



COLDHARBOUR PARISH COUNCIL

www.coldharbour-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of the Coldharbour Annual Parish Meeting held at The Fairford Leys Centre, Hampden Square, Fairford Leys on Thursday, 5th April, 2018 at 8.00pm

Present:	Officiating:	Cllr Andrew Cole Mr Keith Gray, JP	Chairman of the Council Clerk to the Council
	Parish Councillors:	Cllr Mrs S A Jarvis Cllr A Poland Cllr A Cole	Cllr Mrs S Pattinson Cllr Mrs C Baughan Cllr S Lambert
	County & District Councillors:	Cllr S Lambert (BCC/AVDC) Cllr A Cole (AVDC)	
	3 Residents	Chloe Lambert (Bucks Herald)	

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced representatives from Fusion JV who are working with Hs2 in establishing wildlife habitat zones near the Hs2 rail lines on land acquired by Hs2.

A presentation was given by Charlotte Hewes and Simon Mackrell from Fusion JV and the community engagement officer for Hs2

1. Apologies for Absence

RESOLVED: To receive and accept apologies for absence from Cllr M David and Cllr Mrs S James.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2016

RESOLVED: To agree and sign the minutes of 6th April, 2017 Annual Parish Meeting, as a true record.

3. Annual Report of the Chairman of the Parish Council

Cllr Andrew Cole

The Chairman to give his annual report on all matters relating to the work of the Parish Council.

Coldharbour Parish Council

Chairman's Report

It only seems like yesterday that I was writing my last annual report, 12 months goes by so very quickly and a busy 12 months they have been. As always, my report must start by thanking the Councillors for their continued support and hard work behind the scenes. This year we said goodbye to Cllr Minton and Cllr Wilde who have stepped down due to personal commitments and I

would like to personally thank them for their hard work and their input at council meetings, they will certainly be missed, and I wish them all the best for the future.

We welcomed back Cllr Eastwood who returned after a short absence and as I write this report we have applications for the 2 remaining positions on the council and I look forward to welcoming our new councillors in what is shaping up to be another busy year.

In May I was again delighted to be able to represent the Parish at the Mayor making event, having the chance to talk to other community leaders about common issues as well as being able to champion what we do here in Fairford Leys.

In July the sun shone for another fantastic Fair in the Square and the annual dog show it was a pleasure to meet so many new residents. In September the council hosted it's annual community event "music in the square" which although the rain threatened cleared up just in time to again see a wonderful evening of live music. My thanks to all the bands, Dan Blaze and all the team who work so hard to make the event such a great evening.

The remembrance service held in the church and the square was also well attended; it is so nice to see the many local groups within our community remember those who have given the greatest sacrifice in service of their country.

I also attended the Mayors remembrance service bringing communities together, this is a wonderful service held at St Mary's church.

Christmas in the Square with the addition of the telling of the nativity was again a wonderful community event and my thanks to the Church on Fairford Leys for putting on a fine show. My thanks also go to Father Christmas for taking time out of his busy schedule to see so many children. As you will be aware we continue to push for the handover of the riverine corridor and this is hopefully approaching completion. As I write we await the land registry completion that will then allow us to take on phase one of the process.

Our maintenance team have been working closely with AVDC and the developers ensuring that the corridor is handed over in an acceptable state for our team to then continue to manage it. Our maintenance team do so much behind the scenes such as gritting some of the roads around the village, grass cutting, emptying dog bins and setting up and down of our village events. We really are very lucky to have such an experienced and dedicated team. So, a massive thank you must go to Steve, Gareth and Brian who look after our village so well in all weathers and are so quick to respond when issues are reported.

The community centre remains a vibrant hub of the community and very busy with classes and private hire. Andy and the team do a great job of making sure everyone who uses the centre has a good experience. They also help out at our community events and my thanks go to them for their hard work in keeping things in check.

HS2 remains on the horizon and the parish continues to engage wherever possible to ensure that proper mitigation measures during and after completion will be in place.

Finally, as a council we are as always guided by our Clerk through the various legal aspects on council business as well as being generally the first port of call when issues arise. His knowledge and guidance is invaluable and my personal thanks go to our Clerk for his continued support not only to the council but to the residents as well.

Andrew Cole

Chairman Coldharbour Parish Council

4. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Steven Lambert

County Councillor to give a report on the work for the community of Fairford Leys and he has represented Coldharbour Ward.

Annual Report to Coldharbour Parish Council – April 2018

Mr Chairman, fellow councillors, I was delighted to have been re-elected to serve as your local councillor at Buckinghamshire County council in May 2017. The results table is below.

Aylesbury West - results

Election Candidate	Party	Votes	%	
Steven Michael Lambert	Liberal Democrat	1362	55.8%	Elected
Peter William Ward	Conservative	522	21.4%	Not elected
Carmel Traynor	Labour	322	13.2%	Not elected
Debbie Huntley	UKIP	237	9.7%	Not elected

It is truly an honour to be our community's representative at the County Council having lived and worked in our community since 2001. I am fortunate to also be elected to be the opposition grouping leader and made a Lead Member for People, Equalities and Diversity at Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority.

I have continued to represent the residents of Coldharbour on a number of personal issues as well as public policy matters and, as ever, have worked constantly to support the parish council in its endeavours to be a great place to live and work.

As a County Councillor much of your work is on local area governance, select committees and social care matters – many of which I am duty bound to keep confidential, but I have fully participated in the Council's Select Committee's for:

- Transport, Economy and Environment (roads, transport, economic development and Community services)
- Health and Adult Social Care (Special Educational Needs, Adults Social Care, Care Homes and health services)
- Children's Social Care and Learning Select Committee (Education and attainment, Social Services for looked after children (fostering and adoptions))
- The annual Budget Scrutiny Committee, which meets to specifically challenge the cabinet members – line by line, on their proposals for the council's budget. Details of the select committees and my role in them, including webcasts and meeting agendas and notes can be found online at: <https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=2100>

I provide regular reports to the Parish Council on my work as a County Councillor. Some of the highlights are:

Unitary Authority.

The Secretary of State has made a 'minded to' decision on the future of the County and District Councils, saying:

'Having carefully considered all the material and representations I have received, I am minded to implement, subject to Parliamentary approval and further discussions, the locally-

led proposal to replace the existing five councils across Buckinghamshire with a single council for the area.

I am satisfied that this new single council, if established, is likely to improve local government and service delivery in the county, generating savings, increasing financial resilience, facilitating a more strategic and holistic approach to planning and housing challenges, and sustaining good local services. I am also satisfied that across Buckinghamshire as a whole there is a good deal of local support for this new council, and that the area of the council represents a credible geography.

Whereas, I am equally satisfied that establishing two councils for the current county area is unlikely to improve local government in the area, generate significant savings, or provide the capacity to sustain major services or to address planning and housing challenges. I believe the areas of the two councils would not represent a credible geography or clear local identity, and that there is significantly less local support for two councils than for a single council. Accordingly, I am not minded to proceed with the proposal for establishing two councils.”

It is important to note that there is a public consultation underway and I would urge everyone to make their views known to the Secretary of State. You can do that direct to the Secretary of State sajid.javid.mp@parliament.uk by 25th May 2018.

It is also important that County Council officers attended the Parish Council meeting last year to explain the case that was submitted and that they are running further public meetings in April – with our local one taking place on Monday 16th April at the multi-Cultural Centre, Friarscroft Way at 6.30 pm where I will be sharing the platform with the Leader of the County Council to debunk myths and explain what the ideas are for the new council. To be clear it is not a takeover of any councils, but the abolition of the County and District Councils and new single Council being elected.

You can read more about the County proposal and get further info on our webpage here: <http://futurebucks.co.uk>

HS2

I have continued to meet with HS2 representatives and put the views of this Parish and its residents to the consortium. The Bill has received Royal Assent and so has moved into the delivery phase. I have assisted a number of residents with questions and issues arising from property sales, to school's education funding plans from HS2, to landscaping and traffic modelling.

Broadband Provision.

I have continued to press the case for the final roll out of super-fast Broadband in Fairford Leys. I have met with senior council officers at the County and District Council and the Senior Responsible Officer and Project Manager for Broadband roll out of the Connected Counties Programme. The Connected Counties programme has been re-profiled and a 'Chief Engineers Business Model' has been revised also. We are expecting more 'news' later in the spring!

Brimmers Way footpath repairs,

Despite the repairs, defects keep re-appearing. Although this isn't a case of the footway slipping away or eroding into the riverine corridor, but that it is set on a poor base. It has been suggested to me that that pathway be removed in its entirety. This will go out to consultation with the residents of Brimmers Way later in the year.

Children's Centres:

Our area has one Children's Centre based out of Bearbrook School which is paired with Elmhurst. Over the last few months, the council has been talking with local councillors, residents, schools and partners, holding public meetings and sharing plans for the new early help service and the suggested future use of children's centres and youth buildings in the local community.

As a result of these conversations, the council wants to do more to capture the views of residents and local families before implementing the new service and will be carrying out a further public consultation in the next few months. As such, the council **will not be** implementing the decision made by Cabinet on 8 January 2018 in relation to moving The Cabinet member has committed to further consultations further with residents and we should expect to see new dates for these as part of the new consultation process.

Ofsted:

As you may be aware, the latest Ofsted report on Children's Services was again unsatisfactory and whilst various improvements were reported, the final outcome was an assessment of inadequate. In the areas of safeguarding, children looked after and leadership, the findings were all inadequate. Care leavers' was assessed as requiring improvement and adoption performance assessed as good.

From what I have seen, the adoption rating appears generous and the leadership assessment is what I expected. A number of senior staff members have left the authority and replacements are being introduced, including a new executive director.

Most disappointing to me is the lack of improvement over three years on the easier to correct issues such as timely and objective reporting by social workers and ineffective care plans. The county council has invested significant amounts of taxpayers' money in improving the service and I am extremely concerned and disappointed by the lack of progress. Read the Ofsted report at:
https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/buckinghamshire/056_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20as%20pdf.pdf

A new 'Commissioner' has been put in place by the Department for Education who will oversee the recovery plan. The Children's Services Commissioner for Buckinghamshire is to be John Coughlan CBE. Please see the DFE announcement here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/revised-direction-issued-to-buckinghamshire-county-council>.

John is the current Chief Executive of Hampshire County Council, a former Director of Children's Services and a past President of ADCS. He will work closely with the council over the next few months and will report to the Department for Education with a recommendation about the future of Children's Services in Buckinghamshire.

County Council Tax

I am a member of the County Council Budget Scrutiny Committee which met in early January to examine and make recommendations on all areas of proposed future spend by the County Council before these are considered by cabinet.

The Budget Scrutiny Committee met in public, some residents attended and others watched it live on webcast. We received a number of emails and tweets during the meetings with questions and suggestions from residents, all of which were put to cabinet members appearing before the committee. To view the webcast and papers go to:
<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=667>

For 2018/2019 council tax increased by 5.99% (3% for the Adult Social Care Precept, 1.99% basic increase and a further 1% inflation increase measure announced by the Government in December). Significantly the Council reserves are now at a 'healthy' level of around £25M, but that Bucks CC was one of only two Councils in the country to receive NO Government Grant this year.

This means that for the first time the Council is standing on its own two feet, without support from central Government, for its key services. Although I am in no way aligned to the majority party, having been part of the budget scrutiny process I am assured that the budget proposals are robust, although I remain sceptical about the budget apportioned to the Children's and Adults portfolios as they both regularly 'dip into' reserves and that means an inconsistent approach to care, cost management and the overall strategy of the council.

Mr Chairman, as your county councillor I will continue to press for the best outcomes for our community and take every opportunity to represent our interests to the County Council and beyond. As ever if anyone would like to contact me for assistance with anything to do with the county council roles and responsibilities, I am available at slambert@buckscc.gov.uk or 01296 338 387.

Cllr Steven Lambert – Bucks County Councillor Aylesbury West

5. Report from District Councillors

District Councillors to give a report on their work for the Community of Fairford Leys and how they have represented Coldharbour Ward.

Cllr Andrew Cole
Cllr Steven Lambert
Cllr Mike Smith

The following councillors gave their reports:

Cllr Andrew Cole (AVDC):

Councillors, Clerk and Residents,

As one of your elected district councillors I continue to work on behalf of the residents of Coldharbour Ward. This has included going against my own party where I feel the interests of our residents is not being represented properly. As you will have seen in my monthly reports I have worked with residents on various issues and below are some of the issues I am continuing to work on.

Domiciliary Care Homes:

I continue to work with the anti social behaviour team, police and residents to report any incidents including raising issues at scrutiny meetings. Although incidents have been fairly low level of late these still have an impact on residents who have been dealing with this issue for many years. I helped draft a letter from residents and our MP to the heads of Ofsted expressing again our concerns for the young people in these homes.

Riverine Corridor:

This I hope is now coming very close to finally start to be handed over, as you know it is planned to be handed over in phases and we await confirmation from the land registry to complete the first phase. AVDC officers, CPC Maintenance team and the developers have been out reviewing the state of the corridor prior to hand over. I must thank the CPC maintenance team for their quick response to issues reported relating to over grown trees and rubbish along the Wedgewood Street stretch.

Planning:

I have also been involved in helping residents in a number of planning applications. This has ranged from giving advise or steering residents in the right direction to supporting residents verbally and in writing.

Unitary Council:

In March the Secretary of State gave his minded to decision that he favoured the single unitary council proposal put forward by Bucks County Council. In his report he stated various reasons as to how he had come to this point but offered no facts, he also invited representation in challenging this. I agreed with my colleagues at the extraordinary council meeting held on 21st March that AVDC should make representation and ask for the facts providing that no more public money other than that which had been previously set aside for the unitary proposal be spent.

I still believe that a double unitary offers the best value to the residents of the Vale and we should make sure that the Secretary of State has been made aware of all our facts.

Andrew Cole (AVDC) Coldharbour Ward

Cllr Steven Lambert (AVDC)

Councillor Lambert also spoke for Cllr Mike Smith and gave the following report:

Cllr Lambert spoke about some of the types if case works he and Cllr Smith have been involved in and the various meetings and discussions relating to Fairford Leys and their involvement in the parish.

Members of the Public / Residents

- Resident raised concerns about pot holes outside the parish boundary
- Resident gave a report in her role as NHW Co-ordinator for Fairford Leys

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____