

DRAFT MINUTES

2015/01a

CUDDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Draft Minutes of Annual Village Meeting
held in The Bernard Hall
Wednesday 22nd April 2015 at 7.30pm

Chair: Ken Birkby
Clerk: Venetia Davies
Attendance: 62 Villagers

1. Apologies

Geoffrey and Monica Barnes, Markus Bolton, Graham Carr, Peggy Cattell, Matt Giorgi,

2. Minutes of previous Annual Village Meeting held on Monday 31st March 2014

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

3. Matters Arising

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

4. Written Reports

- Reports were circulated and included:
 - Financial Report, including Parish Council Receipts and Payments Account for the Year Ended 31st March 2015 and Proposed Budget for 2015/16.
 - Report from Jennifer Schram de Jong covering The Nicholas Almond Trust including Report and Accounts to end December 2014, The Diamond Jubilee, Neighbourhood Watch, Children's Playground, Poppy Collections, War Memorial and Remembrance Sunday.

5. Website – www.cuddingtonvillage.com

Chris Long, Member of the Website Working Group and instrumental in its creation and development, updated villagers on the latest website statistics (which includes 60 visits a day to the site) and the most recent development – a smart phone and tablet-friendly website version. The cost of this and other enhancements have been met by free development time (as a result of Shiplake village adapting Cuddington's existing design template). As new pages have been introduced since its implementation, Chris Long reminded Parishioners to check their website preferences and update them in line with activities/services of interest to them in the village. By ticking these, the website "comes to you" with an email alerting subscribers to website updates by areas of interest. Stephen Turner encouraged those who haven't yet signed up, to join so as to avoid missing out on local events and news.

6. Village Voice

Whilst the website was initiated and is run by the Parish Council, Ken Birkby highlighted that it is "complementary" to Village Voice – the village monthly newsletter - and stressed that this publication is viewed as a vitally important part of village life. Chris Blumer, a member of the Village Voice editorial team echoed this but also encouraged Parishioners to register on the website (as well as being delivered to all homes, Village Voice is available in its electronic format on the website). **ACTION:** Helen Keeping and Karen Clayton, also members of the Editorial team, welcomed contributions from Villagers – "Letters to Editor", celebrating successes, etc. Please send to: wichertcot@btinternet.com.

7. Open Forum

Ken Birkby invited contributions concerning local issues for discussion.

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a. Traffic and speeding through the village

Several comments were put forward to address these issues:

- A “20 is plenty” sign to be placed under existing 30mph signs.
- A change in priorities at the Crossroads. Ken Birkby informed Parishioners that Cuddington Parish Council has been in talks with Dinton Parish Council concerning traffic and a reduction in speed limit from A41 to Cuddington Village. A consultation, dependent on costs, will be considered.
- More frequent use of a mobile speed gun – supported by volunteers.
- A Community Speed Watch programme. It is well over 10 years since the Traffic Action Group (TAG) provided a comprehensive report on traffic and speeding issues in Cuddington. An updated survey could be produced.
- The moveable vehicle activated signs can give an indication of peak traffic speeds. Can the existing Vehicle Activated Signs can be modified?
- The installation of speed bumps/ramps/bollards/village gates. It was reminded that these require street lighting for 30mph (but not for 20mph).
- The installation of a zebra crossing with possible funding (from Fullers?).
- The appointment of a Lollipop Person. Bucks County Council are funding lollipop men and women.
- A suggestion was put forward that the 20mph speeding signs could be designed by School children to create greater impact. Sue Jones, PSCO outlined the BCC initiative “Schools Travel Plans” where schools are being supported to develop their own plans by publishing guidelines and thereby manage its travel issues.
- Concerns were also expressed over the pot-holes in Dadbrook and the potential dangers as a result. Cllr Paul Irwin informed the meeting that he has negotiated for this road to be re-surfaced this year.

Ken Birkby summarised these issues and suggested it was timely to revisit the issue but appealed for volunteers to help. He also stressed that there is a contingency in the Parish Council budget for future projects of this nature. **ACTION: Volunteers to contact the Clerk: venetia.davies@talktalk.net. Cuddington Parish Council to organise an additional meeting.**

b. Parking

Ken Birkby prompted a debate about parking in the village and asked villagers if there was a solution to this issue.

- It was suggested that parents should be encouraged to park in the Playing Fields car park and walk their children to School. Chris Blumer, confirmed that despite the School suggesting this “term in and term out”, parents continue to drop off at the School gates simply because its “human nature.”
- Whilst it was generously suggested parents could use The Crown PH car park, concern was expressed about safety, particularly in the absence of a path. Similar concerns were expressed about crossing at the crossroads. Signs such as “Slow, Children Crossing” or “Slow down – Children about” at key approaches to the village have been suggested since.
- The Parish Council were asked that when a property is developed/extended, could it ensure that once completed, residents don’t convert off street parking into garden space. Ken Birkby said that whilst there are regulations concerning number of off street parking spaces, residents still park on the street. In the event that off street parking has been converted into a garden, the Parish Council will inform AVDC planning.

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- It is considered anti-social behaviour to park on the pavement and expect residents, particularly the elderly, to walk on the road. Solutions to this problems included pre-printed leaflets for use on windscreens of offending cars, volunteers to 'police' parked cars on pavement (particularly at School time) and an article highlighting the potential dangers in Village Voice.

8. Cuddington Playing Fields Association (CPFA)

John Luckett, Treasurer of CPFA, requested to use the meeting as a platform to:

1. Explain the misconception that the playing fields are maintained by Cuddington Parish Council. (The CPFA was formed to manage the playing fields and the clubhouse. The Club bar raises funds to maintain the facilities of the playing field and clubhouse. The CPFA pays a peppercorn rent to the Parish Council of £25 pa).
2. Appeal for funding for a new mower – essential to maintain the playing field for use by many (with the passing of time and habits, the Club can no longer support the CPFA and despite fundraising activities, there is a significant shortfall). John emphasised that the playing field is a valuable asset and should remain a focal point of the Village.

Suggestions included:

- Ensure fundraising events are posted on the village website.
- Launch a "Mower Appeal" and appeal for donations.
- Approach the Fete Committee for surplus funds.
- Appeal to Parishioners through an article in Village Voice.
- Support from Cuddington Parish Council (the history of support from the PC for refurbishment of Club House, by way of obtaining substantial grants of £40,000, and maintaining the Children's Play Area, was briefly outlined).
- The CPFA Committee is made up of a 'core' of one representative from each village organisation. More people could help.
- Reconsider pricing of future fundraising events. For example, could funding for fireworks be awarded from Fete funding, and entry become "free". This could result in attracting many more people with more money generated from food and beverage sales.

9. Cuddington Village Fete – Saturday 11th July 2015

Jo Goodson, Chair of 2015 Fete Committee, outlined the **Round the World** theme of this year's Fete and confirmed that plans were already well underway with a celebrity booked. Jo appealed for volunteers on Fete Day (for stalls and set up/clear up) and auction prizes and sponsors, as well as bric-a-brac and books. An article will appear in the next issue of Village Voice. Jo thanked people for their support to date.

10. Cuddington Parish Council – Devolved Services

Ken Birkby outlined the move by BCC to devolve services by encouraging Parishes to form *clusters* and take responsibility for hedge cutting, grass cutting, right of way clearance, etc. To date, Councillors have agreed not to commit but will look at making a decision in 2015/16. However, given that costs are predicted to exceed budgets offered to devolve services, CPC has resolved to set a precept for the 2015/2016 financial year of £11,000 to build cash reserves. Paul Irwin announced that approximately a quarter of Parish Councils have committed.

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11. The Village Picture House

In the absence of Markus Bolton, Chair of the Village Picture House, Chris Long summarised the success of the Village Picture House since opening (over 2,000 tickets were sold in 2014). Chris informed Parishioners of a future event with a very local relevance (Why Didn't They Ask Evans? on 28th May 2015) and spoke about the increase in publicity (Go Local, The Bucks Herald {Neighbourhood News - Haddenham section} and a new A5 flyer (the format of which was widely approved) together with the proposed autumn programme. **ACTION: Residents are invited to email their preferences (cinema@cuddingtonvillage.com) from a list of 6-7 films and also take part in a poll for an October rock concert.** Praise was given to the Village Picture House Committee for providing this fantastic facility for the village. Parishioners were also encouraged to see the productions from the brilliant Cuddington Youth Drama.

12. Neighbourhood Watch - Sue Jones, PSCO

Sue Jones, Police Community Support Officer covering the Haddenham and Long Crendon District, informed Parishioners that Neighbourhood Watch alerts and Action Fraud alerts are uploaded on the website and also available in Village Voice. This year, there have been more cases of fraud than other crime. Sue also informed villagers that Francis Habgood has been appointed Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and also Kirstin Harding as Police Officer. **ACTION: Jennifer Schram de Jong appealed for Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators for Bernard Close, Frog Lane and Holly Tree Lane. Please email jschramdejong@yahoo.co.uk.**

13. Poppy Appeal

As the area co-ordinator for Cuddington, Chearsley and Nether Winchendon, Jennifer Schram de Jong asked for people to come forward to help with the annual Poppy collections. **ACTION: To become a Poppy Collector, please email jschramdejong@yahoo.co.uk.**

14. Mobile Phone Network/Internet Access

A booster box, available from some contract service providers was suggested as a way to boost poor mobile reception in the village. Parishioners were informed that high speed fibre optic is now available in the village.

15. Cuddington and Dinton School

Richard Winnicott, Chair of Governors, reported on an "incredibly busy and good year" for the School. The infant site is full with 60 applications received for 26 places. There are currently 3 places for the junior site in Dinton. Well over 85% of pupils are within catchment. The School received a fantastic academic result in 2014 with SATS results the 5th highest in Bucks. A Breakfast Club has been instigated at both sites and is resulting in staggered drop-off times. During the Easter break, the School introduced its first Holiday Club which provided additional income to the School and a service to parents. Activities this year have included a French residential course, an increase in sporting events with other schools and an evening of music with the Junior Choir. Haddenham St Mary's is now the hot lunch provider for the School which has meant produce is now locally sourced and is significantly better.

16. New Parish Council

Ken Birkby, Ken Brown, Jim Hayward and Lorraine Stevens are duly elected Councillors of Cuddington Parish Council. The new Parish Council will take office at the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 13th May. This is a public meeting and all are invited to attend.

17. Closing Comment

Ken Birkby thanked all for attending and contributing to the meeting. The meeting ended at 9.40pm.

Signed:..... *Ken Birkby, Chairman*