

DRAFT MINUTES

2024/14

CUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Clubhouse, Cuddington Playing Fields
TUESDAY 26th MARCH 2024 at 7pm**

PRESENT: Ken Brown (KB), Andrew Hughes (AH), Lorraine Stevens (LS), Eman Parker (EP), Malcolm Thomas (MT), Ken Trew (KT), Venetia Davies (Clerk and RFO).

Parishioners: There was one Parishioners present.

NB: Action points highlighted.

Parishioners Question Time.

A Parishioner expressed concerns over the erection of No Access notices (between Footpath 7 and 18) forbidding Right of Way on the grass field margin. AH confirmed that Waddesdon Estates had lodged a declaration under Section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980 with Buckinghamshire Council 10 years ago stating that they do not intend to dedicate any rights over their land. Such declarations help protect landowners from claims of additional Rights of Way for 20 years from registration.

1. Apologies

There were none.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes of the March 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.** Response received from HM Land Registry for Property Cuddington Playing Fields requesting further information. **ACTION: LS/CLERK to respond as necessary.**
- **Replacement street signs for Tibby's Lane and The Green.** Cuddington has been added to list but there is no planned date for inspection or repair at this stage. Ongoing.
- **CPFA Lease.** Lease now issued and to be signed by both parties. **ACTION: LS/KT to sign. CLERK to request peppercorn rent in April.**
- **Improved Mobile Phone Signal.** Greg Smith MP has 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. AH has written to Greg Smith, MP and received a reply saying he is more than happy to support this initiative.
- **Gifted Tree.** Wording for plaque agreed. **ACTION: CLERK to order bronze plaque.**
- **Buckinghamshire Council unmaintained grass verge** from the Crown PH to Holly Tree Lane, and inspection of gully near bus stop. Due to the amount of flooding and potholes currently all resources are currently dealing with high priority work. Ongoing.
- **Commonwealth War Grave Sign (CWGC).** Position agreed. Church to now arrange.
- **Village Book Library.** The library will be positioned outside the Clubhouse, subject to approval from the CPFA, and trailed for period of 3 months. **ACTION: LS to arrange decoration of cabinet. CLERK to arrange delivery of books.**

The Agenda and Minutes of the Parish Council meetings can also be viewed at
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- **Neighbourhood Plans and the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).** There has been no response from the Department of Levelling Up regarding the definition of 'allocation' for Neighbourhood Plans in the new NPPF; referring to the Government's caveat that protection is subject to the NP including an allocation. The meeting was reminded that the NP has to be renewed every 5 years, and to do that an allocation may have to be made in order to gain full protection from speculative development.
 - **Tree Register and Maintenance Plan.** The audit by South Bucks Tree Surgeons is taking place on Monday 8th April.
 - **Parking on verges in the village, particularly in Bernard Close.** **ACTION: KT to look into responsibility for verges and underground utilities. CLERK to approach Fairhive Homes and ask them to take measures to stop parking on verges.**
 - **Grass cutting at end of Bernard Close.** Fairhive Homes has confirmed it will cut the two sections of grass 16 times throughout the growing season. With the additional cuts received from Blades Turf Care Limited, this was considered adequate.
4. **Declarations of Interest**, in accordance with Sections 30(3) and 235(2) of the Localism Act 2011. There were no interests declared.
5. **Contributions from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors.**
There were none.
6. **Correspondence**
Email from resident highlighting poor condition of Bernard Close. Noted
7. **Planning – please view Planning Applications and full comments via the new [Planning Tracker](#)**
- The benefit of early responses to planning applications (discussed in an open forum at an extraordinary meeting) were discussed particularly for cases where it is likely that the PC would wish to object (for example if the application was outside the settlement boundary or conflicted with previous feedback or would cause significant harm to conservation area or a neighbour's amenity). Clarification was sought about whether councillors are entitled to express their views about planning applications as private citizens and, if so, did this expose the Parish Council to claims of predetermination. The initial understanding was that individuals could make comments and that the issue of pre-determination arose at planning committee level where a decision was to be made in the light of all information available. The Parish Council are only a consultee.
ACTION: CLERK to seek clarification from BALC.
 - It was agreed the Minutes should include comments from the applicant (if in attendance), comments from Parishioners, a brief note of the discussion by Councillors and a summary of main reasons for refusal (if this is the decision). Rather than detail the Parish Council's response to a planning application in the Draft Minutes, it was agreed that the PC's detailed comments should be agreed by email and uploaded to the Planning Portal with a link provided in the Minutes. This is because a draft of a detailed objection is written after the meeting, taking account of the discussion, and circulated to Councillors for comment/ approval before it is posted on the Portal. The decision to approve the detailed comments are then ratified at the next PC meeting.
 - **24/00751/APP - 4 Bernard Close, Cuddington, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0AJ**
Householder application for erection of side extension. Comments by: 4th April 2024.
ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.

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- **24/00546/APP - Land South of Aylesbury Road, Cuddington.** Email received from applicant regarding amended ecological enhancement area to be secured via a planning condition. The Parish Council will be re-consulted in due course.
- **Certificate of Lawfulness.** **ACTION: CLERK to set up notifications on Planning Portal.**

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

- **20mph feasibility study.** Final report received and circulated. LS attended a meeting with PJA and John Pateman, Buckinghamshire Council. Buckinghamshire Council will not consider 20mph scheme but instead encourages the 'light touch' traffic calming measures recommended which are considered low-cost/quick ways of reducing average speeds through the village to bring them closer to 24mph. **ACTION: CLERK to arrange a meeting with LS/KT and Colin Woolford, LAT to discuss resurfacing and refreshing of road markings, refreshing coloured surfacing and dragons' teeth markings on the approaches to the village, installation of village gates at all three entrances to the village and location of new speed indicator device. To also discuss measures to stop parking on village verges.**
- **Speed Indicator Device (SID).** There is no further funding available. Councillors agreed to the purchase of an additional SID (solar powered), in the region of £2,800.00. **ACTION: LS to order.**

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

There were none.

10. Highways Devolved Services Agreement 2024/25

KMB has agreed to be local representative for Devolved Services and will monitor grass cutting services. The Highways Devolution payment for 2024/25 will be £1,053.80. **ACTION: CLERK to return to Devolution at Buckinghamshire Highway.**

11. Biodiversity Policy

The Biodiversity Policy was **agreed** and now includes a section on biodiversity priorities going forward. **ACTION: CLERK to upload policy under PC Governance.**

12. Footpath Project – Replacement of Stiles/Gates

When weather permits, two stiles will be replaced on land owned and agreed by the Allotment Society, three stiles will be replaced by two gates towards Nether Winchendon and a volunteer working party will carry out remedial works to gates on Footpath 2. Areas of Footpath 3 are difficult to walk and the Parish Council is exploring potential actions. **ACTION: CLERK to report damage to Boardwalk.**

13. Playground Annual Inspection Report

Inspection Report (06.02.24) received and circulated. There is some maintenance required to the grass matting (roundabout and basket swing). Slabs or grass seeding is required for the gate entrance. The bench could be sanded and revarnished when the weather improves. **ACTION: LS/EP to liaise with Neal Water and Simon Brown for works.**

14. Litter Pick

It was agreed to hold a litter pick sometime in early May and invite Parishioners (at the Annual Village Meeting AVM) to partake. This will be in time for the Best Kept Village judging – between 1st June and 14th July. **ACTION: LS to bring forward to AVM.**

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15. Best Kept Village Competition 2024

Agreed. **ACTION: CLERK** to return entry form by 30th April 2024. LS to arrange payment (£25.00) after 31st March 2024.

16. Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Boards

It was agreed to host a future Parish Workshop. **ACTION: CLERK** to check availability of Bernard Hall on Tuesday 16th July from 6.30-8.30pm and liaise with Elaine Hassell.

17. Finance

- **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting** (27th February 2024): **£14,438.92**
- **Receipts: £0.00**
- **BACS Debits: £937.74** - PJA £780.00 (£650.00 + £130.00 VAT) (20mph Final Report) and Buckinghamshire Council (£157.74 (£131.45 + £26.29 VAT). (Dog waste collection)
- **Less Transfer to Cuddington Parish Council Savings Account: £0.00**
- **Balance of Bank Account: £13,527.16** (as at 15th March 2024)
- **Available Funds: £94,289.42** (balance of bank account plus balance of savings account (£80,762.26 including interest (£204.81))
- a. **Orders for Payment: £1,189.02**
 - **Venetia Davies - £501.72** (£486.72 + £15.00 (Use of Home)
 - **Haddenham Parish Council - £484.50** (£403.75 + £80.75 VAT) (25% contribution towards jointly commissioned Kings Cross (A418/Dadbrook/Churchway) junction review)
 - **Blades Turf Care Limited – £132.00** (£110.00 + £22.00 VAT). (Village Green cut)
 - **Oxford IT Solutions - £16.80** (£14.00 + £2.80 VAT) (Domain Renewal - cuddingtonvillage.com)
 - **Trustees of Bernard Hall - £54.00** (23rd January and 16th February meetings)
- **Also agreed:**
 - **Neal Waters - £135.00** (playground cut – 3 @ £45.00)
 - **ARG Compulink - £58.80** (£49.00 + £9.80 VAT) (Computer services)
 - **PJA - £300.00** (£250.00 + £50.00) (Final invoice for 20mph Feasibility Study)
- **BALANCE (Current Account): £11,844.34** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment).
- **BALANCE (Savings Account): £80,762.26**
- b. **Management Report**, March 2024 circulated.

18. Items for Information

- Nature Recovery Strategy for Bucks & MK – 8th April 2024. **ACTION: Doug Kennedy to attend.**
- July meeting. Changed from 23rd to 30th July.
- Third Defibrillator. RS to enquire with Methodist Church.
- Footpath responsibility for Bernard Close and Swan Hill. **ACTION: KT to check landholding.**

19. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING: MONDAY 22nd APRIL 2024 at 7pm in the Bernard Hall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: TUESDAY 28th MAY 2024 at 7pm in the Bernard Hall