

DRAFT MINUTES

2025/05

CUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL **Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Bernard Hall** **WEDNESDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2025 at 7pm**

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

Parishioners: Doug Kennedy, Biodiversity consultant for Cuddington Parish Council and Cllr Greg Smith, Buckinghamshire Council.

NB: Action points highlighted.

Parishioners Question Time. Doug Kennedy presented on the Local Natural Recovery Strategy (LNRS). The strategy aims to create a better state of nature in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. Doug introduced the draft LNRS and outlined why a nature recovery strategy is needed and what is in the strategy. He reminded the meeting that the PC adopted a Biodiversity Policy following the Environment Bill 2021 (the government implementing the concept that if there is a development in the countryside that is negatively going to affect biodiversity, the developer has to ensure there is another net gain on the biodiversity lost). He urged Parishioners to think about our local area, including suggestions of areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity, and said this was more about strategy and ways to get people involved. The final version of the Strategy will be presented to Cabinet in Summer 2025 before it is presented to the Secretary of State for approval ahead of publication. **ACTION: KMB to complete survey on behalf of Parish Council.**

- Survey: <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/environment/lhrs-consultation/> (closes Monday 24 March 2025).
- Email: lhrs@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
- Write: LNRS priorities, The NEP, Planning and Environment, Buckinghamshire Council, Walton Street Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA

1. **Apologies.** Ravern Stevens (RS).

2. **Approval of Draft Minutes.** The Draft Minutes of the January 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.** Greg Smith MP should have now met the telecoms minister to discuss in detail the poor mobile phone signal in rural villages. AH continues to chase for response.
- **Inspection of blocked gully near bus stop.** Works planned for up to 5 days. Date unknown. **ACTION: COLIN WOOLFORD** to letter drop residents on Upper and Lower Church Street, one week prior to start date. No Parking cone will be put out along the road the night before. **CLERK** to notify via Facebook, Village Website, and School. Mr Spencer Bernard due to cut back hedgerow shortly. **ACTION: CLERK to chase.**
- **Bollards and Verges.** The revised estimate from Bucks Council far exceeds the bollards and installation costs sourced by the Parish Council. The bollards (£535.27) plus installation (£527.33) have been ordered and will shortly be installed.

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- **Councillors' emails (pc.gov.uk).** ACTION: CLERK to arrange.
- **Bucks Local Plan.** Due for adoption in 2027, with consultation and examination process in 2025 and 2026. **Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan Review** to commence early 2027.
- **Use of Neighbourhood Watch Scheme through Cuddington Facebook page and What's App Groups** ACTION: LB to prepare article for Village Voice.
- **Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2024.** ACTION: CLERK to inform JE Accountants.
- **EV charges.** ACTION: MT and RS to meet EZ charging on 31st March at 10.30am.

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.** Greg Smith, currently a Buckinghamshire Councillor introduced himself to the meeting. Because of Ward/Boundary changes, Haddenham and Stone Ward will include Cuddington as well as Haddenham, Long Crendon, Chearsley, Shabbington, Ickford, Worminghall, Aston Sandford, Kingsey. Greg is a prospective election candidate for this area.
7. **Correspondence.** There has been an increase in flying tipping. Please report here: <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/report/confirmation/7071867?token=NzV5JYDESpk5PbgHF0bDVFyX4>. ACTION: CLERK to request mobile camera for Low Lane. **Thame Banking Hub.** Letter of support sent to Thame Town Council and details with a link to survey has been publicised on the village website.
8. **Road Safety Projects** – please also see [Highways and Traffic page](#) of website.
 - **Resurfacing and refreshing of road markings, refreshing coloured surfacing and dragons' teeth markings on approaches to village.** Order in place for lining at south entrance to the village. Colin Woolford co-ordinating Chearsley re-lining with Cuddington and will advise date.
 - **Speed Indicator Devices.** Steve Wright has written to John Pateman, Commissioning and Contracts Lead Officer, Buckinghamshire Council with the three locations suitable for erection of new poles. (Brackets to be installed on each of the poles, and SID rotated amongst these poles). John Pateman has sent on to Buckinghamshire Council in-house design team to assess. ACTION: STEVE WRIGHT/CLERK to await response.
 - **Waddeson Area Freight Zone Consultation.** Further updates when surveys on Ivinghoe Freight Intervention have been conducted.
9. **Footpath Project – Replacement of Stiles/Gates.** A kissing gate and standard gate have been agreed for the footpath from Bridgeway to allotments. The Parish Council unanimously agreed a donation of £850 for both gates to rIPPLE. Two items of correspondence received:
 - **Horses.** Horses are being ridden around the field north of bridleway to Ridgebarn Farm and around the margins of the large field between Chearsley Road, and the concrete path leading from Cuddington Green down to Nether Winchendon. Divots are being created posing a trip hazard on several areas of the footpath and ruining enjoyment of footpaths. ACTION: AH to make landowners aware. CLERK to write to Waddeson Estates requesting erection of signs informing walkers and riders to keep to the footpath.

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- **Closure of the official footpath leading from Cuddington to Chearsley at Cuddington Mill.** **ACTION: LS** to contact landowner to ascertain if the closure is due to building works and temporary.
- 10. Children's Playground.** EP reported on the playground inspection report (conducted 16th January). Overall, it was felt the report was very thorough with no major concerns. Arrangements have been made with Safe and Sound Playground for works to exposed pipe and failed surface around roundabout and EP suggested that all failed surfacing should be replace given the failed surface under the swings. Other works include minor repairs to car, rocking horse and swing clearance of the basket swing. **ACTION: CLERK** to enquire with Playground Inspection Company, the current estimated percentage chain wear of the swings (currently low risk). It is noted that this should be replace when 40% worn.
- 11. Bus Shelters.** **ACTION: MT** to cost and replace rotten battens/fascia's and replace felt if needed.
- 12. Reports from Councillors attending meetings/outside organisations including CPFA.**
There were no meetings.
- 13. Finance**
- **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting 22nd January 2025): £16,098.91**
 - **Receipts: £200.00 (Gardening Club donation for Best Kept Village Working Party)**
 - **BACS Debits: £642.32 (£535.27 + £107.05 VAT) (Store Fittings Direct - oak bollards)**
 - **Less overpayment: £240.00 (in error to Simon Brown)**
 - **Less Transfer to Cuddington Parish Council Savings Account: £0.00**
 - **Balance of Bank Account: £15,656.59** (as at 13th February 2025)
 - **Available Funds: £88,638.95** (balance of bank account plus balance of savings account (£72,982.36 including interest (£179.67))
 - a. **Orders for Payment: £638.12**
 - **Venetia Davies - £518.87** (£486.72 + £15.00 (Use of Home) (£17.15 Stationery)
 - **Blades Turf Care Limited - £0.00** (Village Green grass cutting - £264.00, overpayment)
 - **Playground Inspection Company - £108.30** (£90.25 + £18.05 VAT) (Annual inspection)
 - **Lorraine Stevens - £10.95** (£9.12 + £1.83 VAT) (Cuddington PC First Aid Kit for working groups)
 - **Also agreed:**
 - **Ken Birky - £8.50** (concrete for Welford Way litter bin).
 - **Gilly Cottman - £55.92** (Best Kept Village flowers)
 - **BALANCE (Current Account): £14,954.05** (Available Funds less Orders for Payment).
 - **BALANCE (Savings Account): £72,982.36**
 - b. **Management Report – February 2025**
- 14. Items for Information and Diary Dates:**
- **PC Governance.** All updated and approved including new risk assessments. **ACTION: CLERK** to upload and agenda for March to formally ratify.

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- **AI For Local Councils** – 25 February, 12 March and 26 March - 11am online. (£95 to be invoiced). **ACTION: LS to attend.**
- **Town and Parish Council Planning Forum** – 3 March - 10.15am online
- **Haddenham & Waddesdon Main Community Board meeting** – 11 March at 6.30pm in Haddenham Conference Room, Banks Road, Haddenham. **ACTION: AH to attend.**
- **Best Kept Village Clean Up** – Saturday 15 March - 10am (and thereafter on the third Saturday of each month).
- **Annual Village Meeting** – Wednesday 23 April 2025. **ACTION: CLERK to invite contributors and publicise date in Village Voice and on Notice Boards/Website.**
- **Town and Parish Council Elections** - Thursday 1 May 2025 (only if there are more candidates than seats). **Please note:** Nominations to stand as a Cuddington Parish Councillor open on Tuesday 18 March and close on Wednesday 2 April 2025. [More details here.](#) **ACTION: CLERK to publicise in Village Voice, Website and Notice Boards.**
- **Post Election – Councillor Induction Quick Starts** – 24 May 2025 (free). **ACTION: LB to attend.** Also runs on 31 May 2025.
- **Conference 2025 Place Shaping** – 16 June 2025, Oculus, Aylesbury.
- **Cuddington Fete** - Saturday 12 July 2025.
- **Path Maintenance.** Swan Hill to Clubhouse. **ACTION: LS to add to BKV Village list of jobs.**
- **Woodland Trust Trees.** **ACTION: LS/LB to liaise re application for new tree packs to be delivered in November 2025 if HS2 saplings are not received. Applications expected to close August.**
- **Replacement Highway Safety School Sign.** Greg Smith will contact Highways for replacement School sign near Best Kept Village garden.
- **Wildflower Beds.** **ACTION: MT to ask Simon Brown to repeat again for 2025.**

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

PC MEETING: WEDNESDAY 26th MARCH 2025 - 7pm in the Bernard Hall

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING: Wednesday 23rd April 2025 – 7pm in the Bernard Hall