

**Minutes of the Marsworth Annual Parish Meeting held on
Monday 14 June 2021 in Millennium Hall, Marsworth at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllrs R Kennedy (RK) (Chair), R Brown (RB), H Chalmers (HC), D Cornwall (DC), G Monks (GM), J Woodruffe (JW) and Clerk to Parish Caroline Smith

Others Present: Buckinghamshire Councillors Peter Brazier and Chris Poll; Elane Standen (Marsworth News); Andy Standen, Sandra Costello (Marsworth News); Ray Costello; David Brown, Landlord Anglers Retreat; John White, Church Warden; Margaret Bonham, Badminton Club; Chris King, Women's Institute

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 April 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report, Councillor Bob Kennedy

It is a statutory responsibility of every Parish Council to hold an open meeting every year for all Parishioners and organisations which operate within the Parish to allow views to be expressed, questions asked and answered, and inform other Parishioners as to what is going on. However because of the impact of Covid this is the first such meeting for over 2 years. It is not a Parish Council meeting, that will follow on after this meeting and you are all welcome to attend if you wish. It is, however, a duty of Parish Councillors to attend and organise this meeting.

It is my task now to report to the Parish on the key activities of the Parish Council since the 2019 APM. Sadly we lost Evan Kempster as a councillor when he retired in August 2019 and later died in December 2019. He had served this council every year since May 1976 and his loss is felt widely. Our former Chairman Dick Brake has also retired after more than 14 years' service to the council and we are most grateful for the work he has done for the village. We also said goodbye to Jill Dickinson our Parish Clerk, but welcome Caroline Smith as her replacement. We have 2 new councillors, Hayley Chalmers and John Woodruffe, but Dave Brown, recently appointed, has resigned office leaving a vacancy. If anyone wants to become a councillor please make yourself known to one of us, contact details are in the Newsletter. The change into a Unitary Authority for Bucks County caused a 1-year delay in last year's local elections and more importantly has delayed approval of the proposed Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. This long overdue policy recognises that small villages and hamlets cannot accept new housing development because of their lack of facilities, such as shops, Post Offices, schools, bus services, and Pubs, and its delay has enabled significant developments around the district which would otherwise have been turned down. We are told that Planners will now take the proposed plan as gospel when evaluating new decisions.

The key Planning matters over the past 2 years have been:

- The redevelopment of Bulbourne Yard – a scheme we have supported to ensure those buildings serve a useful purpose going forwards.
- 2 Schemes to build 19 and 4 houses at Cooks Wharf – both we have opposed on grounds they are unsustainable in such a small setting.
- Continued underenforcement of Planning Restrictions at the south Airfield site – we regularly complain but the authorities seem powerless to stop flagrant breaches of the rules.
- No progress on the White Lion redevelopment – a recent planning application to correct an earlier approved one to change the pub into 2 houses may be the start of something beneficial.
- The new Freight strategy for our area which should reduce HGV traffic along Lower Icknield Way, part of this led to the strengthening of Brownlow Bridge.
- A proposed development of 6 dwellings at Canal Bank Farm outside the village periphery – a scheme we successfully opposed.
- Application to redevelop the Anglers Retreat as 6 dwellings – we have opposed this using similar arguments which HM Planning Inspector used in refusing the appeal for the White Lion redevelopment, and are fighting not to lose another Pub.

Our key achievements have been:

- Replacement of the bus shelter with a brand-new state of the art version
- New adult exercise equipment and a table tennis table on the Rec
- Creation of a Memorial to the Polish Refugees who lived here after the 2nd world war until the fifties.
- We have run 2 lengthy speed checks on traffic on the Icknield Way but as before there has been no evidence of a serious increase in speeding.

BCC Councillor's Report – Derek Town

In the absence of Derek Town who was on holiday, Councillors Peter Brazier and Chris Poll presented his report.

The last 15 months have been very different to anything previous with the new Bucks Unitary Council coming into existence on 1st April 2020 and the old four district and county legacy councils effectively wound up. All the council staff and councillors becoming employees and members of the new

Buckinghamshire Council for the first year until May 6th 2021 when the recent elections returned the first elected Bucks councillors, one year late.

As part of the planned reorganisation which included reducing the council member numbers has resulted in the Bucks Council Ivinghoe ward having three councillors. The Ivinghoe ward covers the seven parishes Cheddington, Pitstone, Mentmore, Edlesborough, Slapton, Ivinghoe and Marsworth.

The three new councillors are Peter Brazier, Chris Pole and Derek Town. To provide the best service to the Ivinghoe ward residents each councillor will take the lead for specific parishes with support from the other two as required as a coordinated team. The arrangements is as follows –

Peter Brazier will lead for Mentmore, Slapton and Ivinghoe.

Chris Poll will lead for Edlesborough and Cheddington.

Derek Town will lead for Pitstone and Marsworth.

From the beginning of the first 'lock down' all council meetings were virtual until Wednesday 26th May 2021 when the newly elected Buckinghamshire Councillors came together for the first time in the socially distant assembly at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium. The new rules means all future follow-on full council meetings will be live unless there is a change in the evolving recovery from the Covid 19 epidemic.

Buckinghamshire Council is now established with the new Cabinet and committee assignments, the details of the can be examined on the Bucks Council web site. Locally, the three Ivinghoe councillors have taken on the following committee responsibilities,

Peter Brazier, committee member for - Transport, Environment & Climate Change Select Committee; Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board and London Luton Airport Consultative Committee.

Chris Poll, committee member for - Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee; Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee and Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board and London Luton Airport Consultative Committee.

Derek Town, committee member for - Growth, Infrastructure and Housing Select Committee; Licensing Committee; Licencing Sub-Committee; North Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee and Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board.

100 Club – Dick Brake not present

The Club was started in 1988 and the name derives from the original aim to have 100 members. We now have a membership of 242, slightly less than in 2019. The next renewal of membership will be late Autumn. In the twenty months of the current membership we donated £1,400 to the Hall, and will give out winnings totalling £3,200. The draw takes place every month hopefully in one of our pubs, at present it takes place on our Zoom meetings. If you wish to join let me know on 01296 662533.

Millennium Hall - Dick Brake not present

The Hall has been closed for most of the pandemic, only Pre School using it since September. Our income has not fared well but we have managed to pay our bills and have the Hall Floor repaired, resealed and marked out for badminton. We are in the process of obtaining estimates for redecoration of the Toilets, Committee room and entrance Hall and Lobby. The Blinds have also been repaired. Our AGM is on the 7th July at the Hall, our first meeting in person for a long time, dependant on Covid restrictions. We have been holding monthly meetings via zoom. A big thank you to all of our Committee members. If you wish to become a member of the Committee, and help maintain and run the Hall, please come to the AGM, no experience needed, just enthusiasm.

Badminton Club – Margaret Bonham

The Badminton Club normally meets each Thursday evening, from 8-10pm, in the Millennium Hall.. Like many organisations, we did not play badminton at all during the year 2020-2021. So a very short report! We resumed playing once indoor sports were allowed 5 of us came to the hall on 27th May, only to find that the net, which we had used for many, many years, had disappeared. So no play then. We purchased a new net and 6 players finally played on 3rd June. We hope that we can continue to meet and play. New members very welcome. Please contact Margaret Bonham.

All Saints Church – John White, Church Warden

The year 2020 commenced with the resignation our vicar, Rev. Adrian Manning, whose final service was on the 16th February 2020.

Due to the time involved in appointing a new incumbent for the post, the Rev. Roger Hale agreed to conduct services for us during the interregnum. Two services were held with Roger on the 8th and 15th. March 2020 and then Covid restrictions were in force. Holy Cross, Slapton commenced broadcasting online services conducted by Canon David Holloway and these services are continuing. During the lockdown we formulated a plan to commence services again when we were allowed to. A thorough plan allowing for social distancing within the church was put into place.

After a considerable break services recommenced at All Saints on the 19th. July 2020 and continued until the 13th. December, 2020 on a twice monthly basis. We were then unable to hold services until restrictions were reviewed again.

After another long break our first service following lockdown was on Good Friday, the 2nd. April, 2021, and regular services have since been held from Easter Sunday, the 4th. April, 2021. Currently we are holding two services every month conducted by Roger. These services take place on the first and third Sundays. During this period the Churchyard has been kept trim by our able and willing volunteers. An appeal across the village for a new sign board for church has been most successful and the new board should be erected soon. Bell ringing has recommenced.

We have commenced fund raising starting with a village driveway sale involving approximately 15 to 16 stalls on properties and outside the church, which has raised over £2,000. Regrettably we are unable to risk holding a Flower Festival this year.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who has helped us to achieve as much as possible over these difficult times.

Marsworth Charity – Matthew Carter (presented by Caroline Smith, Trustee of Marsworth Charity)

The rent of the field increased marginally to £340 per annum. The next rent review is 2023.

With the resignation of the Vicar, John White, the Church Warden agreed to become a Trustee.

The Marsworth Charity donated in the year to Marsworth Pre-School to enable them to purchase a printer and also a donation was given for the Marsworth Christmas Tea party.

Marsworth News

Over the past year and throughout the pandemic our advertisers have continued to promote their businesses via Marsworth News. Thank you to them. We have an average of 20 at any one time with advert sizes varying from an eighth of a page up to a full page size, generating approximately £1500.00 per year. Printing costs obviously vary depending on the number of pages but over the past year our costs have left us with a healthy balance.

Thank you to Dick and Lynda Brake who continue to hold the account in their name with our Treasurer and Advertising Manager Annie Sandon managing the advertisers and their payments.

We have been very pleased to be able to bring you a sizeable newsletter during the pandemic despite the lack of activity during Covid restrictions. We can now see our corner of the world coming back to life with public gardens reopened and events starting up again.

We thank our regular contributors, who during this difficult time have continued to provide interesting and timely articles such as Towpath Tales, Tring Anglers and Gardening, together with some new ones like Neighbourhood Watch.

We would also like to thank all the other residents who have shared their news, stories and photos. Please keep sending them in. We hope our readers have found our content interesting, informative and entertaining and that we have helped to keep the community spirit together during this awful time.

Sadly the newsletter has reported the loss of a number of people in the village since the last Annual Parish meeting, although Covid was not the overriding reason for their deaths. On the upside we have had births, marriages and some people moving on, only to be replaced with new families who waste no time in getting involved in Marsworth village life.

The newsletter team has still managed to communicate despite not meeting in person for such a long time. Maybe the meetings will resume soon if only for an excuse to spend time in our fine drinking establishments!

In response to our plea for new recruits to the team we are delighted to be joined by Marian Woodruffe who is keen to take on the challenging role of Copy Editor. We excitedly look forward to the effect that her contribution is going to have. As current Copy Editor I have enjoyed the experience enormously, particularly making new friends and acquaintances along the way, but in the coming months I plan to step aside and pass the baton to Marian. If anyone else would like to take an active part in the production of the newsletter do please drop the editor an email. The more volunteers we get, the less work for everyone. Talking of volunteers, we must thank our enduring team of distributors co-ordinated superbly by our distribution manager Alan Gray, for their continued commitment at a time when we know so many people have been shielding or self-isolating. Due to Covid we were not able to meet up last year to thank them personally.

Marsworth C of E School - Mrs Karen Scott, Acting Headteacher (presented by Giles Monks, Chair of Governors)

Through our values of Respect, Courage, Compassion and Curiosity, Marsworth CE Infant School provides a unique, nurturing environment to inspire a love of learning in our children.

'Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their lives.' Proverbs 22:6

We care for each child as an individual to support their education, social, spiritual and moral growth.

Personnel

Well, this has certainly been an academic year like no other, but the staff and children at Marsworth school have demonstrated amazing resilience and determination. It has been a privilege to be acting head teacher whilst Angela is on maternity leave (baby Noah arrived on Christmas eve). I have been job-sharing in Goldfinches with Angela since 2018. Mrs Eleanor Turney covers Mondays and Tuesdays in Goldfinches whilst I have my office time. Mrs Wendy Casterton supports us in class. Mrs Jan Stevens takes Robins

(Nursery and Reception) Monday to Wednesday supported by Mrs Sam Carter in the mornings. Mrs Emma Williams takes Robins on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Oxley has returned and works every morning supporting children's mental health and wellbeing across the school. Mrs Pankiw is our experienced office manager and Mrs Oxley, Mrs Carter and Mrs Grange are our Midday Supervisors. Mr Wright is our excellent caretaker since Christmas.

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
Pop Up Literacy Project in liaison with the Rothschild Federation.

Refurbishment/Maintenance

Our biggest project this year was installing the new outdoor PE shed, used for storing all our PE equipment. We have had Goldfinches class re-painted, and plan to replace some of the rotten windows.

Activities

In January we had most of the school children learning at home and had the key worker children onsite. Children at home could choose to work online or to come to school to collect paperwork packs which were marked weekly. Since all children returned to school, we have had a whole school focus on the mental health and wellbeing of pupils and they are encouraged to discuss feelings and emotions using the 'zones of regulation' approach. The children have been so happy to see all of their friends again as well as and to develop new friendships. We have all been working hard on improving our presentation skills in terms of the quality of our handwriting. We have shared some exciting stories and have begun to write our own! Children participate in daily Collective Worship, which focuses upon our core Christian values (it's 'trust' this term) and enjoy listening to bible stories about this. As a school, we are all back swimming on Wednesday mornings, and in this summer term it certainly is beginning to feel more like 'normal'. We are all part of a very special, kind and nurturing school where everyone is known and valued.

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.

Steam Rally – Neil Kennedy, Chairman Steam Rally Committee (presented by Bob Kennedy)

Our report starts from the previous Annual parish Meeting held in Spring 2019.

Our Rally in June that year was successful, although less so than the year before because the weather was a mixture of sun, cloud and showers. It was however one of the best supported by volunteers we have ever had. Some new attractions went down very well and will be rebooked going forwards. We were able to give £15700 to local and national charities – that represents just over £20 for every inhabitant of Marsworth, a ratio not even BBC Comic Relief can match.

Sadly we lost our founder member Evan Kempster in December 2019. His lasting legacy will be the Steam Rally he set up and was part of for almost 20 years, and we owe it to him and his family to ensure it thrives to respect his memory.

The past 2 years have predominantly been about Covid. When it first came to our attention in February 2020 we slowed down on spend and activity because of the threat it presented, and before long it was necessary to shelve our plans for 2020 and wait for things to get back to normal. We were able to fund the clearance of the boundary stream which lies between Watery Lane and Startops Farm where we stage the Rally, but have been able to do little else.

Preparation work for the Rally is considerable and things need to be planned well ahead to ensure they happen on the day and make it a success. In February this year we decided that there was very little chance of a successful Rally being held in 2021 because of Covid restrictions, and so we cancelled it. As luck would have it the government roadmap, which now looks increasingly like being delayed, set the day after Fathers Day, our normal Rally day, as the target for opening up large scale outdoor events, so we couldn't have held it anyway.

We do plan to have a Rally next year, on Fathers Day, and hope we can attract many volunteers and new committee members to bolster up our numbers and spread the load. We have a large loyal band of exhibitors who can't wait to be part of it all again.

Women's Institute - Chris King - President Marsworth WI

Things have been very different for us this year – obviously because of the rapid advancement of the Covid 19 virus. Our last meeting in the village hall was March 2020, all future plans we had were cancelled. These plans included some excellent speakers, our annual jumble sale and the Centenary meeting for Bucks Federation at Waddesdon in July. In true WI fashion, we had to adapt rather rapidly to the changing circumstances.

Almost immediately, several members began collecting pillow cases, sheets etc and set to and made many face masks which were free to Marsworth villagers and others. Many were donated to the NHS and later these ladies turned their hands to making scrub laundry bags for the staff of the NHS. The two masks I was given are still going strong, despite being in the wash multiple times – thank you ladies!

We also had to adapt to using different communication platforms. We learned how to use Zoom, our Book Club has been using Zoom right from the beginning of lockdown, and whilst not the same as a glass of wine and a good natter, still great to see familiar faces. The Buckinghamshire News, usually received monthly in printed form has now been transferred to online, although a few members still receive the printed version.

In view of the absence of our monthly meetings, members of the committee have been making phone calls to other members, particularly the more vulnerable members. Each member received a goody bag, lovingly put together at Easter 2020, Christmas and Easter 2021. These were very much appreciated. Our members need to feel cared for and still part of the WI community.

During the summer when lockdown eased we were able to hold coffee mornings in members' gardens, and they were a great success. We did think at one point that we would be able to use our lovely church to hold meetings and we were given permission by the church authorities to do so. Sadly, government rules were changed yet again and we were unable to do so.

The sleepers around the Jubilee Garden in the rec were rotten and unsightly. They have been replaced with the help of a member's husband and the garden is looking very pretty.

We had to hold our AGM in November which had to be done virtually. Members were able to vote, either during the zoom meeting, by post, email or phone for their choice of committee members. Two members stood down, the rest were voted back in again. The officers remain the same and I remain President.

I had long been concerned that members had paid their annual subscriptions, but were not getting anything like value for money. It seems I was not the only one and the Bucks Federation(BFWI) came up with the idea of flexible subs. This meant that BFWI would still expect to have their proportion of the subs, but the local institutes were free to set whatever level of income from their members that they thought appropriate. After much debate and a lot of hard work from our treasurer coming up with financial forecasts for several different scenarios, we felt able to forego our proportion of the subs. This was thanks to our prudent past and present treasurers that we were in a strong enough financial position to do so. This enabled most members to rejoin.

We now look forward to a brighter future, and recommencing meetings. We have used this hiatus in our WI life to rethink some of what we do and how we can improve our members' experience. We have shown how innovative we can be, and how much we help our community.

Reports outstanding from:

Canal & River Trust
The Bridge Club
Thames Valley Police
Marsworth Pre-School

OPEN MEETING

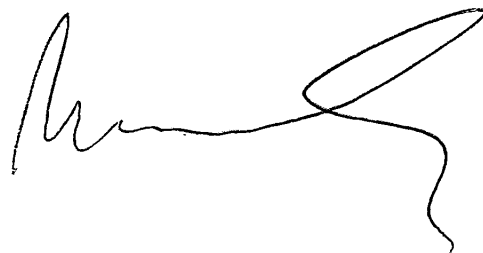
Evan Kempster

Sandra Costelloe asked if a tribute to Evan Kempster was being organised, and the Chairman confirmed that The Steam Rally would be raising the funds to do so.

Anglers Retreat

David Brown the Landlord of the Anglers Retreat disputed the objections that the MPC had raised to the Anglers Retreat planning application. David was asked to make his representations direct to the Planning Authority.

There being no further business, the Annual Parish Meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Kempster', written in a cursive style.