

THORNBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING

Monday 8th April 2013 at 7.00p.m.

Present: Cllr Mark Cole (Chair), Cllr Rupert Bursell, Cllr Charlotte Moore, Cllr Andy Spurr, Cllr Melanie Staff, Cllr. Ray Goodger, Cllr Mary Taylor (left at 8,45p.m.) Maggie Beach (Clerk)

Public: 3 members of the public were present

1	Apologies: None	
2	<p>Public Participation session: Bill Lewis expressed concern at Sainsbury's plans to build a superstore and filling station as part of the Windsor Park estate. Sainsbury have sent 50,000 letters out to surrounding residents. It was noted with concern that there would be two superstores and three filling stations serviced from one roundabout on the London Road. Concern was also expressed about increased traffic on local minor roads and especially through Coombs on the Padbury Road.</p> <p>The Clerk has ascertained from AVDC Development Control that while there is no planning application from Sainsbury at present, there is land in the development that has been set aside as 'employment land' and the inclusion of a Health Centre has already been agreed.</p> <p>TPC will not automatically be sent information about any planning application for this development but the Clerk will continue to monitor.</p>	
7	<p>Thornborough Community Woodland (Agreed to take this item earlier as Cllr MT has to leave early) - General update including Report from the working group, Funding and General Update.</p> <p>Cllr MT gave a report. (Attached as Appendix 1)The group has met twice and have discussed different ways of dealing with managing the finance involved. Some charities will not give grants for any maintenance work. Work needs to be separated into maintenance or enhancement and access.</p> <p>The group have created a budget list of tasks and equipment that ideally should be planned for. This includes replacing several gates with disabled access gates and providing heavy duty benches and a logo and electronic letterhead which needs to be created. All this totals about £21,000. This includes £1,000 contingency fund for dealing with any asbestos related issues that could arise. (Attached as Appendix 2).There are several streams of funding/grants we can apply for such as WREN, the Gawcott incinerator based funder which offers two levels of funding.</p> <p>Rupert is looking into a draft Trust Deed and the suggested name for the Trust could be Thornborough and Coombs Woodlands Enterprise Trust. The Clerk reported that BCC would be happy that TPC sublets to a Trust to manage Thornborough Community Woodland although the lease may have to be re-written to accommodate this.</p> <p>Currently the Council Tax is £1,524.60 a year (business rate).If we applied as a small business we could have the council tax removed. If we applied as a charity we could have the council tax reduced by 80% and could apply for the removal of the final 20%.</p> <p>Asbestos. TPC has been sent an asbestos report and management plan by BCC. It details white asbestos in places and recommends it be regularly monitored and dealt with as it becomes necessary.</p> <p>Septic Tank. This was emptied just before Easter. Future costs should be shared between users.</p>	

	TPC agreed that the working group should go ahead looking for funding and that it be comprised of Mary Taylor, Rupert Bursell and Andy Spurr with Tanya Petin as consultant.	
3	Declaration of interest in items on the agenda – Cllr AS expressed an interest in item 12, the Cricket Club	
4	Minutes of the meeting of 8th March 2013- Agreed	
5	<p>Review of Action Points</p> <p>Item 2.Public Participation session: Cllr AS reported that the Kissing gate in the wrong place reported by Mrs Jenkins, Hornet’s Farm is being sorted out.</p> <p>Item 6. Thornborough Community Woodland - Funding.</p> <p>Item 7 Tree management</p> <p>Item 8 Greens- Grass-creting quotes</p> <p>Item 9 Road issues</p> <p>Item 10 Street Lighting</p> <p>Item 14 Church clock</p> <p style="text-align: right;">All on agenda</p> <p>Item 15 Planning: responses sent New Process re AVDC Delegated Powers and Planning Committee.– covered on agenda</p> <p>Item 16 Finances: Cheques all sent</p> <p>Item 17 A.O.B. Allotment hedge – on agenda</p>	
6	<p>Historic Buildings in Thornborough – discussion led by Mrs Claire Conway-Crapp</p> <p>Mrs Conway-Crapp explained that this is a new area for discussion and there are currently a lot of unknowns as we do not know the purpose behind the request from AVDC Cllrs Brandis and Cashman concerning interest in currently unlisted historic buildings and features. Cllr MC had prepared a list of buildings and features, some of which are scheduled ancient monuments for the discussion.</p> <p>The clerk has requested an update on the issue from Cllrs Brandis and Cashman. They have nothing to report at present but will be meeting next week and will assess the level of interest in Aylesbury Vale.</p> <p>AVDC Cllr. Sir Beville Stanier was unable to give any more information than we already had. He suggested that Mrs Conway-Crapp write to Cllr Sue Polhill for more information.</p>	
8	<p>Tree management</p> <p>Cllr AS reported that two trees have been identified as needing to be dealt with. He will mark the trees that need attention in Thornborough Community Woodland so that Julia Carey can identify them too.</p> <p>TPC have not yet received Dennis King’s quote for Tree Inspection work.</p>	Clerk to inform Julia Carey.
9	<p>Greens– Update</p> <p>i. Fences round pumps Cllr RB pointed out that these both need renewing. Cllr AS to get a quote from Matthew McStraw to replace both pump fences, like for like.</p> <p>ii. Bye-laws Update. Cllr RB has the Defra guidance. He informed TPC that District Councils have the power to move people who are camping on but parish councils don’t. It therefore makes the Bye-law about camping superfluous. The Bye-law about bonfires also seems unnecessary as this is a very unlikely event. TPC therefore agreed take the Bye-law about parking forward as the only Bye-law.</p> <p>iii. Grass-creting quotes – The Clerk has the paperwork for Graham Smith to complete and has also ascertained in writing that planning permission for the grass-creting and dropped kerb are not required from AVDC. All paperwork passed to Cllr AS for him to action. The application to drop the kerb will cost £175. And would be dealt with under Item 18.</p>	<p>Cllr. AS to action.</p> <p>Cllr. AS to action.</p>
10	<p>Road issues – updates and road closures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pot holes have all been reported but as yet not filled. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr MC has met the new Local Area Technician, David Smith, at the recent LAF. David Smith is slowly working his way round the parishes inspecting roads. • Notices of two road closures; 1) various roads in the vicinity of Silverstone for the F1 Grand Prix Race between 28th and 30th June and 2) Tile House Road in Lillington Dayrell on 28th April. 	
11	<p>Street Lighting - update Clerk has checked again and we still do not have the correct lights on or off and the upgrades ordered a year ago still have not started.</p>	Clerk to continue to follow up.
12	<p>Cricket Club Cllr AS explained that Thornborough Cricket Club were currently not in a position to pay their rent for the Sports Field. The Clerk explained that their rent is paid till 31st March 2012. They currently are in receipt of an Invoice from TPC for three remaining unpaid quarters' rent up till the end of 2012. Exceptionally bad weather causing games to be cancelled together with a continuing mowing bill has caused this problem. Proposed Cllr RB, seconded Cllr RG that Thornborough Parish Council to allow Thornborough Cricket Club rent free use of the Sports Field and Pavilion for two years backdated from 1st April 2012 till 1st April 2014, passed with no-one against and Cllr AS abstaining as he had already declared an interest in this item..</p>	Clerk to notify Thornboro' Cricket Club of this decision
13	<p>Allotments - update</p> <p>a) Mr Madkins has cut the hedge as much as he can but there were still some compost containers on Allotment 8 that hadn't been removed and he was therefore not able to cut beyond allotment 7. It is now too late in the year and this will have to wait now till after the nesting season before completion. Once we have equipment for Thornborough Community Woodland we may be able to cut the rest manually.</p> <p>b) The Clerk has received an e-mail from Mary Gavigan again expressing concern at this, also at a recent bonfire on an allotment.</p> <p>c) BCC Highways have cleared out the ditch by the roadside.</p> <p>d) The Clerk has received an e-mail from BCC asking whether TPC wants to lease the allotment field for a further year at a cost of £75. Proposed Cllr MS seconded Cllr CM that we continue to lease the allotment field, carried unanimously,</p>	<p>Clerk to respond to Mary Gavigan</p> <p>Clerk to renew lease with BCC</p>
14	<p>North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium As no members of TPC were able to attend, the clerk attended this meeting. (13th March 2013) Notes from the meeting are attached as Appendix 3</p>	
15	<p>Local Area Forum Cllr MC attended this meeting (21st March) His report is attached as Appendix 4.</p>	
16	<p>Church clock Cllr RG has arranged for John Circuit to look at the wiring. It is alright at the moment but will need replacing. Cllr RG has obtained a quote of £850 for labour and parts to repair and make safe the church clock. He is awaiting another quote, but expects it to be a similar amount. TPC will review both quotes next meeting but is now in a position to decide to pay for the work. Proposed Cllr AS seconded Cllr MS that TPC pays for the work on the church clock. Cllr CM will organise the necessary Faculty with church authorities.</p>	Cllr RG to continue to action
17	<p>Planning:</p> <p>a) <u>Ref. 13/00662/APP</u> - Cloverick Moor, Padbury Road, Thornborough, MK18 2EB - Single storey side extension and raising of roof to create first floor – SUPPORTED This is a much needed extension and will support a local business. The extension is in keeping with the building. Also noted that there is an appeal against the refusal of permission of the previous application. TPC's comments on this application made at the time will stand for this appeal</p> <p>b) <u>Ref 13/00523/ACD</u> – The Green Thornborough Manor, High Street, Thornborough, MK18 2DQ - Demolition of Listed stone wall and</p>	Clerk to send responses to AVDC

	<p>construction of replacement stone wall and railings SUPPORTED This is part of a more extensive set of plans that will restore a building demolished in the mid 20th Century. The development will enhance the centre of the village.</p> <p>c) <u>Ref.13/00524/APP</u> - The Green, Thornborough Manor, High Street, Thornborough MK18 2DQ - Erection of dwelling and ancillary building. Conversion of barn to ancillary dwelling. SUPPORTED. This will restore a building demolished in the mid 20th Century. The development will enhance the centre of the village.</p> <p>d) Bulletins and other updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bulletins noted, - <u>Ref. 13/00250/APP</u> Home Farm House, Chapel Lane, Thornborough MK18 2DJ Erection of Limestone wall - allowed - Letter by e-mail from Henry Lewis with concerns about various land in the village owned by Mr Willis and by Mr Watts (both now deceased). Mr Lewis asked about: 1) protecting the snowdrops on the bank along Back Street adjoining the Land formerly owned by MR Willis, and possibly clearing the bank, and 2) sorting out the un-authorized building on the land formerly owned by Mr Watts in the heart of the village opposite The Old Manor. TPC acknowledged that snow drops are not a protected species and they would be happy for the bank to be cleared of undergrowth but are not in a position to do this. However with regards to the un-authorized building it was decided the Clerk would ask AVDC why this had never been finally dealt with. - Clerk has received a document, ' Supporting Communities in Neighbourhood Planning' from Defra. Noted - Clerk has received a comprehensive summary of changes to the planning system from SLCC. She will circulate it to councillors. - New Process re AVDC Delegated Powers and Planning Committee. Cllr MC has written to Sir Beville Stanier and received a reply which he has circulated. Sir Beville Stanier was unable to support our position. The Clerk has written to our MP, John Bercow with our concerns but has not yet received a reply. 	<p>Clerk to respond to Henry Lewis and to ask AVDC about the building on Mr Watt's land.</p>																																				
<p>18</p>	<p>Finances:</p> <p>a) Bank Reconciliation – 8th April 2013. Current Account £17,630.09 Reserve Account £15,149.08 Current liabilities:£264.06 Total £32,515.11 Agreed to move £5,000 from the Current Account to the Reserve Account.</p> <p>b) Payments</p> <p>Cheques</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>E-on (unmetered supplies)</td> <td>£23.68</td> <td>Cheque No. 451</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Duck Food</td> <td>£14.70</td> <td>Cheque No 452</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk's Salary cheques – April</td> <td>£350.27</td> <td>Cheque No 453</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC - Clerk's Income Tax</td> <td>£87.40</td> <td>Cheque No 454</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">(PAYE Ref. 475/SA75351 Accounts office Ref. 475PE00369213)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buckinghamshire County Council (Highways for dropped kerb permission)</td> <td>£175.00</td> <td>Cheque No. 455</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buckinghamshire County Council Allotment Rent</td> <td>£75.00</td> <td>Cheque No 456</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>£726.05</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Direct Debits</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E-on (Sports Pavilion supplies)</td> <td>£105.00</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anglian Water - still in credit</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total</td> <td>£831.05</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>TPC has received notice from E-on that electricity prices are going up.</p> <p>c) Receipts – None</p>	E-on (unmetered supplies)	£23.68	Cheque No. 451	Duck Food	£14.70	Cheque No 452	Clerk's Salary cheques – April	£350.27	Cheque No 453	HMRC - Clerk's Income Tax	£87.40	Cheque No 454	(PAYE Ref. 475/SA75351 Accounts office Ref. 475PE00369213)			Buckinghamshire County Council (Highways for dropped kerb permission)	£175.00	Cheque No. 455	Buckinghamshire County Council Allotment Rent	£75.00	Cheque No 456	Total	£726.05		Direct Debits			E-on (Sports Pavilion supplies)	£105.00		Anglian Water - still in credit			Total	£831.05		<p>Clerk to raise cheques</p>
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	<p>d) Sports Field Rents - The Clerk explained that both sports clubs had only been recently invoiced for the last 2 quarters of 2012 and hadn't yet been invoiced for the first quarter of 2013. However the previous decision under Item 12 now means that Thornborough Cricket Club are no longer in arrears but Thornborough Athletic Football Club still are.</p> <p>e) Local Democracy APPG Local Government Finance Meeting In Parliament –24/4/2013 Agreed to send a letter to our MP, the Rt. Hon. John Bercow asking him to attend this All Party Local Democracy Group to discuss the impact of the Government's policy to localise the funding of Council Tax Benefits in a way that will mean that funding to cover parish councils' precepts paid by Council Tax Benefit will be paid to principal authorities only, without any statutory duty for them to pass funding down to town and parish councils.</p>	<p>Clerk to send letter to John Bercow MP</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>A.O.B. , other correspondence and Other Councillor Issues</p> <p>i. AVDC's News for the Parishes – circulated.</p> <p>ii. Notice of forthcoming County Council elections have been posted on the notice board.</p>	
<p>20</p>	<p>Date of next meeting; TBA. The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.</p>	

Appendix 1

THORNBOROUGH AND COOMBS WOODLANDS

WORKING PARTY MEETING NOTES

MEETING NUMBER: 2

MEETING DATE: 4TH April 2013

VENUE: The Maltings, Bridge Street, Thornborough

ATTENDEES: Andy Spurr, Mary Taylor, Rupert Bursell, Tanya Pepin

SHORT TERM ACTIONS	OWNER
Create Excel document of proposed budget for all to review and comment on	TP/ALL
Locate appropriate "off the shelf" Memorandum and Articles of Association for Trust vehicle and tailor to suit	TP/RB
Sign off Trust establishment and governance process	ALL
Obtain a bank account	AS
Establish mechanism to remove liability for Business Rates	RB/ALL
Locate background information on history of Coombs and previous application for funding	MT
Create a Case for Support	TP(all to review)
Get logo for new organisation and get electronic letterhead created	TP
Collate background materials, establish application deadlines and assess eligibility for applications to: WREN Heritage Lottery Community Chest (poss) Prince's Countryside Fund	MT

LONGER TERM ACTIONS	WHEN
Produce "press release" for inclusion in Thornborough, Adstock and Padbury Parish Newsletters re change in ownership, plans for the future and fundraising appeal	May
Speak at Adstock and Padbury Parish Council meetings to raise awareness	TBC
Develop fundraising strategy for individual giving in community	May
Devise list of eligible Trusts and timings for applications to gain further trust funding as required	June
Produce signage for woods and car park	TBC
Create rota for locking up car pack/agree unlocking procedure	May
Purchase additional equipment as required	TBC
Create list of volunteers and ongoing tasks and set up a volunteer rota	June
Produce development plan to enhance facility and encourage broad usage	TBC

NEXT MEETING: 10am Tuesday 16th April 2013.

Appendix 2

Coombs Budget 2013-14

Item	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE		Total	Quote Obtained?
	Amount Per Item	Number Required		
Front Deck Mower	£7,500	1	£7,500	
Gates for Disabled Access	£750	4	£3,000	
Hard Core for Gated Areas	£1,000	1	£1,000	
Heavy Duty Benches	£750	4	£3,000	
Motorised hedge Trimmers	£400	1	£400	
Signage	£5,000	1	£5,000	
High Vis Jackets/protective Clothing	£1,000	1	£1,000	
Asbestos Removal	TBC			
GRAND TOTAL			£20,900	

Notes

Rationale

Mower required to cut 4 ft in front and able to climb ridges and cope with terrain to clip closely around the car park

Hard core and new gates to facilitate disabled access for entrance nearest car park and down to quarry to enable disabled people to access educational resources

Signage to help with fundraising, maintain safety and to encourage walkers to take various routes through woodland rather than just following main path creating heavy wear and tear

Appendix 3

North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium Wednesday 13th March 2013 at Winslow Town Chamber

Notes from the meeting made by Maggie Beach

1) Minutes of last meeting held on 10 January 2013 and matters arising

- There were many objections to the **Luton Airport** planning application
- **Calvert Incinerator** – there has been illegal activity there trapping and moving crested newts.
- **Wind Farms** – 2 planning applications, refusal is recommended for the one at Ford for landscape impact and access reasons. This will go to Strategic Control on Wednesday 20th March. The one at Cowpasture Farm, Mursley, has yet to be decided on by AVDC planners.
- **Fracking**. There is no application yet for a license. It will probably be most likely round Twyford/Calvert

2) Treasurers Report

NBPPC has £2730.98p

3) Local Planning Matters

- **Milton Keynes issues, including Salden Chase**

Local planners have made various comments in their Core Strategy. Proposed development at Salden Chase will affect Newton Longville and West Bletchley; both councils are against the development. Salden Chase. There will be a public consultation on this when it has been assessed by the SHLAA (Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment).

- **Vale of Aylesbury Plan**

Public consultation will be mid/late April, depending on the timing of the revocation of the SE Plan. There are 3 planning applications for huge developments around Aylesbury which will go to appeal, Fleet Marston – affecting Waddesdon, Hamden Fields behind the current development and land to the east of Watermead (Weedon Hall) which will affect Berton. The total number of houses will be 10,500. There will be a decision from the Secretary of State about joining the Watermead development to the other two developments as a total Aylesbury development plan; it's not known whether this would be a good or a bad thing. The Aylesbury Vale SHLAA needs only 6,000 houses and there isn't enough identified land for more. The number of houses planned for Winslow has gone up from 430 to 730, for Great Horwood from 0 to 120. Some villages/towns have had their designation of small or large village etc changed in the AV Plan. The number of houses identified by the SHLAA only shows how many COULD be built, not how many will be built. The SHLAA is part of the Aylesbury Vale Plan Consultation.

- **Winslow developments update / Buckingham developments update**

Winslow Neighbourhood Plan is slowly moving on. There is currently a consultation on where to ultimately place the Free School, which will be a 3 form entry school (about 90 pupils per year). The **Greenway** land is included in the Great Horwood Neighbourhood Plan.

The **Buckingham - Maids Moreton** situation was discussed. We await the outcome of the planners appeal to the High Court. The basis of this challenge will be that the Inspector has erred in law primarily because of the way he has inconsistently treated the two aspects of the South East Plan - focussing on the 5-year housing land requirements but ignoring the spatial split (and the reason for it) across the three areas of The Vale.

- **New Homes Bonus**

This is the issue of BCC releasing some of the 20% OF ANY New Homes Bonus they might get to parishes to increase the amount that a parish might receive. BALC might be taking this up. John Gibbs, the CEO of BALC has spoken to Chris Williams but has not submitted a written request about this issue and has had no formal response. It was noted that John Gibbs is a Conservative Wycombe District Councillor and therefore may not want to press this issue of policy with a Conservative led County Council.

There is a panel of 3 District Councillors and 2 Parish Councillors who will meet to decide how to proceed. Currently the district council receive 80% and the county council receives 20%. They

then decide how much to give down to the parishes. Parishes may need to apply and it was noted that currently it appears you do not have to have had new homes in your parish to apply for New Homes Bonus!

- **Miscellaneous Planning Matters**

None that hadn't been already covered

4) East West Rail

Network Rail is being more active in their involvement. Planned for Dec. 2017 There is an AVALC meeting on 21st March in the St. Lawrence Rooms in Winslow with presentations from BCC transport people.

5) Any Other Business

There was a long discussion on the proposed change to AVDC officers' delegated powers with regards to planning application decisions. This was seen as a political decision. There was general disapproval although one parish while not agreeing said that they ALWAYS send someone to the committee meeting whenever their decision is different to the planners' recommendations. AVDC see it as a way of shortening Development Control Committee meetings which can apparently last 6 hours. NBPPC decided to write a letter to AVDC expressing their concerns, to the AVDC Director Tracey Aldworth with copies to go to Sue Polhill and Janet Blake (Chair of the DCC).

- **Date of Next Meeting**

Possible dates to be circulated.

Appendix 4

BUCKINGHAM AREA LOCAL FORUM March 21st 2013, Buckingham School

The major topic at the quarterly meeting of the Buckingham Local Area Forum, at which our local authorities (County Council, AVDC, Town and Parish Councils), and police, fire and other services have representation, was the continuing lack of superfast broadband in North Bucks.

May is decision month in selecting a broadband provider to take those parts of North Bucks – including Thornborough – out of what is still an internet twilight zone as far as speeds are concerned. While Buckingham and some surrounding villages are now enjoying fibre-optic cabling which allows up to 20 Megabytes per second, we are able to access only 1 Mbps thanks to the antiquated copper wire telephone technology which BT is still using.

Slow broadband speeds affect businesses in slowing or preventing access to the internet, downloading and uploading, and households are unable to view such basic functions as I-player without buffering or download failure.

Connected Counties, which is a joint Bucks-Herts initiative, is rolling out further ADSL2+ upgrades with the help of UK government and EU grants. The intention is to provide all local businesses and households with high-speed broadband by 2015-2017. More than 37,000 premises in the Aylesbury Vale District are still without it, and to date 9849 have registered their interest in getting it.

This marked the last meeting chaired by our own Buckingham North County Cllr David Polhill, who steps down from the county council at the end of April, as does Buckingham South County Cllr Hedley Cadd.

Local priorities for 2013/2014 – for which the LAF has a £46,604 budget for agreed projects – were discussed. Some of last year's allocation went towards providing Saturday bus services to Buckingham from all villages. The take-up on an average Saturday has been 18 passengers from the 36 villages in the scheme.

Among new priorities approved by the meeting were mobile vehicle activated speed warning signs for 10 villages at £1500 each, £12,500 village hall improvements for Beachampton, and a new £8600 bus shelter for Moreton Road, Buckingham. Bucks CC locality services head Paul Hodson was concerned that although a portion had been put aside for Youth Needs, no proposals had been received, and the LAF will reconsider this at its June meeting.

The meeting also agreed to use £10,000 from a cancelled 2012 project to pay for half the £20,000 cost of grasscreting verges in Burleigh Piece, Buckingham where parents collecting children from Bourton Primary School have been creating traffic problems; the school is contributing the other £10,000.

Road repairs again caused concern, with every parish complaining of potholes, verge collapses and worse, particularly with the on-going wintry weather. Transport for Bucks reiterated that there is not enough funding to repair all the roads in the north of the county, and the four County Councillors in the LAF each presented five priorities in their own wards which will receive immediate attention. This caused some dissension at the Forum, with criticism that some wards had better roads than others, leaving some of the worst untouched.

Our new local area roads technician, Dave Smith - who has replaced David Hedley – briefed the forum on pothole reporting. The TfB workforce filled 4000 potholes in the county during 2012, a 60% increase over 2011. He is visiting every road in North Bucks over the coming weeks, but urged that reporting damaged roads on the Bucks CC website was of great assistance, and would ensure they were logged for repair. He said that potholes more than 1ft across and 1.5 inches deep would receive immediate attention, particularly those with jagged edges that could rip tyres.

We heard of parking charge revisions in Buckingham's Cornwall's Meadow, the previous free hour's stay replaced by 50p for up to 3 hours; many at the Forum felt this would deter short-term visitors to banks and post offices from going into Buckingham, and doing such tasks elsewhere. It was suggested that Buckingham Town Council might consider paying for the parking itself to keep

and attract business, and AVDC lead officer Ann Kiceluk said that she would investigate this possibility.

Inspector Emma Garside reported that Buckingham Police had won a community policing award, and was leading Thames Valley Police on its initiatives. Sadly, we are losing Emma, as she has been appointed deputy commander for Aylesbury Vale, and will be replaced by Inspector James Davies.

Crime was largely in decline in North Bucks, she said. There were 839 reported crimes in the past year (against 1085 in the previous period); criminal damage cases were down to 116 from 162; and home thefts were down to 54 from 82. But theft from motor vehicles had increased, up to 95 from 52, with the majority on the Badgers, Linden Village and Mount Pleasant estates in Buckingham. She urged motorists to hide sat-navs, bags and tools from view; some of the stolen items had appeared on e-Bay. Buckingham Police and Bucks CC are running a Partnership Education Campaign, visiting farms and businesses in an effort to combat rural crime, marking vehicles and tools.

Buckingham chief fire officer Tim Parkins reported that the Fire and Rescue service had been called to 300 road accidents in North Bucks last year, most of them on the A421, A422 and A413 roads. It was currently running a stop smoking campaign, after a fatal house fire in Milton Keynes, and was prompting people to check smoke alarm batteries when they put their clocks forward.

Finally, the meeting was told that a survey carried out by AVDC showed that 92% of those sampled were happy to live in Aylesbury Vale, thanks to its environment and accessibility. But transport, local services and local jobs were found wanting. So now you know.

Mark Cole