

Cuddington Parish Council Meeting 5 August 2009
Draft Minutes

Present: Parish Councillors Sherry Scott (Chairman), Ken Birkby, Frank Crowdy, Jim Hayward, Michael Pegge, Jennifer Schram de Jong and Stephen Turner. Ruth Powell took the minutes.

District Councillor David Smith, District and County Councillor Michael Edmonds also attended.

There were no questions from the three members of the public present.

1. No apologies were received.
2. The minutes from the meeting on 1st July were approved as a true record.
3. Matters arising from the minutes:
Cllr Scott reported that she had removed the small amount of spoil left on site at the playground and had paid the contractor; Cllr Birkby has worked on the clerk's contract of employment and would welcome comments from members; the grass on Skittles Green has now been cut; it had been decided to discard all copies of planning applications except those relating to long-running and more contentious issues; the Bernard Hall Management Committee has been told to re-submit its grant application to WREN in September for a December decision; Cllr Scott will liaise with the clerk concerning the mobile skate park; Cllr Pegge reported that salt bins have been ordered and Cllr Schram de Jong requested that no more salt should be deposited in Spicketts Lane.
4. There were no declarations of interest.
5. Planning:
Chris Bloomer, Chairman of the School Governors, addressed the meeting at the parish council's invitation to explain the school's requirements and the background to the planning application to be considered. The School is legally obliged to provide some outside shelter for Foundation Stage children when they pursue outside activities and the sheltered area in question accommodates 6 pupils.

09/01260/APP Cuddington C of E First School – Retention of outdoor shelter and provision of wall mounted canopy.

The parish council resolved not to object in principle to the application but to comment that the unattractive materials used do not enhance the school's appearance.

Councillors expressed concern at the recent decision of the Planning Committee to grant permission for the latest application at The Penny School, Frog Lane. It was decided that Cllr Birkby would seek clarification from the Head of Development Control at Aylesbury Vale District Council as to the criteria for this type of development and the possible precedent that has been set in creating a separate dwelling from a granny annexe.

6. Cllr Hayward commented on the Best Kept Village Competition. Cuddington had been placed 3rd in the Morris Cup, only 2 points below the winner.

7. Payments were agreed:

Clerk's salary for July £176.10

Bedding plants (purchased by Cllr Hayward from Askett Nurseries) £13.33

Wasp nest control (paid by Cllr Scott to Bees Knees) £35.00

The cheques signed at the July meeting listed for members' approval were agreed retrospectively:

Grass cutting, Simon Brown £150.00

Cellar cooling system for clubhouse, WM Air Conditioning £3,082.00

Payment was received from Cuddington Playing Fields Association for £2,600 in relation to the work on the clubhouse.

8. Michael Edmonds (County and District Councillor) reported to members on the progress of the theatre construction and Waterside development in Aylesbury. He also highlighted the construction of a new council chamber at The Gateway as an asset to the town and district. Regarding the Joint Venture on commercial properties, a preferred bidder was now in place.

The Home Loan Scheme (agreed at AVDC Cabinet 4th August) will bring £16 million to six local authorities to lend for home improvement schemes such as upgrading insulation. The loans will be made at competitive rates 2-3% below base rate.

There has been a decrease in domestic planning applications but a large number of applications are pending from developers prior to the Local Development Framework being approved.

The decision date (Bucks County Council) for the Incinerator preferred bidder is 14th September and this will determine whether Calvert is the chosen site.

Area 11 in the Speed Limit Review is the last area to be considered. Police and county councillors will meet on 25th August and then public consultation will take place on the revised proposals for implementation in the current financial year.

Road patching is underway and there will be re-surfacing work carried out on the Cuddington to Dinton Road.

The new routing on the 280 bus route will bring an improvement in service for Cuddington.

9. The date for the Cuddington v Chearsley Tug-of-War is now 27th September. Committee members are needed to help with organising it. A prize is to be provided by Cllr Scott.

10. Cllr Scott reported on the recent vandalism to the children's playground. The tractor windows had been broken, a fence post broken and the dugout destroyed. The police have been contacted and the parents of the suspected perpetrators will be contacted to effect repairs. Cllrs Scott and Pegge will continue to liaise with the police.

Cllrs Pegge and Birkby will prepare a flyer to go out with the next newsletter, currently being printed, to make residents aware of the damage that has been caused.
The clerk will contact the insurers.

11. Cllr Schram de Jong reported that a grant of £21,537 for the refurbishment of the sports pavilion has been offered. Members agreed unanimously to go ahead and Cllr Schram de Jong will progress this. Other sources of income for the project are Aylesbury Vale District Council £5,000, Bucks County Council £1,000, Cuddington Parish Council £7,500 and £1,000 from fundraising. Work is scheduled to begin on 17th August.

The Playing Field Association AGM will take place on 13th September.

12. The blockage of Footpath 17 Dadbrook is still to be resolved.

13. Cllr Pegge, Traffic Action Group, reported to members on Flooding

- The flooding down Upper Church Street which led to a serious flood inside the church was followed by a visit by David Smith, County Council Area Engineer. He is currently considering what action can be taken to obviate this particular problem in the future by diverting water away from the entrance to the church.
- The area where flooding has occurred caused by water and some liquid sewage coming out of the manholes on the grass bank between Lower Green and the bottom of Frog Lane has been examined during a site visit from a Thames Water engineer. His visual inspection found no blockage but he has organised a fuller investigation using a remote robotic camera. This will be actioned in about two weeks.
- The Dadbrook leakage at the bottom of the dip was caused by a ditch not being cleared for some time. The build-up of mud had blocked the main outlet pipe into the ditch and this was cleared some weeks ago. The torrential rains over the past two weeks have caused a repeat of the problem but a maintenance gang has since dug out the silt for a second time.

Road Works

- The diversion of traffic, including HGVs through Cuddington, caused by road works on the Thame to Long Crendon road should be completed by 7th August.
- Some major repair work on the C56 Aylesbury Road will occur on 13/14th August.

14. Cllr Turner encouraged members and villagers to update the calendar on the website.

15. Members highlighted the disrepair to the surface of the approach road to the playing field and resolved that the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust would be contacted to ask for repairs to be made.

The meeting closed at 10pm. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd September 2009.