

DRAFT MINUTES

2023/038

CUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL **Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Bernard Hall** **TUESDAY 19th DECEMBER 2023 at 7pm**

PRESENT: Ken Brown **(KB)**, Eman Parker **(EP)**, Malcolm Thomas **(MT)**, Lorraine Stevens **(LS)**,
Ravern Stevens **(RS)**, Venetia Davies **(Clerk and RFO)**.

Parishioners: There were 2 Parishioners present for Parishioners Question Time.

NB: Action points highlighted.

Parishioners Question Time

- A Parishioner asked the Parish Council to consider retaining the current Precept (£39,000) for 2024/25.
- A Parishioner enquired about the 'call-in' process of a planning application. Since 1st July 2021 "call in" powers are available to Town and Parish Councils. Cuddington Parish Council has requested a "call in" (given material reasons) for application 23/03387/APP – Barn South of Holymans Farm. The Parish Council opposed this application at the November meeting and will attend and speak at the meeting if referred to the planning committee. As per the constitution: *The Service Director Planning and Environment (or their delegated officer) in consultation with the Chairman (or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman) of the relevant planning committee will determine whether or not the matter called-in by the Town or Parish Council should be considered by Planning Committee, or whether the exercise of delegated powers is appropriate.* The Parish Council awaits the decision on whether or not the call-in request has been agreed.

1. Apologies

Andrew Hughes **(AH)**, Ken Trew **(KT)**, Ashley Waite **(AW)**.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the November meeting were **agreed and signed** as a true record by LS, Chair.

3. Matters Arising

- **Assets of Community Value:** Expiry dates: Cuddington Village Stores and Post Office (15.09.24) and Crown PH (15.09.25).
- **Registration of Parish Council Land with Land Registry.** Logged.
- **Street Signs.** Awaiting replacement signs for *Tibby's Lane* and *The Green*.
- **CPFA Lease.** There are some discrepancies in the lease. The solicitor has reissued the lease to the CPFA for signature. **ACTION: CLERK to send signed Lease to Solicitors, on approval that both leases are now correct.**
- **Improved Mobile Phone Signal.** Ongoing. The Church are aiming for the tower to be used as a mast.
- **Chairing Skills course.** Postponed until further notice.
- **Gifted Tree.** Planted. **ACTION: LS/CLERK to order plaque.**
- **Defibrillator.** **ACTION: RS to order new battery for Defibrillator located outside Bernard Hall.**

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- **Village Maintenance.** An order has been raised by Buckinghamshire Highways to clear the unmaintained grass verge from the Crown PH to Holly Tree Lane. Colin Woolford, LAT, is also due to inspect the gully that floods near bus stop.
 - **Bucks Council.** Ashley Waite has confirmed that the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill has no impact on housing numbers. The updated National Planning Policy Framework has now been published. AW has brought to the attention of the Parish Council: **Paragraph 14.** Neighbourhood Plans will now have significant weight (when considering development proposals which are in conflict with the Plan) for a period of **five** years from being made, rather than **two**. **Paragraph 61.** The standard methodology for establishing a housing requirement for a local authority is now “an advisory starting point” rather than mandatory. This gives LPAs more leeway when calculating their housing requirement. **Paragraph 76.** LPAs do not need to calculate their housing supply annually if the Local Plan is less than five years old. The last point is important in the context of speculative planning applications as it would indicate that the housing land supply is not an issue for Buckinghamshire (in Aylesbury Vale area) until September 2026 when VALP is five years old.
 - **Footpath Project - Replacement of Stiles/Gates.** When weather permits, three stiles will be replaced towards Nether Winchendon. **ACTION: LS to organise volunteer working party for some remedial work to gates on Footpath 2. AH to liaise with Allotment Society to discuss replacing stiles on Footpath 8.**
 - **Grass Cutting – Children’s Playground.** The PC Insurers has been advised that a *person using their own equipment and who works under their own supervision, are considered a Bona-Fide Subcontractor, and needs to have their own insurance in place.* **ACTION: CLERK to continue to chase PC’s insurers to modify its employer’s liability insurance to cover Neil Waters.**
 - **Commonwealth War Grave Sign (CWGC).** This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Cuddington Parochial Church Council (CPCC).
4. **Declarations of Interest**, in accordance with Sections 30(3) and 235(2) of the Localism Act 2011. There were no other interests declared.
5. **Contributions from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors.**
There were none.
6. **Correspondence**
There was none outside the agenda items.
7. **Planning – please view Planning Applications and full comments via the new [Planning Tracker](#)**
- **23/03441/APP and 23/03442/ALB (Listed Building Consent) - Spicketts Frog Lane Cuddington, HP18 0AX**
Householder application for a new garden room and replacement garage roof. Comments by: 13 December 2023 (deadline extension requested by Parish Council to December meeting). **ACTION: CLERK to return OPPOSES the application to Buckinghamshire Council for the following reasons.** The proposed garage roof seems excessive in scale and is visually intrusive for a subsidiary building within the curtilage of the listed building. A lower roof is preferred, maybe of the mansard type, in order to reduce the height so that it is no higher than the proposed garden room. The roof windows are not required for a garage of this nature and should be omitted to avoid light pollution and minimise the visual impact at night.

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- **23/03617/ALB - The Old Post, Upper Church Street, Cuddington, HP18 0AP**
Listed building consent for the insertion of partitions to form a bathroom, the formation of a new door opening into the garage, insertion of boiler flue and bathroom ventilation grille and a new treatment to the northern elevation of the outbuilding internal wall. (Part retrospective). **Comments by:** 2 January 2024
ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.

8. Road Safety Projects – please also see [Highways and Traffic](#) page of website.

- **Extending 30mph limits.** John Pateman, Team Leader, Commissioning and Contracts Buckinghamshire Highways has informed the PC that the speed assessment report has been unsuccessful. The roads assessed (Bridgeway, Aylesbury Road and Dadbrook) do not meet the criteria for a change in the speed limit and the police have indicated that they would formally object to any proposals. The Parish Council intends to set out why it thinks that this conclusion is not compliant with Government guidance and appeal the decision if this is possible. The Parish Council may also have the opportunity to seek a 40mph transition rather than an extension of the 30mph speed limits.
- **20mph zone.** PJA has issued an initial report describing the basis for a 20mph speed limit in the current 30mph area. They are calibrating their assumed speed survey information against the speed data issued by Buckinghamshire Council. The PJA proposals included the extension of the 30mph speed limits as a transition to 20mph. The Parish Council now needs to review this concept in the light of Buckinghamshire Council's refusal to extend the 30mph speed limits. The Parish Council will hold on any further work on 20mph until a final conclusion on the 30mph (possibly 40 mph) transitional speed limits has been reached.
- **Dadbrook safe pedestrian route to bus stops on A418.** There has been no further response from the landowner. The project is therefore now considered to be unachievable in the short term. There will be another opportunity to pursue this objective through the Bucks Local Plan process in relation to the housing proposals at Dadbrook Farm.
- **Kings Cross/A418 crossing Feasibility Study.** KT has met with Haddenham PC and consultants, PJA to review draft report. It was agreed that PJA will now amend their report to include more detail about how cyclists would use the junction and expand the section on a roundabout option.

9. Reports from Councillors attending meeting and outside organisations including CPFA.

- CPFA meeting (30th November 2023). The fireworks were a success. Errors in the lease will be brought to the attention of the Parish Council's solicitor.
- Graham Hillary, Buckinghamshire Council, Freight Strategy. Attended by LS. Buckinghamshire Council freight strategy proposals will be available for public consideration from 8th January to 17th February 2024. Everyone is encouraged to complete the survey to ensure their views are recorded and considered in developing a recommendation of the approach to be adopted. **ACTION: CLERK to promote.**

10. Trees on Parish Land

It was agreed to obtain a quotation from South Bucks Tree Surgeons for the production of a Tree Register and maintenance programme for all trees on Parish Council land. **ACTION: MT to contact South Bucks Tree Surgeons. CLERK to bring forward to consider the planting of a tree on the Lower Green at January meeting.**

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11. Budget/Precept

Councillors considered the proposed budget for 2024/25. It was agreed to retain the precept at £39,000 resulting in Band D - £130.80 to £128.00 (a 2.14% decrease). **ACTION: CLERK to return Precept request to Buckinghamshire Council.**

12. Finance

- **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting** (28th November 2023): **£23,115.67**
- **Receipts: £0.00**
- **BACS Debits: £600.54** – Hartwell Nurseries (£300.00 [£250.00 + £50.00 VAT] (Christmas Tree), Majestic Trees (£300.54) (remaining balance for KB tree).
- **Less Transfer to Cuddington Parish Council Savings Account: £0.00**
- **Balance of Bank Account: £22,515.13** (as at 13th December 2023)
- **Available Funds: £102,636.48** (balance of bank account plus balance of savings account (£80,121.35 including interest (£210.18))
- a. **Orders for Payment: £613.65**
 - **Venetia Davies - £528.66** (£486.72 + £15.00 (Use of Home) + £26.94 (Stationery)
 - **Hugo Fox - £12.99** (£10.83 + £2.16 VAT) (Monthly Planning Tracker support)
 - **Trustees of Bernard Hall Cuddington - £72.00** (November and December meetings)
 - **BALANCE (Current Account): £21,901.48** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment).
 - **BALANCE (Savings Account): £80,121.35**
- b. **Management Report, December 2023** circulated.

13. Items for Information

- **Dadbrook Speed Sign.** The speed sign is not working. **ACTION: CLERK to contact manufacturer for site visit.**
- **Speed Indicator Devices.** **ACTION: CLERK to agenda for January meeting.**

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

TUESDAY 23rd JANUARY 2024 – at 7pm in the Bernard Hall

The Parish Council meet on the 4th Tuesday of every month.