Welcome everybody and thank you for joining us for this evening’s Annual Parish Meeting.

As your PC, we are dedicated to trying to improve the quality of life of our residents, but unfortunately, while we have some legal responsibilities, we have practically no powers or authority on many matters of importance. I shall update you briefly on what we have achieved in the last year.

1. **Outdoor Services**

We are responsible for grass cutting, verge and hedge trimming of public land in the parish. We are trying to make verges richer in wildflowers and pollinators to improve biodiversity connectivity. We have had to change contractors twice recently, hence the delayed cutting, but all is now in hand. Please do remember that owners/occupiers are responsible for trimming shrubs and trees overhanging roads and pavements.

We replaced the broken dog bin on Duck Lake and have repaired several streetlights that were damaged as well as removing trees brought down by the recent storms.

1. **Planning**

The PC is a statutory consultee on planning applications but we have no decision-making powers. We can support applications, or object to them or give no comment and our comments are often ignored or dismissed.

We are always happy to talk with people who are thinking of submitting a planning application and to provide informal feedback.

1. **Neighbourhood Plan**

The draft NP has been for submitted for screening potential impact on habitats and European protected species. The formal responses are awaited but it appears unlikely that screening will be needed.

At the same time we also submitted an updated Heritage report covering natural and historic environments, which forms an adjunct to the NP.

1. **Walnut Drive 170 houses**

BC gave planning consent for this development on 24 March.

An obdurate, cantankerous nuisance of a village resident, who shall be nameless, has had the temerity to request a JR of the BC decision; so we shall not discuss this matter further!

1. **Village Events**

We had a very impressive fireworks evening on 5 November last year, which was well attended and most people expressed their satisfaction with the display. We plan to hold an equally good, or better, display this year, too.

Play around the parishes again was well attended, despite the weather and we shall organise a repeat of this in July, when we hope the weather will be better. Unless it changes, the playing fields will look more like the Sahara than a grassy area. After PATP, there was supposed to be a BBQ organised by MMFAG but this was postponed to the Sunday and the wet weather did finally improve, resulting in a good attendance.

1. **Playing Fields**

Because we expect S106 monies from two developments – SFC and the possibly the other one – we held a meeting and generated a questionnaire to try and help frame plans for the playing field if and when S106 money materialises. If you have not already done so, please do complete it, it is available on MMPC website until 30 April.

1. **Scout Hut and Cricket Pavilion**

We have finalised new contracts for both these buildings and have some £10K available for upgrading. After this, both will be available for other users in due course. The SH needs a new kitchen and toilets as well as some remedial work such as pipe lagging and attention to the heating.

1. **Children’s Play Area**

The equipment is still safe but getting tired and we are in process of preparing and submitting a bid for a grant to do this. If successful, we hope to have new and interesting facilities for the community’s children.

1. **PC Grants**

The PC has a small fund each year from which grants can be made, the maximum amount is legally defined in S137 of the LGA 1972 and is currently £8.82 per elector. We had few applications last year and encourage groups to submit them. The policy and application form are on our website, applications must demonstrate benefit to the community as whole.

1. **Parish Council Newsletter**

We deliver a quarterly newsletter to every household in the parish with news and information about the village and on our activities. We have benefitted from sponsorship of these newsletters and try to make them attractive and informative so appreciate feedback.

1. **Five Year Plan for the Parish**

The five-year plan has been updated and is available on the website. Please do send any comments or suggestions to Jacky.

Thank you all for your attention.