

## **Padbury Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7pm.

Those present were:

Councillors: P Burton (Chair), S Dickens, V Murray, F Morris, D Green and David Barnes.  
Also present: C Swannell (Clerk), Buckinghamshire Councillors: J Chilver and B Stanier.

8 residents attended, which included a representative from the Greener Padbury Group.

### **1. Introduction/Welcome by the Chairman**

Councillor Burton welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting. He explained that this was a meeting of the residents of Padbury, not a parish council meeting although it had to be organised by the council. Then he gave a brief update on the following:

- The planning application for 79 homes of the A413 had been dismissed at appeal, he and Cllrs Barnes and Dickens had attended planning committee meetings together a resident.
- Advised that works on the A413 related to an upgrade of sewage pipes between Adstock and Padbury.
- Thanked Pam Molloy for her time as Parish Clerk and introduced Carol Swannell as the new Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.
- Advised reports provided by the various village groups will be available on the parish council website.

### **2. Apologies – Justin Farrington Smith – Tennis Club and Claire McHenry – Padbury Pre-School.**

### **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Period of Public Questions - None**

**5. Reports provided:** Reports previously issued with the agenda – Chairman; the Responsible Finance Officer; Greener Padbury and Padbury WI are detailed below, together with those subsequently received.

### **Chair's report – Peter Burton (Chairman)**

#### **Introduction**

This report is to reflect on some of the activities of Padbury Parish Council (PPC) over the last year.

#### **Routine Business**

Pam Molloy was our Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer until she left the village in March 2025 and her diligent work is much valued. In her place we welcome Carol

Swannell.

As well as the PPC's own meetings, Parish Councillors have continued to attend various meetings and briefings on many issues which are relevant to the village.

Cllrs. Fred Morris and Stephen Dickens continue to carry out some of the more practical tasks in the village. They have been aided in their endeavours by the village stewards who undertake small jobs around the village such as cutting verges and painting benches

The Padbury Pump continues to flourish under its editor Derek Cooper. It is a valuable addition to village life and although the printing cost is paid by the PPC, paid advertisements help reduce the overall cost.

The PPC continues to receive support from our county councillors, and we are always thankful for their guidance and advice.

### **Planning**

We have dealt with the usual planning applications within the village for relatively simple extensions or alterations to existing buildings. The PPC can only comment on planning applications, the decisions are made by Buckinghamshire Council.

There was a final resolution to a planning application originally made in November 2022 for 79 houses at the edge of the village on the Winslow Road. This was considered by Buckinghamshire Council's planning committee at a meeting in July 2024 and permission was refused. The developer immediately appealed but did not put forward its appeal papers until just before Christmas. The appeal was held in Aylesbury in March and the appeal was refused. Over 100 residents took the time to submit their comments about the application and the subsequent appeal. Councillors in other parishes have commented favourably on this high level of participation. Parish Councillors and residents attended the planning committee and appeal meetings and thanks to those.

This is unlikely to be the last large planning application that we receive. The PPC has previously considered developing a neighbourhood plan, which may give villagers a greater say in planning. Developing such a plan is beyond what the PPC can achieve on its own and as there was little support from residents the PPC decided that it would take no further action. When the new PPC convenes after the May elections it may decide to return to this matter, but it will need the active support of residents, it is a plan by residents for residents, not the PPC.

### **Devolution**

Some services which are usually supplied by Buckinghamshire Council can be devolved to parish councils. We have renewed the devolution to us of grass cutting around the village. Although we receive money from Buckinghamshire Council to pay for the grass cutting, this does not cover the cost of the task devolved but to leave this with Buckinghamshire Council is likely to lead to a lower level of service.

### **Speed Monitoring**

Speeding traffic through the village along the A413 and Main Street continues to be a major concern.

The PPC has three speed indication displays placed around the village. The reports from these are posted on the PPC's website and do show a slowing of traffic through the village. Information from the displays is sent to Thames Valley Police who use the data to decide on speed camera control exercises in the village, which you may have seen in operation.

A community speed watch group is in operation and many thanks go to the volunteers in the group. However, as with all such work, more volunteers are always needed otherwise this work will cease.

We are also seeking grants to undertake some more traffic monitoring work.

### **Playing Fields and Play Area**

We have now completed the refurbishment of the pavilion at the Padbury Pavilion. At the moment it is not used as much as we would like but hopefully that will change as more people become aware of it and with the increased parking facilities it offers.

The next piece of work is to renew the roof and install solar panels. Although we have some funds remaining from the refurbishment work, we will probably need to apply for grants to complete this work

I would like to thank the pavilion team of Bob Gough (caretaker), Linda Hawkins, who took over from Mandy Tweed and keeps the place spick and span and Mick Jackson who opens and closes the car park gate each day.

A new zip wire was installed at the Main Street playground (the old one had to be removed due to safety issues) and a 'springy' sit on mobile. The springy was paid for by a donation from the youth club when it closed. The zip wire was part funded by the parish council, a grant from the Winslow & Villages Community Board and proceeds from the sale of the Padbury Through the Years book. Hopefully both pieces of equipment will bring many years of fun to children of the village.

### **Millennium Wood**

The PPC is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Millennium Wood although it is leased from the Woodland Trust. The Greener Padbury Group are making changes to the Millennium wood and Cllr Dickens has been instrumental in undertaking work to allow these changes to come into being.

### **Crime and Anti-social Behaviour**

Padbury continues to be a relatively crime free place. Dog fouling continues to be an issue, around the village and particularly at the Springfield playing fields. There are a number of disposal bins for dog excreta around the village, including at the playing fields. We would hope that the good example of many dog owners could be extended to all.

### **Finances**

We have issued the precept for the next financial year and this now appears on your rates bill from Buckinghamshire Council. After an increase for 2024/25 of approximately 6%, by careful budgeting, the increase for 2025/26 is 4%.

A report from our Responsible Financial Officer (Carol) follows which gives further financial details.

## **Conclusion**

I am grateful for all the support I have received from my fellow Councillors and the Clerk and from the volunteers around the village who are too numerous to mention. The Council has had to deal with many and diverse issues. We are grateful to all the villagers who have attended our meetings and for their help and suggestions.

We acknowledge the hard work done by other organisations and their members within the village to make this such a pleasant place in which to live.

With the impending parish council elections on 1<sup>st</sup> May, we are expecting a change in the parish council membership as some councillors have decided to stand down. After nearly nine years as parish councillor, with the last few as chairman, I have also decided to stand down and I wish my successor every success.

## **Responsible Finance Officer's report – Carol Swannell**

The annual audit for 2023-24 has been completed and work is currently underway completing the annual audit report for 2024-25.

As at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, Padbury Parish Council's bank accounts totalled £67,010.26

- £7,568.22 in the Barclays Bank Community Current Account
- £14,718.51 in the Barclays Millennium Wood Account
- £44,723.53 in the Barclays Savings Account

### Our income

In addition to the precept (£34,600), devolved services (£2017) and regular income received, such as: the Pump advertising (£815); the Football Club (£1150) and Tennis Club (£1051). We also received £6922 from S106 payments for the works carried out at the pavilion, and £5584 from Winslow Community Group towards costs of the new equipment in the Main Street Play Area . Our total income for 2024-25 was £59,668.86.

### Our expenditure

Our total expenditure for 2024-25 was £73,875.54 (which includes VAT where applicable). This covers the general day to day costs, such as: electricity, water and maintenance for the pavilion, street lighting, maintenance of the playground, woods and village grass verges and the emptying of both the rubbish and dog bins around the village. This includes new equipment for the Main Street Play Area.

Details of all the parish council's income and expenditure can be found on our website.

### Precept

The precept for 2024-25 has been increased to £36,000, which represents approximately a 4.04 increase. This decision was based on the budget that was agreed for the next financial year.

### Devolved Services

It has been confirmed that we would be receiving the devolved services grant of £2,086.14 to cover 2025-26. Our appointed contractor will carry out monthly cuts between April and October.

### Funding

We were successful with the following funding application:

- £5,583.67 from Buckinghamshire Council Community Boards which went towards the costs for the new cable way and springy.

We are currently awaiting a decision from the HS2 Road Safety Fund for our application towards highway works to help with speeding on Main Street.

## **Buckinghamshire Councillor's Report – Councillors John Chilver, David Goss and Sir Beville Stanier**

It has been an honour to continue to represent Padbury on Buckinghamshire Council over the past year. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their kind welcome to Council meetings and their support over the year. We try to ensure that at least one of us is in attendance at every Parish Council meeting.

John Chilver is the Cabinet Member for Accessible Housing and Resources. Sir Beville Stanier is Vice Chairman of Winslow and Villages Community Board and a Member of the Licensing Committee and Planning Committee (Northern Area). David Goss is a member of Winslow Town Council and Chairman of the Standards and General Purposes Committee.

We have regularly raised highways issues relating to the village in our monthly meetings with Matt Whincup, our Local Area Technician at Transport for Bucks. These have included the repair of potholes along the A413, drain clearance, the follow up of the resurfacing of pavements in Springfields, the uneven road surface on the Thornborough Road and water leaks on the A413. We have also successfully lobbied for repairs and vegetation clearance on the Buckingham to Winslow cycle path.

It is good that a new traffic camera has now been live since January at the junction of the A413 and Lower Way to deter motorists ignoring the No Entry sign. For the first 6 months only a warning letter will be sent to first offenders but if they are caught again there will be a fine.

It is good news that the village's application to the HS2 road safety fund has been taken to stage 2 with a completed assessment due by the end of May and I wish it every success. Buckinghamshire Council released £5m from General Funds earlier this year to assist with pothole repairs, and we are again committed to clear all the drains across the county in the course of the year.

Last July John Chilver spoke at the planning committee hearing against the outline planning application by Keir Group for 79 homes on land north of the A413 (ref. 22/03695) and which we referred to the Committee under the 3 member call in rule. We are very glad that the application was rejected by the Committee and again later on appeal.

Congratulations to the Parish Council for leading the opposition and all residents who got involved.

We have also been involved in following up a number of long outstanding planning decisions and enforcement cases, using fortnightly members' planning surgeries, at which we have been able to raise local cases with the planning officers.

It is great to see the completed refurbishment and extension of the Sports Pavilion and we are glad that the Winslow and District Community Board were able to help with part funding.

We have been happy to support the Greener Padbury group with their plans to improve the Millennium Wood. John Chilver as Chairman of the Community Board Environmental subgroup has led a visit there twice.

Since the beginning of April Padbury has been part of the new North Bucks Community Board which has resulted from the merger of the Buckingham and Winslow boards. Padbury at the forthcoming Buckinghamshire Council election will be part of the new Horwood ward with a single member. It has been an honour to serve you as your elected representatives for the past 4 years

### **Padbury WI Annual Report April 2024 – March 2025**

Padbury WI meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Village Hall although we have a break in August.

At our April meeting Carol (Scotty) McCutcheon talked about her time volunteering in Cambodia.

Carmela Hayes gave us a talk and demonstration in May about pasta and sauces. We welcomed six visitors from other WIs and the Padbury community.

We attended the reopening of the Pavilion in support of the Parish Council in May and had a stall with various items from the archive on display.

On 13<sup>th</sup> June we held an open meeting with a talk by Hilary Erenler about financial wellbeing, including Power of Attorney. Twelve visitors from the community and other WIs were in attendance.

We held our July meeting in member and BFWI Honorary Treasurer, Sue Paxton's, garden.

Our September meeting was all about memorabilia. Sue Chadbund read out an article by Jane Robinson on the history of the Women's Institute then members talked about associated memorabilia that they had brought in.

For our October meeting we welcomed BFWI Climate Ambassador, Yvonne Alton. She covered a number of climate issues, WI campaigns and how we can personally cut carbon emissions.

We held our Annual Meeting in November.

Our craft and cake stall held in the Village Hall on 7<sup>th</sup> December was a successful venture. Our December meeting saw us dancing along to the folk music played by Fraser Winterbottom and his band.

Kay Bradley explained about her work for the Anna Chaplaincy at our January 2025 meeting

and in February Hilary Audus talked about her life as an illustrator and animator on *The Snowman* and other projects.

In March we held another Annual Meetings due to changing our date for this. As it was a short meeting we finished up with a Beetle Drive.

The Creative Group has continued to meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

Members have attended events held by other WIs such as a pottery demonstration and a talk by Ann Jones, ex-chair of the National Federation of WIs. We also had trips to Claydon House and to the Kingsbridge garden, open as part of the National Garden Scheme.

Membership of Padbury WI remains steady although new members are always welcome. We look forward to a successful 2025-2026.

Sue Christelow, Secretary

27/03/2025

### **The Greener Padbury Group**

Our principal aim is to raise awareness of and encourage participation in local environmental issues in order to enhance biodiversity, minimise our environmental impact and promote long term respect for our environment. We have made good progress with this over the past twelve months.

### **Millennium Woods**

We continue to work with the parish council on ways to increase woodland biodiversity, specifically cutting in scallops to the forest edges, planting of a meadow, and considerations when mowing the rides. Signs with QR codes linked to our website will shortly be in place. We are monitoring biodiversity with regular moth traps, attended by interested Padbury residents, and dawn/dusk birdsong walks (next one: 27th April). We thank the PC for the contribution of £100.

### **Village Spaces**

Our Bee Squared project in 2024 gave wildflower seeds to every house in the village, as well as to all children of Padbury school, to create a square metre of pollinator-friendly flowers at home.

Work is underway on the three verges and the bottom end of the Main Street play area.

*Play area*: a bug mansion has been built, wildflower trail planted, and a willow den is being constructed; *Lower Way bank*: further clearance of nettles in Lower Way with ground cover planting of geraniums and later summer annual flowers (e.g. cosmos); *Hedged verge in Main Street*: ferns, lavender and ground cover plants; *A413 gully*: ferns to give cover for hedgehogs and mice.

### **Community Allotment**

We have secured two plots on the allotment for Community Allotment and Mini Orchard. 60 saplings from the Woodland Trust have been planted. The mini orchard received grant funding from Heart of Bucks, and has also been planted. The Community Allotment received grant funding from Winslow Community Board - and is ready to grow.

### **Young People and Nature**

A grant from Gawcott Solar allowed us to run a full programme of Go Wild in the Woods activity sessions throughout the school holidays - run by Learning Without Walls and free to families. These are usually fully booked.

Our Muddy Toddlers playgroups sessions for 18mth to 4-year-olds are also popular. They are held in the allotments, run by Laura Fox, and are also free, thanks to grants from Tesco and Winslow Community Board.

We also work closely with the school, running workshops with their eco council and have purchased and installed a wormery.

### **Working with the Village**

We continue to work with all village groups, and were delighted to welcome more than 30 people to our AGM in February. We look forward to being involved in this year's Open Gardens.

### **Padbury Tennis Club – Justin Farrington Smith (Chairman)**

#### **CHAIRMANS REPORT**

It is very pleasing to see the continued success of Ed Harwood's lessons and so many juniors now joining the club as a result. The membership secretary's report will give more specifics below but our advertising in adjoining villages is helping to increase the clubs profile. I very much hope this will help stimulate further attendance at club "mix in's" on Tuesday night and Saturday afternoons.

Our club teams missing club captain Dave Green who managed from the sidelines due to injury, competed well in the leagues but did drop to Division 5 of the Tennis MK league

In 2024 the club completed a significant refurbishment of both courts with a significant clean and re paint. They look exceptional and will last for several years. However the next refurbishment of the courts will entail resurfacing so we do need to start our fundraising campaign this year to ensure we have sufficient funds when the time comes!

I'd like to officially thank our new Treasurer James Hole for his valiant efforts this year in simplifying our accounts, organizing our direct debit facility and getting a rebate from the bank as recompense for their mistakes!

Thanks, must also go to Chris and Michelle for hosting the yet again the Christmas drinks party. Enjoyed by all including club stalwart Greg Morris who has moved to the south coast. Our loss will be another club's gain.

- **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

- Total membership for the year was 90, which includes two new family memberships joining in February that were at £0 subs as almost the end of the year. This is down about 10 on 2023. Mainly due to 6 families not renewing, some just not playing, others joined for one year only. To balance we did see 2 new family memberships and a number of juniors.
- A comparison with other local clubs in 2024 shows Padbury competitive cost wise with other clubs.
- Buckingham are 25% more at £75 for an adult, but similar for a couple/family, juniors are less at £23. They offer discount for multiple memberships, such as couple at a 15% discount which is notable. This limits scope to increase prices. Winslow are 20% less, though they have poor facilities.

- Ambition for this year will be to get to 100, by increasing the advertising and introducing a web site.
- We have advertised in The Adstock Clarion, Gawcott Gazette and the Pump, plus the Steeple Claydon magazine. The latter was expensive at £200 which did not achieve any significant sales
- This year, will take a more planned approach to the advertising and also include posters locally, plus an advert in the 15,000 distribution local Buckingham magazine
- 
- **CAPTAIN'S REPORT**
- We performed below our usual standard last year achieving two draws only and resulting in a drop of league. This will allow us to bring on some younger members, which is a good thing.
- Thanks to Jason Brogden who played 5 matches, with Paul Arm, Ken, Fred, Peter Wrigs, Chris and David Heal all playing 3 a piece.
- The club championship was played in July last year. This worked with better weather during the competition. Winners were Jason Brogden in the Men's with a very competitive match against Ken Orledge, and Olivia Cruse in the Ladies, with a good win over Imogen Smith. In the Open Doubles, the pair of Jason Brogden and Sean Dagois triumphed over Paul Armitage and Phil Davies with a final score of 2 sets to one.

## **Padbury Pre-school**

This last year has been a really settled year for the preschool. Mandy is excelling as manager, and she is supported wonderfully by Sonya and Rachel as her deputies. We are very lucky to have a very strong team of experienced staff who provide the most warm and nurturing environment for the children we serve. Debbie has just recently qualified at Level 3 following her apprenticeship. We currently have Michael going through his training and have 2 new unqualified members of staff who will be joining us in September and becoming apprentices which we are delighted to be able to support them to do.

The committee remains strong with us gaining two new members (Kelly and Michaela) this year as well as maintaining 5 of our existing members. Sadly, we said goodbye to Cathy Miah who has been a hugely valued member of the committee for several years. Her contributions have made a huge impact on the setting, and I know I speak for the staff and committee when I say she will be missed and that we are very grateful to her for her years of support. We also said goodbye to Andrew Odams who we thank for the odd jobs he did for us. Without the dedicated committee the pre-school would not operate, and this seems a good opportunity to thank the committee for their continued work and support. To name just a few things that everyone does: Zuzana on the invoices, Shauna on the Padbury Pump piece, Liz on minutes/agendas, Jill as chair and Claire doing more than I could even mention.

An area of development that we are aware of, and that was highlighted in the GOOD OFSTED report is the noise level in the main room. We have been working over the last few years to raise funds to build a new outbuilding as a breakout space. We are thankfully getting very close to the total needed (approx. 30k). We really hope that this year will be the year we make it happen, however we may need to change the dimensions and position of the building to make the pre-school as sustainable as possible for the future. Mandy has also put some strategies in place to manage this, including a change to the room layout, making it much more open and easier for children to move around and for adults to engage with children no matter where they are in the room, and ear defenders for any children who might

benefit from them.

We have benefited from receiving more donated soft play for the terrace area this year unfortunately from the closure of other local settings. We would like to thank David (Mandy's husband) for revamping said terrace with Perspex and boarding so that it is now almost fully protected from the elements. This is a huge benefit to the children, particularly in the winter months when they need to let off some steam on the soft play. Unfortunately, however it doesn't meet the requirements required to make it a room so we can increase numbers. We are in the process of sourcing quotes to see if we can change the decking / terraced area into a new building with an office for Mandy and instead of the small breakout space mentioned above although this would be a part of the new space. We are hoping to receive a grant from Bucks Early Years to support us with this. Any information on any grants we can apply for would be gratefully received. This would also mean we could increase our numbers slightly more as we are currently full and operating a waiting list for most sessions for next year and have already taken registration as far ahead as September 2027.

Our finances are currently stable, partly thanks to being at full capacity. We have almost filled our spaces for the next academic year already, which is a great position to be in. However, with the recent closures of several local preschools, as well as all the funding changes, we can't be complacent, particularly when it comes to our finances. We will continue to fundraise and seek support from our community to ensure the long-term stability of our wonderful Pre-school.

We have ramped up our Forest School provision and have spent the £1000 Stronger Starts grant from Tesco which has improved the Forest School area at the allotments which is used by pre-school and Muddy Toddlers. The children love it and get so many learning opportunities from their experiences in the great outdoors. Thank you to Sonya for leading on this especially in her new role as Forest and Senco Lead following the completion of her forest school level 3 qualification.

We received a grant from the Centenary Fund which has enabled us to buy an air conditioning unit, which I know was a very welcome addition to the preschool in the summer months.

We've made a few improvements to the front entrance /gate this year to ensure we are keeping children safe, whilst also allowing for meaningful handover conversations at drop off and pick up.

This is just a few of the things we've been working on over the last year. We are delighted with how the preschool is going from strength to strength and we look forward to what the year ahead brings. We welcome visitors to pre-school and would welcome any Parish Councillors who would like to spend some time supporting at pre-school, coming in to do an activity – growing, cooking, reading a story, helping at forest school to name a few.

If you have any questions about this report, please ask Vicky Murray in her role of pre-school /council liaison person, Vicky is also a member of the pre-school staff team. Or contact Claire McHenry on [theark@padburypreschool.co.uk](mailto:theark@padburypreschool.co.uk)

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

Signed..... Chairman / Date.....