

DRAFT MINUTES

2017/01a

CUDDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Draft Minutes of Annual Village Meeting
held in The Bernard Hall
Monday 3rd April 2017 at 7.30pm

Chair: Ken Birkby, **Clerk:** Venetia Davies. **Attendance:** 79 Villagers

Ken Birkby, Chair of Cuddington Parish Council, welcomed villagers to the meeting. He reminded attendees that the Annual Village Meeting is a meeting for the village to discuss issues and to find out more about Village societies and organisations and their activities.

1. Apologies

Markus Bolton, Jim Will, Milly Soames, Geoffrey Barnes, Monica Barnes, Andrew Vickers.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Village Meeting held on Monday 18th April 2016.

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 2017 and Proposed Budget for 2017/18.
- Report from Jennifer Schram de Jong covering The Nicholas Almond Trust including Report and Accounts to end December 2016.

5. Cuddington and Dinton School

Richard Winnicott, Chair of Governors, reported on another exciting and successful year for Cuddington and Dinton School. There is full roll with waiting lists for the majority of classes. In excess of 80 applications were received for the 26 Reception places starting in September 2017. Governors anticipate this pressure continuing to increase over the next few years, particularly with the current level of proposed new houses. Richard noted that Governors expect the proportion of "in catchment" children for the September intake to be between 70% and 80% (in line with previous years) and highlighted that there was therefore some capacity to cater for an increase in the number of children in the villages should it arise. Policy on the size of the school roll is regularly reviewed by the Governing body. Maintaining the Victorian buildings remains an ongoing challenge - in excess of £40,000 was spent last year. Governors are grateful for the support received from the Oxford Diocese, Friends 4 CaDS and both Dinton and Cuddington School House Trusts. Following on from the Breakfast clubs on both sites last year, an After School club has been introduced. Holiday clubs continued to be popular too. Both infant and junior children have taken part in interesting, varied and exciting activities. The traditional dancing/singing around the village will take place in May. Governors are proud of the children's achievements and are constantly evaluating the quality of teaching and learning. This September children will be going to Waddesdon, Princes Risborough, Lord Williams and the Aylesbury Grammar schools. A formal inspection by the Oxford Diocese in early February, commissioned by the Governors, resulted in excellent feedback. Both the teaching staff and Governors continue working towards moving the school on from Good to 'Outstanding'.

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Issues were raised about School car parking – parking on kerbs, lack of use of Playing Fields car park and fear of blocking access for emergency services. Richard informed the meeting that the School reminds parents of the duty to park considerately but has no powers to enforce. Sue Jones reminded Parishioners of the very narrow village roads; not built for cars and said that every village school faces the same parking problems. Whilst it is illegal to park on a pavement, a lot of parents are good and responsible. A ‘polite’ parking letter can be issued (stronger measures of a fine of £30 could subsequently be used). Thanks were also given for parking spaces made available in The Crown PH and Tyringham Hall. A request was made for Villagers to be more helpful to parents – to recognise that many parents are working parents who struggle to get to work on time. It was also voiced that the issue is ‘people parking’ and not just ‘parent parking’. It was asked if the School has expansion plans given the number of applicants and increase in housing. Richard explained that whilst this is an ongoing issue, the School does not have the space to expand. The School is also protected as a Voluntary Aided Church of England School. The Governors are gifted to determine class sizes.

6. Traffic Speeds

The increases in traffic speeds, particularly going out of the village, were voiced. KB informed the meeting of the new Sentinel Speed Equipment (where prosecutions are possible) and appealed for volunteers. Chris Blumer gave results of the speed traffic survey conducted in summer 2016. Despite the opposite perception, speeds have actually slightly reduced since the original speed traffic survey 15 years ago but there has been an increase in vehicles – commercial; not private. It was thought the use of the Sentinel equipment will have a positive effect on those vehicles that are speeding, particularly leaving the village.

7. Footpaths and Footways

KB informed the meeting that the Parish Council has agreed funding for a new user-friendly footpath map which is being produced by Angela Sanderson. Charles Sanderson, who heads up an informal team of helpers to maintain the footpaths, welcomed volunteers able to lend a hand. The Parish Council has recently been granted 3 mobility footpath gates by BCC. Installation costs will be met by the Parish Council. Doug Kennedy highlighted the scrubby trees on Footpath 17 and asked if the landowner could trim these. He reminded Parishioners not to walk on the wildlife strips at the edges of fields that are not rights of way. The considerable amount of work completed on road surfacing (Dadbrook and Bridgeway) was noted and thanks were paid to Cllr Paul Irwin who has supported Cuddington with the BCC budget.

8. Website – www.cuddingtonvillage.com

Chris Long, Member of the Website Working Group, reported that the website received well over 1,000 visitors per month. The website was designed to be a one-stop portal and Chris commented that the most popular downloads - Arriva bus timetable, Cuddington Parish boundary map and Village Voice – demonstrated that the website was being used as intended. There are currently 257 members (140 Cuddington (made up from 128 different households), 17 Haddenham, 14 Chearsley, 13 Aylesbury, 9 Thame, 37 other local villages, 16 rest of UK, 8 abroad and 3 miscellaneous). Chris made a plea to Editors to keep their web pages tidy and to archive and delete articles that are no longer current. To also include the contacts for the organisations and ensure they are current and correct. A quarterly email to Website Editors, as a reminder, was requested.

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9. Village Picture House

2016-17 has been the busiest season yet, comprising of 40 events made up of 20 films (14 National Theatre Live plays). Over half of the tickets are now bought online. People come to the Village Picture House from as far away as Brill, Aylesbury, Princes Risborough and the other side of Thame. One couple regularly come from Great Missenden. The acoustic panels on the walls and ceiling of the Bernard Hall, along with a new audio-visual amplifier, has made a huge difference to the sound quality. Parishioners, who haven't visited for a while, or not at all, were encouraged to come. Parishioners were reminded that the Village Picture House is contractually obliged to show every National Theatre Live events, which are generally on Thursdays. KB commented that Cuddington is very lucky to have such an amazing facility. Only 25 villages in the whole of the UK screen National Theatre Live productions.

10. Defibrillators

The two defibrillators are situated on the wall of the Playing Field Clubhouse and through side gate of the Bernard Hall. Further demonstrations of the equipment/ CPR training sessions will take place. **ACTION: KB to liaise with Laura Ewers.**

11. Cuddington Village Fete – Saturday 8th July 2017

Jo Goodson, Chair of the Fete Committee, thanked everyone for their involvement with the village fete preparations now and in the past. She thanked everyone for their help and remarked that it takes an 'entire village' to put on a fete. Jo reported on the healthy finances which have allowed for a wide distribution of funds. She outlined the Fairy Tale theme for 2017 and appealed for Volunteers to man the stocks and bric-a-brac stands (good quality only please). As a small committee, Jo highlighted the aim is to shortening the time to prepare for the fete. She highlighted the changes to collections. No collections will take place until after the Easter weekend. Angela Sanderson asked for any material that could be used for bunting.

12. Boules Pitch

The new reinvigorated Boules Club will commence on Sunday 9th April at 11am. Parishioners were encouraged to come along and enjoy this great facility. Equipment can be borrowed. The Boules Club also hope to meet on a Wednesday during the late Spring/summer months

13. CPFA

The CPFA has expressed concerns over dog fouling on the playing field. If the situation doesn't improve dramatically, dogs could be banned from going on the field. There is a dog bin (which perhaps needs to be relocated nearer the car park) and bag dispenser available. Parishioners were encouraged to be responsible dog owners and keep dogs on a lead. The free running of dogs on a playing field was voiced as a contradiction in itself. Full dog bags continue to be discarded by irresponsible people in the vicinity of Tibby's Lane.

14. Contributions from District and County Councillors

Cllr Judy Brandis, AVDC Councillor for Haddenham Ward. Judy Brandis commented on the wonderful gathering at this year's AVM and wished all Annual Village Meetings could draw in numbers like Cuddington. Judy informed Parishioners that the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan is still ongoing. She gave details

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of the two companies set up – Lime Cart (home) and Ink Jet (business) to generate money owing to ‘low’ and then ‘no’ government grant.

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An announcement on Unitary is expected soon. Judy, who has been a District Councillor for 18 years but is relatively new to Cuddington, supported Cuddington in its objection to being categorised a medium size village in the VALP. Judy, who is Chairman of Licensing, informed Parishioners of a point system for taxi drivers. It was asked if taxi regulations include a possibility to refuse a dog. Judy also outlined training for hoteliers as part of AVDC’s protection campaign.

Cllr Paul Irwin, Deputy Cabinet Member for Transportation, Bucks County Council. Paul Irwin noted the pending announcement on Unitary and commented on the confusing 2 tier government system. He used the recent fly tipping as an example – AVDC clean roads at the side whereas BCC clean in laybys only. A new community bus scheme – the Bernwode Bus – is now up and running and is available for use by charities, organisations and clubs. The bus takes up to 16 passengers and a driver and has wheelchair access. There are 4 volunteer drivers but more are required. The 50mph Cuddington to Dinton speed limit should be in place next month. The Freight Strategy is being developed with plans to re-route heavier traffic. Meetings have taken place with Contractors to look at the feasibility of a pathway between Dadbrook and King’s Cross with varying options. It is hoped this could commence with the next year or so. The BCC Elections take place on 4th May 2017. Paul thanked Cuddington for being one of the friendliest and vibrant villages and cited the attendance at the AVM was testimonial to Cuddington. KB thanked both Judy and Paul for their contributions. He also thanked the volunteers who attended the recent roadside litter pick. 30 bags of rubbish were collected.

15. Cuddington Parish Council

KB informed Parishioners that Parish Councillors had resolved to increase the precept from £16,000 to £21,000 for 2017/18. Whilst this looks a big percentage increase on Council Tax bills, the Parish Council element is in fact a small part of the bill. The increase is necessary to run the services provided by the Parish Council and commence on project work, such as the footpath to King’s Cross. Ken reiterated that funds are required for a range of projects and so Councillors took a deliberate decision to increase the precept. The Parish Council commented on 9 planning applications this year. The Council objected strongly to the planning application at the Paddock at the rear of Great Stone House, Aylesbury Road. This application has been withdrawn by the developer and will be revised and resubmitted. The Parish Council received, in error, details of a pre meeting about the Allotments, Dadbrook for 12 dwellings. The Parish Council will lobby BCC to move out the 30mph speed limit to Kings Cross and Aylesbury Road if these developments are permitted. A parishioner asked how to get an allotment and expressed concern about building over the whole site. KB stressed that the proposed site is a small proportion of the whole allotment site. The meeting was informed, by Laura Ewers, that there is no waiting list for allotment. However, there is no information published about to apply for an allotment. **ACTION: Working Website Group to approach Allotment Society to promote information on how to obtain an allotment.**

16. Sue Jones, PSCO

Sue reported that there had been no reported crime within the last 6 months. Changes have been made within the policing structure. Waddesdon will lose one of its Police Officers but there will be no risk to PSCO’s. KB commented on the excellent service Cuddington receives from Sue and her colleagues.

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17. Bernard Hall

On behalf of Markus Bolton, Chair of the Bernard Hall Committee and Village Picture House, Chris Long reported on another good year for the Bernard Hall in 2016. The Hall has been well used again with a wide range of users including theatre, the Picture House, exercise classes and numerous fund raising and other village social events. Usage was similar to the previous year. After a slow start, bookings at the Picture House have picked up and are now running at similar levels to last year. This has been achieved by allowing National Theatre to advertise events nationally which has meant that a significant number of non-villagers are now attending events. This has reduced the risk of losing the distribution licence. The funding of the Hall remains healthy due to the contribution from the Picture House. This has given the opportunity to make major improvements without the need to access outside funding. The majority of the Hall's lighting has been replaced and major improvement to the Hall's acoustics has been installed. The Committee is grateful to the Village Fete for making a contribution of £900 to these improvements. As a result of the robust finance, it has been decided to keep the booking charges at the present rates which mean that the Hall is offered at some of the lowest hire charges in the area. Thanks were paid to Chris Lockett, Michael Collins, Caroline Winnicott, Jessica Ecott, Charlotte Cooper and Zoe Gibson for their contributions and support. Also to Chris Blumer, Chris Long and their band of helpers in running the Picture House.

Enquiries were made regarding a proposed loop system. There had been no feedback received. This to be raised at the Annual General Meeting.

18. Village Voice

Helen Keeping, Editor of Village Voice confirmed the Editorial team as Chris Blumer, Karen Clayton, Rachel Barnard and herself. She paid thanks to Nan and Peggy Cattell who instigated the village newsletter many years ago when the Church asked the Village what it would like from the Church. Advertising revenue is becoming more challenging. The team are very grateful to the Fete and Parish Council for grants. Unsolicited articles are welcomed to wichertcot@btinternet.com. It was agreed Village Voice is complementary to the website and invaluable for people that don't have access to the computer. KB commented that both Village Voice and the website are both vital to the village.

19. The Nicholas Almond Trust

A report on the Nicholas Almond Trust was circulated by Jennifer Schram de Jong, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary of the Nicholas Almond Trust. Jennifer thanked the Fete Committee for the donation of funds over the last 3 years. Thanks were paid to James Gibson for the annual rent for the grazing of Poors Moor. Three grants had been awarded. The Trust had received thank you letters from all three beneficiaries.

20. Sunshine Club

Sherry Scott paid thanks to the Heart of Bucks who supports the showing of films every other month on a Monday afternoon. It is very popular with members and supported by surrounding villages. The Club is grateful for the help they have from the Bernard Hall and the volunteers who operate the film equipment. A number of committee members have retired since the Club started in the 1960s. New helpers have joined. The Annual Bazaar is on Saturday 22nd April at 2pm. Please bring items for sale to the hall at 10.30am. Tea and cakes will be served until 4pm. The

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Club is always looking for new members to enjoy outings and events, make new friends and enjoy themselves.

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21. Items for Information

- Doug Kennedy informed the meeting of the Vertebrae Watch (16th/17th June) and encouraged Parishioner to take part.
- A campaign about Hedgehogs is being launched.
- Parishioners were asked to donate a plant for Christian Aid week.
- The Gardening Club is celebrating its 25th Anniversary. More members are required.
- River Thame Conservation Trust. Thanks were paid to Doug for spearheading the Trust. Doug commented that the fight continues to get restoration of the ecology.

Closing Comment

Ken Birkby thanked all for attending and contributing to the meeting. He said that Cuddington is blessed with a range of facilities and fantastic people who create and manage them. He mentioned the Children's Playground, which has undergone a complete refurbishment, the Crown PH, Church, Bernard Hall and the Shop. Ken asked people to support the shop – without it the village would decline. The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

Refreshments were then taken!

Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting:

**Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 7.30pm
Bernard Hall**