



# HADDENHAM Parish Council

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Clerk to the Parish Council: Ms Sue Gilbert

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 7.00pm

Held remotely via zoom

### Present:

Parish Cllrs: Mrs. Aston, Mr Brown, Mr. Hoare, Mr. O'Hanlon, Mr. O'Loughlin, Ms. Poole,  
Mr. Sharp, Mr. Thawley, Mr. Truesdale (Chair), Mr. Wheeler, and Mr. Young.

Bucks Cllr: Mrs Brandis

Clerk: Mrs. Gilbert

Deputy Clerk: Mrs. Marsden

Assistant Clerk: Ms. Griffiths

Facilities Manager: Ms Allman

17 members of the public

1. No apologies for absence were received.
2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were AGREED as a true record and signed.
3. Mr Truesdale presented a resume of the Council years 2019/20 and 2020/2021.

A look back at 2019 & 2020; and forward to 2021 & beyond

Our Business Plan Objectives were:

- To manage (as far as we can) the impact of substantial growth: Haddenham has been designated a "strategic settlement" with plans for 50% growth, equivalent to 1000 new homes and c.2500 people. On completion, Haddenham will have a population of around 7000.
- Managing our assets (grounds & facilities) and environment
- Electing a new Parish Council in May 2020 and getting "match-fit" for the new Unitary era after the merging of Buckinghamshire County Council with the 4 four District Councils: Aylesbury Vale, Chiltern, Wycombe and South Bucks to form one higher level council: Buckinghamshire Council (BC).

How we did: Impact of Growth

- Transfer of new assets: The Parish Council has taken on the open spaces at the Airfield; the transfer of open spaces at Dollicott is imminent; and is progressing at the Aston Road site with the legal agreement having been drafted.
- Funding is in place for Haddenham Streetscape project as per the Neighbourhood Plan (NP).
- Funding for commuter parking phase 2 feasibility will be via S106 developer contributions as the Land West of Churchway site progresses.
- Mr Truesdale has agreed to Chair Haddenham-Waddesdon Community Board Sub Group to push for the Thame-Haddenham-Aylesbury cycleway.
- Speed limit changes have been implemented at Dollicott (20mph), Scotsgrove (40mph) & Stanbridge Rd (the 30mph has been extended to beyond the garden centre).
- Buckinghamshire Council is starting work on a new Draft Local Plan for the entire county. The Cambridge- Milton Keynes - Oxford expressway has been cancelled but a new homes strategy is promised. The residual role for Neighbourhood Plans in a government white paper up-ends planning.
- It was business as usual for planning applications in volume and challenge (major applications include Green Dragon and Land West of Churchway); and the developers are still out there....

#### How we did: Managing our Assets

- A business plan, budget & reserves are in place to meet our short and longer term obligations managing our grounds & facilities
- The grounds maintenance contract is currently going through the re-tendering process.
- The Village Hall: new legal relationships are being drawn up between the Village Hall Management Committee, the Parish Council and Banks Park Recreation Ground Charity; a joint project group is in place as well as funding; the day centre lease has been surrendered from Buckinghamshire Council and a thorough internal refurbishment has been completed, including a new flat roof; the large hall will be the next project.
- Climate emergency projects have been identified and presentations made to several community groups around the village.
- We have been working with ReLeaf and have taken a more ecological approach to verge cutting.
- We have continued to manage and invest in playground equipment, which experiences high levels of wear and tear: The new playground at Sheerstock was well received, the Woodways refurbishment will go ahead soon.
- We negotiated a new permissive path agreement with Manor Farm plus new signage. Thank you to the Bucknell Family for permitting the use of their land.

#### How we did: Match-fit PC and Covid Intervention

- Local Elections were delayed to May 2021; All meetings have been held remotely since April 2020; with the office closed to visitors in line with Covid-19 restrictions.
- Buckinghamshire Council was created in April 20 but was immediately diverted by Covid; there was a delayed start for the Community Boards but Mr Truesdale has now attended 4 meetings.

- The Council issued briefings on accessing local services; set up registers of need, co-ordinated volunteers, created a dedicated phone help-line; and set-up Haddenham Hamper, a central website for local shops.
- The Fish scheme extended help to include pharmacy deliveries and lifts to vaccination appointments and the Rotary Club took charge of vaccine parking coordination at the Pharmacy. We would like to say a big thank you to Alison Green, Jean Watts, and Martin Andrew, and to the help-line volunteers for their invaluable assistance.
- The Parish Council gave advice, drafted risk assessments and had difficult decisions about Parish land including: playgrounds, Orchard, annual fair, Remembrance Sunday.
- While Buckinghamshire Council diverted our attention with an “Emergency Active Travel” pop-up cycleway and 20mph on Thame Rd....

#### Looking Forward: 2021 and Beyond

- Village Hall Development: options for large hall (as per the NP project)
- Funding is in place for the “Streetscape” project (NP)
- Options for the Woodways pavilion (NP)
- Land transfers at Dollicott & Aston Road
- Building the Tibbs Rd (airfield) pavilion
- Planning the burial & cricket grounds at Aston Road
- Responding to BC Local Plan and National Infrastructure Commission priorities
- Thame-Aylesbury “greenway”?
- Asset management plans: taking stock of what, where, condition, annual maintenance, investment needs and how best delivered
- Going for Local Council Quality Award accreditation
- Supporting volunteers at Snakemoor, Orchard, Allotments
- Premises management (Village Hall, Woodways)
- Climate Emergency projects
- St Mary’s Churchyard restoration
- May Elections: new Parish Council (uncontested) and Bucks Councillors (voting on 6<sup>th</sup> May)
- Active role with Bucks Council
- Support to Charities (Banks Park RGC, Educational, Parochial, HYCC legacy youth work)
- Update to the Village Guide

The staff were thanked for their work over the last year.

Robyn Thorogood was also thanked for all his hard work as the former Volunteer Manager at Snakemoor for many years.

4. Farewell and thank you was expressed to the Councillors who have stepped down in the past year and those not standing for re-election.

David Lyons joined the Parish Council in May 2011 and stood down last year. He is also standing down from Bucks Council this month. David’s particular legacy to the Council will be addressing climate change.

John O'Loughlin joined the council in Dec 2017 and will not be re-joining us after May.

Chris Young joined the Parish Council in May 2004. For much of his term in office Chris has chaired the Environment Committee. Chris has also been a mainstay of the Beer Festival Committee, which besides becoming a village fixture, is an invaluable source for community fund-raising.

Margaret Aston joined the Council back in 1976 and during her 41 years' service chaired the Council from 1993 to 2000, and again from 2007 to 2017. Margaret also served as our local Councillor on Buckinghamshire County Council from 1993 until 2017. Within Haddenham, Margaret has served as Chair of Governors at Haddenham Community Jnr School, was a founding member of the Abbeyfield House, and on the Youth & Community Centre Committee. More recently Margaret took on the Village Hall Management Committee, and will continue to be involved with that.

We also say farewell to Judy Brandis who is standing down from Bucks Council, having stayed on for an extra year after the end of AVDC where she was one of our 3 Councillors. Judy has always been prepared to take up issues of concern to the Parish Council with the local authority, for which we are very grateful.

Welcome to new Councillor Alan Thawley who joined in 2020, after David Lyons stepped down. Welcome also to Heather-Joy Garrett, Nick Kidby and Greg Smith who will be joining the Council on 7 May 2021, following the uncontested election.

5. Presentations from local community groups

**Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group Presentation – A Walking and Cycling Village**

Slides were presented on the following topics:

How safe are pedestrians and cyclists within the village?

Speed Limits – 20mph everywhere

Outside the village – Bucks Greenways: A new plan

Thame – Haddenham Route

Haddenham – Aylesbury Route

Next Step: Streetscapes

For further details, see Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group's report in the [Annual Parish Meeting 2021 Reports](#).

**Allotments Presentation**

Slides were presented on the following topics:

The waiting list and the creation of new plots

Monthly Inspections

Bore Hole / Water

Hedges

Shredding

Grow to Give

For further details, see the Allotments report in the [Annual Parish Meeting 2021 Reports](#).

**6. Open forum - registered electors of the parish were given the opportunity to raise issues.**

Q: Will the Parish Council contribute to the residents' project to restore the Duck House at Church End?

A: The Parish Council considered this at a recent meeting and agreed not to restore the Duck House.

Q: What does the streetscape project involve? Does it include the mapping of footpaths and cycle paths throughout the village?

A: The project does not include mapping but will take a look at the traffic impact of growth and movement within the village, as well as how design can be used to influence behaviour.

Q: How do we see the future role of the Parish Council in influencing large scale development within the village?

A: The Parish Council has very little say on housing numbers. Buckinghamshire Council itself receives the numbers from higher up but has a say over where developments take place. Buckinghamshire Council has said that it wishes to work closely with town and parish councils going forward, but it remains to be seen how much weight will be given to local views.

Q: Is it possible to formalise the round Haddenham path?

A: It is understood that a Haddenham resident is trying to complete a circular route and is currently in talks with the landowners concerned.

Q: Should the Council look at making a wider footpath on the northern side of Thame Road with a two-way cycle path?

A: The streetscape project will look at and evaluate options for Thame Road.

Q: Does the Parish Council have information on which footpaths permit cyclists?

A: It is not permitted for cyclists or horses to use footpaths but they are permitted on bridleways.

Mrs Aston explained that she has enjoyed every minute of being on the Parish Council over the years and wishes the Council well. She hopes that Buckinghamshire Council will work closely with town and parish councils going forward.

Mrs Brandis thanked Mr Truesdale and explained that she had enjoyed her time working with the Parish Council and will be keeping an eye on the village.

Mr Truesdale urged people to read through the detailed [reports prepared for the meeting](#) (available online), as they contain lots of interesting information. Reports were received from:  
The Financial and General Purposes Committee  
The Planning Committee  
The Environment Committee  
Townsend Community Orchard  
The Allotments  
Snakemoor Nature Reserve

Releaf  
Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group  
Banks Park Recreation Ground Charity  
Haddenham Educational Charity  
Haddenham Parochial Charities  
Thames Valley Police

The meeting closed at 20:09

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ DRAFT \_\_\_\_\_  
David Truesdale, Chair

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