

# Annual Parish Meeting

## Chairman's Report

Good evening and welcome to the annual parish meeting. Thank you all for coming.

I am going to update you on what the council has achieved over the last 12 months:

### 1. Outdoor services

We are responsible for cutting grass, verges and hedge trimming on public land. Note that landowners or occupiers are responsible for trimming trees, hedges and shrubs that overhang roads and pavements.

This year we are trialling a biodiversity corridor and you will notice that some verges only get a 1m strip mown. This is to encourage wildlife and wildflowers to thrive and to give them corridors to travel along to link to other areas of biodiversity.

### 2. Summary of planning

There have been 22 planning applications for the village this year. The parish council has supported 9 and objected to 3, with no objections or comments for 10.

- 14 have been approved, or consent granted.
- 3 have been refused.
- 5 are still waiting for decisions to be made.

### 3. Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan that outlines the recommended planning for housing development as well as infrastructure, green space and community facilities for the village. It has to be subjected to an independent review and then a referendum after which it has significant weight when planning decisions are made.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is being developed by our councillors Pat, Graham and Carolyn with tremendous help from Jane Wood and from other community volunteers.

The process is ongoing but was delayed by a considerable amount of time being spent on formulating a Community Right to Bid application in respect of the Scott's Lane fields. We really want to keep this area free of any development as it separates us from Buckingham.

Unfortunately, Bucks council has informed us that our bid was not successful, which we are now reviewing, and we shall see whether anything further can be done.

#### **4. Planning for 170 new houses in Maids Moreton.**

Despite objections from the Parish Council, in February 2019 the Strategic Development Management Committee approved the plans to build 170 houses in the village. This was subject to a S106 Agreement, which never emerged, and in response to pressures from MMFAG and Buckingham Town Council as well as from Warren Whyte and from us, it was returned to the Strategic Sites Committee in November 2020 and was approved by the chairman's casting vote after a 9 to 9 tie.

As a result of widespread negative comments, the committee process was reviewed by an external QC and the application will have to go back to committee for the third time. Before that happens, the site's inclusion in VALP will be reviewed by the Planning Inspector on 15 April. We shall have opportunity to engage in the Inspector's consultation.

The parish council is continuing to object to the plans and is also working closely with the Action Group set up by residents of Foscote and Maids Moreton.

I'm going to hand you over to our planning expert Pat Hardcastle to give you all an update on where we are.

Pat:

1. VALP consultation on final modifications
2. Traffic survey using ATCs
3. Presented case to SSC
4. Support to AG (information, background etc.)
5. Building links with BTC FVM
6. Continuing to fight but also preparing for damage limitation

#### **5. Village Events**

Fireworks	Cancelled last year due to COVID. Planned for this year as usual if regulation allow.
Summer Party	This had a massive vote in the consultancy for the 5 years plan, so it is our ambition to arrange it this year if regulations allow.
Play Around the Parishes	This is a play event held by Bucks county council for school children. It will be held in the Playing field on Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> July.

## **6. Playing Fields**

We have agreed to investigate a dog walking path around the playing fields. This is to support the dog walkers but to make sure that they keep the dogs off the rugby and crickets pitches. It has been proposed that we have a compacted gravel footpath, and this will be discussed at our next meeting.

We have agreed to clear the brambles on the perimeter of the Playing Fields including near the Play Area and we will be looking to plant trees with the Maids Moreton Conservation Group there once cleared. We have negotiated a grant from Buckingham Community Board to fund the clearance work.

We have purchased and installed 2 picnic tables near the eastern boundary of the playing field. There is no bin here, but we would ask that all rubbish be placed in the bins in the play area or taken home with you.

We continue to rent the rugby pitches to Buckingham Rugby Club. They pay for the use of the pitches between July and April each year and put a significant amount of work into maintaining this area of the playing fields.

## **7. Scout Hut and Cricket Pavilion**

We are currently negotiating new legal agreements for the Scout Hut and Cricket Pavilion.

Scout Hut:

We have had meetings with the Scouts regarding the new legal agreement and have asked for their suggestions and recommendations.

We are looking to find a good solicitor who can help us put together the required agreements.

We are looking to arrange repairs and upgrades on the Scout Hut. Our councillor Graham has got us some work quotes which we will discuss at our next meeting.

Cricket Pavilion:

A Childcare company have requested renting the cricket pavilion. This has been agreed in principle by the parish council. They have agreed to improve the condition of the pavilion and are currently in the process of taking stock of what work they need to complete and getting quotes for this work. Once they have this information, we will arrange a meeting with them.

A new agreement has been finalised with Maids Moreton Cricket Club, including a small rent increase to help pay towards the running costs of this building. Once a solicitor has been found, this agreement will be put in place.

Further funds were needed to support the running costs of the Cricket Pavilion and we had 2 interested parties who both put in bids for the use of the pavilion. At a meeting on the 3rd March it was agreed in principle by the parish council to discuss the option presented by

a local childcare provider. They have agreed to improve the condition of the pavilion and are currently in the process of taking stock of what work they need to complete and getting quotes for this work. Once they have this information, we will arrange a meeting with them.

We have had feedback from Thames Valley Police regarding anti-social behaviour at the cricket pavilion. They have put this area as a priority on their patrol plan.

We have discussed possible preventative measures, and they have suggested the following:

- This area is now a high priority for TVP and they will continue to patrol there on a very regular basis.
- They have a dog unit and an undercover patrol who are aware of the issues and will be making regular checks on the area.
- Local residents must not challenge anyone.
- Reports of any issues should be reported on their website to keep this site a live target on their patrol. However non criminal issues (someone just sitting in the porch for example) should not be reported as this dilutes the seriousness of other reports.
- Floodlighting has been seen to encourage groups of youths rather than deter them.
- CCTV is an option, but only if it covers the area they are meeting in, rather the gable ends. There are issues around the use of CCTV in a public place that need to be taken into consideration.

As we need a lot of work to be done here, we are going to set up a MMPC Committee for the management of the Scout Hut and Cricket Pavilion.

## **8. Children's Play Area**

We are looking to seriously enhance the playground in the Playing Fields with new and upgraded play equipment.

We have had an online consultation with residents on what equipment they would like to see. Our previous consultation saw the installation of a new roundabout. and hopefully you will see other play equipment appearing over the next few months.

We will be applying for an FCC Grant, together with help from the Buckingham and Surrounding Villages Community Board to help pay for this equipment. We have put together a Play Area Working Party which will be putting this grant application together, and ultimately deciding on which equipment will be installed. We will keep residents informed when we have more information.

## **9. PC Grants**

We have given 2 grants from the parish council this year:

1. MM Conservation Group - £300 – for maintenance to gravel for paths around the village and funding for the printing of their newsletter.
2. Maids Moreton District Church Council - £150 – for lighting of St Edmunds Church at Christmas.

Should your group be interested in applying for a grant for the coming year, please contact [maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com](mailto:maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com) before November 2021.

## **10. Parish Council Newsletter**

We are now writing and delivering a newsletter every quarter with an aim to provide more news and information and to the village.

## **11. Parish Five Year Plan**

We have put together a 5 year plan for the parish. This has been posted on the Maids Moreton website.

This will be a rolling plan that we will review every year based on the feedback from the village residents.

We have asked for the views of the residents on the plan via an online survey. We have had 60 responses. These will be reported and reviewed at our next meeting and will also be included in the Parish Council Spring newsletter.