

CUDDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
Draft Minutes of Annual Village Meeting
held in The Bernard Hall
Wednesday 19th April 2023 at 7.00pm

Chair: Ken Birkby, **Clerk:** Venetia Davies. **Attendance:** 58 Villagers

Ken Birkby (KB), Chair of Cuddington Parish Council welcomed attendees to the Annual Village Meeting. 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

Rachael Bernard and Helen Keeping.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Village Meeting held on 4th April 2022

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](#)
- [Parish Council Financial Report](#)
- [Nicholas Almond Trust](#)
- [Village Voice](#) (scroll down)
- [Waddesdon Neighbourhood Police Team](#) (received after the meeting)

5. Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan

The Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan is now 'made' with thanks to a lot of hard work from a team lead by Ken Trew (KT). KT explained the 3 hierarchy levels of planning – National (National Planning Policy Framework), Local (Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan approved in September 2021) and the Neighbourhood Plan (approved in August 2023 – 94% voted Yes). From village consultations, the Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan (CNP) sets out what the village wants to see happen over the next 20 years (until 2033). KT explained that the value of CNP is that planning applications not only have to satisfy the policies in the Local Plan but also policies in the CNP. With a settlement boundary, any development outside of this has to pass stiff tests to get approval. A new Local Plan is being produced by Buckinghamshire Council for completion by 2025. The Parish Council expect to receive some news about the Bucks Local Plan in the next few months. It is hoped that Cuddington will not be asked to accommodate a lot of new houses. The Parish Council will inform Parishioners as soon as the Plan is published in Draft. Ken Trew said that the CNP had been a very worthwhile exercise, with many people putting in a lot of hard work. He thanked the village for having their say. Ken Birkby urged the meeting to have a look at the latest consultation in the Bucks Local Plan and [Have your say on the vision and objectives for development and transport in Buckinghamshire](#). He commented on how Haddenham has been a selected centre for development. Ken Birkby also reminded the meeting that the PC is only a Consultee for planning applications and whilst it can comment on material considerations, the body that determines the application is Buckinghamshire Council.

6. Light pollution and preserving dark skies

Ken referred to the article in this month's issue of Village Voice, *The Impact of Light Pollution By Claudia Walduck*. In the past, Parishioners have opted not to have streetlights and whilst the PC take an occasional straw poll on this subject, Ken asked the meeting if this was still the wish of residents. A show of hands gave a fair majority against street lighting.

Lighting inside and outside can sometimes be inappropriate. Ken asked the meeting to have a look at their properties to see if lighting is necessary, appropriately positioned or too strong.

7. Road safety in Cuddington

Speeding traffic and volumes of HGVs is invariably high on the agenda for most people. Steve Wright updated the meeting with the two road safety initiatives in Cuddington - the Speed Indicator Device (SID) and the Community Speed Watch. The results from the Speed Indicator Device are as follows:

Road	Maximum Outgoing Speed	Maximum Incoming Speed
Aylesbury Road	67 mph	57 mph
Dadbrook	65 mph	62 mph
Bridgeway	52 mph	50 mph

The SID has also shown that over 50% of cars are travelling over 30mph at the point of crossing the device. The top speed was 75mph, recorded in the middle of the day. Last year, 144 letters were sent out (first half of year) and 418 letters (second) with more than one driver recorded on three or four occasions. This year, the team have conducted 17.5 hours of speed watch sessions and 91 letters have been sent out to date. Speed watch sessions will be increasing during the summer months. **If you would like to help with the Community Speed Watch – please contact Steve Wright stepnwright@googlemail.com.** Ken Birkby informed the meeting that the Aylesbury Road safety project (a scheme with TfB that proposed certain constrictions along the section of the Aylesbury Road near the Crown PH and the Dadbrook corner) ultimately proved to be impractical and was not supported by Buckinghamshire Council or the Police. Whilst there is a 'warmer environment' for 20mph from Buckinghamshire Council, the Police do not currently support 20mph limits unless the average speed through a junction is 24mph or less. Ken Trew informed the meeting that Buckinghamshire Council now has a new contractor for roadworks and a new contractor for design. It was noted that Oxfordshire Council has a different approach to Buckinghamshire, but it is hoped a new approach will now be seen from Buckinghamshire Council. Ken Birkby outlined the combined works of Haddenham PC, Chearsley PC and Cuddington PC for a feasibility study to improve the safety of the A418 crossing. The Parish Council have made several attempts to reduce the hedge further around the corner of Bridgeway (opposite Footpath CUD013) but have had no further support from the landlord or Buckinghamshire Council. Post meeting note: a loading restriction on the bridge at Bridgeway/Cannon Hillis going to Cabinet for approval and then public consultation soon.

8. Cuddington Fete

Several enthusiasts have taken the initiative to get the of Cuddington Fete up and running again, after a gap since 2019. It will take place **Saturday 8th July from 12.30-5.00pm**. The Fete will be opened by Brendan Cole and is kindly being sponsored by Rectory Homes. The theme is **BEES** and there will be a fancy dress procession that starts at Lower Green – Villagers were asked to search out their black and yellow stripy tops! It was emphasised that the fete has been 'doable by delegating' and that less emphasis will be placed on making money (some donations though hope to be available from Fete proceeds). Whilst there is a set-up and take down crew, the committee is asking people to be more self-contained with their stalls.

9. Environment

The Parish Council has initiated a number of planting schemes as part of its Wildlife project including the planting of daffodils in various locations including the cherry tree bank at Swan Hill and around the Build Out. Bulbs have also been planted on the Holly Tree Lane triangle. There has also been clearing of verges and planting of a number of whips and saplings on the Spicketts Lane verge and in the playing field. The Parish Council pay for these to be regularly watered. Cuddington has recently been promoted as a 'best walk' in the Sunday Times. Following discussions and landowner consent, the Parish Council contributed to the conversion of two stiles to gates on Footpath 2 (subsidised by a generous donation from a walker) and has ringfenced further monies for works to the footpath network in 2023/24.

10. Website

The interactive Village Website has been operating very successfully since November 2010. Those new to the village can register to receive an email alert whenever there is a post, article, calendar event that relates to an activity in the Village of interest. It was agreed that the Bulletin Board be reinstated – an area on the website that covers items for sale, lost or stolen, or village chat. Chris Long informed the meeting of the **National Alert Test** which takes place on **Sunday 23rd April at 3pm**. The alert will appear on mobile devices for 20 seconds with a loud, siren-like sound heard for up to 10 seconds.

11. Village Societies and Organisations

The Sunshine Club is larger than ever with a committee of dedicated volunteers and with members from a wider catchment. The Club carries out a number of extraordinary activities including a regular matinee cinema that includes refreshments at half time. It also organises visits, which included a recent trip to the Medical Detection Dogs. It is a very sociable group that is open to everyone. The History Society and Gardening Club have closed although some members of the Gardening Club still kindly tender the planting around the Best Kept Village Sign. Villagers were asked to come forward with new ideas for clubs and societies. A Pickleball Club was suggested - a softer racket/paddle sport that could be played in the tennis courts.

12. Celebration of the King's Coronation

Celebrations will take place on **Sunday 7th May** on the playing fields. There will be a village cake and teas plus children's entertainment. Please bring your own picnics. KB will toast the King at 3pm. This will be followed by field games. Nominations for Cuddington's King and Queen are now open. Please nominate anyone you believe to have done something exceptional for the village. The Crowning of King and Queen will take place in the Crown PH later in the day.

13. Cuddington Fireworks Display

Cuddington fireworks have traditionally been paid for from fete funds. Despite the lack of fete funding, in 2021, the Parish Council decided that it would be appropriate for the village to have something to celebrate at the end of the pandemic. The fireworks display has also been run at cost price and the insurance covered by the CPFA. This support isn't ongoing, so Ellen Dyer has asked that if the village is to continue to put on this event, it requires a new team who are able to make it financially viable whilst controlling numbers (several complaints were received about parking, people unable to get to the bar and items selling out). Ellen Dyer will remain on hand to support any new team but cannot run the event.

14. Parish Council Finances (Financial Report circulated and attached)

KB reiterated that the Parish Council tries to achieve many things but fails in some areas (not for want of trying!). Whilst the Parish Council funds are healthy, a fighting fund is needed for Village Projects. Whilst the Precept in the current year has been maintained, monies remain in specific reserves for projects on Road Safety and the long-term aspiration of a cycle path/footway to Haddenham. Ken said the whole point of a Parish Council was to make things better and asked Parishioners to please come forward with ideas on how monies should be spent.

15. Comments and Items for Information

The following were suggested:

- New mirror at crossroad, outside Crown
- Changes at Chemist – Parish Council to raise at future PC meeting with Buckinghamshire Councillors.
- Haddenham development – PC to ascertain if there is any move to reopen the footpath whilst the development by Redrow, of land west of Churchway and north of Rosemary Lane is halted.
- It was noted that the Local Authority is keen to establish the Thame route to Haddenham but not extend the Greenway. The Parish Council will continue to lobby.
- Vertebrate Watch/ Additional people are needed for Frog Lane.
- Potholes/Water leaks, etc. Please report: <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

2023/04a

- Gentlemen's Dining Club at the Crown PH. Interested gentlemen to please get in touch with Phil Johnston.
- The Crown PH - Ladies Day on 22nd June – an afternoon tea followed by evening fashion show.
- Cuddington and Dinton School. A vote of thanks was proposed for Mrs Kim Price who is retiring from the school after many years.

Closing Comment

A vote of thanks was proposed for Ken Birkby. Ken thanked all for attending and contributing to the meeting and, whilst now handing the baton to new people, he assured attendees he will still be involved in village matters. The meeting ended at 8.45pm. 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:

Parish Council Meeting: Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7.00pm in the Bernard Hall

Annual General Meeting – Monday 30th May at 7.00pm in the Bernard Hall