

## PARISH MEETING 10th APRIL 2017

### Minutes of Parish Meeting held on 10th April 2017 in Millennium Hall at 7pm

Minutes of meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were approved.

#### **Chairman's Report – Cllr Dick Brake**

Welcome to the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting for Marsworth. Whilst the Parish Council is well represented here I would stress that the meeting is not a Parish Council Meeting but is one for the whole village to participate in. Our task is to ensure the meeting takes place, and is properly managed and recorded, and also to report on the main aspects of the Parish Council activity over the past year. Firstly I want to thank my fellow councillors for their efforts over the past year. Councillors give their time freely and often this involves hours of commitment and inconvenience. Additionally I want to introduce our new Clerk Jill Dickinson who has taken over from Chris Kelly. This year has been relatively quiet for the Parish Council. We continue to pursue the state of our roads and hope that the repair crews will be coming in the very near future.

Issues such as the footpath to Pitstone alongside the B489 are still being pursued, the re-development of the White Lion is still one of the villages concerns and is still awaiting Planning consent, as is the development of Bulbourne Yard. This year we will be installing new seating in the Recreation ground, and are considering more adult exercise machines.

I will close now and so we can continue with our guests and local organisations giving their reports.

Reports from:

#### **1) BCC – Cllr Avril Davies**

Roads and transport

General poor maintenance but 12 schemes completed Ivinghoe Division

Downgrading A4146 / Dunstable north bypass linking A505 LB bypass to M1

Tri- county signage scheme essential

Weight limit campaign for B488

Revival of the HGV strategy

#### **Finances**

Regrettable Increase in Council, tax

Half ring fenced for adult social care and matched with additional spending

Two thirds County budget spent on social care

About 9% each on roads and education

£100M cuts since 2010, £30M more to come

By 2020 no grant from government. Bucks will be paying back.

#### **Schools**

Housing development pressure on school places. Some movement on primary place planning in the Ivinghoe Division, including Dagnall proposing to take pupils up to 11.

Secondary school transport is costly and difficult to understand. Increase in fares coming up.

Proposals to tighten transport charging policy again for September 2017 dropped. Some small individual victories achieved for parents.

#### **Unitary Council(s) for Bucks**

No progress on this as government unable/unwilling to reach a decision in time for May elections.

County council services include

Public Health

Children's social care

Adult social care and learning disability services

Libraries, museums, archaeology and archives

Education but not direct schools management

Transport and highways including planning

Waste and minerals planning – Economic development

#### **2) Marsworth CofE Infants School - Headmistress, Mrs A Polatci**

Personnel: I am now into my third year of headship. Mrs Wendy Casterton supports me in Goldfinches. Mrs Jan Stevens takes Robins (Nursery and Reception) Monday to Thursday supported by Mrs Jenny Nurden. Ms Emma Denyer was appointed in January 2017 and takes Robins on Monday afternoon to cover Mrs Stevens PPA time and all day Friday. Mrs Karen Scott was also appointed in January 2017 and covers my office time all day on Wednesday and Thursday in KS1. We have been fortunate to keep our SEN support assistants, Mrs Carter and Mrs Oxley who both work every afternoon Mrs Pankiw is our Bursar/Secretary and Mrs Oxley, Mrs Carter, Ms Wells and Mrs Hobart are our Midday Supervisors. Mr Broad continues to be our caretaker.

#### **Group Membership:**

The school continues to be a member of the following groups:  
Network Learning Community of Schools (Liaison Group)  
Buckingham Sports Partnership  
Federation of Small Schools Group.

**Buckingham Sports Partnership** has provided various sporting events for our KS1 children:

Multi-skills sporting events at Cottesloe School

Small Schools Sports Festival at Stoke Mandeville Stadium

These events are continuing due to the new Government Sports Funding to Schools.

This is going to continue for at least the next year. We continue to develop links with Cottesloe School with their Sports Leaders helping out at our Annual Sports Day.

Our Level 3 Travel Plan Status has been renewed because of our continued activities in this area.

The children enjoy having their "Go for Gold" cards stamped daily by Mrs Pankiw. This is a Travel Plan initiative encouraging children to walk to school.

#### **Facilities/Resources:**

Mrs Caron Owens (Premises Governor) carries out termly inspections of our premises with Mrs Angela Polatci. She brings a great deal of expertise to this aspect of school life.

#### **Refurbishment/Maintenance:**

Our biggest project this year was replacing and updating our ICT equipment across the school. This enables the children to access this ever changing subject. Ongoing projects are having our boundary wall reappointed/replaced, general refurbishment and updating storage facilities with Early Years.

#### **Outside Activities:**

The school joined the village at All Saints Church, Marsworth for the annual Harvest Festival service. We then held a sale of produce and the funds raised (£25.40) were donated to Save the Children. The children were actively involved in selecting the charities they wish to support.

For the UNICEF Day for Change the children came in ordinary clothes and paid to do this. Their contribution was then sent off to UNICEF – we raised £25.

These activities, and through our RE lessons studying different countries, help the children to understand about life in other parts of the world.

Last June, our KS1 children learnt about different parts of the church and thoroughly enjoyed visiting and listening to Richard Cooper and volunteers at the Church.

We also held a Maths week carrying out lots of investigations and problem solving both in school and around the village

Our Friends of Marsworth School Fundraising Group continue to hold a variety of events in aid of our school. We have purchased a number of resources for the school thanks to these events.

Life at Marsworth School, as you can see, continues to be varied and enjoyable.

We would also like to add our thanks to the whole village for their valued support of our school – it is much appreciated.

*Mrs Angela Polatci – Head teacher – March 2017*

### **3) Women's Institute – Christine King**

This year has been a particularly exciting and busy one for Marsworth, not least because it was our 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday, but more about that later.

Instead of a January meeting, we held our annual dinner at The Queen's Head in Wing and as anticipated enjoyed a really excellent meal with delicious wines.

Our next big event was our annual jumble sale held in April. This was a resounding success, making more than ever before and grateful thanks was extended to all members for their help in arranging this.

In May, after listening to a speaker from Sulgrave Manor last year, it was agreed that we would like to actually visit the house. This was duly booked and 15 of our members had a wonderful day there. We were the only visitors on that day and after coffee with home made biscuits and cakes, we were given a guided tour of the house. For anyone who has not visited Sulgrave Manor, you should really try it, it makes history come to life. After the tour we were treated to a home made lunch, prepared specially for us and had time to visit the gift shop and gardens before taking our leave.

Then, of course, came June, the highlight of our year. On 6<sup>th</sup> June at Marsworth Church a short service of dedication was held when several of our more talented members presented the tapestry pew runners which they had made to our Vicar and they are now proudly in place. This was followed by refreshments, all home made of course.

Last, but by no means least we held our 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party. It was based on a 1946 Street Party. Many members got into the spirit and came in period dress and the hall was decorated with bunting and Union Jacks. Our catering sub-committee produced an authentic 1946 menu of Fish Pie or Macaroni Cheese followed by jelly and blancmange with evaporated milk. Surprisingly enough, some of our younger members had never even heard of blancmange let alone tasted it! We were entertained by Glenn Miller music and also by a short play, acted by some of our members, which told of what we imagined might have happened at our inaugural meeting. This was written and produced by yet another of our talented members.

As we moved into July the fun went on with an annual coffee and scones morning held in the garden of our Treasurer. The weather, once again, smiled on us and a great many scones and cream were washed down with coffee and tea. Later in July, on a beautiful Saturday morning, a small but hard working band of members gave the Jubilee Garden a "tidy up" and also administered a coat of varnish to the WI bench located next to the garden.

There is no end to our appetite for the home baking skills of our members and on the afternoon of 10<sup>th</sup> August we held an afternoon garden party hosted by our President. Luckily, after a doubtful start, the weather was, again kind with warm sunshine and clear blue skies. The party was very well attended with over 29 guests and vast numbers of sandwiches and mouth watering cakes were consumed with, naturally, a few gallons of tea.

Our final meeting of the year was, of course, our Christmas jolly.

The Committee gave voice to an unusual carol, written by our talented Committee Member Margaret Johnson, which was sung(!) to the tune of "Good King Wenceslas". This was followed by a heart rending (but amusing) poem, again written by Margaret and read by her, called "Christmas Shopping"!

After this virtuoso performance we held a Christmas Quiz which made some of us really rack our brains, but the delicious mulled wine and mouth-watering mince pies certainly helped and the evening ended in suitably jovial way with the President wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year

The speakers at our monthly meetings continue to interest and entertain us. Two of our really memorable ones were "Silk for Sundays" by Yvonne Bell and "My Little Evacuee" by Gordon Abbott. We are all grateful to our Programme Secretary, Chris King, for finding us such excellent speakers each month

Our craft club is well attended each month as are our supper club and book club.

We continue to give a £200 Bursary each year towards a course at Denman College and our President thoroughly enjoyed her course on "Complimentary Therapies". The Bursary this year was won by one of our new members, Emma McHale, who attended a course on "French Cuisine" which she greatly enjoyed.

The village of Marsworth is planning to erect a Village Sign and Marsworth WI are fully supporting this community venture.

Our Institute is going from strength to strength, in spite of losing five members last year, we have gained eight new members, making a total of 50 members in all...

#### **4) Millennium Hall – Neil Waterman**

The Village Hall Committee run the hall via a charity namely the Marsworth Social Centre for the benefit of the local community. We currently have 9 committee members and have space for any hall user groups to be represented on the committee. Today we only have representatives for the Parish Council and WI.

In the past the Church, School and Pre-School have participated but with such a good facility the need to come and air ideas and development needs seems to have waned somewhat. That said anyone who is interested to be part of the committee is more than welcome. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 8pm in the Hall.

Thanks goes out to all the committee who over the last year included Josie Kempster, Francis Brown, Lynda Brake, Evan Kempster, John Kearsley, Christine King, Michelle Churchill, Dick Brake and myself.

The Hall is used mid-week days primarily by Pre School. There is now a mother and toddlers group on Tuesday mornings. The School sometimes use the hall during the day too. For evenings we have two Badminton groups using the hall on Monday and Thursday evenings and dance classes on Wednesdays. WI, Bridge, Parish Council and our committee use the hall once a month for our respective meetings.

The self-contained Mike Frost Room continues to be used. Currently a four times a week Pilates Group use the facility and I am pleased to see the Parish meeting is being held here too.

The upkeep of the hall is supplement with three fundraising activities.

The Firework display is run by the committee and continues to be a great success. Last November we made £543, the second year running to make over £500 from the gate and refreshments. Thanks to Paul Rance who took over the purchase and letting off of the fireworks and his enthusiasm for the event has definitely help us revitalise the event.

The Bazaar was well attended and had an excellent array of things to buy. With thanks to Ken and Betty Longhurst for running the mulled wine stall we made £50 in total from table fees and refreshments after providing the tree and decorations for the festive period.

The 100 Club is run through the village hall committee and during the last year it was in a 20 month subscription period so only £90 will be recorded in this year's accounts from new members joining over that time. I trust everyone has seen the recent articles in Marsworth News and has done their best to pay the next £15 for their numbers to help the collection effort. As of Sunday I have managed to collect 70 out of the c250 members so some time to go to complete that task but in the end it will raise another £1,500 for the hall and have £2,250 ready to give out in prizes.

The Marsworth Hall Charity's year end is 31<sup>st</sup> March and the last 12 months recorded a healthy funds inflow. Bookings increased 25% in value year on year due to many more occasional one off bookings and the start of a number of new groups namely Pilates, Youth club and the Marsworth Players.

Cost of repairs and improvements were low over the last 12 months with the purchase of 100 chairs being 50% covered by a community chest grant being added and a new kitchen wall mounted hot water dispenser.

The Solar panels continue to produce electricity and so far we have received £3,300 since it's installation in August 2012. If anyone is interested in investing in solar panels we are on course to recoup the investment cost after 11 year and 4 months.

All enquiries on booking either the main hall or the Mike Frost room should be made to Fran on 01296 661211.

### **5) Village Newsletter – Neil Waterman**

With the Marsworth News ("MN") now well established and well received I would like to take this opportunity to thank the team for creating, producing and delivering such an excellent read.

Sandra Costello, Elaine Standen, Chas Pearson and Christine John have all edited and produced the MN over the last year. Graham Dickinson continues to bless the team with his knowledge on best look and design and is a true asset when it comes to proof reading.

The committee who meet monthly in one of the local establishments includes and is grateful to Lynda and Dick Brake, Josie and Evan Kempster, Annie Sandon and Neil Waterman for their support, ideas, copy and reviews. We always have plenty of space for anyone who would like to join us to help edit, produce, comment or create an article.

Contributors are increasing and thanks go out to Bumpkin, Bugs in the Garden, Paul Simmons, Angela Polatci , Evan Kempster, Dick Pilkington, Carole Hawkins, Richard Cooper, the Revd Adrian Manning, Elaine Standen and Sandra Costello for their continued copy.

Annie has done a great job again over the last year on advertising and collections.

Luckily the task of delivering the MNs is shared among 15 willing volunteers and it was great to see many of them at our December gathering at the Red Lion. Thanks goes out to Elsie Beesley, Carol Jeffries, Valerie Farrell, Paul Egan-Carter, Pam Cotton, Frances Brown, Dick Brake, Chas Pearson, Polly Maslen, Susan Dean, Jean Fulton, Gayle Sturrock, Annie Sandon and Stephen Wooler.

Since the last Parish meeting the newsletter took on the task of coordinating the fund raising for the village sign and I am pleased to say that within the year the magnificent amount of £4,466 has been raised and/or pledged. Money came in from many of the village organisations amounting to £2,400, individual donations of £786, fund raising £280 and a £1,000 Bucks Community Chest grant. I must just take this opportunity to congratulate Sandra and Elaine who had the vision and determination to make sure this happened for the Village. So very well done to you both and thank you. I and many others look forward to seeing the finished article.

In April, I will be transferring the funds for the village sign over to the Parish Council who has kindly agreed to facilitate the purchase and construction. As for general funds, the MN continue to see a good level of advertising income and currently have enough funds for well over a year of print.

### **6) Badminton Club – Margaret Bonham (Absent – report received)**

As members of the Badminton Club, we play at the Millennium Hall each Thursday evening from 8 – 10 p.m. We currently have 11 players, 7 ladies and 4 men. Six of our members live in the village. Last year, we had a total of 8 players. So it is good that our numbers have increased.

This time last year, I reported some problems we had encountered at the hall.

Namely water very occasionally entering at the fire exit door and sometimes dust and debris on the floor. Happily, we have not had any problems this year.

The Millennium Hall provides a very pleasant venue for badminton and we are happy to meet and play there.

**7) Canal and River Trust** – (Absent – Report received).

Our Volunteer Lock Keepers have started back ahead of the summer boating season and are on site on a regular basis to support boaters through the locks.

We are also working on a Heritage Lottery-funded project on the Wendover Arm, to assess the possibilities for the restoration of the canal arm. This will include devising potential activities that could take place on the Wendover arm. Our consultants working on this project will be in touch with people in the local area (various community groups surrounding the Wendover Arm) to assess the possibilities for the restoration project.

The South East Waterway Team of the Canal & River Trust will be drawing up a Destination Management Plan for Tring Reservoirs in the next six months. Marsworth Parish Council has been invited to attend the Tring Liaison meeting to discuss this on Tuesday 25 April at 2pm, and has been added to the list of consultees, for the consultants working on the project to talk to. The plan will draw together ideas for the future sustainability and development of the reservoir site and review the facilities available to visitors.

The Canal & River Trust, working the leaseholder at the reservoir site (Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust) have been successful in winning funding from the Tesco 'Bags of help' fund to implement a new visitor trail at the reservoir site. Across the next year, we will also improve signage alongside this visitor trail project.

The Canal & River Trust, along with the Tring Anglers and Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust plan to hold the biannual Tring Reservoir Festival across August Bank Holiday weekend in 2017.

The waste disposal point at Red Lion Bridge has been reported to our operational team.

All enquiries to the Canal & River Trust should be made to [enquiries.southeast@canalrivertrust.org.uk](mailto:enquiries.southeast@canalrivertrust.org.uk).

I will be on maternity leave from 4 May 2017, so please direct all parish enquiries for the Trust to the email address above.

**8) Thames Valley Police** – *Frank Callaghan* – (Absent, report received)

- 1). 19/04/16 – Theft from vehicle at Startops. Radio stolen.
- 2) 12/05/16 – Theft from vehicle on Icknield Way. Leaf blower stolen from trailer.
- 3). 14/06/16 – Theft of lead. All Saints Church. Number of males arrested by Cambridgeshire police for similar offences and charged with this one as well.
- 4). 06/07/16 - Burglary dwelling – Watery Lane. Forced front door. Nothing stolen.
- 5). 1/07/16 – Criminal Damage. Cheddington Road. Rear windscreen of vehicle smashed.
- 6). 23/07/16 – Theft. Vicarage Road. Scrap copper stolen from outside house.
- 7). 27/07/16 – Burglary dwelling. Lower Icknield Way. Jewellery stolen.
- 8). 22/09/16 – Burglary non dwelling. Marsworth Airfield. Power tools stolen.
- 9) 29/06/16 – Criminal Damage. Watery Lane. Tyres on vehicle had screws put in them. One arrested.

- 10). 03/10/16 – Theft from vehicle. Lower Icknield Way. Power tools stolen
- 11). 13/10/16 – Handling/receiving stolen goods. Lower Icknield Way. Four males arrested concerning theft of motor vehicles. Non local.
- 12). 20/10/16 – Criminal Damage. Lower Icknield Way. Gate Locks smashed on entrance to field.
- 13). 20/10/16 – Sexual assault on a female. Delivery driver tried to hug and kiss a female uninvited and was told to go away. Male arrested.
- 14). 07/11/16 – Burglary non dwelling – Bulbourne Road. Out building broken into and power tools stolen.
- 15). 10/11/16 – Criminal Damage. Stepnells. Sheep attacked by dogs in field.
- 16). 16/11/16 – Burglary non dwelling attempted. Lower Icknield Way. Padlock to barn cut. Offenders disturbed and made off.
- 17). 09/02/17 – Theft. Watery Lane. Lead trimmings stolen from front of house.
- 18). 11/02/17 – Dwelling burglary. Stepnells. Entry via rear window Computer equipment and jewellery stolen.
- 19). 15/02/17 – Dwelling burglary. Startops End. Entry via front door ( possibly insecure ). Computer and camera equipment stolen.
- 20). 13/03/17 – Theft. Lower icknield Way. Lead piping stolen from front area of house.
- 21). 25/03/17 – Theft. Startops End. Person using taxi believes mobile phone went missing between Aylesbury and Marsworth
- 22). 30/03/17 – Burglary non dwelling. Vicarage Gardens. Two bicycles stolen from insecure shed.
- 23). 01/04/17 – Theft from vehicle. Long Marston Road. Power tools stolen. This crime linked to others in different area. Two males have been arrested.
- 24). 02/04/17 – Theft of pedal cycle. Church Lane.
- 25). 04/04/17 – Burglary non dwelling. Lower End. Removed electrical items from unlocked garage and unlocked vehicle.
- 26). 05/04/17 – Burglary non dwelling. Vicarage Gardens. Insecure garage entered and power tools stolen..

Thames Valley Police have been involved with Operation Abscind over the last twelve months which is a late evening/ overnight patrolling of hot spot crime areas. The objective being to detect and arrest offenders committing crime on the rural areas and to disrupt their activities. We have had some considerable success with this whereby multiple offenders have been arrested, a substantial quantity of stolen property recovered and a noticeable decrease in overnight theft from vans containing power tools over that time period. A number of the offenders believed involved in this type of crime appear to have vacated the area due to the continued police presence.

We did have a spate last year of lead theft from church roofs which now seems to have abated comparatively. A number of offenders were arrested by Cambridgeshire Police and charged with a number of offences including the Marsworth offence and others on the Thames Valley Police area. Very recently two males were arrested on suspicion of theft from motor vehicles occurring in the Aylesbury North Rural areas including offences in the Marsworth area.

As can be seen we have had occurrences of thefts from vehicles and outhouses in the area. Some of these have involved vehicles and outhouses that have been left insecure. We would advise people to lock vehicles at all times, even if left for a short time. Also it is advisable to always keep garages,

sheds etc locked when not in use. A lot of criminals are opportunist and will go for the easy target. Lastly we would ask that if you do see or hear anything that you deem suspicious then please call the police. We have attended incidents after the offence has occurred and on conducting enquiries it has been occasionally apparent that residents have heard and seen things but did not report to the police at the time. If you are not happy with something then call it in. It may well be innocent but sometimes it could well be the only chance we have of detecting offenders. We have not had any reports of Anti Social Behaviour over the last twelve months. That concludes the Annual Police Report for Marsworth

## **9) Public Participation**

### *a) Sandra Costello – **Marsworth Village Sign***

Sandra thanked everybody involved for all their efforts, the sign is currently being manufactured. The unveiling is to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017 by a county dignitary which will coincide with a local history exhibition held in the village hall where refreshments will also be available.

### *b) Tim Head – **Roads***

Tim thanked MPC and BCC for the support and action in getting water from moat stopped and some pot holes repaired, although repair quality poor.