

Padbury Parish Council – Annual Parish Meeting

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 15th April 2026 at 7pm.

Those present were:

Councillors: C Dinwoodie (Chair), S Dickens, V Murray, A Tulud, S Ovey-Horwood and R Manasse.

Also present: C Swannell (Clerk).

5 residents attended, which included representatives from the Padbury Football Club; Padbury Pre-school; Speedwatch Group; Greener Padbury Group and Friendly Afternoon.

1. Introduction/Welcome by the Chairman

Councillor Dinwoodie 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 all were welcome to stay for the Parish Council Meeting that would follow after a short break. Then he gave a brief update on the following:

- The Parish Council team started the year as a relatively new council with five new members to accompany two experienced councillors and we welcomed Carol as the new Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).
- The Parish Council started the year pleased to have passed the Annual Governance and Accountability Report (AGAR) for the year ending March 2025. This is owed to the diligence and hard work of the previous Council, particularly to the former Chairman, Peter Burton and former Parish Clerk, Pam Malloy for which he personally offered thanks.
- A reflection on a year of progress which would not have been possible without the support council members, volunteers and residents.

2. Apologies – County Councillor J Chilver; Padbury WI; Tennis Club and St. Mary the Virgin Church.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

4. Reports provided: A summary of reports and presentations are detailed below. Full reports are available on the website www.padburyparishcouncil.gov.uk or can be requested from Clerk: email clerk@padburyparishcouncil.gov.uk or telephone **07961 827302**.

Chair's report – Craig Dinwoodie (Chairman)

Our role as Councillors is to best represent parishioners and make Padbury a welcoming and pleasant place to live and visit. Although we are fortunate to have a broad representation in our Council team I would like to take this opportunity to encourage parishioner attendance at our Parish Council meetings for opportunities of engagement.

One of the tasks completed this year, was to update the emails and website to a gov.uk domain to comply with Assertion 10 legislative requirements. Therefore our contact details have changed as of March 2026 so please check the website for our latest contact details.

Alternatively please speak to local Councillors individually to assist us in representing villagers interests.

A particular achievement I am pleased to report is that the Parish Council has worked hard not to increase our portion of the Precept, (the Parish portion of your Council Tax contribution). Parishioners may have noted the 0% Parish increase on this year's council tax summary where other departments have sought near to a 5% increase.

Outside of the day to day, there has been lots of activity on maintenance jobs around the village by Councillors and Volunteers.

Padbury proudly scored joint second in the 2025 'Best Kept Village' competition and we have been working to improve scoring for this years upcoming competition. Working volunteer parties have been setup to further continue the jobs around the village and we hope to achieve a better score, or could even win in 2026.

You may also have noticed the addition of Christmas Decorations and Remembrance day flags around the village. Further budget is allocated for 2026 to add to the Remembrance Day presence.

During the year, we setup working groups in two core areas. 1) Community Engagement, and 2) Planning. These working groups meet regularly to discuss relevant topics.

The Pump remains a valuable village publication and I hope Padbury residents looks forward to receiving the Pump as much as I do. Printing is funded by the Parish Council but contributions to the Pump are from various village groups, we thank Derek Cooper who continues as Editor of the Pump despite recently relocating.

Responsible Finance Officer's report – Carol Swannell

The annual audit for 2024-25 has been completed and work is currently underway completing the annual audit report for 2025-26

As at 31st March 2026, Padbury Parish Council's bank accounts totalled £79,214.54

- £19,969.33 in the Barclays Bank Community Current Account
- £13,978.51 in the Barclays Millennium Wood Account
- £45,266.70 in the Barclays Savings Account

Our total income for 2025-26 was £42,822.09, including the precept of £36,000 and devolved services payment of £2,086.14.

Our total expenditure for 2025-26 was £30,617.81 (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.

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

The precept for 2026-27 remains unchanged at £36,000. This decision was based on the budget that was agreed for the next financial year.

Buckinghamshire Councillor's Report – Councillor John Chilver.

This year I have served Buckinghamshire Council as Vice Chairman of the Council and as the Chairman of the Finance and Resources Select Committee. I am also a member of the Strategic Sites Planning Committee and the Standards and General Purposes Committee.

I have regularly raised highways issues relating to the village in my monthly meetings with Matt Whincup, our Local Area Technician with Bucks Highways. Matt has now moved on to another role in Bucks Council and has been replaced by Grant Weaving, our new contact person.

Highways issues which I have discussed over the past year include the repair of potholes along the A413 and Main Street, drain clearance, the uneven road surface on the Thornborough Road, and water leaks. I have also monitored the effectiveness of the new traffic camera at the junction of the A413 and Lower Way to deter motorists ignoring the No Entry sign.

Last year the Parish Council Chairman and myself both spoke at the Planning Committee against the application by Keir Group for a new development of 79 houses north of the A413. Fortunately this was rejected by the planning committee and again on appeal.

The same developers have now submitted a new application for 45 houses on the same site. In my view the same arguments which led to the rejection of the previous application still apply. I have 'called in' this new application to the planning committee, which means that it cannot be determined under officer delegated powers.

Padbury WI

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

Our meetings have included talks and presentations by Medical Detection Dogs charity; Mexican Dominoes; the importance of flower-visiting insects to our gardens – it's not just bees! And Alan Taberer shared his experience of growing up as a CODA – Child of Deaf Adults – at our October meeting and gave us a brief lesson in BSL – British Sign Language.

In March we held our Annual Meeting. Joint Presidents were elected, Melissa Older and Isobel Older. The rest of the committee is unchanged.

Members have attended events held by other Wis.

Padbury WI always welcomes visitors, and we look forward to a successful 2026-2027.

Padbury Football Club

The Club continues to grow with mixed (boys & girls) teams at Mini Kickers, ages 4 to 6; Vipers u7s, Eagles u8s, Pumas u10s; Panthers u11s; Falcons u12s; Cougars u14s; Raptors u16s; and Senior.

Due to the limited grass area at the Padbury Recreation Ground, training and matches are distributed across multiple sites with additional hire of Thornton College; Sir Thomas Freemantle School; Buckingham Primary School; and Swan Astro, Buckingham.

Rising costs continues to challenge the financial viability of the Club and its accessibility for all. In 2025/26, the Club invested c. £4,000 on necessary Springfield ground maintenance including scarifying; verti-draining; weed spraying; resurfacing and reseeded activities. Such activities enable the ground to be maintained and increases the capacity for multiple fixtures on the same pitches. Dog fouling remains an issue.

Padbury Pre-school

I am glad to say that this year has been another year of continued strengthening of our provision and ongoing dedication from staff, leadership and our committee. Padbury preschool remains a calm, nurturing and focussed setting where children thrive supported by a team that works tirelessly to provide the very best in early years' experience.

We continued to invest in our outdoor environment making further improvements to the decking and soft play area. These enhancements have enriched the children's daily experiences by creating a more sheltered outdoor space that can be used whatever the weather. We were also lucky to receive some money from Eon through the Parish Council and the donation to charity scheme which we put towards the purchase of an interactive touch table.

A major focus this year has been our building project which has taken a lot of time and energy. We will be building a garden room to support children with interventions and as a quiet area and breakout space. Work on this space should start in the next couple of months.

A number of our team have completed or are working towards training levels and qualifications.

The voluntary committee of the preschool deserves special recognition. Their solid support, willingness to take on responsibilities and commitment to the pre-school are deeply appreciated.

Our finances remain stable and well managed. Over the past year we have invested in some HR support to ensure we are legally compliant with all the changes being brought in with the Employers Right Act this has proved highly beneficial. We are full for the remainder of this academic year and are taking registrations up to 2028.

The pre-school has excelled at inviting the community into the setting. Events such as sports day, Mothers, Fathers and Grandparents Days and World Book Day have once again strengthened our links with families and the wider village.

Padbury Pre-school continues to flourish thanks to the dedication of our staff, the strength of our leadership, the commitment of our committee and the support of our community.

Padbury Speedwatch Group

We are a small group of volunteers who run speedwatch sessions a couple of times a month. Speedwatch are groups of people aiding Thames Valley Police by recording speeding vehicles.

We record the speed, registration number, make, model, colour of any vehicle driving 36mph and above.

We also record the number of vehicles that pass by in the 1hour session. There can be as many as 500 vehicles on the A413 travelling in one direction at busy times & 250 on Main Street.

The percentage of non re offenders after receiving the 1st letter is 97%

Currently our group aims to do a minimum of 2 sessions per month. If we were able to recruit 3 more volunteers we could increase the number of sessions per month.

All we are asking for is 1 hour twice per month! We always aim to accommodate volunteers with the times they are able to attend.

Friendly Afternoon

2025 was a year of celebrations for the Friendly Afternoon. We celebrated VE 80 with a concert, and Our 60th Anniversary was marked in November by a party, with entertainment by 'The 3 Ukes' and a celebration cake, cut by David Illing.

We had a lovely outing on the Electra canal boat at Milton Keynes in July and our other meetings included Bingo and a visit from the children at Padbury school to play games, which has become a regular annual event and sees the younger and older generations of the village interacting together and having fun.

Greener Padbury Group

In the past twelve months, the Greener Padbury Group has:

Delivered 14 Go Wild in the Woods sessions and 20 Muddy Toddlers playgroup sessions – all free to families.

Organised multiple volunteer work parties for works in the woods and village green spaces to improve biodiversity. We are very grateful for these volunteers – and we know they enjoy both the community and working with nature aspects.

The verges group is now working on restoring the ponds by the Main Street playground. There is much excitement about what these can do for our local wildlife.

We have organised a litter pick, and have run two recycling schemes: a pen and stationery scheme (involving the school) last summer, and currently we are collecting blisterpacks.

We continue in our efforts to reach more members of the community. Our AGM and celebratory supper in November was another well attended event.

We fund our initiatives largely through grants. We have had recent successes with Heart of Bucks, Tesco blue tokens, Waitrose green tokens, the Co-op Local Community scheme, Wates Family Trust and the Marsh Charitable Trust. We also receive donations from the local community.

After close cooperation with the Parish Council, we received a grant from Heart of Bucks to improve both biodiversity and access to nature.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm