

CUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting
held in The Bernard Hall
Wednesday 21st April 2010 at 7.30pm**

Chair: Sherry Scott, Chairman Cuddington Parish Council.
Minutes: Venetia Davies, Parish Clerk.

Parishioners: Approximately 60 Parishioners present.

Chairman Sherry Scott welcomed all to the Annual Parish Meeting and included a special welcome to newcomers to the Village and to the new Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies

Jaap Schram de Jong, Peggy Cattell, Nan Cattell, Jean Oake, Michael Stratton, Charles Sanderson.

2. Minutes of previous meeting held on Friday 24th April 2009

Minutes accepted as true record and duly signed by Chairman SS.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. The Nicholas Almond Charity

Jim Hayward, Trustee, gave a brief resume of The Nicholas Almond Charity reminding the meeting that the aim of the Charity had changed significantly since it was founded by Will of Nicholas Almond in 1643. The Charity now gives grants to helps students and apprentices residing in Cuddington to purchase books or tools for further education/apprenticeships. He reported that John Gibson had retired from the Charity in late 2009 and welcomed James Gibson as a newly appointed Trustee. Jennifer Schram de Jong, the third Trustee, continues her role as Hon Secretary and Treasurer. Jim presented the report and accounts. The Capital Reserves account stands at £4,250.95. The Trustees have made two awards of £150.00 each in the last year. Applications were invited for new applicants.

5. State of Village Roads

Michael Pegg introduced and invited David Smith, Local Area Technician, BCC, to address the state of the village roads, particularly following the long hard winter. David informed all present that he is responsible for 35 villages and that a new highways contract was awarded last April to reflect the changing economic climate. Following the harsh winter, all works carried out since November have been in connection with pot holes only. Sherry raised the question of re-surfacing of village roads. David reported that roads were prioritised on a scale of urgency for all Parishes. Ken Birkby highlighted villagers concerns with pot holes on the road from Aylesbury past The

Crown PH. These were considered particularly dangerous because of the narrowing road. Although a temporary solution, David advised roads would be marked up and temporarily repaired to ensure safety. Doug Kennedy raised concerns about advances in road technology. David informed all that a permanent repair first time is general practice. However, because of the particularly bad winter this had not been possible and roads have had to be made safe by 'pat and fill' method. Jennifer Schram de Jong thanked David for the repairs done within 3 days of reporting. He informed all present of the flooding issues at Bridgeway which had hopefully been resolved and the ongoing issues with Thames Water of flooding at Dadbrook.

6. Cuddington Youth Drama

A short performance was carried out by Jesse Bolton and Elena Harris from Cuddington Youth Drama. Sherry thanked them both and gave particular thanks to Elaine English and Chris Long for Cuddington Youth Drama and its exceptionally talented young members.

7. Review of the Parish Council's work 2009-2010

Sherry reviewed the Parish Council work over the past year and reported expenditure of the £9,500 precept as follows: Clerk's salary, grass cutting, plants, dog bins, salt bins, insurance, website, Christmas tree, Christmas card and audit. An outline of village events was given as follows:

- Cuddington Fete 2009 (£9,025.00 gross raised). Theme for 2010 is *King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table*. Saturday 10th July.
- Sunshine Club including the Sunrise Walk scheduled for 19th June 2010 at 4am
- Fun Day – a great day for all the family.
- Tug of War (Cuddington Parish v Chearsley Parish). 2010 challenge to be received from Chearsley Parish Council.
- Fireworks Night – a great success.
- The Gentlemen of Cuddington Dining Club. Meets every quarter. Please contact Phil Johnson.
- Cuddington Youth Drama – a wonderful production of Peter Pan.
- Tennis Club – a constant membership with play all year round.
- Cricket Club - in need of more players.
- Best Kept Village and Village in Bloom Competition – competing again this summer. An appeal to all to help keep the village neat and tidy.
- Sunshine Club Village Jumble Sale - a fantastic £362 raised for a coach trip.
- Footpaths - repairs complete at Nether Winchendon Mill with bridge extended and gates mounted for safety.
- Salt Bins – a great success during the cold winter.
- Website – a report followed by Cllr ST.
- Refuse Collections – a weekly collection including a fortnightly recycling collection will be maintained for time being.
- General Election – 6th May. Polling Station will be Bernard Hall.

8. Bernard Hall

Markus Bolton, Chairman of the Bernard Hall Committee reported grants had been secured for new kitchen (food preparation area) to be added at ground floor area. This will include a dishwasher. Existing kitchen will become a dressing room. Gents toilets will also be bought into bounds of Bernard Hall. Work will commence on 21st June until 6th September and will not interfere with usage of Hall or Fete. Plans and business plans available.

9. Census – 10 years on

Jennifer Schram de Jong reminded the meeting of the Village Census that took place at the beginning of the new millennium, copies of which had been given to all residents. She asked the meeting whether it would be a good idea to carry out another census, given the many changes to the population of the Village that had taken place during the first decade of the millennium. The idea was supported overwhelmingly.

10. Cuddington and Dinton School

Chris Bulmer, Chairman of Governors, reported on the Village School. Mr M Tomson recruited last year as Assistant Head Teacher for KS2 and based at the Junior site in Dinton. 68 children are now on each site with 20 reception children due to start in September and four Appeals for September. Traffic issues and challenges, associated with a popular School continue, although as many children as possible are encouraged to attend by bus. A travel plan is in place. Links with the community continue to be strong, in particular with the Church, Gardening Club and Sunshine Club. Very sadly Mrs Talbot will be taking early retirement at the end of April. Mr Tomson will be Acting Head until a Head Teacher is appointed, hopefully by September or January 2011.

11. Cuddington Playing Fields Association (CPFA) and Pavilion

Jennifer Schram de Jong reported on the grants awarded and the success of the refurbishment project, coming in under budget and on time. Thanks were expressed for all help and support, particularly from the Parish Council; the Association's landlords, who had given £7,500 towards the cost of the refurbishment. Everyone was encouraged to use the facility. Jennifer expressed the Parish Council's and CPFA's concern over dog fouling on the playing fields. Hon. Secretary, Viv Birkby informed all present that further information regarding the use of the Clubhouse was available at the end of the meeting and information would be provided in the May issue of Village Voice.

12. Website

Steven Turner informed all present that the Parish Council would be discussing plans for an updated website at the May meeting. A list of organisations, societies and clubs supporting the website were shown. Problems in making the website more user friendly were highlighted together with the need for more businesses to support the website.

Assurance that other means of communication, such as 'Village Voice, would be still be available for those who didn't have internet access was given.

