



HADDENHAM Parish Council

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Clerk to the Parish Council: Ms Sue Gilbert

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Friday 24th May 2019, 7.00pm

Haddenham Village Hall

Present:

Parish Cllrs: Mrs. Aston, Mr O'Loughlin, Mrs. Bedding, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Truesdale (Chair) and Mr. Young

County Cllr: Mr. Harriss

District Cllrs: Mrs. Brandis and Mr. Foster

Clerk: Mrs. Gilbert

Deputy Clerk: Mrs. Marsden

Mr Chris Church - North Hinksey Parish Council & Oxford Friends of the Earth

33 members of the public

Pre-meeting displays:

Dandara - Aston Road site

Townsend Community Orchard Volunteers

Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group

PCMS Design - Haddenham Airfield Pavilion

Haddenham Allotments Bore Hole Project

Welcome to new Councillor David Hoare and new Deputy Clerk Emma Marsden.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr Wheeler, Mrs Poole, Mr O'Hanlon, Mr Fattorini

2. Minutes

A Parishioner asked for clarification on the content of the minute relating to the Green Lane Project. It was confirmed by the Clerk that the minute was correct.

It was Proposed, Seconded and AGREED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11th May 2018 were a true record and they were signed.

3. Resume of the Council year 2018/19

Mr Truesdale presented a resume of the Council year 2018/19

The Parish Council has had an extremely busy year with a number of projects ongoing which will improve the facilities of Haddenham.

List of projects from this year and ongoing:

Projects Ongoing

New Football Pitches at Airfield site

The new football pitches should be ready soon to be handed over from Cala Homes. There is line marking to undertake and a comprehensive maintenance schedule to keep the pitches in good condition. It is great to see the different pitch sizes which will cater for both adult and junior teams. The Pavilion has been through planning and we are working with PCMS to agree a tender to build.

New Mini Tennis Courts

Two new mini courts which are great for young children and more elderly players who do not wish to use a full court.

Scotsgrove 40mph speed limit review

Reducing the speed limit along this part of the A418

Station – commuter parking

Ongoing dialogue with residents and Bucks County Council to tackle the problem of commuter parking along Sheerstock and the surrounding roads.

Cricket ground / Burial Ground at Aston Road

Draft ideas for the new Cricket pavilion and layout of the burial ground have been tentatively started. Both will need planning permission and we won't be in a position to move further forward with this until we receive the land from Dandara.

Cycleway to Thame

It is still the ambition of the Council to work with local groups / authorities to create a cycleway to Thame.

Remarking of Woodways carpark and bollards

Much better use of the car park now it has been properly laid out. Bollards to protect the adjacent pavement along the side of the recreation ground.

The Council has also spent a significant amount of time managing its assets

Higher Tier Councils

Biggest change is the formation of new Unitary Authority to happen in May 2020. Four District Councils are being merged into one Local Authority called Buckinghamshire Council.

- The Parish Council operates in a context of significant financial pressures on higher tier councils, Police and other services. Far more is expected to be done for less and there have been massive budget cut-backs and withdrawal of rate support grant.
- The draft Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) allocates 1,000 new homes for Haddenham. Most of these are expected to be delivered in the next 5 years, rather than spread out over the plan period to 2033. This will mean a huge influx of people with higher demands on local services.
- There is currently a consultation on a change to the National Planning Policy Framework standard methodology to assess housing need. The implication for Aylesbury Vale is 50% more may be needed. Haddenham is a strategic settlement so that could mean another 500 homes.
- The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) is proposing a new expressway in an arc between Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford (CaMKOx). Associated with this could be 1 million homes, 4 new towns and the east-west railway.
- We are waiting for the selection of the route of the expressway, and of the three options the southerly route would run just north of Haddenham along the A418 then dip south and across to Aylesbury. The decision on the route is expected soon.

- The NIC invited entries to a concept design competition for development in the arc. The Fletcher Priest entry focussed on Haddenham & Thame area. There are a lot of people spending time looking at delivering new homes in this area.
- The VALP has been submitted to the Inspectorate for examination however, Aylesbury Vale will have to review the plan within 2-5 years after its adoption due to the aforementioned changes. This will be government driven, not by the districts.

Customer demand

- There is an increased demand for delivery of public services. This is time consuming and resource intensive.
- Parish Councils are more accessible now than higher tier councils so more and more is expected, but often the Parish Council can only redirect to a higher council. Hopefully this will become easier when we have the new unitary authority.

Asset management

- For a village of its size Haddenham has many assets and more are coming.
- The Parish Council is introducing processes for surveying, planning and budgeting.
- Programmed management of: streetlights; trees; ponds; premises; play grounds; sports ground; open spaces; registered village greens; devolved responsibilities
- Utilisation of S106 funding to improve the play equipment at Sheerstock, Banks Park new playground opened in February 2019
- The Churchyard has been closed for burials and maintenance responsibility passed from the Church to the Parish Council. This has proved quite challenging as inspection of the boundary walls and lichgate has identified a significant amount of work is needed, which will cost in the region of £100,000
- Preparing to adopt new assets: open spaces at the big development sites; sports pitches; play grounds; 2 pavilions to build; burial ground; possible car park

Growth and Communications

- We need to be responding to the growth agenda. Should there be a review of the Neighbourhood Plan (NP)? We have spoken to AVDC and BCC Highways Officers and would have to think creatively about growth options. Residents may see this as a threat. We could easily find that everything changes again with outside influence from the expressway, and a possible new settlement, which would negate any work done on a revised NP.
- Newcomers to the village will need to be welcomed, there will potentially be new talent and energy to tap into.
- There are growing demands on the Parish Council services and a need to improve access to the PC office and availability of service. The existing room is not secure for lone working and there is inefficiency due to the lack of available separate meeting space.
- Communications have been improved with a new electronic newsletter and new web-site; and publication of the village guide. Use of Facebook has allowed the Council to quickly disseminate information alongside our Latest News (on our website)

4. Presentation

Mr Chris Church - North Hinksey Parish Council & Oxford Friends of the Earth

Climate Change – Climate Crisis

What can a Parish Council do?

We have a problem...

- Our planet's climate is changing...
- If it gets much worse impacts will be severe
- Human activity is the core of the change

So what can we really do locally?

Key impacts of climate change

Implications of the Paris Agreement

There are reasons to be worried

- We need to start large scale reduction NOW but the infrastructure is not yet there
- Rising emissions in many countries
- Huge unmet need for energy services in developing countries
- Many sectors of the economy are difficult sectors to decarbonise, notably aviation, shipping, agriculture, industrial processes such as cement and steel

...but reasons to be optimistic

Change can be rapid.....

What needs to be done in the UK?

Commit to "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, as recommended by the Committee on Climate Change.

Develop a policy framework and action plan to deliver:

- Radical reductions in energy demand
- Rapid decarbonisation of electricity
- Early adoption of electric vehicles and changes to how we travel
- Elimination of fossil fuels in buildings and industry
- Public engagement and behaviour change

And more locally...

- Many Councils have passed 'climate emergency' motions.
- These need to translate into actions but limits to council power and funding issues will impact on what can be done.
- How can the main areas of council activity be developed so as to help make the change?
- Planning and Transport may be obvious but all have carbon costs

So what can we really do locally?

And even more locally...

North Hinksey PC passed a motion to act. We believe that:

- All levels of government have a duty and responsibility to act;
- Local action can make a difference and will be essential;
- While our direct impacts may be limited that is no reason or excuse for inaction on our part.

NHPC has committed to help make our community carbon-neutral by 2030

There's a lot to do:

- Provide information to residents
- Publicise and explain our decision to declare a 'Climate Emergency', and encourage other councils to follow suit.
- Seek to ensure the highest sustainability standards for new developments;
- Develop a climate emergency plan to enable our community to become more resilient

We can't do this alone... we will:

- Work with others to oppose the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway.
- Work with our community and other councils to find the ways in which we can all be most effective.

- Call on UK national government to provide the policies, powers and resources to reduce the nation's emissions *and* enable local communities to accelerate the pace and scale of local action to make the 2030 target possible.

We are a voice in our community...

And a voice for our community

We can:

- Build awareness
- Build engagement
- Encourage action
- Speak up and push for change#

Encouraging local change

Oxford Together on Climate Change – a website set up to encourage personal action

Following the presentation, there was a lot of comments / questions relating to areas raised in Mr Church's presentation.

Q: There are many sporting facilities and a gym in Haddenham but people drive to them rather than walk or cycle.

Q: The Parish Council can't be expected to influence all Parishioners on whether local people are using cars – volunteer groups could help.

A: There are some groups set up within the village which could help. We have an Environment Committee where the public could join specialist working parties and report back

Q: Safe Walking & Cycling Group (SW&CG) has worked in the past with Haddenham in Transition Group and used thermal imaging equipment to check how insulated local properties are. The group has been less active of late due to members being involved in other activities. The Parish Council has the influence to get these projects moving again and we would welcome the Parish Council passing a motion on a Climate Change / Emergency in Haddenham.

A: Friends of Earth can help with Climate Emergency too.

Q: As a previous member of Haddenham in Transition I would be keen to get this group up and running again and work with the Parish Council to improve the village's Carbon Footprint.

Q: There is a Friends of the Earth meeting on 5th June.

Q: Comments were raised about the ongoing issues of parking on the school run and more children should be encouraged to walk or cycle.

A: A representative from the school confirmed that it has had a robust school travel plan for about 16 years and efforts are made to encourage walking and cycling. The car parking issue is partly caused by as many as a third of pupils coming from outside the village.

Q: SWCG would like to encourage more safe cycling to school, and acknowledges the bus service is quite limited.

Q: District Councillor confirmed that within the first years of the local plan of the Aylesbury Green Town is to provide safe cycling routes to the parishes.

Q: Parishes need to push safe cycling and walking routes from the new houses. 20mph speed limit in the village would make it more safe.

The Chairman gave examples of climate emergency work the Council already are doing:

- Solar panel water bore hole in the allotments
- New Pavilion at the Airfield will have solar panels and a sedum roof

It was also stressed that all ecological process should be properly monitored and evaluated.

The Parish Council will hold a special meeting to discuss a climate emergency within Haddenham and will work with interested parties.

5. Open Forum

Registered electors of the parish were given the opportunity to raise issues.

Q: Do we have the power to insist all new buildings should be carbon neutral?

A: No – There are some building regulations but no obligation on house builders and they are usually expensive to do.

Q: Can the Council change all street lights to LED.

A: Yes, there is an ongoing program to do this.

Q: Commercial properties all to have solar panels?

A: The Council doesn't have the resources but can help with reports to make organisations think about their carbon footprint.

Q: Cycleway on A418 Scotsgrove there is an issue with the crossing before Mill Lane towards Haddenham.

Q: Glad the new website has been launched. Will there be a paper newsletter?

A: Some paper copies of the newsletter will be sent but the idea is to be an mainly an electronic newsletter.

Q: Arriva 280 Bus – about half the services now terminate at the station so residents have to walk to the station to be sure to catch the bus.

A: Aylesbury Vale Transport User Group will raise the problem at their next meeting on 18th June. Arriva are invited to these meeting but don't always turn up. The routing is a desk top exercise carried out miles away by someone who doesn't know the area. Unfortunately, local people have little input.

Q. Thanks were expressed to the Councillors and Staff for all their work during the year.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm

Signed: _____
David Truesdale, Chair

8th April 2021