

DRAFT MINUTES

2025/17

CUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Bernard Hall

WEDNESDAY 23rd JULY 2025 at 7pm

PRESENT: Ken Brown (**KB**), Louise Butler (**LB**), Andrew Hughes (**AH**), Eman Parker (**EP**), Lorraine Stevens (**LS**), Ravern Stevens (**RS**), Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**).
Buckinghamshire Councillors Maru Mormina was also present.

Parishioners: There were five Parishioners present.

NB: Action points highlighted.

Parishioners Question Time.

- A Parishioner highlighted the poor condition of the wild cherry trees on the path towards Nether Winchendon. **ACTION: CLERK to write to landowner.** The Parishioner also thanked the PC for the Scam Alert presentation and suggested a talk on dementia. The Parish Council agreed that a series of parish forums/community conversations, say every quarter, would be a valued offer for parishioners. **ACTION: LS/CLERK to liaise.** Lorraine thanked KMB and LB in organising the informed and well attended Scam Alert presentation.
- A Parishioner asked the Parish Council to support the removal of a wild cherry tree, blocking light to a kitchen window. The Parish Council agreed it would prefer to see the tree pruned. The Parishioner was also concerned with the traffic situation coming through Cuddington. The Parish Council outlined its continuous efforts to actively address highways and traffic improvements here.
- A Parishioner is concerned with dog mess and dog bags left in the churchyard. This is on the agenda of Cuddington Parochial Church Council. This was also an issue highlighted on footpaths (see item 13). The damage to a storm drain was highlighted. **ACTION: CLERK to request photos from Parishioner.**

1. Apologies

Malcolm Thomas (MT).

2. Declaration of Interest, in accordance with Sections 30(3) and 235(2) of the Localism Act 2011, Councillors to declare any personal, prejudicial or pecuniary interests pertaining to the agenda. There were no interests declared.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes. The Draft Minutes of the June meeting were **agreed and signed** as a true record by LS, Chair.

4. Matters Arising

- **Assets of Community Value:** Expiry dates: Crown PH (15.09.25).
- **Mobile Phone Signal.** AH has submitted a FOI request from the office of Greg Smith. Greg Smith has assured the Clerk that the poor mobile phone issue remains a priority.
- **Hedges causing hindrance/obstruction to highway or footway.** Requests have been made for the cutting back of hedges in Frog Lane (now complete), Swan Hill and Bridgeway.
- **Councillors' emails (pc.gov.uk).** **ACTION: CLERK to arrange for RS, MT and LB.**
- **Bucks Local Plan and Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan (CNP).** Key consultation September 2025. Due for adoption in 2027, with consultation and examination process in 2025 and 2026. Preliminary work on review of CNP could start once the Draft Local Plan has been submitted for Examination in December 2026.

The Agenda and Minutes of the Parish Council meetings can also be viewed at
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- **EV Charging.** Full costs obtained - installing post and charger (£2,115.75 + VAT) plus installation and O&M (£8,815.80 + VAT). Agreed not to progress.
- **Closure of the official footpath leading from Cuddington to Chearsley at Cuddington Mill.** Completion date extended to end August.
- **Woodland Trust Trees.** Saplings – surplus stock from HS2 now unavailable. **ACTION: LS/LB to consider applying to Woodland Trust Trees for delivery in November 2025. Applications expected to close August.** The costs of maintaining trees were noted.
- **Damage to verge (Sainsbury).** **ACTION: EM to follow-up for gesture of goodwill.**
- **RBLI - Unknown Tommy Statue.** Logo and phrase to be included for an additional £10. **ACTION: LS to order.**

5. **Contributions from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors - Maru Mormina, Haddenham and Stone ward. West Bucks Community Boards** (previously Haddenham and Waddesdon Community Boards). The number of Community Boards has reduced from 16 to 8 with a budget of £3000k across the 8 boards. Priorities, in which suggestions should come from the area, will be circulated once known but community engagement will be the focus. The first meeting will be held on 4th September. KMB and AH are representatives.

6. New Local Area Technician - Alison Poland

- Following a reshuffle of the Local Area Technicians for Buckinghamshire Council, Alison Poland is now responsible for Cuddington. Thanks were paid to Colin Woolford for the marked improvements in Cuddington. **ACTION: LS/MT/CLERK to meet Alison Poland Monday 11th August at midday** for village walk around and priority updates, currently as:
- **Blocked gullies.** Colin Woolford and Alison Poland are meeting to discuss issue and arrange follow-up works following high-pressure jetting recently undertaken.
- **Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).** The Network Safety Team Leader, Buckinghamshire Highways is in favour of Cuddington retaining the VAS. Steven Wright has reported on Fix My Street and plotted the VAS locations.
- **Dragons' teeth markings on approaches to village.** Inspected and informed that these are below intervention level with Highways inspection Policy.
- **Replacement Nameplates.** Holly Tree Lane and Lower Church Street are defective and need to be replaced, Orders raised. The Green nameplate will be inspected on the village walk-around. Informed that Tibbys Lane is not defective, is readable, and not damaged.
- **Dadbrook road sign.** **ACTION: LS/CLERK to request sign be erected.**
- **Unsafe 30mph sign in Lower Church Street,** reported on Fix My Street. Timeline 6-8 weeks.
- **Planting of trees on grass verges in Bernard Close.** Road managed and maintained by Buckinghamshire Council and requires permission for trees to be planted on Council land (location suitability/interference with utilities).

7. Buckinghamshire Council Devolved Services

Buckinghamshire Council is terminating all existing four-year agreements with effect from 1st April 2026. A review of the devolved services function is currently being undertaken – *the input of which is vital in shaping decisions on service delivery, future budget allocations, and the design of new agreements.* As part of this collaborative review and to ensure consistency across all agreements BC are considering introducing new devolved highways service agreements stating from the next financial year. Current funding is secure for this year. **ACTION: CLERK to complete review and send to Buckinghamshire Council.**

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8. **Asset of Community Value nomination: Cuddington Allotments.** The letter of representation from the Allotment Society has been received. The Member Panel which considered the latest nominations held the opinion that whilst the allotments tend to be a community facility by nature and thus meet the requirements for listing, they felt that there was a lack of evidence that suggested a current or recent non-ancillary use of the paddocks met the requirements for listing. This decision DOES NOT affect the September 2023 decision to list the allotment land as an Asset of Community Value, which will remain in place until the expiry date of 27th September 2028. There is no appeals process. The Parish Council can submit a new nomination if there is a significant change in circumstances or if substantial new information came to light.

9. Planning

- **25/01581/ALB and 25/01580/APP - Chestnuts, Upper Church Street, Cuddington Buckinghamshire, HP18 0AP.** Listed building application and Householder application for demolition of attached garage. Erection of single storey attached garage/store and studio. Replace rear rooflights with conservation style rooflights and repointing of the stonework with lime based mortar and internal alterations (Part Retrospective).
ACTION: CLERK to return SUPPORTS the application to Buckinghamshire Council.
- **25/01649/ALB and 25/01648 APP - Holymans Farmhouse, Frog Lane, Cuddington, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0AU.** Listed building application and Householder application for extend garden store and add solar panels to roof. Comment by: 12 August 2025.
ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.
- **Buckinghamshire Council Planning Forum** (26 June 2025). Attended by KT. Slides circulated. KT has made the following comments:
 1. The Bucks Local Plan consultation this Autumn 2025 will be on a growth strategy and not specific sites and allocations. That will happen next July / August
 2. The HELAA methodology and site assessment report will be published at the end of the year. Consideration of planning history will be considered BUT in the context of higher targets for housing which may alter the planning 'balance'.
 3. The VALP housing numbers will apply until the new Bucks Local Plan is adopted but the housing supply is only 3.62 years and not the required 5 years. This means that applications for sustainable development could potentially come forward on unallocated sites
 4. Bucks are working towards a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) proposal for the Aylesbury area by the end of 2026. This will not replace the s106 but supplement it.
 5. There is no legal requirement to update a Neighbourhood Plan

10. Correspondence, outside Agenda items including email from:

- **Rectory Homes, request for gifted trees to have tree plaque.** Rectory Homes were surprised the request had been discussed before a formal enquiry was submitted to the Parish Council and disappointed that the PC had agreed not to install a plaque in recognition of the gifted.

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

[Buckinghamshire.gov.uk/fix-my-street](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/fix-my-street) (to report problems on highway)

- **King's Cross Junction.** It is proposed to review the junction capacity/design during the Bucks Local Plan consultation stage.

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- **Speed Indicator Devices.** Payment made (£1,152.09) for new posts on Bridgeway and Dadbrook. BC are now putting together the works package for the supply and installation of posts. **ACTION: CLERK to monitor.**
- **Waddeson Area Freight Zone Consultation.** Further updates will be issued when surveys on Ivinghoe Freight Intervention have been conducted. It has been noted that vehicle recognition software for HGV's could be implemented in the future.

12. ACRE/NALC Survey for Parish Councils, in order to assess Parish Council's involvement in planning for flood resilience (deadline 29th August 2025). Town and Parish Council's are being encouraged to complete a survey. **ACTION: CLERK to forward to Doug Kennedy, Biodiversity Consultant.** Doug Kennedy has met with Olly Pemberton, Waddesdon Farm Manager, and discussed farming practices, policy and the management of land around Cuddington. The policy of Waddesdon Estates regarding its land continues to seek to enhance nature and biodiversity, so increasing amounts of land are being taken out of intensive agriculture, while trees are planted and wildflower meadowland enhanced. A full account will be in the August issue of Village Voice.

13. Footpath Project/Bridleway Improvements. Two gates have been generously fitted by rRIPPLE (at the playing field and on the allotments). Dog mess has been reported on the track that runs from Bridgeway towards Chearsley (in addition to the dog mess in the churchyard). **ACTION: AH to prepare article for August issue of Village Voice.** It was agreed to defer wooden footpath signage until funding permits.

14. Children's Playground. The quarterly inspections (£78.25) and annual playground inspection (£90.25) were agreed for the year ahead. **ACTION: EP to authorise with the Playground Inspection Company.** Purchase of additional bolt and spikes agreed. MT has completed surveys for the Bucks Playing Pitch Strategy – (Parish and Town Council Survey) and Sports England, Active Places.

15. Defibrillators. The worry-free pack taken out in 2016 expires on 11th April 2026. Post this date, the PC will have to pay for replacement parts and maintenance of both defibrillators. **ACTION: RS to enquire if pack can be extended.** Current prices for SP1: Pads £62.65, Batteries £233.04, Starter Kit £8.00 (all exclusive of VAT).

16. Parish Council Logo. The Parish Council Logo was unanimously agreed.

17. Reports from Councillors attending meetings and outside organisations including CPFA.

- **CPFA meeting.** Meeting 24th July 2025.

18. Finance

- **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (7th May 2025): £30,754.68**
- **Receipts: £0.00**
- **BACS Debits: £1,742.51** (Neal Waters (£360.00) Buckinghamshire Council – Post for Speed Indicator Devices - £1,382.51)
- **Less Transfer to Cuddington Parish Council Savings Account: £0.00**
- **Balance of Bank Account (Current): £29,012.17** (as at 17th July 2025)

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- **Available Funds: £102,780.39** (balance of bank account plus balance of savings account (£73,768.22 including interest (£154.43))
- a. **Orders for Payment: £2,248.95**
- **Venetia Davies - £712.21** (Clerk Salary £749.23 less PAYE Tax (£52.40) + (Use of Home allowance £15.38)
- **Simon Brown - £666.00** (Village Green cuts £220.00, Verge Cutting £390.00, VAT £111.00)
- **Trustees of Bernard Hall Committee - £24.00** (June hall hire)
- **Bucks and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils - £25.00** (Place Shaping).

Also agreed:

- **Venetia Davies - £9.90** (stationery)
- **rRIPPLE - £350.00** (Allotment gate)
- **Eman Parker - £45.00** (grass seed)
- **HMRC - £416.84** (Employers PAYE)

BALANCE (Current Account): £26,763.22 (Available Funds less Orders for Payment).

BALANCE (Savings Account): £73,768.22

19. Items for Information

- **Councillor Surgeries.** Held monthly in Haddenham Community Library on second Saturday of every month from 11-12 noon
- **Parish Council Insurance.** **ACTION: CLERK/KMB** to complete renewal information request by 2nd August 2025.
- **Simon Brown.** **ACTION: CLERK** to ask Simon to include verge in Dadbrook.

20. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

WEDNESDAY 27th AUGUST 2025 at 7pm in the Bernard Hall