

## **Minutes of Parish Meeting held on 9th April 2018 in Millennium Hall at 7pm**

Minutes of meeting held on 10th April 2017 were approved.

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

Welcome to the 2018 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.
- The footpath to Pitstone alongside the B489 is almost complete, and residents are using it already.
- Our thanks go to Councillor Bob Kennedy who has been responsible for the majority of the background work and fund raising over numerous years.
- New seating has been placed in the Recreation ground, and the Council are looking to place more adult exercise machines at each seat, we are also considering an exercise track round the Rec, for walkers/runners. We would appreciate some suggestions from Villagers as to which machines they would like.

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

Reports from:

#### **1) BCC – Cllr. Anne Wight**

Please see [marsworth.org.uk](http://marsworth.org.uk) for full monthly reports.

#### **2) 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 and Chas Pearson have all edited and produced the MN over the last year. Graham Dickinson continues to assist the team with his knowledge on presentation, look and design and is a great asset when it comes to proof reading.

The committee who meet monthly in one of the local establishments also includes and is grateful to Josie and Evan Kempster, Lynda and Dick Brake, 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 with regular copy from and thanks to C A Clog, Margaret Johnson, Bugs in the Garden, Paul Simmons, Angela Polatci, Evan Kempster, Dick Pilkington, Anne Wright, Katjo and the Revd Adrian Manning. But special thanks must go out to Elaine and Sandra for their monumental efforts and many articles.

We are grateful for all the pictures being sent in of our lovely village through the seasons, so please keep sending them in.

Annie is our advertising manager and has once again done a great job over the last year on organising the advertisements and collecting the fees.

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, Karen and Alan Gray, Stephen Wooler and myself.

The MN is printed by Harliquin52Ltd and Mike Harris does a great job for us.

As for finances, the MN continues to see a good level of advertising income which closely covers printing costs. We currently have enough funds in reserve for well over a year of print.

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

The Village Hall Committee runs the hall via a charity namely the Marsworth Social Centre for the benefit of the local community. We currently have 8 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, Frances Brown, Lynda Brake, Evan Kempster, John Kearsley, Chris King, Annie Edwards, Dick Brake and myself. Not only do they give up their valuable time for our meetings, many extra hours are put in organising the bookings, maintaining the hall and making the fundraising efforts a success. Last week for example one of our meeting was varnishing the hall floor. So many thanks to the team, you do a fantastic job.

The Hall is used mid-week days primarily by Pre School. There is now a mother and toddlers playgroup on Tuesday mornings. Marsworth School have use the hall on Tuesday afternoons. For the evenings we have weekly bookings with dance classes on Wednesdays. Margaret Bonham's Badminton groups use the hall every Thursday after Grahame Pepper's keep fit class. 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 well used. Currently a four times a week Pilates Group use the facility and a weekly Yoga group along with a few occasional one off gatherings.

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

The Firework display is run by the committee and continues to be a great success. Last November we made £448 from the gate money and refreshments less the cost of fireworks. Thanks go out to Paul Rance who purchases the fireworks and provides such a great display. His enthusiasm for the event has definitely helped revitalise it. Three years ago we were struggling to make any money and were considering cancelling this annual village event, so well done Paul.

The Christmas 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 and to the committee for providing tea and cakes. We take a small amount of money on the day from the table fees and refreshments which help cover the cost of the Christmas tree and decorations for the festive period.

The Marsworth Hall Charity's year end is 31<sup>st</sup> March and the last 12 months recorded a healthy funds inflow. Bookings which increased 25% year on year in 2017 increased again in 2018 by another 25%. This increase is thanks to the playgroup, the Megafit weekly class, and the success of the Mike frost room with Pilates and Yoga. Lots of weekend parties have not only helped the increase in hall hire funds but made it harder for the cleaner to find a gap in the bookings schedule to clean.

Cost of repairs and improvements were low over the last 12 months with just electrical and general maintenance required. We continue to have an issue with the fire doors which are letting in rain water and repairs to date have not been able to permanently fix the problem. We are now looking at a professional repair or possible replacement. Rubbish disposal is also a concern and we have had to resort to locking bins to stop passer-by's filling them up at the halls expense.

The Solar panels continue to produce electricity and so far we have received £4,000 since installation in August 2012. We are on course to recoup the investment cost after 11 year and 3 months.

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

#### **4) 100 Club – Neil Waterman**

The 100 Club is run through the village hall committee for the benefit and upkeep of the Hall. With the collections in 2017 being carried out by Ken and Betty Longhurst, Susan Dean, Ruth Monks, Stephen Wooler and myself. I have to personally thank the team as I couldn't do this without their help nor could we cover the whole of Marsworth and get so many members to participate without this fantastic effort. We were last out on the streets, as such, in May 2017 and managed between us to increase the membership again. It now stands at 265. Prize money being paid out is currently £1,900 per annum and the hall benefits for about £1,200 per annum. In total over the last 20 odd years we have just topped the £20k of fundraising mark which is fantastic. As for the monthly draws in the pubs, I must admit that hasn't attracted as many people as I would like but with combining the newsletter monthly meeting there is sometimes 8 of us to draw the numbers and cheer the winners.

The current subscriptions run to August's draw so we will be out again over the summer to persuade everyone who's in or not to join so look out for us.

#### **5) AVDC – Cllr .Derek Town**

I have attended the full council meetings – 7 present out of 8, member of the Audit Committee 4 present out of 7, I substitute regularly for fellow councillors on Planning Committee meetings (because I have completed the respective training) and Scrutiny committee in addition, I have also been active helping a number of residents with housing issues and refuse collection BINs – most of the problems have been communication and IT complications!!

#### **More general – what have AVDC done**

During the last year AVDC have seen the successful completion of the staff culture change programme. Briefly, every member of staff 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

*The savings made have enabled AVDC 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 and skills to them – generating over £150,000 of income for AVDC in the last year alone.

**Vale Lottery** 2017 saw the second anniversary of the Vale Lottery. We've now got about 160 organisations signed up and are selling the lottery to other local authorities. I do encourage local good causes to join this, there is no cost to do so and the management etc is done for you. All you need to do is promote YOUR good cause. I can explain in further detail if you wish to contact me or Sandra Jenkins.

**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.*

Local benefits of the NHB are the Marsworth- Pitstone pathway and Ivinghoe Lawn replacement (iron railings).

**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 the Government has announced even higher housing numbers for most authorities in the south-east and these will need to be accommodated.

#### **Things to Come – the Future**

**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 being considered within which the expressway will run

1/ **The southern** route that takes a route from Thame past Aylesbury and out to the Stoke Hammond by-pass via the A418 Wing etc,

2/ **A central route** that follows the route of east-west rail and

3/ **A northern route** that follows the A421 (Buckingham).

**Unitary.** The secretary of state has issued a "minded-to" decision (I interpret this as in favour but not yet decided) to support a single unitary in Bucks (excluding Milton Keynes). This will do away with the four Districts plus BCC and create a new authority based on the geography of Bucks County Council. This is expected to be a new council and not to carry on with the existing BCC - but who knows!! 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 (Secretary of State) and we're asking PCs to put forward their own comments as part of those representations. Please note this has not been a democratic process and such statements as "generally in favour of a single unitary" leave us councillors mystified because I have no knowledge of any consultation or referendum, only a suggestion in a BCC communication!!.

#### **6) Steam Rally Committee – Cllr .R Kennedy**

This event, held every Father's Day, has grown to achieve some 3500 paying attendees each year, and last year, in spite of excessive heat (it was the hottest day of the year) we were able to make the best ever contribution to local good causes. The event involves many villagers who all do so voluntarily and we are hopeful of good support again this year. Anyone wanting to help this year should download a form from the Steam Rally website, complete and return it. Advertisers and would be stallholders need to quickly submit their proposals through the same route to beat the deadline.

Donations are normally made to Marsworth Church and School, local Hospices, and other deserving causes or projects. Last year's £15,000 charity donation record was roughly £60 raised for every household in the village which is a stunning achievement.

BBC's national Children In Need campaign manages only around £3 by comparison.

Thanks are due to both volunteers and the Committee, which comprises local steam enthusiasts and members who are also involved in other village activities. Special thanks are due to Evan & Josie Kepmster for providing the space to hold the event, and the patience to put up with the disruption it creates.

#### **7) AVDC – Cllr. Sandra Jenkins**

I have attended all full AVD full Council meetings.

Additionally, I am a member of the Vale of Aylesbury Plan Scrutiny committee. One positive outcome was our success in ensuring the councils in south Buckinghamshire put forward as many development sites as possible, as we are expected to take their unmet housing needs. The south of the county have, of course, got a significant amount of green belt which restricts development but one of my contentions was that their transport and infrastructure was far superior to ours. The Plan has now been submitted to the Government Inspector. It includes nearly 29,000 new homes across The Vale, 9,000 of which for unmet needs. This is due to be reviewed again in two years and housing expectation may well increase.

I am Vice-chairman of the Living and Environment Scrutiny Committee which looks at all AVDC environmental responsibilities. Additionally, we recently had a presentation from the Police on the Community Safety Plan 2018/19. Crime had been generally falling in Aylesbury Vale over the past two years, but there had been an increase in violent crime, thefts of cycles and theft from motor vehicles, most notably tools from unattended work vans. They reported budgets had been cut by 20% since 2010 and there is more to come.

Recently we also received a Development Management and Planning Enforcement update. These are high profile services that impact considerably on the environment. Members saw the potential benefit of additional staffing within the enforcement service due to development and infrastructure growth within the Vale. The committee are aware of residents concerns on this subject and have requested a further update next month.

I am also a member of Bucks Council Health and Social Care committee which looks at healthcare provision in the County. One of the issues I am particularly interested in is a pilot scheme developing out of hospital care. This is a joint initiative between Bucks, Oxfordshire and Berks. A key feature of this scheme is 'one stop' community hubs which incorporate the assessment, treatment (particularly of frailty assessment), diagnostic facilities, an extended range of outpatient clinics, and support of voluntary organisations. This pilot service was launched in Thame and Marlow approximately 1 year ago. I think it is important to ensure that following the results of the pilot, if successful, we have a Hub in this locality as logistically it is difficult travelling to Thame and Marlow, particularly for the elderly. We will have a follow-up report at the end of April and I am hoping the committee will be pushing for this.

Lastly, I am a member of The Bucks Playing Field association which gives small grants for items associated with playing fields and I have to say they are always looking for applications.

#### **8) Badminton Club – Margaret Bonham**

I'm Margaret Bonham – Here to represent the Badminton Club, which meets in the main hall, each Thursday, from 8-10pm.

We have had a good year, playing a sport we enjoy, with competitive games and meeting up with friends once a week. We would welcome new players! This time last year we had 11 players. This has reduced to 7 this year, with one couple tennis matches on Thursday evenings and another member with an injured knee.

The hall continues to provide an excellent venue for us. Minor problems have been some strip lights, which needed replacing, earlier in the year. This has now been done. Also, recently, water coming under the fire escape door on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March, in the very wet pre-Easter weather. Generally, all is fine! Looking forward to another good year and hopefully an increase in numbers!

#### **9) Marsworth CofE Infants School – Headmistress, Mrs A Polatci**

##### Personnel:

I am now into my fourth 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 in the mornings and Mrs Carter in the afternoons. Mrs Emma Williams (Denyer) was appointed in January 2017 and takes Robins on Tuesday afternoon to cover Mrs Stevens PPA time and all day Friday. Mrs Alexandra Ayres was appointed in September 2017 and covers my office time all day on Mondays and Tuesday's in KS1. We have been fortunate to keep our SEN support assistant

Mrs Oxley who works every morning in EYFS.

Mrs Pankiw is our office manager 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)
- Federation of Small Schools Group

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 Alison Wade and Mr Keith McMahon have recently joined the Governing Body and Mrs Alison Wade has conducted a termly health and safety inspection with Mrs Pottle.

#### Refurbishment/Maintenance

Our biggest project this year was installing the outdoor classroom which is a quiet area in which the children are able to reflect, draw, and investigate topics on a seasonal theme. We have re-pointed boundary wall as well. Ongoing projects are, general refurbishment and updating storage facilities with Early Years, one of which is a storage shelter for bikes and trikes and any other outdoor equipment.

#### 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 proceeds were donated to Children in Need. The children also raised additional money for Children in Need by dressing up and baking cakes/ biscuit for a donation.

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

In the summer term 2017 we held a Global awareness week and studied the countries South Africa and Ireland. The children participated in activities linked to these countries such as African art, Irish cooking and Dancing, the children listened to and acted out African and Irish stories.

We also held a Maths week carrying out lots of investigations and problem solving both in school and around the village. The children took part in World Book Day (despite the snow!) where some parents came in to read to groups of children, the children shared their favourite book and they also took part in a book swap.

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 2018

#### **10) Women's Institute – Denise Cornwall**

Marsworth WI. have, once again had a very successful year.

The membership is now at 44 members, like all organisations our numbers rise and fall but we continue to add new members, and we always attract a good size attendance each month.

We have various fund-raising activities throughout the year. Such as coffee mornings where members of the WI open their homes to other members, provide coffee and delicious things to eat, along with a raffle.

We also hold other events and we had a very successful jumble sale in April 2017 netting some £500.

We hope to do the same with the Jumble sale that we are holding this month.

Other activities throughout the month are a Book Club. Which is met with much enthusiasm and excitement when a new book is being read and then discussed with book club members.

Every third Wednesday we have a craft group and its amazing to see what the most experienced member who can sew, knit etc produces alongside the other members who have never even sewn on a button.

We also have a supper club that has an average of between 12 & 18 members who on the 2nd Tuesday of the month visit a local restaurant or pub to sample their menu.

Once a year the organiser of the supper club arranges a surprise venue, this is always met with great hilarity and suspense. So far no WI Member has guessed where the event is going to take place.

We continue to have some very good speakers each month. The last two speakers have been very good, one spoke about BLOOD BIKES. An organisation that can be called out at all hours of the day or night to transport blood to various hospitals. One thing that surprised all of us was that the thing they transported most was Mothers milk to Great Ormond street hospital. This is truly a life line to premature babies.

The other speaker was about a local lad David Butler, who was spending an afternoon on Ivinghoe beacon and sadly picked up an object that turned out to be a land mine. David lost most of his limbs but his determination to lead, as much as possible, a normal life was an inspiration to all of the members who attended WI that evening.

We have also had training in the use of the defibrillator which is outside the village hall, approx. 15 members doing hands on training and the rest observed. Again this was an evening of much hilarity but the outcome was a positive one with some members feeling confident to use the defibrillator. In November, we had a change of president when the wonderful Elsie Beasley stepped down. Chris King was duly elected as the new president, along with a new committee including some new faces. The annual Christmas dinner was a huge success, it was held in the village hall and we enjoyed a wonderful meal, good wine, swapping of presents & the entertainment was provided by an excellent duo called the Cherry Valentines.

#### **11) Marsworth Bridge Club – (Absent – Report received) *Betty Longhurst***

The Marsworth Bridge Club continues to meet monthly in the Village Hall on the evening of the second Tuesday of every month as it has done for many years. The past year has been particularly successful and we regularly have had five tables playing duplicate bridge. New playing members will always be made very welcome at our friendly and relaxed evening. Surplus funds from the Club continue to be donated to All Saints Church in Marsworth and last August the Club also sponsored two arrangements at the 2017 Marsworth Flower Festival. Once again I ran a large charity bridge tournament and lunch in the Hall in February for 108 players. This year the profits of £2,555 were shared between The Florence Nightingale Hospice in Aylesbury and The Pepper Foundation, a local charity that provides home nursing support for families that have children with life-limiting or terminal illnesses.

#### **12) Police – (Absent – Report received) *PCSO Jackie Dodson***

BURGLARY = 1  
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE = 3  
BURGLARY NON DWELLING = 4  
SUS CIRCS = 2  
ASB = 2 RELATES TO A PARTY.  
ILLEGAL FISHING = 4  
TRAFFIC INCIDENTS = 2  
CRIMINAL DAMAGE = 2

My name is PCSO Jackie Dodson, I have been working out of Wing for the past 13 years, and I cover the Wing South area which includes Marsworth. I was down to come and attend the annual Parish Council meeting this evening, but due to personal reasons I am unable to make it so would like to extend my apologies and to say that if there are any issues you would like to discuss with me I am more than happy to arrange to come and see you, please leave your details with the clerk who will pass them onto me and I will be in contact soonest.

#### **13) Canal Bank Farm planning proposal**

Presentation by architect Dominic Eaton on behalf of Mr and Mrs Narduzzo. Dominic reported that following the positive feedback they had received at the previous public presentation where 55 people attended, they had made some amendments to the proposed design of the buildings, particularly with respect to the issue raised about on looking - the proposed location of bedroom windows has been revised and they were now going to continue the red clay tiles down the wall with the main building being predominantly black.

Mr Eaton wanted to reiterate their proposals regarding Church Lane, which is the only access road to this development. He apologised that Martin Giles, their Highways expert, had been unable to attend so he would attempt to talk through the plans. They have had lengthy discussions with David Marsh, the Highways consultant at Bucks CC. They propose to create a footpath along Church Lane where possible on the land owned by Highways, but accept that not all of the land along the road is available for this use. They do still plan to propose to reduce the speed limit to 20mph. (some of Church Lane is currently 60mph for historical reasons).

The formal planning application has not yet been submitted because they wanted to get further feedback from this meeting first. He said that they had received pre-application advice from AVDC planners, who were keen on the proposed 6 x 4 bedroomed, farm-type cluster style.

When asked about the inadequate sewerage in that area Mr Eaton said he believed a solution had been put forward. He wasn't asked to elaborate.