

Padbury Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 20th May 2024 at 6pm.

Those present were:

Councillors: P Burton (Chair), S Dickens, V Murray, F Morris, D Green, L Smith and David B.
Also present: P Molloy (Clerk), Buckinghamshire Councillors: J Chilver and B Stanier.

Approximately 40 residents attended, which included representatives from the following groups: Village Hall, Pre-School, WI, Greener Padbury Group, Tennis Club, Table Tennis Club, Football Club, Sick Benefit Society, St Marys Church and the Produce Show. Also the architect for the pavilion.

1. Introduction/Welcome by the Chairman

Councillor Burton welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting and the newly refurbished and extended pavilion. He explained that this was a meeting of the residents of Padbury, not a parish council meeting although it had to be organised by the council. Then he gave a brief update on the following:

- Pavilion building work was completed all on budget.
- Outstanding planning application for 79 homes of the A413 – planning committee meeting being held on the 26th June. Residents welcome to attend.
- Raised concerns over ongoing issues with dog mess around the village and particularly on the playing field.
- Thanked Bob, Mick and Mandy for looking after the pavilion.
- Also thanked Derek, editor of the Padbury Pump and all village volunteers.
- Introduced and thanked the Buckinghamshire and Padbury Councillors.
- Advised reports provided by the various village groups will be available on the parish council website.

2. Apologies - None

3. Minutes

The minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4. Period of Public Questions - None

5. Reports provided:

Chair's report – Peter Burton (Chairman)

Introduction

This report is to reflect on some of the activities of Padbury Parish Council (PPC) over the last year.

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 who undertake jobs around the village such as cutting verges and painting benches.

The Padbury Pump continues to flourish under its new editor Derek Cooper. It is a valuable addition to village life and although the printing cost is paid by the PPC, paid advertisements help reduce the overall cost. We will now be applying a much stricter policy for advertisers so that they all pay a fair contribution.

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

Infrastructure and Environment

Finally Ox Lane has been repaired, following the activities of East-West Rail, although 'repaired' may have to be interpreted loosely. The A413 through the village has also been resurfaced and work has commenced on Main Street.

We have held some useful meetings with Anglian Water and that has resulted in various works that have reduced flooding problems for some residents.

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 voiced their concerns about both applications. At the time of writing, Buckinghamshire Council has yet to make a decision on one application, originally made in November 2022. The second application was refused by a planning inspector but a revised application was approved by Buckinghamshire Council. This was for permission in principle, so the applicant still has to submit detailed plans for the site.

In my last report I suggested that the village may need to consider developing a neighbourhood plan, which may give villagers a greater say in planning. An article in the December/January edition of the Padbury Pump set out the whys and wherefores of a neighbourhood plan. It called for volunteers as the scope of the work is beyond what the PPC can achieve on its own, and it is a plan by residents for residents, not the PPC. As only two volunteers came forward, the PPC decided at its February meeting that it would take no further action on a neighbourhood plan. This was reported in the April/May edition of the Padbury Pump.

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 housing developments at Steeple Claydon.

The PPC has three speed indication displays placed around the village. Unfortunately one of them was damaged by a careless van driver. If you are having work done on your house, can you make sure that your contractor parks carefully.

The reports from the speed indication displays 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, which you may have seen in operation.

A community speed watch group is now in operation and many thanks go to the volunteers in the group. However, as with all such work, more volunteers are always needed otherwise this work will cease.

Playing Fields and Play Area

We have now nearly completed the refurbishment of the pavilion at the Springfields sports field, now to be called the Padbury Pavilion. A few pieces of work remain to be done but the building is looking in much better shape than it was. The work was funded by grants, principally monies received from the developer of the 40 houses opposite Springfields.

I would like to thank the pavilion team Bob Gough who is the caretaker, Mandy Tweed who keeps the place spick and span and Mick Jackson who opens and closes the car park gate each day.

The PPC is seeking funding to install a new zip wire at the Main Street playground. The old one had to be removed due to safety issues.

Millennium Wood

The PPC is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Millennium Wood although it is leased from the Woodland Trust. The PPC approved some proposals from the Greener Padbury Group to make changes and add planting to the Millennium wood. Councillor Dickens has been instrumental in undertaking work to allow some of Greener Padbury's proposals to come into being.

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. Last year we installed a disposal bin for dog excreta at the edge of the playing fields in the hope that this would reduce the problem. We continue to hope.

Finances

We have issued the precept for the next financial year and this now appears on your rates bill from Buckinghamshire Council. After an increase for 2023/24 of approximately 22% the increase for 2024/25 is a more modest 6%.

A report from our Responsible Financial Officer (Pam) follows which gives further financial details.

Conclusion

I am grateful for all the support I have received from my fellow Councillors and the Clerk and from the 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 2022-23 has been completed and work is currently underway completing the annual audit report for 2023-24.

As at 31st March 2024, Padbury Parish Council's bank accounts totalled £81,216.94.

- £17,253.94 in the Barclays Bank Community Current Account
- £15,073.51 in the Barclays Millennium Wood Account
- £48,889.49 in the Barclays Savings Account

Our income

In addition to the precept (£32,600), devolved services (£1,964) and regular income received, such as: the Pump advertising (£642); the Football Club (£950) and Tennis Club (£885). We also received £129,869 from S106 payments for the works carried out at the pavilion, £15,000 from Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards, £4,500 from Gawcott Fields Community Solar - Bee Green Grant Fund for the pavilion works and £500 from Tesco for works to the multi-use games area fence. Our total income for 2023-24 was £226,527.16.

Our expenditure

Our total expenditure for 2023-24 was £216,214 (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. The additional costs this year were for the refurbishment and extension works to the pavilion.

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

Precept

The precept for 2024-25 has been increased to £34,600, which represents approximately a 6.13% increase, for those in Band D this equates to an additional 10p 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 £2,016.82 to cover 2024-25. Our appointed contractor will carry out monthly cuts between April and October.

Funding

We were successful with three funding applications:

- £15,000 from Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards
- £4,500 from Gawcott Fields Community Solar - Bee Green Grant Fund
- £500 from Tesco

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

Buckinghamshire Councillor's Report – Councillors John Chilver, David Goss and 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 and Planning Committee (Northern Area). David Goss is a member of Winslow Town Council and Chairman of the Standards and General Purposes Committee.

It is good that repairs to damage to the roads in the village caused by construction traffic has been carried out by East West Rail, particularly Ox Lane and Herds Hill.

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 the water leak on the A413 near Padbury School.

It is good that a new traffic camera will be installed at the junction of the A413 and Lower Way to deter motorists ignoring the No Entry sign. It may take some time yet to be installed as there is currently no power connection to the proposed location, so we are dependent on the Network operator for this.

Road resurfacing for this year 2024/25 will include plane and patch work on Main Street and the completion of the missed section of the pavement in Springfields. Buckinghamshire Council released £5m from General Funds earlier this year to assist with pothole repairs, and we are again committed to clear all the drains across the county in the course of the year.

We have fully supported the Parish Council in opposing the outline planning application by Keir 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 Northern Area Planning Committee if officers recommend it for approval. The provisional date for the planning committee meeting is 26th June.

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.

It is great to see the refurbishment and extension of the Sports Pavilion and we are glad that the Winslow and District Community Board were able to help with part funding.

We have been happy to support the Greener Padbury group with their plans to improve the Millennium Wood and had a successful visit by the Environmental Action Group of the Winslow Community Board last summer.

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 Village Hall - Judy Austin (Committee Member)

Padbury Village Hall is the heart of the village. It is home to fourteen activity groups and hosts a variety of events for the entertainment of the community. It is maintained solely by income derived from the hire of the hall, fundraising events organised by the committee and donations.

In the past the hall has staged some highly successful pantos and has hosted several drama productions. It has been the venue for various children's playgroups and both adult and children's birthday parties. In other words it is a venue for the activities of both young and old.

It has an excellent, well-appointed kitchen comprising two fridges, a dishwasher, two cookers and an extremely popular bar! The disabled facilities in the women's toilets have been improved and now the men have separate toilets of their own!

Now to the clubs that hire the hall. Of all the groups who have used the hall regularly, the WI is the longest standing, having clocked up more than 60 years. The Camera Club has a tally of over 30 years. The groups that use the hall most often are the Pilates groups.

Older villagers appreciate the companionship of the Friendly Afternoon which meets monthly. The hall is also home to the Compassionate Friends and Bucks Vision, the visually impaired group.

On a Tuesday morning the enthusiastic members of the Art Club convene to paint and draw together. Sylvia Patchett who leads the group says, "The hall is light and airy and always warm (a bonus in the cold winter months)". She praises the kitchen facilities and concludes, "We are lucky to have such an excellent facility on our doorstep".

The hall is also the meeting place for the Table Tennis and U3A music groups. But by far the best fundraiser is the well-attended and very profitable Friday night Bingo session run by Carol Bloxham.

On an annual basis villagers have the opportunity to go to the hall for a Saturday dance organised by the over 100 year old Sick Benefit Society whose members and guests have a feast on the Monday and, in September every year, everyone can admire the produce of fellow villagers at the popular Produce Show.

The monthly Coffee Mornings have attracted a variety of villagers, ranging from babes-in-arms and toddlers to mothers, grandparents and even great grandparents! The money raised from these meetings is shared with the Church.

Aside from the groups who enjoy their meetings in the hall, the Village Hall Committee work hard to organise fundraising events for the benefit of the community. In the past there have been an Italian Evening with Italian food and an opera singer, a French Evening and an Indian Evening with Indian food and a display of Indian dancing.

More recently a Quiz Night with Fish and Chips tested the brains of both young and old and the very successful Cheese and Wine Evening with singer, Paul French, even had people on the dance floor!

In the future and with the co-operation of Thornborough and Thornton Village Hall committee we have booked Miles Nottage to play in Botolph Claydon Village Hall on May 11th for everyone's entertainment and to raise money for both halls. Also in the future the Opera Dudes are due to appear on September 28th and, later in the year, on December 7th, there will be a Christmas Celebration of Local Crafts and Produce which will run all day.

Another fundraiser is the 100+ Club: every year in the Spring members of the committee collect £20 subscriptions which, at the monthly draw, might result in a £100 prize for the lucky winner!

Padbury Village Hall was built as a school in 1840 and is a characterful, old building. But old buildings need repairs, all of which have been paid for, so far, by the revenue from the hall hire and fundraising events. At some time in the future, although not imminently, the roof will need to be replaced. Hence the committee will be applying for grants, planning yet more fundraising events and hoping for donations.

Whilst the members of the Village Hall Committee are dedicated to maintaining and preserving the old building, they urgently need some new blood to help them in this task, specifically a new Chairperson and a Treasurer, both of whom wish to step down in the autumn. Put bluntly, if these two posts are not filled, the committee will be unable to carry on. Anyone interested in helping should contact Trish Iliff-Rolfe on 822643 or Shirley Hemes on 812617 so that we can continue to keep this hub of the community thriving!

Padbury Village Football Club – Peter McHenry (Chairman)

The Club continues to grow with mixed (boys & girls) teams at Mini Kickers, ages 4 to 6; Pumas u8s; Panthers u9s; Falcons u10s; Cougars u12s; Raptors u14s; Rovers u18s and Seniors – Open Aged. Matches are played predominantly on Saturdays with the u18s playing on Sunday afternoons. There is a waiting list for places across all teams.

With the refurbishment of the pavilion, the Club has functioned around the building work. The pavilion refurbishment, including improved showers & toilets in the changing rooms and officials area, are particularly appreciated and welcomed. The football club would like to formally express its gratitude to the Parish Council for delivering such improvements to the pavilion as an active user of the site.

In 2023/24, the Club has invested in ground maintenance work at the Recreation Ground including scarifying; verti-draining; weed spraying; resurfacing and reseeding activities. Parking & dog fouling can be a challenge on match days.

Next season, the Club looks forward to welcoming more youngsters and adult members to the Club, providing a valued volunteer community sports club to the local community.

The Greener Padbury Group – Felicity Mallam (Chair)

Activities achieved in the 12 months May 2023- May 2024:

- Woodland management for improved biodiversity
- Over 1000 seedlings and bulbs and wildflower seed planted in woodland.
- Installed 50 bird boxes and 30 bat boxes in wood
- Coordinated 50 Free Tree Give-Away for residents
- Muddy Toddlers - Weekly wild play for under 3yrs
- Regular volunteering for almost 30 local residents
- Received grants from Heart of Bucks and a second grant from Winslow and Villages Community Board to deliver this work
- Padbury Parish Council and BBOWT came on woodland monitoring and planning walks
- Community Allotment and orchard being established
- Raised funds to provide additional forest school and teaching through nature to school and preschool staff
- Children's story competition launched for 2024
- Learn the art of scything - day
- Planting Village verges for wildlife
- Regular litter picks
- Regular moth counts in wood
- Recording of rare moth in woods
- Regular holiday Go Wild activities for families
- Worked with local village groups – hosted the WI annual visit, Supporting the Padbury Produce Show to increase interest from local children, supported St Mary's events
- Bird song walks, evening bat walks in woods
- Pollinator project initiated for 2024 - Bee Squared – and Day of the Bee

Padbury Tennis Club – Justin Farrington Smith (Chairman)

During my first year as Chairman I've been very pleased with the growth in membership numbers and the continuing success of tennis coaching for both junior and senior members. Our club teams continue to perform well within our league although for the season ahead we will miss our club captain, Dave Green, not being able to play due to injury for the first half of 2024.

The weather has proved very challenging in the last year with significant rainfall interrupting several events including our club finals.

Our work day this year was very successful where club members undertook much needed maintenance and I'm pleased to report that the parish council have now agreed to fix the pathway lights making access in the dark much easier.

The club does face some challenges the most significant being the resurfacing of the courts. In 2024, our playing surfaces will be repainted in 2024 but within the next 3 – 5 years they will need resurfacing and, we do need to be building up reserves in order to pay for this.

The bigger long term challenge is to fund a full replacement of the court surfaces in probably 2028-29. This will be beyond the means of the membership to fund through sinking funds, so will need a substantial grant to support. In the short to medium term the club is sustainable.

Overall membership is stable, although there is a significant aging of the more regular players which will impact social and team play. The club is advertising and doing leaflet drops to encourage more people to enjoy the facilities. This was successful last year and we hope to do more in 2024.

Membership enquires can be addressed to David Green e: padburytcmemb@gmail.com, m: 07920297891.

The Sick Benefit Society – Tony Picketts (Clerk)

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

We will once again be celebrating over the course of our feast weekend at the end of May. We will be providing a village social function on the Saturday and then parade to church on the Sunday evening for the traditional evensong service, unfortunately we are unable to have a village parade on feast day as we have been unsuccessful in securing a marching band for that day, try as we truly have. However, club members and invited guests will still be served the traditional club day meal, along with the usual speeches, songs and frivolity.

The club has a strong membership of approximately 80 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 School, Padbury Football Club, the Friendly Club and MacMillan Cancer support.

Our total donations this year will be £2,700 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 continue with our charitable donations for many years to come.

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.

Last April we held a games evening with a simple supper for members.

May was a busy month as we began with a cream tea in the Village Hall on the bank holiday, Monday 1st May, to celebrate the forthcoming coronation of King Charles III.

We also made a cream tea for the Friendly Afternoon group on 10th May.

The following evening Sophie Lewis from Pure Patisserie gave us a cupcake icing demonstration.

In June we had a stall at the tabletop sale in the Village Hall on the 3rd where we sold cakes and bric-a-brac. At our meeting on 8th June Tracy Jago talked about the Autism Early Support charity.

We took to the great outdoors on 13th July and joined the Greener Padbury Group for a walk through the Millennium Woods where we learnt more about their work.

Jane Halsey from Lakers Nursery visited us on 14th September and demonstrated autumn bulb planting and layering.

On the 23rd September we held a Village Breakfast in the Village Hall.

October saw us making boxes from scratch and several members have since continued to make more.

In November we held our Annual Meeting.

For our December meeting My Lady Clare's Musicke entertained us with early songs, madrigals and carols.

At our January meeting we discussed and voted on the NFWI resolutions.

We learnt about Claydon House at our February meeting and held a Beetle Drive in March.

Carol McCutcheon visited us in April to talk about volunteering in Cambodia.

In May we had a pasta and sauce demonstration and talk by Carmela Hayes.

The Creative Group has continued to meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

Members have attended events held by other WIs such as a fashion show, a talk about art deco and pearls, belly dancing and sea shanties. We are a member of the Chase Group, a group of local WIs that organises some of these events.

Membership of Padbury WI remains steady although new members are always welcome. We look forward to a successful 2024-2025.

Padbury Pre-school – Jill Blakey (Chair of the Committee)

We've had a very successful year at Padbury Pre-school. We have now had our manager, Mandy Smith, in post for over a year and she is doing a wonderful job. We are very lucky to have a really strong and experienced team of staff and bank staff who are brilliant at nurturing and developing our children, as well as building strong and supportive relationships with our parent community.

We had our OFSTED inspection on 31st October 2023 (yes, whilst dressed in our Halloween costumes), and we're very pleased to be rated 'Good' in all areas. The inspector was very impressed with the community spirit of the preschool and the feedback about the staff, and committee, was very positive.

We have ramped up our Forest School provision and were pleased to receive a £1000 grant from Tesco to fund further development in our provisions for this. The children love it and get so many learning opportunities from their experiences in the great outdoors. We are actively seeking volunteers to help us with this activity, a weekly or fortnightly commitment of two hours would be hugely appreciated.

Our finances are currently stable, partly thanks to being at full capacity. We have almost filled our spaces for the next academic year already, with spaces starting to go for 2025/2026, as well. However, with the recent closures of several local preschools, we can't be complacent, particularly when it comes to our finances. We will continue to fundraise and seek support from our community to ensure the long-term stability of our wonderful Pre-school.

One area for development we have been working towards for a few years is raising funds to build a garden room. We need a quiet breakout space to support small group work. This is predominantly to cater for our children with Special Educational Needs, but also to support our older children with preparation for starting Primary School. Comments made in our OFSTED inspection supported our belief that this is what is needed to fully cater for the children in our care. We have raised £18,000 but are aiming for £30,000, so we have a long way to go. We would really appreciate any support with grant applications and fundraising to help us reach this goal.

The meeting closed at 8pm

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