HADDENHAM
Parish Council

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Facilities Committee Meeting
Facilities Manager's Report
Monday 9th November 2026

FA27 20 ONGOING PROJECT UPDATES

(i) **New Sports Pitch Specialist**

We have employed a new sports pitch specialist. A big welcome to Adrian Small. Adrian joins us with a wealth of knowledge and already has some amazing ideas. We are looking forward to seeing the pitches massively improve over the next few years. We are just having some technical issues with the Football Foundation and the grant for the kit. This will be sorted very soon and we can then start to make a real difference.

(ii) **Aston Road Cricket Ground**

We are still in close contact with Dandara, Agri Power and Haddenham Cricket Club to ensure that the new cricket ground will be fit for play for the 2027 season. The pitch still needs some loving care but this is now happening. The pavilion is coming along nicely and early reports suggest they are on schedule with the programme. The Facilities Manager visits the site weekly with PCMS (project Manager's) for regular updates.

FA27 21 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

(i) As above

(ii) Both Banks and Rudds ponds have had their annual maintenance for the year. The contractor has kept the price at the same for the last three years so we are expecting a slight increase next year. Banks Pond is being overwhelmed with silt and mud to the point where we have around 7 to 10 inches of water and around 5 feet of silt.

Serious thought needs to be given to spending vast amounts of money to have this dredged when strictly speaking it's not a Parish Council responsibility.

(iii) We have finally adopted phase 3 of the Dandara Estate. Our team have already been busy there pulling out large amounts of rubbish left behind by the builders including many Heras fence panels and feet. All the wilding has been cut back for the year and we now have a blank canvas to work with next year.

(iv) The grounds team have completed overtime this year at a cost of £5,397.92 this is to cover all the extra works that have been bought in house over the last year. The new Sports Pitch Maintenance Operative and the new machinery purchased for that role will also help to improve the safety and speed of verge cutting which required overtime this year.

(v) Staffing levels of the grounds maintenance team for 2027/28 are thought to be sufficient with the new operative and machinery.

The recruitment process for a caretaker was unsuccessful, this role is required and a rethink of the working days/ hours for the role will need to be better defined to ensure candidates are able to fit the part-time role in with other commitments.

(vi) To review the purchasing of the following equipment.

1) New strimmer.
   We do have two larger strimmers but we need a smaller one for the more intricate works around the churchyard and playgrounds
   Cost is around £400
2) 20 foot container.
   This will be needed to store new football pitch equipment bought with a 75% grant from football foundation. Probably kept at the new yard on Dandara site. May need planning permission.
   Cost is around £3,000 (plus planning permission if required), total cost for the HPC is £750.
3) Flail attachment for new tractor.
   This will be invaluable to the Parish. This will significant reduce the time needed for roadside verge cutting. This can be quite a dangerous task but a tractor and flail would eliminate this.
   This will also be able to carry out most of our yearly hedge cutting which is around £2000
   Cost is around £7000
4) Backpack sprayers x 2
   One for the sports pitch specialist and one for the grounds team. Two guys will be sent on weed spraying courses.
   Sports pitch would be for a number of different applications where as the grounds team would be for last resort spraying such as wychert walls and old cobble paths.
   Cost around £300 for both
5) Bowser and other watering kit?
   A bowser will be needed for future watering and cleaning works
   Cost around £3000

FA27 22 CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE

(i) The team have been carrying out churchyard maintenance since May, with a lot of positive feedback to the team from those visiting the churchyard.

(ii) We have finally been granted all permissions for the bore hole project at Church End Pond. We first applied for this over a year ago. We are waiting for a date from the bore hole contractor to commence works. The bin store and solar panel will not now be built until late spring due to the weather conditions. The builders are booked in for last week of March (weather Permitting). The price that was accepted may be higher as we are now a year on.
Propose that it is delegated to the Clerk and Facilities Manager to review and approve a reasonable uplift in costs.

(iii) We have received a £2000 location fee for the recent filming at Church End which can be allocated to the bore hole project. An additional £500 is anticipated from Bucks Council as a share of their highway location. This is added to the £1000 grant from HS2 that was received last year.

(iv) **St Mary's Lychgate**

After being let down with the last structural engineer we have now commissioned a replacement. We are hoping to have a full report along with some quotes for the repair of this structure in readiness for the Facilities meeting in February 2027.

(v) The Granite sets around the green were to be installed at the school holidays. Unfortunately this was not possible due to partly the contractor having issues elsewhere and also obtaining the actual setts proved to be somewhat problematic. We are on course with this now and hope to start the work very soon. The contractor knows not to be on site when school drop-off/pick up is happening.

FA27 23 STREETLIGHTS

(i) We have had the Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) back from Eldridge for all of our street lights. This needs to be done every 6 years and there have been some changes to the requirements since the last one was carried out, resulting in a greater number of issues being identified. We are working with Eldridge to for the work to be prioritised and phased over 3 years.
The report has been studied in detail and we have tried to make carrying out this work as financially efficient as possible. There is a small breakdown of costs and how we have arrived at this in the papers.

(ii) Thames Water has been in touch with us regarding a water leak. For this to be repaired we had to remove a street light column. As the column was very old, we took the opportunity to install a new column after the leak was repaired and we are planning to retrieve the reconnection fee from TW.

(iii) We have carried out some emergency work on the column at Bridens Way as a result of the EICR. UK Power Networks were being difficult in that they said the power cable wasn't theirs. We had to dig out and expose the cable to prove it ran back to the column and their supplying cable.
When we dug it out we found it to be very dangerous as it was only buried under 2 inches of soil and tarmac where it should be at least 500mm below ground.
UKPN were called to disconnect and we are now in the process of arranging the reconnection.

FA27 24 PLAY AREAS

Latest playground inspections are with-in the papers. We are already working on some of the higher level issues. As the play areas are now getting older we may need to plan to replace some equipment, particularly at Banks Park which is the oldest.

FA27 25 AIRFIELD PAVILION

We have been approached by a local company to enquire about the possibility of using the foyer as a pop up type coffee stall. The Clerk and Facilities Manager met with the owner and his ideas seemed sensible and trustworthy. We thought a trial opportunity may work for both parties. We will need to consult with the pavilion users and confirm if a change of use planning application may be needed.

FA27 26 POLICIES

We have made a slight change to the memorial bench policy as we feel it is the easiest way to keep up with the rising costs of benches and installation fittings. Rather than state a price we have opted to say

"The Parish council preferred supplier is Sustainable Furniture (01726 884123). Oxford Teak Garden Bench TK2-B-OX, 5ft bench, we will send over a price amounting the most up-to-date RRP on their website, delivery, building, installation and a plaque. This will ensure a good quality, long lasting bench of a uniform size"

FA27 27 THE GROVE

(i) We have been approached by a member of The Village Society to install a plaque commemorating the discovery of an Anglo Saxon Grave found on the site at time of building. The plaque would probably be an engraved stone in the ground, the request is for approval in principle and to cover the cost.

(ii) The information board on the Country Park, inherited from the builders has sadly perished and needs renewing. We are trying to obtain a grant for this from The Rotary. If unsuccessful we will need to replace using the asset repairs budget..

FA27 28 HEDGES

(i) There is a hedge maintenance report from Future Nature with-in the papers.
(ii) hedge planting date.

FA27 30 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

(i) Chairs update
(ii) Draft minutes are with-in the papers
(iii) After enquiring about some work to an ash tree on behalf of neighbouring property Bucks Council has placed a TPO on the tree.

FA27 31 SPORTS FACILITIES COMMITTEE

(I) Chairs update
(II) Draft minutes are with-in the papers
(III) Sports strategy
(IV) The Whistler have asked for the following requests as per the agenda
Installation of disco lights in the function room
Installation of a water fountain outside of the building

FA27 32 COMMUNITY ORCHARD COMMITTEE

(I) A full report is with-in the papers

(II) There are two cypress trees in the orchard that have outgrown their surroundings. The Chairman has asked if we would be happy to remove them. They offer very little in the way ecology and neighbouring properties are being affected by them. Due to the area being in a conservation area all the correct planning applications were followed and the work has been approved by the Arboiculturalist.
A nearby neighbour has expressed his thoughts on why we shouldn't remove them.
A decision is required by the Council on the removal of the trees.

FA27 33 SNAKEMOOR

(i) A report is with-in the papers

(ii) There has been some storm damage at Snakemoor to the large willow tree. We have lost a couple of limbs that have been cleared away and used around the site as chippings and larger pieces as barriers. Ben Towersey has carried out this emergency work which will be funded from the EMR for Tree work.

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