

CUDDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Draft Minutes of Annual Village Meeting
held in The Bernard Hall
Monday 4th April 2022 at 7.30pm

Chair: Ken Birkby, **Clerk:** Venetia Davies. **Attendance:** 55 Villagers

Ken Birkby, Chair of Cuddington Parish Council welcomed attendees to the Annual Village Meeting. He commented that it was good to see such a great turn out after the absence of the AVM for the last two years. Ken reminded villagers that the meeting is a Village meeting, not a Parish Council meeting and its format is to discuss issues that residents have raised. It is also an opportunity for villagers to get together and find out more about village activities and societies.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from 15 people.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Village Meeting held on 30th April 2019

Minutes were accepted 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 (please click on links to view reports):

- [Bernard Hall Committee](#)
- [Ward Councillors – Buckinghamshire Council](#)
- [Footpath Report](#)
- [Nicholas Almond Cuddington Charity](#)
- [Parish Council Financial Report](#)
- [Tree Warden](#)
- [Village Voice](#)
- [Waddesdon Neighbourhood Police Team](#)

5. The Future of Cuddington Fete

Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee are underway but there are no plans this year for a Village Fete. There have been several appeals for new Committee members, particularly someone to drive the organisation of the Fete from February onwards, but these have unfortunately been unsuccessful. Now that some beneficiaries, such as the CPFA and the Bernard Hall are self-sufficient, the meeting was asked if the Village still wants/needs an annual Fete. Several Parishioners commented that the Fete was a great asset for the village, a Cuddington tradition attracting visitors far and wide, but felt the focus has become more of a fundraiser for village organisations, with entertainment now playing a smaller part. Given the success of the village party on the playing fields which included a dog show and children's sport activities, the view was that a changed and smaller Fete be explored after this year's village party in September. This could still provide a source of funding for organisations who have difficulty raising funds elsewhere. There was consensus that the Parish Council should donate again to the Firework Display in November. For those interested in getting involved in this year's Village Party, please contact Ellen Dyer: ells1982@gmail.com

6. Development and building in the village

Ken Trew updated the meeting on planning. He explained that planning is a complicated issue. Whilst residents and the Parish Council have the opportunity to comment on applications, planning policy and application decisions are taken at County level. The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

(VALP) was adopted in September 2021 and is now the plan for this area until Buckinghamshire Council produces a new plan in 2025. The [Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan \(CNP\)](#) is currently being assessed by an independent planning inspector whose draft report makes only a few changes to the proposed Neighbourhood Plan. The next stage of the Neighbourhood Plan is the Referendum which will take place in or around June 2022. Ken reminded the meeting that planning permission is required for work on trees in the conservation area and also asked that residents consult their neighbours about planning applications. Indications at Buckinghamshire strategic policy level show that the villages are unlikely to be asked to take many more houses as the focus will be on the larger towns and new settlements. The Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan will have a settlement boundary drawn on it and proposals for development outside that would need a lot of justification to go ahead. Within the boundary, there are existing VALP policies that allow conversions, extensions, and small infill.

7. Road safety in Cuddington

Steve Wright detailed two road safety initiatives in Cuddington, the Community Speed Watch and the introduction of the Speed Indicator Device. He appealed for volunteers to help with the Community Speed Watch. [Steve's full report can be read here](#). Ken Birkby outlined the Aylesbury Road safety project, a scheme with Transport for Bucks that proposes certain constrictions along the section of the Aylesbury Road near the Crown PH and the Dadbrook corner. More details will be provided in the Parish Council Minutes as the project progresses. It was emphasised that there is no one solution to improved road safety but it was combination of various initiatives. A villager asked for a continuous white line to be marked in the bus stop. Concern was also expressed about the large number of HGV coming through the village, large vehicles using Cuddington's small roads as a cut through. People were encouraged to report vehicles to haulage companies. Councillor Paul Irwin reminded the Parish Council of the HS2 Road Safety fund for which it could be eligible. **ACTION: PARISH COUNCIL to request white line and follow up with the Freight Steering Group and the HS2 fund.**

8. Performance of the new Buckinghamshire Council and Council Tax

KB reminded the meeting of the long campaign for a Unitary authority and asked residents for their points of view on the new Buckinghamshire Council. A Parishioner complained about the automated phone system at Bucks Council. Ken invited contributions from the three Buckinghamshire Councillors. The launch of the new Unitary authority was at the same time as the start of the coronavirus pandemic. An overview of Council funding was provided ([see attached report](#)) and the impact of the Levelling Up agenda was briefly discussed. Tremendous support is being shown to Ukrainian families through Buckinghamshire (Buckinghamshire has the second highest number of expressions of interest in the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme of all council areas). KB asked everyone to do their best to be supportive to new families arriving in the village.

A [Financial Report for the Parish Council](#) was circulated. Whilst the amount of Council Tax the village receives has increased from £37,800 to £39,000, this has resulted from the way the total council tax received by the County is divided up. For Cuddington residents, there has been no real increase of the amount they pay for the Cuddington services from last year (Band D - £132.71 to £132.74). KB detailed the essential expenditure for the Parish Council and emphasis the importance of specific reserves for projects such as the Aylesbury Road safety scheme amongst others.

9. Rural Broadband

Zoe Day, Head of Community Engagement for [Voneus outlined the benefits of the fibre optic broadband](#) now installed in the Village. Zoe explained that Voneus works in rural areas only, to provide a much faster and more robust broadband service. The company is providing free connection to the Village Hall and the Church. If you would like to find out more, or have a member of the team talk to you about the ultrafast broadband service, please contact Voneus here: Zoe.Day@voneus.com

10. How can the local Rights of Way be improved?

The pandemic has delayed some of the maintenance work to footpaths by the team of volunteers. The volunteers will be improving Footpath 17 (at the bottom of Dadbrook through the woods towards Chearsley). If you would like to become a member of the working party, please contact: Doug Kennedy: doug@doug-kennedy.com. The Parish Council has been promised, by Buckinghamshire Council, to repair to the boardwalk (near Nether Winchendon Mill) in the next month or so. There has been a Footpath Diversion Order for public footpath No 13 (part) and a new permissive footpath at Cuddington Mill to Chearsley or Cannons Hill and Nether Winchendon (Footpath 13) with the installation of new bridging.

11. Celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A programme of events has been arranged for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend (Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June) and is being publicised in Village Voice, on the website and in the Crown PH. These events are solely for villagers and their families. The party weekend will include:

DATE	TIME	VENUE	ACTIVITY
Thursday 2 nd June	Tbc	Village Picture House	Screening of The Queen's Coronation in colour. Tickets only available via the Shop
Friday 3 rd June	Tbc	Crown PH	50's Jubilee Party
Saturday 4 th June	1pm until late	Playing Fields	'Bring and Share' lunch, cake, games and events
Sunday 5 th June		St Nicholas Church	Tea and cakes in the afternoon.

As well as the weekend's programme of events, additional village activities will be held in the run up to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee including a commemorative tea towel design competition, children's crown competition and a jubilee trail.

12. Other Comments and Items for Information

- A comment was received on the smaller sized Notice Boards.
- The welcoming of new residents to the village should form part of the AVM Agenda.
- The Crown PH is collecting for Ukraine. Please drop off items to the pub before Friday, 8th April.
- The Sunshine Club is holding a coffee morning on Saturday 9th April at the Clubhouse

Closing Comment

A vote of thanks was proposed for KB. Ken Birkby thanked all for attending and contributing to the meeting. The meeting ended at 9.30pm. Refreshments were then taken.

The date for next year's Annual Village Meeting will be published in due course.

Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting:

TUESDAY 26th April 2022 at 7pm in the Bernard Hall