckinghamshire Council over the past year. 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 Accessible Housing and Resources. Sir Beville Stanier is Vice Chairman of Winslow and Villages Community Board and a Member of the Licensing Committee, Trading Standards Committee and Planning Committee (Northern Area). David Goss is Chairman of the Winslow and Villages Community Board, a member of Winslow Town Council and Vice Chairman of the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

Over the past year we have continued to deal with the impact of the HS2 and East West Rail traffic through the village. There have been further instances of construction traffic using Main Street Padbury which is not a designated construction traffic route and we have followed this up with their community liaison teams and traffic officers at Buckinghamshire Council. We have also chased East West Rail to repair a faulty speeding sign along the A413 and for action on the resurfacing of Ox Lane which has been designated a failed road due to the damage caused by HGVs. Permanent resurfacing will not take place until the local construction compounds are decommissioned. Some temporary road repairs are due to take place by East West Rail on Sandhill Road and Herds Hill this week 17<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

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, the follow up of the resurfacing of

pavements in Springfields, and traffic ignoring the no entry sign to turn off the A413 into Lower Way.

We have fully supported the Parish Council in opposing the outline planning application by Kler Group for up to 81 homes on land north of the A413 (ref. 22/03695) and have called the application in under the 3 member rule, which means that it will have to go to the Area Planning Committee if officers recommend it for approval. The attendance at the Extraordinary Meeting to discuss the application and the number of objections on the planning website shows the strength of local views on this.

On the other hand we were happy to fully support the planning application for much needed improvements to the sports pavilion in the Recreation Ground (ref 22/04192) and the grant of £15,000 from the Winslow and Villages Community Board towards the cost of the project, following on from the Board's £8,000 grant for the playground equipment refurbishment last year.

We have also been involved in following up a number of long outstanding planning decisions and enforcement cases, using fortnightly members' planning surgeries, at which we have been able to raise local cases with the planning officers.

We have been happy to support the Greener Padbury group with their plans to improve the Millennium Wood and are planning a visit by the Environmental Action Group of the Winslow Community Board on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

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.

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

**1. Woodland Management Plan** Future Nature and GPG presented the Woodland Development Plan to the Parish PC in April 2022. Recommendations have been unable to be implemented as it has taken quite a while to secure agreement from The Woodland Trust and the Parish Council. This has slowed down progress which has been frustrating at times, particularly as there are a number of volunteer residents willing to get involved in the management and development of the wood.

A working group has been set up by the PC. This includes Louise Smith, Vicky Murray, Felicity Mallam and Robert Manasse. Pam Molloy has attended 1 GPG meeting and met regularly with Felicity Mallam, Kassie Gillie, Cassie Rigg and Lucy Read. Louise Smith has attended 1 GPG meeting. Vicky Murray is a trustee of GPG.

In addition, Parish Councillor Steve Dickens agreed to be part of a visit to the wood by the Newt Conservation Partnership but this walk didn't take place.

A visit with Future Nature is planned for 17<sup>th</sup> March to identify and agree areas for development – including the development of scalloped rides, woodland plug and bulb planting, staggered hedge management, grass and wildflower planting in the south end clearing of the wood, the installation of bird and bat boxes. Steven Dickens and the Woodland working group will meet with two consultants from Future Nature.

**2. Forest School** is now up and running in the Wood on a weekly basis. GPG secured funds to train preschool and school staff. This remains free to all children and has become part of the regular school curriculum provision.

**3. Muddy Toddlers** (Forest school for toddlers and their parents) starts on 17<sup>th</sup> April from the Main Street Playground. These sessions are being offered in six week blocks. These sessions remain free to families. Laura Fox is running the sessions.

**4. Woodland Activities** 36 half day activity sessions have been offered to children and their families from April to March 2023. Consultation with young people occurred before the 'Go Wild' programme was put together. Parents remain at the session at a ratio of 1 adult to 4 children. These sessions remain free and are run by [Learning without Walls](#). Donations are being collected to support the financial sustainability of the programme.

A weekly Saturday Nature Club was held over six weeks in Autumn 2022 with regular attendees.

'Go Wild' these sessions were run in Padbury Millennium Woods during the school holidays. The activities included:

- ✓ Invertebrate investigations
- ✓ owl pellet dissections
- ✓ shelter building both natural and with tarps
- ✓ soil investigations and making wormeries
- ✓ plant, animal and fungi ID
- ✓ making bird feeders & bug hotels
- ✓ jewellery making
- ✓ toy making
- ✓ environmental floor art
- ✓ hapa zome & fabric dyeing
- ✓ paint making from natural materials
- ✓ tree spirits & other creations from clay
- ✓ potion making

During all sessions participants were told about how to use natural materials, collect and observe living things from the woodland safely and sustainably.

All sessions have follow-up information and activity sheets to ensure people can use the ideas and have ideas for self led activities.

Two 'Biodiversity and Breakfast mornings' have been held. These were multigenerational sessions with adults and children present. Both sessions began with moth counts and pit trap observations. During the first session plant and invertebrate distribution and biodiversity observations and recordings were made. A basic leaf ID session also took place. The second session offered seed and fruit ID and invertebrate recording in the woodland, trees and grass area at the top of the woods.

Greener Padbury FB page has lots of pictures and videos of the sessions and the website has [promotional information](#) and [blogs](#).

Bat walks and regular moth counts have been held throughout the year. There was a record attendance of 26 people to one of the bat walks.

NB: Risk assessments are always undertaken for any activities and each practitioner and GPG hold their own Public Liability insurance.

**5. Consultation** with young people occurred before the 'Go Wild' programme was put together.

Consultation group 1 - 3 sessions were held with a group of 6 young people aged 11 who were interested in environmental issues. They were taught basic animal data collection techniques, crafts using natural materials and some team challenges. We discussed what was important to them in terms of protecting the environment, what messages they would like to get across to other residents in Padbury and what activities they felt would be engaging for the 'Go Wild' activities.

Consultation group 2 – 3 teenagers met to discuss their concerns and ideas for action locally. All three regularly attended Bat and moth sessions run by Robert and the Biodiversity and breakfast session. A WhatsApp group was made to share information on issues linked to climate change and biodiversity. They are keen to remain involved in the development and monitoring of biodiversity in the wood. One member was encouraged to apply and was successfully appointed as Youth ambassador for a national environmental organisation in the run up to CoP 27.

Village Consultation - a day's consultation was held in May 2022. Over 150 residents attended through the day to view the plans for the wood, volunteer their support, register their support and interest for plans and offer further information or ideas.

**6. Village engagement activities** - an evening of speakers and activities was held in the autumn of 2022 focused on exploring and understanding climate change.

Verges – the PC has offered four areas around the village for GPG to manage from a biodiversity/environmental perspective. We are working with residents to develop each of the areas- all have very different plans from living willow structures, to planting up a bank with herbs, creating bug habitats and planting up scrub/waste land. This work will start late Spring 2023.

Litter Picks - regular litter picks take place around the village and are being developed into a more social event to encourage further community cohesion.

GPG has joined many community events in Padbury, Buckingham and Winslow – lending support and opportunities to learn about the environment and GPG's activities. The most recent activity was with the Christmas tree festival but further participation is planned for Buckingham Spring Green Fair and other events.

**7. GPG** is registered with the Charity Commission as a CIO – upgrading from an unincorporated community group. We have secured funds in excess of £15,000, in the year, for activities in Padbury.

We were awarded Proud of Bucks Community Award – Highly Recommended in the year. This is on display in Padbury VH. We have received visits from Greener Winslow, BCC Councillors, Winslow Community Board and other interested parties.

## **8. Future plans**

The activities listed above will continue into and throughout 2023. Additional events such as dawn and dusk Bird song walks will be offered throughout the year.

WI – the WI have chosen GPG as their annual trip with a visit and talk at the Millennium woods. We have also been asked to be one of their speakers during the year.

Community activity days - As the woodland development/management work gets underway (likely late spring and early autumn), we will offer community activity days to celebrate the wood and volunteer manpower.



Thanks to Stephen Dickens for felling the dead ash to support the initiation of GPG development/management works in the wood.

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

The Club continues to grow with mixed (boys & girls) teams at Mini Kickers, ages 4 to 6; Pumas u7s; Panthers u8s; Falcons u9s; Cougars u11s; Raptors u13s; and Rovers u18s. Matches are played predominantly on Saturday mornings with the u18s playing on Sunday afternoons. There is a waiting list for player places across all age groups, though without further volunteers the Club is unable to meet the demand. There is a healthy representation across the teams of Padbury youngsters and pupils of the school.

This season the Club secured silverware winning the Tingewick Cup and retained its FA England Accreditation status. The Club also enjoyed social events including an end of season Club Awards presentation day and a Match Day Takeover trip to MK Dons. Match day and social events typically attract up to 150 players, coaches, volunteers, and spectators.

The Club continues to invest several thousand pounds every year into the Padbury Recreation Ground facilities. In 2023 the Club purchased new portable goal posts; and undertook pitch maintenance work including scarifying; verti-draining; weed spraying; resurfacing and reseeding activities. These measures are necessary to support the sustainability of the ground.

Such investment has been funded through a combination of grants, sponsors, Club registration fees, and the match day tuck shop. Unfortunately, the Club was required to raise registration fees above inflation to meet escalating costs and ensuring the Club is affordable for all is an increasing concern.

Parking can be a challenge on match days with the limited car park capacity. We seek to mitigate Springfield becoming overwhelmed by employing staggered kick-off times on Saturday mornings & encouraging car sharing / other transportation by home players. All visiting teams are provided with guidance on the Springfield facilities which includes a request to park considerately for residents if the car park is full. The Club are encouraged that the Parish Council is progressing the pavilion development which includes the proposed additional parking capacity behind the pavilion and look forward to utilising the new facilities in due course.

### **Padbury Tennis Club – Justin Farrington Smith (Chairman)**

Membership remains strong albeit slightly lower at 75 members. The committee's intention is to undertake a recruitment drive by advertising in "The Pump" and additionally the Adstock and Claydon village publications. We are also planning a leaflet drop in mid April to all Padbury residents. Club nights will be returning to Tuesdays commencing at 1900hrs and Saturday afternoons from 1630hrs, all are welcome. We also intend to have an "open afternoon" on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> April and we hope to attract new members of all playing abilities.

Coaching, under the supervision of a qualified LTA coach, has been well received this year and regular sessions underway with Padbury Village School.

The club team finished fourth in the MK league, if we had won a close match against Winslow we would have finished third!

The PTC committee remains committed to providing a first class village tennis club and a number of members recently spent a morning refurbishing and cleaning the facilities. We remain indebted to Chris Hill of D&A sheds who generously maintains our clubhouse and

court shelters. We recognize that at some stage in the next few years we will need to resurface the courts and the committee are mindful that funds will need to be raised to achieve this.

We also wish to ensure PTC is value for money and the committee have decided to only increase our membership fees by 5% this year. This increase means for a years subscription it still only costs £110 for family membership, £55 for an individual adult and £28 for a junior.

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

The committee has been working hard to support the events needed to generate income to run the village hall for the benefit of everyone.

We've continued our well-attended coffee mornings and Friday bingo sessions as well as a cheese and wine night, Christmas disco and fish and chip supper. Thank you to all of the committee for your work in making these events so successful.

And it is really heartening to see the number and variety of organisations and individuals that have hired the hall for functions. It is brilliant to see these booking numbers increase as they also support the Village Hall as a great community asset.

The hall has hosted many, many birthday parties and it has also been great to welcome back the organisations that are regular users of the facility. Comedy nights have made a welcome return and created a real buzz around the village as celebrity performers have taken it in turns to perform in the alcove!

Financially, we have emerged from lockdown in a fairly stable position, but we must make plans for ongoing maintenance, especially as the village hall is of an age where things need more regular attention. There are no immediate plans for renovations, but we are aware that there are some significant commitments in the future, not least the hall roof. So, we need to plan ahead and build our reserves well in advance.

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 – Tony Picketts (Chair)**

The trust continues to be in a very strong financial position. At our November meeting, it was agreed that 31 payments be made to the Beneficiaries of the trust. Thirty of those were to the elderly and one donation was to an individual who the trustees deemed to be worthy of some financial help due to unforeseen circumstances. As you will expect the details relating to any beneficiaries is confidential and this must always be the case.

The Trust now has a new clerk, Mr Colin Gibbard who has taken over from John Wrigley. We have four trustees, they being Mr Kevin Hodges, Mr Athur Cox, Mr James Beckenham and myself Anthony Picketts (Chairman).

The wheelchairs are still available and are supplied when we have a request.

Our next meeting will be in November when we will once again be looking to help those in Padbury that the trustees agree should receive our traditional donation.

### **The Sick Benefit Society – Tony Picketts (Clerk)**

We will once again be celebrating over the course of our feast weekend at the end of May. We hope to provide a village social function on the Saturday and then parade to church on

the Sunday evening for the traditional evensong service and of course a village parade on the Monday concluding at 1.30pm to provide a feast for our club members and invited guests in Padbury Village Hall.

The club has a strong membership of approximately 85 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 this year we will be donating to three village organisations and one national charity, they being – Padbury Village Hall, Padbury Pre-School, the Friendly Club and the British Heart Foundation. Our total donations this year will be £3500, divided between the above at the committee's discretion.

As always, we look forward to our celebrations and hope the village joins in to help keep this very worthwhile Society going and help us to support the village of Padbury and its residents since 1856.

### **The WI - Sue Christelow (Secretary)**

Padbury WI meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Village Hall although we have a break in August and sometimes have visits instead.

We joined the village's Platinum Jubilee celebration with a 'Pimm's' stall on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June and had a display in the church. The following Thursday we found out all about bees at a talk in the Village Hall. The weekend after two of our members travelled to Liverpool for the NFWI annual meeting.

We had a visit to Preston Bissett Nurseries in July and had a group photo taken next to our centenary Kanzan cherry tree on Main Street. After a wait of some two years we were finally able to provide the Friendly Afternoon group with an afternoon tea in the Village Hall on 13<sup>th</sup> July.

We returned in September but the evening was tinged with sadness as we knew that Queen Elizabeth II had passed away just hours earlier. The President began with a moving tribute to the Queen and we had a few moments of reflection. This was followed by an open evening talk about NHS 111.

We learnt all about Pilates at our October meeting, held a Beetle Drive in November and had a floral demonstration at our December meeting.

2023 began with our deferred Annual Meeting. We turned creative in February when we made mosaic coasters and in March we found out all about looking after our feet. For April we held a games evening and served a simple supper.

Membership of Padbury WI remains steady and we look forward to a successful 2023-2024.

### **Padbury Pre-school – Catherine Miah (Committee Member)**

Padbury Preschool is going through a period of transition. Like all small charities, we have been having to manage a significant rise in operating costs. We have maximised the hourly rate that we can charge for non-funded children and introduced a voluntary consumables fee. We are now opening on a Friday afternoon and maximising our child to staff ratios that we are able to have under our Ofsted registration. We are finding that despite this, it is the funded hours that people are generally booking, maximising the 2 and 3 year funding available. Buckinghamshire Council are increasing the funded hourly rate from the summer term at a minimum level.

We have been successful in a one off Bucks grant application which was specifically for staff development and a recent donation from the Padbury Sick Benefit Society. We have also benefited from the Greener Padbury Group funding training for a forest school leader within our staff. The committee are working with the PFA for fundraising events and a smaller working group is being established for fundraising and grant applications. We are a small committee of four only.

We have a new manager in place, Mandy Smith, who has been a long term member of staff. Alongside the team, she is preparing well for Ofsted inspection that is imminent. Staff are navigating the SENCO applications for higher needs children. The plan for a second building is currently on hold.

Parent feedback on the caring and nurturing environment that the preschool creates has been excellent. The children are happy, well cared for and well prepared for school. We are not quite full, with spaces in the afternoon available.

6. The Chairman invited those present to raise any further 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 7.40pm

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