

WEEDON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

A village to care for and cherish



Weedon Parish Council serves that community. There are seven elected members, all in the village.

Weedon is a small village of 173 homes with a rich built heritage, set in a designated Area of Attractive Landscape. Over half the homes are in one of the two Conservation Areas and 21 are Listed Buildings.

Add to this lovely environment the numerous village activities and organisations, plus a vibrant pub (resident-owned) and a thriving village hall (on a long lease to a registered charity), and you get a very special community.

The parish clerk, Ruth Millard, ably provides the administrative structure for the council.

The responsibilities of the parish council are varied, but can be summed up as caring for the village environment and representing the interests of the (civil) parish in the local government context.

Parish councillors show their commitment to Weedon, not only by attending meetings, but also by volunteering to take on the management and delivery of many different

projects on an unpaid basis.

In addition, we're lucky to have villagers who carry out different voluntary activities, as well as those who make generous financial contributions to our work. The Parish Council would like to thank them all.

One of the ways EVERYONE shows their commitment to the village is in the tremendous response to our entry in the annual Bucks Best Kept Village contest.

We couldn't repeat our 2016 win in 2017, despite scoring even more highly. However, the contest is not just about winning—it's to make sure the village looks as good as possible during the summer months, for all of us to enjoy. And we hope that working together brings us all closer.

We all know Weedon is a great place to live. The Parish Council will continue to cherish and care for it.

STOP PRESS!

We WON Gurney Cup for Best Kept Village 2018.

Report for year ended
March 2018

Issued July 2018

Parish Council Responsibilities

DIRECT

- Park and Play Area
- Pond and Surrounds
- War Memorial • Parish Pump
- Chapel Graveyard
- Streetlights (24)
- Salt, Waste and Dog Bins
- Street Seats and Benches
- Noticeboards (4) • Website
- MVAS Speed Signs • Defibrillator
- New Road Trees

AS AGENT FOR BUCKS CC

- Grass Verges (inside 30mph), and flower plantings
- Village Green Triangle
- Cleaning of Streets and Roadsigns
- Monitoring Public Footpaths, Roads and Pavements to keep clear

AS CONSULTEE TO AVDC

- On planning applications
- On Local Development Plans

Parish Council Plans for 2018/19

REPLACEMENT BENCH AT EAST END CORNER

- ◇ The cost of a new bench is in the budget, but still awaits Bucks CC approval, which has caused the delay.

NEW DOG BIN AND SALT BIN

- ◇ A dog bin has been installed on the Fortescue Track, and a new salt bin will be placed on the lower Aston Abbots Road, where there used to be a salt heap.

NEW FINGERPOST SIGN AT THE VILLAGE GREEN TRIANGLE

- ◇ We had to wait for Bucks CC to approve our plan for a traditional Bucks heritage fingerpost on the Village Green Triangle. They have done so, and should install it in 18/19.



Our public footpaths

Thanks to the goodwill of our landowners, Weedon's public footpaths are some of the most user-friendly in the county, with stiles replaced by gates in most places.

The PC—with residents' help—monitors the condition of footpaths to ensure that they accord to minimum standards. It is the landowner's responsibility to keep footpaths that cross their land clear and

accessible, and we can liaise with them to put things right.

Certain footpaths are the responsibility of the Parish Council. So it has, as in the past, continued to maintain **Footpath 12** (New Road to Lilies), keeping it clear of nettles and brambles.



Gates near the stream on the footpath towards Hardwick

Our graveyard and war memorial

The Parish Council leases the Chapel graveyard and grounds of the War Memorial and is now responsible for maintenance and administration.

So contractors cut the grass, trim round the graves, trim hedges, clear leaves and control weeds.

Last year the PC arranged for a full-scale clearance of ivy which was encroaching from the hedge on to the gravestones in the old part of the graveyard.

A new wooden seat was installed at the corner of the chapel building, looking out over the graveyard and the wider Aylesbury Vale. This is now a lovely place for quiet contemplation.

The graveyard accepts burials, ashes interments and memorials for Weedon residents or those with strong links to the village. See the website for a schedule of fees, list of regulations, graveyard plan and burial register.



The old part of the graveyard and the new seat at the back of the chapel

Our streets and conservation areas

Seats and benches around the village and in the park are maintained. It is planned to replace the East End/Aston Abbotts Road bench (see front page).

The PC pays for electricity to power the **street lights** and arranges repairs.

It arranges and funds regular **waste collections** from the litter and dog bins.

Our two **MVAS** (Mobile Vehicle Activated

Signs) continue to be rotated around their 6 approved sites by a voluntary team led by Mark Talbot. Speed data is passed on to the police.

Last year, the PC purchased **30mph wheelie bin stickers** and distributed them to every house in an appropriate visible location within the 30mph zone. It's great to see so many being used—more are available on request.



Wheelie bins with stickers on bin day

Our community contact systems

The PC pays to host the Weedon **website**, allowing community organisations access to their site areas to update them.

Last year a web designer upgraded the site to become mobile-friendly.

The PC helps keep **noticeboards** up to date and issues this annual report free to every Weedon household.

Important village information is **emailed** to all those on a confidential list.



Website homepage as it appears on a mobile phone

Thank you to John Elliott for taking the pictures in this year's newsletter.

Our trees, hedges and verges

The PC is now in the third year of a 3-year contract with Bucks CC for “devolved services” on the highways. Terry Lynch has continued his very satisfactory **grass verge cutting** within the 30mph signs.

Devolved services also include minor highways maintenance works such as sign cleaning, pavement weed-killing and street sweeping. If there are hedges and trees overhanging pavements, verges or roads, the PC liaises to get

these trimmed back, as this is the land-owner’s responsibility.

The PC maintains the **trees along New Road**, funded by villagers in 2007, and looks after the **flowering bulbs** planted over the years, so that we can enjoy their wonderful displays in Spring.

We took the opportunity of the Aston Abbotts Road grass verge being dug up recently to sow **wildflower** seeds.



Some of the New Road trees, planted in 2007

Our village pond, pump and green

The **Pond** now has a full set of new “furniture”, with two floating pontoons and a duckhouse. These are being well used by the white Aylesbury ducks, as well as the wild mallards, coots and moorhens that frequent the pond.

We thank Steve and Jayne Richards, who made a significant contribution to the cost of these new items. They also ensure that the ducks have daily access to the food paid for by the parish council.

The pond and its margins are owned by the PC, and a contractor regularly cuts the grass, trims plants and clears weeds.

In early 2017, one of the large iconic willow trees on the pond edge suffered substantial storm damage. We are grateful to neighbours Chris and Susie Webster, who contributed to the cost of the required tree works. The tree has gone from strength to strength since then.

At the other end of the village, the **High Street Pump** is beautifully planted and tended by Christine and Nic Nicolay on a voluntary basis.

Clare Macdonald makes a lovely show of the barrel on the **Village Green Triangle** outside the pub.



The barrel on the Village Green Triangle



The Parish Pump on lower High Street

Our play area and park

The **Park** is owned by the Parish Council. The PC arranges for local contractors to do grass and hedge cutting, path weed control, lawn improvement treatment and emptying of the litter bin.

It commissions an annual **safety inspection** of the play equipment. In 2017, a defect on the roundabout was identified, so this was rectified by an accredited play maintenance contractor.

We are grateful to John Smith, who in his retirement has taken on voluntary interim inspections for the parish council. He regularly checks all the items and cleans

swing seats and benches.

Last year bird spikes were added to the top rails of the swing frames, which has cut down the bird mess considerably.

Park users had reported difficulty with the opening and lack of self-closing of the double **vehicle/pedestrian gates** opposite the chapel. After several unsuccessful attempts at repair, the PC decided to replace the gates with a new set manufactured by Crocketts, who made the Fortescue track gate last year. They did an excellent job again, and now the gates work properly and safely.



The Park: Bird spikes on the top swing rail and brand-new double gates



Planning consultation and local liaison

The PC liaises with the other tiers of local government: **AVDC** and **Bucks County Council**. The bad state of the roads led us to press Bucks CC for action, and significant repairs have resulted.

The Parish Council is consulted on every **planning application** for building in Weedon. It can respond to AVDC with No

Objection, Support, or Objection, and a public planning meeting is held for each application to decide the PC response.

The PC maintains direct contact with **Thames Valley Police**, who regularly attend PC meetings to exchange information on crime and crime prevention. Villagers operate **Neighbourhood Watch** informally.



Aston Abbotts Rd new kerb and repairs

Financial control

The parish precept for 2018/19 was agreed in January at the same level per household as for the last 6 years. Services have not been reduced.

The precept covers routine expenditure and the PC has reserves to draw on for

capital projects. Some reserves come from the time when Buckingham Park was part of the parish, and some from budgeted projects which were underspent because of matched grant funding.

The devolved services from Bucks CC are

funded mainly by a contracted grant sum.

The PC's annual statutory returns of income and expenditure are on the website. Or contact the clerk for copies of audited accounts.

Weedon Parish Council

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Linden Village
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MK18 7HP

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Weedon Parish Councillors

Joanna Rose <i>Chairman</i>	641622	Justin Sellers <i>Vice Chairman</i>	640524
Steve Gradley	641637	Tom Jameson-Evans	640845
Wendy Kett	640366	<i>to May 18</i> Mark Talbott	
Nigel Winnett	640125	<i>July 18 on</i> Sarah Gibbs	07545 350035

Other Weedon Contacts

Weedon Village Association	Catherine Rodnight	641071
Old Schoolroom	Shirley Bush	641382
Tuesday Club	Judy Nagele	641278
Methodist Chapel	Ralph Followell	641998
Weedon Charities	Wendy Kett	640366
Golf Society	Chris Measures	640537
Parish Magazine Editor	Peggy Sidebotham	640098
The Five Elms	John and Carol Slee	641439

weedonbucks.org.uk

Parish Council Meetings

- 3rd Wednesday of odd-numbered months
- Planning meetings as the need arises
- Agendas posted on main noticeboard and website with 3 working days' notice

Aylesbury Vale District Councillor

Ashley Bond (Watermead ward) **641552**

Buckinghamshire County Councillor

Netta Glover (Wing ward) **688357**

Email joanna@cjrose.net if you would like to be added to our village email list