

WEEDON PC ANNUAL REPORT 15/16

Weedon Parish Council

Conservation, restoration and renewal

Weedon Parish Council consists of seven elected members, all of whom live in the village.

They show their commitment not just by regular attendance at meetings, but also by volunteering to take on the management and delivery of many different projects.

Our parish clerk, Ruth Millard, continues to provide the administrative structure for the running of the council.

We are delighted to have been given the opportunity to take over the Chapel Graveyard, so that the final resting place of so many beloved family members can be preserved and maintained.

Weedon is a small village of 173 homes with a rich built heritage. Over half the homes



A beautiful and vibrant village

are in the two Conservation Areas (90), and 21 are Listed Buildings. The whole village is sited in an Area of Attractive Landscape as designated in Aylesbury Vale's 2004 Local Plan.

With relatively few services or infrastructure, but so close to Aylesbury town, the Parish Council, backed also by our 2011 Parish Plan, sees Weedon as a place suitable for limited new housing

development only. However, ALL settlements in the Vale will have to see some new homes built, so we will keep informed and engaged in the new Aylesbury Vale Local Plan production process in order to get the best result we can for Weedon.

We are proud that we have such a beautiful and vibrant village and will do our utmost to ensure it stays a great place to live.

Report for year ended
March 2016

Issued July 2016

What's inside ...

- Our regular activities in 2015/16
- Our major projects in 2015/16
- The money we spent in 2015/16
- Contact details for Parish Clerk, Parish, AVDC and Bucks Councillors, and key Weedon organisations
- Our plans for 2016/17

Plans for 2016/17

MVAS SPEED CONTROL

- ◇ Continue rotation schedule between locations
- ◇ Collect data and submit to police for further action

AVDC NEW LOCAL PLAN

- ◇ Continue to engage with the process

HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED SERVICES

- ◇ Deliver an improved result for grass verges, sign cleaning, hedge and footpath monitoring within the 30mph signs, having taken on these services from Bucks County Council

FORTESCUE GATE

- ◇ Replace dilapidated Fortescue track vehicle/pedestrian gate (opposite Lilies entrance on lower High Street) with new one in the same style

Parish Councillors

Joanna Rose

Justin Sellers

Tom Jameson-Evans

Wendy Kett

Nigel Winnett

Mark Talbott

Steve Gradley

Conservation

Green spaces

The Park is owned by the Parish Council. We arrange for a local contractor to do grass and hedge cutting, path weed control, lawn improvement treatment and emptying of the litter bin. We commission an annual safety inspection of the play equipment.

We obtained planning permission to fell four trees which were restricting others from reaching their full potential, and trimmed branches on many others. A volunteer party of parish councillors carried out the work, saving the village a significant sum.

Around **the pond**, we pay for duck food so that the Aylesbury and wild ducks stay

with us, and we also keep grass and pond margin plants tidy.

Christine and Nic Nicolay continue to plant and maintain the **High Street Pump** on a voluntary basis, while Clare Macdonald does the same for the **Village Green Triangle** outside the pub.

We monitor the young **New Road trees** planted in 2007 to keep them flourishing.

More **spring-flowering bulbs** were planted along the fence at the edge of the Park.

We pay for litter and dog waste collections from the village bins.



The High Street Pump



The Village Green Triangle

The built environment

We pay for electricity to power the **street lights** (which the PC owns) and arrange bulb replacement and repairs.

We arranged a full electrical and condition inspection of all 24 lights, replacing lamps where they had become dim and discoloured. The covers were all cleaned too. We now have a complete detailed inventory which will serve to inform future decisions on replacement or upgrade; however, we are determined to retain the heritage style of the lights and posts.

We now manage and maintain the **Weedon Chapel Graveyard** and the

green space on which the **War Memorial** stands, as well as taking care of the memorial itself.

We keep the Weedon **website** and **notice boards** up to date and maintain **seats and benches** around the village and in the park.

We keep in close touch with Bucks CC Highways in order to prioritise care of Weedon's **roads**, pavements and verges.

From April 2016 we have taken on the cutting of the grass verges within the 30mph signs as a devolved service from Bucks CC, partly funded by a grant.



Streetlight at Lilies corner

Our heritage and surroundings

The Parish Council is consulted on every planning application for building in Weedon—there were 12 last year. We can respond with No Objection, Support, or Objection. We held several public meetings and wrote detailed comments. We also reviewed 13 tree works applications in the Conservation Area.

We were successful in helping to secure refusal, and eventual appeal dismissal, of

the application we objected to (2 houses on land east of Hinton House).

We maintain contact with Thames Valley Police, and forward their information on crimes and crime prevention to villagers.

We achieved a Certificate of Merit in the 2015 Best Kept Village competition under a new scoring schedule. The 2016 judging is complete and we await results.



Roofscape at the Five Elms crossroads



Restoration and renewal

New duck houses for the pond

After many years of service and several previous repairs, it was time for the ducks and moorhens to get new accommodation.

Aylesbury ducks prefer sleeping in the open, so the floating pontoon is especially for them. But the moorhens started nesting straight away in their new house.

The pond banks have been substantially re-shored with new timbers, and the rotting wooden posts in the grassy surround have been replaced.

Thank you to Steve Richards of Valentine Cottage for his contribution to this renovation, and for his daily care of the ducks.



Duckhouse with moorhen chicks

Footpath gates and signs

Following on from last year, even more stiles on the “village walk” route have been replaced by accessible gates.

Most of the village footpaths are now easier to use for everyone, helping contribute to improving activity levels.

We are grateful to the farmers—the Chapman family, John Woodfield and Bob Gregory—for their co-operation in this initiative. They have also improved their signage at footpath entrances to warn when livestock are in the fields.



Gates in the field down from the pond

Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs

We now own two Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS), which are rotatable round 6 locations within the village.

Mark Talbott is in charge of the volunteer team of parish councillors who move the units each month after downloading the vehicle data. Every vehicle passing the sign is logged, and its speed recorded.

We can therefore identify locations, times and days when most speeding occurs and the data is then passed to the police.

We are pleased to say that the experience of other villages is being reproduced in Weedon—the signs do seem to help to change behaviour.



MVAS on the Aston Abbotts Road

Weedon Chapel Graveyard

The graveyard is now leased, maintained and administered by Weedon Parish Council as a burial authority according to the powers conferred by the Local Authorities' Cemetery Order 1977.

Please check the Weedon website for regulations and charges, plus a full plan of the graveyard and register of burials.

We are indebted to Ralph Followell for his detailed preparation and handover of the records from the Methodist Church.

The graveyard is normally reserved for residents of Weedon civil parish at the time of death, their children under 18,

and former residents who have left the parish to go into care. Others with strong links to Weedon may be considered at the discretion of the parish council.

The graveyard accepts burials, ashes interments and memorial plaques (with no remains interred). Interments may be linked with a service in the Methodist Chapel, but this is not a requirement, and the fees listed do not include the use of the chapel for a service.

Plots may be reserved in the graveyard on payment of the appropriate fee. Please contact the Parish Clerk.



View from the graveyard up towards the chapel

Weedon Parish Council

Ruth Millard, Parish Clerk

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Linden Village
Buckingham
MK18 7HP

Phone: 01280 814739

Email: weedonparishclerk@talktalk.net

Weedon Parish Councillors

Joanna Rose <i>Chairman</i>	641622	Justin Sellers <i>Vice Chairman</i>	640524
Steve Gradley	641637	Tom Jameson-Evans	640845
Wendy Kett	640366	Mark Talbott	641502
Nigel Winnett	640125		

Other Weedon Contacts

Weedon Village Association	Catherine Rodnight	641071
Old Schoolroom	Shirley Bush	641382
Tuesday Club	Judy Nagele	641278
Methodist Chapel	Ralph Followell	641998
Weedon Charities	Wendy Kett	640366
Golf Society	Glyn Thomas	641435
Parish Magazine Editor	Peggy Sidebotham	640098
The Five Elms	John and Carol Slee	641439



Parish Council Meetings

- 3rd Wednesday of odd-numbered months
- Planning meetings as the need arises
- Agendas posted on main noticeboard and website with 3 working days' notice
- Minutes (draft) posted within 14 days of the meeting

Aylesbury Vale District Councillor

Ashley Bond (Watermead ward) 641552

Buckinghamshire County Councillor

Netta Glover (Wing ward) 688357

Email joanna@cjrose.net if you would like to be added to our village list

A balanced budget

There has been NO rise in the Weedon part of your 2016/17 Council Tax for the fourth year in a row, without any reduction in the services provided.

The parish precept for 2016/17 was agreed in January and held at the level of 2015/16.

As in previous years, we set our budget to cover routine expenditure from the precept, and we will continue to draw on some of our reserves for further capital projects, while maintaining a prudent positive contingency balance.

All the parish council's services are being maintained at previous levels.

Where possible, we have always sought out grants towards capital projects.

Where we have been successful in this, the reserves that had been budgeted to cover the project have been released to carry forward for future needs.

The "devolved services" which we have taken on from Bucks CC will be paid for in large part from the grant they have given us.

Our annual statutory returns of income and expenditure are on the website. Or contact the Parish Clerk to obtain copies of our audited accounts.