

**MINUTES FROM THE PADBURY PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 23rd May 2018**

The Annual Parish Meeting of Padbury Parish Council was held on Wednesday 23rd May, at 7.30pm, at the Pavilion, Springfields, Padbury.

Those present were:

Cllrs Long, Dickens, Murray, Williamson, Burton and Morris, Cllr John Chilver, Cllr Llew Monger, Mrs Jo Bursell and Mr John Wrigley.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Roberts and Renshell.

The meeting was opened by Cllr Long, Chair of the Parish Council, and the minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and accepted.

Chair's report

Introduction

I was elected Chairman in January 2018, replacing Cllr Ken Roberts who had to stand down for personal reasons. We all give him our grateful thanks for his leadership and commitment to the Council and to the Village throughout his tenure as Chairman.

The aim of this report is to reflect on the activities of the Parish Council over the past year.

Policy and Governance

The Council continues to receive support from our Ward Councillors, and we are always thankful for their guidance and advice.

The two major issues over the past year have been the implementation of GDPR and the proposal for a new Unitary Authority. The latter has been debated by both the County council and AVDC, and the decision to “modernise and simplify Local Government” now rests with the Secretary of State.

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 Jo Bonney. Deborah remained in post until Rachel Taylor was appointed as Clerk to the Parish Council.

Cllrs. Fred Morris and Steven Dickens have continued to carry out the more practical tasks in the Village. These had included repair to gates, war memorial garden and general maintenance of Parish Property.

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.

Infrastructure and Environment

The A413 Cycleway was completed and the contractor’s compound area at Springfields has been reinstated to grass. There have been some issues with drainage following from these works, these however have been addressed.

Planning

We have dealt with the usual planning applications within the village for relatively simple extensions or alterations to existing structures.

Larger projects like the development of the site on the Winslow Road for forty houses is still in its planning process. The original developer sold the site to another developer so this has delayed proceedings.

The house built at Old End without planning consent is still under review, its position being frustrated by new applications and the lack of resources at AVDC planning department.

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. We await to be advised of any further services to be devolved to the Council.

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.

The East West Rail and the Buckingham Transport Strategy Consultation Documents both demonstrated large increases in traffic volumes due to construction of the East West Rail, HS2 and housing development in adjacent villages. The Council have expressed their concerns in the replies to these documents and in its response to the draft VALP document.

The predicted increase in traffic is expected to be in the order of three to four times its present volume.

Speed monitoring through the village has been resurrected, and has already shown that speeding traffic is a problem to be addressed. The primary school on the A413 being a particular high risk area.

Playing Fields and Play Area

The playing fields, MUGA and the pavilion continue to be well used.

Henry Paxton passed away this year. He was a stalwart of the Village and will be missed. He cut the grass at the Playing Field and was, generally, a great help to the Council. The Council has bought a new grass mower which is powered off the tractor. A new groundsman has been employed to cut the playing field grass. The old worn out gang mowers have sold.

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.

Dog fouling on these play areas has been a problem. Signs have been erected to exclude dogs from playing areas.

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 provides regular donations 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. Dog fouling continues to be a problem. The council have restricted dogs from playing areas and have provided disposal bins for dog excreta. Articles have published in the Padbury Pump to try and educate the few who are not responsible dog owners.

Finances

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

Conclusion

As I have very limited relevant experience I am grateful for all the support I have received from my fellow Councillors and the Clerks this year. The Council has had to deal with many and diverse issues.

We are all 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 village such a pleasant place in which to live.

Treasurer's report

The annual internal audit for 2017/18 was completed successfully, with no issues.

The five bank accounts were consolidated into three and as at 31st March 2018, Padbury Parish Council's bank accounts totalled £29592.37.

- The Santander Savings Account in respect of the Springfields Sport Ground legacy was closed and the balance transferred to the Barclays Play Area Account.
- The Barclays Business Reserve Account was closed and the balance transferred to the Play Area Account.
- £6907.86 in the Barclays Bank Community Current Account.
- £4328.00 in the Barclays Millennium Wood Account – comprised of monthly donations towards the upkeep of the wood.
- £18356.51 in the Barclays Play Area Account.

Income received from the Pump advertising was £504, contributing towards the total printing costs of £1,369.10.

Padbury Youth Club, Football Club and Tennis Club paid their fees in full.

After careful consideration, the precept for 2018/19 has been increased to £21,500. This represents an increase of £8.27 per annum, or £0.16 per week, for a Band D property.

This has been done to cover the costs of the devolved grass cutting services to the Parish. For 2018/19 we get a grant of £1697.00 (now received), however it should be noted that this is the last year will receive the grant. 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, and we should be prepared for that.

Chair of Govenors report, Padbury School. 2017-2018

It has been a busy and momentous year for the school. In the Autumn term the new Hall was completed and officially opened by Bishop Alan. The extra space has made a huge difference and is used for many different activities, Assemblies, plays, clubs, sports (especially in wet weather) and grandparents teas to name but a few. It is also let out to community groups (eg dance) in the evenings and holidays so brings in some revenue for the school.

In the Spring term the school (after consultations with parents and others) took the major step of becoming an Academy and joining the newly formed Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust. This is a Multi Academy Trust run by the Diocese along the lines of its Oxfordshire Schools Trust which has been in very successful operation for some years. The governors spent a long time researching the possible avenues to find the best way of ensuring the long term continuation of our small village school - a species under threat as I'm sure you will have read. The Oxford Diocese has an excellent record of supporting its small Church schools and the Trust is also passionate about maintaining the highest standards across the board.

The Summer Term is now upon us and we are in the throes of finishing the build of which the Hall was the first part. The space between the Hall and the school is being filled in to provide proper working space for the office staff, a lobby for parents and visitors and a Headteacher's office which can also be used for confidential meetings and visits by eg SEN professionals. The existing office was definitely no longer fit for purpose but the upheaval this term has been quite tricky for those in the office.

The school is now close to capacity with 98 out of a possible 105 this term and 14 out of a possible 15 signed on for September with regular enquiries about spaces.(this is particularly good as it is a low birth year this year and many schools are struggling with numbers)

As most of you will be aware Mrs Karen Duckworth is leaving at the end of this term after an exceptional 9 years as Headteacher. She has overseen the growth of the school from 15 infants to a full primary of 98, the building of an extra classroom as well as the Hall and offices, the change from VC to VA to an Academy and she has trained and encouraged an exceptional staff. The children are confident, happy and successful and this is in no small part down to her dynamic and committed leadership. She will be much missed as she retires down to her home in Dorset.

The new Head from September will be Mrs Lucy McFarlane who is currently Deputy Head of Roundwood School (Tingewick and Gawcott) . She and her family live in Gawcott and we are very much looking forward to welcoming her to the school. We were lucky enough to have some really strong candidates for the post but had no hesitation in appointing Mrs McFarlane on the day.

The children have done many exciting things throughout the year, a residential trip to Swanage for the older children , the regular lambing visit for Reception, a visit to Dorchester Abbey as part of the Romans topic, science visits, sports tournaments with other local small schools and many other

excursions. The Year 6 children will be moving on to Buckingham School, The Latin Grammar, Magdalen School , Brackley and Thomas Freemantle, Winslow.

Aylesbury Vale District Council, Winslow Ward

Report from District Cllr Llew Monger

Introduction

The Winslow Ward of Aylesbury Vale District Council, has almost 5,000 electors and includes the parishes of Addington, Adstock, Padbury and Winslow. AVDC is responsible for Planning, Waste Collection and Recycling, Economic Development, Community Matters, Leisure, Environment, Housing and Benefits. AVDC receive 10% of the Council Tax they collect from residents. The rest goes to Bucks County Council (75%), Thames Valley Police (11%) and the Fire Service (4%).

The full Council has 59 members including 41 Conservative, 12 Liberal Democrat, 2 Labour and 4 Independents. The work of the Council is managed through a Cabinet (all Conservative) and a number of Committees (cross-party). I am a member of the following committees; Strategic Development Control Committee, Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Scrutiny Committee, Licensing Committee, and the Senior Appointments Committee. I represent AVDC on the Trustee Board of Citizens Advice Aylesbury Vale.

WORK OF THE COUNCIL IN 2016/17

Last year I told you that the work of the Council over the previous twelve months has been dominated by the development of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan, discussions about the creation of a Unitary Council and the ongoing commercialisation of the council. Things have been much the same over this last year but with the added issue of the ongoing shortage of planning officers. Lately there has also been the issue of complaints to the Standards Board about one councillor in particular.

The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP)

VALP will be the blueprint for housing and economic development across the Vale through to 2033. The proposed plan, which allows for some 27,000 additional homes across the Vale was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in late January. The Inspector appointed to examine the plan has been working on it and issuing comments to the Council which you can see at <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/examination-updates>. There will be an 'Examination in Public' over three weeks commencing 10th July. The Inspector will invite some of those who made submissions on the plan to the hearings in order that he may question them directly and also give them the opportunity to expand on what they submitted. The Inspector must decide if the plan is 'sound' and has been produced in accordance with the statutory requirements and it seems likely that he will do so by the end of this year.

New housing need calculation formula and the impact of the Oxford the Cambridge Expressway Although these two issue have not been much in focus in the last year they certainly will be in the next year and as they both affect housing growth it seems appropriate to refer to them at this stage in my report. Whist the plan was being prepared the government changed to formula for calculating housing need but VALP was produced based on the old formula. So, AVDC will need to commence a review of VALP, using the new formula, almost immediately after the plan is adopted. The new formula will increase our housing need by at least 40%! As if that were not enough the government have also said that they want to see one million homes build across the Oxford to Cambridge Corridor by 2050. This will almost certainly lead to the development of at least one new city

between Oxford and Bletchley. Calvert is a likely target for a new city as it is the point where East West Rail crosses the HS2 route. Much will depend on the final route of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway (a motorway) for which three 'corridors' are currently being examined. The preferred corridor will be announced in the late summer and the detailed route will be agreed over the following eighteen months. Maps of the three 'corridors' are attached to this report.

A Unitary Council

Councils all over the country are merging to form Unitary Authorities which provide the services currently provided by County and District Councils. This is more efficient and produces savings though as a percentage of total spend those savings represent between just 1% and 2% of the budget. In Bucks two options have been submitted for consideration by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (SoS). The County Council are proposing a single county-wide authority to provide all services which they claim is the most cost-effective option. The four District Councils (AVDC, Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks) are proposing two new authorities, one based on AVDC and the other an amalgamation of the other three. In each case they would absorb the work of the current Bucks CC. The SoS has indicated that he is 'minded to approve' the single county version which most parish councils in the north of the Vale seem to be opposed to. Personally, I feel that this would be disastrous for the North of the Vale but equally I do not have confidence in AVDC taking over all services. I believe that the future of North Bucks will be closely linked with that of the East of Oxfordshire, Cherwell, South Northants and Milton Keynes. With this in mind the creation of new authorities covering that area would seem to me to be a better solution.

Streamlining the Council and developing Commercial AVDC.

The so-called commercialisation of AVDC has been an unmitigated failure. Projects such as Limecart and Incgen have been abandoned in the last year at a nett loss to the taxpayer and Aylesbury Vale Broadband has been sold off to Gigaclear. The sale price of the latter has been kept secret so at this stage we have no idea of the scale of losses but they are unlikely to be less than £250,000. The wide-ranging review of staffing has resulted in the loss of experienced officers who were considered to be not sufficiently 'commercial' in their approach. In planning we have major problems due to the loss of experienced officers against a background of a national shortage of qualified planners and an ever-increasing local workload.

Other council and related community work.

In addition to my membership of AVDC I am a member of Winslow Town Council where I Chair the Finance and General Purposes Committee. In addition to my council related work I sit on the local board or the LEADER FUND (Liaison entre actions de développement de l'économie rurale) which distributes grants from the EU Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The fund supports projects in Farming, Forestry and Rural Communities. The application process is rigorous but grants of up to £50,000 can be achieved for appropriate projects. I represent AVDC on the Trustee Board of Citizens Advice Aylesbury Vale (CAAV).

It is difficult to cover all of the work of the Council in a couple of sides of A4 but hopefully this report has given at least an insight to the key issues. I am happy to expand on anything in this report and always available to help on any matters related to the business of the Council. I can be contacted on 07808 096513 or by email at llewmonger@btinternet.com

Cllr Llew Monger
Liberal Democrat.

AVDC Member for Addington, Adstock, Padbury, Shipton and Winslow.

Report from Cllr. Sue Renshell, Winslow Ward representing: Addington, Adstock, Padbury, Winslow and Chairman Aylesbury Vale District Council

Padbury APM

During the last year we've seen the successful completion of the staff culture change programme. Briefly, every member of staff – with the exception of the three directors – has gone through an assessment process to make sure that we've got the right staff in the right jobs. This has resulted in the loss of about 10% of our staff, mainly because digital technology and artificial intelligence are now being used to provide up to date information to residents rather than the reliance on person to person contact to answer queries.

The savings made have enabled us to develop a balanced budget for the next four years without cutting services.

The culture change programme, together with our digital solutions, has attracted the interest of other local authorities across the country who are similarly suffering from cuts to the Government Grant and we're now selling our ideas to them – generating over £150,000 of income for AVDC in the last year alone.

I won't go into the details of our digital programme but, in a nutshell, we're using technology to analyse and answer emails automatically, broaden the amount of information and services available to residents via "My Account" 24/7, using webchat to answer specific questions and developing a "skill" for Alexa that will enable disadvantaged residents to remain in their homes and enjoy a better quality of life.

2017 saw the second anniversary of the Vale Lottery and Tony Hadley, of Spandau Ballet, came along to help celebrate the occasion – along with many of the organisations who've benefitted from the scheme. We've now got about 160 organisations signed up and are selling the lottery to other local authorities.

The New Homes Bonus scheme has continued to allow us to pass on some of the funds received from Government to local communities. AVDC is one of only a handful of LAs who pass on NHB to communities – the rest use these funds to shore up their revenue budgets.

The regeneration of Aylesbury Town Centre continues apace with the construction of four restaurants and a couple of retail units on the ground floor of a new development with 47 residential units above. AVDC will retain ownership of the ground floor units, generating rental income for the Council. The project is on schedule and is due for completion later this year.

The master plan for the rest of the town centre is being updated to include properties that aren't currently in the Council's ownership. Details will be made public as soon as possible.

The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan has now been submitted to the Government Inspector. It includes nearly 29,000 new homes across The Vale, 9,000 of which are in respect of the unmet needs of authorities in the south of the county. We are obliged to review the plan within two years because Government has announced even higher housing numbers for most authorities in the south-east and these will need to be accommodated.

East-West rail will become a reality and this, together with an Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, will open up new housing growth areas that will help to facilitate the increased housing numbers I've just mentioned. There are three corridors within which the expressway will run – the southern one that takes a route from Thame past Aylesbury and out to the Stoke Hammond by-pass via the A418, a central one that follows the route of east-west rail and a northern one that follows the A421. (NOTE: Please note Cabinet's preferred route that will be decided after debate on 10th April).

Unitary. The secretary of state has issued a “minded-to” decision to support a single unitary in Bucks (excluding Milton Keynes). This will do away with the four Districts and create a new authority based on the geography of Bucks County Council. Needless to say, we’re not happy with that “minded to” decision because we honestly believe that local communities are best served by two smaller unitaries – north and south of the county, and that view was strongly supported by Parish Councils across the County when we originally consulted them on our proposals. We have another seven weeks to make representations to the SofS and we’re asking PCs to put forward their own comments as part of those representations.

Annual Report 2017-18 - County Cllr John Chilver

It has been an honour to represent Padbury on Bucks County Council during the last year. I am grateful to the Parish Council for their welcome and support at Parish Council meetings. Roads and footpaths as usual have been a high priority this year. The winter conditions were exceptionally harmful and the continued wet spring weather delayed the pothole repair programme. With the recent sunshine it is now proceeding strongly with the additional support of £ 1.2m released from reserves by the County Council for the plane and patch programme.

There is a new pothole reporting tool called Fix My Street which has recently been launched – the web address is <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/> I hope residents will find it easier to use. It is possible to report pavement, drainage, streetlight and other highways issues as well as potholes. I was glad that the improvements to the A413 between Winslow and Buckingham were completed last year. A number of village roads have also been resurfaced in recent years. The A413 cycle path was jointly inspected by the contractor and the County Council in April and a number of remedial works were completed.

The debate on the future of Local Government in Buckinghamshire has continued through the year. In March the previous Secretary of State Sajid Javid announced that he was ‘minded to’ support the County Council’s proposal to replace the five existing authorities in Buckinghamshire with a single new authority.

This would save £18m every year which can be reinvested in things like road and pavement repairs, schools, affordable housing, parks and libraries by cutting out all the bureaucracy and duplication which exists under our current system.

Not only would this improve services, it would also be far simpler for residents and businesses who are often confused about which council does what.

Before making a final decision in July, the new Secretary of State James Brokenshire wants to hear the public’s views, and the deadline for sending in a response is this Friday 25th May. There is an online form which can be quickly and easily completed at <http://futurebucks.co.uk/>

The County Council is making good progress in making it easier and simpler for residents to access services and do business with the Council online through our digital transformation programme. Some of the processes which have been moved online include applying for a School place and obtaining a Waste Permit. The Council has saved £ 1m annually through this programme.

Buckinghamshire County Council services to help people get back on their feet after an illness or setback have never been so good according to the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the health and adult

social care regulator for England. The CQC carried out an inspection of the Buckinghamshire Reablement Service in March 2018 and rated it as 'GOOD'

The Council has ended the year with a £ 2.89m financial underspend against budget reflecting a healthy financial position. This has been due to prudent financial management, maximising income generation and tight control of expenditure.

I was very glad to be reappointed as Cabinet member for Resources last week. This covers back office services such as finance, IT, HR, legal and property. I also chair the Bucks County Council pension fund committee.

I am always happy to hear from residents and my contact details are on the County Council website. I also hold a monthly surgery in Winslow Library on the first Saturday of every month from 10.00 – 12.00 am where all are welcome for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

Report on the Alice Bessie Potter Trust for the Parish Council Annual Meeting

The Alice Bessie Potter Trust is a charity set up to help the elderly and needy of the village. It was originally funded by Miss Potter and the investment is held through the Charities Investment Fund. Each year, in the autumn, applications are invited from qualifying Padbury residents and the Trustees determine how much should be paid to each.

In 2017, payments were made to 23 single persons and 9 couples.

In February, Mrs Depear retired after her 4 year term as Trustee, nominated by the Parish Council and we await confirmation that the Council has renewed her nomination for a further 4 year period. Sadly, we learned of the death of the Clerk to the Trustees, Henry Paxton, in January. John Wrigley was asked, and has agreed, to serve as Clerk to succeed him.

The meeting closed at 8.39pm.