

PARISH OF MARSH GIBBON

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 30th May 2017 at 8pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs I Metherell (Chairman), P Evershed (PE), A Lambourne (AL), D Leonard (DL), J Smith (JS), and E Taylor (ET); Brenda North (BN); County & District Councillor Angela Macpherson (AM); C Jackman (Parish Clerk);

PCSO Denise Grayburn (DG); Sentinel Camera presenters: Melvyn Goodwin (MG) and Peter Stray (PS)

APOLOGIES: Cllr June Smith

Meeting commenced at 8.05pm

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 24th MAY 2016

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and then presented his report (**Attachment 1**). He also thanked Councillors and the Clerk for their work during the year.

4. MARSH GIBBON CHARITIES REPORT

The Marsh Gibbon Charities Report was not available at the meeting .

Action: Clerk to request written report from Chris Anstey for attachment to the minutes and the website.

5. REPORT FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE (TVP)

PCSO Denise Grayburn (DG) gave her report covering the following points:

5.1 **Thefts:** Some thefts had taken place and some stolen items had been recovered and returned to their owners.

BN reported that some water valves had been taken from Piece Close.

Cllr ET thanked Denise for her help with sorting out the problems with the thefts at the allotments. DG offered to organise a tool marking session but was not available to attend the village fete. It was suggested that Andrew Robson inform allotment holders that tool marking is available.

Action: Cllr ET to follow up

5.2 **Speeding\school parking:** DG will be visiting the school to discuss its travel plan and to highlight the problem of parking during school hours; although she pointed out that problems with parking is no longer a PCSO remit.

5.3 **Waddesdon Police Station:** From 1st June there will be a few changes with three PCSO's and the Neighbourhood Watch Officer, Tom Chalk, based at Waddesdon.

- 5.4 **Vandalism:** Following the report of vandalism (stripping of bark from the trees) at the play area extra patrols had been made.
Chair pointed out that it was planned to put up CCTV and notices to try to deter this sort of behaviour.

6. SENTINEL CAMERA PRESENTATION

Chair introduced the presentation by explaining the areas in Marsh Gibbon of particular concern. MG and PS between them explained:

- How the camera works and what information can be obtained from it.
- How the information obtained is disseminated.
- How offenders are contacted and that offenders can eventually be prosecuted for persistent speeding.
- The Parish Council can request a location but it does have to be approved by the PCSO, must be within the 40 mph speed limit, and must have two people operating it with a working mobile phone.
- The camera can be booked through the Local Area Forum (LAF).
- Training will be given.
- The camera can only identify speeding vehicles, it cannot identify HGV's who are travelling within the speed limit.
- Only the police can deal with people using their mobile phones whilst driving.
- The Parish Council would need to inform its insurance company if they chose to use the camera.

Action: Clerk to add to the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting

7. REPORT FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

CC Angela Macpherson presented her report (**Attachment 3**) and reported that she may not be able to attend all Marsh Gibbon Parish Council meetings as these clashed with other Parish\District and County meetings. She did however stress that she would be on the 'end of an email' should we need to contact her. Chair thanked her and said that the Council appreciated her help during the year.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) **Grass clippings:** BN reported that grass clippings are still being dumped in the ditch from the houses opposite Piece Close. Chair pointed out that this is not something that the Parish Council can help with.
- b) **Post Office:** BN had had various discussions regarding the closure of the Post Office and reported that after it has closed only a half day out-reach service may be available. It was noted that people at The Plough, with the approval of the Ewelme Trustees, had expressed an interest in taking it on.

The Parish Council also expressed concern at the lack of information available from the Post Office, both Chair and Clerk had tried to find out what is happening but without success.

Action: Clerk to follow up with the Post Office.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Marsh Gibbon Annual Parish Meeting
Tuesday 30th May 2017

Parish Council Chairman's Report

This is our opportunity to report publicly on the activities of your Council over the past 12 months and to thank all who give their time for the benefit of our community.

This was the second year of this Council and it was marked by the return of Adrian Lambourne as a councillor and as vice chairman. Replacing Gerrard Barker, who had resigned due to too many pressures on his time, Adrian had previously been a councillor for 14 years until 2009. We co-opted Adrian after he and two others had offered themselves. This means that MGPC is at full strength now and there are at least two other people who might well offer to stand again in future.

In the wider field of local government we welcome Angela Macpherson's return as county councillor for the Grendon Underwood division and thank her for the support she gives us in that capacity and as district councillor for the Marsh Gibbon ward. The alternative proposals for unitary government in Bucks put to the secretary of state by the districts and by the county council have been put on one side while the General Election takes place.

Our website is now much more accessible and easy to navigate around, as well as looking far more professional, thanks to the work of our Clerk Carole and a new web company. Regular communication with our residents has continued and now 111 households receive the monthly Council news bulletin.

It has been a frustrating year on the new development front as the original planning applications by Land & Partners for Ewelme sites A ('Swan Field'), B ('Berry Close') and C ('Leopold Farm') were withdrawn and new ones submitted. AVDC planning control officers are overstretched and getting response from them has taken much longer than it should have. We now await the outcome from AVDC of the three outline applications, on which Council has made its comments.

The village should in time benefit from about £140,000 worth of investment in leisure and community facilities, thanks to the section 106 agreements that AVDC will require from the developers as part of the detailed planning applications – the actual amount will depend on the number of bedrooms built. We have submitted our wish list to AVDC - improvements to the village hall, new seats in the village, new equipment in the play area at the Hall and in the exercise area at the all-weather pitch, as well as for the Sports & Social Club facilities at the recreation ground.

AVDC's new Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) has been delayed by policy changes at government level and new housing projections by adjoining authorities, but it is expected to be in force next year, which will provide further support to our Marsh Gibbon Neighbourhood Plan. We submitted our suggestions for VALP reserve sites following a Plans Committee meeting attended by 15 residents in August.

It has been a routine year in terms of the normal activities of the Council and Clerk: a new notice board at Millfield Avenue; reporting potholes and street lights out of action; commenting on planning applications; getting street name plates repainted; and managing the Cemetery.

Financially we are in a sound position. Our balances were £6,800 higher on March 31st 2017 than at the end of the previous year: £31,000 in Earmarked Reserves; £10,500 in the Business Premium account; and £2,500 in the Community Account. Our income was up £2,000 net (at £34,000), mainly

due to the higher precept, a large VAT refund and pre-purchases at the Cemetery. The previous year's notional 'loss' of £15,700 was turned into a notional 'profit' of £6,800. This includes £1,800 of pre-paid BCC grant and so the true surplus is £5,000. We set a break-even budget again on a slightly higher (up 2.5%) precept of £22,400 (Band D tax of £51 a year). We are grateful to Justin Kelly for fulfilling the role of internal auditor.

We are now providing the devolved services we took on from the County Council since April 2016 – mainly grass-cutting and related activities. Our contractors, RTM, deliver this service and we have had few problems reported; but the cost to our taxpayers is double the grant we shall only receive for one more year from BCC.

There are currently several issues of concern to us all in the village, but regrettably not in areas where the Parish Council has the power to act. We can lobby and communicate with the authorities concerned but they have the final decision:

1. The speed of traffic entering the village, particularly on the Blackthorn Road and into West Edge – exacerbated by the failure of Transport for Buckinghamshire (aka Bucks County Council) to fix the vehicle activated sign for at least two months now, despite frequent reports of it not working.
2. The number of HGVs driving through the village en route elsewhere. We were able to persuade the County Council to put various measures in place, largely new signage. This problem is of particular concern in view of the plans to build depots at Charndon for HS2 and East West Rail and the threat of them generating more commercial traffic in the village
3. Reported issues at Marsh Gibbon School leading to the recent resignation of three governors – the chair and two vice chairs - in the same week.
4. The 'unplanned closure' of the Marsh Gibbon sub-post office and the shop in Station Road at the end of July. We are aware of negotiations going on but are not in possession of detailed information. We are in touch with various people, including Post Office Limited, whose decision it will be on what future arrangements they make to provide postal facilities in the village.

Our Christmas tree at Ware Pond was a great success, thanks again to the efforts of the group of villagers who regularly make it happen, under the guidance of Cllr Evershed. This year Adrian will work alongside Penny and be in a position to take over the project in 2018.

Finally, I would like to thank you for coming along tonight and to thank my fellow Councillors – Penny Evershed, June Smith and Liz Taylor; Richard Cross, Adrian Lambourne and Derek Leonard - and our Clerk, Carole Jackman, for all their time and effort in helping to keep Marsh Gibbon the great village that it is.

Ian Metherell (Chair, MGPC)

CHARITES REPORT - TO BE INCLUDED WHEN AVAILABLE

DRAFT

Buckinghamshire and AVDC Councillor's Annual Report

BCC : Challenging times continue for local government with significant reductions in budgets from central government of well over 40% in last 5 years.

This impacts all services commissioned and provided by local councils from domiciliary care for the elderly, child protection for our most vulnerable youngsters, through to home to school transport, SEN provision, libraries, roads and footpaths and much more.

Road repairs and maintenance continue to be main focus for parishes in my division which has a large network of mainly rural class C and unclassified roads. There is no getting away from the fact that many of these roads are in very poor condition and have been underfunded for many years. The Leader of BCC with other local authority leaders continue to lobby central government with some success. Authorities nationally were awarded a pothole fund but frankly it is a drop in the ocean and for the whole county is very thinly spread.

County councillors have some degree of choice locally as to which roads are resurfaced/microsurfaced (we have a choice of c. 2 roads a year) and I have tried to spread this across the twenty one villages and hamlets in my division and additionally push for improvements to the main east west road A41 which have been delivered through Kingswood. I will continue to fight hard for as much of the repairs budget as possible for our villages from the total £16m pot that covers the whole county.

HS2 and East West Rail (EWR) predominate in the north of the division. The County Council, alongside the district and parish councils and residents all played a major role in petitioning against this project but sadly Royal Assent has been granted and we are already seeing ground investigation works established around the maintenance depot area. Now it is all about mitigation and ensuring that local people have a voice and are able to hold the main contractors to account. Certainly HS2's engagement with the communities affected has been woefully lacking to this point. EWR whilst generally agreed to be of benefit in terms of offering better connectivity and a boost to the local economy still presents issues locally during its construction phase not least with a proposed compound in Charndon literally half a mile from HS2's permanent infrastructure depot. Again we will be seeking the best mitigation for the villages and residents affected.

This year the County Council's strategic planning department has been very involved in supporting the District Councils who are forming their local plans. BCC has worked in partnership producing infrastructure and sustainability plans.

At the end of last year the County Council submitted its proposals for a new Unitary Authority to the Secretary of State. 'Modernising Local Government' would do away with all five councils within the current county council boundary; that is BCC, AVDC, Chiltern DC, South Bucks DC and Wycombe DC. It is proposed that all of these councils would be dissolved and a new single authority formed. The proposals seek to streamline services, avoid duplication and provide significant savings, much needed in the light of the cuts handed down from the centre. We await the decision from the SoS which we hoped would be this May but now has been deferred due to the general election.

As your county councillor I have a small Community Leader's Fund which I can use to support or kick start small community projects. I've been pleased to have been able to support the setting up of a youth club, defibrillators, lunch club for the elderly, local football teams and scout groups to name but a few. I'm always keen to hear about new community initiatives, and funds permitting, am happy to offer support.

AVDC

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP):

The District Council has been focussing on developing and delivering its Local Plan. This has been a massive task and will see significant growth across Aylesbury Vale. Primarily this will be situated in key urban areas, particularly Aylesbury which has also been awarded Garden Town status but growth will also be seen across the Vale including villages.

There have been a number of significant changes to the context of the draft plan since it was published last year, including:

- The total number of houses has reduced from 33,000 to around 27,000 due to an update to AVDC's housing requirements, following new household and population projections which were published last year. Also, the other local planning authorities who are asking AVDC to accommodate some of their housing need (due to national constraints) have found some additional capacity. As a result of the reduction in the housing figures, the council is reconsidering whether a new settlement is needed for this plan period, and will therefore be suggesting that is deferred until we know the route of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway.

AVDC has moved away from the proposed percentage approach to apportioning development to villages, and instead is looking at a capacity-led approach. This essentially means that allocations will be made on the basis of where there are suitable sites in sustainable locations, rather than applying a blanket housing percentage requirement depending on the settlement size. Full Council will discuss the plan at its meeting on Wednesday, 19 July, 2017.

Waste services: Recycling remains between 50% and 55% and contamination is well within contract terms. Service quality is good with missed bins now around 180 a month compared with 900 a month last year; with 75,000 residents in the vale, that means a total of 300,000 bins collected each month (not including garden or food waste bins), so although there is still room for improvement the percentage missed is very small. The improvement partly arises from the crews now being more familiar with their routes, following the re-organisation of routes after the opening of the Greatmoor EfW

Food recycling in the district has now reached 58% which is very good compared with the national average of 30%

Garden Waste is increasing year on year and is now collected from 21,500 properties.

The council will promote Trade Waste when the new fleet is operational and AVDC is auditing collections to get an accurate percentage split between trade and domestic waste so as to ensure that the council only pays the correct amount of disposal costs (AVDC does not pay the disposal costs on domestic waste)

A new fleet of vehicles is planned to be fully operational by the end of 2017 and the computer equipment in the cabs will further improve the efficiency of collections.

Commercial AVDC and Digital progress: AVDC has moved forward rapidly in digitalising its services migrating nearly all of its services to the cloud. Over 20000 residents are now signed up to My Account which provides 24/7 easy access to services provided by the council and facilitates on line transactions. AVDC has expanded the success of the Vale Lottery so that over 140 organisations are now benefitting financially from the scheme.

AVDC has too submitted its proposals for a Unitary council to the Secretary of State. These differ from the county council's proposals in that it recommends one council for the north of the county and another for the south. It proposes that not only would this deliver savings but would more effectively address and be closer to local issues.

In summary it's been a busy and challenging year but hugely enjoyable. I am proud to be your local Councillor and make every effort to keep in touch with all the villages in my division. I attend parish meetings where I can, (as there of many of them!) and hold surgeries with my district council colleagues.

I am easily contacted by email:

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County and District Councillor Angela Macpherson

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