

## **Annual Parish Meeting**

### **Chairman's Report**

#### **Annual Report 2016-17**

At the Parish Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May Mrs. Aston stepped down as Chair of Haddenham Parish Council and Mr. Truesdale was elected. Mrs. Aston remains on the Parish Council in the role of Vice-Chair. Mrs Aston has also stepped down as a Bucks County Councillor, but will continue to be involved in some of the projects she has been involved with. Mr. Truesdale thanked Mrs. Aston for her years of service as Chair of the Council and presented her with some flowers.

A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect following the death of Stuart Sloan who was involved in many village activities including being a member of Parish Council. Condolences were sent to his family.

This year has proved very challenging with significant growth of the village being given the go ahead after many years of stability. The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) allocates 1,000 new homes for Haddenham and around 800 of these already have planning approval, with the remaining site about to submit plans. All of these homes will be built and marketed within the same period.

Since 2014 there has been a local campaign to install a safe crossing on Woodways primarily for school use. This year the crossing was made possible due to a New Homes Bonus grant from Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC).

One of the biggest local issues has been on street parking on the roads near to the station with residents campaigning for help from the Parish Council to address this. Working with Bucks County Council the first phase of a new parking restriction scheme has been implemented. This will be monitored and a larger scheme may follow.

Following several accidents at the junction of Stanbridge Road and Woodways the Parish Council has obtained permission to install a Vehicle Activated Sign on Stanbridge Road and the road markings and signage have been improved by Bucks County Council.

The Village handyman left the Parish Council at the end of 2017. It was decided to use a contractor for village maintenance and the contract was awarded to Aspire community Works who started in April. Feedback so far has been positive.

St. Mary's Churchyard will be formally closed in June and the Church has opted to pass maintenance responsibility to the Parish Council. As the existing contractor has been reliable the Parish Council has agreed to retain them. Land

for a new burial ground has been allocated in the planning application for the Glebe site. The ground will need to be tested for suitability and the Parish Council is researching becoming a burial authority.

The precept increase has been limited this year after the previous bigger increase. The internal auditor has recommended investing in proper accounting software so the Parish Council has agreed to trial the EDGEIT accounts package.

The 50% growth of the village will bring an increased need for sports facilities and developer funding for this. Meetings have been held with the active sports groups in the village and PCMS Design have been commissioned to assist with the design of new pitches and pavilions, including updating the Woodways site.

There has been a Parish Council supported project to install a borehole on the Allotment site. This is now close to being commissioned.

Over the next 12 months thought will need to be given to welcoming new comers to the village as they will contribute to village life in the future. The Parish Council will take on major new assets with the sports facilities and will need to plan ahead for expansion of grounds maintenance responsibilities. It is highly likely there will be a new Unitary Authority to work with, including the possibility of additional devolved services.

Steve Sharp is leading the entry for the Village of the Year competition run by Channel 4. Something similar was run before and proved a good morale booster.

David Truesdale - Chairman