



Community grants - £1000 to Cuddington for replacement showers in the playing fields clubhouse.

Questions from the public:

James Gibson expressed concern at fly tipping in gateways and ditches.

ME: Fly tipping is illegal and a criminal offence, a recent offender was fined £800.

KB: Report any dumped waste to AVDC and they will remove it.

If anyone sees a suspicious vehicle take its reg. number and report it to the police.

If you have someone working for you it is your responsibility to ask if they have a permit to dispose of waste, as you can be liable if they fly tip.

Angela Sanderson asked if there is to be a fortnightly collection.

ME: There is to be a weekly collection consisting of ordinary waste one week and green waste the following week, which would include kitchen scraps, gardening waste etc.

Angela asked what could be done to alleviate paper coming through the doors?

ME: BCC/AVDC cannot control what comes through the post. Mail Preference Service is designed to alleviate the receipt of junk mail.

Parishioner – Can polythene be recycled?

ME: A leaflet is to be publicised stating what items can be recycled, this will be sent out to villagers in due course.

## 7. Cuddington School

Chris Blumer, Former Chair of the Cuddington School Governors, reported on:

- **The future** – possible merger with Dinton School, with Cuddington having infants up to 7 years old, and Dinton from 7-11. A new federated governing body covering the two schools has been appointed and the first meeting is to be held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Pam Talbot has been appointed Head Teacher for both Cuddington and Dinton. She is supported by two fantastic sets of staff.
- **On-going progress** - there are currently 56 pupils on the roll. The Jim Hayward classroom was opened 11 months ago and is a tremendous asset to the school. The school scored a Grade A in the recent Health and Safety Primary School Audit. Children can now take mandarin classes. There are plans to invest in a new gardening area and plans to improve the playground. Refurbishment of the older part of the school is due to commence next year. School participating in drawing up school travel plans, working with TAG, promoting safety for children travelling to school. At present 8/9 children use the school bus from Chearsley. Parishioner asked for parent who suggested the school bus to be thanked. Cuddington should be very proud of our village school, with very strong local links, all of which help integration within the community. Thanks were expressed to all involved.

## 8. The Nicholas Almond Charity

Jim Hayward a trustee for the charity reminded the meeting of the purpose of the charity - to help students and apprentices living in Cuddington to buy books or tools through an annual auction of grazing rights. Bank balance at year-end was £3,760. One award this year.

## 9. Neighbourhood Watch

Michael Pegge, Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, gave his report:

- Cuddington has been lucky, as it has had a long spell of being relatively crime free. Earlier this year however, there was a spate of incidents including burglaries, thefts of garden tools and bicycles and criminal damage to vehicles on the street.
- Increasing number of warnings about distraction burglaries in surrounding villages. A number of articles have been published in Village Voice providing advice about safety precautions householders can take as well as giving emergency telephone numbers, which can be used in the event of a problem occurring.
- To prevent any increase in crime in our village we need to organise the Neighbourhood Watch in a more focused manner. Appeal for a volunteer to take over the role of Village Coordinator and to others to become street representatives.
- Ken Birkby: As a community we need to look out for the safety of others, if anyone sees a person acting in a suspicious manner the number to call is 0845 0505 505. Parishioner commented that when calling this number in the past the person dealing with the call has appeared uninterested in the matter being reported. Michael Pegge will raise this at the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Action Group.
- **Neighbourhood Action Group:** Being a Parish Cllr in the village not only involves attending PC meetings but Cllrs attend a number of other committee meetings that include representatives from BCC, AVDC and other parishes and professional services. Cuddington belongs to a Cluster group of villages, centered around Haddenham, and this has a number of functions. One of them is a committee called The Neighbourhood Action Group, this committee has a large police representation and its purpose is to discuss matters of mutual concern. These include crime, vandalism, anti-social behaviour and traffic problems like speeding and parking. In addition to the neighbourhood watch news we receive, through the ringmaster system crime information. The NAG meeting keeps your two representatives – namely Ken Birkby and myself, in touch with matters going on in the area. If you know of problems please let us know so they can be raise at the NAG meetings.

## 10. Parish Council Report

The Chairman reported on the following items. He explained that there are several 'action groups,' working under the auspices of the Parish Council and anyone who would like to volunteer, even just on an occasional basis, would be most welcome.

- **General.** There are seven councillors - Ken Birkby, Jim Hayward, Stuart Anderson, Frank

Crowdy, Michael Pegge, Dave Sharpley and Milly Soames. Meetings take place on the first Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm, usually in the School. Everyone is welcome. In 2006, there were 12 meetings. The average attendance was 7 and ranged from 3-11 parishioners.

- **Finances.** The summary was distributed to all present. The Chairman answered questions on:
  - £8504 from Rectory Homes – This money has been given to the PC as a condition of development of the allotment site, under a S106 Agreement. There is a 5-year time frame within which to use the money and it is for recreation facilities only.
  - Young people's area – PC has built up funds for several projects including the multi surface play area, which the older children could use. However the view was put forward that it was not worth spending large amounts of money when there were not enough children to use the facility. Support is needed to press forward with this project, until then the project has been put on hold. The money is ring-fenced for a project and will remain so until the point when a decision is made whether to proceed with or abandon the idea.
  - Children's playground - Work is ongoing, PC have received quotes for the updating of equipment.
  - Andy Devey asked what happened to the football kicking wall.  
Ken Birkby: After discussions with the Playing Fields Association, an alternative net was used which used the same concept as a kicking wall. Frank Crowdy reported that the goal was vandalised. This will be replaced.
  - Precept – maintained at £8500
  
- **Planning applications** - The PC considered 19 applications this year, 3 relating to tree work. 1 was refused. Stuart Anderson (*who specialises in the Planning Issues*) reported that the Land adj Annie Baileys has been the subject of several planning applications. The latest application will go before the Developmental Control Committee on Thursday. It is recommended for approval. The PC objected to the application on a matter of detail concerning the removal of part of the Wychert wall. The developer has since submitted amended plans to retain the Wychert wall.

**Dadbrook Houses:** The developers flouted the planning permission and built the houses bigger, taller, and closer to the boundary. They make a dramatic impact on the village skyline. The subsequent (retrospective) application was refused in October 2005. AVDC took enforcement action against the developer for breach of planning. Stuart Anderson and Ken Birkby attended the public enquiry. The Planning Inspector found in favour of the developer and no action was taken.

**PC's role in Planning:** When the PC view planning applications they must take into

account policies enforced at local level. The PC can use its own knowledge of the area and how setting could be affected by an application. It is policy rather than personality of the applicant which dictates the decision making process.

Questions from the public:

Andy Devey: Is there only one dwelling proposed on the site of Annie Baileys?

SA: Yes, which will be incorporating the barn that exists.

Parishioner: Is the PC attending DCC on Thursday?

SA: No, members of public are welcome to attend.

- **Traffic and its impact on the village-** Michael Pegge reported on the activities of the Traffic Action Group (TAG), of which he is Chairman. The PC have now committed to placing an order for 3 Vehicle Activated Signs. The PC and TAG have been researching and pressing for over 4 years now for some form of traffic calming which would effectively slow down the speed of traffic passing through the village. The Transport Research Laboratory carried out a large-scale evaluation into the benefits of VAS. They concluded that to encourage drivers to adopt safe speeds on the approaches to sites where accidents were more likely to occur the following criteria should apply:-
  - Be of reasonable cost with low maintenance requirements
  - Be self enforcing with a high compliance
  - Have no long-term diminution of effect on drivers' reactions.

It was concluded that VAS met all of these requirements and that on analysis it was found that speeds were reduced by 1mph to 14 mph. The higher reductions were achieved where other action taken included lowering speed limit approaches to villages. We have been fighting to achieve this through the countywide speed review, which has already been implemented in Haddenham, Stone and the adjacent A418. Despite pressure from us, BCC have said that implementation of Area 11, which includes Cuddington, will not occur until 2009/2010 at the earliest. Cuddington is to be a major trial area for the signs in Bucks but the PC will have to meet all the costs involved. In anticipation of this situation the PC have created over a number of years, a reserve of funds to meet these costs.

Three potential suppliers were asked to submit their proposals and quotations. The cost is £10,600.

The sign will include a 450mm roundel that will light up "30" and "SLOW DOWN" if a vehicle approaches at 35mph or more. In addition the signs will have alternating flashing lights at each corner. The signs are to be powered by solar panels and small wind turbine generators. The roundel bulbs will dim slightly after dark, as there will be no need for them to be so bright as in daylight hours.

We intend to record the speeds and volume of traffic before the signs are put in place and then after they have been installed to verify the improvement.

These could be in position in about eight to ten weeks' time.

### **Bus bay painted cage**

Following a number of complaints about cars being parked in the bus-bay on the south side of The Green, thus obscuring visibility from vehicles coming to the cross-roads from Dadbrook, BCC have been persuaded to paint a cage on the road by the bus stop. This will hopefully be completed within the next couple of months and will make it illegal for cars or other vehicles to park there.

Questions from the public:

Dr Steven Turner: What evidence is there that the VAS's work?

Michael Pegge: Evidence collated from Transport Research has proven that they are very effective at reducing speed. (See above)

Margaret Cole: Is there a number for reporting potholes?

Ken Birkby: The number for Highways on Call is 0845 230 2882

Anthony Odhams: Concern over increase in number of large lorries passing through Cuddington. Most of which are destined for Long Crendon Industrial Park.

Michael Pegge: TAG have suggested Long Crendon is removed from signage on A418 . BCC is reluctant to impose weight restrictions on roads into village.

Angela Sanderson: Huge thank you to Michael Pegge and TAG for all they have achieved. The Chairman encouraged Cuddington drivers to set an example to others by driving within the limit when entering or leaving the village. Rear window stickers are still available.

- **Footpaths network around the village.** The Footpaths Committee comprises Ken and Viv Birkby, Jim Hayward, Dave Sharpley, Anthony Odhams and Angela Sanderson, the Chairman who reported on achievements this year.

During past 12 months on-going work as continued on the repair of stiles, fixing gripper strips where necessary, removing trees that have fallen across footpaths and regular grass cutting programme during summer months.

The committee has spent some 120 hours working of footpaths this year, and we are most grateful to those who come to help.

Now that Cuddington has its own website, it is important that there is a good and user-friendly footpath map on it. Anthony Odhams is working on this, together with Peter Wenham who is providing the text. Hope it will be up and running in the next few months. There will also be a printed version, a copy of which will be distributed to each household. Copies will also be available in the village shop. Producing and preparing map is time consuming and we are grateful to both Anthony and Peter for all their efforts.

Dog fouling: This has long been a cause of concern within the village, but we now have bags and disposal bins situated at the top of Nether Winchendon driveway and at the entrance to the Playing Fields. We are pleased to report that since their installation, these areas have become much cleaner. The bins are emptied on a regular basis, and a supply

of bags is provided by the Parish Council.

Last year it was reported on work that had been carried out clearing Footpath 17 at Dadbrook. With some much appreciated help from several villagers, 2,000 bluebells were planted.

We are fortunate to have such an extensive network of footpaths around Cuddington but the maintenance of them does take time and effort. The Footpaths Committee does all it can to keep them in good repair, to mend stiles, cut grass on a regular basis etc but we would really welcome some help from time to time. If you would like to come and help the team, please contact either Ken Birkby on 292921 or Dave Sharpley 291245.

Questions from the public:

Is footpath 17 a footpath or bridleway as a horse rider has been seen using it.

Angela: It is a footpath

Ken Birkby: If anyone sees a rider please point out to them it is not a bridleway.

### **Village Website**

Milly Soames: The website is now 9 months old, and has attracted 40/80 visits per month. It is designed and hosted by June Jones and costs £500 per year. Currently looking for sponsorship.

There is no fee for village clubs and societies to advertise their events etc.

It is not a threat to the Village Voice, or notice boards. Those who don't use a computer should think of the village website as fulfilling the role of a daily newspaper, directory and encyclopaedia rolled into one, specifically about Cuddington.

Questions from the public:

Could you have a local businesses page?

Milly: We do not want to encroach on Village voice advertisers.

Ken Birkby: Suggest combined rate for VV and website advertising.

Peggy Cattell: Who is responsible for keeping website up to date?

Milly: Societies and organisations to liaise with Milly.

Frank: How much will it cost next year?

Milly: £500 maintenance cost per year.

Chris Long: Website is a valuable resource for the future and a very worthwhile investment.

### ▪ **Children's Playground.**

Dave Sharpley reported that the playground is well-used but in need of updating. Surface needs replacing. Playground is used by children from 3 up to 9 years. PC is looking at a scheme for completely updating the facilities.

**Multi surface play area:** Fifteen children came forward to ask for a facility such as this. Subject of many PC meetings. Costings were £40,000. Project on hold; at least half costs would be available from outside funding, £8,000 in PC funds.

- **Affordable Housing:** Stuart Anderson reported on the Housing needs survey conducted two years ago. There is a defined need for affordable housing within the village. Cuddington has been put forward as a potential beneficiary for funding and has secured £243000 towards this. Problem is identifying a site for development; it has to be an 'exception' site, on which planning permission would not normally be given. All sites put forward have been rejected. Funding has to be used by April 2008.  
Parishioner asked who owns the houses?  
Michael Edmonds: Houses are for rent, controlled by housing association. Tingewick, Quainton and Steeple Claydon all have affordable housing.  
Parishioner: Does the land you require not have planning?  
Stuart: There is a distinction between building land and exception sites. Planning on an exception site would not be granted for any other form of development apart from affordable housing.  
Sherry Scott: Who would live in the houses?  
Stuart: Need identified from people within the community.  
Michael Edmonds: Local people have first choice, must have connections with the village.

## 11. Other Village Issues

- **Best Kept Village.**– Cuddington was joint runner up in the Tindall Cup. This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the competition. Cuddington has been entered; judging takes place between last week in May and whole of June.
- **Thames and Chilterns in Bloom** – winner of our category. A well-deserved vote of thanks was given to Jim Hayward for his considerable efforts in helping Cuddington win. Cuddington has been entered this year and judging will take place one day in July.
- **Christmas Tree** – looked superb again and was decorated by the children of Cuddington School. Milly Soames donated the tree this year, Ken Tomes transported it and Dave Sharpley provided the power for the lights.
- **Elections** May 3<sup>rd</sup> – There are district elections and PC elections. 11 candidates are standing for the parish council. Please use your vote.
- **Playing Fields** – Frank Crowdy thanked AVDC for the community grant.
- **Fete** – Sherry Scott spoke about the importance of the fete to the village, new committee been formed. The theme is nursery rhymes and fairy tales. Road will not be closed this year. Judging for fancy dress will take place on the Lower Green. More activities planned and less stalls. Please help if you can.
- **Open Gardens** – 24 June at Tyringham Hall.
- **Bernard Hall Stage Lighting** – Chris Long reported that the Bernard Hall had been awarded £4800 from Awards for All national lottery. This money will be spent on theatre lighting. Thanks to Markus Bolton and Rachel Mcloughlin for their hard work in preparing and submitting the application.

- **Potholes** – Parishioner commented on potholes around entrance to Playing Fields car park. Ken Birkby – PC will talk to PFA about this matter.  
Michael Edmonds: The verge is likely to be the responsibility of the housing association.

The Chairman thanked everyone for participating in the meeting which closed at 10.15 pm.  
Refreshments were served afterwards.