

## **SPECIAL QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE EDITION**



# Maids Moreton Parish Council Newsletter



Spring 2022

Website: maids-moreton.co.uk

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## From the Chairman

Hello everybody and welcome to the Parish Council's Spring 2022 newsletter, which I hope you will find interesting and informative.

I became Chairman in 2017 and my plan was to get the council to do things rather than just talk about them. My aim to achieve this was to get the best councillors and Parish Clerk. I put together a parish council 5 year plan to try and get us to do things. My aim was for us to review it annually.

I am very pleased that we now have great councillors and the best Clerk in the world! This means that we get things done.

My chair philosophy was "we need to involve the village" and my aim was to improve our communication to the village and to get more village residents at our meetings. We have improved our website massively and our newsletters are much better. We also have a lot more residents at our meetings now.

As I have been going for 5 years, I think it's time for another Chair now.

We have our annual meetings in April and May this year. In April we will report to the residents what we have achieved along with the community groups. In May we will vote for the new Chair.

I really hope you have enjoyed the parish council and their actions over the last few years.

Very Best Wishes

Mark Byrne, Chairman.

Email: mbyrne@maids-moreton.co.uk

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## 1. Parish Council Meetings

The Parish Council holds meetings every month (apart from August and January) on the first Wednesday of the month. The meetings commence at 7:30pm and are held in the Village Hall. All residents are invited to attend these meeting and the details are emailed (for those on the MMPC contact list) and posted on the Maids Moreton Facebook group. The next meeting is on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in the Village Hall.

Month/Date	Meeting type
Wednesday April 6 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Full Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday April 27 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday May 4 <sup>th</sup> 2022	Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

We have our Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April. The Annual Parish Meeting is a relatively informal meeting where the parish council, Buckinghamshire council and the local community groups report to the village residents on what they have accomplished over the year.

All village residents are very welcome to attend the meetings and bring up any village issues that they would like the council to discuss. If you cannot attend a meeting, then you can contact our Parish Clerk. Also, if you would like to be included in the MMPC contact list, then please email or phone the clerk: maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com

## **Your Parish Councillors**

Mark Byrne (Chairman)

Patrick Hardcastle (Vice Chair)

Ausra Mohandas

Carolyn Cumming

Fiona Powell

**Graham Maw** 

Kenneth McClintock

## 2. Parish Council Actions

In addition to the management of the Village resources, such as grass cutting, litter collection, street lighting, and the maintenance of Village assets, *e.g.*, Playing Fields, Playpark, Scout Hut and Cricket Pavilion; the Council also undertakes other tasks. Since our Winter 2020 Newsletter was issued, we have achieved these actions:

- 1. Events: The Queens Platinum Jubilee we are planning for the event to be held on June 2nd. We have agreed to set up a Beacon on the Playing Fields to celebrate the Jubilee.
- 2. The architect Jonathon Holland presented his proposals for the update of the Playing Fields to our meeting in February. These are detailed on our website and in Item 4 in the newsletter. This is based on funds from planning developments and is only a recommendation. We will be including the village in any final decisions on this.
- 3. We have agreed to investigate an application for the reduction of speed limits to 20mph for Main Street, Church Street, Glebe Terrace, South Hall, Avenue Road and the streets that join these. Effectively, this would be the whole village other than Duck Lake and Towcester Road, where the 30mph limit would remain. If you wish to join the group of volunteers for Community Speed watch, please contact our parish clerk.
- 4. The matter of dog waste is a major issue in the village. At our meeting in February our local Buckinghamshire councillor Howard Mordue agreed to investigate the issue in relation to the support offered by Buckinghamshire Council. He has reported back that dog control, including dog waste, is the responsibility of Buckinghamshire Council and that Maids Moreton Parish Council have no powers to affect this. Should you need to contact the dog warden for any reason please do so by contacting Buckinghamshire Council via their website <a href="https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/dog-fouling">https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/dog-fouling</a>
- 5. We have agreed licences with the Scout Group for the Scout Hut and with the Cricket Club for the Cricket Pavilion. We are hoping to start discussions with DK Childcare, a local childcare company, to grant them a licence to operate in the Cricket Pavilion so fully utilising this village asset.

## 3. Playing Fields Future Plan

Maids Moreton Parish Council have asked Jonathan Holland Architects to conduct an investigation on how best we can utilise the playing fields for the future, and how best to invest any grant monies, or S106 monies that we may be in receipt of due to agreed planning schemes.

The first draft of their proposals can be found on our website. These are not to be considered final in any way, and are not in any way agreed. They are primarily to stimulate discussion within the village and to encourage all residents to have their say on what they would like to see should we receive funding.

We would like to be in a position that if and when we have the opportunity to apply for funding, or are awarded funding through S106 monies, we have a plan already in place that we can use. Often, grants and S106 monies have a time limit and if not used within the time limit they are withdrawn. By having a plan, we can be half way through the process once the opportunity presents itself.

Due to the planning application for 12 houses off Scott Farm Close, we have S106 monies due (once they break ground on the building of the site) of around £57,000. This is almost certain to happen and we need to know what we would like to spend this on before we receive it.

Assuming the 170 houses behind Manor Park will now go ahead, the anticipated S106 monies due would be in the region of (but not guaranteed to be) £500,000. S106 monies must be spent within a defined period, as written in the S106 agreement, and after that any unspent funds will be returned to the developer.

We therefore have a variety of options for the plans. A plan that can be utilised once we get the S106 monies from Scotts Farm Close and a plan that can be utilised if and when we receive S106 monies from the development behind Manor Park. These plans are different as we do not know for certain the outcome of the development behind Manor Park, although it has now been given planning consent. We cannot yet plan with certainty of receiving both these funding streams and combine the funding.

In light of this, we have to plan for £57,000 initially, but have a backup plan for £500,000 and a combined plan for £557,000. None of these plans are final, and indeed our final outcome may be a combination of any of these or something completely different! We will only know what residents would like to see once we have the results of our survey, details of which are below.

#### **Playing Field Survey 2022**

Following on from the publication of the very draft future plans for Maids Moreton Playing Fields and the initial open meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022, we would now ask all residents to fill out a survey on how they use the playing field and what residents of Maids Moreton would like to see there in the future.

For more information on the future plans and a direct link to the survey please visit: https://www.maids-moreton.co.uk/playingfields

We have no preconceived suggestions or plans, we are looking for input from all residents of Maids Morton and users of the playing field.

These plans will then guide the parish council on future spending of any available monies in and around the playing field in future years.

Please go to this link https://forms.office.com/r/sGtRg1pZVD and complete the form by April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Should you wish to expand on any of your answers or if you require a paper copy of the survey, please email:

maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com.

## 4. Planning and Development

There are two large-scale planning applications that will together have major negative impact on the historic and rural environments of Maids Moreton, as well as on the already excessive traffic and speeding issues we face.

#### **Walnut Drive Planning Application for 170 Houses**

Despite a request for a three-member call in of this application, the Council issued a planning consent for it on 24 March. This came rather out of the blue as there had been little new information posted apart from a fifth set of biodiversity metrics, which as previously, do not appear to be either accurate or complete. The S106 Agreement has also been finalised without any further consultation with affected local councils.

#### **Moreton Road 3 Planning Application for 130 Houses**

This application was previously turned down by the Secretary of State but has re-emerged, like the Phoenix. If developed, as recent history suggests is very likely, this site would exacerbate further the traffic levels generated by the Walnut Drive development. The site also contains a substantial area of Grade 2 land. So the loss of green fields would be compounded by the loss of highly productive land.

#### **Public engagement in Buckinghamshire Council Planning**

In the last issue, the Council's Statement of Community Involvement in planning was noted:

The SCI aims to make public & community involvement in planning more transparent, accessible, collaborative, inclusive & consistent.

It is hard to relate this to the way in which the Walnut Drive application has now been determined, which suggests that the SCI is essentially what those in advertising call "puffing" — which is not illegal. Nevertheless, most local councils and communities would perhaps prefer less puffing and more meaningful consultation and visible commitment to the core democratic principles of professional integrity, transparency, and accountability. It is noteworthy, and welcome, that all our ward councillors, and our MP have been strongly vocal in their criticism of the Walnut Drive application and the way it has been handled.

#### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The draft Neighbourhood Plan has now been finalised by Dave Chetwyn, our planning consultant and will shortly be made public. It has been difficult to complete given the 6 years of uncertainty over the Walnut Drive application. The draft plan will then have to go through various checks and approval by a planning inspector but it should shortly start to carry increasing weight in planning decision making.

For the first time in history, Queen Elizabeth is celebrating a Platinum Jubilee and the Parish Council are planning a right royal event on:

WHEN? THURSDAY, JUNE 2<sup>nd</sup> FROM 6.30 PM – 10.00 PM

**WHERE?** Maids Moreton Playing Fields

**WHAT?** Jubilee Party in the Park

**BUNTING** 

Can you get creative and make a piece of bunting using red, white and blue colours? Bunting will be used to decorate the playing fields for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June celebration.

All bunting to be with the clerk by Friday 20th May 2022.

#### PHOTO COMPETITION

We encourage everyone to record the village as it is in this Jubilee year and submit a photograph to the competition. Photographs should be taken in Maids Moreton and be relatively recent, no more than 2 years old as of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. A selection will be on display on the day and will be put up on our website for all to see.

There will be 4 winning photographs, which will be published on the front of future newsletters. Digital format is preferred to maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com with the heading "Photo Competition".

We are also looking for photographs that were taken around the time of the Coronation. Do you have pictures of Maids Moreton dating back to around 1952? We would love to see them – all old photographs will be returned in their original condition.

All photographs to be with the clerk by Friday 20th May 2022.

#### **Events**

#### **BARBECUE**

A variety of BBQ foods will be available from 7pm.

#### **PICNIC**

Bring your own seating (chairs or rugs), utensils and drinks. Food will be available from the BBQ.

#### **STALLS**

There will be stalls from local traders who will be selling their wares. If you would like a stall, please contact maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com.

#### **BEACON**

Especially commissioned to commemorate this historic occasion, a beacon will be lit on the playing fields. Lighting will take place at:

9:45pm - to coincide with the national lighting of beacons throughout the nation.

#### **NO PARKING**

There will be no parking available at the playing fields on June 2nd, however there will be the opportunity to:

drop off items between 6:00pm and 6.30pm and collect items between 10:00pm and 10:30pm.

No Dogs please – except service dogs

Anyone wishing to help out at the BBQ, set up a stall or provide entertainment please contact Jacky Dale-Evans at maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com.



## 5. News from St Edmund's Church

There are services every Sunday at 10.30 am and we also have a modern Prayer and Praise at 6 pm on the fourth Sunday of each month, so 24<sup>th</sup> April, 22<sup>nd</sup> May and 26<sup>th</sup> June. The Easter Sunday service will be at 10:30 am on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

In addition, there will also be the following events at the Church:

#### **Forest Church**

This is for children and their carers to discover God through nature at 4pm on the second Sunday of each month  $-10^{th}$  April,  $8^{th}$  May and  $12^{th}$  June.

#### **Messy Church**

This is craft based with a story for younger children and their families at 4pm on the fourth Saturday of each month  $-23^{rd}$  April,  $28^{th}$  May and  $25^{th}$  June.

#### **Gardening Group**

This meets at 10am to 12 noon on the last Friday of every month, to help tend the churchyard, and with refreshments – 29<sup>th</sup> April, 27<sup>th</sup> May and 24<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **Singing Group**

This will meet fortnightly on Monday mornings starting on 25<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **Community Coffee Mornings**

In the Church every Wednesday 10am to 12 noon, all welcome.

#### For the diary:

There will be a special "Jubilee" service on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June and the annual church summer garden party will be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August.



## 6. News from Maids Moreton CE School

The first half of the Spring term was a busy time at Maids Moreton CE School. With the building expansion completed, our Key Stage 1 children moved into their new classroom and their previous classroom has been set up fully equipped ready for our first Year 5/6 class. Alongside our new library, extended hall and new staffroom, the interior of the school has nearly doubled in size and looks very smart indeed.

Our Reception class had a "roarsome" day out learning about dinosaurs at the Oxford Natural History museum and the whole school took part in activities for Safer Internet Day.





In January, we were contacted by the Maids Moreton charities who kindly made a donation to school to buy something that would be of lasting value. We decided to purchase a silhouette Tommy Figure for our outdoor reflective garden. As a school we always commemorate Remembrance Day by conducting a two minutes' silence at the village Rose Garden as well as learning about the lives of the soldiers from Maids Moreton who fought in the First World War. We therefore thought it would be a fitting tribute to use the money to buy a permanent figure to display in school all year round. I would like to personally thank Kevin Cozens for organising this, and his generous top up to enable us to make this purchase.

In the last few weeks, we held a special Shrove Tuesday pancake brunch. The whole school also marked World Book Day with a range of book related learning activities. We dressed up as story characters to mark the day.



The term will conclude with our annual Easter Service and Easter competition.

Mr David Owen stepped down as our Chair of Governors in February. We thank him for his many years' service to the school. I am delighted to announce that at short notice, our former vice chair, Mr Alistair Brizell, has taken on this leadership position and Mrs Amanda Scott has stepped up to the role of vice chair.

Our school website is updated on a weekly basis. Please visit us at www.maidsmoreton.bucks.sch.uk to catch up with our latest news and events.

Keira Ainsworth

**Head Teacher** 

## 7. News from Maids Moreton WI

Maids Moreton WI meets on the second Wednesday every month (except August) in the Village Hall at 7 30pm.

Our speakers for the next three months are:

**Wednesday 13 April** Chocolate Cookery Demonstration given by James Claydon

**Wednesday 11 May** Liz Stokes giving a talk on Narrow Boats and Canals – the history

and present day.

**Wednesday 8 June** Summer Planting/Containers with Chris Day from Buckingham

**Garden Centre** 

Some members like to attend the Annual Council meetings which are held at the Waterside Theatre in Aylesbury. This year it will be held on Tuesday 17 May and the guest speaker will be Baroness Floella Benjamin DBE. This is an opportunity for our members to meet other WI members from the county.

We are hoping to be a presence at the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the playing fields in June. Details are still in the planning stages.

Visitors to our meetings are very welcome and if you require further information, please contact Val Eves on 812929.



## 8. News from Maids Moreton Conservation Group

Maids Moreton Conservation Group is celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by producing a booklet about the trees in Maids Moreton called 'A Canopy of Green' which is sponsored by Maids Moreton Parish Council and will be delivered free of charge to every house in the civil parish of Maids Moreton.

Look out for our tree walk identifying some of the trees in the village and also from 1pm to 5pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June in the Village Hall, there will be a display commemorating the seven decades of Her Majesty's reign.

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March, we had an early litter pick around the village, including Scotts Lane, the Playing Fields and the upper portion of Mill Lane, from the footpath crossing up to the church. Our thanks to all who volunteered to help. We were surprised that there was somewhat less litter this time than on previous picks and thanks are also extended to those public-spirited members of our community who pick up and dispose of other people's litter – and dog mess!

Despite being less than on previous occasions, it was still a substantial haul.



## 9. News from Maids Moreton and Foscote Action Group

MAIDS MORETON AND FOSCOTE ACTION GROUP

## Easter Egg Hunt



## Good Friday 15 April 2022 2-4pm

Foscote Manor, Foscott, MK18 6AE

The Easter bunny has got herself into a bit of a pickle and trailed rainbow coloured wool all over the bluebell woods

Can you help her sort the wool and find seven different coloured pieces of wool? Exchange the wool for a chocolate Easter egg

£5 per child to include a chocolate Easter Egg

Enjoy a walk through the woods to the lake and you may see newborn lambs.

Tea and Easter cakes available to buy

All proceeds to the MAIDS MORETON AND FOSCOTE ACTION GROUP

## 10 News from Buckingham Rugby Club

After the challenges of the last two seasons we have been delighted to have a full season of Rugby this year, getting the club back to doing what it is there to do as been great. As we approach the end of the season there are a few items to make you aware of;

The main upcoming event is our Beer & Music festival that we will be running again this year on July 8th and 9th after a two year hiatus. We very much hope you will come along and enjoy the festivities. The Beer & Music festival is a crucial fund raising event for the Rugby Club, this enables us to fund our pitch maintenance program throughout the summer. For example in spring this year we will be spending approximately £5,000 on Maids Moreton playing fields to ensure it is in the best possible condition for the summer.

There are still a few games happening before the end of the season, we would always welcome people to come and watch the games and enjoy a drink in the bar, but certainly hope to see you at the festival in July.

Simon Smith

Chair Buckingham RUFC



## 11 News from Maids Moreton Allotment Association

We start with a Coffee Morning on site on Easter Saturday, 16th April 10.30 until noon. This is something different for us and a chance for a good meet up. Let's hope we have some of this lovely weather then but we do have the very useful gazebo kindly donated to us, if chilly and wet and of course 'The Shed'.

Many of you will have heard of our brilliant quiz nights and we will be having one on Saturday 23rd April in the Village Hall at 7 pm. Teams of 4 max. £10 per person. It includes a light supper but please bring your own drinks and glasses.

For tickets please contact Alan Troughton on 07897 212409. It's always a good fun night so why not come along?

On Sunday 22nd May - Rogation Sunday - we will have a short outdoor service conducted by Margaret Culley and then plant an oak tree to commemorate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Hopefully the younger people of the village will see it become as majestic as our Queen. We then aim to have a buffet lunch. Time to be advised in due course. Please contact David or Sheila 812868.

Sometime over the June Special Bank Holiday weekend we may have an informal gettogether depending on what is happening in the village and surrounding area to raise a glass to our Queen. Details will be circulated

Please do come to join us for our famous Annual Sausage Sizzle on Saturday 9th July. Further details will be available nearer to then but make a note in your diaries, now!

Then on Sunday 4th September we are going to have Afternoon Cream Teas at the Allotments! Details nearer to the time.

Our 'social' year ends with the Annual Dinner. This event is a catered for dinner in the Village Hall. It will be on Saturday 1st October. The suspense for the plot-holders will be over when Awards are presented for The Parish Council Best Kept Plots and our own awards for The Best Plots and a few others.

Just in case you wonder, we do grow vegetables too!!

#### **Overhanging vegetation**

As the weather warms up, trees, hedges and other vegetation are starting to grow rapidly, especially the brambles! We would like to remind people that it is the responsibility of the property owner or occupier to keep hedges and trees that are adjacent to roads, pavements and footpaths trimmed. If you have difficulty doing this, please let the parish clerk know and we shall try to assist you if we are able to do so.

Maids Moreton Parish Council would like to thank our community members for their interest in and support of what we do; it is greatly appreciated.

We wish you all a Happy Easter!

Maids Moreton Parish Council Serendipity, Main St Maids Moreton Buckingham MK18 1QS Parish Clerk - Jacky Dale-Evans

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