Council Members
Mr Ian Pickering – Chairman.
Mr Bob Brown, Mr John Bunker, Mr Paul Harbottle, Mrs Pauline Hawley, Miss Alexis Hayward Old, Mr Stuart Jackson, Mrs Sally Mathew-Jones, Dr Ian Outram, Mr Barrie Plasom, Mr Andrew Saxby, Mr Peter Sinnott.
Central Bedfordshire Councillor: Mr Budgie Wells.
Parish Clerk: Mrs Molly Fitzgerald, 10 Bedford Road, Aspley Guise, MK17 8DJ. Tel: 01908 583795
http://aspleyguise.bedsparishes.gov.uk/

The council meets in the upstairs room of the Village Hall on the first Monday of every month at 7.30.
There is an Open Forum prior to the start of the full Council meeting for residents to present their views to the Council. Anyone who would have difficulty with the stairs, please contact the Parish Clerk in advance so that arrangements can be made to meet downstairs.
CHAIRMAN’S REPORT.
Ian Pickering.

Hopefully a major advance in limiting the growth of traffic running through the village has been achieved with the announcement that the government has agreed to fund the dualling of the A421 from J13 of the M1 to the border between Aspley Guise and Milton Keynes.

Work is expected to start on the project next year with completion by the end of 2017. Even so there is expected to be a net increase in traffic flowing through the village in the long term due to the continued growth of Milton Keynes. Moreover for the next few years we will feel the effects of the disruption caused by the A421 road works, the works to improve the Kingston roundabout, construction work at Magna Park and from the new houses being built at Eagle and Glebe Farms in Wavendon.

The parish council is therefore continuing to push Central Beds Council and Milton Keynes Council to provide a traffic calming scheme for the village as has been done for other villages affected by rat running traffic. We hope to receive details of a proposed scheme from Central Beds Council in the coming weeks.

Central Beds Council has published a revised draft Development Strategy for consultation. The consultation period started on 30 June and runs until 26 August 2014. This document sets out CBC’s plans for housing growth in Central Bedfordshire up to 2031 and includes important proposals to create an area of protected green open space in Aspley Guise north of the railway line to protect the historic and landscape setting of the village from coalescence with Milton Keynes as the new town continues to grow.

The policy for Aspley Guise is Policy 42 on pages 97 and 98 of the draft Strategy which can be read at http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/DS%20PUBLICATION%20FINAL_260614_FOR%20WEB_tcm6-55496.pdf#False

Details of the consultation can be found at http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/planning/strategic-planning/development-strategy.aspx

The parish council would encourage all residents to respond to the consultation as it plans to in support of the proposed Policy 42.
NEW COUNCILLOR.

Earlier this year we reported that Cllr Fran Fry had resigned from the council. She will be much missed although continues to help the parish council in a number of ways.

At its meeting in June the council co-opted Barrie Plasom to replace Fran. Barrie has lived in the village for 14 years after returning from Australia and a career in the Royal Navy. Barrie lives in Trunk Furlong with his wife Karen and is interested in local history and supporting Luton Town FC. Barrie is also interested in Vintage and Veteran Vehicles.

Asked for his reasons for joining the council Barrie said “I would like to see improvements in traffic flow and road conditions throughout Aspley Guise, all directions, and would also like to see the green space between Aspley and MK kept to the maximum”.

COMMUNITY NEWS.
Pauline Hawley.

THANK YOU.
To Joan and Alan Neale who helped plant the tubs in The Square, at the top of Berry Lane and the bottom of Mount Pleasant. They will continue to maintain the tubs throughout the summer.
Thanks also to Judith and Mike Dickins who continue to maintain the War Memorial in Bedford Road.

NEW TUB.
A new tub has replaced the rotted tub at the top of Berry Lane. It has been planted with herbs. Hopefully we will see the benefit as it fills out next spring.

NEW NOTICE BOARDS.
In the near future the Village will have two new notice boards at Woodside gate and the Weathercock Lane crossroads.
SUMMER HIGHWAYS WALKABOUT.
John Bunker

Central Beds Council subcontracts out all its Highways maintenance and improvements to a firm called Amey Ltd. and the Parish Council monitors work in the village by getting an Amey representative to conduct a “walkabout” at six monthly intervals with Highways Committee representatives. So Sally Matthew Jones and I met up with Amey’s local works executive Allan Trille recently in the Square to review progress on several issues.

GENERAL ROAD AND FOOTPATH MAINTENANCE.

Whereas potholes are being attended to promptly, if not very thoroughly, all road resurfacing is delayed due to “lack of money” as is routine verge and path maintenance. Weathercock Lane is the only road currently scheduled for major resurfacing. This is planned for August but has not started at time of writing. I note that some tarring and chipping has been carried out in Woodside. Amey is looking at additional kerbing for Crabtree Lane where the edges always degenerate making passing dangerous.

GULLEYS (STORM DRAINS).

Alan reported that there were two problems here. Where drains are blocked badly as in Mount Pleasant, there is no cash for a major overhaul. Where drains can be cleared, as on West Hill, the parked cars were preventing access. Sally agreed to cooperate with Amey on a programme of gulley cleaning on West Hill by coordinating the removal of cars from over the drains. This has now been attempted with some degree of success.

TRAFFIC CALMING AND SAFETY PROJECTS.

We requested an early completion of the West Hill/ Wood Lane crossing point and this has since been done. We also reiterated the Council’s request for the agreed footpath improvements in Mount Pleasant to be done in the school holidays. Alan confessed that this was unlikely to happen and we are now looking at a forecast for November works. Amey has been asked to further action on a start on the crossing point outside Moore Place and we now hear that Amey is in talks with Moore Place to resolve the outstanding issue and that this too may happen in November.

Our thanks to Allan Trille for making himself available on site to answer our questions.
ASPLEY GUISE P3 GROUP.

Howard Murphy (P3 Chairman)

P3 Groups were introduced in 1993 as partnerships between County Councils, The Countryside Commission and volunteer (P3) groups in local Parishes. Many Parishes countrywide have a P3 Group. There are now 85 Groups representing over 70% of the parishes in the County. Ours was one of the first to be established in 1994 with a view to maintaining the network of Footpaths and Bridleways (which are statutory rights of way) in Aspley Guise Parish, and in immediate surrounds.

P3 originally stood for ‘Parish Paths Partnership’ but has recently been renamed People, Projects, Partnerships. Maintaining the popular short name ‘P3’ and with a strap line ‘Getting Involved’

The original pioneers of the Aspley Guise P3 group included the late Pat Clarke and Mary Jones whose affection and enthusiasm for the village and its natural beauty, encouraged the setting up of a maintenance group. P3 has been doing just that on a regular basis ever since.

In 2004 the management of our P3 Group was taken over by John and Pat Perry who maintained the enthusiasm and commitment shown by their predecessors until May this year. In recognition of their efforts John and Pat were presented with a framed copy of the Aspley Guise Footpath Map the production of which John considered one of their finest achievements whilst in charge. The map is within the Parish Footpath leaflet entitled ‘Enjoy and Explore Aspley Guise’, copies of which are widely available.

Our volunteer group meet every 2 months in the Village Hall to review the work that has been done and to agree the forward work programme. Work Parties are organised on average every 2 weeks from 9.am to 12.00 noon on a weekday. Usually comprising 6 to 8 members, we cut back vegetation, prune trees and install waymark posts, kissing gates, steps and bridges. We lead Parish walks when members of the public are cordially invited to join us in exploring and enjoying the countryside that is part of our village. Aspley Guise P3 Group also lead the ’Beating of the Bounds’ of the Parish every 3 years.

Our Summer Walk took place on July 30th and the route we walked can be found on page 11 and a few photos on the back page.

We welcome new members and if you are interested, have a few hours to spare a month and want to know more about this voluntary group please contact us;-

Howard and Chris Murphy, Telephone 01908 582208. Email; howch@btinternet.com
BEATING THE BOUNDS.

In keeping with ancient traditions, dating back to pre-Saxon times, a country walk will be led around the boundary of the Parish of Aspley Guise. Parish Council has agreed that this will take place on Sunday 28th September, starting from The Square, Aspley Guise at 10.00 a.m.

It is approximately a 10 mile walk which will be divided in half by a lunchtime break of just over an hour at The Weathercock public house in Station Road, the traditional half way point, where the Parish and County boundary actually passes through the dining room. Refreshments and a good selection of sandwiches and bar snacks will be available for participants to purchase. This will enable people who only wish to do half the walk either to leave it at this point, or join it there for a 1.15 p.m. departure. We aim to be back at The Square before 4 p.m.

At times the Parish boundary follows roads and designated rights of way, but it also crosses fields, ditches and fences on private land. Members of Aspley Guise P3 footpaths group will lead the walk and will choose a route around any difficult obstacles, pointing out the exact Parish boundary, which some may decide they are able to negotiate. Landowners have been advised officially of our intention to cross their land on the Parish boundary.

Beating the Bounds is an ancient custom still observed in many English parishes. Traditionally, the community would walk along the boundaries of the Parish to remind everybody of their exact definition, as maps were rare and there was a need to guard against encroachment by neighbours. In former times the walk would be headed by the Priest, Parish officials and a crowd of boys, who, armed with green boughs of birch or willow, would beat the parish boundary markers with them. Sometimes the boys themselves were whipped or bumped on the boundary stones to make sure they remembered the line of the Parish boundary. There will be no such drama on our forthcoming Beating the Bounds, but the same knowledge of where our Parish boundaries are will be learnt or recalled by all participants. Beating the Bounds of The Parish of Aspley Guise has taken place many times over the years; the last time we performed it being in 2011.

STOUT WALKING SHOES OR BOOTS ARE RECOMMENDED.

OVERGROWN HEDGES – BEWARE!

There are lots of hedges and trees that are overhanging pavements and the roadway which look unsightly in the village. An extra problem comes from the debris from these hedges and trees resulting in the road drains being blocked. Central Bedfordshire Council ("CBC") have advised the Parish Council that they are unable to continually clean blocked drains which have resulted from debris from resident’s hedges and trees.

The Parish Council have been informed by CBC that hedges and trees that are sited near the highways must be properly maintained by the landowner on whose property the trees and
hedges grow. If they are not then CBC have the power, and will action it, to undertake the maintenance works themselves through their main contractor and charge the residents of the property concerned. The Parish Council wants to alert people to this.

Initially a polite letter will be sent from the Parish Council requesting that the resident cuts/trims the offending trees/hedges. If the offending owner chooses to ignore this request then the problem is passed onto the Highways Authority. Their actions are quite straightforward; an officer will inspect the offending hedge/overhanging tree and notify the owner of the need to cut/trim within a specified time period. Should the owner ignore this request, a final letter will be sent with a shorter time scale for the work to be completed. At the end of this period if the owner continues to ignore the request the Highways Authority will complete the work and charge the owner. CBC has confirmed there are no hedges or overhanging trees in the village which are their responsibility. This means that property owners need to tend to their hedges and trees before CBC decide to take action!

KEEPING OUR VILLAGE TIDY!

In view of the fact that there is already an excellent voluntary working party, P3, that keeps our footpaths clear, would it be asking too much for householders who have complained about untidy pavements to clear outside their own houses with a stiff brush? Such a positive community action would be much appreciated by all of our residents since there is no money available from Central Bedfordshire Council to continually clean pavements in the village.

HELPING HANDS IN ASPLEY GUISE - VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

Lin Vorley.

We have now helped over 100 people in our village and we are only 9 months old!

We are continually looking for new volunteers to join us!

Here at Helping Hands in Aspley Guise we already have a strong team of enthusiastic volunteers, but we're always delighted to welcome more people from the village who can join us.

If you live in Aspley Guise, have a clean driving licence, and some time to spare – even a couple of hours a month - we would love to hear from you. We are particularly keen to expand our mobile phone holder base too, so if you feel that you might not be able to offer services in driving or any of our other voluntary tasks, but might be able to hold our mobile phone for a week at a time,

Please do get in touch. Even if you are not so active yourself you might be an absolute asset to Helping Hands.

If you'd like to help this worthy cause in our village— please get in touch.

Email: helpinghandsinaspleyguise@gmail.com
Or, just call our dedicated phone line 9am - 6pm 9 (Monday-Friday) 079 234 900 01.
VILLAGE HALL NEWS.
Gill Cockle.

Now well over 100 years old, the Village Hall is an important facility for Aspley Guise but it is an expensive and ongoing challenge to maintain the structure and keep it all in good order.

The Hall Committee has drawn up a five year Schedule of Works to achieve this, and during the early summer the latest task of repairing the external fabric of the hall and repainting it all was undertaken.

This was only achievable thanks to the successful application for a grant by the Hall Committee, from WREN. The grant application was also supported by Aspley Guise Parish Council.

WREN is Waste Recycling Environmental Limited which oversees landfill sites around the UK. The funding they receive from the Landfill Tax, WREN put back into local communities in the form of grants for community projects.

The work was undertaken by local building company, Expert Building Services who repointed all the damaged brickwork; repaired and repainted the windows and re-painted all the external brickwork – including using a cherry picker to repaint the chimney stacks! Now in pristine condition outside, some internal refurbishment will continue at the hall during the summer with re-decoration and new flooring in the dressing rooms. This is being done thanks to volunteers from Encore Theatre and the Chameleons Drama Group. The cost is being covered by successful fund raising events organised by the Hall Committee, including Open Gardens, a Quiz Night and jumble sale. So please don’t forget to support events at your Village Hall as all funds raised go to its upkeep. Please see the Notice Board for regular events or go www.aspley-guise.org.uk for details.

For more information on bookings and events, please call Lettings Secretary, Gill Cockle on 01908 584 456.

JUMBLE SALE.

In aid of Village Hall funds. Saturday 25th October 2pm.
Please contact Gill Cockle on 584456 for jumble collection.
ASPLEY GUISE VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS.

The events in May and July once again attracted hundreds of visitors into the village and raised over £2,500 towards the upkeep of the village hall. This included a generous donation of £250 towards supporting the event from Lord Wolfson of Aspley House.

While May was a glorious day, the July event was sadly hit by wet weather but about 100 stalwart visitors still came along! The Village Hall Management Committee would like to say thank you once again to all the gardeners who open as we know how much hard work goes into doing this and to all the other volunteers who make our Open Gardens events such a success.

If you are interested in opening your garden in 2015, please contact Anne Papworth on 01908 583307.

2014 MILTON KEYNES CHORALE CONCERT.

Milton Keynes Chorale and Danesborough Chorus will be performing Bach B Minor Mass at 7.30pm on Sunday 16th November in Milton Keynes Theatre with the period instrument orchestra Florilegium.

Tickets can be obtained from MK Chorale Box Office on 01908 617697 or Danesborough Chorus Box Office 01908 583460

ASPLEY GUISE SUMMER ROUNDER LEAGUE

LOVED ROUNDER AT SCHOOL?
THEN WHY NOT GIVE IT ANOTHER GO!
WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

All you need is a team of 9 friends or colleagues and we’ll provide the rest! Games will be played on Wednesday evenings from 6.30-8.00 at ‘The Common’.

HAVE FUN, GET FIT AND MAKE FRIENDS!

For more information or to register a team, please contact Pauline Hawley on 01908 584471 or pauline.18@btinternet.com
MAIN USERS OF THE VILLAGE HALL.

Mondays. DEGA- Age UK Support Group  
Gallafent Dance School  
Yoga Class  
Rachel Turner - email: rachyturner@msn.com  
Lisa Gallafent - email: lisa@lisagallafent.co.uk  
Emanuela Palombi – tel: 07928 654535  
Claire Tobin – Claire.tobin2@btinternet.com  
Brian Rudd – email: brian@cambourne.co.uk  
Zoe Phillips – 01908 583751

Tuesdays. Aspley Guise Cubs.  
Chameleons Drama Group.  
Pat Jones – email: nimble@talktalk.net  
www.danesborough.org.uk

Wednesdays. Gallafent Dance School.  
Danesborough Chorus  
Joan Neale – tel: 01908 582864  
Marilyn Blanchard – email: marilynblanchard@btinternet.com  
Peter Lomax – tel: 01908 582313  
Email: peter@lomaxnet.com  
Felicity Holloway – tel: 01908 583834  
Email: felicitymholloway@btinternet.com  
Richard and Pippa Felton – tel: 01908 584009  
Kim and John Barber – tel: 01908 583640

Fridays. Encore Theatre for Children.

IMPORTANT NUMBER CONTACTS.

Parish Clerk: Molly Fitzgerald - Tel: 583795;  
Townlands Committee: Fran Fry - Email: fran.fry@zen.co.uk;  
P3 Committee: Howard and Chris Murphy - Tel: 582208  
Sports Trust Centre: Alastair Scott - Tel: 585082  
Village Hall Bookings: Gill Cockle - Tel: 584456

WOBURN SANDS & DISTRICT SOCIETY – Local planning and environmental interest group  
Contact: Fran Fry - Email: fran.fry@wsds.org.uk

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<th>USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency number</td>
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<td>Police 24 hour non-emergency number</td>
<td>101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)</td>
<td>01234 842613</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anglian Water Leakline.</td>
<td>0800 771 881</td>
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<td>Central Beds Council General Enquiries.</td>
<td>0300 3008000</td>
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<td>Central Beds Council – Highways, Streetlights and Potholes.</td>
<td>0300 3008049</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keep it Clear Campaign (Drains etc.)</td>
<td>Keep-it-clear.co.uk</td>
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P3 SUMMER WALK 2014.
(4.2 miles or 6.75km in just under 2 hours.)
(The FP/BW numbers in brackets refer to footpath/bridleway numbers if you are following the 'Enjoy Aspley Guise' leaflet)

Start in The Square. Carefully cross Bedford Road and walk up Woburn Lane. Take the first turning on the left and walk down Spinney Lane (FP7) to Aspley Guise Lower School. At a waymark post at the corner of the field turn right and follow the path (FP8) along the field edge, Over to the right you will see The Clumps and, in the far distance, you can just see the old and new churches at Woburn.

At the end of the path leave the field and turn right into Gypsy Lane. Continue to a double wooden gate on the left at a sharp corner. Go through the gate and follow the path (FP18) across the field to a yellow topped waymark post. The path now follows the hedgerow to pass behind Birchmoor Pumping Station. Continue to a second bridge at a waymark post. Head slightly left towards a metal gate in a fence. Go through the gate and turn right and continue to meet Aspley Lane at Birchmoor Lodge.

Turn left onto the road and continue to a metal fingerpost immediately before a house on the right (Shepherd's Cottage). Turn right onto a green path (FP22). Follow this path, crossing another bridge, to eventually arrive at a waymark post at a broad cross path. Bear slightly right towards the next waymark post and follow the path into woodland. Continue a short way to another waymark post and turn sharp left. Follow this path (FP33) to eventually emerge from woodland onto an obvious path and head straight on towards the main road. Before the road at another waymark post turn right to a broad sandy path (BW29) that goes gently uphill roughly parallel with the road. The path soon emerges onto more open land with a fence on the left. Go straight ahead passing a gate in the fence and look for another waymark post straight ahead. When it is reached/found turn right (BW28) and continue to a cross path (FP23) where you turn left between gorse. Continue through conifers to another waymark post and keep ahead through more gorse into woodland. Go past the next waymark post on the right to eventually meet yet another waymark post where you turn right (FP33) slightly downhill to the next waymark post. Go straight ahead with a fence on the left to reach a path on the left that leads to a gate at the corner of a wooden fence. Go through the gate and turn right to shortly reach the road at Woodside. Cross the road to the jitty path (FP10) between a wall and a fence. At the end of the path cross the main road to a metal fingerpost to the left of the Golf Club entrance.

Continue downhill (FP21) to eventually reach the golf course. Continue towards a cottage on the right and sheds on the left. Turn right here onto Mill Way and continue to a waymark post on the left. Turn right (FP5) and re-enter the golf course following two waymark posts towards a gate leading to the Recreation Ground. Walk past the children’s playground to a gate in the top left hand corner. Go through the gate and turn left onto Common Lane (FP14) to a kissing gate to the right of a five barred gate. Go through and bear diagonally right across an open field (FP6) to another gate in the far corner. Continue through the gate and go steeply downhill to reach Church Street opposite Chain House. Turn right to return to The Square or stop off at The Anchor for a well-earned drink.
OUT AND ABOUT IN YOUR VILLAGE.

The newly refurbished Village Hall.

P3 Summer Walk.

The Summer Walk heads towards the Combines.

The Combines hard at work.

The Summer Walk at Birchmoor Farm drive.

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