

What the Parish Council plans for 2014/15

CAPITAL PROJECT – Footpath gates replacing stiles

The 2011 Parish Plan identified a wish to replace stiles with more user-friendly gates. We are still working with Bucks County Council and landowners to achieve this where feasible on the main *Village Walk* route.

CAPITAL PROJECT – War memorial clean

We have identified a stonemason to carry out cleaning and repair work to the War Memorial for the centenary of the Great War this year. This will be completed by November. We have already received £400 from Bucks CC and have also applied for a grant from the War Memorials Trust.

CAPITAL PROJECT – Traffic calming

More traffic calming measures such as vehicle-activated signs are being considered as we know this is still a major concern for villagers.

CAPITAL PROJECT – Village defibrillator

We are evaluating options for purchasing a defibrillator for the village.

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 Abbotts 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

JUNE 2014

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
Kirsty Ashurst	640224	<i>Vice Chairman</i>	
Nigel Winnett	640125	Wendy Kett	640366
Tom Jameson-Evans	640845	Mark Talbot	641502

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	Wendy Kett	640366
Methodist Chapel	Ralph Followell	641998
Golf Society	Glyn Thomas	641435
Parish Magazine Editor	Peggy Sidebotham	640098

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

To add items to the website and calendar, please email kirstyashurst@sky.com.

What the Parish Council did in 2013/14

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
 - Installation of new play equipment *see Major Project below*
- 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 maintained, weeded and re-staked where necessary
 - We planted more **spring-flowering bulbs** on the park slopes, New Road and by the village gates on Cooks Hill
 - 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.
- We co-ordinated efforts in the **Best Kept Village** competition achieving **Runner-Up** in our category and **Best Runner-Up** overall. We scored 9 points more overall than in 2012, gaining 89 points out of the possible 100. Can we do even better this year?

MAJOR PROJECT – Playground Re-Development

We were delighted to see the successful conclusion of our major transformation project to replace all the Park play equipment in a new layout. We were awarded a £47,000 grant from WREN and one of £4,830 from the Anson Charitable Trust. The project was completed on time and on budget, costing the Parish Council a net £15,490 from our reserves.

The Grand Opening at the WVA Summer Jazz Barbecue was a great event and, as hoped, the play area has become a very popular destination with villagers and visitors alike. The WVA have also donated two brand-new picnic tables, making the Park even more family-friendly.

LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- **AVDC** in respect of **Planning Applications**
 - We were asked to comment on 13 planning applications, including 1 major development application, and 9 tree works applications for the Conservation Areas. Public meetings were held for all but the most minor tree applications.
 - We spoke at Development Control committee meetings to represent village concerns, and gave evidence in one Appeal hearing (Land north of Weedon Hill). 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**)
 - Upgraded signs and road markings around the Five Elms crossroads were installed
 - We continued to liaise and lobby BCC about road repairs required and grass verge cutting
- Parish councillors attended meetings of both the **Greater Aylesbury** and **Winslow Local Area Forums**, opportunities for informal discussion amongst 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 County Show** committee, distributing car passes to help traffic management in the village on the day of the show.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- **Precept/Council Tax**
 - The parish precept for 2014/15 was agreed in December and held at the level of 2013/14 so that Weedon residents again saw NO INCREASE in the Weedon part of their April 2014 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 further capital projects, while maintaining a prudent positive contingency balance.
 - All our parish council services are being maintained at previous levels.
 - We are looking at the possibility of taking on some of the services currently provided by the district and county councils.
- **Statutory accounts**

Copies are available to view on request from the Clerk. Our annual statutory returns of income and expenditure are also on the website.