

MAULDEN PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT for ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2 March 2026

Maulden Parish Council has been working very hard during the past 12 months on behalf of Maulden residents.

Most of the activities and achievements will be included in specific reports so I'll just summarise.

Council Team

Cllr Steer sadly decided to resign and we thanked him for his service.

We welcomed two new co-opted members to council - Cllr Lawrence and Cllr Smith, so we now have a full complement of councillors.

Central Bedfordshire Council's Community Governance Review has recommended that MPC should be reduced from 12 to 9 members. The reasons they have given is that we have too many for the population of Maulden (even though there have been 12 MPC Cllrs for very many years and the population of Maulden has grown significantly) plus, they want contested elections, which is understandable. However, any number of people can stand for election and MPC will work on encouraging applicants. The outcome of the Community Governance Review is not yet known, but if MPC has to be reduced to 9 Cllrs, it will mean that every Cllr has to do more or some things that we are currently able to do may not be possible in the future.

MPC, Ward Cllrs and members of the public made strong objections to CBC and we await the decision.

Something I just want to clear up, as MPC does sometimes receive criticism on social media for how much councillors cost the village. Maulden Parish Councillors are unpaid; they carry out all the work voluntarily. The only employee is the clerk, who works part time.

Budget

The finance group has once again done very well in managing expenditure and MPC is well on track to meet its budget. There will be a small increase in council tax in the coming financial year to try and meet the ever-escalating costs of equipment and materials needed to maintain and enhance various areas of the village, such as recreation facilities, allotments, trees, ditch clearing, street lights, etc. We have also dedicated some funding again to support the Flittabus and the Maulden 5k event.

Crime

With the help of our dedicated Watch team members and the Community Police Team, reported crimes in Maulden have decreased. MPC will continue to work with the Police to maintain Maulden as a safe place, whether living here or visiting.

Events

MPC organised and funded (with the kind help of supporters, local businesses and volunteers) several successful events - an Easter Egg Hunt, VJ Day Commemoration, Remembrance Day service, Christmas Lights Switch On and a Senior Citizens Christmas Afternoon Tea Party.

I thank the MPC clerk, all councillors and volunteers for their efforts throughout the last twelve months and to our Ward Councillors for their continued support and acting on our behalf with CBC.