

DRAFT MINUTES

2024/10

CUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Clubhouse, Cuddington Playing Fields TUESDAY 27th FEBRUARY 2024 at 7pm

PRESENT: Ken Brown (KB), Andrew Hughes (AH), Ravern Stevens (RS), Malcolm Thomas (MT), Ken Trew (KT), Venetia Davies (Clerk and RFO).

Parishioners: There were two Parishioners present. Cllr Ashley Waite (AW) was also present.

The meeting was chaired by Ken Trew, Vice Chair. **NB: Action points highlighted.**

Parishioners Question Time.

- Doug Kennedy raised the issue of parking on verges in the village, particularly in Bernard Close. **ACTION: CLERK to bring forward for March meeting. KT to look into responsibility for verges and underground utilities.**
- A Parishioner requested the grass cutting at end of Bernard Close (Fairhive land) be cut more frequently than every 6 weeks. **ACTION: CLERK to ascertain number of cuts from Fairhive Homes and Simon Brown.**

1. Apologies

Eman Parker (EP) and Lorraine Stevens (LS).

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the February meeting and Extraordinary Meeting (16.02.24) were **agreed and signed** as a true record by KT, Vice 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.** Response received from HM Land Registry for Property Cuddington Playing Fields requesting original Conveyance dated 11 August 1952. **ACTION: LS/CLERK to respond.**
- **Street Signs.** Replacement signs for *Tibby's Lane* and *The Green*. Email received from Buckinghamshire Highways (BH). All street name plate maintenance works are now being managed by BH who has a backlog of work. Cuddington has been added to list but there is no planned date for inspection or repair at this stage. Ongoing.
- **CPFA Lease.** Awaiting final amendments from Solicitor. **ACTION: CLERK to obtain revised Lease from Solicitors for signature. CLERK to request peppercorn rent in April.**
- **Improved Mobile Phone Signal.** AH updated the meeting. There are three legal providers of signal boosters. The PC has written to all three. They have advised boosting signal for outdoor benefit is illegal as it can cause interference. Nevertheless, the PC continue to explore options and costs to see if it's feasible and cost effective to bring benefits to certain indoor locations in the village. Following the January meeting Greg Smith MP explicitly brought up the phone signal in Cuddington in Parliament. There is a government backed initiative underway to improve mobile phone coverage to 95% of the UK by the end of 2025. The PC will therefore focus efforts on seeking assurances that the signal in our village will be improved under that scheme. **ACTION: AH to write to Greg Smith MP to seek further guidance and support. AW to also continue to push at his level.**
- **Gifted Tree.** Wording for plaque agreed and ordered.
- **Unmaintained grass verge** (from the Crown PH to Holly Tree Lane) and inspection of gully near bus stop. **ACTION: CLERK to continue to chase Colin Woolford.**

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- **Commonwealth War Grave Sign (CWGC).** ACTION: LS to attend meeting with Cuddington Parochial Church Council to agree position of sign, prior to application being submitted.
- **Village Book Library.** ACTION: LS to arrange installation of metal cabinet near Welford Way bench. CLERK to co-ordinate delivery of books.
- **Neighbourhood Plans and the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).** KT has written to the Department of Levelling Up regarding the definition of 'allocation' for Neighbourhood Plans in the new NPPF; this refers to the Government's caveat that protection is subject to the NP including an allocation. This was copied to Greg Smith, MP who has agreed to a meeting to discuss further.

4. **Declarations of Interest**, in accordance with Sections 30(3) and 235(2) of the Localism Act 2011. Andrew Hughes (AH) declared an interest in planning application **24/00463/APP and 24/00546/APP**.

5. **Contributions from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors.**

AW updated the meeting. [Buckinghamshire Council's budget](#) has now been finalised and balanced. The headlines are: Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Home to School Transport for vulnerable children and providing Temporary Accommodation for residents who are homeless account for about 71% of expenditure and are statutory. An extra £5 million has been made available for roads to help fund badly needed repairs. In total, £110 million is committed to road repairs and improvements over the next four years. There will be an overall rise of 4.99% in council tax bills, or an extra £1.69 per week for the average Band D household. Savings and increased income will be achieved by allocating less money to Community Boards and some local organisations and voluntary groups, additional council tax charges on homes that have been empty for more than twelve months and an increase in costs for services provided, such as car parking (moving from cash to digital). The emergency gas repair on A418 will end 1st March. Patch repairs on Dadbrook and Aylesbury Road are planned for 28th/29th February, and Low Lane in May. Pothole repairs are planned for 5th March (Bridgeway). The Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Board - Green Living Event takes place on Thursday 29th February 2024 at the (Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, HP22 4BY) and will include the grand opening of the Lending Library.

6. **Correspondence**

There were items of correspondence that were not discussed within the agenda.

7. **Planning – please view Planning Applications and full comments via the new [Planning Tracker](#)**

- **23/03958/APP - 3 Cuddington Court, The Green, Cuddington, Buckinghamshire HP18 0DT**
Householder application for single storey rear extension. Comments by 28 February 2024
ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.
- **24/00546/APP - Land South Of Aylesbury Road, Cuddington, Buckinghamshire**
Demolition of farm buildings and erection of two dwellinghouses with parking, amenity space, landscaping, and associated works. Comment by: 19 March 2024
ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.
- **24/00463/APP - Land Adj 6 White Swan Lane, Cuddington, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0YL**
Erection of dwelling. Comment date: 8 March 2024.
The Parish Council opposed the principle of the planning application at its extraordinary meeting on 16th February 2024 but did not comment in detail on the building itself and its relationship to adjacent buildings. A paper had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting with comment relating to compliance with VALP and CNP policies. It was confirmed that the comments supplement the previous response by the Parish Council and did not weaken the objection to the principle of development on this site. The paper was agreed and would be

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uploaded on to the Planning Portal. **ACTION: CLERK** to upload further comment to Buckinghamshire Council.

- **Cuddington Planning Considerations.** **ACTION: KT** to prepare update in line with article written for Village Voice about the benefit of early responses to planning applications. Concerns were raised about the process for responding to planning applications by the Parish Council and how they are minuted. **ACTION: CLERK** to agenda for March meeting.

8. Road Safety Projects – please also see Highways and Traffic page of website.

- **20mph feasibility study.** PJA (Highway Consultants) has submitted its final report outlining a phased programme of 'light touch' traffic calming measures and invited comments. Councillors asked for the recommendation to remove the central line be re-considered. PJA to be asked to arrange a meeting with Buckinghamshire Highways liaison officer via Teams (included in fee). **ACTION: KT** to send feedback to PJA requesting amendment to report and discuss attendance at the Buckinghamshire Highways meeting with LS.
- **Speed Indicator Device (SID).** Funding is being sought for two further SIDS so that these (and the existing SID) monitor all three approaches to the village. KMB suggested the use of 2 speed indicator devices on Dadbrook. **ACTION: LS** to progress funding. **KMB/CLERK** to discuss with Steve Wright
- **Safety assessment of the Kings Cross junction** (Dadbrook and the A418). [The consultant's \(PJA\) safety final report has been issued and can be found here.](#) The junction capacity/design to be reviewed during the Bucks Local Plan consultation stage.

9. Footpath Project – Replacement of Stiles/Gates

The Allotment Society has agreed to two replacement stiles on land owned by the Allotment Society on Footpath 8. Three stiles are to be replaced by two gates towards Nether Winchendon when weather permits. Areas of Footpath 3 are difficult to walk and the PC is exploring potential actions that can be taken with the support of landowners and the footpath volunteer group.

ACTION: LS to organise volunteer working party for remedial work to gates on Footpath 2. **AH/LS/CLERK** to ascertain landowners of remaining stiles on Footpath 8 for approach for replacements.

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

There were none.

11. Trees on Parish Land – Tree Register and Maintenance Plan

Councillors **agreed** the cost of £320.00 + VAT for South Bucks Tree Surgeons to provide a full survey of trees on Parish Council land. **ACTION: MT** to instruct South Bucks Tree Surgeons and ascertain data format of report. It was agreed not to plant a tree/s on the Lower Green.

12. Biodiversity Duty (bought forward as Item 5).

A Draft Biodiversity Policy was circulated together with a Biodiversity Report on projects accomplished in Cuddington for 2023. An amendment was proposed to Aims and Actions. This to be taken off-line for discussion and agreed at the next PC meeting. It was also agreed to include a section on biodiversity priorities going forward. Doug Kennedy kindly agreed to become the PC's Biodiversity Consultant. Ravern Stevens also requested to join the Biodiversity Working Group (DK, LS, KMB, RS). DK recommended that where there are opportunities or requirements for biodiversity net gain, the community should be encouraged to participate. This has wider

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implications than monitoring (policing) small improvements as part of planning conditions. DK said *Buckinghamshire Council has been admirable in being at the front foot in biodiversity net gain. It is not in public conscious yet but is extremely important. As a village, it is in our interest, both in terms of the environment and quality of life that these projects achieve their objectives over the long term. This is more important than individual planning issues – it is about quality of life and restoring the countryside which is so badly depleted. The PC really has an opportunity to make a difference.* **ACTION: CLERK to agenda for Biodiversity Policy and Reports/Priorities for March meeting.**

13. Playground Annual Inspection Report

Inspection Report (06.02.24) received and circulated. **ACTION: CLERK to bring forward to March meeting for update by LS/EP.**

14. Finance

- **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting** (23rd January 2024): **£21,032.11**
- **Receipts: £0.00**
- **BACS Debits: £5,520.00** (PJA £3,540.00 (20mph Feasibility Study) and (Infrastruct CS Ltd £1,980.00 (Dadbrook - completion of culvert design and strategy report))
- **Less Transfer to Cuddington Parish Council Savings Account: £0.00**
- **Balance of Bank Account: £15,512.11** (as at 15th February 2024)
- **Available Funds: £96,069.56** (balance of bank account plus balance of savings account (£80,557.45 including interest (£232.39))
- a. **Orders for Payment: £1,060.20**
 - **Venetia Davies - £745.08** (£486.72 + £15.00 (Use of Home) + £243.36 (additional hours))
 - **Juila Ridout - £32.85** (Land Registry fee).
 - **Lorraine Stevens - £170.28** (£141.90 + £28.38 VAT) (Metal Cabinet for Book Library)
 - ***Hugo Fox - £12.99** (£10.83 + £2.16 VAT) (Monthly Planning Tracker support)
 - **Playground Inspection Company - £99.00** (£82.50 + £16.50) (Playground Inspection)
- **BALANCE (Current Account): £14,451.91** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment).
- **BALANCE (Savings Account): £80,557.45**
 - * There are errors with the Planning Tracker. It was agreed to hold payment to Hugo Fox until fixed. The BALANCE (Current Account) now **£14,438.92**
- b) **Management Report**, February 2024. Circulated.

15. Items for Information

- **BC Planning Forum** (27.02.24). Attended by MT. The Buckinghamshire Local Plan, originally planned to be approved by 2025, will be prepared for 2026 and adopted in 2027. **ACTION: CLERK to circulate presentation slides and provide link to presentation on BC website.**
- **[Community Board Boundary Review Survey](#)**, closes 28 March 2024
- **Annual Village Meeting – Monday 22nd April.** **ACTION: CLERK to invite contributions from Buckinghamshire Ward Councillors and Village Societies/Organisations.**

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

TUESDAY 26th MARCH 2024 - at 7pm in the Bernard Hall

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING - MONDAY 22nd APRIL 2024

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