



WAVENDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WAVENDON ANNUAL PARISH / VILLAGE MEETING - HELD AT 7.00 PM ON THE 20 MAY 2024 AT WAVENDON COMMUNITY CENTRE IN THE FORMER SCHOOL HALL.

Present: Cllr's D Hopkins, A Braddish, R Hill, M Levermore, Cllr T Bailey (Ward Councillor, PCSO A Ryan (TVP), PCSO (TVP) & 1 resident. Clerk was in attendance.

1.0 Apologies:

Cllr's R Jamieson, J Goss, J Wilkinson, L van den Berg & S Thomas.

2.0 Approval of minutes:

The minutes of the Annual Village Meeting of 18 September 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.

3.0 Reports from Thames Valley Police:

Representatives from Thames Valley Police presented the crime figures for Wavendon covering the period 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024.

Category	Glebe Farm	Eagle Farm	Wavendon	Total
ASB community	29	5	1	35
ASB environmental	3	0	0	3
ASB personal	17	4	0	21
Assault with injury	25	17	2	44
Assault without injury	55	17	6	48
Burglary residential	12	4	0	16
Criminal damage	17	7	2	26
Dangerous dog	5	2	1	8
Suspicious other	13	5	4	22
Suspicious person	26	14	2	42
Theft of vehicle	13	0	0	13
Theft from vehicle	14	4	0	18
Theft of pedal cycle	3	4	0	7
Shoplifting	0	0	34	14
Total	232	83	52	367

It was noted that the 34 shoplifting were connected to the BP Garage and that TVP are working closely with Wavendon Service Station to try and reduce these offences.

Over the summer period please ensure you do not leave windows / doors open whilst you are out and that all sheds / garages are padlocked. Reminder also not to advertise your summer holidays on social media until after the trip.

Please also ensure that your vehicles are locked. If you own a keyless vehicle, store your keys in a faraday box or pouch to block the key signal, consider also using a steering wheel lock.

Please continue to report incidents to us via the phone 101 or 101 online if it is a non-urgent crime and 999 in an emergency.

TVP were asked the following questions.

- **Why are the crime figures high and how does this compare with other areas in Milton Keynes?**

Response – more people are now reporting crimes. New house building does trigger more criminal activity. Residents do have door box security but tend to share this among individual WhatsApp groups but do not report incidents to TVP.

- **Can Wavendon Parish Council assist TVP in any way?**

Response.

- Create a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
- Encourage reporting of all crimes and incidents to TVP.
- Set up quarterly open public meetings
- If there are any events this summer that would be suitable for us to pop along to then please let us know.

- **Was anyone arrested for the murder that happened a few months?**

Response – an arrest was made.

- **Are there enough resources available?**

Response – Efforts are being made to recruit new PSCO's.

The Chair placed on record grateful thanks on behalf of Wavendon Parish Council and Local Residents for the efforts of Thames Valley Police over the past year.

4.0 Chair's Report:

Presented by Cllr D Hopkins.

Chairmans Annual Report 2023-2024

This has been another busy and sometimes challenging year dominated by issues connected with the growth of the parish and its consequences, both positive and negative,

Firstly, let's start with the changes from MK City Council. Principle amongst these changes has been the introduction of the new four colour wheelie bin system from delivered under contract by Suez on behalf of MK City council. Broadly welcomed the system has been judged a success as has the associated street cleansing services.

MK City Council announced that it was undertaking a review of ward boundaries increasing the number of city councillors from 57 to 60 and the number of wards from 19 to 20. Residents are invited to comment by July 2024.

The population of the parish continues to grow apace, and we continue to dispatch a minimum of fifty *Welcome Packs* to new residents each and every month.

I can summarise the impacts under a few brief headings, namely.

- Highways
- South East Milton Keynes and MK 2050 (the new local plan)
- East West Rail
- Community Action and community facilities
- The Wavendon Hub

Highways

Growth in the levels of traffic across the whole of the parish and the need for speed restrictions and associated traffic management measures led to a well-attended public meeting on 23 November 2023 at which the MKCC Traffic and Transportation Manager

and two colleagues from MKCC listened to concerns from residents from across the parish. A follow up meeting is set for 12th June 2024 at which proposals will be tabled to address the issues raised.

The wet winter has led to numerous potholes appearing everywhere and MKCC has attempted to address these maintenance issues using its own defined measurement criteria.

SEMK and MK2050 (including land east of Newport Road)

The Swan Hill development on the parish boundary close to Frosts Garden Centre (the first stage of the SEMK development) is now well underway and has caused some issues with highways delays and the removal of a hedgerow. Planning applications for land south of the railway are expected in September 2024 with an application for the land north of the rail line not expected until the Spring 2025. The Bletcham Way (H10) extension into Wavendon parish to enable Church Farm (and other SEMK land developments) to begin has completed Phase One and that will enable construction traffic on to site. Phase two (the bridge over Byrd Crescent in Wavendon Gate and the roundabout improvements) will commence in the autumn of 2024. Eventually this will provide a major artery into the SEMK urban expansion area and the (up to) 4000 dwellings that will accompany it.

Thanks go to Cllr Ron Jamieson and Cllr Steve Thomas for accompanying me at meetings of the SEMK Stakeholders Group (organised by MKCC) and the Woburn Sands Futures (looking at how to get the best out of the design and infrastructure of SEMK) which is organised by former WSTC member, Michael Geddes.

East West Rail

Universal Studios announcement of a theme park on land close to Stewartby and Kempston Hardwick has provided fresh impetus to the EWR project, and a formal, statutory consultation is due to be published in June 2024. The opening of the line between Bletchley and Oxford has been delayed until December 2025.

Thanks to Cllr Len Van Den Berg for attending the virtual EWR Stakeholder meetings (organised by the EWR Company) along with myself.

Community Action

The Parish has been working closely with Aimee Tidman of Community Action and Shaaron Forbes of the Glebe Farm School Community Hub. The Parish has funded (with grant assistance from national government) community freezers, fridges and associated equipment and supplies to be housed at the Community Hub located at Glebe Farm School. The Parish Council has also been working closely with that organisation to deliver numerous community-based projects in the newest parts of the parish.

The Wavendon Hub

The Wavendon Hub is already working at full capacity in terms of rental hire use and the sports fields have finally been transferred and are in use managed by Woburn and Wavendon Lions FC. Our thanks go to Cllr Robert Hill for his tireless efforts to achieve this outcome.

Separately the Parish Council has worked with a community group to see the development of a local Wavendon Cricket Club based at the Glebe farm School. They play their first fixtures in May 2024.

Education

St Marys School Wavendon is academizing and is transferring into the IfTL Multi Academy Trust (from maintained school status) and this should be concluded by September 2024.

Demand for places at both St Marys and Glebe Farm School has meant that additional year groups have been opened early in both schools.

Buses and Public Transport (including local rail services)

The Parish Council was instrumental in lobbying Arriva (bus operator) to reroute the number 3 and 3a bus through Eagle Farm South and Glebe Farm. It is hoped that the route will extend soon through Dankworth Way and Elmswell Road (Glebe Farm) with a new stop and shelter located at the Wavendon Hub on Dankworth Way for use of those visiting the Stables, the Hub and residents living on Walton Road. The 450 Woburn Sands to CMK service that passes through the village was rather on and off during the year. Currently operating again, it is hoped that a more substantial and resilient service might be achieved in the coming weeks.

The Marston Vale Line (closed for over a year) is now fully operational (apart from industrial action days) and the rail operator is offering a £1 fare initiative until the end of August.

Glebe Farm and Eagle Farm South

Progress has been made regarding.

- Allotments (hope to start to deliver sites during the coming council year)
- New play areas in the newest parts of the parish
- New retail opposite St Marys School
- New play area in the field adjacent to The Stables and Glebe Farm
- New retail and community facility opposite Glebe Farm school
- Traffic safety light-controlled crossing on Burney Drive at St Marys School
- 20 MPH on all residential areas in the newly developing parts of the parish
- Provision of post boxes and litter bins (dog bins included) where demanded.
- Information boards erected at key community intersections.

Wavendon Community Centre and former school building (and PC organised activities)

All the halls and meeting rooms are booked at close to capacity. The Parish Clerk and Cllr Hill work tirelessly to ensure the halls are maintained to the highest standards.

The Mayoress of Milton Keynes formally opened the Covid Memorial Garden at the former school building and thanks go to Frosts Garden Centre for donating the plants that make up the bulk of that gardens display.

Thanks go to Cllr Marlese Levermore for organising parish litter picks during the year and to Cllr Steve Thomas for organising the frequent Community Speed Watch activities.

Wavendon Volunteer Army

Our thanks go to Jim Pitman who has now moved away from the Parish but who was instrumental in organising the so called Wavendon Volunteer Army that has undertaken so many community initiatives that have made the parish that much better maintained and an attractive and desirable place to live. Parish resident Roger Penfound has picked up the mantle.

New Parkland in the MK2050 local plan

Roger Penfound (working with other residents and Cllr Thomas and Cllr Jamieson) is spearheading a campaign to achieve a parkland buffer zone on land east of Newport Road and surrounding Wavendon House and a formal submission arguing this case will form part of the Parish submission during the consultation phase of the MK 2050 Local Plan Review due in the late summer/early autumn.

Thames Valley Police

A Community Residents event was held in the Wavendon hub in April with presentations from MK City Council Trading Standards (concerning online scams), Neighbourhood Watch and Thames Valley Police. Thanks go to our outstanding PCSO Amy Ryan for organising. The biggest topic of concern turned out to be motorised scooters although questions were also raised regarding the recent armed robbery at the Walnut Tree Tesco retail and the tragic murder (many months ago) close to Glebe Farm. Crime figures for the parish remain very low overall when compared with other areas of MK.

My thanks go to my two ward council colleagues, Tracey Bailey and Victoria Hopkins (who was re-elected for another term in May 2024) and to all of my colleagues on the parish council for their hard work and dedication over the past twelve months, to the Halls Manger (declaring an interest as she is my wife!), to Robert Hill in his position as facilities manager and of course to our outstanding and community focused Parish Clerk, Alan Kemp.

Wavendon Parish Council proudly pursues a policy of 'One Wavendon' and the integration of old and new which we hope we can take forward well into the future.

5.0 Accounts for 2023/2024

Presented by the Clerk - **see appendix 1.**

Arrangements are in hand for Auditing Solutions Ltd to complete the internal audit in early June 2024.

Following on from the completion of the Internal Audit the Clerk will complete the Annual Return for approval at the Parish Council meeting on the 17 June 2024.

Last financial year we had income of £191,734 for the Parish Council and expenditure of £219,035. The income for the Community Centres was £55,687 and expenditure of £51,943.

Year cash balance on 31 March 2024 for the Parish Council was £17,121 and £21,626 for the Community Centre totalling £38,747, a decrease of £23,557 from the previous year.

A claim has been submitted to HMR&C to re-claim all VAT for 2023/2024.

Pay-roll year-end reports have been completed for 2023/2024 for HMRC.

We still must complete a new Bank Mandate for Barclays Bank

6.0 Towns Lands Charity:

Presented by the Parish Clerk on behalf of the Charity.

Charitable Objectives – The relief of the poor, repairs of the church and highways and other charitable uses for the benefit of Wavendon. Practically, this entails grants given to the Parish Church and other local charities in the ancient parish of Wavendon.

Income - Total up to the 31 March 2023 - £21,044.

Expenditure - £4,573.

7.0 George Wells Education Trust Report:

Presented by Cllr D Hopkins on behalf of the Charity.

The George Wells Educational Foundation is a local charity that is available to residents under 25 and living in Woburn Sands, Aspley Heath or Wavendon (ancient parish) to apply for grants towards their university course, NVQ or apprenticeship course.

The charity was set up with money bequeathed by George Wells of Wavendon, who on his death in 1713 left a sum of money to provide assistance to scholars.

The grants can be for the cost of books and equipment directly for use on the course, or other miscellaneous expenses. The expenses must be for items that are used for the course only. For example, scissors for a hairdressing apprenticeship or surgical shoes for someone completing a medical degree. Grants cannot be awarded for items such as ink cartridges, computers, or travel expenditure.

The charity has seen a decrease in the number of students applying since covid and it is hoped that by spreading the word about the charity more students will apply.

Students can apply for grants via an application form that can be found on the Woburn Sands Town Council website or by contacting the clerk- georgewellsfoundation@hotmail.com. The Woburn Sands Town Council website also lists the eligible areas of Wavendon that can apply for a grant.

8.0 Poor Coals Charity:

Presented by Cllr D Hopkins on behalf of the Charity.

Poor's Coal Charity – Report on 2023/2024 Trustees adopted the name “Three Parishes Charity” for public appeal

Background history of the Charity

Set up more than 200 years ago by the Duke of Bedford's Estate to make grants of wood or coal each year to the needy of the Ancient Parish of Wavendon. Over time the Estate's grants of wood to the Charity were converted into a fixed annual cash sum and subsequently a grant to enable the Charity to invest, however, the income from this is now less than £200 pa. In recent years the Charity has been fortunate in receiving grants from other charities to supplement the amount available to successful applicants, but these amounts cannot be guaranteed for future years. In 2022 The Duke of Bedford generously agreed to provide a further £5,000 to the capital fund, helping to increase direct earnings for the charity.

A board of trustees appointed by the Parish Councils of Woburn Sands, Aspley Heath and Wavendon considers each application to satisfy themselves that the applicant qualifies. It is open to anyone who lives in the modern parishes of Woburn Sands, Aspley Heath and Wavendon and has resided there for at least 1 year prior to their application. They must consider themselves to be in need of the limited help available and be prepared to answer questions related to their income bracket.

Activity in 2023/2024

The current energy cost continues to hit poorer families. The trustees' steps in 2022 to widen the territory to include adjacent Broughton continued with grant support from Broughton Ecclesiastical Charity. This is within the Trust Deed terms.

During the 12 months to 31/3/24, 50 applicants for help were approved. Awards are paid direct to their energy supplier. Approved applicants with household incomes over £20k. received 50% of the full £130 award. Total payout was £5,785. This was possible due to the support as follows:

£990 was the income received from investments and interest, substantially helped by the investment of Winter Fuel Allowances received from generous pensioners.

£500 was received from Aspley Heath Parish Council as a donation.

£200 was received from Woburn Sands Town Council as a donation

£100 was received from Wavendon Parish Council as a donation

£3,000 was received from Broughton Ecclesiastical Charity (BEC) as a donation. This year the BEC donation includes the normally separate donation made by Townlands Charity. In addition to the above sums paid out as awards, the capital fund has been increased by a further £1,400 from 'Winter Fuel Allowance' appeals to better off pensioners in the area.

Other charities support makes up two thirds of awards paid out. It is key to maintaining the useful help we are currently able to make.

If anyone is aware of someone with a household income of less than £20,000 pa and who meets the criteria above, they should be encouraged to apply.

9.0 Mrs Robinsons Charity:

Presented by the Parish Clerk on behalf of the Charity.

Charity was established in 1965 by a donation of £500 from Mrs Robinson (resident).

There was no outing in September 2023 due to funding issues.

The investment value of the funds as at the 31 March 2024 was £10,686.25.

Current bank statement as of 31st March 2024 is £387.97

There will again be **NO** outing in September 2024 because of a shortfall in funding and rising costs for organising the event.

The Annual Return for 2023 (charity reference 249733) for the Charities Commission was completed on the 4 May 2024.

10.0 Woburn & Wavendon Football Club:

Presented by the Robert Hill on behalf of the football club.

Woburn & Wavendon FC would like to express thanks to Wavendon Parish Council for the continued opportunity to use the Recreation Ground. Far from regarding the relationship as just 'renting pitches', the Club is committed to improving and enhancing the facility so that a maximum number of local youngsters can enjoy all the benefits of organised football in a safe and fun environment. We have been responsible for the grass cutting and groundcare for many years, and the surface is now hugely improved and far more robust. Significant Football Foundation investment continues to go into the site (weed control, aeration, seeding etc), and I think it's fair to say the site has never looked or played better.

Wavendon Recreation Ground has been home to a full range of teams from Under 7 mixed through to Under 16 girls. It's also home to our award-winning pan-disability sessions on Sunday mornings – GoalAbility. The Club continues to stagger KO times and manage usage to minimise both parking issues and playing surface wear. We'd like to say a special thank you to all residents for their patience and support as we look to optimise the limited parking opportunities.

The Club was eagerly anticipating the opening of the brand-new pitches at Wavendon Heights in September 2023. Sadly, that was not to be, however I can now report that handover of the pitches took place on 1st May 2024 with full use scheduled to start in late August 2024. Glebe Farm School now plays a huge role in providing community football facilities, with WWFC not only holding most of our midweek winter training on the floodlit 3g, but also now utilising the grass pitches for the first time. Sincere thanks to the staff, management and governors of Glebe Farm School for their commitment to Community use of their facility.

It's no exaggeration to say that juggling the huge and growing demand for grass roots football against delays in delivery of Wavendon Heights as well as issues with one of the wettest winters on record has been very challenging.

On a more general note, despite the excellent contribution from long standing facilities such as Wavendon Recreation Ground and St Mary's Primary School, and now Glebe Farm School, the huge demand for grassroots football is generally not being supported by the provision of facilities across Milton Keynes and Central Bedfordshire. What new facilities have been promised are suffering delays or do not provide the capacity initially promised. The continued development and population growth will only make this worse. If the problem is not tackled it will inevitably contribute further to child obesity issues and potentially add to anti-social problems further down the line. It's therefore important that the Club looks to maximise usage of all potential sites and look to develop relationships with all facility operators. It's vital that we continue to hold Milton Keynes Council accountable for the significant shortfall in playing field provision associated with the SLA developments. **Any further new developments should not progress until previous commitments are delivered**, and an extension of Wavendon Recreation Ground with access and parking from the extended H10 must be delivered as soon as possible.

Finally, WWFC have again been awarded Three Star FA Accreditation. This is the highest level of accreditation awarded by the FA, but more importantly ensures the best standards of grassroots football delivery. It also means WWFC plays a full part in future FA facility investment planning and delivery.

Once again, we would like to thank the Wavendon PC for their support and encouragement as we seek to deliver all the benefits of healthy team sport to as many local youngsters as possible. Along with our partners at Little Brickhill, Bow Brickhill and Woburn Parish Councils plus schools in Wavendon and Heath and Reach, the Club is able to deliver comprehensive progressive opportunities from Under 6 to adult, all abilities and both mixed and girls' football.

11.0 St Mary's Wavendon School Report:

Presented by Cllr Hopkins on behalf of the school.

In Brief

- Moving towards joining the IFTL MAT (of which Glebe Farm Combined School is a part).
- Academisation process approved by DfE (16 May 2024)
- School numbers extended above 400 students (capacity is 630) with additional year groups opening early to accommodate demand.

Challenges

- SEND demands.
- Recruitment of much needed additional staff
- Budget

Thanks to Amanda Dicks and her dedicated team and to my fellow governors for all their hard work.

12.0 To receive the Glebe Farm School Report:

Presented by Cllr Levermore on behalf of the school.

- Currently there are 268 girls and 295 boys registered at the school
- There are 71 SEND pupils

- The school are grateful for the support received from Milton Keynes City Council and Wavendon Parish Council in enabling the forthcoming Community Larder Project to be established in June / July 2024.
- There is also help for families with regards to the school uniform.
- The school are committed to support families with the foodbank, coffee mornings and other activities.

13.0 Unitary Authority:

It was noted that Cllr D Hopkins submits a monthly report as Unitary Councillor to the Parish Council (which is placed on the website) that reports on current items impacting the Parish and neighbouring communities.

It was also noted that Cllr T Bailey attends Wavendon Parish Council meetings and supports the Parish residents when required.

14.0 Wavendon Volunteer Army.

The following report was prepared by Cllr A Braddish.

Many thanks to the members of the Wavendon Volunteer Army, mainly over 70 years of age, who roll up their sleeves and do positive things to enhance the village without whingeing!

Special thanks to Jim Pittman (who has recently moved away from the village), who I have planted an Oak in recognition of the backbreaking work, planting many trees over the village.



15.0 Matters Arising not covered in the agenda:

No other issues were raised.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Appendix 1

Attachment 1

Wavendon Parish Council Bank Account Reconciliation 2023-2024

	<u>31-Mar-23</u>	<u>31-Mar-24</u>
Community Account	£ 44,776.12	£ 12,721.64
Business Premium Account	£ 13,796.78	£ 13,927.52
Community Account - 1	£ 16,491.90	£ 20,219.50
Community Account - 2	£ 1,390.24	£ 1,406.97
Totals	£ 76,455.04	£ 48,275.63
Minus uncleared cheques	-£ 14,151.52	-£ 9,528.61
Totals	£ 62,303.52	£ 38,747.02

Cash Book

Opening Balance - Parish Council	£ 29,275.08	£ 44,421.38
Opening Balance - Community Centre	£ 40,331.41	£ 17,882.14
Receipts - Parish Council	£ 174,398.34	£ 191,733.75
Receipts - Community Centre	£ 35,887.51	£ 55,687.32
Less Payments - Parish Council	-£ 159,251.84	-£ 219,034.58
Less Payments - Community Centre	-£ 58,336.78	-£ 51,942.99
Adjustment	-£ 0.20	£ -
Cash Holdings	£ 62,303.52	£ 38,747.02

Note : Cheques not cleared as at 31/03/24

Cheque Number	Amount
101687	£ 324.00
101688	£ 10.00
101697	£ 2,100.00
101698	£ 208.80
101703	£ 3,785.44
101709	£ 208.75
101714	£ 1,272.00
101716	£ 488.80
101717	£ 558.00
101718	£ 25.02
101719	£ 550.00
Total	£ 9,528.61

31st March 2024
Date of Issue - 16.05.2024