

**Marsworth Parish Council**  
Mrs Caroline Smith, 7 Stepnells, Marsworth, Tring, HP23 4NQ  
07557 289049  
[parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@marsworth.org.uk)

**Minutes of the Marsworth Annual Parish Meeting held on  
Monday 8 April 2024 in Millennium Hall, Marsworth at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Cllrs R Kennedy (RK) (Chair), R Brown (RB), D Cornwall (DC), R John (RJ), C King (CK), G Monks (GM), S Smith (SGS) and Clerk to Parish Caroline Smith

**Apologies:** None

**Others Present:** Buckinghamshire Councillors Peter Brazier and Chris Poll  
PCs Dionne Edwards and Jake Bye  
and 24 members of the public

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 April 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **1 Chairman's Report, Councillor Bob Kennedy**

Welcome to this Annual Parish Meeting . It is a statutory responsibility of every Parish Council to hold an open meeting every year for all Parishioners and organisations which operate within the Parish to allow views to be expressed, questions asked and answered, and inform other Parishioners as to what is going on. It is not a Parish Council meeting, that will follow on after this meeting and you are all welcome to attend if you wish. Our council welcomed 1 new councillor this year, Robert John replacing Keith Thomasson.

The key Planning matters over the past year have been:

The application by Ainscough Strategic Land to build around 320 houses on Marsworth Airfield (south site) thus creating a 'new village'. We mounted a strong campaign of opposition and mobilised village support encouraging objection, and as a result Ainscough withdrew their application. However they re-applied and are trying to overcome many of the reasons for objection. Their key argument is that the site is brownfield and this gives them an enhanced opportunity in the event that Bucks County fails to deliver its housing targets laid down by government. We have opposed this since the site has always been agricultural but that issue remains in contention.

The 2022 Special Area of Conservation (SAC) around Chiltern Beechwoods has continued to delay all new dwelling planning approvals, since Bucks has yet no policy for mitigating the damage caused by new development within 12.7km of the woods. This has prevented determination of both the Airfield and White Lion applications.

The 2023 application for changing the Anglers Retreat into housing, which we opposed, was withdrawn, but a fresh application for conversion into 3 dwellings has now been made. The Parish Council has opposed this arguing that it would be the third Pub lost to the village in 15 years, and that it has been most successful in the past serving the whole surrounding area and many visitors to the reservoirs.

Underenforcement of Planning Restrictions at the south Airfield site continues although we regularly complain but the planning authorities seem powerless to stop flagrant breaches of the rules.

We are pleased that the 1400 housing development proposed in neighbouring Tring has now been refused by the Secretary of State.

Other developments have been:

The launch of Community Speedwatch in Marsworth run by volunteers and supported by the PC.

The installation of a new oven in the Village Hall funded by PC S106 funds. We are working on S106 agreement rejigging so the funds can be used more widely.

We are pleased to report the village again had a record Bonfire Night on our Recreation Ground, and the Steam Rally used it for parking in June which also allowed it to enjoy a high attendance. It was also used successfully for the village fun run and Coronation picnic. Improvements to the parking area will take place shortly to reduce damage to the playing surface when such events are held.

I regret to report that CRT removed all its dog waste and litter bins from the canal and reservoir areas as a cost saving measure. Unfortunately this resulted in a large increase in litter and dog waste. Marsworth litterpickers have raised their efforts to combat this and the PC will shortly be increasing bin provision at taxpayers' expense. Finally after a long period of pothole profusion we are seeing more repair activity from the County's new Highways contractors and look forward to the road around the White Lion being sorted soon.



## **2 Election of 2 Trustees to serve on the Marsworth Charity for a term of 3 years**

There being only 2 candidates for the 2 vacancies the residents present voted in favour of Matthew Carter and Stephen Wooler being elected to serve on the Marsworth Charity for a term of 3 years.

It was also confirmed that All Saints Church had confirmed that the Revd. James Grainger-Smith should be their representative on the Marsworth Charity; and the Governors of Marsworth CofE School confirmed that Paul Egan Carter should be their representative on the Marsworth Charity. Consideration for the representative for Marsworth Parish Council would be given at the Parish Council meeting later that evening. *Subsequently confirmed that Caroline Smith would be the representative on Marsworth Charity for Marsworth Parish Council.*

## **3 Reports**

The reports from the following had been published on the Marsworth website and those submitted in time were also contained in the April edition of Marsworth News from the following:

Buckinghamshire Councillors' Report

Marsworth 100 Club

Millennium Hall

Canal & River Trust

All Saints Church

Marsworth Charity

Marsworth Food Bank

Marsworth Newsletter

Thames Valley Police

Marsworth Pre-School

Marsworth Steam Rally

Marsworth Women's Institute

Marsworth Speedwatch

A report had not been received from Marsworth CofE School.

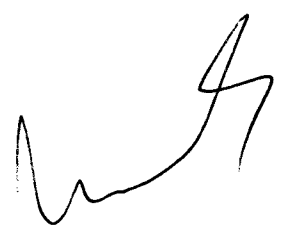
## **4 Open Discussion**

### **a) Car Parking**

The PCs were aware of the car parking issues along both ends of Watery Lane. They suggested a sign to indicate that parking by the triangle at Marsworth Wharf wasn't permitted and would liaise with the Clerk for the wording. They would also monitor the car parking issues at Watery Lane

The PCs were supportive of assisting with the illegal parking of vehicles at the Millennium Hall car park and would visit the residents to discuss the issue. Clerk would also contact the Housing Association.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm.



## Reports from local organisations for the Annual Parish Meeting, 8th April 2024

### Food Bank and Senior Events Report

This year has been very stable for the Marsworth Food Bank. We deliver to nine people every week and I am hugely grateful to Helena Winter-Brown, Denise Cornwall and Jenny Sheils, who look after things the odd week I am away.

Buckinghamshire Council Helping Hand team continue to support the Food Bank with grants that have provided funding for 2023 to the end of March 2024; the amount received in 2023 was £9,237. I am indebted to Jenny Sheils and Caroline Smith, who liaise with the Helping Hand team, make applications and report back to Helping Hand. The Food Bank also receives regular donations from a few residents and last year received £275 kindly donated by the Steam Rally committee. All sorts of very useful foods are regularly left in the box at All Saints and I receive boxes of both dog and cat food every week.

Peter Dean and Noble Foods generously give us sufficient boxes of eggs for everyone to have at least six a week. P.E. Mead & Son Farm Shop are also wonderfully kind in providing a large box of fruit and another of vegetables on a weekly basis.

Together this all means that those in receipt of weekly deliveries have a significant amount of their total weekly needs provided. This makes a major difference to what they have to eat and their diets are healthier than they would be otherwise.

It has become more important over the years of providing this service to Marsworth in that it has become far more than a weekly food delivery. Lisa has frequently been called upon to help them when they have injured themselves or are not well, and her nursing expertise and natural caring manner is loved by them all. We have also been able to offer help in providing a new cooker for one when theirs had stopped working. In this I was yet again grateful to Caroline Smith, for liaising with Buckinghamshire Council's Helping Hand team. Additional help is given, when asked for, in dealing with forms, bills and other household administrative problems, which is most gratefully received.

In May we were able to host a special afternoon tea on the recreation ground as part of the village celebration for King Charles' coronation. For this we were indebted to the kindness of Mike and Rebecca Foxcroft, who generously donated the teas individually boxed so that everyone's individual tastes were catered for. Prosecco was provided to make a toast to our new king.

Yet again Helena, Lisa and I were able to put on a Christmas lunch for 32 of our seniors with generous funding from a local couple. To organise this event we had amazing help from a number of people in the village, who prepared the vegetables and two who kindly cooked the roast potatoes in their ovens. Tesco and M&S in Tring and Waitrose in Aylesbury all donated a wide range of food and the Marsworth Charity also gave a donation. Entertainment was provided by the Anna Swannell and her ladies choir, and Father Christmas (Paul Barber) gave out presents to everyone. There was also a free raffle with prizes for all and super table decorations could be

taken home by those who asked for them. The food was superb. This lunch has become an important part of Christmas to many, particularly those who would be spending the day itself on their own.

All financial donations and payments are administered by All Saints Church who provide financial governance for the Food Bank and Senior events, where applicable this means that donations can be gift aided adding 25% to the donation.

*Richard Cooper*

### Marsworth News report 2024

The newsletter seems to be going well, though without much in the way of feedback or suggestions it is hard to know whether what we do is 'just right' or 'could be better'. Suggestions are always welcome, and contributions from readers especially so.

I have now been the sole manager of the content and layout of the newsletter for some time, though if anyone else would like to have some input that would be very welcome. The aim is to ensure that the newsletter continues to be an important means of communication within the Marsworth community.

With regard to much of the content, I am greatly assisted by items supplied by Caroline Smith, the parish clerk, many from Buckinghamshire Council. I also regularly receive an assortment of small items of local interest from Kate Andrew who collates these for inclusion in the *Bucks Herald*.

Thanks to a regular supply of excellent photographs from readers, and the fact that the covers are printed in colour, it is possible to display these photos on the back page.

A key factor is our small team of proof-readers, especially Elaine Standen, who are invaluable in ensuring that the newsletter maintains its high standard of presentation.

Another important member of the team is Annie Sandon, as Advertising Manager and Treasurer. The newsletter currently has over 20 advertisers; the income generated from these advertisements covers the printing costs.

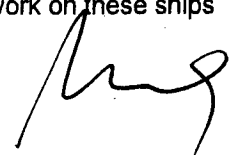
*Sandra Costello*

### Marsworth WI Report

We began another successful year on a high note with our vicar Revd. James Grainger-Smith coming to introduce himself to us and explaining about his life in Hong Kong before he came to our benefice. He was very interesting and chatty and we enjoyed talking to him.

Our Annual Dinner was held at The Bedford Arms in Chenies, a lovely venue, but the food and service left something to be desired unfortunately.

Once again we have had some wonderful speakers, notably Graham Laurie from the Royal Flying Doctor Service, and Errol Hendrix, a local man, a psychotherapist who gave a talk on 'Don't Act your age – a path to mental well being'. One of our evenings was handed over to our WI members. Their first choice for a speaker was from Whipsnade Zoo, but unfortunately, he was unable to come. His replacement, a lady from Mercy Ships told us all about her work on these ships



and the wonderful results achieved for the many people in the world who have little access to medical treatment. Fred Martin came along in February and talked to us about Medical Detection Dogs accompanied by Viking, a beautiful labrador.

At the resolutions meeting we agreed to support Clean Rivers for People and Wildlife.

Aside from our monthly meetings we had our annual tea party hosted by Elsie Beesley. What a brilliant afternoon we had – and with a donation of his speaker's fees from Errol Hendrix, the entrance fee and the raffle etc, we raised £500 which was donated to a breast cancer charity. Our Book Club, Craft Club and Supper Club continue to thrive.

The Jubilee Garden in the recreation ground was getting untidy and unkempt and now we have someone to organise a regular clean up and tidy. We will see what comes up this spring and fill in the gaps if needs be.

Our Annual Meeting was in November. I had wanted to resign but no-one came forward to take my place. However, Denise Cornwall offered to be co-president and this is working well. Bren Pearson, my erstwhile secretary, resigned and Lynne Allen has stepped forward to take her place. Things are going well. We are in a good financial position, which has allowed us to once again subsidise the yearly subscription fees.

We have had six new ladies join us, but sadly we have lost our dear Evelyn Barber.

*Christine King and Denise Cornwall*  
(Co-Presidents of Marsworth WI)

### **Marsworth Community Speedwatch**

As we approach the first day of Spring, we leave behind a period of reduced activity for the Speedwatch volunteers as a result of Christmas/New Year commitments, reduced daylight hours and appalling wet weather. Added to this, the Sentinel equipment required some replacement components which rendered it unusable for an extended period. These issues also affected the operations of Speedwatch in surrounding villages.

Activity has now resumed in Marsworth and has initially focused on the traffic in both directions on Lower Icknield Way. During a two-hour period in which traffic was monitored for one hour in each direction, no vehicles were recorded exceeding the speed limit out of a total of 424 vehicles monitored.

Ideally, this result would be attributed to those drivers who act responsibly and those who are deterred from breaking the speed limit due to the signs advising that Speedwatch operates within the village. However, there may have been other factors for vehicles not exceeding the 30 mph limit.

The appalling condition of the roadway on the White Lion bridge and on each of its approaches causes drivers to drive more carefully and slowly.

The volume of traffic is higher at the moment as a result of the diversions in place whilst the Upper Icknield Way is closed. This limits the opportunities for some to 'put their foot down'.

The continued parking of a vehicle on the road close to the village hall causes traffic in both directions to slow and/or stop, as it is located on a bend and is a potential hazard.

With the increasing number of daylight hours and less wet weather as spring and summer arrive, it should be possible to evidence that from time to time, Speedwatch will be operating at all five nominated sites within the village. With this in mind, we would welcome more volunteers who are prepared to give up a few hours each month to encourage safer speeds throughout Marsworth. Once set up, the tripod mounted video camera automatically records speeding vehicles and the information is passed to Thames Valley Police. Operators of the equipment are not involved in any follow up action.

If anyone would like to find out more about joining the Marsworth Group, please contact me at [ron@startops.co.uk](mailto:ron@startops.co.uk).

*Ron Busby*

### **Marsworth Charity Report 2024**

The Charity Trustees have had one meeting during the last 12 months. An annual report is submitted each year to The Charity Commission in accordance with Charity regulations.

Our objectives are to apply the income of the Charity for such charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Marsworth as the Trustees think fit. During the year we have had two requests for help, one of which was from the Marsworth Food Bank to support the Christmas Lunch for the older members of the village and the Trustees agreed to donate £100 for this purpose which has helped 32 people from the village. The other request was from the Marsworth School which we will be considering at our forthcoming Trustees Meeting. We have agreed with the Parish Council to work together if a project is identified that the Charity can assist with.

A major part of our time this year has been spent in going through the Parish Council records, the (former) AVDC records and working with the Charity Commission, trying to identify the history and legal title to the Gravel Pit Meadow which goes back to the Marsworth Inclosure Act 1809. I would very much like to thank Stephen Wooler for his recent research and work on this which is on-going.

In the meantime we continue to receive our income from our farm tenant of the Gravel Pit Meadow and our capital fund gradually grows.

*Matthew Carter, Chairman of Trustees*

### **Marsworth Preschool**

Another successful year has passed for Marsworth Preschool. A key highlight was our Ofsted Report in July. We were rated a 'Good' setting, maintaining our level for the last 5+ years, even through Covid.

We have seen the promotion of Zoe Wells to Deputy Manager and she supports our Leader of 20+ years Wendy. They are supported by the rest of the Preschool Team. In September we recruited Adam Kennedy, who is doing his Level 2 and hopes to do his Level 3 with us in Childcare too.

Combined, our dynamic team continues to provide excellent care and support to over 30 local children. Children attend from Marsworth, Long Marston, Cheddington, Ivinghoe, Pitstone and other local villages.

The staff are supported by a volunteer committee of which I am a Trustee. There are currently five of us, but we are looking for more members. This committee

works with a Fundraising Committee who co-ordinate fundraising events for the village and wider community. We also support the Steam Rally every year. Funds from these events allow us to purchase new equipment and resources for the children to enhance their early development.

You are all more than welcome to email me at [admin@marsworthpreschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@marsworthpreschool.org.uk) with any questions you may have, or look at our website [www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk](http://www.marsworthpreschool.org.uk) for more information.

James Kennedy, Secretary

## Steam Rally

Marsworth Steam Rally 2023 was held as usual on Father's Day, Sunday 18th June. Back into the swing of things following the huge success of the previous year, 2023 expected much. Marsworth as always did not disappoint. The weather for setup was probably a little too hot, Saturday the skies went dark but despite much thunder forecast, Sunday held clear until the end of the day and helped us run another fantastic event.

Support from our volunteers was stronger than ever - the committee had many to thank for their continued support. A special note of thanks to Lynda, one of our committee's long-standing supporters, 2023 being a farewell outing; Michael and Mel and the continued support from the Red Lion as well of course as the support from the Parish Council. Parking again in the recreation ground, an improvement on the previous year, this time we loaded car parks from roundabout and village hall approaches into the village, reducing as far as possible the levels of queuing so that visitors had more time to enjoy their day and those passing through were not unduly delayed.

The committee received lots of encouraging feedback, and have over recent planning meetings been busy putting changes and improvements into place for our next event. We will of course be making arrangements to trim the forthcoming spring growth in verges from the roundabout to the recreation ground. We're particularly interested in any innovations and efficiency measures that our volunteers and supporters put forward. If you hear of any, please do forward them to us as our committee will be meeting regularly on the preparation run to this year's event - Sunday 16th June 2024.

Each year we provide feedback in the form of a risk assessment and safety officer report to our authorising body, the National Traction Engine Trust. In return we receive suggestions for improvements, or at least items to monitor and check, based on incidents and recommendations from rallies across the nation. The NTET also provide updates drawn from the Purple Guide, which is used by event organisers of many categories.

Our web and Facebook sites host a gallery of images collected on the day - showcasing Marsworth and the surrounding countryside. The turnout was a pleasure to see, so many happy smiling faces all day, with everyone enjoying themselves. Thank you once again for your support - the committee is looking forward to hosting again in June. Hopefully the event will be as big as last year and the weather just as kind.

Neil Kennedy  
(Chair, the Marsworth Steam Rally Committee)

## Marsworth 100 Club

The Marsworth 100 Club is run by the Millennium Hall Committee and is open to ALL who live in Marsworth. The funds that are raised are used to support the Hall and other local events, for example the annual fireworks display in November.

Monthly draws take place during the Millennium Hall Committee meetings, held on the first Wednesday of each month, and regular draws comprise of 5 x £20 winners. Three times a year there are now big draws with prizes of up to £100.

It costs only £20 a year, per number, to join and you can have as many numbers as you like per household. There are currently 182 members in the club, for which we are very grateful. We have some wonderful volunteers who start collecting dues from July onwards to prepare for the new year of draws which start in September. Thank you to these people, who give up their time to help.

If you would like to help support your local village, this is a great way to contribute and maybe win a prize. If you are not already a member and would like to join, please contact me by email: [hurleys16@icloud.com](mailto:hurleys16@icloud.com).

Stephanie Hurley

Reports from All Saints Church, the Village Hall Committee, Canal and River Trust, Thames Valley Police, Marsworth School, and our Bucks Councillors will be added to the website once received.

**MARSWORTH**  
**STEAM & CLASSIC**  
**Vehicle Rally**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

We're looking for enthusiastic people to help on the day. Could you spare a few hours?

**Will you HELP?**

See the website for further details:  
[www.MarsworthSteamRally.co.uk](http://www.MarsworthSteamRally.co.uk)