



Parish Council Office, Banks Park, Banks Road, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire HP17 8EE
Phone: 01844 292411 Email: clerk@haddenham-bucks-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to the Parish Council: Ms Sue Gilbert

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 19th March 2026, 7.00pm
Haddenham Airfield Pavilion

Present:

Deputy Clerk: Ms. Marsden
Facilities Manager: Mr. Final
Committee and Communications Officer: Mr. Fox
100+ members of the public

Exhibitors:

Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling Group
Zero Carbon Haddenham
reLEAF
Speedwatch Group
Haddenham and District Rotary Group
Community Vehicle
Greencore Homes
Rose & Thistle Pub
Jake Collinge Planning Consultancy

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from [].

2. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2025 were a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

3. Presentation from Cllr David Truesdale MBE – Chair of the Parish Council: A Year in the Life of the Parish Council

Cllr. Truesdale begun his presentation with “So What is a Parish Council?”, giving an overview of the history and the roles that a Parish Council has. Within the introductory slide, Cllr. Truesdale also highlighted Haddenham Parish Council’s scope within Buckinghamshire, being 1 of 171 Parish Councils in the county that has 11 independently elected, unpaid voluntary staff.

The following slide, titled “What Does the PC Actually Do?” listed 8 primary roles of Haddenham Parish Council, these being: 1. We provide & maintain a range of facilities, buildings & services backed up by an asset management plan and long-term reserves. 2. We undertake projects. 3. We are a statutory consultee for town planning. 4. We have “general

power of competence” for “well-being”. 5. We manage 2 local charities and support 3 parochial charities. 6. We rely on the help of many wonderful volunteers. 7. Business management: 5-year business plan, action plan & budget. 8. We are not responsible for: highways, potholes, parking, planning decisions, schools, policing, managing peoples’ children or pets.

Subsequently, Cllr. Truesdale presented some of the current projects that Haddenham Parish Council are undertaking. These included: Settling in and equipping our grounds & assets team; “Future Haddenham” & LP4B response; Extending Banks Cottage for the Dentist; Cricket pavilion tender and build; Burial ground layout, management and resourcing; Village hall refurbishment; “Streetscape” outcome: Thame Rd crossing by the station; Flood resilience; Church End pond borehole; Haddenham Foodsavers & Warmer Homes Assessments; Local Plan for Bucks.

Cllr. Truesdale brought attention to the contribution of volunteers to the Parish Council’s work and projects, highlighting the strength of community action within Haddenham. Some of these volunteers include: the Allotments, Community Orchard, Community Speedwatch, Haddenham Safe Walking and Cycling, Litter Pickers, ReLEAF, Snakemoor, Sports Clubs and The Whistler, Trustees of three Parochial Charities, Youth Club, and Zero Carbon Haddenham.

Penultimately, Cllr. Truesdale exemplified some of the light-hearted work that he gets to do as Chair of the Parish Council. A favourite being the time that he buried the 2025 Haddenham Village Guide during a time capsule initiative at Haddenham Park Care Home with Haddenham Junior School.

Finally, the presentation transcended the role that a Parish Council has on planning applications, that being one of a statutory consultee: an organisation or body that is consulted on certain types of planning applications so that its specialist expertise can inform the decision-making process of the application. Within the last year, Haddenham Parish Council gave consultee comments on 71 planning applications, which included the Churchway (Redrow) application of 273 homes, Churchway (Greencore) application of 89 homes, Lower Road (Rectory) application of 86 homes, the land at Station Road of 192 homes, and the Airfield (north) application of around 700 homes plus a primary school.

4. Presentation from Neil Homer – Managing Director at ONH: Planning for Good: Haddenham’s Future – Who Decides and How?

The presentation began with an “Introduction to ONH Planning for Good”, where Neil Homer described the company as a small, multi-disciplinary group made up of multiple RTPI chartered planners, architects, and urban designers that have supported over 250 planning projects for local councils across 65 local planning authority areas. He highlighted that ONH have worked with Haddenham Parish Council since 2014, including work on the ‘Future Haddenham’ initiative that took place last year.

The presentation then went on to describe the complexities that take place when implementing a Local Plan – the primary document in which a council sets out its long-term strategy for land use, development, and infrastructure across its area. He highlighted that Haddenham Parish Council has a vital role to play within the process as a voice to represent the community’s views and feed local priorities into the plan during consultation.

After, Neil Homer presented what the current Local Plan for Buckinghamshire drafted for Haddenham. This includes: 7350 new homes (3,500 by 2045); an increase in population from 7,000 to 22,000 by 2050+; 300 new early years places; 300 new primary school places; 360 secondary school places; 9 additional GPs; new 'local centres'; 40 Ha sport and recreation land; more rail and bus services.

Neil Homer then presented the challenges that would arise with implementing these changes. Namely: switching the new area with the old so everyone benefits; reducing car dependency; delivering a variety of home types and tenures to suit all households; managing inevitable change in village character and identity; minimising disruption to day-to-day life. In essence, there needs to be a strong masterplan to ensure that the changes in housing and infrastructure are timely and coordinated – this will help avoid placing the problem on someone else's shoulders.

To finish off his presentation, Neil Homer highlighted the importance of the 'Future Haddenham' exercise as a method of continuing to engage with the Local Plan, commenting on major planning applications while the Local Plan is in the process of being written, engaging the community in master planning the future of the village, or as a method of encouraging Buckinghamshire Council to back off from allocating land in the Local Plan and instead use a new Supplementary Plan to buy everyone time to get this change right, including developers with fear of missing out reluctance.

5. Open Forum for parishioners

The Chair and Neil Homer opened the meeting for questions from residents.

Q: A resident asked what the Parish Council has done in relation to developing infrastructure.

A: The Chair reported that as a method of understanding residents views on future growth and how it may impact local facilities, the Parish Council undertook its 'Future Haddenham' exercise. This exercise involved gathering residents opinions on scenario planning – a method of looking at the different ways Haddenham could evolve and what infrastructure would be needed. By gathering these opinions, the Parish Council have been able to provide a richer understanding of what infrastructure is desired while in discussion with relevant authorities.

Q: A resident raised concerns that the sewage in Haddenham is already overloaded, and with more development on the way it feels unlikely that it will be resolved.

A: The Chair agreed with the comments made by the resident and confirmed that within meetings and while making consultee comments on housing developments, the Parish Council has argued that sewage is already at capacity. Neil Homer confirmed that the same issue was occurring with waterworks and that housing developers are happy with being sub-optimal. A resident highlighted that sewage discharge is visible online, with Haddenham having 600 hours of continuous discharge.

Q: A resident asked whether there was the potential for further commercial spaces after development.

A: The Chair confirmed that the request for potential commercial spaces has been received equally receptively and unreceptively by housing developers. The Chair then highlighted the importance of a Neighbourhood Plan in guiding the direction of further commercial spaces as

the community-led document allows residents to influence where new homes, shops, and offices go, directly impacting planning decisions once adopted.

Q: A resident queried into Neil Homer's repeated phrase used within his presentation, 'someone else's problem', and questioned whether the money for infrastructure actually existed anywhere.

A: Cllr. Maru Mormina (Green Party, Buckinghamshire Council) stated that financing infrastructure is a big challenge. While S106 money can help deliver new infrastructure by giving funding that directly supports schools, transport, green spaces and other community priorities, it is a bad moral for providing infrastructure funds. Neil Homer then raised the proposition that multiple developers could come together to work a better masterplan out but this is unlikely.

With there being no further questions and all the business transacted, the Chair closed the meeting at 20:52.

Signed: _____ DRAFT _____
Cllr David Truesdale, Chair