PARISH OF MARSH GIBBON

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on TUESDAY 12 MAY 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs A Lambourne (Chair), J Smith (JS), N Lyon (NL), T Reveler (TR), R Daniel (RD), L Cross (LC), P Needham (PN)
Also in attendance: Unitary Cllr Frank Mahon and Carole Jackman (Parish Clerk),

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Chair welcomed UC Frank Machon to the meeting.

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 13 MAY 2025**
   The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2. **APOLOGIES**
   None.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
   There were no matters arising.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
   Chair's report is at **Attachment 1**.

5. **MARSH GIBBON CHARITIES REPORT**
   The Marsh Gibbon Charities report is at **Attachment 2**.

6. **REPORT FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLOR**
   A report from Unitary Councillors Frank Mahon and Patrick Fealey is at **Attachment 3**.
   In addition to the report at appendix 3, Unitary Cllr Mahon noted the following:
   - **S106/Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** Currently there are no planned changes to S106. However, Buckinghamshire Council is consulting on the proposed draft charging schedule for the CIL that would apply to new developments in the North and Central areas of Buckinghamshire (the former Aylesbury Vale district). He noted that those with a Neighbourhood Plan would receive 25% of the levy and those without would receive 15%. Renewal or working towards NPs are expensive and should be weighed against the income from CIL and the expense of preparing one.
     The public consultation will take place between 14 April 2026 and 24 May 2026.
     During discussions it was noted that S106 could not be used to replace earmarked reserve funds.
   - From 1st April the **Helping Hands** will be replaced by a **Resilience and Crisis Fund**.
     The government has announced new funding to support people who are in financial crisis. This funding replaces the Household Support Fund, which ended on 31 March 2026.
     The new fund is intended to help people cope with a sudden, unexpected expense or loss of income, while also helping with longer term financial resilience.

- Following the success of the **banking hub** in Buckingham, he is working through the Community Board to set up one in Winslow, and hoped to include ACORN bank.
- The government has allocated £6m to BC towards **adult skills training**.
- BC is looking to **plant one tree for every resident** in Bucks by 2031. Currently, it has planted 257K and is looking to farmers for extra land to enable them complete the project.
- He explained that he had requested that planned **HS2 Road closures** are held in a logical manner and during the school holidays.

8.04pm Cllr Mahon left the meeting.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Marsh Gibbon Annual Parish Meeting 2026

Chairman's Report

Welcome to Everyone

Since our last Annual Parish Meeting, Cllr Liz Taylor has left the council after many years of service as councillor and clerk. We owe her our thanks for her work. We welcome Cllr Petrina Needham to the council and hope she enjoys the meetings.

Planning

Very little to report as far as new planning applications. Mainly, extensions and listed building consents.

We are still awaiting decision on the two Ewelme sites, but both Bucks Council and ourselves have expressed objections on a number of grounds.

We had a very informative meeting with Cllrs Mahon and Fealey at the beginning of the year, and the Catesby application was "called in" and has been refused. We are waiting for the results of the appeal.

We have been advised by Bucks Council that our Neighbourhood Plan does not need amending as long as it is achieving its objectives.

Deansfield was objected to initially, but they have resolved the issues, and we no longer have any objections. At present, the site for this planning application is the only one that is included in Bucks Plan for developments in Marsh Gibbon. This could be reviewed in the next 18 months.

Parking

There seems to be little support from Bucks Council to resolve the issues with the street parking in Station Road and outside the school in Castle Street.

Bucks Community Boards

The community boards are still in operation but cover a much larger area. The money available has remained the same.

S106/CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)

We have been advised that those parishes with an active Neighbourhood Plan can be awarded 25%, rather than 15%, from the levy if it is introduced.

We are looking at projects to use this money (if it becomes available) that benefits the whole community, including older groups.

Lighting

We are making plans to convert all our street lights to LED; we will apply for a grant. They will comply with ecological requirements.

Major Projects

We have made objections to the new prison in Grendon Underwood and the Rosefield Solar Farm. Both will be detrimental to the area. Traffic will increase and the sewage and water infrastructure cannot cope with existing demands.

Roads

We regularly submit complaints (monthly) about the state of our roads in the village. We get nothing more than temporary repairs. HGV traffic whether HS2 or development continues to increase, damaging our roads and properties. We get little support to alleviate this.

Survey

Cllr Needham has started to survey the tenants of all properties in the village to see if they are satisfied with the properties they rent. The results of the survey will be circulated to the Ewelme Trust and Parish Council to see if there are any issues that can be resolved.

Finance

The accounts are as follows:

- Current Account: £22,332.49
- Earmarked Reserves: £32,749.27

Our Bucks Council Precept for 2026-27 is £30,772.

A full breakdown of Earmarked Reserves and Current Account spending is fully available at PC meetings and online.

Maintenance

RTM continue their contract to cut grass areas and cut hedges in the village, and we are happy with their work.

Speed watch

Cllr Tom Reveler has taken over the planning for this and has a few keen volunteers. He hopes to re-convene the speed watch sessions this summer.

Play Area

The skateboarding continues to be supported by the Parish Council. The play areas and 5-a-side and all other equipment is monitored and repaired as required. Many thanks to Cllr Les Cross for a lot of this work.

Christmas Tree

We continue to provide the Christmas Tree for the village and the Carols Around the Tree is always well supported.

Thanks

I want to thank all my fellow councillors for their support and knowledge especially the planning committee during the past year.

I hope that we not only find these meetings a contribution to our village, but also enjoyable.

Many thanks as always to our clerk, Carole Jackman, for keeping us all in order and for her support for the village.

Adrian Lambourne

Parish Council Chair

MARSH GIBBON CHARITIES REPORT

Attached separately.

From: Frank Mahon <frankmahonscpc@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 10:39:38 AM
To: Frank Mahon (Cllr) <Frank.Mahon@buckinghamshire.gov.uk>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

End of Year Report 2025/26

Grendon Underwood & The Claydons Ward

Introduction

The 2025/26 municipal year marked the first full year operating under the new Buckinghamshire Council electoral boundaries introduced at the May 2025 local elections. The boundary review, undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, reduced the number of Buckinghamshire councillors from 147 to 97 while creating revised ward structures intended to improve electoral equality and better reflect local community identities.

The newly configured Grendon Underwood & The Claydonsward brought together a wider rural catchment area, incorporating communities with shared transport, rural infrastructure, and planning concerns. The first year has therefore focused heavily on integration, representation, and establishing consistent service delivery across the enlarged ward area.

Key Impacts of the 2025 Boundary Changes

1. Improved Electoral Representation

The revised boundaries were designed to provide fairer representation across Buckinghamshire by balancing elector numbers between wards. The new ward configuration has enabled:

• More proportionate representation for rural communities.

• Greater alignment between parish identities and council representation.

• Improved coordination between parish councils and Buckinghamshire Council members.

The new arrangements formed part of Buckinghamshire-wide reforms approved ahead of the May 2025 elections.

2. Community Integration Across Rural Villages

A major focus throughout 2025/26 has been ensuring the newly grouped communities within the ward feel equally represented. Key actions included:

• Establishing regular parish liaison meetings.

• Coordinating ward-wide communication updates.

• Creating shared priorities around transport, road safety, and rural services.

• Community Board

The inclusion of villages across the Grendon Underwood and The Claydons area has strengthened opportunities for collaborative approaches to:

• Rural bus provision

• Flood resilience

• Road maintenance

• Planning consultations

• Speculative planning applications

3. Highways and Infrastructure

Residents consistently identified highways as the most significant issue during the first year of the new ward arrangements.

Priorities addressed included:

• Pothole repairs and surface deterioration on rural roads.

• Speeding concerns through villages.

• Drainage and flooding hotspots.

• Coordination with HS2-related traffic impacts in surrounding areas.

• National infrastructure projects. Rosefield, EWR, New Sub station

• Solar farms and Battery storage.

Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring smaller rural settlements were not overlooked following the larger-scale ward restructuring.

4. Planning and Development

The ward has continued to experience planning pressures linked to:

• Rural housing delivery

• Infrastructure strain

• Protection of village character

• Environmental and landscape concerns

• Speculative planning applications

• Lack of a 5 year land supply

• New Prison programme

The boundary changes have encouraged a more joined-up approach to planning responses between neighbouring parishes as we build the new Buckinghamshire Plan.

5. Parish Council Collaboration

The first year demonstrated stronger engagement between Buckinghamshire Council and parish councils within the ward area.

Key developments included:

• More coordinated responses to planning applications.

• Shared discussion forums on transport and public services.

• Increased attendance at parish meetings by ward councillors.

This collaborative approach has helped build stronger local accountability following the transition to the new ward structure.

Financial and Service Delivery Considerations

The new council arrangements were intended to support more efficient governance across Buckinghamshire by reducing councillor numbers while maintaining community representation.

During 2025/26, the ward saw:

• Continued delivery of waste and environmental services.

• Improved coordination of rural maintenance programmes.

• Greater use of digital consultation and resident engagement tools.

However, residents also raised concerns regarding:

• Reduced visibility of councillors across larger ward areas.

• Pressure on rural services.

• Response times for highways and enforcement issues.

Resident Engagement

Throughout the year, councillors and parish representatives undertook:

• Village meetings

• Community drop-ins

• Online consultations

• Planning briefings

The expanded ward geography created challenges around maintaining visibility across all communities, but attendance and participation levels remained positive.

Looking Ahead to 2026/27

Priorities for the coming year include:

1. Continued highways investment and drainage improvements.

2. Strengthening rural transport connectivity.

3. Supporting parish-level community projects.

4. Managing planning growth sustainably.

5. Ensuring all villages receive equitable representation under the new ward structure.

Conclusion

The first year under the May 2025 boundary arrangements has been a significant transition period for Grendon Underwood & The Claydons ward. While the enlarged rural geography has created new challenges, it has also strengthened collaboration between communities with shared priorities and concerns.

The ward enters 2026/27 with stronger parish coordination, clearer strategic priorities, and an increasing focus on protecting rural character while improving local infrastructure and services

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Cllrs Patrick Fealey and Frank Mahon