

DRAFT MINUTES

2014/01a

CUDDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Draft Minutes of Annual Village Meeting
held in The Bernard Hall
Monday 31st March 2014 at 7.30pm

Chair: Ken Birkby
Clerk: Venetia Davies
Attendance: 60 Parishioners

1. Apologies

James and Elise Frost, Colin Watts, Chris Long, Chris Blumer and Charles Sanderson.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Village Meeting held on Wednesday 17th April 2013

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

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising that were not covered during the subsequent meeting.

4. Written Reports

- Financial Report including Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2014 and Proposed Budget for 2014/15.
- Nicholas Almond Trust
- Children's Playground
- Neighbourhood Watch
- The Queen's Diamond Jubilee
- A reminder of Remembrance Service at the War Memorial on 11th November.

5. Open Forum

Ken Birkby invited contributions concerning local issues, for discussion.

a. Planning

A wide and lively debate on planning issues prompted comments concerning:

- The rejection of the Vale of Aylesbury Plan and the implementation of a new Plan, (to be known as the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan – VALP - and adopted by mid-2016). Concern was voiced that developers may use the lack of a District Plan to their advantage for large housing developments.
- The pollution of an "ugly" landscape, in terms of architectural style of both houses and shopping precincts by developers.
- Pressure for villages to accommodate more houses than can be sustained and, in the absence of a Village Plan, concerns that more houses will be built. Ken Birkby reminded Parishioners that Cuddington Parish Council has expressed, in its original Village Plan (2005) and in subsequent correspondence, that it would want no more than 10 new houses. KB also informed Parishioners that Cuddington Parish Council had commented on 15 planning applications this year (only one as a proposed new build).
- The wider National Government issue. Infrastructure is not in place and there is no provision for schools, doctors, sewerage or roads (which were expressed to be in an 'appalling state').

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Chearsley Parish Council also kindly commented on the process of its recently adopted Village Plan which represents the views of its village and the way its residents wish to see their village develop over the next 20 years or so. It was expressed that this is not a statutory planning document although local Councillors *may* be “mindful” of its views.

It was concluded that Cuddington Parish Council would discuss consulting with the village whether to develop either a Village Plan or Neighbourhood Plan and that the village could be asked to vote on the way forward, once the advantages and disadvantages of each have been assessed. Information would be published on notice boards and website.

b. Village Communication

Village Voice (owned by Cuddington Parochial Church Council) and the village Website (owned by the Parish Council) are both essential, as methods of village communication. Representatives from both updated the meeting. Helen Keeping, new Editor of Village Voice welcomed articles from residents as well as feedback on the village newsletter - wichertcot@btinternet.com. Stephen Turner, member of the Working Website Group, informed residents that there are now 30 Editors who are signed up to contribute to the content of the website. Stephen outlined the advantages of becoming a member, which include; email alerts for any amenities, clubs, societies and activities, activated by simply clicking a tick box (since the implementation of The Village Picture House, members have increased from 100 to 150). As well as communicating information, the website represents a considerable part of Cuddington’s community and further website developments will be explored during the summer months. Stephen thanked team members of the Website Group including Chris Long, who has been instrumental in the implementation and development of the current site.

c. Neighbourhood Watch - Sue Jones, PSCO

Sue Jones, Police Community Support Officer covering the Haddenham and Long Crendon District, gave Parishioners updates on both crime and Neighbourhood Watch. Jennifer Schram de Jong encouraged residents to join the Neighbourhood Watch scheme as a member and also requested co-ordinators for Bernard Close, Holly Tree Lane and Frog Lane. Sue also encouraged Parishioners to join Thames Valley Alerts – a community messaging system that allows residents to receive information directly from their local neighbourhood teams in addition to up-to-date bulletins on major crime and policing issues via text but also by more traditional landline and email messages. The advantages and disadvantages of a poor mobile reception in Cuddington were also discussed as well as better broadband speeds to homes and businesses.

d. Village Fete – Cuddington goes Wild West

Jeremy Gaplin, Chair of the Fete Committee, informed Parishioners that preparations were well underway for this year’s *Wild West* themed event and announced three new committee members to the team. Jeremy requested help on Fete day (to relieve stallholders from their stand for just an hour, so they too can enjoy the activities and also asked for help with a tidy up when the Fete closes), more suggestions for seating areas, particularly for the elderly (in drives or areas of property) and donations, auction prizes and sponsors for the grand draw prizes. A celebrity hasn’t yet been secured and Jeremy encouraged anyone with a contact to tell the Fete Committee.

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e. The Village Picture House

Markus Bolton, Chair of the Village Picture House, updated Parishioners on its overwhelming success – 36 events placed or planned since its introduction in September 2013 (with the majority fully booked) and the recent sale of the 1,500th ticket. As a now profitable organisation, the Village Picture House now assists the Bernard Hall in being financially self-supporting. Further plans were revealed, including an introduction to film or theatre shows by guest speakers, sporting events, regular children's events, and opera and ballet screenings. Special thanks were paid to Chris Long for his sterling performance in the whole project, as well as Chris Blumer for administration and John and Elaine Moore for refreshments and ticket sales. A huge thank you for the implementation of this most valued community facility was paid to Markus and his team. Cuddington Youth Drama was also applauded for its recent production of Oliver and special thanks were paid to Elaine English.

f. Diamond Jubilee Funds

As it has not proved possible to mark the Cuddington Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012 with a tree in the Churchyard, an amount of approximately £500 is available for an alternative project. Jennifer Schram de Jong asked Parishioners to get in touch with the Parish Council with ideas and suggestions.

g. Cuddington and Dinton School

Following on from last year's report of a new build on the Dinton site, Richard Winnicott, Chair of Governors, announced that the works has given Years 3-6 valuable space and a proper kitchen, and that the scheme had won an AVDC Design Award. The Governing Body has now switched its focus to the Cuddington site with three phases of building works – plumbing, removal of internal walls to create a Library and IT centre and an application for planning for a new office for the Head Teacher, as well as a Home Technology Room. The School continues to be significantly oversubscribed, with two applications for every space. The Governors have decided to restrict the intake class size to 26 for as long as possible.

h. Footpaths

Doug Kennedy asked for younger helpers to get involved in the Footpaths Working Party. Regarding the Claim for Public Footpath from Public Footpath 10B Lower Winchendon to Public Footpath 3 Upper Winchendon, DK informed Parishioners that an Order for the route to be put on the Definitive Map has been made and that the Order is open to objection, when it is likely that the matter will be referred to the Secretary of State and result in a public inquiry to decide whether or not the Order should be confirmed. Parishioners were advised not to walk the route yet. A request for a footway to be installed from Dadbrook to Kings Cross was voiced. Although this has been previously investigated, the Parish Council will revisit this, particularly for safety reasons.

Closing Comment

Ken Birkby thanked Cllr Michael Edmonds, Cllr Paul Irwin, Nic Brown (Chairman, Cheersley Parish Council), John Lewis (Vice Chairman, Cheersley Parish Council) and thanked all for attending and contributing to the meeting.

Signed:

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Ken Birkby, Chairman