

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Drayton Parslow Parish held at Greenacre Hall
on Monday 25th April 2016 at 7:30 p.m.**

Present: Cllr. D. Perry, Chairman
Cllr. M. Thum, Vice-Chairman
Cllr. A. Batley (Arrived late)
Cllr. S. Colborne-Baber
Cllr. H. Harvey
Cllr. P. Moore
Cllr. S. Spavins

Also present: Deborah O'Brien, Minute-taker; County Cllr J. Blake; District Cllr B. Everitt;
PCSO T. Hobson; Mrs W. Preston; Mr R. Wemyss; Mr B. Norman

1. **Receive Apologies:** none
2. **To confirm the minutes** of the last meeting - The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 27th April 2015 were confirmed as a true record.
3. **Chairman Cllr David Perry welcomed those in attendance and gave the following report:**

Given that we have had another serious accident at the crossroads in the last week I feel I should start this report with transport. We continue to report our frustration with the state of the roads around the village and the poor quality and frequency of repairs. This includes filling only the bottom of potholes, even though the entire outline has been marked with white paint. The clerk regularly reports these and we make our concerns clear to our district and county councillors, particularly in light of the increasing volume of traffic through the village. Others may comment on the work done with the mobile VAS, however speeding is still an issue with some drivers simply choosing to ignore the speed limit and the safety of villagers.

Parking around the school continues to be a problem, and appeals to the better nature of teachers who park in front of the school and parents appear to have fallen on deaf ears. We looked into a feasibility study for traffic management, however the costs of the study alone, and the paucity of options did not seem to merit the expenditure.

We are considering, however, conducting a feasibility study on overall traffic management for the village, and given the level of expenditure, we will be soliciting views from the village at an upcoming meeting in May

Many of you will have seen BT OpenReach vehicles in the village. The majority of this activity was related to pulling a fibre trunk cable to the Mursley exchange. In principal this should increase the bandwidth available to the exchange and should reduce the slowdown at peak usage times that broadband users in the village experience. We have also solicited proposals from broadband providers to bring fibre to our village roadside cabinets and to the curbside, and we believe that BT has now pulled fibre to our cabinets. We have no news on whether a service may be offered, but this Fibre to the cabinet capability offers upwards of around 25-30 mbps as a service when it is available.

This has been our first year of devolved services, responsible for our own grass cutting. I hope that everyone feels that this has been worthwhile. It has certainly been easier to achieve without chasing contractors through Bucks who have passed through the village and missed large parts of their cutting commitment. By moving first with the project we have benefited from higher levels of grants and funding and we are indebted to David Lett of Stewkley Enterprise Agency for having the drive to make this happen for us.

It is highly likely that services from Bucks and AVDC will be reduced as they face further government cuts. AVDC is working under the assumption that there will be no central government funding in the future, and Bucks is struggling badly. Authorities have statutory duties in the areas of education, highways and child protection, so a percentage cut to the overall budget becomes a much bigger cut to the discretionary services

that are a fraction of the overall total. An option for the Parish Council is to plan ahead through setting a higher level of precept, we face the dilemma that we see expenditure possibly coming in the future but worry that the government may put a cap on the amount we can increase the precept by, just as they have done with local authorities and the general rates.

As part of our strategy to be more self-reliant, we are looking at the General Power of Competence, which simply stated says that we can do anything that a sensible person would do in regards to caring for the village. We will adopt this once our Clerk achieves CiLCA certification and assuming we meet the qualification criteria as Parish Council at the time

We continue to work on improving the recreational facilities in the village, we will shortly have a contractor come to recondition the MUGA service, and this should serve us until a general replacement in a few years, something we are accruing funds for

We have painted the curb outside the hall with luminous paint to assist people going up to the car park late at night after events in the hall and Sports and Social club but do advise those clubs that they should make provision for torches and other assistance to help. We have decided against Play around the Parishes this year due to the vastly increased costs. We will use the money saved for alternative family activities in the village. We have contributed to a set of mats for the village hall in conjunction with the hall committee and a £900 community chest grant.

We are also supporting a major grant effort to level out the recreation ground to make it safer for Cricket and suitable for a wider range of village and school activities. This will be covered in more detail at the upcoming public meeting in May.

As regards planning we have had a notable success in the rejection of the Salden wind farm proposal, and the fact that the developer has elected not to go to appeal. The pig farm extension has gone ahead despite objections, and once again we encourage anyone affected to keep an odour management diary and to report this to the relevant authority. A solar installation has been approved at Prospect Farm, but has yet to be put in place.

The Vale of Aylesbury Plan for development to meet government housing targets is moving forward, with one field in Drayton Parslow remaining on the list of possible development sites. This is land owned by Caringtons. At the moment other land between those fields and the back of Main Road are not on the list, but we know there is an appetite by the owner of that land to build on it. AVDC continue to be in dispute with various settlements which have Neighbourhood plans that are either "Made" or in progress, citing legal advice that they will not disclose that they do not have to give them material consideration when in fact all opinion is to the contrary. The Parish Council is proposing to develop a Neighbourhood Plan if sufficient support can be achieved at the 16th May village meeting.

Precept – we maintained the Precept for 2016/17 and currently have in reserve:

30,232.38	1 st Apr 2016
7,000.00	reserved for lights & tractor replacement
2,000.00	cricket leveling
2,500.00	MUGA refurb
4,460.00	Traffic study
1,500.00	MUGA surface replacement - 2021/22
1,000.00	Cluster equipment replacement fund
675.00	Devolved services accrual from 2015/16 grant
1,449.00	2016/17 Devolved services grant rec'd early
250.00	BCC shortfall for cluster services
800.00	Legal costs outstanding for sliver regn & S/S lease
8,598.38	Operating Reserves 2016/17

Comments from the floor: Residents suggested that a stop sign should be placed at the Crossroads junction and that the out of limit speed needs to be reduced. The Clerk will write to TfB/Bucks CC requesting that they

confirm the safety of the junction and advise what improvements can be made. The availability of high speed broadband was also raised and District Cllr Neil Blake advised:

AVDC has held meetings with Connected Counties to determine their priority list for supply of faster broadband. Both Drayton Parslow and Great Brickhill are included but this may not happen until end of 2018. New Homes Bonus will fund £800k if rural areas are served. However, due to lack of progress this will probably be reduced to £250k. AVDC will meet with BDUK and use the money saved to fund Aylesbury Vale Broadband. It is possible that this service will be rolled out to Great Brickhill, Drayton Parslow and Swanbourne if sufficient community interest is registered.

4. Report from PCSO Hobson:

Crime figures for the area are quite good with only 3 vehicle and 3 other thefts in the past year. There have been reports of youths climbing on the roof of Greenacre Hall. An additional issue has been parking by the railings in New Road which may restrict access by fire tenders or ambulances. This is to be monitored. Clerk will provide PCSO with dates of community events such as the VPA.

5. Report from Mrs Preston (PCC):

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is grateful to the Parish Council for its contribution towards the maintenance of the Churchyard. The Church organ requires a complete overhaul which will cost approx. £20,000.00. The wall adjoining Main Street outside the Churchyard is adversely affected by large vehicles passing – in particular Fast-Trac tractors. Clerk will contact the contractor to request that they refrain from speeding or using the village as a cut-through.

6. Report from Mr B Norman (Cricket Club)

The recent extreme wet weather has made drainage issues worse than usual and the pitch very difficult to maintain. In particular the outer areas of the recreation field need additional maintenance. It was suggested that Mr Burden could be asked to undertake this and Mr Norman will arrange a meeting to discuss this. Cllr Perry will ask Browns if they can perform a one-time flailing to improve the situation. Levelling of the recreation area is still a proposal and further investigation of the drainage problems is under investigation.

7. Report from Mr R Wemyss (Greenacre Hall & SST)

The facility continues to be well-used and thanks must go to Roger Spainswick for his maintenance efforts. The Hall Committee is liaising with the Sports & Social Club Committee to try and resolve the roof-climbing issue. The roof will require replacement in the near future. The Stop Salden Turbines (SST) group had now disbanded after a satisfactory outcome and the amount of 569.07 has been refunded to the Parish Council as a proportion of its S137 donation to the campaign. Mr Wemyss asked for information regarding the Parish accounts and was advised that these are available through the village website in the minutes and annual returns showing income and expenditure.

8. Report from District Cllr N Blake, incorporating a report on behalf of County Cllr J Blake

Bucks CC: There is a shortfall of £53 million over the next 4 years although an additional £9 million has been secured from Central Government. TfB – parish walkarounds will resume although only category 1 potholes will be repaired. Pothole complaints should be reported online via <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/transport/were-working-on-it/highways-maintenance/potholes/> Former Chief Executive of Bucks CC, Chris Williams raised the issue of a countywide Unitary Authority. AVDC would prefer a north and south unitary. The Secretary of State Greg Clarke has stated that a consensus between the different authorities is needed.

AVDC: The District council has saved £14 million over 6 years but needs to save more as Central Government grants will disappear altogether. The Council is re-organising service provision and staff losses will be made by amalgamating departments. This model was demonstrated at a conference of 117 delegates from across the country that came to learn what AVDC is doing. This evolved into a paid conference and now a consultancy service. The Planning Dept has been completely re-vamped and is now profitable. IT services have been streamlined and outsourced to the Amazon Cloud. My Account has been introduced at AVDC

<https://account.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/resident> which saves money by encouraging residents to access services online. The Vale Lottery is raising £60k per year for local charities. AVDC is investing in commercial property such as the University Building and next on the list is the Waterside North development which will include 4 restaurants. AVBroadband, Limecart & Incgen are all AVDC commercial initiatives. This is the last year of the Community Chest Grants. Council tax increased by 1.99% but the long term plan is to eliminate council tax for the district if the commercial ventures continue to grow. The VALP (Vale of Aylesbury Plan) draft consultation will be launched in July with 31,000 new homes proposed. 10,000 of these are from unmet needs by neighbouring authorities. The unmet needs areas will need to prove this requirement through greenbelt studies.

9. E-mailed Report from Kirsty Foley (Sports & Social Club)

At present the Sports & Social club can probably be best described as “ticking over”. We continue to receive bookings for Christenings, Wakes and Parties. For our regular events, Whist (Weekly Tuesdays) and Bingo (Monthly Saturdays) continue to attract loyal groups of supporters. Bingo is also due to start to run monthly on a Wednesday night, which we hope is as popular as the Saturday sessions.

Takings from our regular bar opening hours (Friday evenings / Sunday lunchtimes) are suffering, most notably on a Friday night where at times, if the regular cards players don't come up, we may have zero customers. Reduced customer numbers are starting to cause stock issues, most notably that the beer kegs are passing their best before date before we have emptied them, resulting in high wastage. Richard Lancaster has kindly taken over the running of all bar stock and is working to minimise wastage as much as possible. The committee are trying to think of ways to rejuvenate Friday nights. We have requested that the team who mow/prep the Cricket pitch can do this on a Friday night so that, if they have a refreshing pint after they have finished their jobs, it kick-starts our Friday night customer base. We have made the Pool table free for all to use (previously it cost 50p per game) in the hope that this will attract more customers, in particular younger (compared to our regulars) drinkers. We are looking into opening up for England's Euro 2016 football matches in the Summer, but are aware that this will conflict with the pub who will also be showing the matches. We will re-visit the draught beer/lager issue after the Summer, once Cricket season has finished, and may move to bottled-only stock in the Winter. We are also keeping an eye on our regular (Fri/Sun) opening hours, which may need to change if customer numbers do not increase.

Our recent Comedy Night (2nd Apr) was a success both in terms of the audience having a raucous time and the event bringing in some much needed funds via ticket sales bar takings. We ran our annual Easter Egg Hunt and Raffle on Easter Sunday. Free to participate, the children who attended had a great time, and the Egg raffle raised nearly £100 for the club.

With Friday nights waning, the income from events such as Comedy night is proving essential to ensure we have enough funds to cover our ongoing fixed costs such as rates and cleaning. We have tried to get a broader team of people interested in running/organising an event, to attract and encourage more people in to the club e.g. Claire Darnley and Anne Cotton organised a Thai/Karaoke night (which sadly had to be cancelled due to poor ticket sales).

As you know, the café shut at the end of the Summer, due to lack of demand/customers. Out of all the café opening hours, Fridays after school were the busiest / most profitable, with a number of regular customers (specifically young families whose children attend Drayton school) attending on a weekly basis. The children do miss having the café, and we are hopeful that we can re-open it, perhaps on a Monthly basis, running Family Friendly BBQ's, throughout the Summer term. Again, we are hopeful that this will bring in more customers (and funds) to the club.

Membership renewals began again on 1st Jan (Membership runs Jan-Dec). We remain grateful to the Parish Council for their support (both Financially and in terms of Deborah's time) in helping us to secure permission to build our Awning. We believe that this vastly improves the outside façade of the club, as well as improving our access for buggies / wheelchairs / those with limited mobility. On behalf of our more elderly customers, we are also grateful to the Parish Council for highlighting (in fluorescent paint) the kerb next to the top car park, to try to reduce the number of trips/falls that our Bingo and Whist members were making.

Whilst the bulk of the Committee remain constant (our newest recruit, Vicky Arnold, is a great addition as Secretary), Mike Jupp has officially resigned as Treasurer, due to time pressures from family and work commitments. At present, Richard Lancaster has stepped up and is doing a fantastic job undertaking all banking / cashing / wages / stock ordering duties, which does relieve the burden on Mike. Mike is kindly holding on and continuing to run the accounts / insurance / BACS side of the Treasury role until a replacement

can be found. Sadly, to date, despite 2 appeals in Village News and notices in the clubhouse, no-one has indicated interest so we are yet to find a replacement for Mike.
Our AGM is fixed for Friday 27th May.

10. To agree the date of the next meeting – April 2017

The meeting closed at 8:15 p.m. Signed..... Date.....