

Budget: Money is tight at the county, council tax has been increased by 3.7%. BCC has instigated a scheme "Pathfinder Two Tier" where all authorities in County join together to share expertise and expenditure.

Aylesbury Vale District Council:

ME is Deputy Leader for the District and Cabinet member for Economic Development.

Theatre: Progressing well, will be up and running around April next year. Civic Centre will be kept open until such time as theatre opens.

Conference Centre/Council Chamber: Work has commenced and is due for completion early next year.

Commercial Properties: Council owns and lets a lot of commercial premises, income derived from this is a major part of revenue income.

Growth: Aylesbury vale has to accommodate 26,500 additional houses by 2026. Consent/allocations for 8800 houses, now have several 'opportunistic' planning applications for 8200 houses.

At least 35% of development has to be affordable, either for rent or part rent part buy.

Currently development is virtually at a standstill, with only a few affordable (Housing Association) homes being built.

Housing: Two years ago Council transferred their housing stock to a Housing Association, Council still maintains a housing department, which keeps the housing list and makes allocations to Housing Association homes.

Also provide a service on homelessness, bad debts, mortgages, repossessions etc. The housing allocation list is soon to be managed by a County wide scheme (Choice based lettings) which gives the Tenants more choice where they live.

Community Leaders Fund: £1000 was donated to Cuddington towards refurbishment of Clubhouse.

SS: We are most appreciative of what you do for Cuddington.

Parishioners given opportunity to ask questions:

KB: There was talk of a move towards fortnightly rubbish collections with alternating collections for green waste, this seems to have gone low profile.

ME: There are currently no plans to move to fortnightly collections,

District Council have 1.2 million in budget for new bins, but until BCC comes up with green waste site, green waste collections will not take place.

KB: Can planners improve standards for provision of new baskets/bins, as there is not enough space to house these and bins and baskets left outside the front of properties would look untidy.

7. Cuddington School

Chris Blumer, Chair of Cuddington School governors, reported on:

The merger – In September 2008 the school officially became Cuddington with Dinton School.

A lot of work has been undertaken at Dinton, new heating being installed, cloakroom being extended. Cuddington is the infant site, whilst Dinton is the junior site.

Cuddington: Foundation stage garden area has been cleared. Planting out area has been created for children. Better use of the land for the school.

Dinton: Year 3 children are in the final term of the first year of the Combined School.

Pupil numbers are very healthy. Have had to turn applications down for coming September. We are providing a through combined school that parents want.

Advertising for Assistant Head Teacher for the School, developing leadership within the school, hugely supported by parents. New Parents Association has been created, 'CADS'. They have undertaken a great deal of fundraising.

Dinton Summer Ball takes place on 20 June, few tickets still available.

School bus: Thirteen children from Chearsley are using the bus on a daily basis, this was a move largely driven by parents themselves.

8. The Nicholas Almond Charity

Jim Hayward, trustee of the charity, presented the report and accounts. Jennifer Schram de Jong has been appointed Secretary and Treasurer. The charity helps students and apprentices resident in Cuddington to buy books or tools. If anyone knows of anyone going to university or starting an apprenticeship who might benefit from a grant, please contact JH. The trustees had made three awards of £150.00 each in the last year. The Capital Reserves a/c as at 31.12.08 stood at

£4348.11 The charity's income is derived from the sale of grazing rights to Poors Moor field within the parish.

9. Neighbourhood Watch and Action Group

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

- Cuddington had another relatively quiet year as far as crime was concerned, although there were a few burglaries and some minor vandalism.
- The Neighbourhood Street Wardens are doing a good job by passing on warnings and information but not all of the village is covered. We are still looking for volunteers to fulfil these roles. Anyone interested in becoming a NS should contact MP.
- Neighbourhood policing in Cuddington which has now been in existence for just over two years is having an excellent impact. We have two Police Community Support Officers based at Waddesdon Police Station that regularly patrol the villages and are often seen in Cuddington. Their names are PCSO Caroline Day and PCSO Sue Jones.
- We need to be vigilant in protecting our village from crime of any sort, therefore if you see anyone or anything which looks suspicious in anyway you should contact the police on **0845 8 505 505** or if you see a crime in progress or someone in danger ring 999.

10. Parish Council Report

Clerk reported that meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month in the school. Attendances by parishioners had varied from 2 to 8. The Council represents the parishioners and need to know their views.

▪ **Finances**

A copy of the draft Final Accounts as at 31 March 2009 had been circulated to those present. These showed expenditure of £18818 against a budget of £30,485.00 and receipts of £18,962.00.

Current A/C balance stood at £20,778.00.

There were no questions or comments from the floor.

▪ **Achievements**

Grant for refurbishment of pavilion.

JSJ: PC owns the Playing Fields and everything on them, including the playground and the pavilion. The pavilion and playing fields are leased to the CPFA who is responsible for them.

Refurbishment was drawn up with estimated costings to modernise the heating and hot water system, and generally refurbish the premises, in order to make the club a pleasanter place to meet. Plan was approved by the CPFA at its AGM last year and then by the PC who agreed to a grant of £6000 to help with the project. Later on PC allocated a further £1500 to the funding, making a total from the PC of £7500.

Two grant applications were made, one to WREN who has given us just over £21500 and the other to ADC who has given us £5000 which includes the third party funding of approximately £2600 which we have to give back to WREN.

Our County Cllr has given us £1000 from the Leaders Community Fund and the fete gave us £500.

In addition, CPFA began its own fundraising efforts with fireworks evening last November, this was a hugely successful event for the village with nearly 300 people attending but which also raised just over £900 for the fund and gave a much needed boost to the bar takings.

Other successful smaller events have been held in the Clubhouse and we have now nearly raised all money we need to carry out first phase of works. More fundraising events will be taking place.

Process for getting estimates for work is underway, 3 estimates are needed for each item of work. This is a slow process but we are getting there.

We are taking time to reconsider our options concerning who supplies our energy to be certain we install a system that will provide us with efficient and cheaper energy provision.

- **War Memorial:** Another successful achievement has been renovation of war memorial.

PC took on the project and JSJ on behalf of PC applied for a grant from the War Memorial Trust. Grant allocated of 50% of final bill. (£2079). A grant of £880.00 together with a rebate on the AT of £309.75 brought PC contribution to £880.00.

- **Poppies:** Last years house to house collection that took place in Cuddington, Chearsley and Nether Winchendon raised £1041.21, of this amount Cuddington raised over £400. In addition there is the sum of £50 donated by the PC for the two wreaths.

Would like to thank the poppy sellers and those who brought poppies.

- **Village of the Year for Bucks 2008**

SS reported that Cuddington had won the competition and been selected to represent Bucks in the National Competition.

- **Best Kept Village 2008**

JH reported that Cuddington were joint runners up in the Competition.

Cuddington would be entering again this year. Please keep village litter free and tidy. Judging usually takes place in June.

- **Britain in Bloom 2008**

JH reported that Cuddington had won its category. Have entered again this year, need a few more points for a Gold Award!

SS thanked JH for all his hard work and dedication to the competitions.

The village is swept twice a year, however people with off road parking often leave their cars on the road which means not all of village is swept. Please can people take responsibility for sweeping outside their homes during these important times!

Parking outside school:

MP: The no parking lines outside the school have helped alleviate the problem faced by the bus when trying to drop off the children at school.

The use of the bus means that around 10 cars are not used to bring children to school.

Salt bin storage:

MP: Delegated budget of £18,000. PC was invited at Local Area Forum meeting to submit a bid for funding. PC decided after problems faced by parishioners walking through the village when roads were icy to submit a bid for salt bins. The bid was successful and PC has been granted funding for 4 bins.

SS:BCC will keep them topped up with salt for people to spread themselves.

Sunrise Walk:

SS: This takes place on the 20 June, walk from Cuddington to the observatory to watch the sun rising at 4am. Coffee and biscuits will be provided.

Tug of War between Cuddington and Chearsley:

This is being scheduled for August bank holiday weekend. Last two years river has been flooded, so the tug of war has been unable to take place.

Drainage Problem at Dadbrook:

SS: Problem has been indentified and ditch has to be dug out to remove blockage from pipe.

Village Greens:

SS: These are looking great, grateful that people respect them and there is no litter. Play area has had new equipment installed, a lot of children are using it.

Gang mower is being refurbished, money from S106 Agreement has been allocated towards this.

Fete 2008:

SS: This was very successful, raised a lot of money which was distributed to societies within the village. Theme for this year is 'Gnomes'.

PC Christmas Card:

This was sent to all parishioners and included list of all amenities in the village.

Planning Applications:

Clerk reported there had been 23 applications this year, against 43 last year. 1 application had been turned down

Traffic Action Group:

Michael Pegge gave a report.

The vehicle activated signs continue to do a good job and are slowing speed of majority of vehicles passing through the village.

With focus on green credentials these days it gives credence to Cuddington's original decision to power the units by a combination of solar and wind power with further benefit they are cheap to run.

Swindon have just announced they are to remove their speed cameras and replace them with vehicle activated signs.

Another success has been the mirror at the crossroads that was installed just over a year ago. Used properly it largely compensates for the lack of vision caused by the blind corner at the crossroads.

County Wide Speed Review: Public consultation is due to take place in the Summer and implementation will occur by the end of the year.

TAG's proposal to BCC is that the 30mph limit signs should be moved further out of the village and that roads leading into the village should be restricted.

Footpaths:

SS: Down Tibbys Lane there is no longer a kissing gate as part of stile has been dismantled, this has made it easier for parents with pushchairs to access the footpath. The stile does need rebuilding in some way but if a kissing gate is reinstalled it will cause problems for pushchair access.

PC to look into this.

Playing Fields Pailillomn

JSJ: Open Wed, Fri and Sat evenings. Used by every village club/society at some point.

Tug of War, it is hoped this will be followed by a village BBQ on the Playing Fields.

Tennis and Crickets Clubs are planning to hold social events to raise money for the Clubhouse.

SS: One refurbished it is hoped the Pavilion will become more attractive to people.

Membership costs are currently £3.00 a year for individuals, £5.00 for families and £1.00 for students and elderly.

JH: Once refurbishment is complete, the PFA needs to have a realistic look at charging policy.

Website:

ST: PC decided website needed reviewing, being undertaken by ST. Needs to be kept up to date.

PC owns the Website and the domain name, needs to decide more clearly what it wants the website to do.

Village voice remains the main written communication medium for the village and we must not impinge upon that. Website must complement it not be in competition with it.

National village of the Year:

SS reported that sadly Cuddington had not won the National competition, Denton was the winner in that category. There are group prizes as well, so hopefully Cuddington is in line for a prize.

11. Any other items for discussion

▪ Website

Parishioner questioned the purpose of the Website.

SS: The plan is to take it back in house in the future. The Website underwent a total update and revamp for the village of the Year competition.

Now have links with Cuddington in Cheshire who will be coming to visit. The Website extends beyond the village.

Room for both village voice and the Website.

Parking

JSJ: This is frequently discussed by the PC. If anyone has ideas to help resolve the problem with parking please let me know. Suggestions needed for helping with congestion.

Off street parking is important, if you have it please use it.

Church Refurbishment

MP: Please go and have a look at the church, following the removal of the pews.

There being no further comments, Sherry Scott thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting was closed at 9.30pm. Refreshments were served.