



HADDENHAM Parish Council

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Clerk to the Parish Council: Ms Sue Gilbert

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Friday 11th May 2018, 7.00pm

Haddenham Village Hall

Present:

Parish Cllrs: Mrs. Aston, Mrs. Bedding, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Truesdale (Chair) and Mr. Young
County Cllr Mr. Harriss
District Cllrs: Mrs. Brandis and Mr. Foster
PCSO Sue Jones
Clerk Mrs. Gilbert
Assistant Clerk: Mrs. Allman
50 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

1. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Mr. O'Hanlon, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Wheeler,
2. It was Proposed , Seconded and AGREED that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th May 2017 were a true record and they were signed.
3. Mr Truesdale presented a resume of the Council year 2017/18

Higher Tier Councils

- 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 the have been massive budget cut-backs and withdrawal of rate support grant.
- One counter to these pressures is the decision to form a Unitary Council for Buckinghamshire. There are two options for this, a single unitary authority covering the whole of Bucks, or two unitaries, one north and one south. The Parish Council has not taken a view on which would be the preferred option but sees the integration of services as a good thing. The result will be an entirely new authority.
- For the Parish Council there is the prospect of further devolution of services, in addition to the current agreement, for example tree work or minor pothole repairs.

Growth

- 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.

Business management

- The Parish Council is getting business fit, for whatever comes next with more devolution and growth, it is moving rapidly from the 19th to the 21st century. This includes:
 - ✓ Annual cycle of business planning & budgeting
 - ✓ New accounting system
 - ✓ Section 106 – planning with AVDC for recreation & leisure
 - ✓ VAT advice and maximisation
 - ✓ Building reserves – previously none and aging assets
 - ✓ Reviewing policies & procedures
 - ✓ Keeping up with best practice

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 Banks Park and Sheerstock
- New grounds maintenance contract
- 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 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 are under review, with a new electronic newsletter; new web-site; and publication of a village guide. Social media needs better monitoring and responses but this is impossible to do with current resources, and additional staff will be needed.

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

- This is a time of huge change for Haddenham. What comes first? Where does the Neighbourhood Plan fit in? How to you plan for development that makes for a nice place to live in? Transport and the way people move around is of particular concern, how can we encourage better movement around the village?

The PC has had a couple of thoughts and plans to undertake two pieces of work:

1) A traffic impact study – not one with volumes of highway statistics but one that looks at the fabric of the village and comes up with ideas to keep things civilised and minimise impact. This requires a specialist and we have a recommendation to contact.

2) A Conservation Area Management Plan – AVDC did a review and intended to follow that up with a management plan, which was drafted and never followed up. AVDC have expressed interest in this.

These could be part of a neighbourhood plan. Neil Homer (who has worked with several local parishes on the neighbourhood plans) will be hosting a workshop for Aylesbury Vale parishes soon which Mr. Truesdale will attend, so some helpful advice should come out of that.

- Thank you for the update, there is a lot of respect for the volunteers who are driving this forward. What work well for the neighbourhood plan was the consultation with the village, so in the spirit of the neighbourhood plan please continue to consult with the village, which could also be a means of bringing in more talent.

The quarterly version of the village newsletter is too big a gap between issues, things are out of date and duplicated with news on Haddenham.net. The newsletter will be more focussed on what the Parish Council is doing. The new newsletter will be monthly in electronic format with some hard copies available at distribution points.

- The village newsletter was valued by many people.

- District Cllr Mr Foster – Haddenham is still very open to opportunistic development, what is the timescale for reinstating Chapter 6 (Housing). Waiting for the other decisions will make us vulnerable.

During the drafting of the last neighbourhood plan it must have become obvious to AVDC that the number of houses was wrong, and if that had been shared with HPC the numbers could have been increased, which would have avoided the judicial review. We may be undermined again by government agencies, which would be a waste of £10k. The NP would not guarantee that there would be no development, the Secretary of State could determine that the growth is sustainable. The best protection against further development is an adopted Local District Plan and a 5-year housing land supply, not a neighbourhood plan. Fortunately, AVDC does now have a 5-year housing land supply, although this will be contested at the VALP inspection by developers who will say the housing land supply is under egged.

- The clearance of Green Lane has destroyed beauty spot which has been a much loved walk for over 50 years. The Safe Walking and Cycling Group (SWCG) has misled the Parish Council and residents and persuaded the PC to apply for funding for the scheme. The work carried out is different to the feasibility study which recommended an aggregate surface. The number emails in support has been mentioned but they do not all mention Green Lane. The funding was reduced from £150k to £101K due to a reduction in the scheme. Aggregate was replaced with tarmac; the crossings at both ends were lost; the section from Green Lane to Dinton Castle was lost. The changes were significant and the PC should have seen the revised specification. People were not told about a number of the features. The cycle path is 2.5m wide but the additional 2m clearance on either side was overlooked. We were told it was not necessary to clear the full width of the lane, or about the change to tarmac. The Safe Walking and Cycling Group has misrepresented this to the Parish Council and the village.
- SWCG – it's not true that the application was made for aggregate, it was for tarmac. Sustrans prefer tarmac to gravel as there are fewer maintenance issues. The width of the path was reduced to allow space at the side for horses. Horse would kick up a gravel path which would then require repair. The path width is 2.2m wide to allow for equipment to access the path. The clearing was planned to go to the edge of the ditches, but at an inspection in January before work started, when there had been a lot of rain, it could be seen that the ditches could not deal with the water and it would flood across the bridleway. The only thing that could be done was to clear the ditches to get the water flowing away, which was done and is working. The Lane will be restored to become a linear nature reserve, and we apologise for the current state which is due to the very wet winter. We are waiting for it to dry enough to clear up. Many people are now walking along it and are pleased with the improvement, children walk to school from Dinton. This early interest indicates it will be well used and a great success.
- Mrs Aston reported there have been changes to the Village Hall Committee. Sue Parkinson has stepped down and was thanked for her work over many years. There is a new committee, and Mrs Aston is acting Chair. There is a new administrator who will set up an online booking system, as the village hall moves into the 21st Century.
- Is there not an obligation to provide car parking with the expansion of St. Mary's school?
There is no obligation, despite requests, to provide for parent parking. We have had informal discussions about the PC leasing some of the land adjacent to St. Mary's school to relieve parent parking around Church End, it could also be used for Church services, and as an overflow for the new sports facilities and burial ground on the Glebe. The Church has helped with monitoring parking on the village green which has reduced.
- Mrs Brandis – The neighbourhood plan is the only plan that a planning inspector looks at. Last time AVDC didn't have a 5-year housing land supply. The village boundary needs to be set, please do it.
- The Wychert Way includes a number of new walking routes, including a loop around Dinton. Kissing Gates have been installed and permissive paths arranged. These are used by many villagers (Including the gentleman who opposes the Green Lane project) and has been achieved by the SWCG.
- In the recent local plan, a pre-school was identified as necessary in response to the development. Infant and Junior school places have been increased. Is there any chance of getting a secondary school in Haddenham?
The catchment for a senior school would be at least 8,000 residents, which Haddenham is creeping towards, but is not there, so it's not in the plan. There will be a day nursery on the

Airfield site, and an application will soon be submitted.

- Is there likely to be an expansion of the doctors surgery?
We assume not as the current building is under occupied, so physical space is not needed, but the practice may need additional staff.
- What are the plans for the village hall in the wider context? A large amount of S106 funding is being spent on sports facilities.
A large sum of money has been included in the S106 projects for the village hall, and there are other sources of funding for village halls. The PC and SCMC have commissioned a survey of the complex and will then carry out a feasibility study and come up with options for renovation / rebuild. The intention is to come forward with plans to improve the building.
- Mr. Foster – There is a possibility with the new unitary authority to devolve more to parishes. This has been an aspiration for a while, and the County Council has indicated that more could be devolved. Conservation Area Management could be one of those things that the parish could do. This parish could effectively take on new powers.

Mr Truesdale thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, and especially thanked those who regularly attend Parish Council meetings. Thanks to Val and Trevor Walker for arranging the loan of the PA system and managing it. He also thanked Sue Gilbert, Jane Allman and the Parish Councillors for their work during the year.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

Signed: _____
Chair

24th May 2019