Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting – 15th April 2025

Present	Graham Pendrey	GP	Chair
	Di Ames	DA	Vice Chair
	Jon Digweed	JD	Councillor
	Duncan Edgar	DE	Councillor
	Ann Lovesey MBE	AL	Councillor
	Stuart Southall	SS	Councillor
	Peter Ward	PW	Councillor
	Tim Wood	TW	Councillor
Apologies	Brian Rees	BR	Councillor
	Kate Smith	KS	Councillor
	Phillippa Martin-Moran-Bryant	PMMB	Borough Councillor
Not attended	Rebecca Lawson	RL	Councillor
In Attendance	Louise Geary	LG	Community Events Chair
	John McPherson	JM	Village Hall Chair
	PCSO Stephen Tarabella	ST	Rural Policing Team
Clerk	Joanne Lee	JL	Clerk

In the Chair – Mr Graham Pendrey, Chairman of the Parish Council

Meeting opened 18.30

1 Apologies for absence

1a Apologies were received for Councillors, Rees, Smith and Borough Councillor Martin-Moran-Bryant.

Councillor Lawson did not attend the meeting.

2 To receive and approve the minutes of the previous meeting:

Annual Parish Meeting – 16th April 2024

2a The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Proposed – Councillor Ames, Seconded – Councillor Wood. Agreed by all.

3 To receive the following reports from Great Barford Parish Council

3a Chairman's report

Chairman gave his report (Appendix 1)

3b Financial report

Clerk / RFO gave the Finance Report. (Appendix 2)

4 To receive a report from Bedford Borough Council Ward Councillor

4a Councillor Digweed read out the Borough report (Appendix 3)

5 **To receive reports from charities, the school and organisations in the village.**

5a PCSO Stephen Tarabella gave a verbal report. Recorded crime has reduced in Great Barford from 2023-2024 (101 crimes reported) to 2024-2025 (75 crimes reported).

The Clerk reported anti-social behaviour at Willoughby Close green. Residents were encouraged to report any ASB on the policing website.

PCSO Stephen Tarabella was thanked for the Rural Policing team assistance over the past year.

Councillor Edgar advised that the monthly police crime reports are reporting historic dates.

PCSO Tarabella left the meeting at 7.11pm

5b Councillor Southall advised there were no new updates on the Great Barford Playing Field Association

5c The Village Hall Association report was given by John McPherson – Chair of the. (Appendix 4)

5d East West Rail report was given by Councillor Wood (Appendix 5)

5e United Charities report was given by Councillor Lovesey (Appendix 6)

5f Community Events Committee was given by Louise Geary. (Appendix 7)

5g Neighbourhood Plan was given by Councillor Pendrey (Appendix 8)

1 x member of public left the meeting at 7.25pm.

5h Church report was read out by Councillor Lovesey MBE (Appendix 9)

5i WI report was read out by the Clerk. (Appendix 10)

5j Wöllstein Twinning Partnership report was read out by Councillor Ames (Appendix 11)

5k Bowls Club report was read out by Councillor Digweed (Appendix 12)

5l Scout report was read out by the Clerk (Appendix 13)

5m Village Agent report was read out by the Clerk (Appendix 14)

5n Good Neighbours Scheme report was read out by the Clerk (Appendix 15)

6 **To receive questions from members of the public**

6a None

Meeting finished at 19.47.

Appendix 1

APM April 2025 – Parish Council Annual Report
What's Been Happening Around the Parish?

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Tree, hedge and grass maintenance continue to be major annual costs, but have a big visual impact on tidiness around the village. We commission a tri-annual independent Tree Survey and Risk Assessment, and use this to inform and prioritise a Rolling Programme of Works to keep everything in order.

HIGHWAYS

Silver Street
After making a good case for Dropped Kerbs along the south side of Silver Street, BBC installed the full extent of locations we requested. This has vastly improved access for anyone wheeling mobility-scooters, push-chairs and the like.

BBC plan Resurfacing for the entire length of Silver Street this year. The actual date hasn't been scheduled as yet, but we expect it to be in the school summer holiday period.

High Street
The proposed footpath extension from The Pound to Church Walk is awaiting a Feasibility Study from BBC Highways to inform the design and costs. A pedestrian crossing, to join Church Walk and The Gardens has been a long-term wish to improve safety, especially since the Woodpecker Close development has increased foot traffic. It is hoped we can at last make this a reality.

Summer parking issues from Churchgate to the Traffic Lights, impeding drivers' views and narrowing the road at a critical point, are to be reviewed, with proposals for Double Yellow Lines.

New Road
The proposed plans for a Raised Table at the Woodpecker Close junction have had to be put on-hold after a grant funding application to National Highways was rejected as it was deemed not to meet their stringent criteria. We may now have to wait to accumulate enough CIL money before we can consider taking this forward.

Salt Bins
The request for a Salt-Bin at Roxton Road / Addingtons Road junction met BBC criteria, and a new bin was installed. A similar request for a Salt-Bin at Green End, as you enter the village, was rejected, so the Parish Council funded the one now located at the corner opposite Green End Farm.

SIDs
The two new Speed Indicator Devices are now up and running to help remind drivers of the 30mph on High Street by the sheep field, and the 20mph outside the school on Silver Street. Volunteers now look after these, making sure the batteries are regularly recharged.

GRAVEYARD

Like most places with Box Hedge, we had suffered from an attack of the Box Moth Caterpillar. This had devastated the majority of Box Hedge in the Garden of Remembrance. We took advice, removed all the Box Hedge, and replaced it with miniature Yew. Once this gets established, it will recreate the nice green quadrants that divide up the garden.

Two decorative Cast-Iron Planters were installed to protect the New Road pedestrian access to the Churchyard, and stop the gateway being blocked by inconsiderate parking. These have been planted with a dominant Yew bush, and will have seasonal planting of summer Geraniums and winter Pansies, supplemented with some trailing Ivy.

ALLOTMENTS

The vehicular entrance had deteriorated with deep wheel ruts leading into the grass car-park. After contacting Acorn Transport at the Blunham Aggregates Site, they kindly donated some hard-core to fill the ruts.

The Bi-Annual Skip was again organised to help Allotment Tenants get rid of bulky waste.

Security is being reviewed, with the possibility of limiting vehicular access to stop fly-tipping and unauthorised access.

PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Cradle Swing Seats in Jubilee Play Area were showing wear and tear. They had previously had some replacement parts fitted, but these had failed again, so we replaced the entire seat with a better more resilient design this time.

The central Jubilee safety surface was deteriorating, so we refurbished the area with a new rubberised Wetpour with a pretty blue fleck.

The Playing Field Rota-Play Swing and Space Net had play-bark beneath them, but this is messy and needs regular topping up. We had all the old bark material dug out, and had a new sub-base laid, with a black rubberised Wetpour on top.

Both sites are now looking a lot tidier, and the new safety surface should last a good 15 years.

PLAYING FIELD

We continue to see committed regular use of the Playing Field for Junior Football. Up to now it's been a chicken-and-egg situation – if we don't have a decent playing surface, we won't attract users, but without users, there is no incentive to spend money on bettering the field. With the new user commitment, we are investigating grant funding and ground management schemes. This should enable us to improve the grass and enhance the user appeal for everyone's benefit.

VILLAGE GREEN

The Village Green has also seen some improvement works. The Environment Agency had contractors refurbishing the moorings, with replacement of the wooden fenders, and renewing old wood mooring posts with steel ones. This will hopefully attract pleasure-craft back to visit, as we used to see in years past. Good for trade at the pub and local stores.

The Willow Tree on the Village Green was removed after wind damage revealed it to have severe decay, and was deemed unsafe. We should perhaps consider replacement at some point in the future.

VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Council recognises the importance of the community facility the Village Hall provides, and was very pleased to be able to offer support to help secure a sustainable future with a donation towards the Solar Panels. It is understood that electricity generated by the PV array is going a long way to offset running costs of the facility. A prosperous Village Hall is something we should all be grateful for, and will benefit from.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Christmas Event is gaining status year-on-year. 2024 saw the event expanded with a visit from Santa, and Street Venders. For 2025 we are planning further enhancements, with a Grotto for Santa, more Vender Stalls, and maybe even some snow?

GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

The Great Barford Good Neighbour Scheme is now established, and has been up and running for the best part of a year. As people get to know the support on offer, it is hoped the scheme will benefit more and more residents, with help for a wide range of small, but vital tasks. The Parish Council has helped with start-up costs, and is keen to see the scheme become a successful village service.

GB SURGERY

There is strong indication that BBC feasibility studies are leading to submission of a Planning Application for a new Surgery, to be built on the former old Lower School site on Silver Street. The application is expected later this year.

MILLFIELD END

Serious progress is being made on the Millfield End planning application – See separate report.

Further details of all items mentioned can be found reported in the Parish Magazine, the Barford Bugle.

Appendix 2

Annual Parish Meeting 2025 - Finance report

Income

The main income for the Parish Council is the precept. This is paid to the Parish Council by Bedford Borough Council and is funded by the council tax collected from each household in Great Barford. The precept for 2025/2026 will be £106,000. This was a Precept equivalent to a cost of £113.18 for a Band D Property, an increase of £5.32 or 4.9% using the proposed tax base.

The Councillors discussed at length the need to increase the precept. Consideration was given to allocating a portion of the general reserve to reduce the precept requirement. The general reserve had been drawn from in 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 and Councillors felt that it would not be sustainable to keep using the general reserve; it should be retained for emergency or unexpected costs. The increase in the precept was needed due to increases in running costs such as electricity for the street lighting and staff and increases in charges from contractors.

The Parish Council also gains an income from the allotments, newsletter advertising, the slipway and the graveyard. Bedford Borough Council makes a contribution to the Parish Council for cutting the grass verges (within the 30mph speed limit areas) throughout the year. The Councillors agreed to increase the graveyard fees for 2025-2026. There was increase in allotment fees to £50 for both resident and non-residents per annum for 2025-2026.

The Parish Council received no Community Infrastructure Levy payments in 2024/2025. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a levy that local authorities can charge on most new built development in their area in order to raise funding to carry out infrastructure projects. Originally the Parish Council received 15% of the CIL paid from liable projects in Great Barford; this increased to 25% once the Neighbourhood Plan had been made.

Expenditure

The Parish Council employs 1 part time member of staff. Tasks such as village maintenance, grass cutting, hedge cutting, street light maintenance and tree maintenance are undertaken by contractors. The Parish Council also produces a quarterly village newsletter and has a website and Facebook page.

The Parish Council is responsible for the Village Green, The Pound, the Jubilee Play Area, the Green End Road playing field, car parks at the Village Hall and Woodpecker Close, open spaces in Chapel Field, Pyms Close, Willoughby Close and Woodpecker Close, street lighting in various areas of the village, the allotments, the closed churchyard and is also the burial authority for the graveyard.

The Parish Council holds ringfenced funds as below	**Amount**
Average speed cameras donation	£3000
Village Hall car park maintenance fund	£10,000
6 months running costs	£50,000
Total	£63,000

The Parish Council has spent £49,617.80 of CIL funds in 2024/2025. The funds were used to purchase:

Cast iron planter reflectors	£23.63	2024/2025
Village Hall larger sign	£600.00	2024/2025
Remembrance Day Street Poppies x 25	£125.00	2024/2025
Solar Panel Donation	£3,500	2024/2025
Church Walk resurface	£5925.42	2024/2025
Christmas tree 50 x clear baubles	£52.68	2024/2025
4 x Christmas tree spotlights	£117.99	2024/2025
Graveyard wall repair survey	£920.00	2024/2025

Jubilee Play area resurfacing Kompan works (259829)	£13,497.14	2024/2025
Playing Field are resurfacing Kompany works (259948)	£24,855.94	2024/2025

Future projects that the Parish Council are working on are, repairs to the churchyard boundary walls, continue implementing highways action plan projects, installing a drop down bollard for the allotment car park due to fly tipping, extra graveyard marker stones, good neighbour scheme, flood plan and new website and continue process for Power Pitch funding to ensure the playing field is up to standard for junior football

The Parish Council continues to hold a general reserve and remains in good financial order with the ability to fund unexpected repairs from reserves.

Appendix 3

Borough Report April 2025
Cllr Phillippa Martin-Moran-Bryant

Great Barford GP Surgery
An update on progress and business case is going to the next meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 23rd April, and the papers are now available to read on the Borough Council's website. This is a significant step forward.
https://councillorsupport.bedford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=116&MId=6786
Officers at the Borough Council are working closely with officers at the ICB to ensure that the Council and Health colleagues are all aligned.
The plans have not yet been finalised and I have requested that the Parish Council continues to be consulted.

Universal Studios
The announcement that Universal Studios will go ahead was given on Wednesday 9th April 2025. While not in the ward it is a significant investment in the Borough and is good news for our local economy and provision of jobs. If you want to keep up to date with the project updates will be posted here: https://universalstudiosresort.co.uk/

Solar Together
https://www.bedford.gov.uk/news/2025/solar-together-returns-bedford-borough-affordable-renewable-energy-homeowners
Bedford Borough Council is taking part in Solar Together again. The scheme is a community led buying group scheme to offer homeowners a chance to invest in solar panels and batter storage. The first step is to register online for free and no obligation to proceed. There is more detail available on the Borough Council's website and you can register here: https://solartogether.co.uk/bedford/home

Borough Council Newsletters
A quick reminder that you can sign up for the Borough Council Newsletter on topics that interest you. These include events via the libraries (including the mobile library), the Jobs Hub, Family Hubs, events at the Higgins, in the town centres and information on businesses, sports and recycling and waste. They are one of the best ways to find out what is going on in the Borough. You can sign up here: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKBEDFORD/signup/46140

Rivertree Free School- SEND Provision
The Rivertree Free School opened earlier this year for children with SEND who need specialist provision. This has significantly increased the number of places for children with SEND and physical disabilities in the Borough which was must needed. https://rivertree.beds.sch.uk/ A reminder as well of the Council's Local Offer Website to support families:
https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/home.page

East West Rail
EWR has reorganised its representative groups into community groups for those outside the red line and Enhanced Local Representative Groups for those who are in the redline. There is still a split so that Bedford is one group, Clapham Green to Colesden in another and Roxton to St Neots in a third. There will be a need for us all to continue to work together and share information.
If I can be of any assistance with anything please do get in touch.

Best wishes,
Phillippa
Email: Phillippa.martinmoranbryant@bedford.gov.uk

Appendix 4
Village Hall Association report - Chairman's report 2024-2025
Great Barford Village Hall

The year started with having to use our emergency fund to carry out major

Work to the electrical circuit boards this cost us approx. £3800.

(A) we were able to get a grant from the ward fund thanks to our councillor Phillippa to carry out upgrades to the entrance porch and cladding.

(B) The youth football group could not use the Hall toilet facilities when the hall was hired out as this would cause a safeguarding issue. We therefore installed a toilet in the redundant referees changing room with the associated drainage.

The Harpur Trust kindly supplied the funds for this work

(C)We have suffered very high utility costs over the years, so we applied

For funding to the UK Prosperity Fund, this together with £3500 from the

Parish council we w able to cover the £17500 installation cost.

(D)The savings made from the utility costs and the increased hired sessions gave us enough funds to carry out the overdue upgrades to the bar area and entrance lobby. Namely carpeting, lighting and a speaker system

I must record my thanks to the trustees who have supported all the improvements especially Tracey Tyler our treasurer, Louise Geary for the onerous, task of the hall bookings, Pat Marwick our secretary not forgetting Sid our bar manager , Keith our caretaker and Ray Geary for helping me with the manual work of repairs all very much appreciated.

Finally, when joining the trustees I noted that the constitution was unincorporated which left the trustees liable in law. This we felt was unacceptable for unpaid voluntary trustees. I have therefore set up a new CIO charity to release the liability. We are in the pross of transferring the assets.

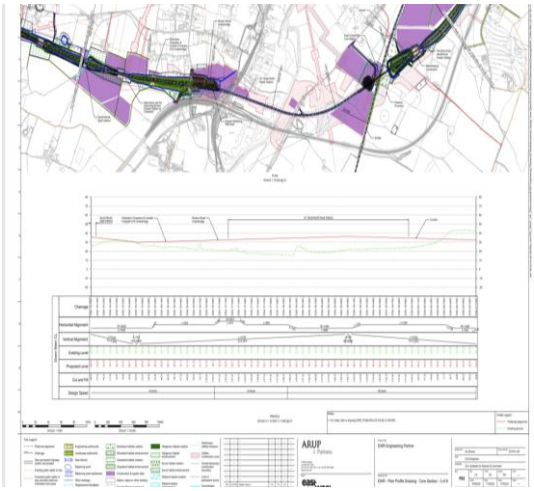
John McPherson (chairman)

Appendix 5
East west rail update

April 2025

Since the selection of East West Rail Company's preferred route alignment option 1 for Route E, the route has not directly affected Great Barford Parish; However the route will come very close to the Parish boundary between Wilden and Roxton; The Parish will be affected during the construction phase and potential noise impacts once the project is completed.

In the Chancellor's Budget in October 2024, the Government announced it's commitment to delivering the Oxford to Cambridge East West Rail Route with a new station at Tempsford to serve the planned



large new "town" for between 250,000 to 350,000 residents.

In November the East West Rail Company opened another Non Statutory Consultation and the result are now available on their website. A Statutory Consultation is expected within the next 12 months. They have also re-started ground investigation along the route which were paused following the tragic incident at Cleat Hill in October 2024.

The route viability has also been supported by the announcement of the Universal Studios Theme Park and Resort and the application by Midland Central and Western Railway for services between Nottingham and Bristol using the line.

Appendix 6

Great Barford United Charities report for the Annual Meeting 2025

The Great Barford United Charities came into being in January 1969 when the 3 small charities of the Arnold Charity, The Poor's loan Charity and the Franklin Charity were amalgamated. The Arnold and the Franklin Charities were administered by the Viar and Church wardens, and the Poor's Land by the Vicar and 2 trustees appointed by the Parish Council. They were all for the relief of the poor of the parish. After the amalgamation in 1969 they were treated as run, the funds coming from the renal from the 4 plus acres of farmland involved.

The current Committee meet twice a year to consider any beneficiaries who might be in need. We normally give out monetary gifts at Christmas but has also given out small grants at other times during the year if we have been notified of a specific need. Recipients must be residents in the Parish. Last Christmas we gave gifts to 12 elderly people plus 1 younger person.

If you know of anyone who may be in need, please let myself or the Rev Graham Buckle know, and they will be considered. Most of our recipients are elderly but we are anxious to hear of any young families or young people who have a specific need. The grants are not large, but any requests are considered in complete confidence.

Ann Lovesey

On behalf of Great Barford united Charities

Appendix 7

COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMITTEE – report April 2025

Our Fun Day / Great Barfest was once again well attended last year on 31 August and continues to be a great community event. It was well supported by local businesses with their sponsorships, and we are grateful for the contribution made by the Parish Council. These funds enable us to pay for event essentials like insurance, security, paramedics etc as well as to put on a full day's entertainment. More importantly, we are in turn able to give funds to assist other voluntary groups in the village to continue to survive.

The Committee and our group of volunteers work hard to make it an inclusive event for all ages and tastes. Our plans for this year's event on **Saturday 30 August** are already well underway. We are now looking for sponsorship or donations from local businesses, fund raising ideas and help from old and new residents as the village grows, so the event can continue to be free to attend.

Louise Geary
Chairman
Community Events

Appendix 8

APM April 2025 – Neighbourhood Plan Report

GREAT BARFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The GB Neighbourhood Plan is being referenced in comment to planning applications submitted to the Borough Council. Since our NP was 'made' and adopted as part of the Local Plan, the GBNP Policies are taken into consideration when BBC determine planning applications. This all helps to shape and control development in our parish, to align with how we want to see it, not how someone else thinks it should be. This is particularly pertinent at the moment, to ensure proposals for Millfield End comply with Policies in the GB Neighbourhood Plan.

MILLFIELD END

After engaging in public consultations, displays at Fun-Days and special drop-in events, the Millfield End promoter consortium of Axiom and Countryside (part of the Vistry Group) compiled their material, and submitted an Outline Planning Application for development at Millfield End on 16 December 2024.

The submitted application closely follows the previous Development Brief & Design Code, that was given Endorsement by the Parish Council in July 2023. The main evolution into an Outline Planning Application accounted for late changes in the Site Boundary at Green End, an agreed understanding of Extra Care Accommodation, Bedford Road improvements and further details of the Sustainable Drainage System with outfalls to off-site watercourses.

A consultation opened on 23 December 2024, ran until 20 January 2025, and was later extended to 12 March 2025 for Statutory Consultees to add further comments. Mostly, comments were of general acceptance, but critically, both National Highways and Anglian Water made objections.

National Highways raised concern about additional traffic using the A421 / Renhold interchange. NH was already aware of potential increased demand from proposed employment development along Goldington Road, Bedford, and needed a mitigation scheme to improve traffic flow at the junction.

Anglian Water said the Great Barford Water Recycling Centre currently lacks the capacity to accommodate the additional flows that would be generated by the proposed development. The site would be unsustainable due to the associated pollution risk and increased discharge rates, which could lead to a deterioration in water quality, and an unacceptable risk of breaching environmental legislation at GB WRC.

The NH issue will be resolved by changes to the road markings, to guide traffic into appropriate lanes on approach to, and circulation around the roundabouts. This would provide two effective lanes, instead of traffic currently tending to merge into just one lane.

The AW lack of capacity to deal with foul water at the Great Barford Water Recycling Centre is to be resolved by creating a new pipeline, and pump the MFE foul water to the Bedford Water Recycling Centre, which already has a planned expansion to cope with future growth and demand from other developments.

GB Parish Council submitted provisional support, subject to clarification of several inconsistencies and errors in the application material. The MFE team has subsequently been in discussion with GBPC, to understand the reasoning behind the comments, and has now submitted an amended Design and Access Statement to correct the minor errors. There are no significant changes.

The planning application is expected to go to BBC Planning Committee, and may be determined within the next couple of months. If successful, the MFE project will move towards a fully detailed Reserved Matters stage and further planning application in around 18 months.

GB SURGERY

Not directly connected to the MFE development, but of great interest to us all is what is happening with the GB Doctors' Surgery? Yet to be formally announced, but it is expected previous feasibility studies will lead to a planning application being submitted later this year. This will be for a purpose-built new Surgery, on the former Lower School site on Silver Street.

Appendix 9

All Saints Report to the Great Barford Annual Parish Meeting 2025

Now the church building has had the roof repaired and we have no more leaks or wind noise, it has helped us to focus on the next project of replacing the RAAC concrete above the north aisle, and along with this the re-ordering of the toilet and kitchen facilities – for which we have had some plans drawn up by our architect. This project will come at a considerable cost, but is essential to maintain the integrity of the building – there is a time limit for getting the work done as the life of the concrete is considered to be quite short and needs to be repaired before it capitulates completely. The majority of the funds will be found by means of grants, but we have to raise a certain amount ourselves.

We are grateful to the Parish Council for the relaying of the footpaths around the churchyard enabling a smooth journey to the cemetery when we have funerals and other procession services.

Very little has changed in the last twelve months with our worship pattern, but we are investigating the possibility of some further technology to assist us in our worship presentation. This will help to reach a wider congregation with some of our worship services being more user friendly.

We continue to pray for new members to help us with the running of the church, which will enable us to offer more community events and expand our engagement with the growing population of Great Barford.

Appendix 10

Report from Great Barford WI April 2024 – March 2025

We have a thriving WI with 44 members at present. We meet each month in the Bowls Club and the meetings are well attended and we often welcome visitors to our meetings.

Over the past twelve months we have had a variety of speakers including.
The Community Safety Officer from Bedfordshire Fire and Safety Service
Blood runners from Beds and Herts.
David Duker who talked to us about a pilot from the Battle of Britain.
Guy Lambourne who makes his living from Sticks.
Caroline Coster who survived covid and sepsis.
Steve Dimmer who spoke to us about the life of Victoria Wood.
Mary Vincent from the Willow Tree Distillery.

The Federation Chairman joined us for our birthday meeting in October and we had the opportunity to play Pétanque in August.

We have also had a quiz organised by one of our committee members and a talk from a member who volunteers at Keech Hospice where she practices Reflexology and Raki.

Several members enjoyed a Christmas meal at The Kingfisher in Cardington we also had an afternoon tea at Cloverdale Retreat in Priory Park.

Our walking group continues each month with a variety of local walks and this year a lunch club was started each month for members to join together for lunch at different venues.

We have also enjoyed several social events organised by the committee and together with All Saints Church we ran a successful Craft Fair in the Village Hall in October.

Pam Bishop
WI Secretary

Appendix 11

Wöllstein Report – Annual Report 2024 - 2025

Dear All

The main focus of our attention was the visit by approximately 40 friends from Wöllstein in June 2024.

This was much later than usual because of elections taking place in Germany towards the end of May.

The visitors consisted mainly of regular long-standing members, but also included several people attending for the first time, and then we do our best to pair them up with couples or families of a similar age group, or with similar interests etc As part of these visits we always arrange an outing to a place of historic interest or importance, and 2024 was no exception. We spent a fantastic day at Kew Gardens, where everything was in full bloom, but there was so much to look at, it was impossible to see everything!

Sunday 30th June was spent at Gt Barford Bowls Club, with friendly but serious matches between all those taking part during the morning.

This was followed by a buffet lunch, prepared and provided by Bowls Club members.

In the afternoon the members and visitors took part in the various games on offer – petanque, skittles and darts.

Our games afternoons or evenings are always hotly contested between Gt Barford and Wöllstein, and on this occasion I am pleased to report that Gt Barford were the overall winners.

The day finished with fish and chips supplied by Spartans Feast.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to them, and to all members and officials of the Bowls Club who went out of their way to make it a day to remember.

The official part of our twinning weekend took place in the Village Hall on Monday 1st July, with a lunch and speeches before the departure of our German counterparts early the following morning.

Every year we like to hold at least one event, open to everybody, in order to raise much needed funds to help finance our bi-annual visits to Wöllstein, but mostly to help towards our hosting costs when our German counterparts are visiting Great Barford.

In 2024 our main public event was our ever-popular Race Night, which naturally we wanted to repeat in 2025.

Unfortunately, however, the team from Haynes who organise the races, and the betting etc, had decided to retire, which meant we have had to think of something else.

So, for 2025 it was decided that we would hold a Murder Mystery Evening. This event will take place in the Village Hall in October, and the details will be advertised in June soon after we return from our Wöllstein visit.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I have to report that one of our long-standing members and current treasurer, Paul Lawman, unfortunately passed away at the end of January as a result of pancreatic cancer.

Our thoughts are naturally with his family.

His funeral took place on Friday 28th March, after which, his ashes were interred in the Remembrance Garden at Great Barford Parish Church.

Graham Prigmore

Hon Chairman

Appendix 12

Great Barford Bowls and Petanque Club

The club remains an important sporting and social club in the village, with facilities which are enjoyed by a number of local groups. The playing membership remains strong, both in terms of numbers and standard of play. Beginners are always welcomed, and we hold two open days in May to attract new members as well as welcoming all comers, especially new players, for a friendly game on Friday evenings during the season. We offer a programme of friendly matches, which allows newer players to start playing competitively to learn from more experienced players- the emphasis in such games is very much on the social side of things. Some players are happy to restrict themselves to friendly and social play and we have a category of membership to accommodate them.

The Ladies' team were pleased to remain in the top division of their league. Men's A team were relegated to Division 2, but were very happy to reach a cup final for the first time. The Men's B team were promoted from Division 4 to Division 3. The Petanque team was also promoted and were able to rely on a small group of players.

The club also has a strong social element, holding regular quizzes, whist, bridge days and other social events and also carpet bowls during the winter months. As a result, the club has a significant number of social members. Last year, the club hosted the Wolstein group, including their German guests, for casual play and for their games competition, which was much enjoyed by all. The club continues to support the Great Barford Village Fun Day, as in previous years. The club hosts the Great Barford Striders walking group for coffee and cake, and the clubhouse is used by the Great Barford Women's Institute. Also, weekly Pilates and Yoga classes are held at the club, and it is hired out for birthday parties, wakes and private functions. A new venture last season was offering afternoon teas on occasion over the year, and these have proved to be very popular and been of an excellent standard. They will continue this year. A lot of work goes into the running of the club, both maintaining the green and the gardens and the rest of the site and clubhouse and also helping with social functions and members help out as much as they are able to ensure that everything runs smoothly.

The club enjoys excellent facilities which are much appreciated by users and visitors to the club. The club will host three prestigious matches this coming season.

Overall, the club is in good shape, and we think it makes a good contribution to village life.
We would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued support.

Pat Martin-Moran

Club Secretary

Appendix 13
Great Barford and Colmworth Scout Group
Report for Annual Parish Council meeting

The Great Barford and Colmworth Scout Group is a vibrant and dynamic organization dedicated to providing a wide range of opportunities for young people in our community. With a strong focus on personal development, teamwork, and outdoor activities, our group has become a cornerstone for youth engagement in the area.

Our Scout Group oAers a variety of programs designed to cater to different age groups and interests. From adventurous camping trips and skill-building workshops to community service projects and leadership training, we ensure that every young person has the chance to explore their potential and develop valuable life skills. The enthusiasm and commitment of our members are evident in the thriving atmosphere of our meetings and events.

However, the success of our Scout Group has also led to a growing demand for our programs. We currently have many children on waiting lists, eager to join and participate in the exciting activities we offer. To accommodate the increasing number of young people in our expanding village, we are looking to open more sections within our group. This expansion will allow us to provide even more children with the opportunity to get involved and benefit from the enriching experiences that Scouting offers.

To achieve this goal, we are always on the lookout for dedicated volunteers who can help us manage and run our programs. Volunteers play a crucial role in the success of our Scout Group, and their support enables us to continue covering high-quality activities and experiences to our members. Whether you have experience in Scouting or simply a passion for helping young people, we welcome anyone who is willing to contribute their time and skills to our cause.

In addition to seeking volunteers, we are also in need of funds for various projects at Jordans Close. The facilities, including the building and the climbing wall, are getting tired and require investment to ensure they remain safe and functional for our activities. Financial support will help us renovate and upgrade these facilities, providing a better environment for our Scouts to learn, grow, and enjoy their time with us.

By joining our team of volunteers or contributing financially, you will not only make a positive impact on the lives of young people but also become part of a supportive and rewarding community. Together, we can ensure that the Great Barford and Colmworth Scout Group remains a thriving and inclusive environment where every child has the chance to grow, learn, and succeed.

Yours In Scouting,
Dave Goddard Group Scout Leader Tel - 01767 641053 /07724 056601 gbgsl@outlook.com
Kirstie Gerig Assistant Group Scout Leader Tel – 07815 840248 kirstie.gerig@rightmove.co.uk

Appendix 14
Great Barford Village Agent Report – Wendy Worgan

Since taking over Great Barford in November 2023 I have steadily seen my clientele base increase. I feel I have now become an established trusted source in Great Barford to help people with several issues. Benefits help and Blue Badge help and help for carers have been the most popular things clients seek help with at present.

Background to Village Agent Role - The Village Agent was established in Great Barford around 14 years ago to help clients with identifying any benefits they may be entitled to, Completing forms, helping to understand confusing correspondence or paperwork, signposting clients to other organisations, groups and agencies that can provide them with the help they need and to help make informed choices about issues such as health, housing, transport options, joining social groups or volunteering

Flu Clinic – I was invited to attend the Flu Clinic in my capacity as Village Agent I was able to meet many new clients via this from most of the villages that I look after in Beds borough as well as Great Barford patients. I was also able to link up with the clinical team of nurses who regularly go out doing home visits to patients who are unable to attend the surgery. An introduction pack of my leaflet outlining my service was given to the nurses to signpost patients they felt needed help.

Great Barford Good Neighbourhood Group – The introduction of the Great Barford Neighbourhood Group has been a good asset to Great Barford I have been able to establish a good working relationship with them where I can refer clients into their service and vice versa. I am able to promote this initiative to clients who are unaware of its existence or new to Great Barford.

The Bugle – I regularly contribute an article advertising my services to this publication.

Other opportunities to promote my service in Great Barford – it would be good to have some link/presence on the Great Barford Parish Council webpage. This will help clients who are computer competent find out about the service/help I can give in their area.

I feel the existence of the Village Agent within Great Barford is a great asset to the village, and I look forward to continuing this service and helping many new/existing clients in the future.

Wendy Worgan
Great Barford Village Agent (BRCC)

Appendix 15
Great Barford Good Neighbour Scheme
Annual Report YE March 2025 (8 months)

- Committee of 3 formed during the summer 2024
- 12 volunteers onboarded, completed Safeguarding training and DBS certification achieved
- Scheme launched August 2024
- Costs incurred of £500 comprise DBS checks on volunteers, insurance policy, telephone contract, advertising, promotional materials and non-reimbursed items
- Funding received from Parish Council of £300
    - Matched by £300 from Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity
    - Donations to date of £240
- Face to face promotion of the scheme has taken place at the Church, WI, Seniors' Fitness Class and notably at the Village Fun Day and 2x days at the flu clinic
    - Good engagement and very positive feedback received
- A5 Posters have been displayed at/ distributed from: Church, Village Hall, Post Office and Notice Boards
- Facebook presence established and scheme periodically promoted to Village FB Groups
- 42 activities completed for residents. These comprised,
    - **Health Related** transport including a number of repeat trips for 2 residents
    - Repeat **Social Wellbeing** trips to the hairdressers
    - One to one **Befriending Sessions**
    - **Help at Home** for eg moving reclining armchair to another resident in the village and helping a family with moving houses in the village
    - **Gardening** including hedge-cutting
    - **Dog Walking** for injured resident
    - **Signposting** and referrals

- **Conclusion:** Whilst the Scheme has only been in operation for 8 months, it is recognised that Client activity has been more modest than expected. Engagement has been extremely positive but hasn't manifested itself in the volume of requests. Although this seems to be picking up, we intend to re-energise our promotional activity. We have just commenced with a monthly advert in the Riversmeet Recorder (funded by donation) to complement the quarterly page in The Bugle. Graham Pendry's comments in his recent report are well received. We are to print more leaflets and Telephone flyers some of which will be distributed with the Ivel Sprinter. We also think we will require some more volunteers particularly if activity increases so will also concentrate some more effort in that direction.