



## **COLDHARBOUR PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 8pm Fairford Leys Community Centre, Hampden Square, Fairford Leys**

- Present & Officiating:** Cllr Andrew Cole (Chairman of the Parish Council)  
Mr K Gray, JP (Clerk to the Parish Council)
- Parish Councillors:** A Poland-Goodyer, S James, S Pattinson, S Walland, C Baughan,  
S Wadlow, T Andrew,
- Residents of the Parish:** 1 member of the public

#### **1. Welcome**

Cllr Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from parish councillors N Blandford & A Hritcan.

#### **3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 be agreed and signed as a true record.

#### **4. Annual Report of the Parish Council**

Chairman to present the Annual Report of the Parish Council.

Cllr Andrew Cole gave the following report:

It has been a busy but welcome year for the Parish Council, I say welcomed, as we returned to putting on our community events which I know I have missed and judging by the numerous comments from residents they have missed too. We were blessed with fair weather at all our events and as always, they were well supported. July saw Fair in the Square back and as busy as ever, and Music in the Square in September was one of the best.

We celebrated the Queens Platinum Jubilee in June with 'The Big Lunch' event in the square. This was supposed to be just a picnic and gathering to celebrate our Monarchs amazing reign but turned in to a wonderful community celebration with music and dancing well into the afternoon. This event was made even more special as in September it was my solum duty to read 'The Proclamation of Sovereignty' following the sad passing of our late Monarch Queen Elizabeth II. This is an incredibly old tradition that dates back hundreds of years to announce the passing of the current Monarch and the statement of a new one. Around 50 residents attended the Proclamation, which had only been announced that it would be made that morning.

In August I had the pleasure of opening the new outdoor Gym which replaced the old play area on Brimmers Way. Present with me to cut the ribbon were Cllr Susan Morgan (Vice Chair of Aylesbury Community Board), Cllr Adam Poland-Goodyer (who had secured the grant funding for the project), Freeman of the Parish Cllr Steven Lambert, Cllr Sarah Walland, Amy Jenner (Aylesbury Community Board) and Isabella Greenfield (HS2) who had refurbished the fencing. The park has been well used and marks the start of our ongoing play area works.

We also held our remembrance service and wreath laying ceremony on Amnesty Sunday and Christmas in the Square was amazing. The lights and the Christmas tree make the square look wonderful and my thanks as always go to our Maintenance Team who really work so hard to make it magical.

I have also had the pleasure of representing the Council and residents at several of the Aylesbury Town Mayor's events, this included the Mayor making ceremony in May and the Civic Remembrance and Christmas services held at St Mary's Church. Coldharbour Parish Council has a wonderful working relationship with Aylesbury Town Council, and I am always proud to put on the Chain of Office and champion our brilliant community.

In between all the social and community events The Council has also been hard at work on matters that directly affect our village. We continue to meet monthly with HS2 and their contractors discussing and questioning whenever possible their works and impacts on us and the surrounding areas. This has been heavily focused on flood modelling and the impact the project will have on our flood defences and local wildlife. As well as the ongoing issues with traffic congestion caused by the increase in HGVs on our roads, our councillors have challenged site traffic deviating from the agreed routes and using Fairford Leys as a cut through.

As well as meeting with HS2 monthly, in December myself, Cllr Poland, Cllr James, Cllr Lloyd (Leader Aylesbury Town Council) and Guy Grieves (Ernest Cook Trust) were taken on a site visit of the works from Stoke Mandeville to just pass Fairford Leys towards the A41. Whilst it is still devastating to see the damage that HS2 is doing to our wonderful Countryside the engineering feats are impressive. We made sure to inspect the two ancient Oak trees that had been saved and inspected where the train line will pass under the A413.

We are also using our Facebook Page to encourage residents to respond to consultations that affect the village and make sure their voices are heard. This has included the proposed new double yellow lines around Arncot Way and the School as well as the current consultation on the 5G mast proposed at the entrance of Fairford Leys Way.

The Parish Council continues to meet every first Thursday at 8pm in the Community Centre to deal with monthly business such as Planning Applications, Riverine Corridor Adoption, and questions from the residents. The parish council is the elected body to represent all residents in Fairford Leys and we are constant in our endeavours to make sure that other stakeholders do not make decisions that negatively affect Fairford Leys. We work closely with Buckinghamshire Council as well as any others who have an impact on our community. We rely on residents to keep us informed and updated on matters that are important to enable Fairford Leys to grow and remain a pleasant place to live.

Additional maintenance works continue due to the increase in our responsibilities as we take over the land areas which have been transferred to us by Buckinghamshire Council. All the land which makes up Fairford Leys either has or will be transferred to the parish council.

The increased costs overall in maintenance works and land management is something we are conscious of as well as the running of the community centre, which is at the heart of our community. Costs have risen in fuel and utilities and this has made some management decisions difficult, but we continue to provide the best service we can for the residents of Fairford Leys.

We have 11 playgrounds to look after as well as the large areas of riverine land as well as trees and hedges works. We have riparian owner responsibilities for the riverine but we also work with the Environment Agency and other stakeholders as they too, have legal responsibilities for the water course. We will continue to manage, and protect the land, as best we can so that Fairford Leys remains the best it can be.

We also continue to manage the Ernest Cook Trust Covenant (which is on all properties on Fairford Leys as well as the additional garage covenant) which is important to ensure that the overall look of Fairford Leys remains as true as it can to the original Master Plan for Fairford Leys. We appreciate those residents who support us in this sometimes difficult area as we wish to protect the overall design and development in terms of planning scheme for Fairford Leys. We try to ensure that Fairford Leys remains as best it can be, clean, tidy and presentable with a focus on community.

We have, and continue to support our local businesses which are important to us as a local community. Please continue to use the local businesses to ensure their success. All this work could not happen without the support of the Clerk to the Parish Council, fellow Councillors, Maintenance Team and our Fairford Leys Community Centre staff and I must say a massive thank you to them all for the hard work that they put in behind the scenes to make this such a wonderful place to live and work.

It is with pleasure that I submit this report on behalf of the Parish Council.

Andrew Cole  
**Cllr Andrew Cole**  
**Chairman of the Council**

## **5. Councillors / Community Groups**

To receive any reports from Bucks Council Members. To receive any reports from Community Groups / Stakeholders if present. To receive any questions or proposals from residents:

The following report was presented by Cllr Adam Poland-Goodyer on behalf of the Coldharbour Ward Councillors:

### **Buckinghamshire Councillor Report for Annual Meeting of CPC**

All Buckinghamshire Cllrs were sent a pre-prepared report to share at Annual Meetings with the standard corporate line of 'all is well' and 'we are amazing'. We will use their template (which probably not supposed to be shared with opposition members) and correct the record, as well as highlight what we have achieved as local ward members. I will attach the pre-prepared statement at the end of this report for comparison. It is interesting to note that it is not encouraging local members to say what they have achieved for their wards.

Of course, given the current audience, it would be remiss of us not to mention that one of the key achievements of the last year was the adoption a Town and

Parish Charter for Buckinghamshire which was formally adopted last July. This would be a crowning achievement if, it was actually adhered to and respected by both cabinet and officers as we are seeing repeated breaches of the code of conduct by Bucks Council towards the parishes.

Aside from confidential casework, within the parish of Coldharbour we have been successful in securing over £100k of infrastructure and improvement works. These include;

- Opening of the new Adult Gym in Brimmers Way during August 2022 by the Chairman which was secured via a funding bid from your ward cllrs to pay for the works/improvements
- Complete resurfacing of the footpath on Brimmers Way to replace the failed path
- Repair of the dangerous pothole on a corner of Great Meadow Way
- Secured funding to convert an unappreciated playpark into a community garden
- Liaised (alongside the clerk) with Bucks Council Active Travel team to secure new, bespoke cycle parking in Fairford Leys Centre (to match the aesthetics of the village)
- Secured the official Platinum Way launch event to take place in Fairford Leys
- Secured the funding for Double Yellow lines to be installed along Arcott Way from the Roundabout to Chelsea Way (both Sides) and within Keen Close (St. Marys School).

These funded works have not been without issues and subterfuge from higher authorities within Buckinghamshire Council and there have been MANY angry emails sent to certain cabinet members and officers to determine certain courses of action. Needless to say, we have been in the right, every time.

Aylesbury Garden Town has been a concern. Since the nomination of Adam Poland-Goodyer as the southern representative there have been blatant moves to stop his appointment to the board. Despite this being questioned in full council, Cllr Adam Poland-Goodyer had received NO email response from AGT for a period of over 3 months. AGT are now 'restructuring' their board, which incidentally means that my nomination will no longer stand as a serving member of Bucks Council will no longer be eligible. I have a meeting next week with the head of the scheme and will feedback in due course. As the agenda item in the full council meeting suggests. I will provide more detail verbally then.

Aylesbury Town Council regeneration seems to be stalled. For many reasons. Being a separate parish and having devolved powers has been to our advantage with the new community board system. As opposed to Aylesbury Town Council, we are landowners and manage property within our parish which makes applying for bids slightly easier.

Council Tax bills have now dropped through everyone's doors and it is worth noting that in the opinion of the official opposition to the Tory Led Bucks Council, Buckinghamshire Councils finances are in a perilous state. We are having to borrow from reserves to balance the budget for this financial year. Combined, the BC tax increase was 4.99% as opposed to CPC increase of 2%. Bucks Council Cabinet have been very clear that all areas of the council need to find 'efficiencies' (which we know is another word for cuts) in this financial year. As a Parish, we need to ensure that Bucks council do not try to devolve services to us without the proper financial safeguards and securities (as they have tried to do with Aylesbury Town Council). This, from a ruling party who call themselves economically prudent! This council has not achieved its stated aim on formation 3 years ago of being more economical and better for residents.

What Bucks Council wanted to say.....

## Town & Parish Suggested Notes for AGMs

These suggested notes are designed to support Members attending local town and parish annual general meetings in May 2023 to verbally highlight some of the Buckinghamshire Council achievements over the last year.

### **Introduction**

The following could be used as introductory words, although Members may wish to tailor or use their own.

*Thank you for the opportunity to give a short update on some the past year's activities and achievements for Buckinghamshire Council. I/We just wanted to take a few moments to highlight some of the achievements which reflect our four key corporate priorities, strengthening our communities, protecting the vulnerable, improving our environment and increasing prosperity.*

*Of course, given the current audience, it would be remiss of me/us not to mention that one of the key achievements of the last year was the adoption a Town and Parish Charter for Buckinghamshire which was formally adopted last July.*

*As Councils within Buckinghamshire we have a common purpose to improve the economic, environmental, health and social wellbeing of Buckinghamshire, its residents, businesses and visitors. We understand that as independent democratically elected bodies you work within your own financial constraints and represent communities at a truly local level and we recognise that parish and town councils are a key connection between the unitary council and their community who can help us improve services and foster greater community empowerment.*

*The purpose of the charter is to articulate and demonstrate our commitment to work together with all local councils in Buckinghamshire and we have developed an action plan alongside it to help embed the charter and its aims across the council.*

*In addition to this, some of the other key Buckinghamshire Council achievements I/we would like to share with you are.... [see list below for some examples that could be used in addition to any local achievements you may already be aware of]*

### **Achievements**

The following table provides some key Buckinghamshire Council achievements from the year 2022-23. The full Buckinghamshire Council Annual Report 2022-23 will be available after full Council sign off on the 17 May 2023.

<b>STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES</b>	<b>PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our 16 Community Boards have continued to move forward in bringing together local communities to discuss and agree priorities to tackle local issues. In the year 2021/22, they delivered 415 projects totalling some £3.2m. Since their launch in 2020, 841 projects have been delivered totalling £4.9m.</li><li>• We helped thousands of customers inc. 367,300 calls handled, 5,815,584 visits to our website, 29,334 webchats and 23,740</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nearly 14,000 children and young people eligible for free school meals, early years pupil premium or 2-year-old funded early education are receiving additional support through the Household Support Grant in the form of supermarket vouchers for the school holidays.</li><li>• Under the Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme and in addition our own Helping Hand Scheme, we have paid out £19.2m to</li></ul>

face-to-face visits.

- Launched our Buckinghamshire Swan Envoy Scheme, a network of ambassadors who help to inspire, encourage others and promote Buckinghamshire.
- Trained 20 volunteer cooking tutors to deliver targeted 5-week cookery courses to key community groups across Bucks.
- Through our Buckinghamshire Active Communities (piloted in priority wards in Aylesbury and Wycombe), supported residents to reduce their sedentary behaviour by helping everyone to make small daily changes to increase their movement. By working with over 60 partners to implement changes to encourage more movement, we engaged with 4,826 residents including 1200 children through schools.
- 9,569 baby and young child checks by Health Visitors in Buckinghamshire between April and September 2022
- 6,736 free NHS Health Checks have been delivered to those aged 40-74, which identifies early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes or dementia.
- As of 21 March, around 3.5m visits to our leisure centres in 2022/23, and lots of new activities to help people stay healthy.
- An additional 555 affordable homes were delivered via Registered Provider partners during the 12 months from October 2021 to September 2022.
- Joined the Making Every Adult Matter network to work intensively with people who are facing multiple disadvantages.

over 137,254 Buckinghamshire households so far. £18.8m was given out under the mandatory scheme and £444k under the discretionary scheme (12,071 households).

- Increase in in-house fostering capacity resulting in 1670 in house placements as at end of November 2022, compared to 130 in April 2018.
- There has been an increase in the number of adoptive families, up from four between April and September 2021 to 11 between April and September 2022.
- In November 2022, 70% of the percentage of 19–21-year-olds who have left care were in education, employment or training, compared to 57% across the South East.
- From April 2022 to end November 2022 Live Well Stay Well (LWSW) received 8259 referrals compared to 6,231 for the same period in 2021. During the same period, 1542 adults accessed a weight management service through LWSW programme compared to 1047 for the same period in 2021. 72% of adults completing the weight management programme achieving a 3% weight loss and 57% achieving 5% weight loss.
- 7,200 Home to School Transport passengers transported to school every day with over 458 families taking up personal transport budgets
- Community Safety Officers, Street Wardens and Neighbourhood Policing teams carried out 55 visits throughout November and December to encourage premises to sign up to the Ask for Angela scheme.
- As part of White Ribbon Day (WRD) we, with Thames Valley Police, held 16 days of action.
- Recruited a further 186 Domestic Abuse Champions.
- Increased satisfaction survey results show the proportion of people who are satisfied with their care and support still above

	<p>average at 66%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Health have supported the NHS to see over 180,000 people receive a covid autumn booster vaccine within Buckinghamshire. This is over 70% of over 50's and over 85% of over 75's</li> <li>Buckinghamshire has welcomed families fleeing warzones. We have accommodated 15 families from Afghanistan and have welcomed 1500+ Ukrainian guests into the County.</li> <li>We've set up an innovative local crisis fund with local charity partner Heart of Bucks to provide further help to residents experiencing cost-of-living hardship. This has raised a further £180,000 to date, giving us an extra pot of money through which to help residents in need.</li> </ul>
<b>IMPROVING OUR ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>INCREASING PROSPERITY</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five Green Flag awards for our parks: Heartlands in Buckingham, Vale Park and Bedgrove Park in Aylesbury, Higginson Park in Marlow and Hughenden Park in High Wycombe.</li> <li>We have completed 31 prosecutions, 20 fixed penalty notices and 18 simple cautions for fly tipping offences.</li> <li>Completed 17,484 pothole repairs.</li> <li>Continue to deliver against our commitment to spend over £100m making improvements to our highways network.</li> <li>As of 20 March a total of 18,900 trees have been planted with an additional 14,900 by the end of the financial year.</li> <li>Launched a demand responsive transport pilot in High Wycombe delivering 25,000 trips since the launch and is now exceeding 250 passengers a day.</li> <li>Secured Government grants in excess of £10.3m to progress climate change projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreed the Buckinghamshire Strategic Vision for 2050 setting out the current strengths and opportunities present within our county and setting out our aims and ambitions to achieve a thriving, resilient, and successful Buckinghamshire</li> <li>Secured £5.8m from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which will support a range of local priorities including support local business, communities and place and people and skills.</li> <li>Allocated £1.8m of funding through the Rural England Prosperity Fund for grants to rural businesses</li> <li>The Council spent £22.8m of s106 funds on infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of new.</li> <li>The Council has continued to support local businesses negatively impacted by Covid and has paid £3.5m to 126 businesses of COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF). The fund was available to support those businesses affected by the pandemic but that were ineligible for existing support linked to business rates.</li> <li>The Council paid £3.4 million to 917</li> </ul>

	<p>businesses under the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant (OHLG). The main benefactors of this grant are restaurants, cafes and public houses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buckinghamshire Council recruited 45 young people on six-month contracts as part of the Government Kickstart scheme. 17 Kickstarters have secured a permanent role within the Council.</li> <li>• 89.3% of schools are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted compared to 88.5% nationally (November 2022), and 98% of early years providers are also rated good or outstanding, compared to 97% nationally.</li> <li>• Key Stage 4 (GCSE and equivalent) results continue to be above national. In 2022, the Attainment 8 score in Buckinghamshire was 57.3 compared to the national figure of 48.8.</li> </ul>
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No other reports given and no questions asked.

No requests, proposals from residents.

**6. The Chairman to close the meeting**

Resolved: The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_