

LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD AT ABBOTSBROOK HALL
ON FRIDAY 22ND MAY 2015**

AND CHAIRMAN ANNUAL REPORT

Present:	Mrs Emma Marsden – Clerk Cllr A Falk Cllr G Fitchew Cllr K Acres Mr D Banfield Mrs M Fergusson Mrs J Hall Mrs S Blair Ms G Moore Mr R Boas Sgt R Hughes Mrs Downes	Cllr V Brownridge Cllr J Downes District Cllr J Savage County/District Cllr D Watson Mrs P Banfield Mr D Fergusson Mr T Hall Mr N Blair Ms H Moore Mrs B Wallis Mr H Wallis
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APM1501

1. Introduction by New Chairman of Little Marlow Parish Council

Mrs Brownridge paid tribute to the former Chairman, Dallas Banfield, who had served as Chairman of the Little Marlow Parish Council for 23 years. She thanked him for all he had done for the parish over the years both as a Parish Councillor and more particularly as the Chairman of the Parish Council and highlighted some of the many duties and tasks he had undertaken.

Mrs Brownridge also drew attention to the fact that two other Councillors, Barbara Wallis and Ruby Taylor, had decided to stand down. Barbara had been a Councillor for the past 28 years, including three years as Chairman while Ruby had served on the Council for 8 years. Both had done sterling work on the Parish Council.

Mrs Brownridge reported that since the last APM, the Council's long serving Clerk, Gloria Barclay, had also retired. She was a dedicated, hard working clerk who had a real can-do attitude and was prepared to turn her hand to anything which needed to be done, regardless of whether it was part of a Clerk's duties.

Mrs Brownridge announced that the Parish Council would like to recognise the huge contribution all four had made to the well-being of the Parish as well as the contribution made by another former Councillor, Clive Innocent, who had sadly died at the end of last year. The Council had decided to dedicate five of the seven new trees planted on the recreation ground to Dallas, Barbara, Ruby, Clive and Gloria respectively.

Mrs Brownridge welcomed Cllr Anthea Falk onto the Parish Council as well as the Council's new clerk, Emma Marsden. Emma had already made an excellent start and it was clear that she is going to be a real asset to the Parish.

Mrs Brownridge pointed out that the Council still had two vacancies on the Parish Council so would shortly be starting the process to co-opt two new Councillors, but candidates were needed. She asked that anyone who would like to get involved in their local community and have a say in decisions that mattered to that community, should consider becoming a Councillor. Alternatively if anyone knew of someone whom they thought might make a good Councillor, they should encourage them to come forward or give the name of the potential candidate to the Council.

APM15/02

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted for The Rt Hon Dominic Grieve MP, District Cllr David Johncock, William and Pat Northcroft.

APM15/03

It was resolved to move Agenda Item 8. Other reports to earlier in the preceding to accommodate Sgt R Hughes who had a further meeting to go to.

8. Other Reports

Sgt R Hughes – Thames Valley Police

Sgt Hughes gave an informative talk on what is happening with in the Police service in the Marlow and Little Marlow area.

Marlow will have a new police station in approximately 9 months time, in the meantime a ‘pop up’ police station will be in operation within the town. Crime is very low within Little Marlow and overall the crime rate is down by 40%.

Speeding remains a concern and a SID (Speed Activated device) was placed near the pedestrian crossing in Well End. Early data from the SID indicates that speeding didn’t really occur around school hours and peaked between 6-8pm. This time will be targeted for Speed Watch.

Sgt Hughes was pleased the lines had been repainted on the pedestrian crossing at Well End and welcomed the introduction of the Zeebrite beacons – when they are installed!

Three Parishioners then asked questions regarding policing matters around the local area,

APM15/04

3. Geoffrey Moss Memorial Bowl Rose Bowl Presentation

Council Chairman, Mrs Brownridge, presented the Geoffrey Moss Memorial Rose Bowl to Barbara Wallis in recognition of the years of service she had given to the Parish particularly in the fields of planning and conservation which had greatly benefited this community.

Mrs Brownridge said that over the years, Barbara had built up a phenomenal knowledge of planning regulations. She had used this and the good relationship she has developed with the Planning Officers at WDC to protect the interests of Little Marlow parishioners. She had played a key role in fighting off the plans for a football stadium in Little Marlow and in getting as good as deal for the community as possible following the decision to site the Athletics Track in Little Marlow. Barbara’s passion for ensuring that the country-side was open for all had led her to push for maintaining

and extending the foot-path and cycle path network in our parish. Barbara was the Parish Council member of the Chilterns Conservation Board for some 10 years. In this role, she contributed to protecting the AONB areas in the parish. Barbara was involved in a very early stage in the development of the gravel pits, becoming a member of the Little Marlow Gravel Pits Community Partnership and later the Little Marlow Lake Country Park: Community Partnership whose aim was to create a country park in the lakes area for the enjoyment of the local community. She had been a champion of maintaining the community bus service and had taken an interest in local rail services. Mrs Brownridge also mentioned Barbara's charity work. Barbara volunteers several afternoons a week at the Oxfam shop in Marlow and organises the Christian Aid collection in Little Marlow. Mrs Brownridge ended by saying that she hoped that this brief snap shot of the outstanding service Barbara had given to the community showed why Barbara so richly deserved the memorial bowl.

APM15/05

4. Minutes of previous meeting held on Friday 9th May 2014

The Minutes of the last meeting were RESOLVED.

APM15/06

5. Annual Report given by former Chairman of Little Marlow Parish Council – Mr Dallas Banfield

Can I first of all say how grateful I am to Valerie for accepting the office of Chairman. I am pleased to be handing over to someone who I know will continue to look after the affairs of your Council in as careful a manner as I have tried to adopt during my period in office.

We started the year with a vacancy and I am sorry to report the Council now has two posts to fill. During the year we co-opted Jason Downes to the Council who is of course also Chairman of Little Marlow Residents' Association. Despite various expressions of interest before the recent elections, in the event only Anthea put her name forward for which I will be eternally grateful. It does remain however that there is space for two more and no doubt our new Chairman will be pleased to receive all expressions of interest. Another change occurred; Gloria first of all received a long service award from the Society of Local Council Clerks and then had the temerity to retire after only 17 years' service.(her predecessor managed 25!) However, all was not lost and following a lot of interest and a number of interviews we were able to ask Emma to join us as Clerk.

Following the demise of the Quality Council scheme of which we were part the Council received an award from the Local Council Award scheme at foundation level marking the continuing quality of the service provided. We also signed the Armed Services Covenant for which we have a certificate. Yet further honours were heaped upon us when the village received the Certificate of Merit (Highly Commended) in the Best Kept Village competition.

Thanks to funding arranged by Cllr Watson 2 defibrillators have been bought and are to be installed in Abbotsbrook Hall and the Pavilion.

Looking back at last year's report there has been some progress. Finally after considerable to-ing and fro-ing the lease on the Spade Oak car park has been signed and, thanks to the residents of Coldmoorholm Lane is being kept in good order. Following the controversial building of the athletics track Wycombe seemed to wish to annoy residents even more by setting bird scarers to run throughout the night and it was only after some effort that this was stopped. The track is finally up and running (no pun intended) although it now seems it is not quite as perfect as the Development Manager at WDC seemed to believe. We are still waiting to learn whether the community benefits promised by the Little Marlow Trust at the planning stage will materialise but at least it has opened the way for the no doubt widely welcomed solar farm next door!

Little Marlow was one of the first councils to undertake devolved services from the County Council and despite considerable revision (in other words reduction in funds available) the council has determined to continue with the scheme on the grounds that even with more limited funds better value can be had locally rather than leaving it all to Aylesbury. Risk assessments and training have been had and all we await now are the final details to be confirmed.

During the year the council has organised working parties at the cemetery and recreation ground both of which attracted a sprinkling of other helpers. Good fun was had and a lot of clearance achieved. Anything that ends with a bonfire has to be welcomed!

There was a lot of discussion regarding the funding of the community bus during the year and following a survey of users it was decided that so few people used the Saturday service that its continued support could not be justified.

Other areas that may be of interest are;

Abbotsbrook Hall

Somewhat alarmingly an apparently healthy tree came down over the entrance to Abbotsbrook. Fortunately no damage was done but it was timely reminder that continuing management is needed. The vice-chairman and I spent a couple of afternoons scrubbing and then re-oiling the floor and woe betide anyone who makes a mess!

Pavilion/Recreation Ground

Once again my thanks to Bourne End Junior Sports Club and Little Marlow Cricket club in maintaining the grounds in such a good state and my thanks to Richard Tedham for all his efforts.

Following a report of rot, maintenance continued on the trees, further renovation to the play equipment took place including 2 new springers and a wobble board. BEJSC installed some fine new goal posts.

Sections of rot were removed from the pavilion's cladding and the whole of the front redecorated.

Less welcome were break ins to the LMCC and pre-school storage containers.

Burial Ground

The chapel once again hosted an exhibition of glass crafts during Bucks Art week and we look forward to welcoming them back again this year.

Planning consent was finally given for the widening of the entrance from Sheepridge Lane which will enable this to be used for mourners as well as the funeral directors.

Parking is tight at the Chapel and the extra space this opens up will be very welcome.

Roads & Footpaths

Funding has finally been obtained for the improvement of the Zebra Crossing on the A4155 by installing “Zeebrite” lamps. These are LED, far brighter and hopefully will alert drivers to the need to give way. Funding has also been obtained to investigate the installation of a VAS sign in Sheepridge Lane. This comes after many years of unsuccessful attempts to get the speed limit lowered and of course many accidents.

I am painfully aware that despite funds being agreed we still await the work actually being done. All this Council can do is keep pressing the County Council for action.

In conjunction with Chepping Wycombe we have also sought funding for the completion of the footpath from Abbey Barn Lane to the M40.

When I joined the Council in November 1989 Ray Cowen was clerk and Barbara chairman. In May 1992 I took over as Chairman and in these 23 years as well as the present Councillors have had the pleasure of working with;

Dave Blumire, Edward Daniell, Terry Juby, John Lunnon, Amy Meaden, Richard Soundy, Rod Taylor, Reg Watkins, Brian Lee, Clive Innocent, Julie Hall, Vivienne Morton, Patrick Walmsley and of course Ruby and Barbara.

APM15/07

6. Parish Accounts.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

We introduced a new Account, called Precept to enable the Council to not incur any bank charges. This accounts was used to ‘draw down’ monies into the current accounts which is where the majority of the Council’s financial business occurs/

	Income	Expenditure
Abbotsbrook Hall	£9,722	£12,588
Allotments	£979	£429
Burial Ground	£22,398	£11,249
Pavilion / Recreation Grd	£6,504	£17,359
Street Lighting	£0	£4,759
Precept	£40,650	£0
Full Council to 31st May 2015	£81,700	£82,150

Little Marlow Parish Council Bank Accounts – 31st March 2015

Current Account	£2,381
Precept Account	£5,001
Petty Cash	£173
Reserves Account	£39,427

APM15/08

7. Planning Report

This was presented by Cllr Fitchew.

This year has been quite quiet on the planning front. There has been 25 applications for building works and 30 applications for work associated with trees. This overall gives a good indication of the rural nature of Little Marlow Parish.

There has been 17 site visits of Councillors to view properties.

With the release of the reserve sites by Wycombe District Council, Little Marlow is represented on the Abbey Barn Liaison Committee. The Council has concerns on how existing infrastructure will be able to cope with this new development. Of particular concern is the sewerage as the waste from these new sites will come to the Thames Water facility in Little Marlow, who has assured us that they can cope. Only time will tell!

APM15/09

9. Tree Management.

Mrs Brownridge commented that one of the objectives of the APM was to give parishioners the opportunity to raise issues of concern to them. In the light of this, one of our parishioners had asked if we would put the management of the trees on the recreation ground on the agenda. Mrs Brownridge gave the floor to Mrs Blair.

Mrs Blair gave a presentation of her concern regarding the pollarding of the Lime Trees around the Recreation Ground. She understood the need to maintain the trees and ensure that they remained healthy and safe but felt the Council had gone too far on the recent pollarding of the trees, Mrs Blair felt the shape and beauty of the trees had been compromised. Mrs Blair asked for the Council to not further cut the trees for some time to enable the trees to grow back.

Mrs Brownridge thanked Mrs Blair and said that she would take her comments back to the Council. She also reminded the meeting that any parishioner wishing to raise issues or concerns with the Parish Council was most welcome to come to Parish Council meetings. 15 minutes were always set aside at end of the meeting for public participation.

APM15/10

10. Other Matters

Mrs Brownridge said she had one other matter to raise. She drew attention to the display boards where there was some information about the possibility of a solar farm being established on the Little Marlow Trust Land between the Athletics Track and Little Marlow Village. A company called Anesco had been given an option on establishing a solar farm there. They had given a presentation on their plans at the last Parish Council meeting. Anesco had not submitted a formal application yet but when they did they were keen to hold an open meeting about their plans. They were hoping that all interested parishioners would attend. The Parish Council would be asked to comment on the plans so would welcome the views of parishioners.

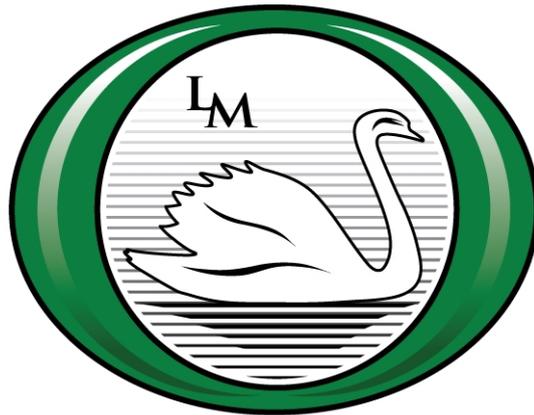
Some parishioner expressed concern regarding the noise from the Athletics Track.

There being no one business to be transacted – the meeting was closed at 9.00pm.

Signed:
Chairman of the Council

Date:

LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT & CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015



LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

AND CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

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