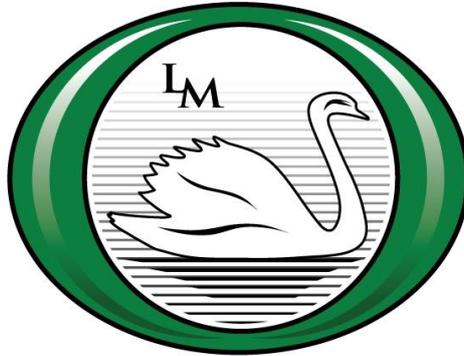


# LITTLE MARLOW PARISH COUNCIL



## YOUR COUNCIL FOR YOUR AREA

### WINTER 2021

Little Marlow Parish Council  
Community Office  
The Pavilion  
Church Road  
Little Marlow  
Bucks SL7 3RS  
Tel: 01628 890301

clerk@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk  
www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk

Please visit the Parish Council website:

[www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk)

Sign up to our news alerts for local updates

Currently our office is closed, but the Clerk is working remotely. For information on remote Parish Council meetings please visit the website.

*Dear Little Marlow Resident,*

I hope that your eyes lit up when you saw your Little Malow Parish Council newsletter! I am sorry that you have not had a newsletter since Autumn 2019. We were all set to produce one in Spring 2020 when we had to close the Parish Council office and most of our facilities because of the COVID 19 pandemic and we had to focus our time and energy on making sure our premises were COVID secure and on adapting the way we operated as a Council. There is more information about how we met these challenges in the article about the impact of COVID 19 on our operations.

The newsletter aims to bring you up to date with what has been happening in the parish of Little Marlow, with the work of Little Marlow Parish Council and with what some of the local clubs and organisations who use the Council facilities have been up to.

I would like to draw your attention to the article on Parish Council Elections which are currently due to be held on 6 May 2021. I hope that this article and some of the other articles in the newsletter such as the article on planning will encourage you to consider whether you could serve your community by becoming a Councillor. I know that a number of you have worked with the Parish Council this year in raising concerns about the planning applications for the Battery Storage project and the continued use of Spade Oak Quarry for film-making purposes. Why not become a Councillor so that you can have more of a say on planning issues and the many other issues with which the Parish Council deals? Even if you decide that being a Councillor is not for you, I would urge you to come out and vote in the combined Buckinghamshire Council and Parish Council elections.

And we have tried to give you some good news to cheer you up. We have finally managed to refurbish the Pavilion thanks to a lot of hard work on the part of our Clerk. Unfortunately, you will not be able to see the finished result for yourselves at the moment but I hope that the photos we have included will give you an idea of what the Pavilion now looks like. We are looking forward to the day when we can welcome back all our old hirers and perhaps some new ones too. We hope that residents will once again be able to hire the Pavilion to celebrate their special occasions. I am also delighted that we now have a new inclusive roundabout in our playground.

Pre pandemic our halls were well used by the local community, including two pre-schools, the WI, the Bridge Club, the Cricket Club and various exercise classes. Find out how they have managed to keep their activities going throughout the year by reading the articles they have provided. While I am on the subject of community, I would like to draw your attention to the article on the Geoffrey Moss Memorial Bowl which is awarded annually to a Little Marlow Resident who has given outstanding service to the community. We will shortly be asking for nominations for next year's recipient.

Finally, I encourage you to attend our Annual Parish Meeting on 19 March 2021. We would really like to hold this at Abbotsbrook Hall but I fear that it may have to be held remotely! It is your chance to hear what your Parish Council has been up to in the previous year, to ask questions and to meet your Councillors. I also invite you to attend our regular Parish Council meetings. Make the most of being able to do so remotely from the comfort of your own home for the next few months. The dates of our next few meetings are at the end of the newsletter.

Happy reading!

*Yours sincerely,*

*Valerie Brownridge*

## **Chairman's Report 2019/20**

I normally present my Chairman's report at the Council's Annual Parish Meeting. Unfortunately, we had to initially postpone and then cancel our Annual Parish Meeting in 2020 because of COVID 19 restrictions. We are hoping that the Council will be able to hold its Annual Parish Meeting in 2021 (see separate article). I haven't however been let off the hook as my Chairman's report will have to cover two years (2019/20 and 2020/21) instead of one. Something for me and you to look forward to!

Cllr Valerie Brownridge, Chairman, Little Marlow Parish Council

## **Parish Council Finances**

Have you ever wondered what Little Marlow Parish Council spends money on and where that money comes from? Little Marlow Parish Council (LMPC) accounts are available to view for all on our website [www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk) but I thought readers might like an Executive Summary.

Our Budget for 2021/2022 predicts that our income will equal our expenditure of £88,250. We spend money on maintaining our community facilities: the Pavilion and Recreation Ground (including the children's playground), Abbotsbrook Hall, Fern Lane Cemetery and our allotments in Chapman Lane. Keeping trees on parish land safe and healthy costs money too. We also employ our Parish Clerk Jo Murray and Peter and Christine Samuels who look after Abbotsbrook Hall, but our Chairman and Councillors are all volunteers. Spending public money prudently is our main concern and our annual audit ensures that we have the correct processes in place to check that we are doing this.

Income comes from hire charges for Abbotsbrook Hall and the Pavillion (currently due to Covid 19 negligible), allotment rents and burial fees from the cemetery (currently more lucrative) and the Precept tax. The Precept is collected by Buckinghamshire Council and passed on to LMPC as a % of your council tax payments. We have kept the level of Precept we are claiming for 2021/2022 the same as last year which means that we will receive less than 1% of your rate payment (equivalent to £66.59 per year for a Band D rate payer).

If you have any questions about our finances please get in touch with the clerk via email on [clerk@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk) or call 01628 890301.

Cllr Kath Acres  
Chairman, Budget Committee

## **Impact of COVID 19 on Parish Council operations and facilities**

It will not surprise any of you to learn that COVID 19 has had a significant impact on the way the Parish Council has operated this year as well as on our Parish Council facilities. When we went into lockdown on 23 March, we closed our office at the Pavilion and our Clerk began to work from home. She has done so for most of the time since then apart from a few weeks in September when the easing of restrictions meant that she could move back to working from the office. But that was short-lived! We were fortunate in that we were able to hold our Parish Council meeting as normal on 10 March. By the time of our next meeting on 21 April, legislation had been enacted which enabled Town and Parish Councils to meet remotely and even more fortunately an upgrade to our Council IT system in December 2019 meant that we had the necessary IT in place to enable us to meet as scheduled, albeit remotely via teams. We therefore did not have to cancel any Parish Council meetings. Since then, we have held all our Parish Council meetings remotely and we even managed to hold a remote public meeting. If you haven't come along to a Parish Council meeting before, I encourage you to take advantage of the fact that you can now attend the meeting remotely from the comfort of your own home! Details of how to join the meeting are posted on our website about 5 days beforehand along with the agenda.

Like many other organisations, we have spent the year opening and closing our facilities in line with changing COVID 19 guidance and regulations. Initially all our facilities apart from the allotments and the cemetery were closed. We were then able to allow both pre-schools to start operating again in the Pavilion and Abbotsbrook Hall respectively. At various times we have been able to welcome back some of our activities such as Thai Chi, Pilates and Yoga but sadly the restriction on numbers and gatherings has meant that many of our other groups have not been able to meet at all. We had to close the playground on the recreation ground and when we were eventually able to open it again, we had to restrict the number who could play there at any given time. And for a time, we were not able to hire out the recreation ground for activities like cricket and football.

Needless to say, we have spent a lot of time drawing up risk assessments, cleaning regimes and new terms and conditions for the use of our facilities and checking them every time new COVID 19 guidance is issued. It has been a real challenge to keep on top of the ever-changing guidance and even more challenging interpreting whether a particular activity is allowed or not. Our main aim has, of course, been to keep the users of our facilities safe and to make sure we have all the required measures in place to help stop the spread of the virus. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank all those who use any of our facilities for their understanding and co-operation, particularly those whom we have had to turn away at any point in the past year. We look forward to welcoming you back at some point in 2021!

## **Community Boards: Buckinghamshire County Council**

Buckinghamshire officially launched its sixteen new Community Boards in September 2020. These Boards are designed to be the local link between the new Council and the community. The core membership of the Board includes Buckinghamshire Council councillors, town and parish councils and co-opted stakeholders such as local community groups. The wider membership includes all those on working groups, voluntary and community groups, local businesses, schools, Thames Valley Police, Fire services and health partners. The Boards have been allocated a budget of £3.9 million to tackle local issues.

Little Marlow belongs to the South West Chilterns Community Board along with eleven other neighbouring parishes including Marlow, Bourne End and Wooburn Green, Great Marlow and Marlow Bottom. Each Board is chaired by a Buckinghamshire Councillor supported by a co-ordinator whose role is to make connections and encourage residents, groups and organisations to get involved, The Chair of the South West Chilterns Board is Councillor Dominic Barnes and the co-ordinator is Makyla Devlin.

At its first public meeting in September, the South West Chilterns Board agreed a list of priorities to focus on this year. These were: COVID 19 response and recovery, young people, crime and anti-social behaviour and highways and infrastructure. Initially two working groups were set up to focus on these issues in more detail, one covering Transport, Infrastructure, Re-opening of High Streets and Regeneration and the other covering COVID 19 Recovery, young/older people, environment and anti-social behaviour. A third covering Broadband has now been set up. The working groups bring together board members and representatives from the community and relevant partner organisations to identify and discuss issues linked to the board priorities and to consider project ideas and requests for funding linked to these issues. The main boards meet four times per year while the working groups meet every couple of weeks. If you would like to find out more about Community Boards or are interested in getting involved with one of the working groups or would like to discuss an idea you might have for a project, contact Buckinghamshire Council at [localities@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:localities@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

Residents and communities in the south west Chilterns area are already starting to reap the benefits from community board funding for local projects and initiatives. Funding allocated so far includes £4,000 to Marlow-based Seed1 to provide fresh fruit and veg boxes to families in receipt of free school meals, £2,000 to Meals for Marlow, £2,000 to Age Concern, £2,575 to the One Can Trust, £1,500 to Marlow FM and £1,140 to two different community projects in Lane End as well as some £14,000 for various traffic calming and parking restriction measures in Bourne End and Marlow.

The next meeting of the South West Chilterns Board will be on 23 February 2021 at 6.30pm. As with all the meetings up till now, this will probably be held remotely. Anyone is welcome to join the meeting but will need to register to attend by e-mailing the Board Co-ordinator, Makyla Devlin, via the Council website at [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-boards](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-boards)

## **Parish Council Elections, 6 May 2021**

It will not have escaped your notice that it has been a long time since we have had Parish Council elections. They were due to have taken place in 2019 but it was agreed that they should be postponed until 7 May 2020 so that they could take place at the same time as the elections for the new Buckinghamshire Council. Unfortunately, like so many events in 2020 they had to be postponed again because of COVID 19. They are now scheduled to take place on 6 May 2021.

So, the good news is that you have not missed the elections and therefore the opportunity to become a Parish Councillor! All of the existing members of the Parish Council will have to stand down. A number are planning to stand for re-election but we would welcome some additional candidates. Our current Parish Councillors live in Little Marlow village, Westhorpe, Winchbottom Lane, Fern Lane, Coldmoorholme Lane and Abbotsbrook. It would be really good to have candidates from all parts of Little Marlow parish and - dare I say it - from a wider age range as we would then be even better placed as a Council to represent the interests of all of our residents.

The role and responsibilities of Parish Councils are likely to evolve over the next few years as the new Buckinghamshire Council beds in. This is therefore a great time to join the Parish Council and help shape its future role in terms of how it serves the local community and how it works with and alongside the new Council on a range of local issues such as planning, infrastructure, transport, green spaces and community facilities.

By becoming a Parish Councillor, you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance and support – a community leader with the power to influence decisions for the benefit of the local residents you serve. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

On average Councillors spend two - three hours a week on Council work depending on whether there are any Council or outside meetings that week, what, if any, specific responsibilities they take on and what is going on in the local community. Little Marlow Parish Council meets every 6 weeks on a Tuesday evening. The meetings are usually about two hours long and involve a few hours preparation work beforehand.

Through attending Parish Council meetings and committees with other elected members, Councillors decide how the Council should deliver its services, what its policies should be, how the budget should be spent, how the Council's assets and facilities should be used and maintained and how to respond to local planning applications. Little Marlow Parish Council is responsible for a number of facilities including the Pavilion and Recreation Ground in Little Marlow village, Abbotsbrook Hall, the allotments on Chapman Lane, Fern Lane Cemetery and the car park on Coldmoorholme Lane.

The best way to find out what being a Parish Councillor involves is to talk to someone who is doing the job right now. Why not arrange to call or meet up (remotely!) with one of our other existing Councillors to chat about what they think of the role or come along (remotely) to one of our Parish Council meetings.

The deadline for submission of nomination papers is 8 April 2021. Guidance on what you need to do if you would like to stand as a candidate for the Parish Council elections can be found on the Electoral Commission's website: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-and-community-council-elections-england>

We will also be putting information about the elections and what being a Councillor entails on our Parish Council website. We hope that this article will encourage you to think about putting your name forward to stand for Little

Marlow Parish Council in 2021. In the meantime, you might like to read the article below about one of our newest Parish Councillors, Anna Crabtree.

## **Being a Parish Councillor**

In October 2020, Anna Crabtree was co-opted on to the Parish Council to fill the vacancy left by Anthea Falk's resignation after four years as a Parish Councillor.

Anna moved to the area in 2016 and has been heavily involved in Little Marlow CE School since her children first joined in 2017, initially through the PTA and more recently as a school governor.

By training, Anna is a chartered accountant and has plenty of experience of committees. She is currently an independent member of Council at Bucks New Uni and sits on the Resource Committee there, so naturally Anna has also been drafted onto the Budget Committee for the parish. In her spare time, Anna enjoys gardening, baking for her children and playing the piano. 2020 has been the year she discovered how to identify more species of wild birds and, unfortunately, that she cannot bake sourdough.



In 2021, Anna is looking forward to working with other councillors and local residents to protect and improve our area for generations to come.

When asked why she chose to become a Councillor, Anna said, "I decided to put my name forward as a Parish Councillor because I care about our area and what happens to it. I also believe it's important that the Council represents the people who live here as fully as possible. We should be approachable and ready to listen to the opinions of locals, so we can act with those views in mind.

Since joining in October, I've been impressed by how many local facilities the Parish Council is responsible for, including Abbotsbrook Hall, the Little Marlow playground and the Chapman Lane allotments. The community is really lucky to have so many amenities available and it's a privilege to be able to help manage them for the benefit of residents. If anyone is interested in what's going on in the Parish, I'd encourage them to think about joining the Council. I've found it to be a very welcoming group of individuals".

## **Geoffrey Moss Memorial Bowl**

Little Marlow Parish Council awarded the Geoffrey Moss Memorial Bowl last year to local resident Peter Smith in recognition of his fund-raising activities for both local and national charities. The bowl is awarded annually to a resident of the parish who has given outstanding service to the community.

In presenting the bowl to Mr Smith, the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Valerie Brownridge said "Mr Smith has painstakingly built a nationally renowned collection of scale models of Royal Coaches over many years which he has displayed and talked about both locally and nationally, giving a great deal of enjoyment to people, while at the same time raising funds for a number of charities. Mr Smith regularly displays his wonderful Royal Collection at the Strawberry Tea held annually to raise funds for the Home Farm Trust, a local charity which supports people with learning difficulties, and at the Little Marlow Village Fete".

Normally the presentation would have been made at Little Marlow's Annual Parish Meeting on 15 May 2020. Unfortunately, this Meeting had to be postponed because of COVID restrictions on gatherings. Not to be deterred, the Council decided to move the presentation to Mr Smith's front garden and to hold a small, socially distanced ceremony there instead!

## Geoffrey Moss History

Geoffrey Moss was a former County Councillor and Chairman of Little Marlow Parish Council from 1975-1980. He gave the rose bowl to the Parish Council and asked them to present it annually to any resident of Little Marlow who in the opinion of the Parish Council had given outstanding service to the community. In the past, nominations were made by Councillors, but this year, for the first time, Little Marlow residents were also asked to put forward nominations. These were considered by the Parish Council when it met remotely on 21 April 2020 and the Council agreed to award the bowl to Mr Smith.

**Please put forward your nominations for next year by writing to or emailing The Clerk.** Having seen how our community has supported each other this year, we are sure there will be many worthy candidates.

### GEOFFREY MOSS MEMORIAL ROSE BOWL HOLDERS

1980/81	Mrs. M. Lunnon	2001/02	Richard E. Tedham
1981/82	Mrs. O.M. Ayres	2002/03	John Lunnon
1982/83	Mrs. J.M. Sears	2003/04	Rod Taylor
1983/84	Dr. D.A. Fergusson	2004/05	Elizabeth J.Whitehouse
1984/85	Mrs. D.S. Fowler	2005/06	Bernard Burger
1985/86	G. Sears	2006/07	T.J. Juby
1986/87	W.L. Beeby	2007/08	Julie and Jonathan Hall
1987/88	J.C. Parkinson	2008/09	Ulrike Walmsley
1988/89	Basil Dryland	2009/10	Peter Emmett
1989/90	Mrs. Amy Meaden	2010/11	Richard Boas
1990/91	Rev. L.J. Hart	2011/12	Verity West
1991/92	Mrs. Gwen Cowen	2012/13	Clive Innocent
1992/93	K.S. Leigh	2014/15	Roger Wicks
1993/94	Lady Greta Weiss	2015/16	Barbara Wallis
1994/95	Rev. Charles Chadwick	2016/17	Dallas Banfield
1995/96	R.C.A. Watkins	2017/18	Richard Boas
1996/97	E. Clark	2018/19	David Brown
1997/98	R.J. Cowen	2020/21	Peter Smith
1998/99	Dr. J. Ellis		
1999/00	Mrs. Marguerite Fergusson		
2000/01	William Northcroft		



A socially distanced presentation of the Geoffrey Moss Rose Bowl was organised with Peter Smith

## **All-inclusive Roundabout**

The then Wycombe District Councillors David Johncock, John Savage and David Watson and Little Marlow Parish Councillors Valerie Brownridge and Jason Downes held a small ceremony in February 2020 to officially unveil a new piece of play equipment at the playground on the Recreation Ground in Little Marlow. The all-inclusive roundabout was a welcome addition to the existing play equipment.

The cost of the roundabout was split between the Parish Council and the three District Councillors, who were able to use their annual District Council Ward Budgets to help fund local projects. Contributions were also received from the Little Marlow Village Amenities Committee from the proceeds of the last Little Marlow Village Fete, and from St John the Baptist Church in Little Marlow.

Local children and young people have been having a lot of fun playing on this new all-inclusive roundabout, when COVID restrictions have allowed. One piece of feedback received from local children was that the new roundabout made the space feel more like a real playground!



## **Planning updates:**

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, one of the roles of a Parish Council is to comment on local planning applications. In the past year the Council has had to consider two major applications, one for a battery storage project in the field off Coldmoorholme Lane and the other for temporary permission for continued use of the Spade Oak Quarry site for film making purposes for a period of three years. Both of these applications were a cause of great concern to local residents.

### **Battering On**

Back in late November 2019 a planning application was made to build a battery energy storage facility in a field on Green Belt land adjacent to Coldmoorholme Lane. A public meeting was held at the Pavillion and many local residents registered their comments on the Council's planning portal. There were over 50 objections: Residents' comments on the application included the inappropriateness of building this type of facility on Green Belt land adjacent to the proposed Country Park, health, safety and ecological concerns. The application was withdrawn in February 2020. The initial consultation deadline for this application of the 31st December would have meant that the opportunity for consultation happened during the Christmas period. Little Marlow Parish Council requested a deadline to this consultation period, which was granted until 15th January which enabled us to hold the public meeting with the applicants and for residents' to make informed and considered comments.

Roll on twelve months and many residents were surprised to receive a letter from Buckinghamshire Council on Christmas Eve informing them that a new application for a battery storage facility had been made and the deadline for consultation was the 12th January (again over the holiday period). Once again LMPC successfully requested an extension for comments (which was granted) until 2nd February 2021 which will enable the application to be discussed by residents at our virtual council meeting.

We urge you to read the Application (it is easy to find via the Planning Tracker on Little Marlow Parish Council website) and to attend our virtual meeting 8pm on Tuesday 26th January. A link to the meeting will be published on our website and on the LMPC email news alert. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact David Brown (Chairman of Coldmoorholm Lane Residents Association) on 01628 819250 or email davidandsarahbrown@hotmail.co.uk.

### **Temporary permission for continued use of Spade Oak Quarry for film making purposes**

In September 2019, the then Wycombe District Council purchased the former Spade Oak Quarry as part of its longstanding plans to develop the Little Marlow Lakes Country Park between Marlow and Bourne End. In March 2020, prior approval was granted for the temporary change of use of the former Spade Oak Quarry site for film-making purposes under Permitted Development rights for a period of 9 months, starting in August 2020. Following significant delays on the film set as a result of COVID 19 restrictions and the prospect of further delays, Buckinghamshire Council applied in October 2020 for temporary planning permission for a period of three years to allow the filming to be completed and the site to be vacated.

Residents were concerned about this application for a number of reasons, not least the environmental impact the film-set would have on local wild-life and habitats. The Parish Council organised a public meeting with Buckinghamshire Council in order to give them the opportunity to set out their plans in more detail and local residents the opportunity to ask questions and raise their concerns. As a result of this meeting, Buckinghamshire Council agreed to reduce the extension period from three years to six months, to set up a communication channel between the film company and residents and to participate in a Vision Group to establish what type of development is supported on the council-owned site and within the wider Country Park. Given the level of local opposition to the application, it will now be considered by the West Buckinghamshire Area Planning Committee in the new year. The Parish Council will be given the opportunity to attend the meeting and present its views on the application to the Planning Committee.

### **£4 million upgrade for Bourne End to Marlow Railway Track**

In just sixteen days at the end of November Network Rail installed more than two miles of new railway track between Bourne End and Marlow and replaced eight level crossing surfaces. The round the clock operation (which was completed ahead of schedule) cost more than £4 million and will enable GWR to run a more reliable, smoother and quieter service benefitting both passengers and people living near the track. Hopefully it will also reduce the need for unplanned and weekend line closures in the future.

Although some of the work was extremely loud, massively lit and ongoing through the night, with huge vehicles trundling down Coldmoorholme Lane, residents are pleased with the results and with the speed that the work was completed. It shows too that Network Rail are committed to keeping the Marlow Donkey running and maintaining our essential transport links to Maidenhead and beyond. The tracks were last upgraded in the 1930s so peace should reign for the next 90 years!



## **Report Fly-tipping**

Fly-tipping is sadly going to continue to be a problem in our parish, but you can help to tackle it.

If you see any vehicle dumping waste, please take a note of the vehicle's registration number and report it to Buckinghamshire Council using the Waste Partnership hotline (0845 330 1856) or use the Buckinghamshire Council fly-tipping form on their website –

[www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/fly-tipping/](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/fly-tipping/) .

You should also pass the details to the police using the 101 number. Similarly, if you see any vehicle acting suspiciously near what could potentially be a good place to dump waste, please pass the vehicle's details to the police.

Finally, if you are having waste taken away from your home or business it is essential that you identify the waste carrier properly – the waste producer can be fined if they haven't made the required checks and the waste is dumped illegally. Please make sure you use an Environment Agency registered waste carrier rather than a waste carrier who just turns up at your door and **NEVER** pay by cash.

## Report local issues via FixMyStreet



Report a problem Sign in All reports Local alerts Help

**FixMyStreet**

# Report, view, or discuss local problems

(like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting)

Enter a nearby UK postcode, or street name and area:  
e.g. 'B2 4QA' or 'Tib St, Manchester'

 ...or use my location

If you have come across a local problem, for example local road potholes or a street lamp is faulty, the easiest way to report these issues to Buckinghamshire Council is to log the issue with Fix My Street. You are able to add a detailed message as well as photographs and following submission you can track the report to completion.

The snapshot above is of the front page of Fix My Street – all you have to do is enter the postcode of where the issue is.

## The Pavilion

### **The Pavilion Refurbishment**

The Pavilion building, situated in Little Marlow, was gifted by Mrs Bradish Ellames and her son to the Parish of Little Marlow to provide recreation and to commemorate those who gave their lives in the 1914-1918 war. Over the summer months, under strict COVID-19 regulations, the Pavilion building was renovated externally and internally. The results are magnificent!

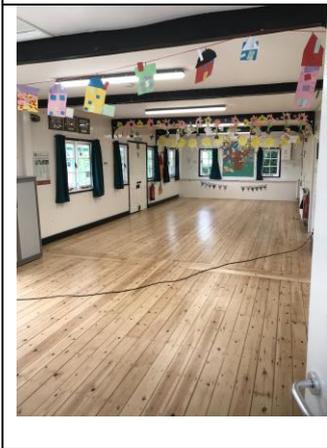
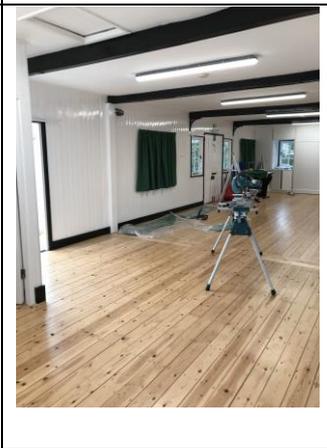
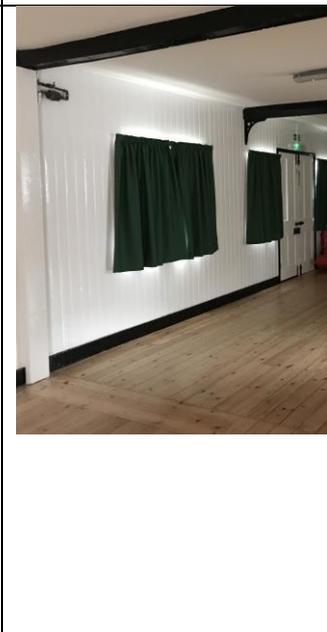
The external lick of paint has smartened up the exterior appearance and the internal works and decoration have given a tasteful uplift to a beautiful and historic building.

The internal renovation included: some kitchen improvements including increased storage and the re-instatement of the serving hatch (sponsored by the Little Marlow & Well End WI); improved chair storage within the main hall to stop the constant to-ing and fro-ing of chairs from the changing rooms and further improvements to storage space within the hall; improvements to the loft space which is used extensively by the council and user groups but which has been very difficult to access easily and safely.

The Parish Council would like to thank both the Internal and External Contractors for their hard work and focus on completing the refurbishment of the Pavilion in time to enable the Little Marlow Pre-school to open its doors again in September.

Much of the cost of the refurbishment has been funded by our share of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which Buckinghamshire Council (was Wycombe District Council) has raised in respect of the development at Westhorpe House.

These works will ensure the Bradish-Ellames Cricket Pavilion continues to perform an important role in our community for sporting, educational and leisure pursuits for many years to come.

			<p>External decoration was completed by a local contractor who took care in preparing and completing the external renovation to a high standard</p>
			<p>The Pavilion floor had already been restored and with new storage cupboards, new curtains and new paint throughout the hall looks magnificent</p>
			<p>The new kitchen hatch was installed and sponsored by Little Marlow and Well End WI</p>
			<p>New curtains, with blackout lining, smarten the hall up and offer a smart appearance</p>

The hall is normally available to hire for a whole range of activities including meetings of community groups such as the WI, exercise classes and parties as well as the Little Marlow pre-school. However, at the moment very few activities are allowed under current COVID restrictions but obviously this could change. Please

contact the clerk if you would like to hire the hall and you think that your activity would comply with the COVID restrictions in place at the time. We can then check the guidance and let you know if the rules allow your activity to go ahead

## Little Marlow Pre-school at the Pavilion, Little Marlow

How lovely that we can all get together again and run play and have fun even through these difficult times. The children have enjoyed using our wonderful outside space.



Little Marlow Preschool  
The Pavilion  
Church Road  
Little Marlow  
SL7 3RS

07967597516

[littlemarlowpreschool@talktalk.net](mailto:littlemarlowpreschool@talktalk.net)

Opening hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 12 noon  
*'Where children are safe and learn whilst having fun.'* Ofsted judgement a 'Good' Provision



Little Marlow Pre-School



## **Pilates at the Pavilion, Little Marlow**

My name is Sally Kitching and I've been teaching Pilates locally for upwards of 17 years. I love my job and find it very rewarding. The Pilates method was invented by Joseph Pilates in the 1940s. He was a sickly child and as an adult didn't want this to continue. So, he took movements from yoga and gymnastics and created the Pilates method we use today. If you would like to try a class please do contact me on 07876251967 or [kitchingsally@hotmail.com](mailto:kitchingsally@hotmail.com) I would love to introduce you to the best exercise ever invented.

Best wishes Sally

## **Little Marlow & Well End WI**

At the beginning of 2020 Little Marlow & Well End WI was able to increase its membership to 55 and in January we welcomed 9 new members to our Institute. Our average meeting attendance for January to March was 40, but little did we know that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, our March meeting would mark the end of our physical meetings this year. This was disappointing to our members, who value the opportunity to meet on a regular basis, and doubly disappointing because we could not enjoy holding our meetings in the newly-refurbished Pavilion. Not only did we miss the chance to hear a variety of entertaining and educational speakers at our monthly meetings, to explore the surrounding countryside (and pubs!) on our rambles, and to practise our creativity at our Craft & Chat sessions, but we had to cancel the many much-anticipated events to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Institute, and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Buckinghamshire Federation of Women's Institutes.

However, during the long months that have followed, we have endeavoured to keep in touch with our members via a 'telephone buddy' system, by holding monthly meetings via Zoom (including a very successful virtual Summer Show), with informal 'tea and chat' Zoom sessions, by continuing with our Book Club (thanks to the Beaconsfield library) and with virtual craft workshops when members have made Halloween and Christmas decorations. Earlier in the year many of our members responded to an appeal to sew laundry bags and face masks for NHS workers. We also distribute the Federation's 'Buckinghamshire News' and our own Newsletter to members every month. Our members will be able to reminisce on these strange and trying times when they are together again. In the meantime, we will strive to stay positive and look forward to resuming our WI activities in the not too distant future.

Glenda Barrett

Secretary, Little Marlow & Well End WI

# Little Marlow & Well End WI

## MEMBER'S CHOICE CLASS 1

### Twiddlemuff

(items donated to Queen Mother's Clothing Guild)



Little Marlow & Well End WI  
Virtual Summer Show 2020

CLASS 1 Twiddlemuff

1st JEAN BARLTROP

## MEMBER'S CHOICE CLASS 2

### My Pride & Joy



Little Marlow & Well End WI Virtual  
Summer Show 2020

CLASS 2 My Pride and Joy

garden or allotment

1st LESLEY ROGERS

## MEMBER'S CHOICE CLASS 3

### Lockdown Poem

#### LOCKDOWN

My Lockdown Lowdown  
I'm passing my time  
By buying online.  
I'm speaking on Zoom  
To my friends in the room.  
I'm learning to speak  
Espanol like a Greek  
My BP is lowering  
and waistline's expanding  
I'm watching Joe Wicks  
and learning his tricks  
I'm reading on Kindle  
this illness will dwindle  
Thank God I'm alive  
and continue to thrive

Little Marlow & Well End WI  
Virtual Summer Show 2020

CLASS 3 Poem or Limerick  
'Lockdown'

1st KATE BRADFORD

## Little Marlow Cricket Club

By the time this newsletter is published 2020 will be history, and thank goodness for that, will be the overriding opinion. Surely things will be better this year.

At least we did manage to play some cricket last summer, something that was anything but certain before July. It felt strange, no access to the changing rooms, bringing your own tea and regular hand sanitizing breaks, but we got used to it.

For much of the season, or half-season, our 1<sup>st</sup> X1 headed its division. Seven victories in eight matches, with one abandonment, kept them in top spot until the closing fortnight. Unfortunately, they then fell at the last two hurdles and had to settle for third place. Not that anyone minded that much, it was just great to be able to get out there.

Normally I'd now be taking the opportunity to promote indoor training. For obvious reasons, that's highly unlikely to be happening, so we'll have to wait until outdoor practice can begin in the spring. For up-to-date information visit our website – [littlemarlowcc.co.uk](http://littlemarlowcc.co.uk) – or send me an email to [rted@live.co.uk](mailto:rted@live.co.uk)

As always, new members are guaranteed a warm welcome.



## **Abbotsbrook Hall**

The hall is normally available to hire for a whole range of activities including meetings of community groups such as the brownies, local bridge clubs, exercise classes and parties as well as the Abbotsbrook Pre-school. However, at the moment very few activities are allowed under current COVID restrictions but obviously this could change. Please contact the clerk if you would like to hire the hall and you think that your activity would comply with the COVID restrictions in place at the time. We can then check the guidance and let you know if the rules in place at the time allow your activity to go ahead.

## **Abbotsbrook Bridge Club**

Duplicate Bridge is a hugely fulfilling game which combines strong social interaction and mental stimulation. It has been played and enjoyed at the Abbotsbrook Hall every Thursday afternoon for over 20 years. But not for the last 9 months!

Bridge has been one of the many activities which has been prohibited under the Covid-19 restrictions and although many restrictions of this kind have been lifted or eased over the recent few months, Bridge has not been one of them. Sadly, it will almost certainly be one of the last to be reprieved. But now that a nationwide vaccination programme has started we are hopeful that it won't be too long before Thursday afternoon Bridge can be resumed.

Even before the Covid pandemic, we were all bombarded with conflicting health advice, but all experts agree that, whether pre-Covid or post Covid, one of the most important things is to keep our minds active; and Bridge certainly does that.

New members are always welcome at the Abbotsbrook Bridge Club and, although we are unable to give lessons to absolute beginners, we are always happy to provide a guided no-fear introduction to Duplicate Bridge for those Rubber Bridge players to whom the greater social interaction and guaranteed regularity of Duplicate Bridge appeals.

The Club will, in due course!, be meeting again every Thursday with play commencing promptly at 1.30pm. You do need a partner, but the Club Committee can often help with this if you do not have a regular partner.

The weekly fee is £2.50, (£2.00 if you become a member.) This includes tea, coffee and biscuits available throughout the session. The club is not constricted by membership of any outside body, but it does require playing within the rules of Bridge.

Why not come along and give it a try?

If you need further information just give a call to Cliff on 01494 711225 or Iain on 01494 673429.

## Bourne End Bridge Club at Abbotsbrook Hall

Before Covid-19 restrictions, Bourne End Bridge Club played every Thursday evening at Abbotsbrook Hall and had done for some decades. Covid-19 restrictions saw bridge clubs, with close indoor proximity of players and common handling of cards, having to shutdown playing face-to-face bridge. Fortunately, online bridge came to the rescue for many players.

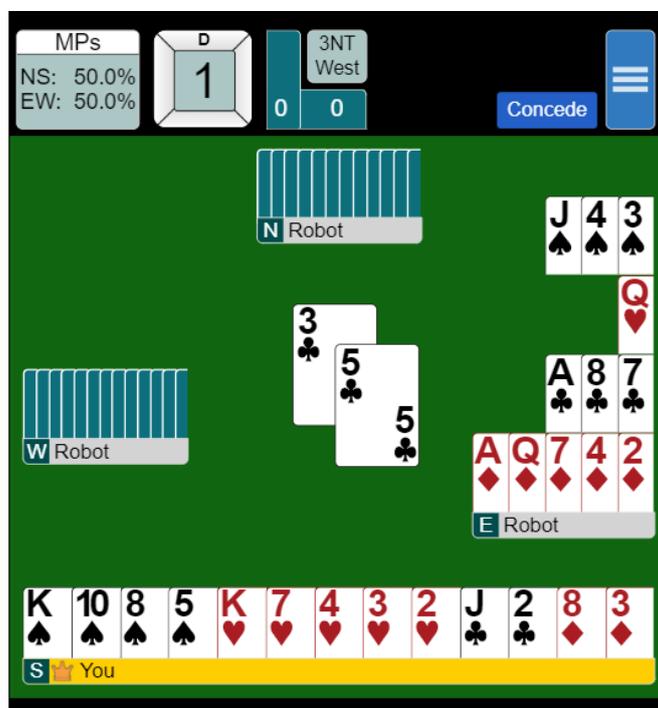
Online bridge is a somewhat different game. First of all, players are faced with a screen showing bids and cards entirely differently, as we can see. Playing against robots is interesting as well. Robots are extremely fast and actually rather good players, although not very chatty.

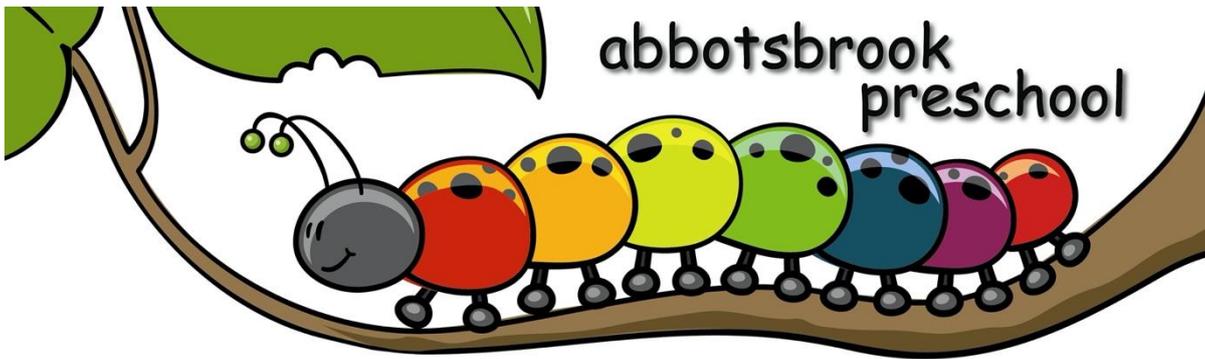
Unfortunately, many members do not wish to adapt to online bridge and long for the return of face-to-face bridge with its social interaction between players.

Another casualty of the restrictions was our course, planned for last summer, for bridge players aspiring to play at club level. The short 8-week course is intended to act as a taster for club-level bridge and assist players with the transition. Hopefully, the imminent (?) arrival of the vaccination programme will bring a return to normality and enable us to re-schedule the course.

For further information on the course, contact  
bobaperrin@outlook.com.

For further club information, see  
[www.bridgewebs.com/bourneend/](http://www.bridgewebs.com/bourneend/)





What a year 2020 was for all! We hope our local community are well and now looking towards the Spring.

Pre-school was lucky enough to open fully in June 2020 with the rest of the education sector, and while we maintain lower numbers to keep everyone safe we are still having just as much fun.

We didn't need coronavirus to teach us that it is healthier outside. We have always advocated outdoor play, being outside every day regardless of the weather.

One of our sayings is "There's no such things a bad weather....only unsuitable clothes!!"

There's always something new to do, see and learn outside.



We still have places available, visit us at [www.abbotsbrookpreschool.co.uk](http://www.abbotsbrookpreschool.co.uk) to see how you can get involved.



You may already know about Wild Marlow and its aim to celebrate and protect the wildlife and biodiversity of Marlow and its surrounding villages. But you may not be aware of all the activities we managed to run during 2020 – or what we've got coming up in 2021.

The success of projects such as the Wildflower Seed Packets, which went to all Marlow Primary School children; our Photo Competition; the Wild Marlow Calendar; and the Wild Marlow Gardens Campaign all helped to raise awareness of the group this year.

While we were not able to run all the public events we had planned or carry out the practical conservation work we wanted to do in 2020, the ones we did were well attended and we hope the New Year brings us the opportunity to do more for our members and of course for wildlife.

With this in mind we are looking for volunteers to help us in a number of different areas:

- Practical conservation work parties - your chance to get dirty!
- Carrying out surveys
- GDPR advice
- Gift Aid advice
- Providing online talks (can be pre-recorded)
- Artistic/creative skills designing boards, signs and posters
- General help at events

If you think you could help us with these or any other skills you feel could be useful, please do get in touch. We are a friendly group of wildlife enthusiasts and welcome any help. Your contribution will be appreciated and doesn't mean a long-term commitment.

Please do consider supporting us by becoming a Member for just £10 per year. We rely on memberships and donations to carry out our work: [www.wildmarlow.org.uk](http://www.wildmarlow.org.uk)



**Coldmoorholm Residents Association** It is a great privilege to be chairing the CRA following my predecessor, Richard Boas, recent decision to stand down after more than 38 years in post. All of our members will join me in thanking Richard and his wife Jenny, who supported him as CRA Secretary, for their enormous contribution to our community and we look forward to their continued involvement for many years to come.

2020 was a testing year for our residents with the pandemic and a very warm summer combining to bring a massive increase in the number of visitors to the river bank and to Spade Oak Lake. This, exacerbated by periodic influxes of contractors, stretched the Lane's traffic and parking capacity to the limit and beyond as well as causing a serious litter problem. Hopefully 2021 will bring a return towards normality, though there will clearly be fresh challenges ahead including Country Park developments and the planned level crossing upgrade in the Spring.

I urge any Lane residents not yet members of the CRA and of our local Neighbourhood Watch Group to contact me for membership details by email at [davidandsarahbrown@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:davidandsarahbrown@hotmail.co.uk) or by phone on 01628-819250.

David Brown

## **Little Marlow Residents' Association**

It has been very heartening to see Little Marlow residents come together and help each other throughout the year as the pandemic has impacted all our lives. Arguably this has made our community stronger and we have all gotten to know each other a little better though reaching out in difficult times. If you are a resident of Little Marlow village and have not joined the village WhatsApp group, please ask your neighbour to sign you up - this is not run by the LMRA, but we definitely support it!

LMRA Committee members have been involved in various small issues throughout the year, however the LMRA had no significant complaints to deal with in the first half of the year. We have been very active in the second half in working with residents to address the issues raised by Buckinghamshire Council's proposals to use the Spade Oak Lake site as a film set. I was very encouraged by large numbers of residents across the whole Parish that responded with questions on this issue to the Council and also those that commented on the planning application. Thanks to our community for getting involved (welcome back William!) and challenging this the Council seems to have backed down from using the site for the next 3 years and is limiting themselves to the completion of the current filming project which they estimate will be by November 2021. Ongoing, we're hoping that the Council signs up to the Vision Group that will establish what type of development is supported on the council-owned site and within the wider Country Park.

As the provisional date for our AGM came in the middle of the filming application process, we decided to postpone our AGM and will set a new date at our first meeting in 2021.

Going forward, we are working on the Vision Group, still have the current planning application for Spade Oak Lake in progress, and another planning application for a battery power storage facility on Coldmoorholme Lane has been just been submitted.

The LMRA works closely with the Parish Council and the Coldmoorholm Lane Residents Association. I encourage you to visit <http://www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk/> and sign up to receive news alerts from the Parish Council. You can also see current planning applications relating to your neighbourhood.

Members of the LMRA committee are: Bernard Burger, David Carvey, Emma van Dijk, Geoff Robson, Guy Carter, Martin Braint, Ruby Taylor, Sally Wilkie, Stephen Goss and Verity West. Please get in touch with us at [littlemarlowra@gmail.com](mailto:littlemarlowra@gmail.com) or reach out to any member of the committee.

On behalf of our committee, I send you our best wishes for 2021,

Jason Downes  
Chair

## **How We Communicate**

The more optimistic, glass half full, people amongst us believe that there have been some positive outcomes from the Covid 19 pandemic. One of these is that many of us have embraced social media to communicate with friends, family and colleagues. Prior to March 2020 zoom to me meant making a picture on a screen bigger and teams were a group of people who scored various goals. Little Marlow Parish Council is now (until further notice) holding all meetings virtually via Teams and Zoom and we have never had more public participation. We use Microsoft Teams for our Council meetings and Zoom (which allows more people to be seen on screen) for the public meeting we arranged to discuss the film set planning application.

WhatsApp groups (accessible to all with a reasonably recent smart phone) have proved invaluable for many residents to discuss current issues and to help locate the exponentially increasing quantity of parcels incorrectly delivered by courier companies.

On our website [www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk) we publish details and records of all our meetings and a very handy link to all local planning applications. You can also sign up here to receive relevant news alerts from the Parish Council (about five a week, so your inbox won't be swamped).

So, our question is, what else should Little Marlow Parish Council be doing to keep in touch with residents? A Facebook Group? Should we Tweet more? Instagram? Tik Tok (whatever that is, apparently it makes your day!)? If you are a digital guru willing to help we would love to hear from you. If you are not a digital guru but have suggestions to help us communicate better that would be good too.

## **Annual Parish Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

### **Invitation to our Parishioners**

We are hoping to hold our Annual Parish Meeting at 8pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at Abbotsbrook Hall but this will of course depend on what restrictions on gatherings and socialising are still in place then. Please check the Little Marlow Parish Council website for news on whether or not we are able to go ahead with this.

The Annual Parish Meeting is normally an opportunity to meet Parish Councillors in a more informal setting over a glass of wine. The Chairman presents a report on the Parish Council's activities and achievements in the preceding year while the Chairs of the Finance Committee and Planning Committee present reports on the Council's income and expenditure and on the planning applications the Council has considered. There are also contributions from organisations such as Thames Valley Police.

Each year we invite our local MP and in the past we have been fortunate to welcome our then MP the Rt Hon Dominic Grieve QC. We will be extending an invitation to our new MP, Joy Morrissey.

**Dates for your Diary:**

**2021 COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Meetings are currently held remotely using Microsoft Teams. The agenda with link details to the meeting are held on the parish council website under the meetings tab.

All Council Meetings are from 8pm, unless otherwise stated.

All Budget Meetings are at 1pm, unless otherwise stated.

All Burial Ground Meetings are at 1pm, unless otherwise stated.

Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday	26/01/2021
Budget Meeting	Thursday	11/02/2021
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday	09/03/2021
Burial Ground Meeting	Thursday	18/03/2021
Annual Parish Meeting	Friday	19/03/2021 at ABBOTSBROOK HALL
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday	20/04/2021
Budget Meeting	Thursday	29/04/2021
Unitary Authority, Town Council & Parish Council Elections	Thursday	06/05/2021
Annual Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday	18/05/2021 at 7.30pm
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday	18/05/2021
Burial Ground Meeting	Thursday	17/06/2021
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday	06/07/2021
Budget Meeting	Thursday	29/07/2021
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday	17/08/2021
Burial Ground Meeting	Thursday	16/09/2021
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday	28/09/2021
Budget Meeting	Thursday	21/10/2021
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday	09/11/2021
Burial Ground Meeting	Thursday	09/12/2021
Parish Council Meeting	Tuesday	14/12/2021

Please visit Little Marlow Parish Council website for further information and updates.

## **Council Contact Details**

Valerie Brownridge	Chairman	01628 523367	valeriebrownridge@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk
Geoff Fitchew	Vice-Chairman	01628 523107	geofffitchew@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk
Kathryn Acres		01628 531521	kathrynacres@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk
Anna Crabtree		07968 840402	annacrabtree@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk
Jason Downes		01628 477189	jasondownes@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk
Phillip Emmett		07939142480	philipemmett@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk
Richard Mash		01628 485552	richardmash@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk
Roger Randall		07946 108705	rogerrandall@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk
Vivien Morton		01628 486680	vivienmorton@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk
Jo Murray	Clerk to the Council	01628 890301	clerk@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk

If you have future articles for the Parish Council newsletter please do email the Clerk.

Little Marlow Parish Council

Community Office

The Pavilion

Church Road

Little Marlow

Bucks SL7 3RS

Tel: 01628 890301

clerk@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk

[www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk)

Office opening hours are:

Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9.30am to 1.30pm

The office is currently closed due to COVID but the Clerk is working remotely and can be contacted via email or leave a message via voicemail