

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Aston Clinton held on 24th May 2022 at 6.00pm in the Red Kite Pavilion

Councillor Colin Read, Chair of Aston Clinton Parish Council presided. There were approximately 23 persons present which included members of the public, Buckinghamshire Councillors, a number of Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk.

1. Welcome

Cllr Read introduced the meeting as an opportunity for the Parish Council to report on its activities and for village groups to talk about their achievements throughout the year.

2. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th May 2021 were approved with the amendment of £750,000 to £75,000 within the report from the Bowls Club.

3. Chairman's Report

The past year has been fairly dramatic for the Council. At the last yearly meeting the Chairman resigned along with the loss of three further councillors and shortly afterwards the Clerk departed as well. I would like to thank Liz Tubb for her many years as Chairman and her help with the building of the new pavilion. We also thank Andrew Duffield, Aafke Watton and Sam Howard. I would like to post a note of thanks here to Elaine Barry who did a very good job as Clerk and was very proactive in dealing with the design and build process for the new pavilion. Needless to say this left the Council very short handed. Marion Mason acted as a temporary clerk and a sterling job she did in that role. The remaining councillors responded to the challenge and no loss of continuity resulted. An election was held and the Council became a full complement once again with the addition of Alun Goode, Tricia Birchley, Michael Collins and Ashley Judge.

After a gruelling recruitment process a new Clerk, Samantha Payne, joined us in September, much to the relief of Marion. Samantha is now getting us and the parish admin knocked into shape once again. Our temporary assistant clerk, Lisa Driscoll, has moved on and many thanks to her for her contribution. We now have a permanent Assistant Clerk, Haydn Stephens, who is leaning the ropes under Sam's guidance.

Many planning issues have been decided, the biggest being the passing of the outline permission for the Woodlands Project. This is to the north of the A41 so the visual impact on the village is small but the building of approximately 1300 homes is not insignificant in terms of schooling and medical provision. One benefit is the provision of finance for the implementation of Zones 1 and 2 of the traffic calming for the village. Steady progress has been made with Transport for Bucks on the calming measures through the centre of the village and work is expected to start later in the year. Another large project is the disposal of RAF Halton programmed for 2025. Because some of this area is within our parish boundaries, we have been consulted on this. The biggest issue is the proposal to build 1000 homes on the grass airfield area which is partly in our parish.

During last year the new pavilion, now called the Red Kite Pavilion was completed. There are some ongoing issues still to be dealt with but I'm sure you'll all agree it has been a fine addition to Aston Park. The park itself has been well looked after by Ken Workman and the new planting is beginning to blossom. Thanks also to the community service people who have done a lot to maintain the park and its surroundings.

We have completed the restoration of the Molique fountain near the school under the guidance of Corrine Judge who has done a fine job researching and sourcing the repairs to the required standard.

The Queen's Jubilee tree, in association with the horticultural society, was planted on the southwestern corner of the park and is now officially registered on the database.

Three footpaths have been improved with a hardcore type base and more are planned for this year.

We intend to continue with progress this coming year and the first project visible will be the installation of a new shed in our compound.

4. Reports from Local Groups were received from:

- i Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp & Aston Clinton Women's Institute
- ii Buckland & Aston Clinton Cricket Club
- iii Aston Clinton Tennis Club
- iv Aston Clinton Branch British Legion
- v Aston Clinton Bowls Club
- vi Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp Horticultural Society
- vii Aston Clinton Youth Club
- viii Aston Clinton Scouts

The meeting closed at 6.40pm

APPENDIX – REPORTS FROM GROUPS

Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp & Aston Clinton Women's Institute

Like all organisations the last couple of years have been challenging, but by the beginning of 2021 the WI started to hold virtual meetings via Zoom. It was a very steep learning curve for all concerned and we were delighted that so many of our members took up the challenge. Once restrictions were eased in May 2021, we were able to organise walks in small groups and Garden coffee mornings were arranged. Every member received an invitation to a coffee morning, which were hosted by the committee and one non-committee member. We may have needed coats and an umbrella to hand, but we were meeting face to face!!

We were still very apprehensive about holding meeting inside so our monthly meetings continued on Zoom and we were treated to a range of presentations. Some of our members attended the Bucks Federation Garden Party at Waddesdon and we submitted 'Lady de Clinton', our scarecrow, into the competition. In late August we held our own Garden Party, which was a great success with delicious food and drink, lively company and lovely summer weather. This was a prelude to our first meeting in the Anthony Hall since March 2020, when in September 2021 we met face to face to enjoy a presentation in person. This was enjoyed by all as have the subsequent meetings. Finally, a trip to the Waterside Theatre to see the musical 9 to 5 was arranged. Things were definitely back to normal!!

Since then we have added our craft club and lunch club to our range of activities and hope to introduce further activities within our WI in the future.

Lin Michell

BUCKLAND & ASTON CLINTON CRICKET CLUB

2021 was a successful season for Buckland & Aston Clinton Cricket Club. The Senior 1st team won promotion from Division 3 of the Four Counties Cricket League and the 2nd XI were only a few points short of going up from Division 5. The Senior midweek team won the Coronation Cup, Great Central Cup and reached the inaugural Village T20 Finals Day. Our Colts section grew from 35 to over 50 after a decline during the lockdown summer of 2020, and for the only time in our history we had to operate a waiting list as we couldn't take any more.

2022 is promising to be another great season. The 1st XI have won 3 of the opening 4 league games and we have organised a tour to Sussex over the long Jubilee weekend, the first one for almost 20 years. We now have 3 Colts teams in league competitions and the Junior section has grown again with around 65 young people aged from 8 to 17 training with us this year. Parent Volunteers have stepped forward to allow us to expand our capacity and still keep within the required coaching and supervision ratios.

Further progress has been made off the field too. We have demolished our leaking old storage container and built and customised a dual-purpose scoring and storage shed (with an electronic scoreboard). Next to come is an overhaul of our external seating areas so we can comfortably accommodate the increasing number of parents and spectators we are attracting to our end of Church Lane. When all this is added to the clubhouse refurbishment completed last year it is clear the club is heading in the right direction, although there is always more to do.

Phil Samuels

ASTON CLINTON TENNIS CLUB

The completion of the project to upgrade our premises by the addition of a toilet hut and a bigger smarter tea pavilion was the highlight of an otherwise difficult year. Anna Fryer and her small team of helpers had worked closely with the Parish Council who provided the bulk of the funding for the upgrade, via a generous grant of \$106 money from the Laxton Development in Church Road.

Competitive inter club competitions, ADTL and Bucks Shield, started again in April and we entered 13 teams in these leagues. A remarkable achievement for a small village club. Even more remarkable is that some of these teams included new members who had only recently joined the club, some of them very new to the game. Our new coach David Rolls is to be congratulated for this. Also for introducing a new

championship format which ensured that everyone would play at least three games. He also reinstated a junior competition which was held for the first time in many years.

At the other end of the spectrum, our woman's captain, Pamela Reid, was awarded the Dewick Cup, a trophy presented to the player accumulating the highest number of points over two seasons and two leagues of ADTL competition. A magnificent feat and the committee are very proud of Pamela's achievements.

Another very pleasing development during the year, was the large number of members attending the social mix-ins. In the past with so many players competing in local leagues, the numbers attending for social play drop off dramatically once matches start, especially during the winter season. This did not happen last year. Driven by the hard work of some of our older members, and bolstered by the enthusiasm of newer members, numbers have remained high for all the social mix-ins throughout the year.

Aston Park despite being a private members' club, has always been willing to share its facilities with the local community to whom it owes a huge debt of gratitude for all the support it has received over the past 30 years. Last year, with the implementation of our pay to play scheme, non-members can use the facilities to play for an hour or more for a small fee. Although cold weather and dark nights suspended PTP it will be carried on by Sue Hoey who has run it almost single handedly from the start and generated a substantial amount of extra income for the club.

In September a safeguarding audit was carried out by the LTA Chief Safeguarding Officer, Alan Hodges. After a few small tweaks to our safeguarding policy, Alan was happy to sign off, agreeing that we were fulfilling all the requirements necessary to ensure the safety of young and/or vulnerable members under the stewardship of our welfare officer Sarah Baker.

The netball club continues to use the court for two hours on Monday evenings and it is very satisfying to see the facilities being used by a good number of back to netballers and team players. And of course the extra revenue generated by this activity is also very welcome.

In April, before the start of the new summer season, the courts were given a facelift, undergoing a re-bonding and repainting treatment. All of the contractors who tended for this work were very complimentary about the condition of the courts after nine years of heavy usage. The annual maintenance aspect of facility management has never been neglected even when money was tight. And ETC, who built the courts played their part by continuing to iron out any lumps and bumps which occurred, as part of the cleaning and de-mossing programme, long after their maintenance contract had expired. The club owes them a huge debt of gratitude and ETC feel confident that after the recent facelift, we will have five more years of use before a full resurfacing treatment is required.

At the AGM in February several of the longer serving members of the committee, including myself, resigned. They were replaced by a group of enthusiastic volunteers who have hit the ground running, organising fun tournaments and fund-raising events with an eye to the money that will be needed to resurface the courts and replace the floodlights at some stage during the next five years.

They have inherited a thriving, solvent enterprise that is free of debt and has negotiated its way through all the problems it has faced, during the past two years, by a combination of teamwork, innovation and creativity. And they will need all of that to tackle the problems facing them now, particularly with the massive increase in electricity costs. They will handle it magnificently.

I personally would like to thank all members of the Parish Councils over the last 12 years for the help and support the club has received from them during my tenure as chairman, it has been a pleasure to work with you. Thank you very much.

Barbara Wilkinson

ASTON CLINTON BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Aston Clinton branch of the RBL has been struggling this past year due to members getting older and suffering from a range of illnesses. We have reduced our meetings to one every other month. Ian Bottomer has taken on the responsibility of carrying our standard.

We are grateful that the Parish Council has taken responsibility for the annual parade at our war member in November and look forward to your participation in in November this year.

It is now 40 years since the Falklands War and many of our veterans are still suffering the effects of this and other conflicts, both mentally and physically. The RBL provides support to these many veterans from funds raised by the poppy appeal. This is a short sharp appeal carried out in November. The Parish Council's support, especially publically can help raise our total from last year. Last year we raised £2,000 from the poppy appeal.

Our local school attended a service on the 11th of the 11th month and the background to the poppy appeal was explained and this year the RBL are providing information packs to make them aware of the RBL and what it stands for.

Robert Letton

ASTON CLINTON BOWLS CLUB

The lease for the Bowls Club expires next year and the main focus will be on agreeing the terms of the new lease with the Parish Council. Certain funding routes have been closed off to the club due to the short term left on the lease so it is important to get this dealt with as soon as possible.

As the park has become more popular there has been issues when parking for those during bowls matches has been an issue.

Some members are finding as they age and their mobility reduces accessing the green more difficult as it is via a large step down without the use of a handrail. For this reason the club are seeking funding for the purchase of two corner steps for the green to allow those with disabilities to gain access.

Rosemary Stratful

ASTON CLINTON, BUCKLAND & DRAYTON BEAUCHAMP HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Aston Clinton, Buckland & Drayton Beauchamp (ACB&DB) Horticultural Society serves these villages and surrounding area. Our aim is to encourage and promote horticultural and conservation awareness in our local community by communicating and inspiring everyone of all ages to understand the benefits and enjoyment of all aspects of gardening, allotment management and exhibiting plants, vegetables and crafts. We endeavour to promote and support local initiatives in all things horticultural within our local communities. This includes the planting of trees in our local green spaces such as Aston Clinton Park, and the village bulb planting project. We seek to inspire our children to develop a passion for gardening through our links to Aston Clinton school and encouraging children to enter our horticultural shows.

During the second half of 2021, the Society started to get back to normal. The monthly meetings were held through the year, with in-person events in the Anthony Hall starting in the Autumn.

During the last 12 months we have probably done more events than usual, including:

- Plant Sales at local Open Garden Events
- May Plant Sale in Aston Clinton Park
- Summer Exhibition at St Michael's and All Angels Church
- Spring Show & Plant Sale this April at Aston Clinton School
- Oak trees planted in Aston Clinton for the Queen's Jubilee (Park and bottom of Stablebridge Road)
- Events coming up include:
 - Plant Stall at the Village Jubilee Event, Saturday 4 June
 - Summer Show and Plant Sale, Aston Clinton School, Saturday 20th August (including trophies for best Allotments)

Monies raised at events go to cover the costs of the Society and local community organisations in need of funds. Money from the latest Plant Sale will be donated to local Food Banks.

Thank you very much to Aston Clinton Parish Council for supporting the Society with the planting of the trees in the park & for letting us hold a Plant Sale in the park. If the Parish Council has plans for further tree planting in the Village, we would be happy to help and would welcome a discussion.

Diane Kolonko

ASTON CLINTON YOUTH CLUB

The Youth Club celebrated its fifth birthday in January and this time we were open! Although we have now relaxed our covid rules we remain vigilant and have kept weekly numbers to under 25. This meant that during the Autumn and Winter we had to have a booking and rota system but now the Summer is here numbers have fallen so these restrictions are not necessary.

Members continue to enjoy the activities we provide – table tennis, air hockey, miniature pool and games consoles – which despite dating to pre internet downloads are well used. Our arts and crafts table, with a weekly theme, is a good place to chat and socialise. At the moment the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is dominating with red, white

and blue activities! In fact, we will have a craft table and hoopla activity at the Jubilee event on the park and hope some of you will come and participate.

We are very lucky to be based in the Churchill Hall on the park so are able to make good use of the play facilities and we especially enjoy it in the colder weather when we have it to ourselves.

We were very grateful to receive a donation from Village Life last year and put this towards new table tennis bats and new games. We have kept part of the donation in reserve as we hope to purchase a sturdier air hockey table in the Autumn.

Like many organisations we struggle to attract volunteers, despite advertising in Village Life and Everything Aston Clinton, so this year we have taken on a sessional Youth Worker. She has brought some new ideas for games and craft activities which the members have enjoyed, but like most busy people she is unable to attend every week due to work commitments. So, if you feel you would like a new challenge, volunteering with young people, please join us.

I can't finish this report without mentioning The Tuck Shop! I don't think the dentist is too keen but the members love buying sweets and chocolate with real money! How many places can you buy 25 bears, 5 flying saucers, 2 fizzy cola bottles and 4 fruit moams and still have 5p change from a £1.

Finally, our thanks must go to our volunteers and the Parish Council for their continued support.

Teresa Smith

ASTON CLINTON SCOUTS

95 children are now members of the group. We are meeting outside as much as possible.

Our fundraising has been successful with the group taking part in the Council's Santa's Float and the Christmas tree recycling.

We are proud of our volunteers and this was acknowledged with the 1st Aston Clinton Cub Leaders receiving the Proud of Bucks Highly Commended award.

Claire Walker