

DRAFT MINUTES

2013/01a

CUDDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Draft Minutes of Annual Village Meeting
held in The Bernard Hall
Wednesday 17th April 2013 at 7.30pm

Chair: Ken Birkby
Minutes: Venetia Davies

Attendance: 73 people.

1. Apologies

Matthew Giorgi, Peter and Rosemary Bradbury.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Village Meeting held on Wednesday 18th April 2012

Minutes were accepted by the meeting as a true record and signed by Ken Birkby, Chairman.

3. Action points from 2012 Meeting

- **Dog Fouling.** The decision was taken by the Parish Council not to increase the number of dog bins because of the cost and lack of a suitable position.
- **Vehicle Damage and Speeding.** The reduction of the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph was a 'non-starter' as BCC policy is not to initiate any 20mph limits anywhere in the county.
- Publication of speed limit through artwork (perhaps School/children's artwork to be used) to be revisited in 2013/14.
- **Condition of Roads.** Topic for later discussion
- **Children's Playground.** Renovation of children's playground almost complete, including refurbished climbing frame, replacement of rotten wood, replacement swing seats, as well as weeding and fence works. Awaiting finer weather for additional wood chippings. Inspection to follow and small opening ceremony to be scheduled. Jennifer Schram de Jong thanked Ben Clayton, Neil Walters and Carl Small for superb works to playground.
- **Bus Stop---**Bus stop on Dadbrook successfully reinstated. Bus stop on north side of Upper Green refurbished, including a seat, and also seat put into south side shelter.

4. Written Reports

- Parish Council Accounts as at 31st March 2013 and Budget for 2013/14
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Children's Playground
- Nicholas Almond Trust
- Diamond Jubilee Celebrations
- Playing Fields Association

5. Open Forum

Ken Birkby invited contributions on issues for discussion.

5a. Footpaths

1. Footpath 10b

Angela Sanderson outlined the background to the application for a 'Definitive Map Modification Order' to show a path from Public Footpath No 10b Lower Winchendon, at The Old Mill to Public Footpath No 3 Upper Winchendon. Angela illustrated this with a map on a large screen.

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Angela informed all present that the landowner has stated that it was always his intention that the route was a permissive one and that he never had any intention to dedicate it as a public right of way. This was never publicised (by way of signage) and Angela has provided evidence of people using the route as a public footpath, without let or hindrance, for well over 25 years. Notices were displayed in late summer 2011 instructing the public to no longer use the route.

Angela went on to explain that while several people had lodged objections to the closure of the path, BCC had only accepted the comments from those who had walked the path for 20 years or more. (wrongly). A representative from the Public Rights of Way department had subsequently interviewed three of the objectors, and had said they would be free to make further comment at a meeting of the Rights of Way Committee meeting in January. Angela had attended this meeting, and had pleaded the case for the path to remain a public right of way; she had concentrated mainly on the fact that to her certain knowledge the path had been walked by the general public for well over 25 years, and that the landowner's intention that it should be a permissive path had not in any way been made known to the wider public. The Councillors had upheld Angela's plea, and agreed that the path should now be designated as a Public Footpath. BCC has recommended that the application be REJECTED.

However, since that meeting, the landowner has lodged an objection of his own. The matter is now under judicial review and it is looking probable that it will go to Appeal. Should this be the case, Angela asked for the support of Parish Councillors and villagers (by way of a petition, letters, etc). She told the meeting that she had been advised by the Rights of Way department that the path **should not** be walked whilst the matter is under judicial review.

With the County Elections on 2nd May 2013, KB asked Election candidates present to consider supporting Cuddington in a campaign to "fight the footpath".

He also notified the meeting that Cllr Michael Edmonds will be standing down as a County Councillor but will continue as District Councillor.

2. Footpath 2

Additional concerns were raised over fallen trees (since September) on Footpath 2. Despite several conversations with BCC (who cannot deal with problem because of size of the trees and lack of road access) and landowner (who will cut when weather permits), the fallen trees causing the blocked footpath, remain.

ACTION: Doug Kennedy to follow up.

3. Footpath 17

Ken Birkby requested a working party to help clear overgrown path (including fallen trees) and widen footpath so that quality of footpath can be reinstated.

5b. Bonfires

Lesley Gorton expressed concern over bonfires and smoke nuisance from allotments, which is directly affecting enjoyment of garden. Jennifer Schram de Jong suggested an adaption of information articles previously published in Village Voice that included information on composting and recycling of garden waste by AVDC. She also asked for Villagers to be considerate and neighbourly particularly regarding the frequency and timing of bonfires.

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Ken suggested Laura Ewers, Secretary of the Allotment Society might send a polite note to allotment holders.

5c. Tree Maintenance at Swan Hill Cottages

Concerns expressed over maintenance of trees (roots also damaging footways) and upkeep of bank.

ACTION: Jim Hayward to follow up. Parish Council Clerk to agenda for May meeting of Parish Council. Michael Edmonds suggested contacting Matt Partridge on 01296 585181.

5d. Pot Holes and Surface Water

1. Potholes

Lynne Devey reported a serious accident on Dadbrook, involving bus and car in head on collision (as well as an additional car) as a result of ice and a 'Category 1' pot hole. Despite attempts to get repairs made by Thames Water and BCC, BCC has said nothing can be done until weather is dry. It was stressed that urgent action needs to be taken now to prevent a further accident, which could, next time, be fatal.

Michael Edmonds said that the weather now, and in preceding years, has contributed to the state of the roads and that £25m has been invested countywide. Election candidates Mark Bale and David Vick both commented that money is not being used successfully or efficiently and that "4/5 times more money needs to be invested" (David Vick). A suggestion was made to increase council tax so that roads can be properly maintained.

Further comments were made concerning surface water due to lack of gully and ditch clearing (responsibility of land owners), as well as the many springs.

2. Surface Water - Frog Lane

Jim Hayward highlighted the ongoing issue on Frog Lane with flowing water. Thames Water denied responsibility at point water appeared.

Michael Edmonds reminded all that it has been a tremendously wet period, with the water table very high. He went on to highlight the gradual demise of grants from central Government. Money for services now has to come locally. Savings need to be made to preserve services generally.

Ken suggested that, in rectifying problems, it may be far more effective if all concerned write to BCC, as a volume of mail may have a bigger effect than one letter from the Clerk of Council. **ACTION: Parish Council Clerk to advertise contact details of Local Area Technician at BCC.**

5e. Cuddington and Dinton School

Richard Winnicott, Chair of Governors reported that, following the fire, the build at the Dinton site was now complete and thanked Parishioners for patience with increased traffic whilst the whole School operated on the Cuddington site. As one of the first Schools to be inspected under the new Ofsted regime, the School was delighted to be upgraded from 'satisfactory' to 'good'. Furthermore, for September 2013, the School is significantly oversubscribed, with 90% of intake from catchment or siblings, which indicates its health and vibrancy. Special thanks were paid to Chris Blumer,

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previous Chair of Governors, for overseeing major events at the school, including the merger of Cuddington and Dinton Schools, the recruitment of a new head, the Ofsted inspection and effects of the fire. Richard said he was “delighted” that Chris has stayed as a Governor.

5f. Cuddington Stores

Ken Birkby commented on the value of the village institutions (School, Pub, Church and Shop) to ensure a healthy and vibrant village. He commented how the Shop had been transformed over a 12 month period for the benefit of the village and asked everyone to support. Doug Kennedy added his thanks and reminded the meeting of the value of the shop to village life. On behalf of both John and Elaine Moore, John thanked Ken and Doug and summarised the changes made to “Your” shop in the last 12 months. John also informed villagers that, during refurbishment works in August, the shop will operate from the Bernard Hall. Despite a request for an earlier opening time, John explained why this wasn’t possible but highlighted the extended lunchtime and all day Wednesday opening.

5g. Village Voice

Chris Blumer asked Parishioners to “please write” regarding news, activities of Clubs and Societies and opinions. He also stressed that if Parishioners had issues, concerns or comments to write to VV now and not wait until next year’s Annual Village Meeting!

5h. Village Fete – Saturday 13th July 2013

Jeremy Galpin, Chair of the new energetic and enthused Fete Committee, outlined plans for this year’s “Seaside” fete with entertainment to include a mini beach, sandcastle flag competition, full size surf simulator and sticks of rock for children. The objectives of this year’s fete will be to make it as inclusive as possible by promoting a one village approach of a fun family day whilst raising money to go to causes and societies in the village. Jeremy thanked everyone who has already given their time, resources and pledges (and encouraged villagers to pick up pledge sheets from the Shop). The Fete will open at a slightly later time of 2pm (procession) with an official opening time of 2.30pm with the evening activities starting half an hour earlier to close the gap between the two parts of the day thereby creating an opportunity for people to enjoy the full day. Whilst considered a ‘perceived challenge’ that Thame Show is on the same day, the Committee are confident the Fete, well established on the second Saturday of July, will achieve record attendance as a result of promoting the Fete through various avenues (such as Mix 96) throughout neighbouring villages, as well as further afield. All Committee member details can be found on the village website and also in Village Voice. Jeremy was also delighted to be able to announce that TV baker, Mary Berry will be opening the Cuddington 2013 Fete.

5i. ‘Tractor’ Field near Sewage Farm

Alan Marsh suggested that the Parish Council contact the land owner to remove the refuse and scrap near the ‘tractor’ field. Concerns were expressed over the deterioration of the site and the detrimental effect it may have on the judging of the Best Kept Village competition. The ‘untidy land’ legislation was suggested. Doug Kennedy commented on the “random but interesting area” and voiced his concerns that it “may become tidy and boring”. **ACTION Parish Council Clerk to agenda for May meeting of Parish Council for discussion and resolution.**

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5j Sue Jones PSCO

PSCO Sue Jones informed everyone of staff changes within Waddesdon Neighbourhood Policing Team. PC Dean Kingham is working on Neighbourhood Watch but is now also Wildlife Officer involved in game and poaching. Inspector Emma Garside has moved to Acting Chief Inspector and been replaced by Inspector James Davies. Sue reflected over the past year's activities which included involvement at Cuddington Fete, various Jubilee activities and the Olympic and Paralympic relays. The numbers of reported crimes since last May were up with 12 incidences reported in Cuddington. Sue commented that in a village such as Cuddington, everybody notices things and this helps enormously in crime cases. The Thames Valley alerts also give warning and information and these are also put on the website and newsletter which helps reduce/catch crime.

Village speeding, particularly on Bridgeway, was highlighted as a problem. It was felt that whilst the Vehicle Activated Signs worked initially very well, drivers now know and tend to ignore these. The possibility of using the speed gun was suggested.

Jennifer Schram de Jong thanked Sue for works with Neighbourhood Watch and requested coordinators for Bridgeway, Holly Tree Lane and Bernard Close. Sue highlighted the Thames Valley Police Neighbour Team and the AVDC Community Safety Team crime prevention and power tool security marking day on Saturday 27th April from 10-3pm at Haddenham Garden Centre.

6. Closing Comments

Ken Birkby ended the meeting by explaining the reserves in Parish Council funds were there for contingency and specific projects and encouraged Parishioners to put forward ideas/projects for the Village. The format of the Annual Village Meeting was again welcomed and agreed to be repeated next year.

Minutes on: Website
Notice Boards (2)

Signed:
Ken Birkby, Chairman