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Clerk to the Parish Council: Ms Sue Gilbert

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 22nd May 2025, 7.00pm

Haddenham Airfield Pavilion

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr. Kidby, Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Thawley, Cllr. Truesdale, Cllr. Hoare, Cllr. Desmier and Cllr. Wheeler, Cllr. Millo, Cllr. Matharu.

Bucks Cllrs: Cllr. Smith, Cllr. Mormina

Clerk: Ms. Gilbert

Deputy Clerk: Ms. Marsden

Facilities Manager: Mr. Final

24 members of the public

Exhibitors:

Haddenham Community Orchard

Snakemoor Nature Reserve

Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group

Haddenham Rotary Club

Carrie: The Community Vehicle

Zero Carbon Haddenham & ReLEAF

Haddenham EV Car Hire with Zimbl

Haddenham Speedwatch

Hats and Boots

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from, Graeme Oliver, Keith Milmer, Diccon Proctor, Judy Brandis .

2. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 17th April 2024 were a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

3. Presentation from Jonathan Clarke – Consultant on Home Energy Solutions for traditional and listed buildings

The Chair was pleased to welcome Jonathan Clarke who is a Consultant who specialises in providing Home Energy Solutions for traditional and listed buildings. Jonathan kindly attended our Efficient Energy Home Fair in November.

Jonathan provided information on the 200+ houses he has worked on over the years. This included Stately Homes as well smaller properties. He advised when assessing houses it is important to consider four basic principles.

- 'Understand' the House
- 'Assess' how the house hangs onto the heat
- 'Assess' how efficiently the house controls and produces energy (heat)
- Do no harm to the building and its significance

Simple improvements can be basic thermostat control of radiators etc through to sophisticated APP driven heating which you can control via your mobile. Insulation is key and can provide good savings verses financial outlay. Jonathan advised that sheep's wool insulation though initially expensive will last 100 years so over many years will pay for itself. To measure energy efficiency return he uses the Danish formula of £ saved per annum multiplied by Years Life divided by the Capital cost which should equal a figure of 1.33 above to warrant the investment.

Jonathan gave a case study of his own house which is a Grade II listed and made from Wychert. He explained how it was very cold and draughty with a poor 1930's extension. Through demolishing the poor extension and re-building with insulated bricks, improved roof insulation, and secondary glazing, they were able to reduce their heating bills significantly and improve the overall appearance of the property. Future investment may include a Zeb Boiler which is electric and has a battery which can be used to store electricity generated either from low cost electric at night or from PV panels. This heating is cheaper to install than an Air Source Heat Pump system.

Jonathan concluded his presentation and took some questions from Parishioners.

4. A presentation from the Chair of the Council for 2024/25 - A Year in the Life of a Parish Council

Cllr Truesdale started his presentation with an overview of 'What actually is an Parish Council?' and gave an overview of how Parish Councils were founded and the duties and responsibilities a Parish Council has. Cllr Truesdale then highlighted how Haddenham Parish Council operate including meticulous financial planning with a comprehensive action and business plan. Being a Consultee on Planning which involves small applications through to big developer projects and management of our own building projects.

Grounds Maintenance Team

Cllr Truesdale highlighted one of the biggest challenges this year for the Council was to bring the Grounds Maintenance team in house rather than using contractors. The Council was pleased to TUPE over from our Contractor to head up our Grounds Maintenance Team and has subsequently been joined by two additional staff members Josh and Bryan.

EV Car Hire

The APM was also the date which the new EV Car Hire service has been launched with our new partners Zimbl. The Council are delighted to be bringing this provision back to Haddenham with

two new Council and Zimbl branded EV cars which can be hired for parishioners between 25 – 76 years of age. Older drivers can apply for consideration for insurance.

Major Projects

The Council has continued to work on major projects within the village. This includes obtaining planning permission for the new Aston Road Pavilion. The cricket ground has been started by Dandara's contractor and will have more work done on it this year before it can be playable. The Council continues to push forward with the development of the new Burial Ground. Water risk assessments have taken place and a working group has been established to work on designs for the burial ground so it can be put forward for planning permission. The Council is aware how stressful it has been for residents who are waiting to lay relatives to rest. Unfortunately the Council still doesn't own the land and won't until early 2026.

Planning Developments

The Parish Council were consulted on seventy planning applications this year. There were two contentious applications on the Land East of Churchway which was initially refused by Bucks Council but lost on appeal and land along Lower Road which has been yet determined. Bucks Council are reviewing their Local Area Plan and this won't be finished until 2026 which is two years later than scheduled. With central Government policy changing, 95,000 more houses have been allocated in Buckinghamshire which has meant that the 'call for sites' from land owners has been re-issued. In Haddenham, most landowners have put forward their land for consideration. This includes Lands Improvement who own the land north of the Airfield up to the A418. Should all the land brought forward be approved for housing, Haddenham would increase by another 2,500 houses which would raise its population significantly. The Parish Council is working with specialist planning consultants to look at different housing scenarios and their impact on road infrastructure, schools, doctors, dentists etc.

Flooding

There has been two serious flooding occurrences in Haddenham over the last 12 months in September 2024 and March 2025. These were due to incredible rain storms which brought and the amount of rain which came down in a short period of time. The Council requested a Section 19 assessment to be carried out by Bucks Council. There are issues with the maintenance of the stream which follows through Haddenham with residents not necessarily maintaining their section which they should do as part of their responsibilities as riparian owners. The Parish Council recently met with the Environment Agency, residents and Bucks Councillors on how the situation can be improved. The Council estimates there are around 200 properties which border the stream and will be contacting all the stakeholders to a meeting.

The Council were pleased to welcome in July Councillors from Haddenham in Cambridgeshire who walked from one village to another and raised funds for respective libraries. The Council continues to support HADDSWAC to push for cycleway to Thame. The annual Junior School Christmas banner competition continues to be supported by our street light contractor – Eldridge. The winning designs are displayed beneath the Christmas lights tree at Banks Park.

The Chairman gave a note of thanks to the Councillors who work tirelessly for their community. He welcomed the new Councillors who had joined after the election and recent co-option. He made mention to remember Steve Sharp who served on the Council and other committee for

many years who sadly died earlier this year. He thanked the volunteers who have stepped forward to be Trustees of the Parochial Charities.

The Chair concluded his review was concluded by grateful thanks to the staff members who following a independent staff review will rise to eight in June

5. Open Forum for parishioners

The Chair opened the meeting for questions from residents

Q A resident asked regarding whether the existing a pedestrian route alongside the burial ground would be remain when the burial ground opened.

The Chair advised that the pedestrian path would remain open and this path is wide enough for a hearse to access and turn around if needed but there would be a gate to stop any other vehicles access this path.

Q A resident expressed concern regarding two areas where there are issues with road safety. The Stanbridge Road, Lower Road into Woodways, crossing and Churchway to A418 junction to Cuddington – where a pedestrian had been knocked down.

The Chair reported that the Parish Council has previously conducted a comprehensive survey of Haddenham’s roads as part of its Streetscape project. This initiative identified specific areas in need of improvement, and detailed recommendations were subsequently submitted to Buckinghamshire Council.

As part of the Council’s commitment to road safety, a joint feasibility study was funded in collaboration with Chearsley and Cuddington Parish Councils. This study focused on improving the Lower Road/Woodways junction. In response to traffic safety concerns at this location, a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) has been installed near the medical centre. This sign alerts vehicles descending from Churchway to the presence of a crossing.

Despite these initial steps, both schemes—the Lower Road/Woodways junction and Churchway /A418—require further funding to proceed with full implementation.

It was also noted that planning applications currently under appeal for Lower Road and the approved development east of Churchway, both include traffic safety signage improvements as part of their Section 106 obligations. These contributions, could provide essential support for delivering the proposed safety enhancements.

With there being no further questions and all the business transacted, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Signed: _____ 20th March 2026
David Truesdale, Chair