

Maids Moreton Parish Council Newsletter



Autumn 2023

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Let's start a conversation.

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1 Parish Council Meetings 2023 / 24

Date	Meeting type
4 October 2023	Parish Council Meeting
1 November 2023	Parish Council Meeting
6 December 2023	Parish Council Meeting
January 2024	No meeting planned
7 February 2024	Parish Council Meeting
6 March 2024	Parish Council Meeting

Your Parish Councillors

Graham Maw (Chair)

Patrick Hardcastle (Vice Chair)

Ausra Mohandas

Carolyn Cumming

Clare Hodgson

John Ingle

Kenneth McClintock

All Parish Councillors' PC emails are: initialsurname@maids-moreton.co.uk

For the diary: MMPC Bonfire Night - Sunday 5 November

We shall be holding our annual Bonfire Night event at the playing field; it falls on a Sunday this year. The fire will be lit at 7pm and fireworks will start at 7.15pm. As usual, no sparklers, please.

We are pleased that the Scouts will be offering their usual catering to support the event.

2 Parish Council Actions

Our biggest project, the new playground, was officially opened by our MP, Greg Smith, on 4 August. The weather decided to stay favourable and the event proved very popular. As far as we can judge, those who sampled and tested the new equipment were very pleased with the renewal. As the free ice creams were provided at the end, we presume that these had no influence on the judgement of the new facilities. We are aware of the damage to the safety bar of the double swing and have requested the suppliers to make it good.

The very substantial work on the Scout Hut required by the flood damage has been completed. We are now awaiting the Section 106 Sport and Leisure contribution from the development behind Scott's Farm Close so that we can make further enhancements to this community building.

In respect of this new housing development, we were invited to suggest a street name. We made several suggestions one of which has been accepted. This is Furl Close. The name "Furl" was used for mediaeval names for several of the fields in which the development will be built and we are pleased that this historic name has been retained. The process is very complicated!

We have also tried to keep up with repairs to streetlights and dog bins. The rusted dog bin opposite the Rose Garden is now replaced and we are checking others. The one on Scott's Lane is rusting and we are trying to fix this. Please do report any failed street lights, or problems with dog and litter bins, and we shall try and deal with these as funds allow.

Most of the wildflower verges have been successful and we will continue to encourage them with careful future management. The crowns of the bird cherry trees on South Hall were cut back, to the great relief of residents but to the dismay of some whose cars were not covered in black mould as a result of aphid honeydew. These trees have to be pollarded on a regular basis and will look less stark next summer.

We were very disappointed that some idiotic miscreants thought it would be clever to take apart one of the picnic tables on the playing field. Fortunately our handyman, Andy Gibbs, has managed to repair this. The new finger post for the bottom of Main St should be ready shortly and will be put up as soon as it is completed.

3 Planning and Development

Neighbourhood Plan

The Independent Examiner, having reviewed our Plan, was complimentary about its quality, clarity and focus. He agreed it met all the legal requirements, subject to some modifications. These were mainly about changing “must” in our policies to “should” – we tried! – and all his recommended changes have been edited into a referendum version. Buckinghamshire Council is now legally responsible for the finalisation. We trust they will agree that the Plan is now complete and organise the referendum on the plan expeditiously. The referendum may be before Christmas or at the latest in January 2024 but the Plan already carries significant planning weight.

Scott’s Lane Fields (23/01306/APP)

The applicant still has to submit outstanding details to support the application. We continue to object to it and were pleased to see the comments from the Heritage Officer, who has drawn attention to the numerous breaches of the requirements laid out in the National Policy Planning Framework.

Walnut Drive – Reserved Matters – (23/02826/ADP)

The applicant, David Wilson Homes, has just submitted a host of revised documentation that we are now in process of assessing. It would have been helpful had they also submitted a commentary noting the changes made. We are in contact with their Community Engagement consultant and will arrange the public event to discuss the plans, that we originally hoped would be in July, in October. We shall put up notices when this is fixed and also email those signed up to our circulars and post a note on our website and on Facebook. We are as frustrated as everyone is else by this delay.

The Secretary of State has called in the **Moreton Rd 3** planning consent for 130 houses. There will be a one-week public hearing in Aylesbury in October. We have lodged an objection with the Inspector but will not attend the hearing.

News from Village and Community Groups

4 News from Maids Moreton CE School

At the end of the Summer term, OFSTED conducted a full inspection of our school. I am delighted to announce that we achieved the “Outstanding” grading in all 5 categories which gives us an Overall Effectiveness rating of “Outstanding”.

To achieve an overall effectiveness grade of Outstanding, schools have to demonstrate that the Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management and Early Years Provision are all “exceptional”. I am thrilled to announce that we have achieved this standard in all areas.

In 2019, OFSTED launched a new Education Inspection Framework, which has considerably raised the bar to achieve the “good” and “outstanding” standards. It is particularly challenging for small schools to demonstrate that they meet the top two standards.

To put this significant achievement in context I would like to share with you the following statistics from the previous academic year-

- Only 15% of primary schools nationally achieved the Outstanding grade.
- Only 4% of schools previously ranked good [like ourselves] were upgraded to Outstanding.
- 84% of previously ranked outstanding schools lost this rating under the new framework.
- 174 small schools nationally had a full section 5 inspection in the previous academic year and none achieved the overall Outstanding rating.
- Since the introduction of the new framework in 2019, only two primary schools in Buckinghamshire [both in the South of the County] have been graded as outstanding. We are the only school, either secondary or primary who has achieved this rating in the Buckingham area.

I am, therefore, delighted that the quality of provision at our school has been recognised in this way and given this quality assurance by OFSTED. From the many positive comments in the report, I have selected the following highlights

“Every pupil is known and valued as an individual here. As a result they flourish in all aspects of their learning.”

“Pupils achieve highly throughout the school. Their journey to success begins in the early years, where teachers make sure that children make the strongest possible start. As a result, children are fully prepared for moving into Key Stage 1. This success is sustained at every stage”.

“The behaviour in lessons and around the school is exemplary”.

“Staff set high expectations for what pupils should achieve and how they should behave.”

“Leaders have designed the curriculum to enable pupils to excel.”

These are just a few of the indicators that show what a special place Maids Moreton CE School is. I am incredibly proud of all the children and staff and it is wonderful to see the achievements and hard work by all involved with the school, being recognised.

In other news, we have had a very busy and productive start to the new school year.

We have a number of enrichment visits planned for our pupils this half term, including a Stone Age visit for our Kestrels class, a Romans visit for our Mapgpies class, a visit to Pregos for our Sparrows class to learn about pizza making, and a visit to Waddesdon Manor for our Robins class.

Our children have also been busily preparing our entry for the village scarecrow competition and preparing for the Harvest festival, to take place at St Edmund's at the start of October.

We also look forward to our Walk to School week.

Our new Reception class has settled into school wonderfully and are enjoying everything that school has to offer. Our first Year 5 children are also enjoying the extra responsibilities this year group brings.



Although the new school year has only just started it is the time of year when parents with pre-school/nursery aged children have to make the important decision about which school will be the most appropriate for their child starting in September 2024. We are offering individual tours as normal, by appointment. To contact the school, please email the office on office@maidsmoreton.bucks.sch.uk or telephone 01280 812058.

Our personalised visits will give prospective parents the opportunity to tour the school and see the classes in action, meet with myself and raise any questions they may have.

We look forward to the term ahead with anticipation and excitement. You can follow all the school's activities and information on our website www.maidsmoreton.bucks.sch.uk

Keira Ainsworth,
Headteacher

5 News from 1st Maids Moreton Scout Group

Since our last report all sections have been very busy, highlight for the Cub section was a visit to the Fire Station where we got to use the hoses and talked about fire safety. The Beaver section went for a walk around the village and cleaned the street signs.

In July the whole group went to The Quarries Camp site Cosgrove for a weekend group camp. We were joined by the local Explorers as several of the Scouts were due to move on in September.

We catered for ourselves (110 people with 19 different dietary requirements and allergies) with a fantastic team of volunteers of Leaders, and parents.

Activities included Archery, Climbing, Rifle shooting, making lanyards and bracelets, rock painting and caving. All those who took part challenged themselves and were very proud of their achievements.

The Scout section gave a great presentation of their Kayak building and inspired the younger sections who asked the Scouts some really searching questions.

Nine Scouts were awarded their Chief Scout Gold awards; 11, Cubs received their Silver award; and 10 Beavers received their Bronze awards.

Since we returned in September the new Squirrel section has started and we have held our AGM. Four of our Leaders received Commendation awards from the County Commissioner for services to Scouting but all the Leaders in Maids Moreton are committed to ensuring the young people have the opportunity to access Scouting.

Below are a few photos from the Group Camp.



Further information and enquiries about places can be obtained from info@1stmaidsmoretonscouts.co.uk

Claire Groves, Group Scout Leader

6 News from St Edmund's Church

Every week we have our regular 10.30 am *Sunday Service* and our 10am to 12noon *Wednesday Community Coffee* morning.

Messy church will be Saturdays 14 October, 18 November and 16 December, all at 4pm.

Saturday 7 October there will be ***Scarecrows around the village***; this year's theme is ***Pop Idols***.

Sunday 8 October will be our *Harvest Festival Service* at 10.30 am, please bring a donation to the food bank if you are able to do so.

Sunday 29 October at 4pm we will have a *Service of Light* to remember those who have died.

Saturday 25 November we will be having a *Christmas Fete* with tea and cakes.

Sunday 3rd December at 10.30 we will have an *Advent service*, hopefully including a nativity for the children. Please bring along a toy or donation to the food bank if you are able.

Sunday 17th December at 4pm there will be a *Christingle Service*

Sunday 24th December there will be a *Crib Service*, a *Traditional Carol Service* and a *Midnight Communion Service*.

For more information, or to speak to someone, please ring the church office 01280 814430 or check the website www.nbpchurches.org.uk

Everyone is welcome!

7 News from Maids Moreton WI

On a glorious afternoon in August members enjoyed an Afternoon Tea in the splendid surroundings of a member's village garden.

At our September Meeting, Andy Tennet gave us an interesting talk on the intriguing life of silent screen actress Virginia Bradford.

In October we will be holding our Annual General Meeting.

One Saturday afternoon in October, members are hoping to enjoy a ramble across the fields to Chackmore.

Also on 7 October, we will be entering our very own scarecrow into the village Scarecrow Day.

In November the speaker for the evening will be Daphne Preece talking about the North Bucks Way.

In December it is party time and we will have an evening of delicious food and entertainment.

Visitors are always welcome at our Meetings on the second Wednesday of every month except August at 7.30pm.

Visitors are most welcome at all our Meetings.



8 News from Maids Moreton Conservation Group

The Conservation Group is holding a Nearly new / Jumble sale in the village hall on 14 October at 2pm; admission is 50p There will be clothes, bric-a-brac, toys, small furniture, raffle and refreshments. Items for donation can be delivered to the village hall from 10am to 12noon on the morning of the sale. We could also collect from you if you ring 01280 815286. Come along and bag a bargain!

On 22 October, we shall have walk to the Osier beds near Chackmore. If you wish to join us, please meet at the Rose Garden in stout footwear at 1.30pm that day.

From January through to the end of March, we shall again be running the Parish Council *Friday Winter Soup Café* from 12 noon to 2pm. All will be welcome to come along for soup, rolls, biscuits and tea or coffee as well as enjoyable company in a warm space. We thank Elmer's Charity for their financial support to this event.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Mick Clements in July at the age of 90 years. He and his late wife, Molly, were a great support to this group and he was a fount of historical knowledge about Maids Moreton having been born in 2 Church Street and brought up in the village.



Stevie Lishman

Chair - Maids Moreton Conservation Group

9 News from Maids Moreton Allotments Association

We had our annual competitions back in August and had some fabulous entries with wonderful vegetable baskets, bakes, vases of three gladiolus and interesting and thoughtful flower arrangements. Thank you to all who took part and/or came to look at the entries in the shed. We are very grateful to Rev. Hans Taling and Margaret Culley for their judging on the day.

Congratulations to the Juniors, too, for your wonderful creations and to those who received their certificates and sweet treats on the day.

We have a soup lunch taking place in “The Shed” on 7 October from noon to 2pm and tickets are almost sold out. If anyone would like to join us, please either book by email to maidsmoreton.allotments@gmail.com or phone/text 07749 879570 as soon as possible. Cost is £6.50 for soup and bread plus a crumble pudding with custard and cream, and, of course, a cuppa. Why not have your lunch with us before looking at the scarecrows around the village and follow that with tea and cake at the Church? We shall be making our annual awards at the lunch, too.

IMPORTANT UPDATE

It is with great delight that we can confirm that the defibrillator has now been installed. It is now live with the ambulance service and ready to be used, if needed.

A massive “thank you” to all who helped and supported the fundraising organised by The Events Team, to Elmer’s charity and to the family of the late Michael Clements. It was an incredible achievement to raise the funds needed for this life saving device in such a short time.



10 News from Buckingham Rugby Union Football Club

Buckingham Rugby Club – October 2023 Update

In our 90th Anniversary Year, the eagerly anticipated new season began on the 2nd September, with a Sponsors' Brunch and a double header featuring both the Ladies' and Men's First XVs. Last season, the Swans Greens (First XV) were promoted back up to Level 2, which is the level below the Premiership. In contrast, our Men's First XV were relegated last season, but have settled into their new league with two convincing home victories and an away draw, so far.

Overall, Buckingham Rugby Club runs a total of 20 teams, ranging from Mini and Junior (M&J) Boys and Girls, Academy Boys and Girls, through to two senior Men's and Ladies teams. It's testament to the success of the Ladies' section in particular, that we need to build two new changing rooms, which we hope will be built and occupied by the end of 2024. Planning is approved and grant funding secured, with additional fundraising being undertaken through regular Music and Comedy Nights, Age Group fundraising, as well as a highly successful Auction of Promises undertaken by celebrity Auctioneer and club member, Charlie Ross on 23rd June.

The 11th Buckingham Beer and Music Festival was held at the club on the 30th June and 1st July with seven fantastic music acts and great choices of food on offer. A total of 50 real ales and 20 ciders all sold out before 9pm on the Saturday evening. It was widely accepted as Buckingham's best Festival so far. Next year's event will be held on the 5th and 6th July 2024 - all Maids Moreton residents will be very welcome. Other upcoming events include the M&J's Festival on 1st October and BRUFC's annual Harper's Charity Day on 30th December.

11 Play Event and Playground Opening – 4 August





**Our new playpark is officially opened by Greg Smith, MP for Buckingham
4 August 2023**

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