



HADDENHAM Parish Council

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Clerk to the Parish Council: Ms Sue Gilbert

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 19th April 2023, 7.00pm

Haddenham Airfield Pavilion

Present:

Parish Cllrs: Cllr. Kidby, Cllr. Sharp, Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Thawley, Cllr. Truesdale, and Cllr. Wheeler.

Bucks Cllrs: Cllr. Smith

Clerk: Ms. Gilbert

Assistant Clerk: Ms. Griffiths

Facilities Manager: Mr. Final

68 members of the public

Exhibitors:

Haddenham Screen

Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group

Haddenham Baptist Church 'Hat & Boots' appeal

The operators of the Haddenham and Thame Electric Vehicle Car Hire Club – 3B Car Hire

Haddenham Rotary Club

Zero Carbon Haddenham

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Minutes

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th April 2022 were a true record and they were signed by the Chair.

3. Presentation from Sam Goss of Phil Jones Associates (PJA) on Haddenham Streetscape Project

The presentation covered work that has been carried as part of the Streetscape project, including the public consultation on issues affecting access and movement around the village and proposed design ideas and improvements. A proposed village-wide speed limit of 20mph received the most public support with 89% of those responding to the consultation on design ideas in favour. Initial analysis carried out by PJA has found that the majority of streets within the village are already subject to average speeds below the 24mph threshold, with exceptions including Thame Road and Stanbridge Road. This is significant as the Department for Transport recommends that "the implementation of 20mph limits over a larger number of roads... should be considered where mean speeds at

or below 24mph are already achieved over a number of roads”. Further work will need to be done to confirm existing speeds within the village. PJA are also working on design ideas for improvements to Thame Road to help reduce speeds and make it easier for pedestrians to cross. Once completed, these will be submitted to Buckinghamshire Council. It is hoped the design work will encourage to Buckinghamshire Council to use the Section 106 funding that has been allocated for walking and cycling improvements to Thame Road before it expires.

Slides from the [Streetscape presentation](#) are available on the Parish Council website.

4. Presentation from Haddenham Parish Council Chair

Cllr. Truesdale presented a review of the past Council year and a quick look forward.

A look back at 2022/23

Completion of Airfield Pavilion

December 2022 saw the completion and handover of the Airfield Pavilion designed and project managed for us by PCMS Design Ltd and built by Marlow at a cost of about £1.5m, and funded through developer contributions. It includes solar panels and a sedum roof.

We are still waiting for Thames Water to connect to a permanent water supply. All in all, it is a huge achievement for a Parish Council to undertake a project of this scale.

Townsend Community Orchard Improvements

In July, we celebrated with the Townsend Community Orchard volunteers and residents from Abbeyfield various access improvements to enable better participation by wheelchair users. The work included a new accessible gate at the Mallard Croft entrance, hard surface paths for all-weather use, and raised beds to form a sensory garden. The new area was opened by Lady Howe, Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire.

Death of the Queen and former Parish Council members

On the 9th September we put in place the plans we had prepared under the Operation London Bridge protocol for the death of the Queen. This included opening and signing a Book of Condolence.

Closer to home, we said final farewells to former councillors Margaret Aston in July and Chris Young in August. Sue & I represented the Parish Council at both funerals and I was honoured to be asked to speak at Chris’s about his time as a Parish Councillor.

We were also sad to hear yesterday of the death of Peter Clarke who some of you may remember was the Parish Council’s Handyman for 10 years from 1993 to 2003.

Church End Pond Restoration

Last year’s dry summer saw the evaporation of all the water from Church End pond. We used the opportunity to remove some 35 years’ worth of accumulated silt in September.

Tree Planting

We started a tree planting programme with funding support from Buckinghamshire Council through the Local Authority Treescapes Grant. Locations for tree planting include Woodways, Sheerstock and all around the perimeter of the Airfield recreation ground. We have partnered on this with Zero Carbon Haddenham’s reLEAF project and are grateful for all their hard work. We are also grateful to Todd LePelly at Haddenham-based Total Landscapes for a herculean effort with his bowser keeping everything watered through last summer’s drought.

Electric Vehicle Hire Club Launch

The Parish Council were delighted to work with Zero Carbon Haddenham, local hire firm 3B and Haddenham Village Hall to launch Haddenham's very own car club with charge points at the Village Hall. The club allows members to pay by the hour to hire an electric car based at Haddenham Village Hall. Visit Haddenham Parish Council's [electric vehicle hire club page](#) to find out more! Last week I saw a piece in the Oxford Times lauding Oxford's pioneering new hire club – but Haddenham got there first!

Planning

During the year, our Planning Committee met 15 times and reviewed 90 planning and listed building applications which is a serious volume of work. I know – I prepared briefings on every one of them. This year's star prize for most contentious development goes to Redrow on land off Churchway (north of Rosemary Lane). I spoke at Bucks Council's Planning Committee in August and urged them not to fully approve this until drainage was fully resolved. Since then, Bucks Council has served a Stop Notice (very rare in my experience) and 2 Enforcement Notices. And this is just Phase 1 for 153 homes. Phase 2 for another 120 is still to come.

Also, currently on the go are 2 hostile applications by local landowners on sites **not** allocated for development in the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan. They are "Land east of Churchway" (opposite Redrow) for 91 dwellings, submitted by Richborough Estates, and "Land south of Lower Road" (east of Stanbridge Rd) for 15 dwellings submitted by Rectory Homes. Both have been submitted previously and refused on appeal. Both are seeking to use Haddenham as a battle ground to test whether Bucks Council does have its claimed 5-year housing land supply in the Vale area – a test which the current Secretary of State may be about to drop.

Woodways Pavilion Refurbishment

£30,000 has been spent by the Parish Council; and as much again by The Whistler on improvements to the building.

Supporting local organisations

The Parish Council has the power to make a grant or gift to an organisation for a specific purpose that will benefit the Parish, or residents of the Parish. We are pleased to have been able to continue supporting local organisations including: Haddenham Community Library, Zero Carbon Haddenham, Haddenham Village Society, and The Sixty Plus Club.

Warm Spaces

A joint initiative with Churches Together (Ann Wallace, Loraine Milmer & Marjorie Johnston), the Library (Robyn Cook) and the Village Hall (Graeme Oliver and Brenda Bonnage)

Re-launched Haddenham Youth Club

The club runs weekly at the Junior School with youth leader David Rollins contracted to the Parish Council. Our thanks to the Head & Bursar at the School for their commitment to getting this going again.

Streetscape Project Launched

As covered by the previous presentation. The Parish Council has worked with Phil Jones Associates on an ambitious project to improve movement and access around the village. More details are available on the [Parish Council's website](#).

A quick look ahead

Detailed Business and Action Plans are available!

Transfer of assets from developers

Including the remainder of the Airfield site and Aston Road site open spaces

Charities amalgamation

Work continues on the amalgamation of five local charities, Banks Park Recreation Ground Charity, Haddenham Educational Charity, and the three Parochial Charities (Rev Willis; Alms Corn; Joseph Franklin)

Grounds maintenance tendering

The current grounds maintenance contract is due to expire at the end of June and is currently out for tender.

Climate Emergency Reduction of Carbon Emissions

There are currently proposals in place to install solar panels for Village Hall and Woodways Pavilion.

A home energy conference is scheduled for 1st October at the Airfield Pavilion in partnership with Bucks Community Energy.

Local Plan for Bucks

So far 14 sites covering a total of 173Ha have been put forward by landowners for potential development in Haddenham as part of the next Local Plan. There's also a 34 Ha site beyond Aston Sandford on the Risborough Road. All of these (and many more across Bucks) are currently being evaluated for possible inclusion as "allocated" sites.

Thanks go to

Our volunteers and partners at:

- Allotments
- Townsend Community Orchard
- Haddenham Speedwatch
- Litter Pickers
- Snakemoor
- Village Charities
- Youth Club helpers
- Zero Carbon Haddenham & reLEAF

Our Parish Councillors

Our staff – Sue, Emma, Ian & Kerrie

Slides from the [Chair's presentation](#) are available on the Parish Council website.

5. Open forum - registered electors of the parish were given the opportunity to ask questions and raise issues.

Several questions were asked regarding the Haddenham Streetscape Project.

Q: Raised platforms without zebra crossing can create ambiguity over whether pedestrians or traffic have right of way. How will the proposed crossings on Thame Road work?

A: There is a difference between side roads and main roads, with pedestrians having right of way to cross on side roads. The design ideas for Thame Road are likely to include a raised platform with a zebra crossing close to the bus stop. All designs will go through a design safety process before being approved.

Q: Would parking be allowed on the visually narrowed stretches of Thame Road?

A: Visually narrowing roads doesn't automatically prohibit parking. Parking restrictions could be looked at separately.

Q: Can surfacing improvements to Thame Road be combined with the implementation of the design ideas?

A: This has been raised with Buckinghamshire Council as it would be cost-effective to do this.

Q: Raised sections of road can be confusing, however, longer sections can be less ambiguous.

A: Pedestrian crossings will be clearly defined.

Q: Is there the appetite within Buckinghamshire Council to engage and implement design ideas.

A: Meetings with Buckinghamshire Council have been largely positive so far. It is hoped that the designs will be taken into consideration as part of any future developments and included within Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

Q: Is there a way to make future developers comply with approach and designs set out as part of the Streetscape project?

A: If designs are included in Section 106 or Community Infrastructure Levy agreements, they must be adhered to. More generally, Buckinghamshire has a residential design guide that sets out how new developments must be built.

Q: What is the latest on plans for a Burial Ground at the Glebe site.

A: The Parish Council is still waiting to take over the land from the developers. Plans will need then need to be approved by the Environment Agency.

A resident advised that consultation on The Local Plan for Buckinghamshire is now live.

The meeting closed at 20:40.

Signed: _____
David Truesdale, Chair