**Minutes of a meeting of Cublington Parish Council held on 14th November 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Present:

Cllr H Vale (Chairman)

Cllr M Reilly

Cllr J Merriman

Cllr S Morgan

Cllr N Glover (part)

In attendance: Mr M Joy (Clerk)

Cllr Vale formally welcomed Mr Joy as the new Parish Clerk

1. **Apologies**

Frank Callaghan , Thames Valley Police.

1. **Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12th September 2017 were discussed by the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

1. **Matters Arising**
	1. **Removal of Cricket Notice Posts**

The posts have not been removed from the crossroads as it appears that they have been set in concrete or some other permanent fixture. The cricket club was asked to remove the posts as soon as possible as there had been complaints received, and the posts are considered to be a safety hazard. Cllr Reilly to contact the cricket club.

* 1. **Play Area**

This has now been officially opened by Cllr Glover and is operational. There was a good turnout for the opening.

* 1. **Crossroads**

Some years ago, work was carried out to consider the installation of a roundabout at the crossroads. Cllr Reilly had put forward a submission to the Local Area Forum to see if they could assist with funding a feasibility study to see whether such a project was still viable. This matter is on going.

1. **Reports**

**4.1 Thames Valley Police by email from Frank Callaghan**

Since the end of March 2017 there has only been one crime in Cublington which was a burglary to a stables located on the Aston Abbotts Road on 02/08/17. Animal medicines and a shepherds crook were stolen from there. We have not as yet been able to ID any offenders.

There have been no reports of any Anti- Social Behaviour to date in the locality.

One thing that does seem to be occurring a bit more recently are thefts from builders vans. This is sometimes late at night when they are parked up and also during the day when the vans are parked up at jobs. The day ones appear to be opportunist with offenders travelling around the villages and seizing any opportunity to steal from insecure vehicles. Advice is to always keep vehicles locked at all times and when parking at night to try and back vans up against walls and garages etc.

Lastly we would encourage people to call in any suspicious persons or vehicles in the locality. As stated most crime is opportunist with offenders travelling through the villages. Please call 101 if someone wishes to report anything suspicious but to call on the 9’s if they believe a crime is actually occurring.

4.2 **- Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council**

 **Winter Driver Workshops**: 28th November at STS Tyre Pros in Park Street, Aylesbury.

Charging £5 this time because people were booking on line and then not turning up. Price includes a goodie bag to keep on the front seat during icy weather. It contains a high viz waistcoat which can be slipped on before getting out of the car, a foil blanket to keep you warm and an ice scraper. Full details will be sent to all parishes..

 **Winter Service Update**: All BCC salt bins will be checked / replenished during October / November. We have been capturing data as we visit each site plotting and recording the condition and content of each bin backed up with photographic evidence. A small number of replacements were deemed necessary this year mainly due to damage. Salt drops are no longer being carried out as this is not deemed to be environmentally good practice.

Furtherdetails regarding winter service are available on our website

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/road-maintenance-and-repairs/winter->maintenance/ or you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter: @tfbalerts.

 **News from LGA**: From next April councils will be given more powers to fine owners of cars who throw litter onto the highway – they no longer need to prove who threw it – just that it came from a particular vehicle. More when I have full details.

 **Pavement parking fyi** An article in the Daily Express on pavement parking considers campaigners' calls for clarity over the issue and measures councils need to be able to tackle it effectively. Cllr Martin Tett, the LGA’s Transport spokesman, said irresponsible parking can be dangerous for pedestrians and called on government to publish more details on its Accessibility Action Plan, which would give councils more flexibility in their local area to tackle pavement parking, and make sure that pathways are clear for their residents. He said: "Councils would like to have the option for a default ban, with the ability to allow pavement parking in certain circumstances, as is currently available in London. This would be simple and easy for everyone to understand. Councils would carefully consult with communities on the best parking provision for their area. This will enable local authorities to better protect vulnerable pedestrians and provide a more consistent approach for all road users.”

 **Budget Consultation:** People across Buckinghamshire are being asked to help the County Council make important spending decisions about next year’s budget, in a consultation launched on Wednesday 18 October.

The online consultation, which runs until Sunday 19 November, aims to get local people involved in helping to decide on which areas of the Council’s work future spending should be focused.

The short survey, which takes only a couple of minutes, can be completed at:  [https://tinyurl.com/bucksbudget18](http://track.vuelio.uk.com/z.z?l=aHR0cHM6Ly90aW55dXJsLmNvbS9idWNrc2J1ZGdldDE4&r=10540575794&d=4891380&p=1&t=h&h=2ee226891458f5d714334d6b465c0f2b)

Noel Brown, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health, said the Council's services touched the lives of everyone in the county.

"It's only right that we should want to ask residents to tell us what's important to them, to help us decide where to focus our finite funding, and I'd urge people to take part," said Noel. "Allocating our budget gets more and more difficult each year, with pressure on our vital services to vulnerable older people and children.

"Difficult decisions lie ahead. There are things we have to do, which mean there are more limited choices about the things we'd like to do."

The coming year, 2018/19, will be the first in which the Government gives Buckinghamshire nothing in revenue support grant funding, putting further pressure on the budget, said Noel.

The amount the Government pays the County Council has fallen rapidly in the past few years, from £60.8m four years ago, to zero next year.  Along with Dorset, Buckinghamshire will be the first county to receive no revenue support grant from Whitehall.

People who don’t have access to the internet or a computer can take part in the County Council budget consultation at any library, where staff can help them to complete the survey.

  **Early Help Review**The consultation will be reviewed at the end of the year. The public and partner engagement has resulted in over 2,000 responses to which have been both constructive and fair.

The review is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to design responsive services that are based on local need across the county. Our fundamental objective is to get it right for Buckinghamshire’s children and families so that we can continue to improve their outcomes.

The cabinet member takes very seriously what residents and partners have to say and he is keen to make sure the comments are captured so that we make the right decisions.

1. **Accounts**
	1. The following invoices were passed for payment:

Forde & McHugh – Street Light Maintenance £310.69

Autela Payroll £15.00

E-ON electricity Sept £86.17

E-ON electricity Oct £89.04

Unipar Services LLP

Speed camera repairs £479.34

5.2 A new Internal Auditor needs to be appointed as the previous Internal Auditor, Mr Joy, has become the Financial Responsible Person to the Parish Council. Cllr Morgan is to approach someone who might be prepared to take on this role.

5.3 The annual accounts and statements need to comply with the 2014 Financial Model Regulations , and these regulations must be reviewed in conjunction with the Parish Councils Standing Orders. Mr Joy to complete this review to ensure compliance.

5.4 The 2018/19 budget needs to be prepared and submitted by the end of January 2018 which will form the basis of the forthcoming precept. Mr Joy to circulate the 2017/18 budget with comparison to actual results to give the councillors the opportunity to consider expenditure next year .Mr Joy will produce a draft budget 2018/19 for consideration at the next meeting.

5.5 Mr Joy is to apply for transparency funding relating to IT equipment .

1. **Lakeside Business Units – New Access**

The legality of this access has been referred to Aylesbury Vale Planning and it is now on their enforcement list awaiting a decision.

1. **Orchard Ground Report & North Field Project Update, incl. CIO status**

The change of use of the North Field was in progress and an initial approach is being made for pre application advice from Aylesbury Vale District Council.

It was noted that OGA is considering charitable status using ‘Charitable Incorporated Organisations’. The Council felt it needed more detailed information from OGA before it could sanction the proposal. Legal advice will be sought on this matter.

**8 Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan**

Cllr Morgan attended a recent update meeting on this Plan which is being submitted to the Cabinet Meeting in March 2018.There is little impact upon the Village other than the probable increase in traffic as a result of Aylesbury obtaining Garden City status and developing more houses.

There are no Traveller Sites planned for Cublington.

No further action points.

**9. Village Matters**

9.1 Mr Bush had reluctantly resigned his position as Councillor due to business purposes. The Chairman thanked Mr Bush for his hard work over the years especially on Speed Watch and finances. An advert will be placed in the next Crier for applications to become a Councillor.

9.2 Play Area

Cllr Merriman confirmed the on line submission for the WREN grant of £37,500, and she had contacted Aylesbury Vale District Council for our allocated Section 106 money. Some paperwork concerning sign off of safety audit report covering minor points is outstanding from the contractor which is needed before we obtain the S106 money. Mr Joy confirmed the VAT can be claimed on the contractors September invoice.

New fencing is required in the corner of the play area and a quote of £525 + vat had been received. This work was approved together with a repair to the springs on the gates.

9.3 Hedges

There were various hedges throughout the village that require to be trimmed to ensure there were clear views of the roads and junctions etc. The cricket club had put netting in the hedge by Stewkley Road to protect passing cars from stray cricket balls. This meant the hedge could not be cut by tractor , and the cricket club need to decide to either cut the hedge by hand or to remove the netting.

9.4 The Pond at the crossroads

There is a willow branch which needs to be removed from the electricity wires. A quote of £200 + vat had been received which was approved.

The state of the Pond was discussed and Cllr Reilly was to investigate to see if there were any grants available to improve it .

9.5 Street Lighting

The old style bulbs are being replaced with new LED bulbs as and when the old bulbs fail. It was agreed to replace half the old bulbs if the Council was happy with the quality of light on the new bulbs.

The ‘Give Way’ lighting at the crossroads on the Aston Abbotts Road is not working. Cllr Morgan to contact Transport for Bucks to fit replacement lights.

9.6 Traffic Calming

Cllr Morgan agreed to take on the responsibilities for Speed Watch.

The Speed Watch equipment had recently been repaired and is now being used by the group of parish councils . We have been asked to contribute £10- £15 to cover wear and tear which was approved.

 The traffic calming sub group covering Great Brickhill, Wing and Ivinghoe reported the police are collating data on HGVs travelling on roads not suitable for their weights. Owners are being approached and accordingly warned. Various other initiatives are being followed by the Beds and Bucks police forces.

**10 Meeting dates for 2018**

9th January 2018

13th March 2018

8th May 2018 and probable AGM

10th July 2018

11th September 2018

13th November 2018.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday, 9th January 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

Signed: …………………………………………..

Dated: ……………………………………………