

**Minutes of a meeting of Cublington Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Present:

Cllr H Vale (Chairman)  
Cllr G Antosiewicz  
Cllr J Merriman  
Cllr S Morgan  
Cllr M Reilly

In attendance: Mr M Joy (Clerk) and two members of the public

**1. Apologies**

None

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018 were discussed by the meeting and duly signed by the Chairman.

**3. Reports**

**Neighbourhood Policing Team**

Reports are posted regularly on the Cublington website .  
<http://www.cublington.com/>

**Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council (Cllr Netta Glover)**

**Children's Services**

Financial pressures in Children's Services continue. One of the main causes is the increase in 'Looked after Children' (LAC). A few years ago there were about 350 children who needed looking after. This number has risen to almost 500. The very significant average cost of each individual child has brought about a significant unplanned expenditure. There are weekly reviews to see where additional savings can be made. **Clearly, we must ensure that vulnerable children remain safe.**

Buckinghamshire is not alone in experiencing these pressures and you may

have seen the considerable press coverage of the large overspend by many county councils on Children's Services.

Importantly, we are about to commence the new round of consultation on 'Early help'. It is important that this system is reformed to help the vulnerable communities and achieve the targeted savings.

**Adult Social Care 'Green Papers'**

Another major area of financial pressure this year remains Adult Social Care. Again, this is a national problem. The Government had committed to a Green Paper on Social Care reform. This was originally due in 2017. It was then delayed into early 2018. More recently it has been further delayed. The reason for the delay is unclear but it probably reflects the complexity of the issue and the difficulty of finding easy solutions

**HWRCs**

The County Council has now started the consultation on reductions to opening hours and sites for HWRCs. This will not be an easy to resolve but seriously we need to save something like £1 million on the sites.

**The new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

Just before the summer recess the Government issued the long awaited revised NPPF. Whilst our District colleagues are of course the local planning authorities, the implications of this revised policy will have major implications for BCC. The main immediate consequence will be that there will be a much higher 'de facto' housing target across Buckinghamshire. Each District will be effectively required to use a common methodology for assessing new 'housing need' that will give, in most cases, a much higher number. Whilst existing proposed Local Plans may go through with current numbers, any new Plans will have to use the new methodology. Officers are currently calculating what these new numbers may be for the whole of Bucks, but they are likely to be near 100,000 for the period until 2050. There is nevertheless Government pressure for Bucks to deliver many more! From a county council point of view this will

place major new demands on key infrastructure and services such as roads, schools, social services and green spaces.

### **The Growth Agenda**

Whilst the new NPPF will be a common methodology across the country, it is weighted to require more housing in areas of 'high demand' such as Bucks. In addition, we are now under major pressure from Civil Servants to commit to an uplift in the numbers still further, with proposals of 120% or 130% of the new housing numbers being proposed. The Chief Executive and Leader of BCC will be meeting with key District colleagues to see if we can agree a common position on Government demands.

### **Fracking/Shale gas**

Many of you will have received copies of the national 'write in' campaign on Shale gas/ Fracking over the past six weeks. As previously advised I am not aware of any viable Shale gas in Bucks and we have no Group policy on fracking.

### **AVDC**

I am pleased to report that relations with AVDC have improved very significantly over the summer and both organisations are committed to working together on Town Centre regeneration and the Garden Town initiative

### **Universal Credit**

We want to ensure that our residents who claim benefits are fully prepared if they are required to claim Universal Credit, so we have created a number of leaflets to help further inform them of this change and how they need to manage it, with one specifically designed for Landlords to help inform them how UC will affect them and the support available to them. These leaflets will be distributed throughout the Vale and are also available on our dedicated

UC webpage [www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/universal-credit](http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/universal-credit)

You will notice that we will also be spreading this message via our social media channels and we kindly ask you to

please share this content amongst your followers to help us further spread this message.

For further information on UC we suggest visiting [www.gov.uk/universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/universal-credit)

### **WW1 Veterans' Descendants**

A former High Sheriff would like to invite World War One veterans to join her at a special Afternoon Tea Party to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the Great War and to celebrate the men and women who fought so bravely.

Amanda Nicholson is holding the event at Halton House on Monday 8th October from 4.30pm to 7pm **WW1 Veterans:** A former Buckinghamshire High Sheriff is calling all first generation descendants and would like to hear from anyone living in Buckinghamshire or the surrounding area with a parent who served and survived WWI.

Let me know if anyone would like to attend and I will send full details. [Nglover@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:Nglover@buckscc.gov.uk)

Please be wary of all unsolicited emails. Millions of scam messages are sent out every day, in the hope that someone somewhere will be fooled!

There are various ways to protect yourself from such unwanted messages and specific advice is available on <http://www.getsafeonline.org>

## **4. Accounts**

4.1 The following invoices were passed for payment since the last meeting:

Clerk Salary: July	£154.85
August	£154.85

John Lewis -laptop	£499.95
Saxonlake – notice board	£118.78
E-ON	May £94.79
	June £101.20
	July £97.93
	August £101.20

It was agreed to renew the Swarco speed sign annual maintenance agreement at £264

Cllr Merriman requested an update of the accounts and a forecast to 31 March 2019. Mr Joy to complete.

## 5. Orchard Ground Report & North Field Project Update, incl. CIO status

Cllr Reilly gave an update on OG.A Wren grant of £28,846 had been awarded for the refurbishment of the kitchen. Another Cinema event is planned because the outdoor event had been affected by the weather.

**Charitable status and possible transfer of assets:** Mr Joy reported OG were obtaining a legal consultation arranged by Buckinghamshire Community Impact concerning the constitution for the proposed charity with the aim of preparing a draft constitution for the PC to review prior to moving any assets. The PC will need to have its lawyers review the documentation. The target date for the transfer of asset is October 2019.

Mr Joy covered the points that needed action from the previous meeting . The original gift of the land from Alice Biggs had no restrictions on it. Mr Joy thought there would be no Capital Gains Tax arising on the gift as local authorities are exempt by virtue of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 S271(s). The PC will need written confirmation on this point from a third party before any transfer . The point concerning stamp duty land tax was outstanding, and it was agreed Mr Joy should approach our lawyers to determine whether the transfer would be exempt.

## 6. Planning Permissions

18/02763/APP – 13 Silver Street – part single storey front extension. No objection

18/02575/APP Old Manor Farm Removal of conservatory ,replacement and alterations to external windows and doors, internal alterations and part replacement of gutters and downpipes. No objection.

18/02453/APP Lakeside Business Units -formation of new vehicular access (retrospective). This planning permission was objected to for the following reasons :

1. The existing business units (B1) were permitted under application ref . 00/02755/APP only on the condition that access should be via access associated with the fishing lakes.
2. The access being used by the business units is for agricultural purposes and not commercial. This would allow for occasional use only.
3. The Highway Authority have submitted a letter dated 31 July 2018 presenting points which conclude the proposed development would be detrimental to highway safety for Wing Road and Reads Lane. We concur with their comments and conclusion .

Mr Joy was asked to contact the planning officer to determine the next stage of the planning process.

## 7. Village Matters

### 7.1 Traffic Calming:

Approval has been accepted for the feasibility report for a roundabout. The report and recommendations will be presented to the village as and when it is completed. A meeting with Matt Whincup,

Local Area Technician, Transport for Buckinghamshire is being arranged.

**7.2 Street Lighting:** Two broken lights should be replaced within the next ten days.

**7.3 Speed watch**

Training for the use of the equipment is being arranged. There will be a need for the equipment to be insured for £5,000 to cover any damage.

The renewal of the maintenance contract covering the Sentinel sign was approved at £220 + vat.

**7.4 Thames Water , stiles etc**

The broken playground and 30 mph signs, together with two stiles, have been reported to Transport for Bucks and have been scheduled for replacement. Mr Joy pointed out these matters had been reported on FixMyStreet website and the reports concerning the stiles had been closed as 'complete' by TfB. He had checked the stiles which have not been repaired. He has reported this error to TfB via FixMyStreet. AVDC road sign on the High Street is awaiting replacement. The playground and 30mph signs were reported in February and the work was still outstanding, and it is not possible to find out when this work is scheduled for.

Thames Water had been in contact with Mr Joy concerning the occasional blockage of the sewage pipes at Chapel Alley and Silver Street. Thames Water stated it would not replace the pipes because blockages caused by abnormal weather conditions were outside of their control, and as such it was not their responsibility. The pipes would be replaced if there were environmental health issues. This would require a report to be produced by the Environmental Health Authorities stating there were risks to public health. It was suggested the next time there is a flooding the Environmental Health

Authorities are contacted, and a report requested, and Thames Water notified accordingly. Mr Joy to contact the local resident who originated the matter.

**7.5 Grant Application for Armistice Remembrance**

We have been awarded two Perspex glass and bench size silhouettes which should be delivered sometime in September. Mr Joy to send out a timetable for the 11<sup>th</sup> November memorial and the Council to coordinate the event.

**7.6 Pond**

The trees need to be cut back, and a meeting is to be arranged with a contractor to discuss the matter. Whilst the pond is empty it is an opportunity to dig it out to get rid of the algae. Once the work has been completed we can contact a specialist to discover what is causing the pond not to fill up with water. Cllr G Antosiewicz offered to contact a specialist in this field .

**8. Best Kept Village**

The results for the best kept village have been published on the village website

<http://www.cublington.com/>

Weedon won the best village in our category. The councillors were disappointed with our ratings.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Signed: .....

Dated: .....