

MAIDS MORETON PARISH COUNCIL

Spring
March 2016

Your Councillors are;

Cllr Keith Howell

Cllr Jill Farrell

Cllr Clare Krajnyk

Cllr Jon Harvey

Cllr Bonnie Ford

Vacancy

Vacancy

Welcome to the second edition of the Maids Moreton Parish Council Newsletter. The main purpose of any parish council is to represent the views of its parishioners and so consulting with residents to understand your views is one of our top priorities. Our plan is to deliver a newsletter to all parish households, three times a year, to share information about what is happening in the village and to highlight issues that may be of interest to you. If you have any comments on the newsletter, would like to make suggestions about what is included in future editions and/or have suggestions about improving communication between parishioners and the parish council, please contact Ruth Millard, Parish Clerk:

Email: maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com or call 01280 814739.

Parish Council Finances and the Parish Precept

As explained in the first newsletter, the council carries out its responsibilities, such as maintaining street lighting, managing the playing fields, provision of bins and dog poo bins and supporting local groups from the parish precept. This precept has remained virtually unchanged since 2006, yet costs have increased every year since then and, with costs exceeding the amount of income for the last 4 years, reserves are now much lower than is recommended for a council to hold. The Parish Council have therefore reluctantly agreed to increase the precept in the 2016/17 financial year to enable it to rebuild the reserves to a prudent level whilst also carrying out its responsibilities. The effect of this increase is that the precept for a band D property will increase by 48 pence per week. The Parish Council hope that by making this increase it will improve the financial health of the village finances and be able to hold the precept at this level for some years to come.

Parish Council Grants

The Parish Council has allocated £1,000 in the 2016/17 annual budget (starting in April 2016) to provide a small amount of financial support to village groups and local initiatives. For any village groups that are interested, an application form can be found on the Maids Moreton Parish Council website <http://bucksvoice.net/maids-moreton-parish-council>. Copies of the last two financial year's accounts should be provided along with details of what the money would be spent on and how it would benefit residents. The closing date for applications for the 2016/17 financial year is 15th June 2016 and decisions will be made at the July Parish Council meeting. The closing date for the 2017/18 financial year will be 15th October 2016. All applications should be sent to the Parish Clerk at maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com

Village News Update

Here are some of the things that have been happening in the village over the last 6 months:

- The hedges along the road between Southall and the Playing Fields has been cut back
- The road to the cricket pavilion and the car park next to it have been cleared of overgrowth to enable cars to use it again
- A number of street lights have been replaced and we have moved to a new contractor who we feel will be more responsive to our needs than the previous organization
- We have ordered new waste bins for outside the school and on Southall where bins are missing and/or damaged. Once the new financial year starts we will also be replacing the bins in the playground and at a number of other sites in the village where bins are in disrepair.
- Some of the trees along Southall, including a very old and overgrown yew tree have been cut back, clearing the pavement for pedestrians and hopefully giving more light to the houses near the trees
- The Cricket Pavilion has been repaired following some recent vandalism.
- An inspection of the playground was carried out and the rocket had to be removed for safety reasons

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

On Saturday 30th January, the Parish Council held a drop in session at the village hall to discuss with residents whether the village should consider producing a Neighbourhood Development Plan. There are many pros and cons associated with this, the major challenges being the amount of time and resource it would take to put one in place. We were delighted that approximately 45 people dropped in over the afternoon with an almost unanimous view that we should take the first steps to scope this out in more detail. We also had 20 people expressing a willingness to help with the plan, which was great news.

At the Parish Council Meeting on 17th February, it was agreed that we would start to develop a plan for the village. First steps are to arrange a meeting with those who have expressed an interest in helping to develop the plan to explain the next steps and consider training requirements. The Parish Council has started discussions with AVDC and will need to apply for funding and find a suitably qualified consultant to advise us. If you were unable to attend and would like to help, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact the Parish Clerk at maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com to register your interest.



Maids Moreton Parish Council
32 Campbell Close
Linden Village
Buckingham
MK18 7HP

Maids Moreton Village Playground

Some of you may have noticed that the rocket in the children's playground is no longer there. Following a safety inspection arranged by the Parish Council, the rocket was found to be dangerous and has been removed to ensure the safety of children who might use it. The cost of replacing the rocket is beyond the resources of the Parish Council, but there is a chance that it might be able to access funding from an alternative source, if it can demonstrate that there is sufficient demand in the village for a replacement. If you would like to see a new rocket, or any other new pieces of equipment, in the playground, please write to the Parish Clerk at maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com or at 32, Campbell Close, Linden Village, Buckingham, MK18 7HP expressing your views. Thank You.



Maids Moreton Annual Firework Display

The annual firework display was held on November 5th and a good time was had by all. The fireworks cost £854 and this, as in previous years, has come from the parish precept. To offset this cost, £411 was raised at the event, giving a net cost to the village of £443. Special thanks goes to all the volunteers who made the evening go so well.

Thank You

Planning Proposals

Proposals to build houses behind Manor Park

Many of you will be aware that the developer, David Wilson Homes, is looking to obtain outline planning permission to develop homes on the land behind Manor Park. Documents relating to the proposals can be found on the AVDC website under planning reference 16/00151/AOP. The proposal was discussed at the Parish Council Meeting on 2 March and the council unanimously agreed to object to the plans. The deadline for residents to comment on the proposals is 15th March.

Scotts Lane

At the Parish Council meeting on 17th February, the council received a presentation about plans to develop the land either side of Scotts Lane. Villagers also attended and were able to express their views about the plans. The Council will be responding to AVDC after the application has been presented.

**A date for your diary -
Annual Parish Meeting 28th April 2016
in the Village Hall**

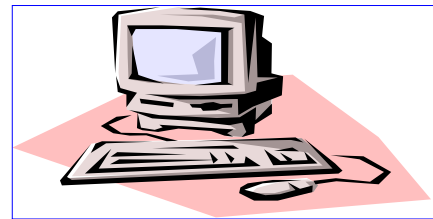
Each year, the Parish Council organises an annual meeting when local groups and residents can come together to find out what has been going on in the village in the last year and talk about plans for the following year.

This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbours and discuss issues that interest and affect us all. Tea and cakes will be provided.

Street Lighting

The Parish Council is responsible for the street lighting in the village. In some of the main areas we may notice that lights have gone out and contact our contractors to fix them, but often we rely on residents to tell us when lights are not working. If you see a light that needs attention, please contact the Parish Clerk explaining the location of the light, (a post code is useful or a house number it is outside of) and what the problem is. A photo of where the light is can also help identify the location. It is our intention to number all the lights in due course to make identification easier. Thank you for your help.

Email: maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com or call 01280 814739



Website

Whilst recognising that not everyone has access to the internet, a parish website is a useful way of sharing information with parishioners. Maids Moreton Parish Council has its own website up and running where you will be able to see the council's policies, agendas and minutes of meetings, budget and accounts, planning applications under consideration and dates of future meetings. The website can be found at <http://bucksvoice.net/maidsmoreton-parish-council> More information will be added to the website on an on going basis.

CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

MAIDS MORETON CONSERVATION GROUP will be holding its annual litter pick in the Queen's 90th birthday year. Please come along to the Playing Fields car park on Saturday 5th March at 1.45pm and bring gloves and bin bags with you. Unaccompanied children will not be able to take part.

Lots of helpers are needed, so please telephone 815314 for further information.

Message from the Maids Moreton Conservation Group

Dog Fouling



It has been noticed by a number of residents that the incidence of dog poo being left along grass verges and pathways in the village is on the increase. The alleyway from Scotts Lane to Main Street is a prime example. We know that the vast majority of dog owners are responsible people who clean up after their dogs, but we would like to respectfully request that the small minority of dog owners who do not currently use the many poo bins located throughout the village start to use them. It is very unpleasant for other residents and is dangerous in areas where children might play. Please help to keep the village a pleasant place for all of us to enjoy. Thank you.

Change to Bin Collection Days

On **Tuesday 5 April**, AVDC is changing the days it collects recycling and waste from households. This change will affect most households throughout the district.

All households will be notified by AVDC directly by letter in late March, before the changes take place, backed up by a publicity campaign in the run up to this. The changes take place after the Easter bank holiday and will not directly affect properties with communal bins, e.g. those living in flats. AVDC will be sending parish councils an A4 poster nearer the time, which will be displayed on the village notice board by the village hall. Residents can find out whether or not they will be affected or not by checking the AVDC website www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/bins The new dates will be posted on the AVDC website from Sunday 3 April.



Aylesbury Vale My Account



www.clipartof.com - 440196

The Aylesbury Vale "My Account" was launched in November 2015. People living and working in the area can now manage their contact with the council online, all in one place. Since launch, the council has had over 6,000 residents and businesses sign up for accounts to manage various services they have with AVDC.

There are two accounts, one for residents and one for businesses. It allows residents to:

- View and pay their council tax online
- Manage personal and contact details held with AVDC
- Apply for garden waste collection, manage garden waste details and order another garden waste bin
- View real time benefit statement information
- Apply for, or renew a Taxi Driver's license
- Talk to an AVDC member of staff via a new web chat service

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

The Parish Council's function is to help manage the village and support the general welfare of the community. The Parish Council is made up of 7 elected members plus the Parish Clerk and is the first tier of Government. The Parish Clerk is a paid official and deals with the minutes, agenda and correspondence and generally does the Council's legwork. A Parish Councillor is the holder of a public office, not a volunteer.

Currently there are two vacancies on the Council, so if you would be interested in getting involved, either as a member of the council or as part of a working party, please contact the Clerk:

maidsmoretonclerk@gmail.com
or 01280 814739

