

PARISH OF MARSH GIBBON

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 22nd May 2018 at 8pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs I Metherell (Chairman), P Evershed (PE), A Lambourne (AL), D Leonard (DL), J Smith (JS), and E Taylor (ET); County & District Councillor Angela Macpherson (AM); C Anstey, Charities Correspondent; C Jackman (Parish Clerk); Brenda North, Margaret and David Jones and Barry Leonard.

APOLOGIES: Cllr R Cross
PCSO Kevin Hyland

The meeting commenced at 8.02pm

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 30th May 2017

The minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2.1 Charities Report 2017

Chair thanked C Anstey for sending the 2017 Charities Report.

2.2 Post Office

It was noted that the new Post Office had opened in the Plough and that the official opening would be on Friday 25 May by The Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt Hon John Bercow MP.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair welcomed those present to the meeting and then presented his report (**Attachment 1**). He answered questions on the following:

- 3.1 **Skateboarding:** is mainly for the village children but if they have friends they also will be allowed to attend. Children can also take their scooters and BMX bikes.
- 3.2 **Speed watch:** explained how the information collected from the camera is processed. The Parish Council does not receive details of those who are caught.
- 3.3 **Village seating:** Six new seats will be bought from Section 106 funding from new housing and one seat will be located outside the village hall.

Action: Clerk to add seating repairs to the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

4. MARSH GIBBON CHARITIES REPORT

C Anstey, Charities Correspondent, presented his report (**Attachment 2**).

Chair thanked C Anstey for his report.

5. REPORT FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE (TVP)

PCSO had sent his report (**Attachment 3**). The following also were noted:

- 5.1 **Tool Marking:** It was thought worthwhile to take up the offer of tool marking.

Action: Clerk to add to the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

- 5.2 **School parking:** It was noted that parking outside the school continues to be a problem.

Action: Clerk to add to the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

5.3 **Vandalism:** It was noted that following the Club Day a bus stop sign and the village hall sign had been damaged. Two residents had made the signs safe. Chair had been in touch with CC Angela Macpherson and BCC to try to get the signs repaired. C Anstey wished to thank the PCSO's for their work and suggested that they should be encouraged.

6. REPORT FROM DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

CC Angela Macpherson presented her report (**Attachment 4**) and also reported that she has a fund available for the coming fiscal year.

Action: Clerk to add to the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

It was noted that the Parish Council had supported the North / South option for the unitary authorities.

It was also noted that she chairs the Community Liaison Group.

Chair thanked Angela for her report and for her support as a District and County Councillor.

Following the meeting CC Macpherson also updated the Council on why the AV Times had not been distributed in Marsh Gibbon which was because of confusion over post codes which led to copies being sent to homes in Cherwell District. AVDC is in contact with the distribution company to try to rectify the problem.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) **Grass cutting:** It was thought that the grass still is not being strimmed under the willow tree at Ware Pond.

Action: Clerk to remind RTM.

b) **Working Party:** Chair thanked Barry Leonard for his help during the last working party.

Action: Clerk to add Working Party to the agenda for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20pm

Marsh Gibbon Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 22nd May 2018

Parish Council Chairman's Report

This is our opportunity to report publicly on the activities of your Council over the past 12 months and to thank all who gave their time for the benefit of our community.

This was the third year of this Council and its membership was unchanged.

The World Around us

There are three imminent developments which could significantly affect the village:

- Alternative proposals for unitary government in Bucks are now with the Secretary of State for a final decision.
- AVDC's new Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) has now been submitted for examination and should be adopted in 2019.
- There should soon be an announcement of the Government's preferred route for the planned Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, which could pass to the north of the village alongside the East West Rail route.

Planning

After frustrating delays the three planning applications by Land & Partners for Ewelme sites A ('Swan Field'), B ('Berry Close') and C ('Leopold Farm') have been given outline permission. We now await detailed applications from the developers.

The application for site D ('Little Marsh Road') has been withdrawn. Meanwhile the reserved matters application for housing on Parkers' builders yard was approved.

The village should in time benefit from over £100,000 of investment in leisure and community facilities, thanks to the section 106 agreements that AVDC will require from the developers as part of the detailed planning applications – the actual amount will depend on the number of bedrooms built.

Activities

Thanks to funding from the BCC Local Area Forum we were able to run a series of skateboard sessions in the village hall car-park on Saturday mornings in the autumn, which were well attended by local youngsters. Encouraged by that we have now been able to extend the sessions throughout the spring and summer this year, thanks to funding from the Local Area Forum, AVDC and the Hine Memorial Trust. There will be 32 sessions, at no cost to the parish or the youngsters themselves.

We were grateful to a number of volunteers who undertook sessions to catch drivers speeding in the village, which resulted in several people being caught on camera. A new round of sessions is about to start.'

We are grateful to the councillors and volunteers, led by Cllr Taylor, who spent two Saturday mornings on tidying up the village, working at the play area and cleaning road signs; and to the Cubs for their recent litter pick."

It has been a routine year of the normal activities of the Council and Clerk: reporting potholes and street lights out of action; commenting on planning applications; managing the Cemetery; and managing the village grass cutting. Our Christmas tree at Ware Pond was a great success again, thanks to the group of villagers who regularly make it happen, under the guidance of Cllrs Evershed and Lambourne.

Regular email communication with our residents has continued and now over 120 households receive the monthly Council news bulletin.

Angela Macpherson has continued to give us excellent support as the county and district councillor for Marsh Gibbon.

It is very good news that the village has a post office again, now that Stella Robinson and her colleagues at The Plough have opened a new branch, which our MP John Bercow will formally open this Friday 25th at 4.00 pm.

Finances

Financially we are in a sound position. Our income in 2017-18 was £29,263 and our expenditure was £27,218. Our balances on March 31st, 2018 were: £30,669 in Earmarked Reserves and £12,251 in the Community Account.

Our budget for this year is expected income of £32,172 and expenditure of £30,115; again on a slightly higher precept of £24,000. We are grateful to Justin Kelly for fulfilling the role of internal auditor.

Looking Forward

We are still awaiting confirmation from Transport for Bucks (BCC) that they will undertake surveys to provide evidence for a weight limit on HGVs driving through the village; and for a speed limit of 20 mph in Castle Street outside the School.

We need to begin the process of consulting our residents over an update to our Parish Plan of 2011 and, when VALP is adopted by AVDC, we shall also need to update our Neighbourhood Plan adopted in January 2015. We already have four volunteers who have offered to be involved and we shall need more.

As we enter the final year of this Council, we shall be looking for councillors for election next May.

Finally, I would like to thank you for coming along tonight and to thank my fellow Councillors – Penny Evershed, June Smith and Liz Taylor; Richard Cross, vice -chairman Adrian Lambourne and Derek Leonard for all their time and effort in keeping Marsh Gibbon a great place to live. And special thanks to our Clerk, Carole Jackman, who even attends annual parish meetings on her birthday!

Ian Metherell (Chair, MGPC)

20/05/2018

**REPORT BY THE CORRESPONDENT
to the
MARSH GIBBON VILLAGE CHARITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017**

**for presentation to the Annual Parish Meeting to be held
on Tuesday 22nd May 2018**

I present this Report on the Marsh Gibbon Village Charities for the financial year ending 31st December 2017. There are three village Charities being:-

1. The Unknown Donors Charity:

The assets of this Charity comprise a 5 acre parcel of land situated at Hill Farm, Piddington which is currently let on a full agricultural tenancy to Mr G Burchell. The rent was increased to £345 per annum with effect from 29th September 2016 and will next be reviewed in September 2019. The proceeds of this Charity are put towards the educational benefit of Marsh Gibbon parishioners, typically in the form of bequests for the purchase of books and resources for Further Education students. The amount distributed annually depends upon requests received but would not normally exceed income or accumulated income. In recent years bequests have been £100 per individual. During 2017 the Trustees did not receive any requests for assistance.

2. The Tenderland Charity:

The assets of this Charity comprise a 10 acre field known as the Tenderland situated at Heet Road, Marsh Gibbon. The Tenderland has traditionally been let annually by tender under a Profit of Pasturage for the period 25th March to the 31st October in any one year but a change in Grant aid rules under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has led to a significant reduction in payments received from the EU. This in turn has led to a significant change in the Trustee's management policy.

For many years the Tenderland was entered into the Upper Thames Tributaries Environmentally Sensitive Area Scheme (ESA) for which the Trustees received a payment in the region of £434 per annum (£43 per acre per annum).

The Single Payment Scheme (introduced under E.U. legislation in 2005) also contributed a further £800-900 per annum (equating to £80-90 per acre per annum), depending on currency and other fluctuations.

In addition, graziers offered a rent of £200-300 per annum (equating to £20-30 per acre per annum).

As a result the total income received by the Trustees in recent years was up to £1600 per annum, equating to £160 per acre per annum.

However, the ESA scheme ended as at 31st August 2012 and as a result of the EU Common Agricultural Policy Reform in 2014 agricultural holdings of less than 5 hectares (12.35 acres) are no longer eligible to receive Support Payments.

The Trustees were therefore been left in a difficult position and had to consider three options open to them.

First, the option to sell. The Trustees believed this was not in the best interests of Marsh Gibbon and it was questionable as to whether a sale would have been permitted by the Charity Commission.

Second, the option to exist with no Support Payments and to solely receive a grazing income of around £20-£35 per acre per annum. The Trustees also decided this was not a way forward. The Tenderland has suffered from being let on an annual grazing basis and the quality of the grass and fencing has deteriorated. The Trustees took the view that it would take at least £5,000 worth of expenditure to re-fence the field.

Third, the option to let out the Tenderland on a 5 Year Farm Business Tenancy. This would enable an arrangement with the new Tenant whereby the Tenant would be able to claim the CAP Support Payments and also renew all fencing during the course of the tenancy.

The third option was unanimously agreed by the Trustees, and following a Tender procedure the Trustees agreed on a 5 year Farm Business Tenancy in favour of Mr E Burborough, a well respected local farmer. A rent of £1000 per annum is currently being paid, together with the tenant being liable *either* to renew all of the fencing during the term of the agreement *or* to pay a further contribution of £1000 per annum towards a future fencing programme.

The proceeds from this Charity are for the benefit of the poor within the Parish of Marsh Gibbon and typically the Trustees try to distribute the amount of income received annually from rental income.

For 2017 the Trustees decided that because of the reduced level of anticipated future income only 5 no. bequests would be made from the Tenderland Charity, with a further 6 being funded from the Hine Memorial Trust. These were all made to deserving individuals within the Parish in the form of a £125 "Christmas Gift".

3. The Hine Memorial Trust:

The Hine Memorial Trust is a private Charity, the assets of which comprise 4,608.75 units invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF).

As previously reported, and as a result of the financial turmoil in 2008, the COIF's income units collapsed to an all time low value of £8.69 pence per unit in 2008. They stood at £14.732 per unit at 31st December 2017, giving a total value of the Investment Fund (being 4,608.75 units) of £67,897.49 as at 31st December 2017 (compared with a value of £62,291.40 as at 31st December 2016).

During the year ending 31st December 2017 dividends provided a total income to the Frank Hine Memorial Trust of £2,249.07 (compared to a figure of £2083.62 for the year ending 31st December 2016), although it is to be noted that no dividend income had been banked as at 31st December 2017 due to delays arising because of mandate changes required by the COIF.

The proceeds of this Charity are used for the benefit of the Parish of Marsh Gibbon as follows:-

- One third to the poor of the Parish
- One third to recreational facilities within the Parish, and
- One third to St Mary's Church, Marsh Gibbon

Under the terms of the Charity, the Trustees are able to distribute the annual income and are actively encouraged by the Charity Commission to distribute an element of accumulated income

where appropriate. In the year to 31st December 2017 the Trustees agreed to distribute the amounts shown below (but please bear in mind that these payments are not necessarily reflected on the Income and Expenditure Account where they were not cleared through the bank by 31st December 2017):-

Marsh Gibbon St. Mary's Church	750.00
Marsh Gibbon St Mary's Church Discretionary Fund	250.00
6 no. Christmas Bequests at £125 cash each	<u>750.00</u>
TOTAL:	£ <u>1,750.00</u>

I now take this opportunity to present the accounts for each Charity for the year ending 31st December 2017.

1. THE UNKNOWN DONORS CHARITY

£

1.1. Current Account:

Opening Balance at Bank as at 01.01.2017	2,387.05
<u>Income:</u>	
G Burchell – Rent received during 2017 for year ending 29 th September 2017 at £345 per annum	<u>345.00</u> 2,732.05
<u>Expenditure:</u>	
No bequests made during 2016	<u>NIL</u>
Closing Balance at Bank as at 31.12.2017	£ <u>2,732.05</u>

1.2. Deposit Account:

Opening balance at Bank as at 01.01.2017	209.47
<u>Income:</u>	
1. Interest in year to 31.12.2017	<u>0.04</u> 209.51
<u>Expenditure:</u>	
1. No expenditure	<u>NIL</u>
Closing Balance at Bank as at 31.12.2017	£<u>209.51</u>

2. THE TENDERLAND CHARITY

£

2.1. Current Account:

Opening Balance at Bank as at 01.01.2017 **5,171.63**

Income:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 1. Mr E Burborough – Rent due for period 25/03/17 to 25/03/18 was outstanding at 31.12.17 | <u>Nil</u> |
| | 5,171.63 |

Expenditure:

- | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| 1. 2016 Christmas bequest cheques presented after 01.01.2017 (3) at £100 each | 300.00 | |
| 2. 2017 Christmas bequest cheques presented before 31.12.2017 (4) at £125 | <u>500.00</u> | <u>800.00</u> |

Closing Balance at Bank as at 31.12.2017 **£4,371.63**

2.2. Deposit Account:

Opening balance at Bank as at 01.01.2017 **290.06**

Income:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Interest in year to 31.12.2017 | <u>0.05</u> |
| | 290.11 |

Expenditure:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1. No expenditure | <u>NIL</u> |
|-------------------|------------|

Closing Balance at Bank as at 31.12.2017 **£290.11**

3. THE HINE MEMORIAL TRUST

£

3.1. Current Account:**Opening Balance at Bank as at 01.01.2017****7,589.64**Income:

1. Interest from COIF Investment Fund in year to 31.12.2017 being £2249.07 but not banked

Nil
 7,589.64

Expenditure (as cleared by 31.12.201):

1. St. Mary's Church, Marsh Gibbon 750.00
2. St. Mary's Church Discretionary Fund 250.00
3. 6 no. 2017 Christmas bequests (cleared 2017) 750.00
4. 2 no. 2016 Christmas bequests (cleared 2017) 200.00

1,950.00

Closing Balance at Bank as at 31.12.2017**£ 5,639.64****3.2. Deposit Account:****Opening Balance at Bank as at 01.01.2017****625.37**Income:

1. Interest in year to 31.12.2017

0.09
 625.46

Expenditure:

No expenditure

NIL

Closing Balance at Bank as at 31.12.2017**£ 625.46**

Signed..... Dated.....

C.R.J. Anstey, Oakapple Farm, Marsh Gibbon, Bicester, Oxon, OX27
 Correspondent to the above named Charities.

Report from PCSO, Thames Valley Police

(All stats are correct at time of writing in previous 365 days)

- This year there have been 32 crimes and/or crime related incidents (child protection/domestic incidents etc) reported in Marsh Gibbon
- Of those 32 incidents, 18 were recordable crimes
- Out of them 18 recordable crimes, there were 9 thefts (2 from non-dwellings i.e sheds, 2 from driveways and 5 from motor vehicle)
- Since the TVP new operating model was introduced about this time last year, we have been able to spend more time dedicated to patrolling and engagement opportunities.
- Please get in touch with any community groups you would like us to attend.
- We are happy to arrange Speedwatch training on the Sentinel device for anybody who wishes to get involved.
- We have had sporadic issues with people obstructing the pavements near to the school by parking right across them, and we still operate the warning letter scheme when we received pictures of poor parking near to schools.
- Our annual Emergency Services Day is being held at Bucks Railway Centre on the 14th of July
- We have recently launched our TVP facebook page on www.facebook.com/TVPAylesburyVale

Bucks County Council report

County Council Budget

A revenue budget for day-to-day spending of £336m and capital spending of £122.6m has been agreed for this financial year. A 2.99% increase in standard council tax, along with a 3% Social Care precept, will also apply this year and equates to approximately £1.40 per week for a Band D property.

In addition to the County Council budget, BCC passes £310m directly to schools from central government.

Approximately 65% of the total budget is spent on adult and children's social care.

Adult Services and public health

This year our teams visited 42 care homes across the county and vaccinated 213 staff and 120 residents from flu, some of whom are the most vulnerable in our community.

By working closely with clients, their families and one of our Supported Living providers, we have helped 4 people with learning disabilities to move from 24-hour care and support to living independently.

More than 7,500 people have been supported with assistive technology, helping them stay at home independently for longer.

Community Links Officers working with the Local Area Forums have supported 29 sustainable local projects for vulnerable people.

Active Bucks : Two new programmes will be set up over the next 18 months by our public health team as part of this initiative, one to target older adults aged 65-plus and another to focus on encouraging men and the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities to be more active more regularly. Information can be found on the Active Bucks website.

Children's Services

An OFSTED report published earlier this year found children's services remain 'inadequate'. Work is ongoing regarding improvement. Our adoption services however have been recognised by OFSTED as good.

The Youth Offending Service was praised by the Achievement for All/Association of Youth Offending Team Managers in recognition of achieving positive outcomes for young people with Special Education Needs.

The proposals consulted on last year for the Early Help Service for Families were not as specific as residents would have liked, so more detailed proposals will be put forward and a revised consultation will follow soon. Therefore, BCC will not be implementing the Cabinet decision on 8th January in relation to restructuring the new service.

Highways/Transport for Bucks

Despite challenging weather conditions Transport for Bucks kept the highways network running for residents and businesses through this winter's major snow events, gritting 1405km of the road using our fleet of gritters.

In addition to the £20m budget for highways across the County a £2.78m programme to repair the county's worst pothole 'farms' is to be launched. ^[SEP]The County Council has received £1.78m in Department for Transport repair grants, and Council has just agreed to release a further £1m to be added to this sum from its reserves. This will fund a 'plane and patch' scheme to resurface stretches of road with multiple defects. ^[SEP]The plane and patch teams will target the worst-hit roads across the county, using local knowledge from Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) local area technicians. ^[SEP]While this programme is active, Transport for Buckinghamshire repair teams will

continue with the County's £2m programme repairing individual potholes, and make more use of their high-velocity Jet Patcher, which speeds repair rates.

A new 'Fix My Street' reporting tool is now available online that's easier to use and more comprehensive for residents.

Future Growth

A bid to the Government by Buckinghamshire County Council for £204 million to support growth in and around Aylesbury has passed its first hurdle. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has announced that bids from a further 44 areas including Buckinghamshire, will go forward for a potential share of the £4.1bn national Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF). They will now ask all successful areas to put together detailed business plans for further consideration.

Officers will now be working in collaboration with Homes England, the Local Enterprise Partnerships in Buckinghamshire Thames Valley and South East Midlands, and Aylesbury Vale District Council to take this work forward. The County Council bid for funding, to support Aylesbury's growth as a Garden Town, covers infrastructure projects such as link roads to form an orbital route around Aylesbury, improvements to public transport links to the town centre, and new secondary and primary schools. Funding could also pay for new recycling centres, new power lines, broadband improvements, flood alleviation and open spaces for leisure and recreation.

Ox/Cam Expressway

The county council has submitted a response to Highways England and the DfT to the recent stakeholder engagement asking local authorities for their 'preferred corridor' for the future Expressway road. This will provide a dual carriageway (at minimum) link across the Oxford Cambridge Arc and is likely to cut through the north of the County. At this stage it is difficult to form a complete picture with limited information from MHCLG regarding the location of future significant housing development and new settlements. However the county's preference at time of writing is for the more southerly route which will link through Haddenham, provide ring roads around congested Aylesbury, and Wing and onto the M1 south of Milton Keynes.

The county has expressed disappointment at the lack of public consultation at this stage and understands this will take effect once the DfT/HE have announced the preferred corridor later this summer. It is then that the actual route for the road will be consulted on.

Minerals and Waste

In Bucks we reused, recycled or composted more than 57% of household waste. We also diverted 95% of total residential waste away from landfill sites.

The Energy from Waste Plant generates approximately 200,000 megawatt hours per annum of electricity enough to power more than 40,000 homes.

More than 2 million visits are made annually to our Household Waste Recycling Centres with a 99% customer satisfaction rating.

Fly-tipping convictions reached a record high of 72 this year. In total over 660 convictions against fly-tippers have been secured

A 20-year forward plan for the future of mineral prospecting and waste in Bucks is to be submitted to MHCLG to ensure a steady and adequate supply of aggregates, and forecast future waste management needs. It's intended to review the plan every five years

Modernising local government (unitary)

The Secretary of State for local communities, Sajid Javid, has issued a 'minded-to' decision for a single unitary authority in Buckinghamshire. This will be a totally new council that will abolish the county council and all four districts. However the four district councils in the county believe establishing two unitary authorities, one in the south of Bucks and the other in the north, would

serve residents better. Further representations on the matter have been invited by the Secretary of State (now James Brokenshire) by the 25th May 2018 before any definitive decision is made.

Modern Slavery victim support pilot

The County Council's Community Safety Team working with its partners will raise awareness, offer support and help those affected by exploitation, or thought to be at risk of modern day slavery to regain control of their lives.

AVDC report

Restructure

During the last year the District Council has completed the staff culture change programme. The assessment process has resulted in the loss of about 10% of our staff, mainly because digital technology and artificial intelligence are now being used to provide up to date information to residents rather than the reliance on person to person contact to answer queries. The savings made have enabled us to develop a balanced budget for the next four years without cutting services.

Growth

The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan has been submitted to the Government Inspector. It includes nearly 29,000 new homes across The Vale, 9,000 of which are in respect of the unmet needs of authorities in the south of the county. The plan must be reviewed within two years because Government has announced even higher housing numbers for most authorities in the south-east and these will need to be accommodated.

East-West rail will become a reality and this, together with an Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, will open up housing growth areas that will deliver the increased housing numbers. An initial response has been submitted to Highways England outlining the views of the Council. Public consultation will begin once the preferred corridor has been announced by Government this summer.

Aylesbury was awarded Garden Town Status last year and will be the focus for over 15000 new market and affordable homes.

The regeneration of Aylesbury Town Centre , the Waterside North project , continues apace with the construction of four restaurants and some retail units on the ground floor of a new development with 47 residential units above. AVDC will retain ownership of the ground floor units, generating rental income for the Council. The project is on schedule and is due for completion later this year. The master plan for the rest of the town centre is being updated to include properties that aren't currently in the Council's ownership.

Planning

This year AVDC have recruited a Parish Liaison Officer to provide a helpful interface between parish council and the planning officers. It's fair to say that the team is stretched due to the very high numbers of applications coming in, particularly major applications and AVDC are trying hard to recruit to senior planning posts in a very competitive market.

Waste services

Expansion of our depot at Pembroke Road in Aylesbury continues on schedule to cater for the future expansion of the Vale's population, providing a modern and efficient waste and recycling service. At the same time we have invested in 17 new vehicles with not only much enhanced safety features but economic benefits as well. The new vehicles while generating extra capacity, also have much bigger 200 litre fuel tanks which together have enabled savings as a result of fewer returns to tip

their loads. This has also entailed a reorganisation of rounds which very temporarily has resulted in some extra missed bins while crews get to know the nooks and crannies of a new round. The recent budget took into account the downturn in the value of recycled items and our need to negotiate a new contract from September.

Homelessness

AVDC is working with partner agencies across the area to tackle the causes of homelessness and ensure there is adequate provision for the homeless and rough sleepers. The recent Homelessness Reduction Act sees a duty on local authorities to tackle the situation earlier and increase preventative work.

Moving towards digital

AVDC is using technology to analyse and answer emails automatically, broaden the amount of information and services available to residents via “My Account” 24/7, using webchat to answer specific questions and developing a “skill” for Alexa that will enable disadvantaged residents to remain in their homes and enjoy a better quality of life.

Supporting the community

2017 saw the second anniversary of the Vale Lottery. AVDC now has about 160 organisations signed up who all benefit to a greater or lesser extent from the Lottery. AVDC is one of only a few Local Authorities who pass on a proportion of the New Homes Bonus funds received from Government to local communities. A new micro grant scheme to replace the Community Chest has been launched this year to enable communities impacted by growth to apply for project funding for up to £1000.

Ox/Cam Expressway (see above)

The District Council in its response feel it is too early and do not have enough information from DfT and MHCLG to make an informed decision on one preferred corridor and has requested that DfT/HE consider a potential ‘hybrid’ route spanning A and B.

Unitary. (See above)

Angela Macpherson
County Councillor Grendon Underwood Division
District Councillor Marsh Gibbon Ward
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities AVDC