

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Drayton Parslow Parish held in the Sports & Social Club
on Monday 20th May 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Cllr. D. Perry, Chairman; Cllr. J. Bruce, Vice-Chairman; Cllr. S. Colborne-Baber; Cllr. H. Harvey; Cllr. S. Spavins; Cllr. E. Wilson

Also present: Deborah O'Brien, Minute-taker; District Cllr B. Everitt; Mr R. Wemyss; one resident.

1. **Receive Apologies:** Cllr A. Batley, Mrs K. Foley (DPSSC).
2. **To confirm the minutes** of the last meeting - The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 30th April 2018 were confirmed as a true record.
3. **Chairman Cllr David Perry welcomed those in attendance. To facilitate personal schedules, reports were received as follows:**
4. **District Cllr Ben Everitt:**

It has been a very busy year for both local and national government. AVDC has been busy producing the Local plan (VALP) while endeavouring to include 33,000 new homes as part of the million new homes required (between Oxford & Cambridge). AVDC has had to consider whether to expand existing villages or build a new 'mega' town. Milton Keynes has also revealed that it plans to double in size by 2050. Cllr Everitt's case work is often taken up by planning issues. There is a national shortage of planners and AVDC has been low on qualified staff. They have hired more and plan to extend the remit of senior officers; but they still need to add more and provide more support to the Liaison Officer. Further planning reforms are to be implemented. AVDC has the highest number of planning applications versus the southern districts in the county. Having the local plan approved is key.

The Oxford Cambridge Expressway route decision is to be made by Highways England and is out of the Vale's hands. However, AVDC will put forward robust comments during consultation. Local groups and environmental concerns must be heard. (There was a lack of consultation for HS2). David Lidington and AVDC Leader Angela Macpherson have written to Chris Grayling & Michael Gove. It has been suggested that 250,000 new homes are built where HS2 and the Ox/Camb expressway cross – in the area of Calvert. New infrastructure is needed as a benefit from the Ox/Camb expressway.

Unitary – dissolving 5 councils and setting up a new authority by April 2020 is a very big ask. An Order of Parliament has now been made and this has gone to the Lords for final approval. A Shadow Executive is now in place and it is in the process of determining relationships with Parishes. Hubs are being developed. The political apparatus is being set up with 203 councillors which should reduce to 147 in the May 2020 elections. This may reduce further to 110 - 120.

Central Govt will have to provide approx. £3 billion to reduce the funding gap. AVDC has a balanced budget and will hand over to Unitary in good financial shape. Service & standards will be maintained. Technology has been instrumental, and the council is 100% cloud server based. They use Alexa and AI for customer service responses. Overall, Cllr Everitt feels very positive about service delivery and the future. (Cllr Everitt left the meeting)

5. Parish Council Chairman David Perry:

In May we were pleased to welcome Emma Wilson as a new Parish Councillor, it has been good to hear her voice added to the supportive and constructive input to the council from all its members.

After some effort revolving around the failed efforts of Aylesbury Vale Broadband in the village and its impact on our eligibility for the Connected Counties Programme, the village is now fortunate enough that most of the residents have access to two competing high-speed broadband providers in BT and Gigaclear. We expect that in due course a high-speed symmetrical service will be available from Gigaclear at our community facilities which should hopefully open up new opportunities for activities.

The lack of suitable public transport is a challenge that is facing many rural villages, we are in discussions with Stewkley regarding a community bus service which they are in a position to support through S106 contributions from development in their village.

We continue to work on enhancing the facilities that are available in the recreation area of the village, to this end we continue to look at ways to improve the drainage, particularly for the lower rec, however we have had some difficulties in uncovering information about existing drains and conduits and as a result we had to abandon a plan to clear out the ditch between the upper rec and Denne Engineering. We still hope to explore options for levelling the upper rec to remove the legacy ridge and furrow undulations that disrupt sports. The Parish Council elected to allocate S106 funds for gym equipment on the rec. and we were fortunate again that our application to WREN for a grant was successful. We are indebted to the hard work by Councillor Helen Harvey in making this happen.

This year has been a challenging one for all councillors and the clerk regarding our allotments. Unfortunately, we have had to significantly strengthen the standard contract and introduce a vexatious complaints policy. We remain hopeful that the allotment holders will form an association to manage their own affairs so that the Parish Council does not have to be continually involved in various administrative matters.

In July our War Memorial was cleaned again and a 'silent soldier' purchased for 100-year anniversary of end of WW1, we also arranged the closure of road for the remembrance service, supported by some ex-servicemen. This was a very satisfactory arrangement and we plan to repeat this in future. We had a very good turnout from the village and it created a strong sense of the community connecting with its history and its roots.

Other measures around the village have included the addition of "Unsuitable for HGV" signs to try and discourage larger vehicles that use consumer sat navs driving through the village. We have also been pleased to support the establishment of a wildflower meadow by the VPA and we have been able to add some new traffic calming measures using New Homes Bonus money from AVDC of around £80K for works now completed.

On the administrative side we have introduced various measures to comply with the new GDPR legislation including dedicated computer equipment for the clerk and email addresses for councillors.

On the planning front we have successfully resisted what many considered an unfortunate and poorly planned application for 24 houses on marshy land in the middle of the village; however it is a fact of life that developers are targeting villages such as ours and in particular are hostile to the neighbourhood planning process. The Parish Council is pressing ahead with a Neighbourhood Plan to sit under the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the emerging Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) and this process has been supported by village volunteers from outside the council and we are grateful for their hard work.

6. County Cllr Janet Blake (via e-mail):

Highways

TfB had £16.5m to deliver carriageway and footway maintenance projects throughout 2018/19. In addition, a further £4.5m was invested in works on the Stoke Hammond Bypass. A budget pot of £2.78m was identified for machine laid plane and patch carriageway repairs, primarily focused at the minor road (C and unclassified) network.

Reports of defects may be made online to TfB. Please go to www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk

Unitary

Following the approval of a single council for Bucks last November, plans are underway for the transition to the new council and how it will be formed in April 2020.

The new council will replace the current five councils in Bucks -Aylesbury Vale DC, Bucks CC, Chiltern DC, South Bucks DC and Wycombe DC – it will be named 'Buckinghamshire Council' and comprise 147 elected Members (three per current County Ward).

Elections for the new Council will take place in May 2020, then in May 2025 and every four years thereafter. Leadership to oversee the transition to the new Council will be via a Shadow Executive of 8 District Councillors, 8 County Councillors plus the Leader of the County Council as its Chairman.

Household Recycling Centres

The main changes being introduced to achieve a cost saving of £1.25m are:

Charges at all Bucks household recycling centres for anything classed as non-household waste. This includes waste from construction, demolition, renovation or alteration of homes and outbuildings, and rubble, soil and treated wood from garden landscaping. All green garden waste will continue to be accepted without payment. Charges are being phased in from 1st April 2019.

Daily opening at Rabans Lane, Aylesbury, household recycling centre was reduced from 1st April 2019 to five days a week from seven by closing on Wednesday and Thursdays.

Oxford-Cambridge Expressway

Highways England has been engaging with parishes within the Expressway corridor in and outside of Bucks to understand local thoughts and issues. The information is being fed into route option development. Bucks County Council is additionally working with Highways England as the Expressway project progresses.

Highways England has a public facing website for the Expressway:

<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway/>

If you have any comments you'd like BCC to submit to Highways England on your behalf please visit transportstrategy@buckscc.gov.uk

Brexit

The County Council's Brexit work continues to accelerate in tandem with government preparations in Whitehall, and the BCC Cabinet has approved a Brexit Preparedness report summarising work to date and next steps over the coming months. Please email Marco Dias mdias@buckscc.gov.uk if you have any queries.

Simply Walk

The County Council has a 'Simply Walk' programme, offering more than 80 guided walks a week on routes across Bucks and catering for all fitness levels. To find out more go to www.buckscc.gov.uk/simplywalk

Celebrate in Bucks

Buckinghamshire Registration Service now offers a new 24/7 online wedding service that allows couples to research venues, suppliers and wedding planners. The service has been simplified into four special packages starting from £210. Couples can choose between grand manor houses, quirky museums, stylish hotels and even atmospheric caves in which to marry. See www.weddings.buckscc.gov.uk

7. District Cllr Neil Blake (via e-mail):

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four years thereafter. Leadership to oversee the transition to the new Council will be via a Shadow Executive of 8 District Councillors, 8 County Councillors plus the Leader of the County Council as its Chairman.

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

AVDC is currently working on the independent Planning Inspector's latest communication about further changes to parts of the draft VALP which will guide development up to 2033 – how much new housing will be needed in the Vale, the best places for it and more detail on future infrastructure. The Inspector will need to see any changes to the plan suggested by AVDC, and there will be a six-week public consultation period on any changes before a final plan can be approved and adopted for use.

Garden Town Update

The Masterplanners are now working on the Prospectus for the project that will set out the vision and key principles through to 2050. If you'd like to share your thoughts on the future of Aylesbury you can click and comment on the interactive map on the website: aylesburygardentown.placious.uk/have-your-say/

New Homes Bonus Project Grant Scheme

Parish or Town Councils that have a project can submit an application for funding consideration – the closing date for grant applications is 14th July 2019.

For further information about the NHB Project Grant Scheme, and also the NHB Micro Grant Scheme, please visit www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/newhomesbonus

Our Vale

Launched last summer, Our Vale is an online crowdfunding platform designed to connect and empower local communities and help shape the Vale for the better. There are currently four projects registered through Our Vale, each looking to transform shared spaces, inspire visitors and enhance Aylesbury Vale.

Find out more: spacehive.com/movement/our-vale

Vale Lottery

This continues to raise valuable funds for nearly 200 local good causes. Find out more and sign up today: valelottery.co.uk

New Housing & Homelessness Strategy

The AVDC Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2019-2022 has been published and is available at aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/housing-and-homelessness-strategy. This sets out a collaborative approach to tackling homelessness across the Vale, bringing together local authority partners, registered housing providers and health organisations.

The action plan within the strategy will be updated quarterly and published on the webpage.

Events

WhizzFizzFest, Aylesbury's literary and arts festival, will be held on 22nd June 2019 (whizzfizzfest.org.uk) and the Waterside Festival will take place on 14th September 2019 (watersidefestival.org)

8. Kirsty Foley, Chairman on behalf of DPSSC (via e-mail):

The clubhouse continues to tick over, with income and usage continuing to be driven by the support of Abbey Smith and her Bridge club. With respect to other activities, we are still seeking people to support (and run) a Petanque team, to take advantage of the wonderful Petanque facilities. We are also still trying to boost the

number of bar staff volunteers, to man the bar during events such as the VPA show and during Home cricket matches. The committee do see the bar as a valuable village resource, and a means through which the community can get together and engage in shared experiences, be it supporting the village cricket team, a party for a birthday celebration, or a wake to mourn someone's passing. Unfortunately manning the bar continues to fall to an increasingly depleting number of volunteer bar staff, which does mean we cannot operate as efficiently and effectively as we would like. We have tried to encourage new bar staff by explaining that there is no need to commit to a regular slot – even an extra pair of hands for an hour on VPA day would make a huge difference to us. Sadly, to date we remain short-staffed.

From a financial perspective, this year we are investing into refurbishing the cellar. The planned improvements should help us improve stock efficiencies, reduce the need for expensive aircon during the summer months, and also fix the cracked walls and install lintels above the bar and cellar doors for improved safety and security.

Thank-you as ever to all our Committee Members and Volunteers who continue to give their time and resources to keeping the Clubhouse running.

9. **Mr Richard Wemyss spoke on behalf of the Greenacre Hall Committee:** The Hall has had significant investments in the past year totalling approx. £10,000. The committee thanks the PC for the use of S106 monies towards the cost of installing electronic blinds. New lights and curtains have also been installed. The hall is just about breaking even, with short mat bowls being very successful. Unfortunately, a regular dance class booking has been lost. The school has increased its usage. Parking continues to be a challenge on Auction days (10/year). For a small village we are lucky to have such good facilities. Greenacre Hall has a small committee and the PC is the Custodian Trustee.
10. **Mr Wemyss also spoke on behalf of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):** Mr Wemyss advised that approx. £40,000 has been fundraised towards the Church amenity improvements. They are currently awaiting sign-off from the Environment Agency. Once 50% of required funding is achieved, they can apply for major grants. Over 100 people have given signatures of support for the project. He thanked the Parish Council for its continued support of £750 towards maintenance of the Churchyard.

Cllr Perry thanked everyone for attending. The Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7:45 pm. Both residents left.

(PC meeting followed)