

# **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

## **REPORTS**

**11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**



## **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT FOR HADDENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018**

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### **Powers**

At its July 2017 meeting the Parish Council resolved that it meets the criteria for eligibility to use the General Power of Competence – the criteria being that two thirds of its members held office as a result of being declared elected, and that its clerk held one of the relevant qualifications stipulated in the Statutory Instrument, Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 .

Having General Power of Competence fundamentally changes what the Parish Council can do.

The General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011 Sec 1 (1) gives local authorities, including eligible local councils, *“the power to do anything that individuals generally may do”* as long as they do not break other laws. It is intended to be a power of first, not last, resort.

### **Precept**

From 2015-16 the Parish Council started taking a more forward-thinking approach to managing its finances.

It had become obvious that a combination of austerity cuts hitting higher tiers of local government, some aging assets of the parish requiring maintenance or replacement and new projects would require forward planning to protect the existing and future services and assets of the parish.

This continued last year and into 2017-18 where reserves have been made for the new burial ground, replacement of aging street lights, pond maintenance, legal and professional advice, additional devolved services and, in this year an amount of £20,000 was set aside in anticipation that the Council's taking over the upkeep of the Churchyard of St Mary's would require us to be able to act swiftly if repairs were suddenly needed for what is a sensitive asset to maintain.

Unfortunately, we were disappointed to find that the Churchyard was handed over to the Council in a state of surprising disrepair and we are requesting that the Diocese of Oxford funds the substantial works that the Parish Council considers should have been undertaken by them while the Churchyard was in their care, as the Parish Council judges it unreasonable that the cost of the work needed – which is estimated at over £110,000 – should have to be borne by the Council Tax payers of Haddenham. Should funds not be forthcoming from the Diocese, the Parish Council will be consulting more widely in the village on the matter to get residents' input on how they think we should proceed with the Diocese.

After increasing the precept over 2 years to £302, 520 the Parish Council is now in a much more secure position to provide the services and new facilities that residents tell us are important to them. This year's setting of the precept included, for the first time, a four-year projection of future expenditure, commitments and cash flows. This was done to ascertain whether the current levels of reserves are adequate, and to ensure we understand as well as we can at this stage, the future impact on our resources and responsibilities of:

- the significant increase in the number of dwellings, and its effect on the tax base,
- the increase in land and assets the Council will be responsible for, and the commuted sums and the liabilities to which they relate.
- the changes in our responsibilities resulting from central government cuts to higher-tier councils

### **Accounts and Auditing**

The accounts were moved from a paper ledger to an electronic, spreadsheet-based format in 2014 and in 2016 the PC appointed a new Internal Auditor. The assessment of the new internal audit

found it to be very thorough. As part of his initial report the new auditor recommended that the PC invests in a finance software package because as the parish grows and responsibilities increase the accounts are becoming more complex. A procurement process in the previous year led to a 1 year contract with AdvantEDGE which is an online system which also has the advantage of additional modules for the management of allotments and burial grounds. This system is still under trial.

### **Grants**

The Parish Council supports local groups through grants this year the following grant applications were successful: modest grants were made to Haddenham Tennis Club Juniors, Haddenham Parochial Charities, RVS Haddenham - The Sixty Plus Club, Haddenham Age Concern and amounts in excess of £500 to Haddenham Community Library (£5,000) and to the Banks Park Recreation Ground Trust (£12,047), the latter being to recapitalise the Trust which has had many large repair projects to fund over the past few years.

### **Allocation of s106 funding to projects**

When new planning applications are made for 6 or more dwellings the developer is required to make a contribution to sports and leisure in the area. AVDC ask the parish council to nominate projects for the village to receive funding. The large amount of development in the village has meant a significant amount of s106 funding to allocate and the projects nominated include:

- Improvements / replacement of the village hall
- New pitches for football and cricket, and new tennis courts as well as improvements to the existing facilities
- new or upgraded pavilions/ community space at the airfield, Glebe and Woodways
- extension of the library to provide additional community space
- digital noticeboards / room booking system
- new play equipment at several locations

### **New Burial Ground**

An area of land has been allocated on the Aston Road development for a new burial ground so funding has been allocated to deliver this over the next few years.

### **Allotments**

For three years now, these have been self-funding. The Parish Council has loaned the allotments via a reserve the funds for a bore hole powered by a solar pump which became operational this year. This means there is no further need for a mains water supply saving the allotments typically £1,000 per annum

### **A new unitary authority**

Both Bucks County Council and the combined Buckinghamshire District Councils submitted rival proposals to the Secretary of State for a new unitary authority for Buckinghamshire. The Secretary of State was "minded to" adopt the County proposal of a single Unitary Authority and to reject the Districts' proposal. The purpose of a "minded to" decision was to enable further representations so that any and all objections could be heard, taken into account and, if needs be, acted upon. The recent move of Sajid Javid, who took that decision, to the Home Office may result in further delay and/or a change in preference. An early resolution would be welcome as it would enable a further devolution of powers sooner, thereby enabling the Parish Council to potentially take over responsibility for and funding of, for instance, pot hole repairs in the village to ensure they are dealt with far more promptly and to a higher standard. The Parish Council has continued to attend meetings with the higher tiers in anticipation of the changes each model hopes to bring forward.

CHARITABLE TRUSTS  
REPORTS FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018

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Banks Park Recreation Ground Trust

Banks Park Recreation Ground Trust (BPT) holds Banks Park in trust, with Haddenham Parish Council as its sole trustee. BPT is able to spend any income on the maintenance of Woodways. For convenience, BPT meetings directly follow the monthly F&GP meetings with the same Councillors in attendance.

During 2017/18, BPT has:

- Carried out a project in February 2018 following consultation with site users to introduce car park lining and a one-way system at Banks Park with the following objectives:
  - ▲ Improve safety for pedestrians and vehicles within the site
  - ▲ Provide improved drop-off/loading access to the Village Hall
  - ▲ Provide additional disabled parking places
  - ▲ Provide improved parking bays and signage for all vehicle users
  - ▲ Maximise use of the space

We intend to further improve signage at Churchway entrance as some people are still coming in that way

- Paid for replacement windows at Woodways pavilion
- Dealt with blocked drains at the Scout & Guide Centre
- Investigated flooding of the Scout & Guide Centre footpath and is obtaining quotes for improvements
- Carried out tree work including emergency work to one particular tree
- Carried out a survey of all trees on the site and identified priorities for future tree work
- Instructed solicitors to renew the lease of Banks Cottage
- Instructed solicitors to accept surrender to BPT from Bucks County Council of the lease on former day centre
- In partnership with the Village Hall Management Committee, instructed a condition survey of the Village Hall complex including mechanical & electrical systems - due to report shortly.

David Truesdale  
Chair Banks Park Recreation Ground Trust

Haddenham Educational Charity

Each year the Educational Charity makes the income from the money invested from the sale of the Old British School available to students from the village to help towards their education. This year £1,750 was available from the 2016-17 interest earned and was divided equally between the 14 applicants.

David O'Hanlon  
Chair Haddenham Educational Charity

### **Community Facilities Sub-Committee**

In 2016 it was decided that a new sub-committee was needed to manage the projects to deliver new facilities as a result of development in the village and to be adopted by the Parish Council. The committee co-opted representatives from the village's sports clubs and the arts, with an envisaged process of very occasional plenary meeting and a focus on smaller informal meetings with the individual sports clubs.

It was agreed from the outset that some professional advice would be needed from a design consultant with the correct technical knowledge to feed back to the developers on their plans and represent the wishes of the PC and sports clubs. PCMS were identified as a suitable company through their work on the facilities at Chinnor. They were appointed and have provided extremely valuable input across a number of sites.

In particular, the Parish Council and PCMS have agreed

- the layout of new football pitches at the Airfield,
- the design of a new pavilion and car park, also at the Airfield for which a planning application has been submitted,
- the layout of a new cricket pitch at Glebe site, and
- a topographical survey of the tennis courts, car park and pavilion at Woodways Park in order to finalise plans for addition tennis facilities and to remedy the deficiencies in the current parking arrangements, as well as a plan for further improvements in the future.

In anticipation of the Council becoming a Burial Authority, for which a decision has been taken in principle, our staff and some councillors have visited the Parish Council-run facilities at Chesham Bois and attended training courses.

The Parish Council also agreed to take ownership of amenity land at the Airfield, Glebe and Dollicott and has obtained VAT and other legal advice to ensure that its governance and arrangements for the procurement, delivery and subsequent management of the new building projects follow best practice in these areas.

### **Data Protection**

In anticipation of GDPR training has been undertaken and work started to ensure compliance with new regulations.

### **New Homes Bonus**

The Parish Council supported a new homes bonus application for HYCC kitchen and mini-grant for HCC, continued to support the improvements to Green Lane. Some residents have reacted negatively to the Green Lane project and the Council intends to review how it can better anticipate differences of opinion amongst residents regards projects in future, and what steps it might practically take to be aware of them ahead of commitments so that differing views can be given their due weight before final decisions are taken.

Cllr David O'Hanlon

Chair Finance & General Purposes Committee

During 2017/18 the Planning Committee has:

Development management

- Reviewed 59 applications for planning permission and/or listed building consent, and submitted comments to the local planning authority, AVDC, on material planning grounds. Further details on the principal sites are as follows.

Airfield site

- Contributed suggestions to AVDC on street naming using names associated with the history of the airfield.
- Made a site visit to view the location of the new sports (junior football) pitches and pavilion
- Commissioned and approved design work on the pavilion and community building now with AVDC for planning permission – this building will be built, owned and managed by the Parish Council.
- We are expecting planning applications to be submitted in the near future for the remaining undeveloped sites: (a) retail shop plus children's nurse on ground floor with residential above (b) care home (c) site on the business park currently occupied by the glider hangar.

Aston Road site

- Had several meetings with Dandara, principally about the burial ground and open space proposals which will be passed to the PC for adoption.
- Submitted detailed comments with 20 recommendations on the planning application originally made in June 2017, and on the amended proposal presented to our February 2018 meeting. This application has still to be determined by AVDC.
- In particular we have fought (successfully) with Willis Rd residents to retain the existing Right of Way on the northern boundary of the site; less certain is whether our request to have a more rural surface treatment will be agreed.
- With Dandara we have monitored ground water conditions to establish whether the site will meet Environment Agency requirements for a burial ground.
- We have liaised with the cricket club on outline proposals for the new cricket pitch.
- The Chair contributed to a BBC TV South Today programme featuring Haddenham on the problems of finding suitable sites for new burial grounds.

Stanbridge Road sites

- We have made proposals for street naming of the Rectory Homes development to AVDC based on the Museum map.
- We successfully suggested a new footpath on the east side of Stanbridge Rd down to the garden centre, and have requested relocation of the 30 mph limit.
- We supported Rectory Homes' further application for 14 homes on the adjoining Fairfield Farm site after smaller units were included.
- A planning application has just been made for the site between Fairfield Farm and the garden centre.
- We supported an application to carry out substantial improvements to the garden centre itself.

Dollicott site

- We attended in January 2018 the opening of Hightown Housing Association's affordable housing. The Chair cut the ribbon and spoke about the origin of the new road name, Plater's Road
- We agreed to adopt amenity space and street lights

#### Land West of Churchway (HAD 007)

- We have had meetings with the agents on proposals for the “Astonhill” land, designated as HAD007 in the VALP. We submitted comments to AVDC in July 2017 giving conditional support in view of the site’s inclusion in VALP, subject in particular to resolving issues of surface water, water supply and sewerage drainage.
- An amended application is awaited.

#### Land East of Churchway (HAD 002)

- Proposals for 72 dwellings were presented by the developer to our May 2017 meeting. The site is not included in VALP and was opposed by the PC.
- This has now gone to appeal, and the PC has submitted an updated response opposing the appeal directly to the Inspector. A decision is awaited.

#### Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) and Neighbourhood Plan

- AVDC published the final pre-submission VALP draft in autumn 2017 for a further round of public consultation. At this stage, only comments on soundness and legality can be made; the PC chose not to challenge on those grounds.
- VALP has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in public. Depending upon the outcome, VALP is likely to be formally adopted early in 2019.
- However early review is likely: see 2 items below on NPPF and CaMKoX. For these reasons the PC has held back from undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan review.
- In April 2017, the PC Chair attended a planning appeal when the Neighbourhood Plan was cited by the Inspector as the reason for dismissing an appeal for change of use of the House of Spice restaurant to 7 flats.
- During the year, the Chair and Clerk have met representatives from AVDC Forward Plans, AVDC Heritage team, and BCC Highways to discuss Haddenham issues.

#### National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Review

- The Government has proposed several amendments to the NPPF including a new standardised national methodology to assessing housing need. If adopted as being proposed, AVDC will need to increase housing supply by 50% above the levels currently shown in VALP.

#### Cambridge - Milton Keynes - Oxford (CaMKoX) Arc/Corridor

- The Government’s National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has published proposals for major investment linking this belt with both a new east-west railway and an expressway serving potentially 1 million new homes and 4 new towns (it is unclear whether this total includes numbers already in District Plans like VALP, or is additional).
- Details of the proposed route of the expressway are awaited from Highways England. There are 3 options for the Oxford-Milton Keynes section; the southern route essentially follows the line of the A418. We have been informed that public consultation will be limited to the details of the chosen route, and not about which route is selected.
- In October 2017 NIC published 4 indicative design concepts for development in the CaMKoX corridor. One proposal by consultants Fletcher Priest included a concept for a major settlement centred on Haddenham and Thame, which we showed at the PC’s October meeting.



**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

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The Parish Council has gone through more changes this year than any other year since I have been on the Council, and the rate of change will not reduce. I don't think most people appreciate the changes which will be forced upon the village and HPC because of the increase of over 1000 houses.

We have changed the way the village maintenance is conducted and we now employ an outside contractor Aspire Ltd. Our main contact is Kevin Wynne and with the support of his fellow workers is proving a very reliable and competent service. Their work is extremely well regarded by the local residents

We have now undertaken the maintenance of the 'closed' churchyard from the church. A survey of the churchyard area and walls showed that a cost of over £100,000 is required to restore them to a safe and reasonable state. This has been caused by years of previous neglect by the Diocese. The PC has also, in principle, agreed to take on the responsibility for setting up and maintaining a new burial ground, dependent upon cooperation from the developer Dandara and AVDC, at the Glebe land. The proposal and planning for this project is still ongoing.

HPC has commissioned a survey of the village trees and this is has just been completed. This will provide us with true picture of the condition of our trees and a schedule for maintenance. Which will allow the parish to budget for future work.

We have now signed a formal streetlight maintenance contract with Eldridges and they have conducted a survey of all our street lights. Surprisingly it did not reveal many problems due to a gradual policy to replace faulty columns. The volunteer street light warden has retired after many years, we all owe Roger Hannaford a vote of thanks for all his work.

We are also in the process of contracting an independent jointer for our streetlight connections which will provide a more cost effective and efficient service.

Jane has been conducting resident surveys and liaising with the schools and nurseries to get local opinions on updating the existing children's play areas. With resounding local support we are moving forward with plans to order new and replacement play and fitness equipment to update Banks Park and Sheerstock play areas. The range of equipment will allow all ages to benefit from the improvements. There will also be new play areas in the new developments which the Parish council will be taking responsibility for once completed.

A Sentinel Speed Watch camera has been purchased by the LAF for use in the Haddenham and Long Crendon district and it is insured and administered by HPC. We are still using the MVAS at various prime locations in the village and analysing the results. The Solar warning VAS sign, planned for Stanbridge Road, has been delayed because of a disagreement with B.C.C. over the cost of installing the supporting pole. The parish is in the process of sourcing matched funding for this project.

We continue as a parish to apply pressure to Bucks County Council to resolve the problems with the degrading road surfaces, blocked drains and parking.

Chris Young  
Environment Committee Chair

**TOWNSEND COMMUNITY ORCHARD**  
**REPORT FOR HADDENHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

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2017 saw a significant milestone in the community orchard project – the installation of the log benches, the information boards and the tree plaques in September and October. This work was funded by a Section 106 grant and, with some judicious purchasing by the orchard committee, the total cost came in under budget. The log benches form the structure of an outdoor classroom area known as “The Core”. The committee plan to actively encourage the use of this space by school and youth groups, and it will also be available to community groups for social events. To celebrate this achievement the Orchard was officially opened on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Oct with over forty villagers and local councillors attending.

Thirty-eight of the original trees are in a very good state of health. Sadly two show signs of disease and every effort will be made to rehabilitate these before considering whether they need to be replaced. The trees are now approximately four years old and this Spring they put on their best display of blossom yet. A combination of the Wassail songs in January and good care by our volunteers seems to have done the trick and we look forward to our best crop of fruit yet this coming autumn.

The fruit bushes on the trellis did not thrive quite as well in 2017, partly due to resources being pooled into completing “The Core” project. In an annual review of the maintenance work in February 2018 the committee identified that more time and manpower needed to be put in to weeding round both the fruit bushes and the trees, and training the bushes up the wire frame. The first three monthly work parties have concentrated on these aims and gaps in the fruit bush area have been restocked with thornless blackberries, raspberries and currants.

The monthly work parties are continuing to be successful in attracting an average of ten volunteers. The committee are looking to recruit more members to help especially during the busy weeding/mowing period from May-August. In 2017 the new village contractor Aspire gave regular and valuable assistance with the mowing and we look forward to their input again in 2018. An innovation for 2017 was to cut footpaths across the meadow so that visitors could enjoy the wildflowers and trees up close. This proved very popular will be repeated in 2018.

Several events were held in the orchard in 2017/18. A community picnic in June was enjoyed by 20 people although the Open Afternoon was less well attended due to competition from the Open Gardens Day. Haymaking Day in August was very successful thanks largely to our hardworking volunteer team and the auto-scythe on loan from Thame Cuttlebrook Reserve. In November we hosted a fruit tree pruning course, attended by 12 village residents, and the knowledge gained will directly help with the orchard maintenance. 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 saw the third annual Easter Egg Hunt which attracted over 50 visitors. On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2018 we had the first visit by an external group – the Golden Baggers – a community gardening group from London.

Looking forward the committee aims to shift its attention to encouraging more community involvement and use of the orchard: from recreational, to volunteering, to educational, and social. Visitor numbers have increased in the last year and village users have voiced their approval of this green space as a valuable amenity in Haddenham.

Diccon Proctor  
Vice-Chair Townsend Community Orchard Committee

**ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE  
REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2018**

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The last year has seen a great many changes on the allotment site.

Firstly, the completion of the borehole project, which was on time and under budget, and will in the space of several years save the Parish Council money. Furthermore, donations from the plot holders also contributed to the scheme. The bore hole was officially opened on the day of the allotment barbecue. Subsequently, extra storage capacity was added during the winter, to offset any shortage of water late in the evening.

Another new concept on the site was the introduction of mini plots areas of around 2.5 poles suitable for individuals or families who are just starting on the allotments. The site lease was due to be renewed this year and discussion between the Parish Council and the Parochial Charities is in an advanced state and we hope to sign the lease in the next few weeks.

During the winter the hedge laying has continued on the allotments and hopefully the hedges surrounding the site will all be laid over the next couple of years. Finally, I should like to thank everyone for there tremendous hard work over the last year, especially Alison Watt.

Cllr John Wheeler  
Chair of Allotments Committee

## Communications Committee Report

### Annual Parish Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> May 2018

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The committee meets quarterly. There have been a number of changes to the membership of the committee during the past year, and it is hoped that the coming year will demonstrate greater stability, especially given the increasingly vital role of parish council communications. A key theme for the coming year will be to focus our activities remembering that communication is a two way process in which it is as important to create effective channels for villagers to communicate with the parish council, as it is for the parish council to communicate its activities and decisions to villagers.

During the past 12 months the committee:

Took the decision to cease publication of a quarterly printed village news publication, and to replace it with a shorter, but more frequent parish council newsletter.

It is hoped that many villagers will choose to receive the newsletter by email, or read it via various online channels, but plans are also being made to ensure a supply of paper copies at key locations around the village. This will enable those without internet access to still be able to find out about parish council activities and events.

The committee has also commissioned a village guide. In the form of a booklet, partially funded by advertising, this will be distributed to all homes in the village, and will enable new arrivals to the village to be made aware promptly of the various organisations, events, locations and relevant contact details that abound in this thriving community.

The committee has also commissioned a review and redesign of the parish council website, to include a new logo for council correspondence and other publications.

This last year has seen a significant increase in communications through social media channels, and the committee will be considering how best to make use of its own social media channels, as well as how best to engage with other channels which are popular with villagers.

Cllr Gill Bedding  
Chair of Communications Committee

**HADDENHAM SAFE WALKING & CYCLING GROUP**  
**REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

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## **Walking**

### **The Wychert Way**

1. The flooding has now cleared. One section has not been reinstated after ploughing. Jim Robinson has reported this to BCC who will contact the land owner- this usually works.
2. A very successful joint Ramblers/HVS walk was held recently: 26 walkers turned up with approx 12 from Ramblers and balance from the village including several teenagers, all of whom complete the 10 mile walk (shortened due to floods).
3. New Leaflets ordered - HVS have kindly agreed to fund.

### **The Miller's Way**

1. The footpath and bridle path by Scotsgrove Mill was seriously overgrown earlier in the year. BCC informed and it is now significantly improved.
2. New signs have been funded by David Einig, the Thame contractor, and installed. Our thanks to Brian Bowman for asking David and to Bill Piers and his team for installing the posts and signs. Aylesbury Ramblers assisted with "banding" some of the signs to existing posts in Oxfordshire.

### **Footpath to Chearsley**

A good stile has been installed by the land owner alongside the A418, where previously there was an obstruction. He will not allow a kissing gate. Roundels were installed last year.

### **Via Tythrop to Thame**

A new gate was installed to replace a stile. Thanks to Bill again and to Andrew Gordon. Only 2 stiles remain on this path to Thame.

## **Cycling**

*We are not concerned merely with cyclists; these cycleways are in fact, **Community Paths**, where everyone will be able to walk, push buggies and wheelchairs, as well as where children and adults can cycle safely away from the cars and lorries, which deter so many from getting out their bikes.*

### **Haddenham to Thame**

Please see the attached history of our work to achieve this much desired route. We know that this is everyone's priority, as it has been ours for decades, but the fact that it crosses County boundaries has been the sticking point.

### **Haddenham to Aylesbury**

1. A cycle/pedestrian path exists from Aylesbury to Stone.
2. A footpath exists from Stone to the Haddenham Low junction on the A418. Parts of it have recently been cleaned up. It is possible to cycle on this path, though a wider path would be preferable.
3. There is no footpath from Haddenham Low to Kings Cross. Nobody can explain why the footpath ended so far from Haddenham. However the bridleway known as the Green Lane provides a way of cycling and walking from the Post Office to the A418.

4. This leaves a gap of a field and a quarter where you have to walk on the grass verge and cycle on the main road. We commissioned a Feasibility Study from Sustrans which recommended BCC provide a crossing and negotiate a path behind the hedges of the fields. BCC say they have no money for this. Now the future of the A418 as an Expressway is a possibility, they will make no plans anyway.
5. When AVDC's New Homes Bonus Scheme appeared, our plan for the Green Lane was the only Haddenham project which qualified for money the Village certainly deserved in view of all the new houses built here. The crossing of the A418 did not qualify, but the Parish Council agreed that getting the first part of the route constructed would mean that we were able to put pressure on BCC to join up the parts the next time any money came to light.
6. The Green Lane was kept clear from hedge to hedge at least till 1973. Indeed it is the duty of the landowners so to do. However, when the farmers failed in that duty, the Lane became very overgrown, and muddy, as their ditches were similarly neglected. Horse riders stopped using it and the nettles, bramble and mud deterred a majority of villagers. It went back to nature and those who loved that were disappointed that the current reinstatement of the Lane destroyed the undergrowth. However Robyn Thorogood, of Snakemoor fame, is the Project Manager and we are determined to make the most of the opportunity to sow wildflowers, plant snowdrops, and have bat and bird boxes, when work is finished. Already the ditches are newly able to run with water and insects and birds abound.
7. We are now waiting for the land to dry out thoroughly before the path can be laid, hopefully in May/June.
8. BCC will take over the maintenance of the path, not the PC.

**Cynthia Floud**

**Chair, Haddenham Safe Walking & Cycling Group**

**SNAKEMOOR LOCAL NATURE RESERVE**  
**MAY 2017 - APRIL 2018**  
**REPORT FOR HADDENHAM ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

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(Copies of a full report are available from the clerk)

Mike Kershaw has finished laying the hedge along the entrance path. Great job done.

A lot of tree work has been necessary mostly to remove large limbs that had split from main trunks. Much of this accomplished by volunteers.

We have had a number of successful visits by schools and other groups.

In addition Louise Davies held Forest School sessions and David Willis Bush Craft sessions.

Kevin for Aspire (our village contractor) has been an excellent and enthusiastic help with maintenance of the reserve.

Experts have been ringing birds and putting up Owl boxes (the latter by Bucks. Owl and Raptor Group). All masterminded by Chris Young who reports good bird activity this year.

I planted two Marsh Orchids on the meadow that we hope appear this year. These were donated via Robin Wilson.

The meadow was cleared as usual with help from Michael and his tractor.

Thanks to Tom Bucknell for loan of his truck during work groups and letting Harry Makepeace do maintenance work to the station/Snakemoor path.

The Parish Council survey of trees in their care included those at Snakemoor.

I have received the survey and will use to determine further work.

In general more people than ever are using the reserve. Indeed the 'footfall' is rather heavy. The Reserve needs expanding to absorb the planned village growth.

We get encouraging reports from a lot of visitors about the reserve being well managed and a joy to visit.

Thanks to all the volunteers for the considerable work they do. This includes Chris Thorogood who has provided the work group refreshments, these are looked forward to by all.

Robyn Thorogood  
Snakemoor Manager on behalf of HPC  
11<sup>th</sup> May 2018





**HADDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2018 (UNAUDITED)**  
**FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

	FY 2014-15 £	FY 2015-16 £	FY 2016-17 £	FY 2017-18 £	Precept 2018-19 £	
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>						
Maintenance	2,998	2,903	2,714	1,533	1,000	Out-of-pockets now lower due to outsourcing of maintenance
Play Areas maintenance	180	1,116	2,275	4,110	5,350	Safety inspection regime and ageing equipment repairs mean annual costs are rising. New amenities will see this continue in step with the benefit of more provision
Churchyard maintenance	-	-	-	1,980	3,500	Anticipated taking over of this work delayed until new FY
Outsourced Maintenance	-	-	2,615	38,315	70,000	Includes work formerly done by the handyman but from 18/9 far wider scope of work - playing fields & new developments. The latter funded by commuted sum below (£22,500)
Water Ponds	885	470	344	7	1,030	Erratic billing behaviour by company taking over from Thames Water has resulted in almost no expense this year - a supplier admin matter, not usage-related
Refuse bins	580	865	1,250	4,541	4,650	Includes new bin purchases
Dog Bins	1,578	1,918	1,796	3,207	2,575	Includes new bin purchases
Pest Control	360	420	628	300	500	
Mapping	70	70	70	22	75	Annual costs remain the same. Expense line belatedly adjusted to accruals basis
Tree Works	860	1,750	8,200	6,845	4,160	Major work to catch up on previous years. Significant savings achieved by shopping around for new supplier. A plan of works & funding for a 5-10 year period is being created
War memorial	738	-	-	-	-	Thought to be one-off cost in 2014/5. Now policy is to fund via Major Asset Repair Reserve probably on a four year cycle
Misc	1,104	271	460	250	360	2014/5 high due to dog control orders

	FY 2014-15 £	FY 2015-16 £	FY 2016-17 £	FY 2017-18 £	Precept 2018-19 £	
Devolved Services	-	8,353	8,834	10,261	12,500	New costs in 2015/6 relating to grass cutting devolved from BCC. Number of cuts increased to 10pa in 2016/7. 2 cuts under new contract in Feb & Mar
Street Lighting maintenance	2,993	3,250	6,978	12,682	7,250	Major overrun as expected. All equipment inspected in audit to enable proper asset management approach going forward.
Street Lighting energy	5,755	6,672	6,548	7,123	8,000	Unit costs rise due to supplier price hikes, mitigated by use of broker. Move to LED providing better illumination and reducing usage & therefore dampening underlying increase
Training S137	- 15	- 15	- 7,220	265 20	1,000 20	Investment in skills, competence and compliance increasing. Best Kept Village entry fee (£15/£20) and remainder in 2016/7 was part-funding of the LAF/BCC parking feasibility and implementation around the station
	18,116	28,073	49,933	91,460	121,970	
<b>INCOME</b>						
Fair rent	300	300	325	325	325	Reviewed every three years hence £25 increase in 2016/7
Pole refund	36	23	29	30	30	
Commuted sums	-	-	-	-	22,500	Allocation in respect of work on new developments anticipated in 2018/9. Commuted sums for maintenance are priced to cover 10 years' worth of work For general work performed by HPC handyman to maintain land and buildings owned by and/or funded by BPT. Proposing will not be repeated in 2017/8
Recharged to Banks Park Trust	1,500	750	765	-	-	Payment from BCC for formerly devolved services, and for newly devolved (grass-cutting) services performed by HPC from 2015/6. 2016/7 rate applies for 3 years
Devolved Budget	8,219	8,702	7,596	7,596	7,596	
	10,054	9,775	8,715	7,951	30,451	
<b>NET</b>	-	8,061	-	41,218	-	83,509
	-	8,061	-	41,218	-	91,519

	FY 2014-15 £	FY 2015-16 £	FY 2016-17 £	FY 2017-18 £	Precept 2018-19 £	
<b>ALLOTMENTS</b>						
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Maintenance	237	17	3	345	515	2014/5 charge was for re-gravelling of the main path. 17/8 for strimming of plots. Bore hole work is accounted for via the Allotments Improvements Reserve
Rent	2,674	2,674	2,759	2,754	2,821	Paid to Parochial Charities. Periodic review results in increase in 2016/7
Water	2,276	1,057	1,339	473	-	Water now supplied via bore hole (artesian well) and solar pump
Pest Control	125	175	175	125	200	
misc	-	5	-	-	-	
	5,312	3,928	4,277	3,696	3,536	
<b>INCOME</b>						
Rent	3,813	5,217	5,390	5,215	5,058	New rent, higher utilisation and a water levy have together improved income from allotment holders. No water levy in 2016/7 given request for contributions for bore hole
	3,813	5,217	5,390	5,215	5,058	
<b>NET</b>						
	- 1,499	1,289	1,114	1,519	1,522	Allotments made a surplus for the first time in 2016/7. The economics now mean this will be the norm.
						HPC may not make money from allotments so surplus is put to an Allotments Improvements Reserve for use on Bore Hole, Solar Powered pump or other projects as agreed

STAFFING	FY 2014-15 £	FY 2015-16 £	FY 2016-17 £	FY 2017-18 £	Precept 2018-19 £
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Salaries	40,408	52,675	58,171	48,431	51,066
Pension	-	-	1,605	1,565	1,532
Employers NI	3,289	4,178	4,988	4,393	4,085
	43,697	56,853	64,764	54,389	56,683

Increase in projection due to PC agreement of salary rises in line with nat'l agreements and increases in hours per week for clerk and assistant clerk.

New pension rules compliance from 2016/7 onwards

<b>GENERAL ADMIN</b>					
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Payroll	395	407	544	540	625
management					
Travel	8	58	55	23	258
Stationery	336	278	184	150	412
Postage	121	110	26	45	40
Phone / Internet	730	441	350	717	650
Office rent / room hire	3,843	3,982	4,475	4,144	4,500
Photocopier	537	837	721	942	800
Insurance	8,689	8,113	8,138	8,405	8,380
Training	528	300	53	1,240	2,500
Audit	1,350	1,100	625	1,175	1,175
Legal & Other Professional	-	49,347	1,000	4,464	3,000

Considerable savings thanks to newly-negotiated 3 year contract. Offset by two govt hikes in Insurance Premium Tax

Investment in skills, competence and compliance increasing

External auditors are appointed for us by NALC and fees agreed as part of that process - not by HPC

Increasing need for professional advice re taxation impacts on new responsibilities, impacts of GDPR, devolution of responsibilities from higher tiers and so on

	FY 2014-15 £	FY 2015-16 £	FY 2016-17 £	FY 2017-18 £	Precept 2018-19 £	
Chairman's Allowance	20	111	28	43	150	Incidental expenses
Subscriptions	1,014	1,019	881	1,209	1,500	NALC, SLCC and similar
Grants and donations (S137)	11,400	11,350	11,250	13,081	11,500	No grant to HYCC this year due to issues re their supplier. "saving" offset by grant to re-capitalise Banks Park Trust after run of high cost repair bills
Annual Parish Meeting	69	116	54	96	100	
Books and Publications	-	-	-	100	50	
Election Costs	-	145	-	-	-	
Capital Asset Fund	2,372	-	6,430	-	2,000	Two VAS for Clay Corner now allowed for in this budget in 16/7 (re-applied from Provision for further devolved services). Costs so far is re application to BCC for approval
Misc.	17	220	395	663	400	
Bank Charges	-	-	-	115	120	Bank charges introduced by all banks.
Information Technology	2,100	92	759	1,398	2,500	New Finance system set up and ongoing subscription.
Grant-funded	-	-	-	-	7,000	Provision for potential need to offset HVH & HCL income loss from Children's Centre re-org if it threatened organisations' viability. BCC subsequently postponed/cancelled the re-org
Other S137	100	-	-	-	100	
VAT	-	-	-	-	-	
	33,631	78,024	35,969	38,551	47,760	



	FY 2014-15 £	FY 2015-16 £	FY 2016-17 £	FY 2017-18 £	Precept 2018-19 £	
<b>INCOME</b>						
Precept	97,460	163,710	302,520	314,840	330,151	Precept is set to achieve a break-even for each year.
Interest	23	23	22	23	25	
Miscellaneous	768	-	1,415	1,167	-	Midsomer Murders and Halifax commercial filming fees in 2016. Sale of handyman's tractor (£1,000) and an old mower (£100) in 2017/8
Grants Received	1,827	1,220	610	-	-	Top-up grant to make up for social housing discounts for Council Tax. 2016/7 was the final year thereof
	100,078	164,953	304,567	316,030	330,176	
<b>NET</b>	66,448	86,929	268,598	277,479	282,417	
<b>PLANNING EXPENDITURE</b>						
Revised Neighbourhood Plan / VALP	-	601	601	-	-	Charge was for Emergency HVN editions re VALP
<b>NET</b>	-	601	601	-	-	
<b>COMMUNICATIONS EXPENDITURE</b>						
Newsletter	3,780	3,916	4,184	4,184	4,454	Costs for VALP-related special editions in 16/7 were charged to Planning "Revised Neighbourhood Plan / VALP" expense line.
Noticeboard	-	-	598	-	-	Part funding of new noticeboards to make village communications and event advertising clearer and remove the eyesore of notices on poles in 16/7
Website	198	180	180	1,368	225	Hosting and domain registration charges plus, in 17/8, expense re new website
	3,978	4,096	4,963	5,552	4,679	

	FY 2014-15 £	FY 2015-16 £	FY 2016-17 £	FY 2017-18 £	Precept 2018-19 £	
<b>INCOME</b>						
Newsletter	1,315	1,075	1,455	855	1,400	
	1,315	1,075	1,455	855	1,400	
<b>NET</b>	- 2,663	- 3,021	- 3,507	- 4,697	- 3,279	
<b>TRANSFERS TO RESERVES</b>						
Annual Cont'n to Major Asset Repair Reserve	-	10,000	10,200	10,506	10,926	Sinking fund for repairs to major assets of HPC
Annual Cont'n to Street Light Reserve	-	8,415	8,600	8,858	9,212	50% of annual funding of street column replacement programmer to reduce the percentage older than 30 years from 82% to 15-20% by 2030/1
Neighbourhood Plan Projects	-	-	24,327	11,428	-	Allocation of what would otherwise be the surplus for the year to start the funding of projects voted for in the NHP
Transfer to Allotments	-	1,289	1,114	1,519	1,522	Surplus (if any) on allotments account
Improvements Reserve						
Churchyard Periodic Maintenance Reserve	-	-	-	20,000	31,390	Reserve initially begun to enable swift funding of any major repairs required in the St Mary's Churchyard, now to fund potentially £118k of dilapidations left by the Diocese of Oxford
Annual Snakemoor Funding	-	200	200	210		Annual HPC contribution to Snakemoor costs which are otherwise funded by donations

	FY 2014-15 £	FY 2015-16 £	FY 2016-17 £	FY 2017-18 £	Precept 2018-19 £	
Devolved Services Transitional Fund	-		11,500	25,000	15,000	Some initial consultations have now occurred re additional devolved funding but no action occurred during the current FY with the Unitary proposals delaying next steps
Staffing Contingency Reserve	-	12,927	13,934	8,997	9,212	Annual contingency for staff absence cover. Amount unutilised in year used as second 50% of street light annual funding & remainder to Contingency Reserve
Burial Set-Up Costs	-	-	25,000	25,000	25,000	Four (if Glebe land proves suitable) or five (if it does not) annual charges of £25k for a new 50+ year burial ground in Haddenham + more for overspill car park south of Aston Road
Ponds Reserve	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	Beginning sinking fund for major pond dredging and repairs along the lines of work done in 2015/6
Trees Reserve	-	-	-	12,000	6,000	New reserve proposed in Budget 2017/8 to enable a proactive approach to tree maintenance and management
Revised Neighbourhood Plan/VALP	-	-	24,399	5,000	5,000	Funds for responding to VALP and/or developing a new NHP transferred to Reserves for use as and when required
Legal Fees Reserve	-	-	18,500	-	-	Establishment of fighting fund for unforecastable (and unforecasted) legal action as may be required
Replenishment of contingency reserves	-	-	20,848	239	17,722	Transfer to contingency to maintain reserve of 50% of operational costs. Increase is needed because of the rise in maintenance costs due to wider scope & new developments
	-	32,831	159,621	129,279	131,985	
<b>Funded by precept</b>						
EXPENDITURE	-	104,934	-	203,806	-	322,927 - 367,085
INCOME	115,261	181,020	320,128	330,051	367,085	
NET	10,327	22,786	-	7,124	-	



BANKS PARK TRUST  
BALANCE SHEET AT 31st March 2018  
Draft 3

	31/03/2018		31/3/17	
	£	£	£	£
<b>CASH AND INVESTMENT ASSETS</b>				
Bank Balances				
Lloyds Business Account		25,162		32,409
COIF Accumulation Units		4,489		4,489
		<u>29,651</u>		<u>36,898</u>
<b>OTHER CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Haddenham Parish Council	0		0	
VAT Reclaimable	3,607		268	
Sundry Debtors	0		2,550	
Prepayments	0		0	
		<u>3,607</u>		<u>2,818</u>
		<u>33,257</u>		<u>39,716</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Haddenham Parish Council	1,242		11,864	
VAT payable	0		0	
Deferred Income	2,169		2,148	
Provision for Bad Debts	0		0	
Sundry creditors	3,214		3,564	
		<u>6,625</u>		<u>17,576</u>
		<u>26,632</u>		<u>22,140</u>
<b>RESERVES</b>				
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>				
Balance brought forward		22,140		19,778
Net Income for the period		4,046		2,362
		<u>26,186</u>		<u>22,140</u>
		445.90		-
		<u>222.95</u>		

BANKS PARK TRUST  
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2018

	31/03/2018		31/3/17	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Rent Received		14,210		13,694
Other		0		457
		<u>14,210</u>		<u>14,152</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Maintenance	11,858		13,162	
Playing field	8,764		285	
VH Fire check	50		199	
Business Rates	604		626	
Legal & Professional Fees	0		-2,504	
Other	-11,112		21	
		<u>10,164</u>		<u>11,789</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<u>4,046</u>		<u>2,362</u>

## HADDENHAM PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

Joseph Franklin Charity No 204185  
Alms Corn Charity No 237265  
Revd John Willis Charity No 205529

**Opening balance** £1606.82

Income	£ p
Alpha Charity Units	157.40
Parish Council Grant	300.00
Haddenham Lodge	250.00
Alms Corn	104.58
Haddenham Fete	200.00
Allotment Rent	2821.00
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>3832.88</u></b>

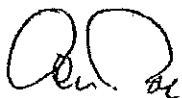
#### Expenditure

Paid to claimants  
December 2016 3300.00  
(60 x £55)

**Closing balance** £2139.80

Represented by Treasurer's Account  
with Lloyds Bank,  
Market Square, Aylesbury

The value of the Alpha Charity Fund Units on 30 June 2017 was £4953.81.



Alan Rose  
4 November 2017

# History of Thame-Haddenham Cycleway

1. Haddenham Safe Walking & Cycling Group was formed by Robyn Thorogood in 1999 and a safe cycle path to Thame was one of its objectives. Thame had a 'Thame Better Ways to Schools Group', later called the Thame Walking and Cycling Campaign and we worked together.
2. The fact that the path crossed the boundary between Oxon and Bucks was the chief obstacle because the 2 County Councils needed to work together. They did not do so.
3. Initially OCC was keen on cycle paths, but BCC was not. OCC had funding which it was prepared to commit. In 2001 a meeting was held at the Station with BCC, OCC, Sustrans, Chiltern Railways and HSWACG. But the most BCC would agree was to pay half the cost of a feasibility study and a public exhibition.
4. There were 2 possible routes: via the A418 and via the bridleway to Scotsgrove Mill, across the fields to Moor Lane.
5. A demonstration ride was held jointly by both groups in 2004 to give publicity to the cause. In 2007 it was considered too dangerous to repeat the ride.
6. In 2008 we got up a 1,500 name petition in Thame and Haddenham asking for action.
7. BCC responded; in July 2008 Ringway Jacobs did a Feasibility Study of the 2 routes and added a 3rd via Tythrop. BCC's Officer consulted widely, attending Haddenham May Day etc and running meetings asking which route was preferred. The Scotsgrove Mill route won hands down.
8. Opposition came loudly and intimidatingly from Mrs Henderson at Scotsgrove Mill. At first BCC were going to go to court over the 60m of footpath which needed to be converted to bridleway status, regardless of her deep pockets. Then came the local govt. financial crisis in 2010 and they changed their mind.
9. Meanwhile in 2010 OCC announced they were against the Scotsgrove route and spent money on stiles/gates inimical to cycles; moreover they had no money for cycling anymore.
10. 2011-13 The Thame Neighbourhood Plan revealed yet again the desire of residents for a safe way to the Station and placed the Cycleway as a high priority. This was a very important spur to the County Council. In 2015 Haddenham Neighbourhood Plan gave it the same priority.
11. BCC & OCC started to work together & commissioned Sustrans to report on Access to Stations publ. 2014.
12. Since then officers from both councils have been working to a common plan, but the pace has been glacial.

13. The choice of route was revisited: Sustrans have done 1 or more Feasibility Studies, unpublished, and the route via the A418 and Thame Road decided on. However the exact route at the Thame end has not been decided.
14. Currently the riparian owners have been identified but not yet officially negotiated with, merely sounded out. Sustrans is due to be commissioned to do 3 months' work on this, but has not yet received the commission from BCC.
15. Financially Sect 106 money totaling £500,000 from developers is earmarked for the path in AVDC & SODC, but this will not cover the cost which is estimated at £2 million. National funds must be bid for. But, before that can happen, negotiations with landowners, a required public consultation and another Study from Transport for Bucks (*previously Ringway Jacobs*) on the details of the construction must be paid for.
16. The roundabout will require modification but all action on this is suspended until the decision on the route of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway is made later this year.

Cynthia Floud, Chair, Haddenham Safe Walking & Cycling Group      14 April 2018

