

DRAFT MINUTES

2024/46

CUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL **Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Bernard Hall** **WEDNESDAY 18th DECEMBER 2024 at 6pm**

PRESENT: Ken Brown (**KMB**), Louise Butler (**LB**), Andrew Hughes (**AH**), Lorraine Stevens (**LS**), Malcolm Thomas (**MT**), Ravern Stevens (**RS**), Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**).

Parishioners: There were two Parishioners present including .

NB: Action points highlighted.

Parishioners Question Time

A candidate for the Buckinghamshire Councillor elections joined the meeting. In setting next year's precept, a parishioner asked the Parish Council to consider the 1.2% increase in energy prices (approximately £21 a year increase for Band D), the potential 4% increase in the Buckinghamshire Council tax, and the removal of the winter fuel allowance for pensions. The Parish Council were asked to retain the current precept level.

1. **Apologies.** There were none.
2. **Approval of Draft Minutes.** The Draft Minutes of the November meeting were **agreed and signed** as a true record by Lorraine Stevens, Chair.
3. **Matters Arising**
 - **Assets of Community Value:** Expiry dates: Crown PH (15.09.25).
 - **Replacement Nameplates** - *Tibby's Lane, The Green, Holly Tree Lane and Lower Church Street* reported. Order raised but no timeframe available.
 - **Improved Mobile Phone Signal.** Ongoing.
 - **Inspection of blocked gully near bus stop.** The survey has been extended to include CCTV and jetting from the bus stop on The Green (under four-way lights) to include the whole of Upper and Lower Church Street (under a road closure). Works are planned for 5 days (possibly completed in 3 days if there are no issues.) With Upper and Lower Church Street being very narrow roads, all vehicles will need to be moved off the road to ensure access for the jetting lorry as well as to all gullies. Works will start at 9:30 and end at 15:00. Date yet unknown. **ACTION: COLIN WOOLFORD** to letter drop residents on Upper and Lower Church Street, one week prior to start date and will also have No Parking cone put out along the road the night before. **CLERK** to put out comms on Facebook, Village Website, and School. Colin has also spoken to Mr Spencer Bernard about the hedge who will be cutting back the hedgerow shortly.
 - **Commonwealth War Grave Sign (CWGC).** To be installed.
 - **Bollards and Verges.** Awaiting revised estimate from Bucks Council. **ACTION: MT/LS** to chase costs, requesting like for like replacement (white plastic) and a cost for wooden bollards.
 - **Councillors' emails (pc.gov.uk).** **ACTION: ALL** to set-up new Councillor emails.
 - **Councillor Training Course.** **ACTION: CLERK** to arrange for LB.
 - **Welford Way Garden and Bernard Close railings.** **ACTION: LS/CLERK** to request update from Fairhive Homes in early 2025.
 - **Proposed changes to National Planning Policy Framework/Consultation.** Bucks Local Plan is due for adoption in 2027, with consultation and examination process in 2025 and 2026. **Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan Review** to commence early 2027.

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The Agenda and Minutes of the Parish Council meetings can also be viewed at www.cuddingtonvillage.com and www.cuddington-bucks-pc.gov.uk

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- **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.** ACTION: LB to research.
- **Trees in Conservation Area.** ACTION: CLERK/LS to prepare an article for February issue of Village Voice.
- **Speed Indicator Devices.** Positions of new poles for SID's is suggested for Bridgeway, and Dadbrook. ACTION: Steve Wright/CLERK to send description to Buckinghamshire Highways Commissioning Team and complete form. ACTION: CLERK to contact Colin Woolford for VAS repairs.
- **H&W Community Board Parish Workshop.** ACTION: LS to circulate Minutes.
- **Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024.** ACTION: CLERK to inform JE Accountants.
- **Bin outside the Shop.** ACTION: LS to produce sign to be displayed requesting people take litter home and dispose of dog waste in village dog bins.
- **Salt Bins.** ACTION: COUNCILLORS/CLERK to check for refill.
- **Christmas Tree.** Thanks were paid to all those involved in erecting this year's spectacular Christmas tree.

4. **Declarations of Interest.** There were no interests declared.
5. **Planning.** There were no new planning applications to consider.
6. **Contributions from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors.** There were none.
7. **Correspondence.** There was none outside the agenda items.
8. **Reports from Councillors attending meetings/outside organisations including CPFA.** There were none.
9. **Children's Playground.** Councillors agreed to pollard the Common Horse Chestnut tree at a cost of £432.00 (£360.00 + £72.00 VAT). Playground risk management policy. Working draft prepared for approval. ACTION: KMB to approve.
10. **PC Governance.** Local councils can use Section 137 to contribute to charitable funds, public service bodies, and raise funds for events that affect UK residents. For the 2024–25 financial year, the appropriate sum is £10.81 per elector (population 592 – 2021 census). To enable donations exceeding this amount, the PC agreed a Grants Policy. ACTION: CLERK to [upload to website here](#).
11. **Finance**
 - **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting** - 27th November 2024): **£18,807.84**
 - **Receipts: £0.00**
 - **BACS Debits: £1,102.20** (Insight International Corporation Ltd - £802.20 (£668.50 + £133.70 VAT – replacement mirror) (Hartwell Nurseries £300.00 (£250.00 + £50.00 VAT – Christmas Tree)
 - **Less overpayment: £240.00** (in error to Simon Brown)
 - **Less Transfer to Cuddington Parish Council Savings Account: £0.00**
 - **Balance of Bank Account: £17,705.64** (as at 10th December 2024)
 - **Available Funds: £90,319.89** (balance of bank account plus balance of savings account (£72,614.25 including interest (£170.37)

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a. **Orders for Payment: £1,063.01**

- **Venetia Davies - £501.72** (£486.72 + £15.00 (Use of Home))
- **Steve Wright - £188.29** (related SID equipment – barrel locks, etc)
- **Marc1 Services - £72.00** (Electrical repairs to SiD)
- **Blades Turf Care Limited - £0.00**
- **Buckinghamshire Council - £234.00** (£195.00 + £39.00 VAT) (Dog Waste Collection)
- **Lorraine Stevens - £25.00** (To Mr Brian Woodford for electricity for lighting of Christmas Tree)
- **Trustees of Bernard Hall - £42.00** (Hall hire - November meeting)

BALANCE (Current Account): £16,642.63 (Available Funds less Orders for Payment).

BALANCE (Savings Account): £72,614.25

b. **Management Report – December 2024.** Discussed in Item 12.

12. Budget/Precept. Councillors identified projects for 2025/26. These include the replacement of the damaged bollards on the upper green, installation of bollards at the junction of Aylesbury Road and Dadbrook, installation of additional footpath gates (up to 8), a tree survey (recommended every 2 years), additional tree works (as required), possible addition of two further village gates (if permitted by BC), replacement defibrillators as required, salt bins and the maintenance of bus shelters. Councillors reviewed and considered the proposed budget. It was **agreed** to retain the precept at £39,000 resulting in Band D Tax estimated £128.00 (a 0% increase). **ACTION: CLERK to return Precept request to Buckinghamshire Council.** The Parish Council also agreed to explore the opportunity of fully funded EV charges. **ACTION: RS/MT to investigate EV charges. MT to review Bus Shelters for maintenance works. CLERK to enquire with BC, for two further village gates.**

13. Items for Information

- **Best Kept Village – Winter Clean Up - Saturday 18th January at 10am** (and thereafter on the third Saturday of each month).
- **Town and Parish Council Elections – Thursday 1st May 2025** (only if there are more candidates than seats).
- **2025 Meeting Dates** (Parish Council): Wednesday - 22nd January, 26th February, 26th March, 23rd April, 7th May (due to Elections), 25th June, 23rd July, 27th August, 24th September, 22nd October, 26th November, 17th December 2025.
- **Apologies – MT.**

14. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

WEDNESDAY 22nd JANUARY 2025 - 7pm in the Bernard Hall