

CUDDINGTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

**Draft Minutes of Annual Village Meeting
held in The Bernard Hall**

Wednesday 23rd April 2025 at 7.00pm

Chair: Lorraine Stevens, **Clerk:** Venetia Davies. **Attendance:** 48 Villagers

Lorraine Stevens (LS), Chair of Cuddington Parish Council welcomed attendees, new and old, to the 2025 Annual Village Meeting (AVM). She said that the AVM is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting to discover more about Cuddington's clubs and societies and debate current issues. She reminded attendees that Parish Council meetings are held monthly on the last Wednesday of the month and that the first item on the agenda is Parishioners Question Time - an opportunity for anyone to raise concerns. Lorraine introduced four of the Parish Councillors, the Clerk and also Doug Kennedy (Biodiversity Consultant) and Ken Trew (Planning Consultant), who assist in areas where the PC may lack expertise. Lorraine summarised the activities of the Parish Council for 2024/25. She asked that anyone wishing to volunteer to sign up to organisations including the Best Kept Village Tidy Group and the Fete Committee, and highlighted the circulars distributed on seats - *Contributors Reports* and the *Best Kept Village brochure* which she said depicts the beautiful village we live in. Click here for the [2025 Parish Council report, Lorraine Stevens, Chair.](#)

1. Apologies

Angela and Charles Sanders, Andrew Hughes and Eman Parker.

2. Minutes of previous Annual Village Meeting held on 22nd April 2024

Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by Lorraine Stevens, Chair.

3. Matters Arising

A new heated mirror has been replaced at the crossroads and has full planning approval from Buckinghamshire Council.

4. Contributor Reports

Contributor reports were circulated and included the following. [Please click here for contributions submitted for this year's Annual Village Meeting.](#)

- Bernard Hall including Village Picture House, Rob Morris-Jones, Chairman
- Cuddington Book Worms, Lorraine Stevens, Member
- Cuddington Fete, Ellen Dyer, Member of the Fete Committee
- Cuddington Parish Council, Lorraine Stevens, Chair
- Biodiversity, Doug Kennedy, Parish Council Consultant (Biodiversity)
- Cuddington's Footpath Project, Andrew Hughes, Parish Councillor
- Planning Ken Tree, Parish Council Consultant (Planning)
- Traffic Action Group, Steve Wright, Speedwatch Co-ordinator
- WhatsApp Community, Louise Butler, Parish Councillor
- Cuddington and Dinton School, Vicki Shenton, Chair of Governors
- Nicholas Almond Trust, Lorraine Stevens, Secretary and Treasurer
- Village Voice, Helen Keeping, Editorial Team
- Buckinghamshire Council, Councillor Ashley Waite

5. Speakers

• Best Kept Village Tidy Group, Kezia Luckett

The Best Kept Village Tidy meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month (although because of Easter, the group meet this **Saturday, 26th April at 10am** – please meet on the village green). Each month volunteers tackle a wide variety of practical tasks – litter picking, sign washing, sweeping, etc. On average there are 10-12 helpers. There is a special initiative involving the school for children to get involved during national gardening week (May) with sweeping and weeding tasks. Kezia thanked

each and every person who shows up, thanking them all for their hard work including those who help with teas and coffees. She highlighted achievements to date and thanked contributors. There is new communal herb garden (a small plot of land just behind the pub) and a repurposed communal garden on the corner of Welford Way which will soon have planters of fruits and vegetables. Signs are being erected highlighting these areas. The Church clean-up was very successful and the new Commonwealth War Memorial sign has now been installed. The creation of a brochure to accompany the Best Kept Village application has been produced highlighting features that are judged. Kezia asked for any photographs of Cuddington throughout the year for next year's brochure. She also highlighted May as a crucial month for the competition – judging takes place between 1st June and 14th July. Kezia appealed to residents to tidy a patch of road or path outside homes. A reminder will be issued in Village Voice.

- **Cuddington Playing Field Association, Ellen Dyer, Treasurer (read by Malcolm Thomas). See Contributor Report (Item 4).** Villagers are encouraged to get involved where they can, be it using the bar, hiring the clubhouse or helping to fundraise. Please [speak to one of the team](#) if you can help out. The Association are keen to add new committee members. It's not an onerous task if enough people get involved. The bar operates as a member's club, the license being a Club Premises Certificate. This means users must be a member or be signed in by a member. Annual memberships are £15 for a family, £10 individual or £5 for concessions. Signing in non-members costs £1 each. Please help the Association comply with the terms of the licence by adhering to these requirements. In previous years, despite it being a village run event, members of the CPFA have taken it upon themselves to run the firework night at the Playing Fields. This year, no one from the CPFA has put themselves forward to take charge of this. Therefore, should the village wish to have this event, it will need a new organising team. Malcolm said that the playing field, clubhouse and bar are a fantastic facility for the village. He thanked everyone for their support and said, '*long may it continue.*'
- **Planning, Ken Trew, Parish Council Consultant. See Contributor Report (Item 4).** Ken Trew highlighted the importance of the Bucks Local Plan and the key consultation which will take place in September 2025. The Parish Council hasn't yet seen details on how Buckinghamshire Council will allocate the number of houses and whether Cuddington will be expected to accommodate new housing developments. The second Call for Sites exercise is currently taking place. Buckinghamshire Council will produce a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) of all the proposed sites in September 2025. In the last Local Plan, 15 houses were allocated on the Dadbrook Farm site. A larger site (including the Daybrook Farm buildings) was promoted at the first Call for Sites. When consultation starts in September 2025 there will be a note in Village Voice and on the website. It will be helpful if as many people as possible respond to the consultation and/or through the Parish Council. Ken explained that all planning authorities have to keep a 5-year housing supply. For Aylesbury vale, the land supply is only 4 years and so developers can make planning applications for sites that are not currently allocated. It is understood that there are a number of applications coming forward for Buckinghamshire. Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan gives protection against proposals for unallocated sites as it's within the 5 years of the Neighbourhood Plan being Made (11th September 2022). The Neighbourhood Plan will need reviewing but there will be no need to formally update it until after the Bucks Local Plan is adopted. However, preliminary work could start once the Draft Local Plan has been submitted for Examination in December 2026.
- **Biodiversity, Doug Kennedy, Parish Council Consultant. See Contributor Report (Item 4).**
 - Cuddington Vertebrate Watch – Friday 9th-12th May. A small team of watchers but new people are very much welcomed – please get in touch doug@doug-kennedy.com.
 - Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The Government's Environmental Act of 2021 requires town and parish councils to have a biodiversity policy. [The Parish Council's biodiversity policy can be viewed here.](#)
 - The [River Thames Conservation Trust](#). The Trust is taking part in the [Big Give Green Match Fund 2025](#) from 22nd-29th April. Every pound will be match which means any donation to the

River Thames Conservation Area will go twice as far. Doug encouraged attendees to watch the Thames Water documentaries - *Thames Water: Inside the Crisis* (BBC). The River Thames Conservation Trust now employs 7 people and has hundreds of people around whole of catchment to restore and protect the river and its tributaries. There are now 5 wetlands in Buckinghamshire including the [Eythrope Wetland](#).

- Folk Night – Friday 9th May

- **Footpaths, Andrew Hughes, Parish Councillor (read by Ken Brown). See Contributor Report (Item 4).** The project to replace stiles with gates has opened up a number of accessible routes. The Parish Council hopes to continue this project over the next 12 months. If you are friends with landowners for the remaining stiles in the immediate vicinity of the village, please mention that the Parish Council is ready, willing and able to install new gates. Enquiries are underway with Rights of Way to improve the drainage on the bridleway.
- **Buckinghamshire Council, Ashley Waite. See Contributor Report (Item 4)**
The Election takes place on Thursday 1st May. The ward boundaries for Cuddington ~~has~~have changed - Cuddington now in the Haddenham and Stone ward. Ashley apologised for not being able to attend the Parish Council meeting as frequently as he would have liked to. This has been due to workload and the number of Councillors being reduced from 147 to 97. He is now managing 13 Parishes and time management has meant he can't be everywhere he has needed to be. Ashley is nominated for election for the Waddesdon ward. **Housing Development.** There is a 42% increase in homes mainly in North Buckinghamshire. He encouraged comments to large planning applications to be on impacts of traffic, provision for health and schooling rather than visual aspects. **HGV Traffic.** The marked increase in HGV vehicles from housing developments has been profoundly noticed. Whilst Buckinghamshire Council has produced and distributed lorry route maps for haulage companies and HGV drivers to identify the recommended route for journeys in Buckinghamshire, these are preferred routes and not statutory. The meeting agreed these need to be enforced. Ashley aims to bring the Freight Strategy 'back online', an initiative that was designed to stop freight through villages unless delivering within a zone. Buckinghamshire Highways has requested from the landowner access to the land around Cuddington bridge.
- **Traffic Action Group, Steve Wright, Speedwatch Co-ordinator. See Contributor Report (Item 4).** The Speedwatch sessions have reduced from 61 sessions to 13 sessions this year. The team are critically short of active volunteers and are looking for volunteers. Please get in touch with Steve Wright - stepnwright@googlemail.com. Positions of three new poles/locations for speed indicator devices have been requested with Buckinghamshire Highways Commissioning Team in bid to capture speed data from vehicles exiting the village.
- **Cuddington and Dinton School, Vicky Shenton, Chair of Governors. See Contributor report (Item 4).** Vicky outlined the main and proud achievements of the school. This year more than half the Year 6 class passed their 11+ and 12 children are going to the Henry Floyd Grammar School. The school has excellent and supportive links with the Church.
- **WhatsApp Community, Louise Butler, Parish Councillor. See Contributor Report (Item 4).** Louise Butler outlined the benefits of the WhatsApp Community, an initiative to keep Cuddington safe and connected. Join here: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KtOOangtkalmmABeAJ0rA>

6. Closing Comment

Lorraine thanked contributors and everyone for attending, and thanked Chirs Long for setting up the audio system for the meeting. The date for next year's Annual Village Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 22nd April 2026 at 7pm in the Bernard Hall**. Refreshments were served.

Date and Time of Next Parish Council Meeting:

Annual General Meeting – Monday 7TH MAY 2025 at 7.00pm in the Bernard Hall