

## CUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2007

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Ken Birkby (KB), Jim Hayward (JH), Michael Pegge (MP), Frank Crowdy (FC), Sherry Scott (SS), Jennifer Schram de Jong (JSJ), Stephen Turner (ST), Michael Edmonds (AVDC/BCC), David Smith (AVDC), Penny Carlton -Clerk and 18 parishioners.

**NB: Action points Highlighted**

Ken Birkby welcomed the newly elected Cllrs to the PC and offered a warm vote of thanks to the outgoing Cllrs who have contributed significantly over the years.

#### 1. Apologies

None.

#### 2. Election of officers for 2007/2008

**Chairman** – JH and MP proposed and seconded KB

FC and ST proposed and seconded SS

A vote was taken and Sherry Scott was elected Chairman with 4 votes to 3.

**Vice Chairman** – SS and ST proposed and seconded FC

KB and MP proposed and seconded JH.

A vote was taken and Frank Crowdy was elected Vice Chairman with 4 votes to 3.

**Playing Fields Representative** – SS and ST proposed and seconded JSJ.

MP and JH proposed and seconded KB.

A vote was taken and Jennifer Schram de Jong was elected with 4 votes to 3.

#### **Responsible Financial Offer**

Unanimous decision for Clerk to continue in this position.

#### 3. Chairman to sign Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

This was duly signed by Sherry Scott and witnessed by the Clerk.

#### 4. Minutes from previous meeting held on 4 April 2007

Minutes from the previous meeting were read out by the Clerk and accepted as true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

#### 5. Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting of 4 April and not on agenda.

Item 4: JH reported that flooding has been dealt with.

#### 6. Parishioners' Question Time

Geoffrey Barnes: Praised outgoing Chairman Ken Birkby. Welcomed the "new blood", asked what plans they had.

Angela Sanderson: Chairman of Footpaths Committee, under new regime do we have authority to continue what we are doing. The footpaths committee was formed under the previous PC.

SS: PC will give its continuing support to the work of the committee.

JSJ: Could we have dates in advance for working party days.

SS: PC should make it its task to recruit more volunteers.

Michael Collins: Cuddington website, Milly Soames was actively involved in this, is anyone going to take it over?

Milly Soames: Need to be asked officially and have full support of every member of PC to continue. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to give the website its full backing and support.

Milly Soames and KB to assist with website.

Chris Blumer: Letter sent out to villagers by Frank Crowdy prior to election, deemed to have caused a lot of misunderstanding and confusion amongst villagers. Clerk responded by reading out a paragraph from the PC minutes 4 January 2006. "Cllr Birkby commented on the success of the (previous) election, the turn out was very good at 46%. Cllr Birkby wanted to clarify how the present Cllrs had made it onto the Parish Council as there was feeling that most Cllrs had been co opted, which was totally incorrect. In May 2003 there was an election for the new term of the PC. Despite the PC's attempts to encourage the village to have an election only 6 people came forward for 7 places hence there was no formal poll and the 6 parishioners were **elected** unopposed. Cllr Sharpley was the only Cllr to have been co-opted subsequently".

Debate ensued regarding co-option/election of Parish Cllrs.

JSJ: If vacancy arises on PC, are Cllrs co-opted or elected?

KB: Where there is more than one person putting themselves forward to fill the vacancy, if ten of the electorate want an election then an election is held to fill that vacancy. Where there is no election called the candidates come before the PC and are one person is selected, by vote, and subsequently co-opted onto the PC.

ST: Unaware that 10 people can call an election

Clerk: A legal notice is put on the boards informing villagers of a vacancy on the PC and provides details that 10 or more of the electorate can request an election.

JSJ: Would it be appropriate to write an article for VV to explain the technicalities/functions of the PC as far as membership is concerned.

ST: This has caused a lot of confusion and unhappiness. New PC should address this. Co-option has benefits and disadvantages.

Viv Birkby: The clerk has read out the minutes from January 06 and still inaccurate articles are allowed to circulate around the village.

MP: Feel that the circular that went around could have affected the result of the election.

ST: What circular?

Chris Blumer: It was entitled Cuddington PC Election and addressed to Dear Elector, signed Frank Crowdy.

SS: When FC wrote that, that was what he believed, we should put ourselves out not to co-opt but to go to the village as a whole.

Mary Turner: Believe this has come from a misunderstanding.

KB: The same statements were made at the election in December 2005; minutes of January 06 showed the statements to be wrong.

SS: we need to work together, last PC have done an excellent job.

JH: Remind PC of Standards Board guidelines governing conduct of members.

JSJ: Feel very sad as to what has happened. Sorry there has been this ill feeling.

Viv Birkby: Can we have an apology from Frank please.

FC: I wrote my opinion.

Viv Birkby: You were present at the PC meeting in January 06 where clarification of the status of councillors was given

Ted: Concern over roadways in the village. Flooding on road near Dadbrook, water from springs running out onto road.

Drain outside Tyringham Hall is blocked.

**ACTION: Chairman to contact BCC concerning this.**

(Cllr Edmonds arrives)

## **7. Declaration of Interests**

None.

### **1. Correspondence**

Clerk reported on the following:

Letter from owner of Woodbine Cottage concerning the installation of a soak away.

ST: The drainage problem has been addressed, soak away has been dug.

Reinstatement of Green: This is difficult as there are 3 different builders involved.

**ACTION: Resolved that JH and ST to meet the builders and come to an arrangement.**

Letter from AVDC following the recycling spillage in the village.

Letter from AVDC offering mobile play provision for 3 dates in August. Clerk has spoken with FC and Playing Fields will be a suitable site for this event. Clerk will notify AVDC accordingly.

Letter from Michele Kew in response to PC's concern at lack of partnership between Hastoe, AVDC and PC.

MS: RHE and AVDC approaches landowner directly, PC kept out of the loop.

ME: Needs moving forwards, up to parish to identify where they think is suitable and to pass information on to the Rural Housing Enabler to deal with the formalities.

ST: This is a difficult task, would Milly Soames and Stuart Anderson be willing to join in a group.

Stuart Anderson is willing to assist for a short while.

**ACTION: PC resolved to write a letter to the Secretary of the allotments society.**

## 9. a) Financial Report for the year 2006/2007 and adoption of the Accounts

The accounts were formally adopted by the PC and signed off by the Chairman and the Clerk.

### (b) Orders for payment:-

Clerk's salary – April (25 hours)	£199.75
Clerk's expenses – Travelling, Photocopying	£38.02
Cllr Ken Birkby – Refreshments for APM	£32.57
Cllr Ken Birkby – Copying footpath maps	£21.00
Cllr Michael Pegge – Travelling expenses to Aylesbury Vale	£16.86
Committee Meeting	
BALC – Copy of Local Council Administration	£50.50
Simon Brown – Grasscutting	£60.00
Arrow Packaging (Dog Waste bags plus 2 Keys)	£91.94
BALC – Best Kept Village Entry (Paid at April meeting)	£8.00
Thames and Chiltern in Bloom Entry (Paid at April meeting)	£20.00
(c) Monies received:- AVDC Precept payment	£4250

## 10. Planning

### Applications and Decisions

#### 07/00888/APP – Cowley Farm, Aylesbury Road

- Conversion of building to form dwelling

KB: Site meeting for previous application which has subsequently been withdrawn.  
PC resolved to make no comment.

#### 07/00885/APP – Upper Green Cottage, The Green

- Two storey side extension

All Cllrs attended a site visit. The PC resolved to comment on the large fir tree in the grounds of the property asking AVDC to ensure it is protected from damage to its roots.

#### 07/00870/APP – 37 Bernard Close

- Part two storey side, part single storey front and rear extension

Cllrs attended a site visit. PC resolved to make no comment.

#### 07/00871/APP – Foxglove Farm, Gibraltar

- Replacement of existing stables and erection of garage/mess room.

The PC resolved to make no comment.

#### 07/00863/ATC – Inglebrook, Lower Church Street

- Fell 2 Leylandii

No comment.

#### 07/01024/ATC – The Little House, Bridgeway

- Fell one Laburnum

No comment.

#### 07/01032/APP – Inglebrook, Lower Church Street

- Replacement shed

No comment.

#### 07/00429/APP – Land adj Annie's House, Upper Church Street

**Minor amended plans (Information only)**

- Removal of dormer window in rear elevation, retention of Wychert wall  
**07/00429/APP – Land adj Annie’s House, Upper Church Street AVDC approved**
- Erection of dwelling including conversion of existing building  
**07/00410/ATC – The Old Place, Lower Church Street Carry out works**
- Fell one Ash  
**07/00591/APP – 1 Swanhill Cottages, Aylesbury Road AVDC refused**
- Conversion of loft involving rear flat roofed dormer window addition  
**07/00238/APP – Cowley Farm, Aylesbury Road Withdrawn**
- Alterations to existing pool building to form dwelling

#### **11. AVDC/BCC contribution**

ME: Following elections new Cabinet being organised and new committees being formed.

#### **12. Children’s Playground**

KB: Dave Sharpley was the Cllr responsible for overseeing this, now another Cllr will need to establish responsibility for that. PC had resolved to upgrade and spend money on the playground. Requires a Parish Cllr and some members of the public to help implement that. KB prepared to assume responsibility with assistance from JSS.

#### **13. Traffic Action Group**

ST: Thank TAG for the work they have done so far and would ask them to continue as a committee of the PC.

MP: Vehicle Activated Signs are on order and should be installed in six weeks.

Speed tubes have been put down to record speeds before the signs are installed and will be put back in once the signs are in place.

BCC are to pay for the poles the signs are placed on.

Road Salting: Clerk and MP have written to Tim Fowler asking for Aylesbury Road to be reinstated in the winter salting programme.

#### **14. Footpaths**

Sherry: Congratulated the committee on their hard work.

KB: JH and KB are Parish Council members who are also members of the committee.

Both KB and JH are happy to continue in this role.

#### **15. Report on Annual Parish Meeting.**

The Clerk reported on a successful meeting with an excellent turnout of 50 people. Minutes have been posted on the boards and a shorter version will be included in Village Voice. Clerk thanked KB for providing refreshments.

#### **16. Any other business**

JSS: Road signs have been knocked down at King Cross Roads, need repairing.

Damage along Spicketts Lane because of building work.

Would KB be appointed as Cllr for planning?

KB: Cannot assume responsibility for planning.

Chris Blumer: School federation. Cuddington and Dinton are federated under one governing body.

Proposed merger of schools is the subject of consultation at present.

Cuddington would be the infant school with Dinton as the junior school.

JH: Will need to spend £60/£70 on plants for the flowerbeds. Resolved to spend this 50<sup>th</sup> Year of the Best Kept Village Competition.

Clerk: Will make enquiries regarding training days for the new Cllrs.

ST: Include training for Cllrs on the agenda on a regular basis.

The meeting closed at 10.18 pm.

**The next *Parish Council* meeting is  
8pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007 in the School.**