

Weedon Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Mrs Ruth Millard

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Old Schoolroom and on Zoom on
Thursday 27 May 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Joanna Rose, Wendy Kett, Sarah Gibbs, Colin Rose, Mike Stevens

1. **Receive Apologies:** Judy Nagele, Tom Jameson-Evans, Stephen Gradley, David Atkins, Poonam Gupta, Ruth Millard

2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 15 May 2019**

The minutes of 15 May 2019 were agreed and signed.

Please note no Annual Parish Meeting in 2020 due to coronavirus pandemic.

3. **To receive a report from Chair of the Weedon Parish Council**

Clr Joanna Rose read the report from the Parish Council

4. **To receive reports from other Village organisations**

Reports were given by:

- Weedon Village Association – Wendy Kett
- Golf Society – Colin Rose
- Charities, Dr John Bridle's & Lord Fortescue's – Wendy Kett
- Tuesday Club – prepared by Judy Nagele (presented by Sarah Gibbs)
- Churches, Weedon Methodist Chapel & St Mary's Church Hardwick – Sarah Gibbs
- Weedon Wildlife Group (Wild Weedon) – Mike Stevens
- Old Schoolroom – Joanna Rose

5. **To agree the date of next meeting.** Tuesday 24 May 2022 to be held in the Old Schoolroom

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chair's Signature

Date.....

Weedon Annual Parish Meeting 2021

27th May 2021

Report by Joanna Rose on the Parish Council April 2019 to March 2021

As we could not hold an Annual Parish Meeting last May, I am reporting on two years of the Parish Council's work.

Constitution and Meetings

In both years, the Parish Council held regular general meetings every other month, plus several planning/interim meetings. When physical meetings became impossible due to lockdown, we switched to Zoom online meetings, and these worked well. Our first in-person parish council meeting for over a year was held in the Schoolroom last week.

The same complement of 7 councillors continued in office for the two years until the elections recently. Justin Sellers and Nigel Winnett did not stand again in May, and we thank them for their long service to Weedon Parish Council. They have been replaced by two new councillors, so the Council continues at full strength.

The Council is well supported by our experienced and efficient Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer Ruth Millard, who has been employed by Weedon PC since 2013.

The main part of Weedon Parish Council's work is looking after the public areas of the village for the community

1. The Park and Play Area

The Park is owned by the Parish Council. We arranged for grass cutting, hedge pruning, path weedkilling, lawn improvement treatment, inspection and maintenance of the play equipment and emptying of the litter bin. To supplement the annual inspection by ROSPA, we are grateful to volunteers John and Frances Smith for checking the Park every week in the summer.

As well as some minor repairs to the play equipment in both years, in 2020, the grass mat area which had become uneven and gappy under the carousel needed to be replaced by a rubber mulch surface to be fully compliant with the latest standards. Since its installation in 2013, the equipment has proved appropriate and appealing to all ages. The rustic timber style has weathered gently in colour, yet still appears fresh and robust.

Following a donation from the Weedon Village Association, the PC purchased two more picnic table/benches for the Park. After a request from villagers, a seat was made out of a scaffold plank by Gerry Millard, and fixed on to the low wall near the entrance to the Park. As dogs are not allowed inside the Park, this provides a place for dog walkers to rest or meet.

Electrical installation on the Park. In late 2020, we were prompted by residents to look at putting up a Christmas tree and other festive lights on the Park. We decided it would be a good investment to have a mains electrical installation, from which we could power festive lights and provide electricity for summer functions in the public space. Planting a Christmas tree was also discussed, but we decided for 2020 to buy a cut tree.

We purchased professional-quality tree lights, which will be available for years to come, and the seasonal display of the tree and lights along the fence was stunning.

Coronavirus measures. The Park and Play Area were closed completely to the public for a period in early 2020. When access was allowed, the PC carried out a Coronavirus Risk Assessment, and revised this whenever the government guidance changed. The Risk Assessment provided for the erection of a hand sanitiser unit, signage and temporary fencing to encourage a one-way system into the Play Area. The playhouse was fenced off completely. Additional inspections of these measures were carried out regularly. At its meeting last week, the PC agreed to remove the fencing and re-open the playhouse, retaining the sanitiser units and signage.

2. Weedon Graveyard and War Memorial

The PC manages the graveyard under a 99-year lease. We arranged for the maintenance of the grounds and handled the administration for new graves and memorials and plot reservations.

While the maintenance of individual graves and memorials is the responsibility of the family, the PC does carry out work to the older gravestones if they become dangerous. An attractive stone cross in a prominent position in the old graveyard had broken, and the PC paid for its repair and reinstatement.

We were grateful to Paul Winrow, who took over from John Elliott, volunteering to check the graveyard on a regular basis and carry out clearing and tidying around the graves.

Following a donation from the family of Peter and Jean Kent, who both sadly died and were buried in the graveyard in 2020, a second bench was purchased for the area. The new bench at the bottom of the graveyard mirrors the one at the top, and provides views over the graveyard back up towards the chapel.

3. Other public spaces

We had the grass cut and weeds controlled around the pond and on the village green triangle. Steve and Jayne Richards continued to care for and feed the ducks with grain paid for by the PC. The High Street Pump trough and the barrel on the Triangle were beautifully planted and maintained by Clare Macdonald (triangle), and Christine and Nic Nicolay (pump).

4. Footpaths

The Council monitors footpaths to ensure landowners keep them clear, and undertakes clearance itself on Footpath 12 from New Road to Lilies wood.

The PC had a campaign some years ago to replace all stiles on the main round-Weedon footpaths with pedestrian gates to improve access. Three of the remaining stiles were converted to gates in 19/20 by volunteers from the North Bucks rRIPPLE group at no cost, but the very last one was purchased by the PC. We wanted a wooden gate in the prominent Conservation Area position between Abbey Cottage and Chestnuts Farm. George Anson kindly agreed to pay for a new field gate alongside the pedestrian one, and the combination looks perfect for the setting.

As the signs indicating the route of the Village Walk had become degraded after so many years, the PC ordered a new set. These were custom-designed free of charge by local resident Martyn Allen, and made by Mark and Denise Talbott's company Sign Wizzard, in a dark green roundel style etched in white. The design is unique to Weedon, and represents elements of the village that you would see on this round-Weedon walk.

5. Streetlights

These are owned and maintained by the Parish Council, and the PC pays for the electricity to power them. We had been looking for some time to replace the old-style sodium lights with energy-saving LEDs. However, we wanted to retain the heritage style of the lanterns, and to ensure a warm light rather than the harsh bluer whites from many LED installations. Fortunately, a supplier came forward, and the lights were converted in December 2020. Energy and cost are being saved, and we think the lights look very much in keeping with the village.

6. Speed control

The MVAS signs are still being rotated around the 6 approved sites in the village by Mark Talbott, who has carried on with this project despite no longer being a councillor. The signs are moved every 6-8 weeks, data is collected, and is passed on to the police for potential further action.

In addition, we purchased a hand-held radar gun to allow us to carry out Community Speed Watch sessions. We have trained volunteers and the police have approved sites for us to carry this out. However, covid intervened! We hope to start sessions later this year.

We have also been carrying out research in other comparable villages to try to identify other speed control installations and measures which would be permitted by Highways legislation, and affordable for Weedon.

7. Highways

We continued our Devolved Services contract from Buckinghamshire Council, for which we receive a grant. Weedon PC arranges grass verge cutting within the 30mph limit, road and pavement weedkilling, sign cleaning, and monitoring of hedges bordering roads. These works are carried out for us by a local contractor.

Wildflower verges. After seeding, we continued the management of the designated wildflower verges. They will take time to come to their full beauty year-round, but already there are many native wildflowers, and the reduced cutting regime is encouraging other native wildlife.

An attractive Victorian-style seat purchased by the PC was fixed down to a new paved area at the corner of Aston Abbotts Road and East End, providing a place to sit for anyone waiting for the weekly bus service.

8. Noticeboards, Newsletters and Website

Last year, it was felt inappropriate in the middle of covid to publish the usual Parish Council annual newsletter/report delivered free to every home. However, we are working on an edition for this summer, reporting on the previous 2 years' activities and giving contact details of all the key organisations.

The village website at www.weedonbucks.org.uk was maintained by the PC, and hosted locally. Community organisations have access to their site areas and can update them. We have been working hard on bringing the website into full compliance with the government's Website Content Accessibility Guidelines.

Coronavirus communication

During the pandemic, email was widely used to communicate with Weedon residents. However, those not on email were kept up to date by delivering printed copies of communications. A Coronavirus Support Group was formed at the time of the first lockdown, and played an important role in coordinating volunteers and producing content for news updates specifically concentrating on Weedon.

Best Kept Village

We were awarded a Highly Commended rating in the 2019 competition. There was no competition in 2020, and there will be none in 2021. However, the PC has encouraged litter picking and tidying by residents, and bought 6 professional litter picker tools. These are stored outside the back of the chapel, so are easily available for everyone to borrow.

Another important element of the parish council's work is in liaising with outside organisations

Planning (Buckinghamshire Council)

The Parish Council is consulted on every planning application for building in Weedon. We can respond with No Objection, Support, Comment or Objection. We consider our response to every application at a public meeting. We were pleased at the quality and appropriateness of almost all the applications in the last two years. However, we did prepare detailed objection letters to two applications. One was refused, and that refusal confirmed on appeal, and the other has not yet been determined.

We also monitor tree works applications in the Conservation Area.

Highways (Buckinghamshire Council/TfB)

We continue to liaise with Buckinghamshire Council/TfB, who have responsibility for all the roads, footways and footpaths in the county, to try to speed up repairs and resurfacing.

The fingerpost we had the idea for in 2017 was at last put in place on the triangle at the crossroads in December 2020. We think it looks great in this key conservation area location.

We are currently talking to TfB about replacing the dilapidated wooden rail along the High Street raised pavement with a black heritage-style open metal railing. I just hope it won't take as long as the fingerpost to get done!

We are also talking to TfB about replacing some of our grit bins, which are cracked and degraded – we hope that will be done this summer.

The issue of unsuitable HGV traffic going down Stockaway is still a live one, and we are trying very hard to establish with TfB what more measures are permissible.

Other Organisations

Councillors attended meetings of the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board, a forum set up by Buckinghamshire Council to bring together parish and Buckinghamshire councillors and other local stakeholders in one relatively informal quarterly session. This forum helps us stay informed and linked in to projects in the wider local area.

Financial and Administrative

The accounts for the year ending 31 March 2019 were audited and submitted last summer. The 2020 accounts have been finalised and will be submitted for audit by the end of June.

The PC's main income comes from the parish precept of £13,700, funded by residents' Council Tax. Weedon residents have paid the same amount of Council Tax for the last ten years, and we haven't needed to increase the figure for 21-22! We have maintained services and covered our routine expenditure with the precept, and drawn on reserves to fund any major projects, applying for outside grant funding wherever we could. At the end of the year in March, we were carrying forward one and a half years' precept in reserves, which we believe is a prudent contingency figure.

Sadly, the village has not escaped the personal impact of covid completely. But as a parish council, we tried and I believe succeeded in carrying on our work. So I'd like to thank sincerely all my fellow-councillors, the clerk, our contractors and volunteers for making that possible.

Weedon Village Association Annual Report 2021

Review of the years Feb 2019-Jan 2020 & Feb 2020-Jan 2021

February 2019-January 2020

The Village Association had another successful year with a number of well attended events and ended the year with an increase in funds of £586.

Our first event was the Spring Quiz on 29th March. We had a fun evening with 13 teams of 4 taking part, and ended up with a profit of £18. As usual we held the Egg Rolling competition on Easter Monday, with the good weather and a very good turnout.

We had a very good turnout for the Village Clean, litter pick, on 11th May. The annual Sports Afternoon was held in Colin & Joanna garden on 30th June, with good weather and a good turnout for the games and picnic tea.

For the Summer Ball on 15th June we returned to Shawfield, thanks to Chris & Susie Webster. Attendance was slightly down on previous years, but a good time was had by all and we ended up with a profit of £1198, giving us sufficient money to pay for the Children's Christmas Party and over 65's New Year dinner.

On 7th July we had Open Gardens, which once again proved popular. We served tea & cake in the Old Schoolroom, where the Weedon Art Class also staged an exhibition of their work. Donations were collected for Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

We had another good turnout on for the BBQ & Jazz on 1st September. That was followed, on the 7th September, by the Horticultural Show, where we once again had a good number and very good standard of entries, particularly in the cookery and preserves and art & craft classes.

A new event was the Barn Dance, held in Colin & Joanna's Sports Barn on 19th October. Only 26 people attended the event, but had thoroughly enjoyable time and needed to keep dancing to keep warm on a rather chilly evening. We held the Children's Christmas party on 20th December, attended by 18 village children aged 8 & under.

Our last event of the year was the Over 65's New Year Dinner, on 18th January with 49 guests sitting down to a 3 course dinner with wine and entertainment.

February 2020-January 2021

2020 was a totally different year. We held a Sunday Brunch on 9th February, but attendance was poor & just scraped by with a profit of £7. We organised a

Quiz Night for 20th March, but like many other events in 2020 it had to be cancelled.

We were able to hold our Open Gardens event on 5th July, with 16 village gardens on view, but were of course unable to serve teas. The other open air event we were able to hold was the Jazz in the Park, but without the BBQ. Hopefully both events gave people something approaching 'normal' to do in lockdown.

Because we incurred expenses, including a donation to the Parish Council to buy 2 additional picnic benches for the park, we ended the year with a reduction of funds of £522.

Chair's report Old Schoolroom 2019 and 2020, given at APM 27-05-21

2019 was a good year for the Schoolroom.

The hall was busy, with lettings bouncing back to their 2017 levels after a dip in 2018. Lettings income covered all the routine expenditure, leaving the monthly cafes and our professional theatre presentation to add the icing on the cake.

We had a surplus of £950 to add to our reserves, which totalled £10,780 by the end of the year.

- The café again raised over £1,000. Every month, it provided an opportunity for the community to get together on a Friday morning over delicious coffee and home-made cake.
- For our theatre presentation, we invited back the talented musical comedy duo Victor and Albert with their show The A-Z of Britain. Much fun was had by all! We put these shows on as part of fulfilling our charity's objective to improve the conditions of life for Weedon residents, and we made a small surplus while paying full professional rates.
- Weekly classes in 2019 included Yoga, French conversation, Upholstery, Chi Chi Fit, Taekwondo, Children's Ballet, Art Class and Communion, plus 3 Pilates classes. The Tuesday Club continued every month, and Weedon Village Association, Weedon Golf Society and Weedon Parish Council all used the hall several times in the year. There were two elections as well.

We reviewed hiring charges and decided there should be no change to the headline rates. However, we removed extra charges for the full range of crockery and cutlery, staging and audio-visual equipment. Everything in the hall would now be included for hirers' use within the standard charges.

- Management of the hall is not just about looking after the buildings and equipment. We have to ensure we operate within the legal framework for community buildings. In 2019, in addition to the annual review of our fire and safety risk assessment, we completed and adopted a General Risk Management Assessment in respect of administrative, financial and governance risks. We also produced documents required by the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) legislation.

To assist in staying up to date with all the requirements, we renewed our subscription to the Community Buildings Service run by Community Impact Bucks, giving access to many guidance documents and free workshops. CIB is the local facilitator for ACRE, the national organisation Action with Communities in Rural England.

- We had some changes on the committee in 2019, and the trustees, both new and more experienced, came together to work as a great team.

2020. So we ended 2019 in good shape and good spirits. And the first two and a half months of 2020 were going well.

- Lettings were running as normal; we held the January, February and March cafes, and the professional "show" – our first Murder Mystery – on March 14th. By all accounts, this was a triumph.
- Then lockdown hit, followed by the slow recovery after the summer. The Schoolroom was closed completely from 23rd March to 31st August, and we carried out weekly inspections.
- We became aware of a grant being offered to all premises registered with a rateable value by their local authority. This was available even to charities like ourselves, who actually hadn't had to pay any business rates due to an agreed charitable relief. We applied and were awarded the £10,000.

This was a huge weight off our minds. Even though we do not have any "fixed costs" such as paid employees, rent or rates, this meant that there was no pressure to try to re-open until it was absolutely safe (and permitted) to do so. And we were able to pay a retainer to our cleaner in lieu of the work normally carried out.

- We took advantage of the closure of the building to have the main hall fully redecorated and the bottom of the front door repaired. Scheduled annual electrical and fire extinguisher services were carried out as usual.
- In July, the committee decided to reopen to allowed categories of hirer from 1st September. We followed all the guidance from ACRE/Community Impact Bucks to make the hall covid-secure. This included a plethora of new signs, cleaning supplies and equipment, new cleaning protocols, new risk assessments and special additional conditions of hire.

There were a few bookings through until the November lockdown started. However, most of our previous hirers (eg. pilates, yoga, taekwondo, ballet) could not make their events work with the required social distancing.

- The total hire income for the calendar year 2020 was £1,329.81 – just over a quarter of the 2019 lettings. And we could only hold 3 cafes instead of 12. However, the £10,000 grant from August was followed in November by a second one of £1,334. So, ironically, our total income for 2020 ended up over twice as much as for 2019!
- In addition to the trials of covid, we also experienced two near-disasters in late summer.

First, in August, during torrential rain, water came in over the leading in the valley gutters of the roof in floods into the rear areas of the hall. The moss had been swept off the roof and blocked the single exit drain. Fortunately, our insurance claim covered a new ceiling and redecoration of the store room, repainting of the kitchen ceiling and compensation for water-damaged rolls of upholstery fabric.

To try to stop this happening again, we are having the moss cleaned off the roof by a contractor, and will instigate annual treatment with a fungicide to prevent build-up.

- Secondly, the boiler would not start up when needed after the annual service visit. We had to find a different service engineer at who finally managed to fix the problem. We know we need to source a new boiler within the relatively near future, but we are taking time to do a proper job researching the options in electric heating – and using up the oil we currently have in the tank.
- We were fortunate to continue with a strong committee of trustees throughout the coronavirus period, and everyone supported the effort to make the hall safely available to the community as soon as we were allowed. Meetings were held outdoors and on Zoom. Our greatest thanks are due to Shirley and John Bush, who looked after the hall and all aspects of liaison with hirers on a day-to-day basis. Throughout both the hiring and non-hiring periods, they showed absolute commitment to whatever needed doing, and the amount of time and work they put in was truly inspiring.

So, by the end of 2020, we had restored the hall to a good state of order, with a working boiler, cleared roof, repaired front door, new store-room ceiling, upgraded de-humidifier and a freshly redecorated main hall. Plus £18,000 in the bank and fully prepared for re-opening, with covid-secure documentation and signage.

2021.

Since the beginning of May this year, the Schoolroom has hosted the local elections, and last week the first in-person parish council meeting since early 2020. Gradually bookings are coming in again. And we're sure our investment in wifi broadband will prove an additional positive spur for hirers. We're offering special rates until the end of the year to hirers who are put on courses and events open to Weedon residents.

We hope to re-start the cafes, possibly in July, but we're taking it one step at a time to ensure everyone who comes to the hall feels safe and confident of the arrangements we have put in place.

Dr. John Bridle's & Lord Fortescue's Charities 2019 & 2020

Dr John Bridle's Charity provides grants to applicants living in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Hardwick, which covers Weedon, Hardwick and the south side of Bushmead Road, Whitchurch. Grants are either for people in need or for those in education, and are not means tested. Lord Fortescue's Charity provides grants to residents of Weedon who are in need and can also give grants for the general benefit of the residents of the village.

Dr John Bridle's Charity

About half the income of the charity comes from agricultural rents and half from investments. The decline in investment income in 2020 was only partially offset by a small increase in rents, leaving total income down by 7%.

During 2019 grants totalling £4,950 were awarded of which £2,500 was given to Whitchurch School to help towards the cost of books to help children in years 1,2 & 3 as well as resources to help children with sensory difficulties. Money was also given to 15 residents of Weedon & Hardwick, 6 as Educational grants and 9 as Need grants. In 2020 the charity made grants totalling £6,750 of which £2,000 was given to Whitchurch School for new books to help children improve their reading skills. Money was also given to 26 residents, 14 as Educational grants and 12 as need grants.

Although the offer was made to consider applications from anyone within the Parish in need of financial assistance, or children needing catch-up tuition, because of the Coronavirus pandemic, no such applications were received.

In recent years, although 2020 was an exception, more applications have been received for need grants and fewer for educational grants. The charity is therefore currently seeking permission from the Charity Commission to relax the rules governing its allocation of resources between need and educational grants.

Lord Fortescue's Charity

Over 80% of the income of the charity comes from agricultural rents with the remainder from investments. An increase in rents and small drop in investment income in 2020 resulted in an overall increase in income for the year.

In 2019 Need grants totalling £2,100 were made to 6 residents of Weedon. In 2020 the charity made grants totalling £2,480 to 8 residents.

In both years leaflets for both charities were printed and delivered to all households in their respective areas of eligibility. Each leaflet provides details of the sort of expenditure for which the charity can provide assistance and includes an application form.

Report relating to Weedon Methodist Chapel for the Annual Parish Meeting 27th May 2021

The two years to end March 2021 have, for obvious reasons, been fairly quiet at the Methodist Chapel.

The local ecumenical partnership between the Chapel and St Mary's Hardwick continues to operate well and is governed by a joint committee which oversees all aspects of church services, policies, finances and events. It meets every two months – mainly over the last 15 months online.

Ralph Followell, who acted as steward at the Chapel for many years, retired from this position in April 2020 – we thank him for his enormous contribution and dedication in promoting the Chapel in the village. The role has been taken up by Sarah Gibbs who will maintain the link with the Aylesbury Methodist Circuit for planning of church activity. Facilities and maintenance of the Chapel have been assumed by Paul Winrow, another Weedon resident, assisted by Graham Delaney. Mike Stevens has also volunteered to help out.

Church income has been severely affected during lockdown with the monthly takings from church attendance reduced. Furthermore, advertising revenue from the Parish Magazine was depleted, as was income from church activities, weddings and funerals. In total, the income for the year ending December 2020 was down by about £6000 year on year. The Chapel now consolidates its finances with St Mary's pursuant to a legally binding Sharing Agreement, although funds are ringfenced, and overall funds at St Mary's have also been significantly affected. Nevertheless, the Chapel has managed to pay its required share to the Methodist Circuit. It retains an income from planned giving, and several fundraising opportunities are in the pipeline for this coming year.

Despite lockdown, there remains ongoing support from a regular congregation for the monthly family services at the Chapel which – when live - are also fairly well supported by several families in the village. During the last couple of years, services ceased in March 2020, allowing only a socially distanced Harvest Service in October and a Christingle in December 2020. We continue to involve ministers from the Methodist Circuit. The weekly evening Sunday service is not well attended and remains suspended pending review by the ECC. During lockdown periods the Methodist Church has initiated online Zoom services which were well attended.

Other events have been limited. The Royal British Legion Service of remembrance takes place in the Chapel grounds each November year and this did occur in 2019 and 2020, albeit socially distanced at the latter event. Several funerals have occurred but there was only one wedding and one baptism at the Chapel over the period.

Outreach has continued from the Chapel with regular foodbank collections organised in favour of the Aylesbury Vineyard Storehouse, a Christian body which serves the Aylesbury area. These collections have been very well supported and the village's generosity has been evident, particularly during lockdown.

Work has been carried out to repair the boiler at the Chapel, and to create a shelter over the back door area where water consistently flowed down the cellar steps. The paths were jet-washed and new paper towel dispensers installed in the kitchen and in the outside loo to assist with covid security.

We await the next step of lockdown easing with hope, and a renewed vigour to regenerate interest in this building and what it stands for in the heart of the community.

Sarah Gibbs
Chapel Steward
24th May 2021

Weedon Wildlife Group – Report to Parish Meeting – May 2021

The Parish Council has strong links with the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) and a combined questionnaire was sent around the village to gauge interest in forming a local wildlife conservation group. This resulted in 33 positive responses. Our first meeting, chaired by BBOWT, was held in February, during which a local committee was formed from those in attendance.

In our first few months the committee has been very active. We have:

- formalised the group: agreed our Constitution; opened a bank account and applied for an initial funding grant from BBOWT
- organised a survey of the wildlife in and around the village
- organised events and meetings to raise awareness of the group within the village and encourage participation – to date these have included: an Easter Wildlife Trail; Bird Nest Box building workshop; a talk by the Buckinghamshire Owl and Raptor Group about their work in supporting these iconic birds
- Toured the village with BBOWT to identify potential areas for projects to support wildlife
- followed with interest the development of the Buckinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy

The above-mentioned survey has been completed and we are now better able to understand the variety and location of species seen in the village and surrounding countryside. Our next steps are to identify projects to increase diversity and halt the general decline of wildlife, at least in our little corner of the country. The focus of these will be led by evidence coming from the survey, where appropriate.

Under the banner of ‘Wild Weedon’, we are increasing the visibility of the group through social media, with pages on Facebook and Instagram, and we will shortly be launching our Website.

We are also continuing to deliver an exciting programme of activities to engage and inform residents of all ages on the part we can play in preserving and improving wildlife. Already in the pipeline (subject, where applicable, to any necessary approval of the Parish Council) are:

- design of a logo for the Group, to be used in correspondence and social media
- design and installation of Information Boards at various locations around the village
- undertaking some ‘Wildlife Haven’ projects on land managed by the Parish (Guided by BBOWT)
- a Wild Flower Trail
- promoting national specialist surveys, such as the Big Butterfly Count and Big Garden Birdwatch, to encourage villagers to be more aware of the wildlife surrounding them
- workshop(s) aimed toward the younger (and young at heart) villagers to create wildlife homes (bug hotels etc.)
- further presentations from subject specialists
- actively seeking ideas for potential projects that will enhance local wildlife diversity.

We will be holding our first Annual General Meeting in September and we are looking forward to a growing engagement with villagers of all ages through the coming years.

Mike Stevens

Chair – Weedon Wildlife Group (Wild Weedon)

Weedon Golf Society – Report for the Parish Council

This is the 24th successful year of our village golf society - now simply named: Weedon Golf Society.

The emphasis is very much on a social club with playing formats suitable to golfers of all levels.

We currently have 30 members and play six times a year. Plus a game for the Mike Moore trophy in association with the Aylesbury Literary Club.

Each outing is normally followed by a dinner in the Old School Room which is a fun affair – and guests are always welcome.

Because of the pandemic there were only a couple of matches in 2020, but we expect a full schedule in 2021.

There will be a party with guests invited on 31st July to, hopefully, celebrate a return to social normality.

New members are always very welcome!