

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Friday 5th May 2017, 7.00pm

Haddenham Village Hall

Present:

CLLrs: Mrs. Aston, Mr. Newton, Mr. Sharp, Mr. O'Hanlon, Mr. Weetman, and Mr. Young
District CLLrs: Mrs. Brandis and Mr. Foster
Clerk Mrs. Gilbert
Assistant Clerk: Mrs. Allman
62 members of the public

Pre-meeting displays:

CALA homes - Dollicott and Airfield sites
Dandara - Aston Road site
Astonhill - Churchway site
Haddenham Community Orchard
Haddenham Allotments Bore Hole Project

Main meeting

1. Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs. Capp and Mr. Lyons.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th May 2016 were AGREED as a true record and signed.
3. The Chairman Mr. Truesdale gave a resume of the Council year 2016/17

At the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd 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.

District Councillor reports:

Judy Brandis

At the recent Village Society hustings it became apparent that many people were not aware of what is happening locally. The VALP has monopolised work at the District and has been delayed again due to the release of the White paper. There will be a consultation later in the year. A decision will need to be made on which unitary authority model to use, one for the whole of Buckinghamshire, or to divide into north and south with Aylesbury Vale kept separate. The Secretary of State was due to decide in April but this has been delayed by the election. Workshops are being run for parishes and towns. In 2019 the government grant will be zero. AVDC has set up several businesses to increase income as council tax charge does not cover everything. A private hire car database is being set up as there are concerns about Uber as not all areas are covered. It is important to reinstate chapter 6 of the Neighbourhood Plan before AVDC starts work on its next local plan.

Brian Foster

AVDC is the local planning authority so all planning decisions are made there. 800 homes have already been approved for Haddenham. There are over 100 parishes in Aylesbury Vale and AVDC is expected to decide every planning application. Mr. Foster is currently Vice-Chair of the Strategic Development Management Committee which deals with larger applications. The VALP will deliver 27,000 new houses in Aylesbury Vale, this was 34,000 until recently. Haddenham is one of 5 strategic settlements, Aylesbury gets the biggest share of new homes and the rest must be divided between the remaining four. In recent years decisions have been directed by central government policy, the goal posts have been moving, policies have been scrapped on open countryside and edge of settlement developments. This is their reaction to the housing crisis. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in 2012, the key paragraph in this document states 'there should be a presumption in favour of sustainable development', this is the context in which AVDC makes its decisions. Next is the final stage of the VALP, in July there will be further public consultation, then the plan will go to the Inspector and a public inquiry will be held next spring. Hopefully the Secretary of State will then approve the plan.

4. Open forum - registered electors of the parish were invited to raise issues.
 - The Safe Walking and Cycling Group is keen for the Haddenham Transport Study that was promised to be carried out. Are there any opportunities for funding it?
This needs to be done with the support of Bucks County Council which is the highway authority. Responses made to BCC and AVDC as part of the VALP have asked for this. Aylesbury and Buckingham have had these surveys done for the VALP and we think Haddenham should also have been assessed. It should include circulation, parking, and speeding and respect the conservation area and heritage assets. We are actively pushing for the haddenham to Thame cycleway and have met with Thame Town council to agree a common approach between HPC / TTC/ BCC / OCC. It may become easier with a unitary authority.
 - Volunteers will be needed for the next neighbourhood plan. It has been accepted that there will be some development. The last plan was rubbished by the District, would the next neighbourhood plan be listened to?
*Mrs Brandis - only chapter 6 was removed due to an error, so it must be re-done.
mr. Truesdale - I went to the House of Commons for a meeting to discuss neighbourhood planning. There has been no clarity from the outset where neighbourhood plans sit in the hierarchy of plan making. The impression was that a neighbourhood plan would set the tone for villages but the government would realistically never allow that as there needs to be a nationwide picture. A neighbourhood plan needs to fit within the district's needs, this was misleading for parishes. The National Infrastructure Commission is a new quango appointed to look at major infrastructure but not housing. However, published reports give a reasoned argument for a growth zone along the Cambridge - Milton Keynes - Oxford corridor. The Chancellor has already announced funding for the railway link. Funds will also be needed for the expressway. The Cambridge - Milton Keynes section is already fixed but the western side still has 3 options, the southern route running essentially along the A418. Design work is ongoing and the District and County Councils will be consulted but the NIC will report back to the government for a decision. This will have a big impact on development in Aylesbury Vale. It is possible that both Haddenham and Winslow could have new settlements.*
 - Mrs. Brandis is not quite right about the neighbourhood plan. AVDC approved the Glebe site against the neighbourhood plan. If there were mistakes in the plan they were small and it was disproportionate to withdraw the housing chapter. AVDC did not support the neighbourhood plan. It is important to start work again soon on the neighbourhood plan. The NIC should be taken seriously and we will need the neighbourhood plan to support any argument with the NIC. Letter have been sent by the Village Society to John Bercow MP and Andrew Adonis who would also be happy to hear from HPC. The NIC consultation will open at the end of May.

- It will be important to welcome new people to the village and engage them in village life. It is good to consult existing groups but how do we go about introducing new facilities and engaging more generally?

This will be the challenge for the next period of time. We can work with the Church and make approaches to new residents as they move in. We plan to deliver a village guide to all homes. Websites will continue to be a useful resource and there are plans to re-vamp the Parish Council website.

There needs to be 2-way communication

There is an aging population who are fairly engaged, it is much harder to reach younger people.

Mrs. Aston - the new unitary authority proposals will increase involvement with the parishes who willed to take on more responsibilities, this will open up new opportunities for new people to get involved and take on new challenges.

- In January a very successful community fair was organised by the Village Society, 50 organisations had stalls and around 500 people attended. The next fair will be held in 2018 and it would be helpful if the Parish Council can be more involved.
Yes we can help.
- Christina Jeffery was thanked for her column in the Bucks Herald which villagers find very useful.
- A few years ago a village directory was compiled which was very useful. This should be done again. It should be included in a welcome pack for new people.
- The original handbook was written 12 years ago and was the basis for Haddenham.net, so an updated form is available online
- Please could the reports for the APM be made available online before the meeting?
The deadline for preparing reports will be brought forward to try and achieve this. Currently reports are not always available until the day of the meeting.

The Chair closed the floor for questions and thanked the following:

Val and Trevor Walker for their help with arranging, setting up and managing the PA system.

All the exhibitors for their time this evening.

Sue and Jane the Clerks for organising the meeting.

All the Councillors for their contributions throughout the year.

The Parish Council was thanked for the work it does which has the village at heart.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed: _____

David Truesdale
Chair of Haddenham Parish Council

11th May 2018