

**Marsworth Parish Council**  
Mrs Caroline Smith, 7 Stepnells, Marsworth, Tring, HP23 4NQ  
07557 289049  
[parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk)

**Minutes of the Marsworth Annual Parish Meeting held on  
Monday 8 April 2023 in Millennium Hall, Marsworth at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Cllrs R Kennedy (RK) (Chair), R Brown (RB), D Cornwall (DC), R John (RJ), C King (CK), G Monks (GM), S Smith (SGS) and Clerk to Parish Caroline Smith

**Apologies:** None

**Others Present:** Buckinghamshire Councillors Peter Brazier and Chris Poll  
PCs Dionne Edwards and Jake Bye  
and 24 members of the public

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 April 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **1 Chairman's Report, Councillor Bob Kennedy**

Welcome to this Annual Parish Meeting . 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. Our council welcomed 1 new councillor this year, Robert John replacing Keith Thomasson.

The key Planning matters over the past year have been:

The application by Ainscough Strategic Land to build around 320 houses on Marsworth Airfield (south site) thus creating a 'new village'. We mounted a strong campaign of opposition and mobilised village support encouraging objection, and as a result Ainscough withdrew their application. However they re-applied and are trying to overcome many of the reasons for objection. Their key argument is that the site is brownfield and this gives them an enhanced opportunity in the event that Bucks County fails to deliver its housing targets laid down by government. We have opposed this since the site has always been agricultural but that issue remains in contention.

The 2022 Special Area of Conservation (SAC) around Chiltern Beechwoods has continued to delay all new dwelling planning approvals, since Bucks has yet no policy for mitigating the damage caused by new development within 12.7km of the woods. This has prevented determination of both the Airfield and White Lion applications.

The 2023 application for changing the Anglers Retreat into housing, which we opposed, was withdrawn, but a fresh application for conversion into 3 dwellings has now been made. The Parish Council has opposed this arguing that it would be the third Pub lost to the village in 15 years, and that it has been most successful in the past serving the whole surrounding area and many visitors to the reservoirs.

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.

We are pleased that the 1400 housing development proposed in neighbouring Tring has now been refused by the Secretary of State.

Other developments have been:

The launch of Community Speedwatch in Marsworth run by volunteers and supported by the PC.

The installation of a new oven in the Village Hall funded by PC S106 funds. We are working on S106 agreement rejigging so the funds can be used more widely.

We are pleased to report the village again had a record Bonfire Night on our Recreation Ground, and the Steam Rally used it for parking in June which also allowed it to enjoy a high attendance. It was also used successfully for the village fun run and Coronation picnic. Improvements to the parking area will take place shortly to reduce damage to the playing surface when such events are held.

I regret to report that CRT removed all its dog waste and litter bins from the canal and reservoir areas as a cost saving measure. Unfortunately this resulted in a large increase in litter and dog waste. Marsworth litterpickers have raised their efforts to combat this and the PC will shortly be increasing bin provision at taxpayers' expense. Finally after a long period of pothole profusion we are seeing more repair activity from the County's new Highways contractors and look forward to the road around the White Lion being sorted soon.

## **2 Election of 2 Trustees to serve on the Marsworth Charity for a term of 3 years**

There being only 2 candidates for the 2 vacancies the residents present voted in favour of Matthew Carter and Stephen Wooler being elected to serve on the Marsworth Charity for a term of 3 years.

It was also confirmed that All Saints Church had confirmed that the Revd. James Grainger-Smith should be their representative on the Marsworth Charity; and the Governors of Marsworth CofE School confirmed that Paul Egan Carter should be their representative on the Marsworth Charity. Consideration for the representative for Marsworth Parish Council would be given at the Parish Council meeting later that evening. *Subsequently confirmed that Caroline Smith would be the representative on Marsworth Charity for Marsworth Parish Council.*

## **3 Reports**

The reports from the following had been published on the Marsworth website and those submitted in time were also contained in the March edition of Marsworth News from the following:

Buckinghamshire Councillors' Report

Marsworth 100 Club

Millennium Hall

Canal & River Trust

All Saints Church

Marsworth Charity

Marsworth Food Bank

Marsworth Newsletter

Thames Valley Police

Marsworth Pre-School

Marsworth Steam Rally

Marsworth Women's Institute

Marsworth Speedwatch

A report had not been received from Marsworth CofE School.

## **4 Open Discussion**

### **a) Car Parking**

The PCs were aware of the car parking issues along both ends of Watery Lane. They suggested a sign to indicate that parking by the triangle at Marsworth Wharf wasn't permitted and would liaise with the Clerk for the wording. They would also monitor the car parking issues at Watery Lane

The PCs were supportive of assisting with the illegal parking of vehicles at the Millennium Hall car park and would visit the residents to discuss the issue. Clerk would also contact the Housing Association.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm.