

What the Parish Council plans for 2013/14

MAJOR PROJECT – PLAYGROUND RE-DEVELOPMENT

We learned in March 2013 that we had been awarded the major funding of £47,000 from WREN for which we had applied in November. After eventually finalising the contract, we were able to engage contractors, and the new play equipment will be delivered for installation at the end of July, with completion by the end of August.

We are indebted to George and Kirsty Anson, whose Charitable Trust made a generous donation which filled the funding gap, and facilitated the comprehensive scheme which the Parish Council had developed following the Parish Plan.

GENERAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council meets on the third Wednesday of odd-numbered months at 8pm in the Old Schoolroom (winter) and the Methodist Chapel (summer). The meetings are open to the public and there is an Open Forum at the beginning at which any parishioner may raise an issue of concern.

Additional meetings are held from time to time mainly to consider planning applications. Notices of meetings are placed on noticeboards and on the website.

Minutes of each meeting are issued by the Clerk and are presented for approval or amendment at the next Council meeting. The unapproved minutes are posted on the village noticeboard sited at the junction of the High Street and Aston Abbots Road shortly after meetings, and on the website. An archive of approved minutes is also accessible on the website.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND MEETINGS

Both Aylesbury Vale District Council and Bucks CC are required to consult the Parish Council about planning applications. The Parish Council holds public meetings to discuss its response.

In the Open Forum, the details of the plans may be examined, questions asked or comments made. The Parish Council cannot itself approve or refuse planning applications – that is the responsibility of AVDC/Bucks CC – but we can support, offer no objection or oppose.

Individual villagers can and should also respond in their own right to any application they feel strongly about, and the Council tries to make everyone who could be affected aware of the meetings via noticeboards, website and email.

Weedon Parish Council Newsletter

JULY 2013

This yearly newsletter gives information to assist you to contact a Councillor or attend a Parish Council Meeting. **If you have any concerns, please call a Councillor or, better still, attend a meeting.**

Traditionally the role of parish councillor in Weedon is voluntary and unpaid. The part-time Clerk is the only paid employee of the Council at pay rates set according to local government guidelines.

Clerk to Weedon Parish Council

Ruth Millard, 32 Campbell Close, Linden Village, Buckingham
MK18 7HP Tel: 01280 814739

Email: weedonparishclerk@talktalk.net

Parish Councillors

Joanna Rose <i>Chairman</i>	641622	Justin Sellers	641348
		<i>Vice Chairman</i>	
Kirsty Ashurst	640224	Wendy Kett	640366
Nigel Winnett	640125	Chris Measures	640537
Tom Jameson-Evans	640845	<i>until end September</i>	

You will see we have a Parish Council vacancy from October. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested.

Aylesbury Vale District Councillor

Ashley Bond 641552

Bucks County Councillor

Netta Glover 688357

Other Weedon Contacts

Village Association	Catherine Rodnight	641071
Old Schoolroom	Shirley Bush	641382
Tuesday Club	Judy Nagele	641278
Weedon Charities }		
Methodist Chapel }	Ralph Followell	641998
Golf Society }		

If you wish to be included on our Weedon email list, which is used ONLY for village events and issues, please email joanna@cjrose.net.

Check weedonbucks.org.uk for information and live calendar

What the Parish Council did in 2012/13

ROUTINE CARE AND MAINTENANCE

- We looked after the **Park and Children's Play Area**
 - Regular grass-cutting and grass improvement treatment
 - Cutting and pruning of hedges and trees and weed control on paths
 - Inspection by ROSPA of play equipment and minor repairs according to their recommendations
 - We planted more spring bulbs on the park slopes
- We looked after other public spaces:
 - Grass-cutting and weed control at the **Pond**, and supply of duck food
 - Planting and maintenance of the **High Street Pump**, with the voluntary help of Christine and Nic Nicolay
 - Planting and care of the **Village Green Triangle** outside the pub, with the voluntary help of Clare Macdonald
 - **New Road Trees** planted in 2007 were monitored, and are doing well.
 - We contributed to the rent of a **storage facility**. However, following building of the new toilet at the Methodist Chapel and subsequent reorganisation of storage there, we have been able to terminate this lease, saving the village almost £500 per year from May 2013.
 - We paid for **litter and dog waste collections** from the village bins
 - We maintained **public footpaths**, mowing and cutting back as required and liaised with landowners over repair of stiles and gates.
- We paid for electricity to power the **street lights**, and arranged bulb replacement and repairs where needed.
- We contributed to the upkeep of the **graveyards** in Hardwick and Weedon.
- We kept the Weedon **website** and **noticeboards** up to date, and published and distributed **leaflets** on subjects of importance to the village.

MAJOR PROJECTS

- **Website makeover**

Councillor Kirsty Ashurst masterminded a full makeover, giving us a stylish interactive site, achieved on a very competitive budget. Weedon organisations have their own access to relevant site areas and can update them.
- **Park, Footpath gates and Traffic calming**

These projects have all been steady work-in-progress for the last year, and are coming to completion by the end of 2013. *see more right and overleaf*

LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- **AVDC** in respect of **Planning Applications**
 - We were asked to comment on 15 planning applications, including 4 major development applications, and public meetings were held for all but the most minor tree works
 - We spoke at several Development Control committee meetings to represent village concerns. Even though we were not successful in certain key cases, AVDC were left in no doubt of how strongly Weedon feels about protecting its natural and built environment.
- **Bucks CC** in respect of **Highways** (including **pavements** and **verges**)
 - New "gates" were installed at the village entrances on Aston Abbots Road, New Road and Cooks Hill/High Street
 - Upgraded signs and road markings around the Five Elms crossroads were agreed in 2011 and will finally be installed this summer
 - We continued to liaise and lobby BCC about road repairs required
- Parish councillors attended meetings of the **Local Area Forum**, a discussion forum for all levels of local government – parish, district and county
- We maintained contact with local stations of **Thames Valley Police**, and forwarded their information on crimes and crime prevention to villagers
- We liaised with the **Bucks Show** committee, distributing car passes to help traffic management in the village on the day of the show.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- **New Parish Clerk**

We advertised for a new clerk to replace Barbara Mitchell. After interviewing 5 candidates, we were delighted to appoint **Ruth Millard**, who has extensive experience and qualifications as parish clerk of other north Bucks villages.
- **Precept/Council Tax**
 - The precept for 2013/134 was held at the level of 2012/13 so that Weedon residents again saw **NO INCREASE** in the Weedon element of their April 2013 Council Tax bills.
 - We set our budget to cover only routine expenditure from the precept, and we will draw on some of our reserves to fund the major projects, while maintaining a prudent positive contingency balance.
 - All our parish council services are being maintained at previous levels.
- **Statutory accounts**

Copies are available to view on request from the Clerk.