



DRAFT MINUTES
of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Bernard Hall on

WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH 2026 at 7pm

PRESENT: Ken Brown (**KB**), Louise Butler (**LB**), Lorraine Stevens (**LS**), Ravern Stevens (**RS**), Malcolm Thomas (**MS**), Venetia Davies (**Clerk and RFO**). Maru Mormina (Buckinghamshire Councillor) was also present.

Parishioners: There was one Parishioner present.

NB: Action points highlighted.

Parishioners Question Time

Memorial Tree – Leslie Jole. Parishioner, Jeremy Hatch, has applied for planning consent to remove and replace the memorial tree with a Liquidambar. The PC agreed to meet the cost. It is likely to be planted in October. **ACTION: CLERK to arrange payment when required.**

1. Apologies

Andrew Hughes (**AH**) and Greg Smith (**GS**).

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 none.

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

4. Matters Arising

- **Damage to Grass Verge by removal company.** Area to be reseeded in Spring.
- **Review of Cuddington Neighbourhood Plan (CNP).** To be reviewed when the next major review of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is published (expected summer 2026). The Draft of the new NPPF includes provision for Neighbourhood Plans.
- **Emerging Local Plan for Buckinghamshire.** Response submitted (8th March 2026). **ACTION: CLERK to contact Sue Gilbert, Haddenham PC and arrange meeting to discuss impact of the Haddenham site including impact on the A418 junction and Construction Traffic Management Plans to avoid village roads.**

5. Co-option. Buckinghamshire Council has confirmed there was no request to fill the vacancy by election. Applications to be invited to the Clerk at clerk@cuddington-bucks-pc.gov.uk. The PC is seeking support from candidates with expertise in planning. **ACTION: CLERK to commence recruitment process. LS/LB to promote via Annual Village Meeting and Village What's app group.**

6. Contributions from Buckinghamshire Council Councillors. MM updated the meeting:

- **Buckinghamshire Highways Update Buckinghamshire Highways** is reorganising the Local Area Technician Service (LATS), which will be replaced by a new **Area Inspector**. The change is intended to provide quicker access to specialist expertise when reporting issues. The new system will launch on 1 April. The point of contact for the Cuddington will be Cassey Jane.
- **Haddenham to Thame Greenway project.** Officers are preparing information for a Cabinet Member decision this summer on whether to proceed to formal consultation. If approved, consultation is expected in late 2026 on specific route options. As parts of the route cross private land, details remain limited. The project continues to be developed jointly with Oxfordshire. This is the closest the scheme has been to progressing, though significant work remains.
- **Buckinghamshire Council – Political Balance.** Recent defections have shifted the political balance, giving the Conservatives an overall majority on Buckinghamshire Council.

7. Asset of Community Value. The meeting **ratified** the Parish Council's submission of the Community Right to Bid *Express of Interest form* for the Crown PH. The information submitted to Buckinghamshire Council outlined the formation of the Community Benefits Society (CBS) and its intention to purchase.

8. Cuddington Tennis Club, to provide any update. The formal *Licence to Occupy* has been prepared between the parties and agreed subject to condition concerning termination. A grant of £3,000 will be payable on completion of Licence. BMKALC has confirmed that a local council may lend money (agreed £7k), interest free, under s.19. The loan will require a formal agreement signed by those authorised to bind the tennis club, along with a clause covering default, as contracts exist to protect all parties if circumstances change. **ACTION: LS to sign Lease once approved.**

9. Correspondence.

- **Highways Devolved Services Agreement 2026-2027** (Memorandum of Understanding). Highways Devolution Payment for 2026-27 includes a 4% inflation increase and will be £1121.27. Contract signed and returned.
- **Best Kept Village Competition** (entry form and payment). New brochure printing costs agreed. **ACTION: CLERK to complete entry form for Best Kept Village Competition (deadline - 30th April 2026).** Judging will take place between 1 June and 14 July 2026.

10. Planning

- **PL/26/00673/FA: Old Stable, Dadbrook, Cuddington, HP18 0AG.** Alterations and extensions including the erection of a replacement two storey side extension, single storey front extension and part single, part two storey rear extension. Comments: 12 March 2026. **ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.**
- **PL/26/00703/FA: Linnetts, Spurt Street, Cuddington, HP18 0BB.** Part single, part two storey front extension, rear ground floor Infill extension and front porch. Comment deadline: 12 March 2026. **ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.**
- **PL/26/01277/KA.** Prosed works to trees in a conservation area. **Cuddington And Dinton Church Of England School, Upper Church Street, Cuddington, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0AP.** Fell marked trees within group and tree with flaking bark (4th tree from right). Remove hung up branch in second from end tree. Cut back

heavily ivy covered trees overhanging fence by 1.0m x 3 Field Maple (G011), reduce by 2m to lessen end loading x 1 Corsican Pine (T001), trim sides and remove overhang by 0.3m x 1 Thuja (T017) and crown lift to 2.2 metres on school side x 1 Yew (T015).

Comment deadline: 18 March 2026. **ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.**

- **PL/26/01847/KA* Application type:** Proposed works to trees in a conservation area. **Baileys House, Upper Church Street, Cuddington, Buckinghamshire, HP18 0AP.** Proposal: T1 - Sycamore - Crown Reduction - Reducing the height and spread of the tree by up to 2.5 metres. T2 Cherry - Crown reduction - Reducing height and spread by up to 1m. T3 Fastigata Yew - Reduce out of shape branches to tidy and shape. (Cuddington Conservation Area). Comment deadline: 10 April 2026. *It was noted this application was received after the Agenda was issue but because of comment deadline was discussed. **ACTION: CLERK to return NO OBJECTIONS to Buckinghamshire Council.**

11. Village Maintenance – Local Area Technician (LATS). CPC awaits information on reorganisation of LATS. Priorities continue to be as follows:

- **Blocked gullies.** Follow-up works following high-pressure jetting undertaken.
- **Replacement Nameplates.** Holly Tree Lane, Lower Church Street and The Green.
- **Dadbrook road sign.** Reported via Fix My Street.
- **Planting of trees on grass verges in Bernard Close.** Managed and maintained by Buckinghamshire Council. Permission required for trees planted on Council land. Utilities mapping to be provided by BC.
- **Refreshing of White Lining.** Requested via Fix My Street.

12. Tree/Hedge Works. All current works completed.

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

Buckinghamshire.gov.uk/fix-my-street (to report problems on highway).

- **King's Cross Junction.** The junction capacity/design will be reviewed during the Bucks Local Plan consultation stage.
- **Speed Indicator Devices.** No update.
- **Removal of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).** Meeting proposed. **ACTION: LS/KMB to attend.**
- **Waddeson Area Freight Zone.** Awaiting details of new localised HGV-management options/proposals.

14. Footpath and Bridleway Improvements and Haddenham-Dinton-Stone Aylesbury Greenway.

- **Footpath and Bridleway Improvements.** AH has chased Buckinghamshire Council on Bridleway off Spicketts Lane/Frog Lane and CUD 2/2. **1945 bridge** added to the RoW work schedule.
- **Haddenham-Dinton-Stone Aylesbury Greenway.** Update received from Cllr Alan Thawley, Haddenham Parish Council. Current proposals being put forward by Greenroutes and Cycleways on behalf of Bucks Council would route the path along field margins from Green Lane into Westlington, through Dinton and Upton, then around St John's playing field to Stone. Alignment and some landowner consents are still to be finalised. The scheme would provide a sealed 3-metre path with grass verges and fencing. An alternative roadside route along the A418, promoted by Dinton with Ford PC,

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- is considered significantly more costly due to the need for light-controlled crossings and extensive new path construction. Officers have indicated that available S106 funds could cover the cost of the field-edge route. It was noted that pursuing the roadside option would likely result in no route being delivered. Cuddington PC has noted that neither proposal necessarily bring benefits to Cuddington. Safe access from Cuddington to the A418 remains a priority. AT will raise with Haddenham PC for Parish Councils to work together. **ACTION: AH/KMB to progress.**

15. Children's Playground. Operation Inspections (£82.50 excl. VAT) will take place May 2026, August 2026, January 2027. Annual Inspection will take place in November/December 2026. MT has confirmed works from January's operation inspection have been completed.

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

- **CPFA.** Ellen Dyer has stepped down as Treasurer but remains secretary of the Bar. Patrick Maxwell is the new treasurer. Lyne Devey taken on ?, Malcolm Thomas has taken on the football bookings. 2026 celebrates the 50th year anniversary of the Clubhouse The provisional celebration date is Saturday 12th September.
- **Community Board Meeting.** The meeting highlighted the launch of The Friday Club at Haddenham Park Care Home - a weekly social group for adults aged 65+. The Clubs runs every Friday from 10am to 3pm (although run by volunteers) and offers conversation, companionship, lunch, music, light exercise, and uplifting activities. The first visit is free, then £20 per session. [Contact and booking details](#)

17. Finance

- **Balance from Minutes of previous meeting (21st January 2026): £16,604.77**
- **Receipts: £21.50** (Village Map income)
- **BACS Debits: £339.14** (HMRC)
- **Less Transfer to Cuddington Parish Council Savings Account: £0.00**
- **Balance of Bank Account (Current): £13,147.41 (as at 19th March 2026)**
- **Available Funds: £103,144.11** (balance of bank account plus balance of savings account 35 day **£39,676.38** including interest (£61.69) and balance of savings account 95 day **£50,320.32** including interest £104.78)
 - **Orders for Payment: £2,002.28**
 - **Venetia Davies - £748.88** (Clerk Salary (£773.50) less PAYE Tax (£40.00) £733.50) + (Use of Home allowance £15.38).
 - **Venetia Davies - £6.80** (postage).
 - **Blades Turf Care Limited - £372.00** (Village Green grass cutting - £132.00 (£110.00 + £22.00 VAT), Bernad Close/Swan Hill verges - £240.00 (£200.00 + £40.00 VAT),
 - **Trustees of Bernard Hall Committee - £72.00** (Hall hire - February and March 2026)
 - **South Bucks Tree Surgeons - £48.00** (£40.00 + £8.88 VAT) (Tree works – Welford Way)
 - **Oxford IT Solutions- £16.80 (£14.00 + £2.80)** - cuddingtonvillage.com domain renewal 31/03/2026)
 - **Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition - £25.00** (2026 Entry fee)
 - **Caloo - £712.80 (£594.00 + £118.80 VAT)** (Playground repairs/maintenance)

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Also agreed:

- **Venetia Davies - £52.49** (Microsoft Office)
 - **Neal - £360.00** (Children's playarea – 8 cuts November to March)
- It was noted *that the agreed grant for the Tennis Club has been ringfenced for the financial year 2025/26 and payable on completion of contract.*

BALANCE (Current Account): £10,732.64 (Available Funds less Orders for Payment).

BALANCE (High Interest Account 95 days): £50,320.32 (High Interest Account 35 days): £39,676.38. Total Funds: 100,729.34

b. Management Report. March 2025. Circulated.

18. Items for Information

- **Local Transport Plan 5 consultation.** Public consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 5, running from **16 February to 30 March 2026**. Online survey, [here](#)
- **Town and Parish Planning Forum** - Friday 10th April at 10am on Teams. **ACTION: KT to attend.**
- **Dog Bins.** **ACTION: CLERK** to request more frequent empties/larger bin from Street Scene for bin adjacent to bus stop.
- **Notification of planning appeal lodged.** Cowleas, Spicketts Lane, Cuddington, Buckinghamshire HP18 0AY. Proposal: Demolition of existing residential dwelling and erection of detached dwelling, including provision of on-site parking, a detached garage, and associated external works. Planning Inspectorate Ref: 6006053. Appeal start date: 24 March 2026. Comments within 5 weeks of start date.

19. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING: WEDNESDAY 22nd APRIL 2026 at 7pm
AGM: WEDNESDAY 27th MAY 2026 at 7pm in the Bernard Hall