

# Whitchurch Parish Council

Clerk to the Council – Mr Tony Skeggs

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the St Johns Hall

On Monday 12 May 2025 at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllrs C Lincoln (Chair), P Alderman, A Bond, and S Ford.

Public Attendance: Fourteen members of the public.

Buckinghamshire Council Cllrs – Not present.

Clerk: A Skeggs

Absent: None

25/01	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> There were no apologies.
25/02	<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The chair thanked everyone for coming and explained that this was the Annual Meeting of the village and a chance for local groups and organisations to highlight what they had done over the last year and their aims for the coming year.</li></ul>
25/03	<b>The following presentations were received:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Rotary</u>. Charles Chaney explained that Rotary was one of the largest charitable organisations in the world and that there were four clubs locally. The Winslow club had 50 members. There were regular articles in the Whitchurch News where the aim was to help others by raising money and then giving grants to those that needed help. All the members enjoyed what they did but they were always looking for new members.</li><li><u>Youth Club</u>. Matthew Smethurst explained that there was currently no Youth Club, but they had Significant reserves to help establish one to cover Whitchurch and the surrounding villages. The aim was to invest the capital and use the interest to support a club. They were looking to give grants to residents and local organisations. They were on the lookout of new committee members. Matthew was asked why North Marston and Granborough villages were included. Matthew explained that they included in the original constitution.</li><li><u>Cricket Club</u> Mark Ashburner informed the meeting that the club was formed in 1876 and that they play on land rented from the landowner for a peppercorn rent. They are in the Mid Bucks League and all the players help maintain the ground and clubhouse which takes substantial amounts of money. They do have a sponsor. He then made a plea for new players of all ages.</li><li><u>WI (Women's Institute)</u>. Margaret Palin reported on the work of the WI. They met monthly on the first Tuesday of the month and they support local events whenever they can. They have interesting</li></ul>

# Whitchurch Parish Council

talks and participate at the Bucks County Show. They want to keep it going so were looking for new young blood, gentlemen were welcome.

- WWEG (Whitchurch Wildlife Environmental Group).

Caroline Heron sent a report highlighting their work which the maintaining of the pond and three wildflower areas and the school sensory garden. Bird boxes and feeders have been provided to residents. They had taken part in local bird, Insect and Wildlife surveys as well as organising a litter pick. Working with the Ramblers and landowners the stile improvements have been organised to improve access to the footpaths.

- Playing Field / Orchard.

Charlotte Lincoln reported on the work of Robin and Heather Moore. The first tree had been planted in 2008 and over the next two years a further 464 were planted of which 381 have survived. The area is looked after splendidly by the pair with assistance from the Parish Council. Robin works with local organisations and gets volunteers to help with the work.

- Parish Council.

Charlotte Lincoln did a review of the work of the Parish Council over the last year.

- Neighbourhood Plan - After a lot of hard work, the Neighbourhood Plan was approved. This now gives the village protection against speculative planning applications as it has identified two sites. Thanks to Keith Armour and the team.
- School Bell – Having taken possession of the original school bell it was felt that it should be housed at the new school. So, working with a target date of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September, a location and suitable position was needed. Thanks to Cllr Paul Alderman for coordinating the work to get the project finished on time, the cost of which came from a mixture of sources.
- Kings Coronation Benches – After a long lead time three new benches were installed around the village.
- Speed Watch Campaign – This got off the ground thanks to Mel Perry who organised the training of the volunteers and booked the camera. Eventually everything was ready for teams to set up along the High Street and clock the speeders.
- SID – The last speed indicator device was installed at the top of Whitchurch Hill.
- Play Equipment – Following some consultation two new pieces of equipment were installed in the playing field, accessible swing and two metal goal posts. Thanks to Cllr Ford for overseeing the project.
- Street Signage and Play Equipment Cleaning – Thanks to the Clerk, Tony Skeggs, for organising the cleaning and for keeping the Parish Council together and offering advice.
- The Future – Three projects were in the pipeline, EV charging in the playing field, application of a 7.5 tonne weight limit on the Oving Road and a pedestrian crossing

# Whitchurch Parish Council

	<p>on the High Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Chair thanked all the community groups for sharing all what they had achieved over the last year and wished them success in the new year.</li></ul>
25/04	<b>Date and Time of Next Meeting:</b> The date of the next meeting would be on Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 starting @ 7.15pm.

**The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.**

Chair's Signature ..... Date.....