

Mrs Caroline Smith, 7 Stepnells, Marsworth, Tring, HP23 4NQ
07557 289049
parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk

**Draft Minutes of the Marsworth Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday 13 April 2022 in Millennium Hall, Marsworth at 7.00pm**

Present: Cllrs R Kennedy (RK) (Chair), R Brown (RB), D Cornwall (DC), G Monks (GM), J Woodruffe (JW) and Clerk to Parish Caroline Smith
Apologies: H Chalmers (HC)
Others Present: Buckinghamshire Councillor Chris Poll; Elane Standen (Marsworth News); Sandra Costello (Marsworth News); Ray Costello; John White, Church Warden; Margaret Bonham, Badminton Club; Chris King, Women's Institute, Lisa Dinnadge, Richard Dinnadge, Ron Busby, Susan Dean, Peter Dean

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 June 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman's Report, Councillor Bob Kennedy

Welcome to this Annual Parish Meeting (APM).

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. It is not a Parish Council meeting, that will follow on after this meeting and you are all welcome to attend if you wish. However it is 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 2021 APM.

The change into a Unitary Authority for Bucks County delayed approval of the proposed Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan but it has now been approved. This long overdue policy recognises that small villages and hamlets cannot accept large scale new housing development because of their lack of facilities, such as shops, Post Offices, schools, bus services, and Pubs, and its delay did enable significant developments around the district which would otherwise have been turned down. We are told that Planners will now take the plan as gospel when evaluating new decisions, the first real test will be the Ainscough proposal covered later.

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

-A proposal by Ainscough Strategic Land to build c320 houses on Marsworth Airfield (south site) thus creating a 'new village'. This was notified to us in autumn 2021 and presented to us by their management team in November during which the majority of councillors strongly opposed the plan. We have involved Tring Rural Parish Council and have encouraged objectors through the website and Newsletter. Although Ainscough stated their intention to submit a planning application before 2021 year end it has not yet materialised, but we have been told it is imminent. However the recently announced Special Area of Conservation around Chiltern Beechwoods may come to our aid.

-An application for 75 new houses at Ivinghoe behind the church which we opposed along with other local parishes, and this has been refused.

-Sadly the 2 outstanding applications for changing the Anglers Retreat into housing, which we opposed, and correcting a previously approved plan to convert the White Lion into 2 dwellings remain unresolved

-The redevelopment of Bulbourne Yard is ongoing and we look forward to its conclusion.

-Underenforcement of Planning Restrictions at the south Airfield site continues although we regularly complain but the planning authorities seem powerless to stop flagrant breaches of the rules.

-There are major housing developments being worked up for neighbouring Tring which will impact the whole area and we will have input to make when applications materialise.

-Because the White Lion has deteriorated somewhat since its closure to the point at one stage where tiles were falling off onto the pavement, we successfully pressed the owners and Bucks Council to remedy the position. We also researched the possibilities for getting the whole building restored aesthetically and discovered the S215 provisions of Planning Law which allow planning authorities to make building owners keep buildings in presentable condition. With the assistance of Councillor Derek Town the S215 notice was finally served wef January 1st giving the owners 6 months to restore the building or risk the Council doing it and charging the owners.

-The new Freight strategy for our area which should reduce HGV traffic along Lower Icknield Way has been modified to widen its scope and as a result finalisation is yet to happen.

Our key achievements have been:

-Obtaining funding support for the Food Bank both through private individuals and our local Community Board

-Transfer of the village website into PC ownership and control

-We are pleased to report the village had a record Bonfire Night on our Recreation Ground

- We have installed a new bench outside church by the noticeboard
- We ran a third speed check on traffic on the Icknield Way but as before there has been no evidence of a serious increase in average speed. However we will be introducing a new Speed Indicator Device in an effort to keep all drivers below the limit shortly.

100 Club

The 100 Club is run through the village hall committee for the benefit and upkeep of the Hall. Collections took place last Winter and 223 numbers were sold for the monthly draws being held between January 2022 and August 2023. Thanks to the team who helped Dick with the collections - Stephen Wooler, Betty and Ken Longhurst, Susan Dean, Sue Rance, Lynda Brake and Josie Kempster.

With Prize money put aside for the 20 months totalling £3,200 the hall will benefit from a contribution of £1250. In total over the last 23 odd years we have raised £25k of fundraising for the Hall which is fantastic and certainly helps when we need to repair, decorate and update the Hall. The monthly draw now takes place at the Hall Committee Meeting. If for some unknown reason you're not in the 100 club! You can join anytime by contacting Dick Brake, 01296 662533.

Millennium Hall

Regular maintenance of the hall continued throughout 2021/22, focusing on electrical work particularly upgrading to more efficient lights and painting of the hallway, toilets and committee room where curtains have also been renewed. At the request of the Preschool an alarm system has been installed on the hall fire door in case a small child makes a break for it. Also, entrance door keys and locks have been changed so that the committee can keep control of who has access to the hall and its furniture.

Bonfire Night was a great success with around 700 attendees. The extra income from it will allow the committee to invest in equipment to make the catering at this annual event easier.

Overall the finances for the hall are strong, regular and single event bookings are returning.

John Kearsley, Chair

Badminton Club – Margaret Bonham

The Thursday Evening Badminton Club has now sadly disbanded. After many happy and active years, playing at the Millennium Hall, our numbers have dwindled.

The Covid lockdown prevented play at the hall and following that, we struggled to get enough people to play each week. Increasing age, injuries and several members coming from more distant areas (with the price of petrol going up) made the club non-viable.

The hall provided ideal playing conditions and I would hope that another group of players might restart a badminton group in the future. With thanks to all the Hall Committee, Fran Brown for organising hall bookings and everyone involved with keeping the hall in its excellent condition.

The Bridge Club

The activities of the Marsworth Bridge Club have been suspended since April 2020 because of the COVID pandemic. Currently, bridge players in the area are very gradually returning to face-to-face meetings again. We are hoping to resume Marsworth Bridge Club activities when there is sufficient confidence that this will be successful and well supported.

The last Marsworth Charity Bridge Day and lunch was held in February 2020 when a very successful event raised £2545 with the proceeds shared between Rennie Grove Hospice Care and the Chilterns MS Centre. Because of the pandemic it has not been possible to stage the February charity bridge days in 2021 and 2022. Betty Longhurst 74 Vicarage Road Marsworth
Home phone: 01296 660711 Mobile: 07788 452894

All Saints Church – John White, Church Warden

During this period (May 2021 to March 2022) church services were held twice monthly, run by the Rev. Roger Hale, as and when we were allowed to. We managed to hold services at all the major festivals, i.e. Easter, Harvest and Christmas. The services were conducted on line by Can David Holloway from Holy Cross Slapton within our Benefice. We were still without a permanent incumbent, and it was necessary for the three Parishes within the Benefice to prepare their individual Parish Profiles which were then collated into one document and sent to the Diocese for approval prior to advertising the post for a new priest. When applications were received they were considered and an interview date of the 10th.

December, 2021 was chosen and invitations were sent out to three applicants to come forward for interview. Of these Rev. James Grainger-Smith was approved unanimously by the Church Wardens and Officials from the Oxford Diocese. Rev. James has accepted the post and will commence as our priest with his Installation on the 12th. July, 2022.

With regard to help towards the running of the church there have been some fund raising events including the very successful driveway sale last June, annual fun run last September, and a new venture the Advent Window display in December and the ever popular lighting of the church over the Christmas season. All Saints Church was also the collection point for goods to be forwarded on to Poland in aid of the Ukrainian Appeal. The Mike Frost Room at the Millennium Hall had been used by the PCC during the Winter.

Buckinghamshire Council - Councillor's Report

It is now almost 12 months since we were elected as your representatives at Buckinghamshire Council. As we were still within restrictions regarding public meetings, we had to continue holding these online which as I am sure you all know can be quite challenging. Our initial inductions were all done in these sessions and one of the drawbacks was not being able to physically meet with colleagues. We have now moved to a much more hybrid way of working and can choose Teams when and if appropriate and also get to know each other better.

Cllr Town has been appointed to North area Planning Committee, Growth Infrastructure and Housing select committee and the Licensing Committee. Cllr Brazier is on Transport and Environment Committee as well as the Luton Airport Consultative Committee together with me. I have been appointed to the Health and Adult Social Care Committee and the Growth Infrastructure and Housing select committee. Between us we cover a great many of the committees whereby we can directly hold to account the senior political team at Buckinghamshire Council. We all contribute to the Community Board and full council meetings. At the election of 2021 we pledged to champion the environment, work towards the new Buckinghamshire local plan, improve roads, support rural business, and protect our communities. We also undertook to attend every Parish Council meeting between us as we recognise the important role you all have in your communities. The gully clearing program has had its finishing date extended due to weather, it is expected to be complete by the end of May 2022. So far, 66% of our area have been completed.

The financial challenges facing Buckinghamshire Council are well known. The government "Levelling up agenda" is diverting resources to areas of the Midlands and North and despite the best efforts of the leadership team, our protestations are so far not yet heard. There are other tranches of funding to be announced and Buckinghamshire will make its bid again. Whilst we may live in a prosperous area, there are still pockets of social deprivation within the county and petitioning goes on.

The Buckinghamshire development plan is due for completion in 2025 but I personally have reservations that this can be achieved. Primarily because central Government have not yet finalised all the necessary details required. Work goes on though and a dedicated team are working hard to achieve this.

Consultations will come forward soon and I would encourage community participation whenever possible. Planning has been challenging of late. With the dissolution of the Districts' many staff left, but I can assure you that there have been lots of new staff appointed in recent months. Due to the sheer number of applications though there is still quite a substantial backlog to work through.

Generally, Buckinghamshire Council have been very good at keeping Clerks' and residents informed. We often find that newsworthy items have already been shared and the Residents Newsletter email from the leader is very informative. I would encourage all to sign up for this.

Besides the aforementioned, we remain on hand to assist yourselves and local residents wherever and whenever they require.

This is a concise report for your annual council meeting and if you or any resident wish to discuss matters further, they are more than welcome to contact us in whichever way is most convenient.

Kind regards, Chris Poll. Councillor for Ivinghoe ward.

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

The Marsworth Charity donated in the year to the Marsworth Christmas Tea party which was then postponed due to Covid and will be held later in the year. Matthew Carter our Chairman came along to a Parish Meeting this year to discuss the possibility for the Parish Committee and Marsworth Charity to work collaboratively together when the opportunity arose. Marsworth Charity has also agreed to contribute to the Church clock repair should this be required.

Marsworth News

The newsletter continues to provide a useful means of communicating within Marsworth. We have now weathered the pandemic period, though at times finding a lessening in copy and especially in notices of events has had an impact on our content. We are now typically down to 24 pages, rather than the 28 of pre-pandemic days. We look forward to more normal times ahead.

Production of the newsletter basically comes down to two main functions: the collection of copy and setting this out in a practical and attractive way. A useful amount of copy comes from regular contributors who see the newsletter as a way of informing local people of their activities: the Church, Parish Council, School, Bucks Councillors, WI. Other regular contributors write articles about their interests: gardening, fishing, etc. We used to have regular articles from someone who lived on the canal, but she has now moved away and we have no representation from that quarter. The Neighbourhood Watch regular feature is a useful one, and we are grateful to the Parish Clerk, Caroline Smith, for forwarding on any items she feels we should include, or at least consider.

This leaves a good deal of empty space to be filled with information, articles, etc. which are the responsibility of the Copy Editor. This role has from the beginning in 2015 been very much in the hands of Elaine Standen, who has done a brilliant job is sourcing items from the media, and by following up 'leads'. However she now finds that she would like to lessen her commitment. We now have, if not a successor to Elaine, at least a really useful addition to our production team in the form of Richard Dinnadge, who is taking on more and more of the work of processing copy.

Layout is the work that I do, which involves inserting and moving the various items around so that they fit!

The rest of the Marsworth News team consists of our Treasurer, Annie Sandon who does an excellent job in managing the advertising, which takes up almost a quarter of the newsletter.

Financially, the newsletter is completely self-sufficient, the advertising covering printing costs. We are lucky to have a very satisfactory printer (Harlequin 52).

One aspect we put a high value on is proof-reading, and we have at least four people who scour the draft proof for any errors to help make our newsletter of a very high standard.

We tend to get little feedback on the newsletter, though have the feeling that local people are on the whole happy with it. We would really like to have more involvement with items submitted, and constantly request them, but these tend to be rare. We are always open to suggestions and constructive criticism and would welcome any feedback.

As always, we are extremely grateful to our team of distributors, of whom we have 15, under the leadership of Alan Gray. They undertake this task for every issue, ensuring that local people get their newsletters in good time.

We produce some 335 copies of the newsletter 10 times a year, omitting January and August, to go to every household in Marsworth, the canal post-box and the pubs, with a few spares left in the church.

Marsworth C of E Infant School - Giles Monks

Personnel:

Mrs Polaci returned in January from maternity leave and has now reduced her hours to four days a week. Mrs Scott continues to work alongside her in KS1 and is now working three full days. We sadly said goodbye to Mrs Jan Stevens who has moved on to new adventures and is now working for the National Trust in Dorset. We have appointed a new EYFS teacher to job share with Mrs Williams. Mrs Karen Holdsworth works three full days.

We also say a sad goodbye to Mrs Carolyn Pankiw who took retirement. She will be sadly missed. We have appointed Miss Lisa Driscoll to work in the office.

We currently have 34 children on roll and welcome a new child to our Nursery after Easter.

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.
SSSP Small School Sports Partnership

Refurbishment/Maintenance

Our biggest project so far this year was installing the new windows, in KS1 and the cloakroom. Our new blinds will be installed in the Summer term. We have further projects lined up for the Summer and Autumn terms.

Curriculum.

As things are slowly returning to normal we are implementing a full and varied curriculum. Swimming has resumed and is thoroughly enjoyed by the children. In the Autumn term the children visited Waddesdon Manor where they learnt about the artist Leon Bakst. This learning was then further embedded on return to the school in the Spring when learning about traditional tales as he created panels for the ballet Sleeping Beauty. We celebrated World Book Day which was also linked to a Traditional Tale theme and the children all looked fabulous in their costumes. KS1 learnt all about baptism and with the help of Sandra Green carried out a mock baptism of a baby doll. The children were very much engaged in their learning and enjoyed being godparents!

EYFS learnt about 'Amazing Africa', they created some lovely art work and observational drawings of different wild animals. They also have been learning about African dance in PE.

Coming up in the Summer Term the children will be learning about the Queen's Jubilee and Mayday. They will even learn some country dancing and maypole dances, hopefully without getting the ribbons in a tangle! 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, Headteacher

Marsworth Steam Rally Community Interest Company

The Steam Rally has been called off for the last two years because of covid-19. However we are well on track to hold the rally this year on Father's Day, 19th June.

We remain most indebted to the Kempsters for the loan of their fields and the time they put in on this event, without this none of our fund-raising would be possible.

Each year the accounts and report are submitted to Companies House for all to see on-line although there has been little to report for the past 2 years.

One event of significance concerns our regularly supported charity The Pepper Foundation Children's Hospice. They suffered a burglary in which all the toys in their cupboard were stolen and an urgent appeal was issued in December 2021. We were able to quickly respond with a £500 donation from reserves which helped them save their Christmas plans.

Work is well underway to prepare for the 2022 rally on June 19th and we welcome volunteers to assist us again as well as exhibitors, stallholders and visitors. Anyone wanting more information should check out <http://www.marsworthsteamrally.co.uk> where there are wonderful pictures, and overhead videos of recent year's events. Bob Kennedy

Women's Institute - Chris King - President Marsworth WI

The start of the last year was once again marred by Covid 19. Although we were able to meet in each other's gardens during the summer, the first full meeting in the village hall was not held until August 2021.

This was a very special occasion for several reasons. Our 75th anniversary celebrations had to be cancelled the year before and this was the first opportunity to celebrate. We received a wonderful commemorative certificate from National Federation of Women's Institutes, which has been framed and also a similar certificate from Bucks Federation. Also, we felt so pleased to be back together again and able to meet as we had done before Covid 19 struck in March 2020. So to make the celebrations really special, we all dressed up in our finery, with pearls and hats if possible, committee members had prepared some delicious food accompanied with wine (of course!).

Unfortunately, just as we were feeling that things were getting back to normal, our beloved treasurer, Margaret Johnson suffered a stroke and was admitted to hospital. After several months of hospital treatment and rehabilitation, I am pleased to tell you she is at home and doing well.

Carolyn Pankiw magnificently stepped into the breach and is making a brilliant job of being our treasurer, not so easy since it took a while to find all the previous paperwork and to bring her up to date with the vagaries of WI administration. Thank you Carolyn!

We were able to organise a trip out with Mason's Coaches to Winchester for the Christmas Fair. This was not particularly well attended as I think people were still wary of mixing closely with others.

We hosted a funeral wake for one of our members – Nancy Wardle, and a Memorial Service for Catherine Bushell who passed away the year before. Both ladies were long-standing members and very well known in the village.

Our monthly meetings have continued with speakers etc. Notably in February, Pippa Nightingale from the village talked to us about her work in the NHS. She has played a very prominent role during Covid, and has delivered several royal babies in the last few years. She has vaccinated many of the Royal Family against Covid 19, including Her Majesty. Her talk was inspirational and very interesting.

Fundraising in the past has been generally coffee mornings and an annual jumble sale. No-one wanted to do a jumble sale, so we held a quiz in March at the village hall. It was a great success, we all had lots of fun, the WI made over £500 and the raffle made £530, which we donated to the Disasters Emergency Committee for Ukraine, which was matched pound for pound by the government. A very good effort all round.

Reports outstanding from:

Canal & River Trust
Thames Valley Police
Marsworth Pre-School

OPEN MEETING

Ray Costello, Treasurer, Village Hall Committee

The Village Hall Committee was encouraging parishioners to get in touch with them if they would like help or funding from the Village Hall Committee to organise an event in the village hall. A suggestion that parishioners might want to get involved in would be a regular Film Night, similar to that which was regularly held in Wilstone's village hall.

SID

It was queried whether the SID could indicate what the required (30mph) speed limit was. As it was a built up area there shouldn't be a need for 30 mph signs but the Parish Council felt that a SID would be a good reminder of the speed limit and a deterrent to speeding for the 15% who did so. The Parish Council would look at the possibility of obtaining 30mph stickers for residents to put on their collection bins.

There being no further business, the Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.40 pm