

DRAFT MINUTES

2016/01a

CUDDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Draft Minutes of Annual Village Meeting
held in The Bernard Hall
Monday 18th April 2016 at 7.30pm

Chair: Ken Birkby
Clerk: Venetia Davies
Attendance: 72 Villagers

1. Apologies

Stuart Anderson, Geoffrey Barnes, Monica Barnes, Chris Blumer, Michael Edmonds, Brian Foster, Sue Jones (PSCO), Ken Trew.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Village Meeting held on Monday 22nd April 2015

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 2016 and Proposed Budget for 2016/17.
 - Report from Jennifer Schram de Jong covering The Nicholas Almond Trust including Report and Accounts to end December 2015.

5. Cuddington and Dinton School

Richard Winnicott, Chair of Governors, reported on the exciting and successful year for Cuddington and Dinton School. The School has a full role with a waiting list for the majority of classes (85 applications were received for 26 reception places in September 2016). Governors anticipate that the national problem of school places and the levels of proposed houses will increase this pressure and whilst acknowledging changing demographics, Richard stressed that the welfare of the children and quality of teaching is of paramount concern to Governors. He also highlighted the constraints on numbers of both building. Maintenance of the Victorian buildings is ongoing, damp problems on the junior site at Dinton could cost in the region of £40,000. The pond site has been enhanced and the project to increase space and equipment on the infant site is now complete. Breakfast clubs (run on both sites) are running at near capacity and holiday activity clubs were run in the summer holidays and recent Easter holidays. Both infant and junior children have taken part in interesting, varied and exciting activities. The traditional dancing/signing around the village will take place in May. Governors are proud of the quality of teaching and learning and the results achieved; the sports offered and the wide range of after school clubs. Teaching staff and Governors continue towards moving the School from 'good' to 'outstanding'. Richard brought to the attention of Parishioners, the monthly school newsletter that is displayed on the school website - <http://www.cuddingtonanddintonschool.co.uk>.

6. The Nicholas Almond Trust

In addition to preparing a report for the AVM, Jennifer Schram de Jong, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary, encouraged young people embarking on further education or apprenticeships to apply for funding to aid their studies. Thanks were paid to the Fete Committee for its donation in 2015/16 and also to James Gibson for the annual rent for the grazing of Poors Moor.

DRAFT MINUTES

2016/02a

7. Demonstration of Defibrillator

Ken Birkby and Barbara Buckley briefly reported on the successful funding application for two defibrillators. A maintenance contract is in place for each unit. A key pad door for each has been ordered. Costs for these will be met by the Parish Council together with the installation cost. The Defibrillators will be located through the wooden door outside the Bernard Hall and on the car park site of the pavilion at Cuddington playing fields. Liz Davies and Laura Ewers gave a demonstration on operating a defibrillator and stressed the importance of CPR (Call, Push, Rescue). Liz informed Parishioners of the successful CPR training sessions already taken place and encouraged people to sign-up for a session, the next scheduled for early Spring.

8. Cuddington Village Fete – Saturday 9th July 2016

Jo Goodson, Chair of the Fete Committee, reported on the success of last year's **Round the World** themed Fete. Over £11,000 was raised and, less expenses, £10,000 was distributed to village organisations including: Village Voice, Cuddington Parish Council, Cuddington and Dinton School, WI, Nic Nacs (after School Club), Cuddington Tennis Club, Cuddington Gardening Club, Cuddington Methodist Church, St Nicholas Church, CPFA, Nicholas Almond Charity and the Sunshine Club. The Fete Committee also funded the Fireworks night. Jo outlined the **All Singing, All Dancing** theme for 2016 and confirmed that plans were well underway. The School and local choirs have signed up to become involved as well as Haddenham Hoofers. Jo appealed for auction prizes and sponsors, as well as bric-a-brac and books and encouraged villagers to get their costumes organised! Drop off places for donated items include Denise's Hairdresser, Cuddington Village Stores and to Jo at 10 Bernard Close.

9. Website – www.cuddingtonvillage.com

Chris Long, Member of the Website Working Group, observed that the village website, designed and implemented almost 5.5 year ago, hadn't seemed to have dated at all. Updating Parishioners with the latest statistics - 1,924 articles posted and 2,110 calendar events listed since the website was launch in November 2012 plus 1,187 visits with people viewing over 3,143 pages (in March 2016), Chris said the website had proved itself as a comprehensive 'pit stop' for everything going on in the village. There are now 239 members of the website (132 from Cuddington, representing 120 households, 17 Haddenham, 13 Chearsley, 13 Aylesbury, 8 Thame, 5 Dinton, 4 Nether Winchendon, 21 other local villages, 16 rest of UK and 8 from abroad). Chris reminded Parishioners that the website was a terrific communication tool for anyone with an email address as members can simply check their website preferences and keep informed of activities/services specifically of interest to them. Chris also reminded village organisations/societies that the option to pay on line (as used for the purchase of Village Picture House tickets) is available to any village organisation who wants to use it to sell tickets for an event. All that is required is a business PayPal address. Stephen Turner, also a member of the Website Working Group, thanked Chris Long for his instrumental role in creating the website and his continuous hard work with its daily operation.

10. The Bernard Hall and The Village Picture House

Markus Bolton, Chair of the Bernard Hall Committee and Village Picture House, summarised the positive report from the recent AGM and said the Committee had enjoyed another 'cracking year' with account 'in funds'. Hall hire has remained the same for 8 years, due largely to the success of the Village Picture House. Original thoughts were to host 12 shows a year but due to demand, number of shows is in fact 40. The 5,000th ticket was recently sold demonstrating the success of the facility. Village viewing is proving to be traditional in what it likes to see and Markus encouraged people to put forward films they would like to watch and to also enquire what films are planned. It was noted that films are shown within a couple of

DRAFT MINUTES

2016/03a

weeks of them being released in Blu-ray. Upcoming films can be viewed on the Village Picture House homepage of the website under “*and Coming Later...*”. With regard to the National Theatre Live performances, Markus informed villagers that viewings are down despite the NT being a ‘jewel’ for the village (Cuddington is still one of the smallest venue in the country permitted to show NT Live performances). Without full attendance, the National Theatre will advertise further afield. Markus reminded attendees that the original intention of the Village Picture House was to keep it for the village and surrounds and so encouraged people to attend and inform friends. Markus paid special thanks to Chris Long (technical director) and Chris Blumer (for organising an army of people for Front of House). A Parishioner also commented on the excellent productions put on by Cuddington Youth Drama.

11. Village Voice

Helen Keeping, Editor of Village Voice, said the fresh “new look” to the publication had been well received. The village newsletter, edited by Helen, Karen Clayton and Chris Blumer continues to be published ten times a year with 2 double issues. Unsolicited articles are welcomed to wichertcot@btinternet.com. As well as being delivered to all homes, Village Voice is available in its electronic format on the home page of the website. A Parishioner commented that not everyone has access to emails and internet and the printed newsletter is really worth having and keeps everyone in touch. Thanks were paid to the excellent delivery service particularly to homes on the outskirts of the village.

12. Contributions from District and County Councillors

Cllr Judy Brandis, AVDC Councillor for Haddenham Ward.

Judy Brandis summarised the main issues of concern for the District Council this year, namely Neighbourhood Plans (NP), the AVDC Local Plan and the possibility of Unitary Authorities in Buckinghamshire. With concern to a potential Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan, Judy’s message was to ensure that a wide variety of geographically placed make up a Committee. And, in light of Haddenham’s NP, that any measurements taken use the same criteria and are carefully checked. Regarding the Local Plan, Judy informed Parishioners that AVDC is still working with other local authorities but only 34% of Councils have either submitted plans or have had them agreed. £500,000 has also recently been agreed to expand the pilot scheme on broadband. Judy, who is Chairman of Licensing, informed Parishioners that a licence can now be refused on reasonable doubt. Judy is also on the board of Trustees for Citizens Advice Aylesbury & District.

Cllr Paul Irwin, Deputy Cabinet Member for Transportation, Bucks County Council.

Paul Irwin commented on the excellent attendance numbers at this year’s Annual Village Meeting. Paul informed Parishioners that £25m had been spent by Bucks County Council (BCC) on a road improvement programme with another £500,000 ring-fenced for the repair of pot holes. Rachael Shimmin has been announced as the new Chief Executive of BCC whose background is in key sectors of children’s services, adult social care and health. Road repairs are planned for Cannon Hills and Dadbrook. A new community bus scheme has been set-up to replace the reducing bus services and the demise of Dial a Ride and is available for use. The ongoing issue of HGV and large agricultural vehicles ‘churning’ up the verges was discussed with Cuddington cited as a ‘rat run for 30 ton tippers’. This is a concern to neighbouring villages and a meeting between Westcott, Ashendon, Cheersley and Cuddington Parish Council for early May. A large pothole was noted in Lower Church Street. **ACTION: PI/CLERK to arrange urgent repair. Parishioners were encouraged to email the Clerk at venetia.davies@talktalk.net with any urgent pothole repairs so that they can be reported directly to PI.**

DRAFT MINUTES

2016/04a

13. Angela Sanderson, Footpaths

Angela paid thanks to Village Voice and the Website for publicising the Public Inquiry (Definitive Map Modification Order) which fought to keep “Donkey Meadow” footpath open. The Claimed Route will now become a Public Footpath providing no challenge is lodged by the landowner within the next few days. Special thanks were paid from Angela to Paul Irwin for help and advice given. Angela asked if the Parish Council would consider producing a new footpath map. This would be useful for people visiting Cuddington. New gateways (that have replaced styles) could be highlighted. The leaflet could be sold. **ACTION: CLERK to agenda for Parish Council meeting.** Following Doug Kennedy’s meeting with Waddesdon Farms Manager and subsequent article on the website, Doug reiterated the request for action by walkers and riders not to walk on the wildlife strips. Doug also informed Parishioners of the developments with the River Thames Conservation Trust. Ken Birkby appeal to anyone interested in helping to maintain the footpaths to get in touch with the Parish Council. **ACTION: FOOTPATH VOLUNTEERS to contact the Clerk: venetia.davies@talktalk.net.**

14. TAG 2

Ken Birkby informed the meeting that the Parish Council has resolved to part fund a 50mph limit review from Dinton Crossroads to Cuddington. This will be supported by TfB subject to the outcome of public consultation. Karen Clayton outlined the investigations of TAG 2 which include pedestrian access to the 280 bus service (ways of making it more safe to walk on the verge), traffic calming “20 is plenty” stickers on residents wheelie bins on the main village roads and a traffic survey to commence in July in order to provide and compare a data set with a survey conducted 12 years ago. Ken Birkby remarked that these measures take a long time and require finance to argue the case with BCC but although small, little things help make a big difference. **ACTION: “Slow Down in Cuddington” car stickers from Ken Birkby ken@vivsemmens.force9.co.uk.** To email TAG 2: tag2@village.com.

15. Cuddington Parish Council

Ken Birkby introduced Stuart Anderson, Barbara Buckley, Ken Trew and Andrew Vickers as the 4 new Councillors who have joined the Parish Council since last year’s Council elections. Along with Lorraine Stevens, Ken Brown (Vice Chairman) and Ken Birkby (Chairman), all 7 Councillor Seats are now full. The new meeting venue for the Parish Council will be the **Bernard Hall, on the 2nd Monday of the month.** Parish Council meetings are public and everyone is invited to attend. The Receipts and Payment Account for the year ended 31st March 2016 was circulated along with the Proposed Budget for 2016/17. Ken highlighted to Parishioners the substantial increase in the Precept for 2016/17, resolved as necessary to account for duties devolved to Parish Councils, from BCC. The percentage increase is 42.66%, which equates to a rise from £38.83 to £55.39, an increase of approximately 32p per week (Band D). It is very likely the Precept will need to increase in future years.

16. CPFA

Karen Clayton reminded Parishioners that it was this time last year John Lockett, Treasurer of CPFA, made an appeal for funding for a new mower. The total cost of this less a ‘trade in’ was £8,520. This was purchased by the Parish Council by way of a loan. The outstanding balance is £1,600. The majority of costs have been met by a series of fundraising events. More events are planned to settle the outstanding amount, including a Race Night in the Bernard Hall on Saturday 7th May 2016. Tickets are available. Thanks were paid to those who have supported the events and to the CPFA Committee for the organisation of fundraising events.

DRAFT MINUTES

2016/05a

17. Housing Developments

Ken Birkby informed Parishioners that the Parish Council has commented on the “Issues and Options” consultation for the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan in December 2015. 21,000 new houses are required but through Government requirement, Aylesbury Vale will accommodate an additional 10,000, to make a total of 31,000. Smaller villages, such as Cuddington, will be expected to have 20-24 new houses over the next 17 years. The next stage of the consultation process is due to take place from early July through to early September, for a period of eight weeks. Thereafter, consultation feedback will be analysed, the final plan compiled and submitted for assessment by an independent inspector in early spring 2017.

Whilst Cuddington has a Village Plan (implemented in 2005), Ken Birkby outlined the benefits of a Neighbourhood Plans - introduced by the Localism Act 2011 - as “a right for communities to shape development in their areas to influence the type, design, location and mix of new development” (but not *block* the building of new homes and businesses if the local planning authority says that an area needs to grow). Whilst the Parish Council are still undecided if Cuddington needs a Neighbourhood Plan, Ken explained that once a Neighbourhood Plan is ‘made’ they become part of the statutory development plan for an area which is the basis for planning decisions. From 111 Parishes, 29 in Bucks have started the Neighbourhood Plan process. Only 8 have finished. A Neighbourhood Plan is expensive – in the region of £25,000-£30,000 but the Parish Council is building reserves, should we proceed, and grants are also available. It is a lengthy process and the recruitment of a professional Neighbourhood Plan Agent is recommended. Ken outlined that 8-10 Parishioners would be required to help with the process. The advantages and ‘penalties’ of not having a Neighbourhood Plan were discussed and Parishioners indicated that they were either unsure or would like to understand more about any Neighbourhood Plan for Cuddington. It may well be that an update of our Village Plan is the way forward. **ACTION: COUNCILLORS to take into account the views of Parishioners and consider the issue further.**

Closing Comment

Ken Birkby thanked all for attending and contributing to the meeting. The meeting ended at 9.45pm.