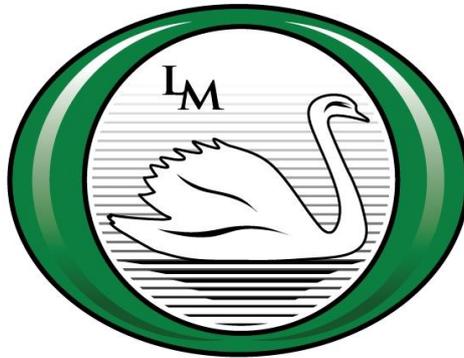


LITTLE MARLOW
PARISH COUNCIL



YOUR COUNCIL FOR YOUR AREA

NEWSLETTER NO: 29

SPRING 2015



Dear Little Marlow Resident,

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

As always we have a mixed bag for you. The articles regarding devolved services and On Line Bucks stem from the same pressure to minimise costs paid from your council tax. The local control of some services previously carried out by the County Council has proved to be a success mainly due to those commissioning the work being on hand to see if the work has been done or not. No one should be surprised at the pressure to communicate on line. It is everywhere and personally I am far happier paying my bills at one in the morning rather than writing cheques and buying stamps. However, we should remember that not everyone is on line and I do hope that the old methods of communication remain for at least another generation.

Savings wherever we can make them are of course very necessary when we have so many other calls on our resources. For the Parish Council one of the larger expenses is the maintenance of our trees and play equipment. Both give pleasure to many and we are committed to managing them for their long term welfare.

It is good to see that progress is being made towards the Country Park that has been the feature of much debate over the years. Now there is some money to fund improvements and it looks as though we shall see some positive changes as we walk around the area.

One change we can do without is that brought by the fly-tippers. It is good to know that the County Council do all they can to track down the perpetrators and I hope the law is enforced to its maximum. Whether they can't be bothered to go to the tip or they just don't want to pay it is a squalid little act that despoils the beauty that surrounds us. So, why not ask your kitchen fitter or gardener where the waste is going? If you don't it could be you spending an afternoon in court.

On the next page you will see details of the **elections** in May. There will be vacancies and I do urge you to consider standing. With some regret I have decided that after 23 years as chairman not to stand this year. I have enjoyed my time on the council enormously and I do recommend it to anyone who wishes to play a greater part in their community. I have met some lovely people and made friends across the whole area. I thank you for electing me in the past and wish my successor whoever they may great success in leading your council into the future.

Dallas Banfield

ELECTIONS 2015

Have you ever thought about being a Councillor?

On the 7th May there is a general election and also there are elections for District and Parish Council Councillors.



Whilst this isn't a call to arms, Little Marlow Parish Council is looking for new Councillors to stand for election. The Parish Council is the lowest tier of government and as such is seen as the closest to the community. Parish Councils are primarily focused on the needs of their local electorate but also consulted on many things such as local planning applications, neighbourhood planning, Environmental policies to name but a few!

So what does it involve and how much time does it take up? Well, I have to say being a Councillor is not like the recent JK Rowling's version in the Casual Vacancy! What you need is enthusiasm for your local community and a wish to have a direct involvement in how Little Marlow Parish Council spends its precept from Wycombe District Council. Being a Councillor is a volunteer role and there is no payment. Little Marlow Parish Council meets every six weeks at The Pavilion in Church Road. There are sub-committees who are more focused on individual areas such as the Cemetery or the Recreation Ground. These sub-committees meet on an ad hoc basis. Most correspondence to the Council is via email – this can lead sometimes to a somewhat full in box – but all correspondence has a direct relevance to the area we live in.

Little Marlow Parish Council owns and maintains The Pavilion and Recreation Ground, Abbotsbrook Hall and Fern Lane Cemetery. The Council takes great pride in providing these facilities for the local sports clubs and organisations such as the WI, Bridge Clubs and Brownies.

Being a Councillor can be very rewarding and enjoyable role and you can get involved in all sorts of different areas. Should you be interested or would like to find out more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk or one of our current Councillors.

Wycombe District Council organise the local elections on behalf of the government and they provide information on elections and the relevant nomination papers. The deadline is the 30th March to submit your nomination. Further Information can be found at www.wycombe.gov.uk

Local Council Award Scheme

The ‘eagled eyed’ among you may have noticed a new logo on our front page. The National Association of Councils (NALC) has introduced a new award scheme to replace the Quality Status awards. Little Marlow Parish Council was awarded Quality Status in 2004 and we are delighted to be one of the first parishes to attain this new award at Foundation Level. This new scheme forms different levels and the Council are now working hard to attain the next step.

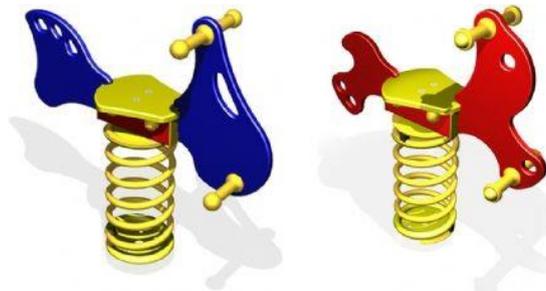


*

Playground Improvements

The playground at the Recreation Ground in Little Marlow Village is an extremely popular area for local children to enjoy. There are a number of pieces of equipment which are now beginning to look tired. The cost of playground equipment is phenomenally expensive and bears no resemblance to the type and cost of play equipment people would have in their own back gardens.

The Council are delighted to be able to provide funding which would mean that the two Springers will be replaced with new exciting models and there will also be a new wobble board installed. With some improvements to the trim trail as well this equates to in excess of £1200! We hope our younger parishioners will really enjoy these new pieces of equipment.



The hexagonal picnic bench is sadly in a bad state and it really isn't economically viable to repair it so it will be removed. Don't worry there are plenty of other benches to use to enjoy your snacks.

To the future?

The long term plan for the playground is to improve the existing seating and replace the timber multiplay unit with something more modern and fun. This will take a considerable fundraising effort to achieve and we hope the local community will support our efforts when called upon.

*

Trees, Trees and more trees!

One of the best things about living in Little Marlow Parish is the beautiful rural setting, unfortunately with this lovely landscape comes the management of one of its assets – trees!

The Parish Council has a legal responsibility to ensure the trees on land it owns are maintained correctly. There will always be incidents of so called ‘acts of god’ where the weather is unpredictable which has led to a tree or branch falling. However it is important that we do our best to correctly look after the trees to improve the tree’s health whilst protecting anybody who uses our facilities.

The trees around the Recreation Ground are primarily Lime Trees, they are a soft wood and prolific growers. It is therefore important that they are kept well balanced so they don’t pose a problem to anybody walking by. The Council does appreciate that the pollarding can look a little extreme, but all work undertaken is under the strict supervision of Wycombe District’s Tree Officer and each time we have to attain planning permission. We are pleased to be planting some additional Limes around the Recreation Ground to replace the trees that were felled.

The Council will also be undertaking maintenance of the trees within the Cemetery to ensure they are cleared of any dead wood and overhanging.

*

Warren Wood Update

In early March Archaeology In Marlow under the directions of John Laker and Andy Ford started a new season of investigation of the earth works in Warren Wood. Phil Andrews of Wessex Archaeology has been called in to advise on the landscape surrounding the double ditch enclosure. A geophysics survey is to be carried out by members of A.I.M to try to locate a flint wall which was discovered in 1978. It is planned to reopen at least two earlier test pits and dig a new trench across the bank and ditch. Many pieces of pottery, worked flint and other items of interest have so far been found,

Richard Nash

Winchbottom Lane

There have been several incidents of fly tipping in Winchbottom lane. A Buckinghamshire County Council Enforcement officer attended at least two of these. The one in January was committed by offenders driving a foreign registered white van with rubbish from an address in Uxbridge which is due to go to court in May. The other was domestic rubbish dumped in late February from an address in Slough.

Richard Mash.

*

Bourne End Junior Sports Club (Football Section)

Bourne End Junior Sports Club (“BEJSC”) football teams are now getting to the latter stages of the season. To date, the season has been a very successful one for all the age group teams in terms of match results and player development. We have good numbers attending the very popular ‘Junior Kickers (U6’s) coaching sessions at the Sports Club on Saturday mornings and some very good performances from the Mini-Soccer teams (U7’s to U12’s) in their non-competitive matches. Currently all the competitive teams (U13’s to U18’s) are in the top half of their respective league divisions and some are progressing well in the Cup competitions. Notably, our U13’s are joint-top in the first division (who play at Little Marlow Rec), U14’s have reached the semi-finals of the Mike Keen Memorial Cup, U15’s are third in the second division (with a number of games in hand over the top two teams) and have also reached the 5th round of the League Cup and Referee’s Cup and our U16’s are top of their division.

Planning has already started for the Club’s annual junior football tournament “Sportsfest’22” at Wooburn Park on Saturday 6th June and for next season. This year will be our 22nd year that the Club has held this very popular and established community event. We are pleased that teams from SC Octeville (from Octeville-Sur-Mer, Bourne End’s twin town in France), will be taking part again in the tournament. Next season, we will be running teams at all age groups and also, as part of our development plan, we will have a new U21’s team and starting coaching sessions for U10’s/U12’s Girls, with the view to having the team playing friendly matches and then entering a league for the 2016-17 season.

If you are interested in joining BEJSC, helping out with the coaching/administration of the new girls development team or sponsoring one of the teams or “Sportfest’22”, please call Ken Murphy on 01628 525359 or e-mail info@bejsc-football.co.uk.”

*

Clive Innocent

Clive Innocent joined the council in May 1999 and served continuously until ill health forced his resignation in April 2013. He was a force to be reckoned with! His enthusiasm for getting things done was legendary.

His great interest was the Chapel at Fern Lane cemetery. He had a vision of bringing that somewhat unloved and neglected building back into use by the community. His first task was to get the supply of electricity restored which he did. He then moved on to having appropriate lighting installed and the interior decorated. These efforts revealed the beautiful building that had been hiding for so long and which now provides such a charming backdrop to Bucks Art Week exhibitions. Without Clive it wouldn’t have happened; not yet anyway! Even after leaving the Council he continued to try and find ways of increasing the building’s use by providing toilet facilities but unfortunately as yet the costs involved just couldn’t be justified.

The phrase “doesn’t suffer fools gladly” could have been written for Clive. Yes he could be prickly and yes he got cross with bureaucracy; but behind it all was a man who cared deeply for his village his neighbours and I believe the wider world.

May God bless him.

Dallas Banfield

The War Memorial

On the wall between the church lych-gate and the entrance to the Manor House is the only outside war memorial in the Parish. You will have passed it many times and perhaps noticed the polished brass plaque sheltered by a small tile roof sitting on a timber frame and usually with a poppy wreath adorning the front rail.

Well, some while ago I noticed that there was now a gap between the wall and the roof which appeared to be getting wider.

Enter the War Memorials Trust; they offer grant towards restoring such memorials. Photographs were sent together with the modest proposals for repair and renovation and lo and behold it seems we are eligible for a grant. Needless to say before accepting our proposals there are somewhat complicated hoops to jump through but we do hope that this part of Parish history may be given a further lease of life before too long.

Dallas Banfield

*

WheelPower open entries for the Mix 96 Tour de Vale Bike Ride

Entries for the 2015 Mix 96 Tour De Vale Bike Ride have are now open.

Up to 2,000 places are up for grabs for what has long been established as Buckinghamshire's biggest bike ride.

In aid of WheelPower, the wheelchair sport charity based at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the Tour de Vale fundraising bike ride has helped transform the lives of thousands of disabled adults and children in the 12 years since it began.

Due to the increasing demand which has seen entry levels soar in recent years WheelPower have confirmed that the 2015 ride will have a maximum of 2,000 cyclists.

Organiser, Jo Hall of WheelPower said "Last year was the greatest ever Tour de Vale bike with riders raising over £46,000 for WheelPower for which we would like to thank everyone involved.

We look forward to welcoming the many cyclists of all ages and abilities who come from all around the Aylesbury Vale and much further beyond at the annual this year's Mix 96 Tour De Vale."

The ride takes place on Sunday 7 June with three routes taking cyclists through the delightful Buckinghamshire countryside and villages.

Advanced entries are £15 for adults and free for children under 16 with an accompanying adult

Every rider is given chip timing. Helmets are compulsory. Start and finish is at Stoke Mandeville Stadium.

*

Little Marlow In Need Charity



You may or may not be aware of the old charities that exist in Little Marlow. The first was set up in 1633 by William Alanson, the second in 1847 by Sir George Nugent and the third in 1863 by Margaret Birch and the fourth in 1915 by the Coal Club Charity. In 1974, these charities were amalgamated to become the Little Marlow Relief in Need Charity. Monies were originally intended for clothing, coal, bread, tools and books. The charity still donates to residents in the Civic parish and the Trustees would like to hear from anyone who might benefit from it. Money can be paid for or towards an item necessary to alleviate an ongoing illness or condition, to help towards heating or food costs, or for travelling expenses to hospital and for 'comforts' for the housebound.

Recently it has made gifts to young people in need of equipment or therapy to improve mobility, older residents who are facing bills for heating and lighting, and gifts to the School and pre-school group for the purchase of books.

If you, or someone you know would benefit from the charity, or would like further information, please contact the Clerk to the Council. Tel: 01628 890301 clerk@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk

Footnote from the Clerk.

We must apologise for the delay in donations being made. The Charity usually endeavours to do this before Christmas. However with the change of Clerk and Trustees, it has taken us this long to get our bank to recognise the new signatories and mandates. We hope to make our donations in time for Easter.

Little Marlow Village Fete

Undaunted by the heavy rain last year on August Bank Holiday Monday which made the Little Marlow Village Fete a rather soggy affair, the Amenities Committee has recently started planning this year's Fete. We are sticking with our traditional date, time and venue: **2pm - 5pm** on August Bank Holiday Monday, **31st August** on the **Little Marlow Recreation Ground (off Church Road)**. Weather permitting, we will have a wider range of stalls and activities than we were able to have last year. We will be serving afternoon tea in the Pavilion and are hoping that this year the tea tent will shade customers from the sun rather than protect them from the rain!

We have decided not to have a home baking competition this year as it has not attracted many entries in the past two years we have run it. I hope that those of you who have entered previously will not be too disappointed. The Little Marlow School's PTA has kindly offered to organise a few more children's activities. This will be in addition to the usual children's races, face painting, Bouncy Castle, children's rides, coconut shy, plate smashing and other activities. There will also be a dog show with lots of fun categories. We will be adding a new event this year: a Tug of War. James Wilkie has volunteered to mastermind this. Please contact him on 07545 391977 for more information.

One of the reasons we are able to call our fete a "Village Fete" is that so many residents from the village and neighbouring communities get involved with the Fete by helping on the day in a variety of ways, by contributing goods to the various stalls, by buying tickets for the Grand Draw or by simply coming along to join in the fun. With apologies for repeating what I wrote last year, here is a reminder of the ways you can support us again this year:

Provide Prizes for the Tombola - chocolates, bottles, toiletries, gadgets. We will take anything provided it is new. Items need to be ticketed ahead of the day so please contact Martin Braint on 07967 217182 before Sunday 30th August to arrange a time to drop off your prizes.

Donate Goods for the bric-a-brac Why not start a bric-a-brac box for your unwanted goods? You can then drop off your box or boxes at the bric-a-brac stall on 31 August. It would be really helpful to have your bric-a-brac before 12 noon to give the stall holders time to set up before the Fete opens.

Supply Books for the Book stall Create some space on your bookshelves by donating the books you have already read. Just bring them along on the day, preferably before 12 noon.

Donate Home baking We need lots of home made cakes and biscuits for the home baking stall and the afternoon teas, so please do some baking for us. Baked goods can be delivered to the home baking stall or the tea pavilion from 11.30 -1pm on 31 August.

Volunteer to help on the day with setting up, parking, manning the stalls or serving the teas. Even 30 minutes of your time would be a great help. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me on 01628 523367.

Buy lots of tickets for the Grand Draw They will be on sale beforehand and on the day.

And most importantly, come along on 31 August! Please put the date in your diary now.

As in previous years, the proceeds from the Fete will go to local good causes and to projects and activities which benefit the residents of Little Marlow. Last year we gave funds to Little Marlow School, Little Marlow pre-school, St John the Baptist Church, Bourne End and Cookham Rotary Club, Well End and Little Marlow Women's Institute, the Cricket Club, maintaining The Pound, The Red Cross, Rennie Grove Hospice Care and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Valerie Brownridge

Chairman, Little Marlow Village Amenities Committee



Parish Council Chairman, Dallas Banfield, and Councillor Kath Acres in front of the Parish Council stand at the 2014 Fete.

*

Little Marlow Lakes Country Park

When our local authorities, after an extensive period of public consultation in 2001/2, included in local plans the development of the Little Marlow Lakes Country Park to help protect this part of the local Green Belt, they stressed that it could take a long time to bring the concept to fruition. In recent months both the County and District councils have taken steps to move the plan forward.

In November, Bucks County Council approved a new restoration plan for the Spade Oak Quarry site. That aims to protect most of the area as wetland and woodland habitat, effectively extending the valuable habitat area around the Spade Oak Lake Nature Reserve. The new restoration plan provides for an extension of the permissive path around the Lake and a new one to provide walking access from the A 4155. Discussions continue about the future arrangements for managing the restored area. However, this year will see some noticeable changes to the landscape of the woodland to the north of the lake. As will have been evident to anyone who often walks along the public footpath there and around the lake, many of the trees that were planted when gravel extraction commenced have been suffering badly in adverse weather conditions. Extensive specialist surveys have recommended that many trees need to be felled. Lafarge-Tarmac have advised us that some clearance of trees that fell during the recent winter and others that are vulnerable to a similar fate, will commence before the bird nesting season gets well under way. Most of the work will follow later during the year.

This year will also see the implementation of the new network of permissive footpaths and cycle routes that were a condition of Wycombe District Council's approval of the new Athletics Centre.

In a separate development, the District Council will be transferring a significant amount of funds provided through its developer contributions scheme to the Parish Council to hold for the development of facilities for the Country Park agreed between the District Council and the Little Marlow Lakes Country Park Community Partnership. Much of this initial tranche of funds will be allocated to signage to help promote the expanding network of countryside footpaths in the Country Park area. Some will be used to purchase tools so that volunteers from the Community Partnership can help keep the area's footpaths and streams clear. It is expected that a further amount will be used to provide one or more safe fishing points on the only public fishing stretch of the River Thames within the Country Park area. It is hoped this work will take place this year in conjunction with work the Environment Agency has to carry out on river bank maintenance.

Under the leadership of the Chiltern Rangers and with the permission of the landowners, a group of volunteers from the senior management team of the Crowne Plaza Hotel recently spent an afternoon clearing scrub from a stretch of the Spinney Path. Further such work parties are intended.

Mike Overall

Chairman, Little Marlow Lakes Country Park Community Partnership

Devolved Services

Since 2009, Little Marlow Parish Council has been one of 23 Town and Parish Councils in Buckinghamshire to whom Bucks County Council has devolved a number of services such as slip cutting, cleaning traffic signs and trimming vegetation obstructing pavements and footpaths. Last year Bucks CC decided that they wanted to increase the number of councils with whom they had devolved arrangements and at the same time to take the opportunity to change the way they handled these arrangements as well as the distribution of the funding. Their preference was for Parish Councils to group themselves into clusters with one Parish Council in each cluster acting as the lead Council, but very few Parish Councils, including Little Marlow Parish Council, wanted to go down this path so Bucks CC agreed that they would continue to enter into devolved arrangements with individual Parish Councils.

Although the funding available for the new devolved arrangements is much less than was available under the old scheme, Little Marlow Parish Council decided that it would nevertheless be beneficial for the parish for us to sign up to the new scheme, not least because the financial terms and the level of service Parish Councils would be able to provide would be better for those Parish Councils joining in April 2015 than for those Parish Councils joining at a later stage or not joining at all.

Under the new arrangements we will be taking on responsibility for a few more services, but we are confident that this will not be too onerous for our contractors. Our experience of devolution under the old arrangement was a positive one. The new arrangements will give the Parish Council greater control over how the budget is allocated, enable us to prioritise the work which needs to be done and to deliver the services required.

Valerie Brownridge

*

‘Do it online’ with Buckinghamshire County Council

We want to make it as quick and easy as possible for our residents and customers to get in touch with us, whether it’s to report a problem, find out some information or make a simple transaction.

So we have been working hard to improve our website and online services, meaning that you can use our secure online services to get in touch with us on your mobile, tablet or computer, either on the go or from the comfort of home.

You can do a whole range of things online with us:

Apply – Join the library, apply for a school place or Blue Badge

Book – Events or Adult Learning courses

Report – Potholes or road problems, fly-tipping

Buy – Copies of certificates, pay an invoice

Renew – Library books

Go to www.buckscc.gov.uk/online to see what you can do.

We're introducing more and more online services all the time; for example we've recently introduced 'live web chat' to our Libraries, schools and Blue Badge webpages and will be expanding web chat more widely across more of our website.

Help to get online

We want to help make sure that people who are less able to access online services are not excluded and are helped to gain vital computer and internet skills.

Read more about this at: <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/about-your-council/our-plans/digital-strategy/help-to-get-online/>

If you are not confident at using the internet and would like to find out more about how you can improve your digital skills, Buckinghamshire libraries run a variety of courses and taster sessions.

We also run free volunteer-led sessions using Learn My Way, the free online IT training package for everyone aged 16 and over. From learning to use a keyboard, staying safe online to shopping and social media, Learn My Way is a fantastic way to learn at your own pace and within the familiar and safe environment of our libraries.

Start Something Digital today and find a session near you at: <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries/start-something-digital>

*

LMPC Planning Report for Spring Newsletter – 8th March 2015

The past quarter has proved an unusually quiet period for planning applications, at least those that directly affect Little Marlow Parish residents. I have been rather grateful for this as I took on this role following Barbara Wallis' decision to stand down. Barbara acted as chairman of the planning committee for longer than I can remember and is a truly hard act to follow, she gave her time selflessly and I suspect made friends and a few enemies at Wycombe District Council as she fought in the interest of Little Marlow. Barbara's extensive knowledge of the planning system has helped the Council make many informed decisions, even though Wycombe have not always seen fit to follow our lead!

Reserve Sites – Abbey Barn South, Abbey Barn North, Slate Meadow

Perhaps the most contentious issue facing Little Marlow and the surrounding areas is the Cabinets decision late last year to release five reserve sites to help provide space for new homes and other development, of which the above three will have some impact locally. Following this decision, a range of work is underway to help determine how these sites should be brought forward. This includes the setting up of Liaison Groups for the sites as well as a period of public engagement and consultation. On behalf of Little Marlow Parish Cllr Brownridge attended a site liaison meeting in February and reported that the meeting focussed on the administration and operation of the Liaison Group. It also agreed the Group's Terms of Reference. The purpose of the Group is to give the public a voice and ensure local knowledge is shared and taken into account. The Group will assist in the preparation of site development briefs and comment on the planning applications for the two sites.

Geoff Fitchew

Some thoughts on leaving Little Marlow Parish Council

I have lived in Fern Lane for nearly 53 years and the Parish Council has been part of my life for most of them.

In 1966, Christopher (my late husband) and I joined the Chiltern Society and he became the footpath warden for the parish of Little Marlow. When Foleys applied to divert Footpath No 4 which went across the middle of what is now Spade Oak Lake, Christopher attended the Public Inquiry and suggested it went to the north of the Baitings. This idea was accepted and the path duly moved. After that experience, Christopher joined the parish council in 1969. He was 34 years old at the time and younger than anyone else on the council so he set about shaking them up! There was a point where the Bucks free Press attended every meeting to see what this outspoken young man would say next! He resigned after 6 years, but achieved a lot as minute 28/75 records: 'Mr Sears referred to the six years' outstanding service given by Mr Wallis, not only in his contribution to debates but also in many practical ways such as making the new Parish Notice Boards, roofing the pavilion [and] laying the concrete apron in front of the equipment shed.' He was also helpful to the residents of Westhorpe Park Mobile Home site in their fight to get a permanent licence for the site.

One thing we did together about that time was to start the Little Marlow Litter Clearance which soon became established as part of the Parish Council's activities and was nicknamed 'The Wallis Collection' by the then Clerk, Ray Cowen.

So, I joined the Parish Council in 1976. I was a member of the Footpath Committee, but I don't think I contributed much to meetings at that time. Owing to the pressures of my teaching job, I only stayed on the Parish Council until the following election. It was during this time that there was a parish boundary review and we 'lost' the Daws Hill Lane area, but gained the whole of Abbotsbrook and Sheepridge.

In 1987, I felt able to respond when John Parkinson suggested that I stand again for election and I have remained on the council until this year. Looking back at the minutes for the last 28 years what is striking is how many of the problems remain the same. Obviously there is the continuing responsibility for the Abbotsbrook Hall, the Pavilion and Recreation Ground (including the trees!) the Burial Ground and the allotments, but traffic is an ongoing theme. The bend signs in Sheepridge were put up in the early 1990s and there was a speed limit review that completely ignored the Parish's recommendations. The bus service between Bourne End and Marlow came and went and the Community Bus was started to provide a Tuesday and Friday service from the village to Marlow. The development of the gravel pits and the rebuilding of Spade Oak Farm kindled my interest in Town & Country Planning and as well as being on the Parish Council I was a Planning Field Officer for the Chiltern Society.

Some of my happiest memories of the Parish Council are from the 3 years I was Chairman from 1989 to 1992. I was always a bit nervous before each meeting, but they usually went as expected, mostly thanks to the Clerk, Ray Cowen. He was an excellent person to work with. He knew who to speak to in the District and County Councils and was full of good advice, not all of which I agreed with, but he never tried to over-rule council decisions. He had a neat formula for letters: if he agreed with what he was writing he would say 'On behalf of LMPC I....' if not, it was 'LMPC has instructed me to....'!

I also enjoyed representing Little Marlow Parish Council in other places; the Wycombe District Association of Local Councils and the Committee of Riverside parishes. I also like to think I had a good relationship with the Planning Officers at WDC.

I felt that 3 years was a good length of time to be chairman, especially as not having the responsibility left more time to deal with Planning which became my expertise. I was also able to become chairman of the Wycombe District Association of Local Councils after I retired from teaching in 2000. I like to think I tided it over a difficult time, but it was not an easy job. In 2004 I was elected as a Parish Council member of the newly established Chilterns Conservation Board. This has proved extremely interesting and enjoyable and I have met a range of interesting people including the dedicated team of officers at Chinnor who really oversee the AONB.

It is the people of the Parish Council that have made it so rewarding for me over the years.

I think we have been very well served by our Clerks. Ray Cowen and Gloria Barclay between them covered the years from 1971 to 2014 and now Emma Marsden is following in their tradition of keeping the council on the right lines. I think Little Marlow has been lucky to attract excellent men and women to serve on the council who have cared deeply for the Parish and its people. I can't mention them all, but a few who stood out were in the early years Geoffrey Moss, Basil Dryland, Kathleen Phayre, Margaret Emmett (Philip's grandmother), John Parkinson, David Blumire, John Dowling, Ben Butters and of course Amy Meaden. Later John Lunnon joined and although I don't want to pick out existing members I must mention Dallas Banfield who has been on the council since 1990 and has been an excellent Chairman; as you will have read elsewhere he is also retiring in May. There were many many more: some have died, some moved away and some are still around retired from the council. I feel privileged to be among their number.

Barbara Wallis

*

Green light for flood alleviation scheme

Work begins in June on Marlow's flood alleviation scheme, to protect homes in the Pound Lane and Firview areas of the town, following confirmation that the £8.5 million cost has been covered.

Since the severe weather of Winter 2013/14, which left parts of Marlow under several feet of flood water, a consortium of councils and the Environment Agency has been working together to find funding for the project.

So far Buckinghamshire County Council has given £1.25m, while the Government is contributing £3.25m and Marlow Town Council £60,000. Wycombe District Council will provide officer time and expertise.

Today (Monday, January 26) the consortium announced confirmation that the remaining £4m would come from the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Local Levy, a £10.5m fund supported by councils in the Thames Valley.

The project, to be led by the Environment Agency (EA), involves building protective earth embankments, excavating flood attenuation ponds, and installing heavy-duty pumps to control surface water levels, between homes in Pound Lane and Fairview and the River Thames.

Work on the ground will start in June and take around five years. Meanwhile EA is overseeing preparation, such as archaeological recording, site access and temporary road closure notices needed at times during the work.

Welcoming the successful funding campaign, Lesley Clarke OBE, Buckinghamshire's Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning, said: 'This is an excellent example of working together speedily to identify funding for a critically important scheme. This really is good news for our hard-hit residents, whose lives became a misery last winter. I applaud their resilience.'

Lesley paid tribute to the way the community had pulled together to battle the rising floodwater during last winter's storms, which caused internal flooding to more than 20 properties in Marlow. Since then, she said, residents and community leaders had continued to work together, forming an effective flood group that has met with the main agencies to prepare a community emergency flood plan.

Karen Fisher, Buckinghamshire County Council's Lead Flood Officer, said Marlow suffered on three fronts during bad storms: accumulated rainwater, overflow from the rising Thames level, and a rising water table.

Buckinghamshire County Council

Contact Details

Dallas Banfield, Chairman	01628 526851
Geoff Fitchew, Vice-Chairman	01628 523107
Phillip Emmett	07939142480
Valerie Brownridge	01628 523367
Richard Mash	01628 485552
Ruby Taylor	01628 476498
Barbara Wallis	01628 523444
Jason Downes	01628 477189
Kathryn Acres	01628 531521
Clerk to the Council: Emma Marsden	01628 890301

Dates for your Diary

Council Meetings:

9th April, 14th May, 23rd June, 28th July, 8th September

20th October, 1st December.

Annual Parish Meeting – 22nd May

All meetings are held at The Pavilion, Church Road, Little Marlow, SL7 3RS. Most meetings start at 8pm and all public and press are invited to attend.

Little Marlow Parish Council

Community Office

The Pavilion

Church Street

Little Marlow

Bucks SL7 3RS

Tel: 01628 890301

Clerk@littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk

www.littlemarlowparishcouncil.org.uk

twitter #littlemarlowpc