

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Cublington Parish Council held on 20th May 2025 at The Village Hall at 7.00pm

Present:

Cllr G. Antosiewicz
Cllr H. Vale
Cllr K. Shults
Cllr M. Reilly
Cllr M. Waters

In attendance Mr M Joy (Clerk)

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 21st May 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3. Chair's Report

Review of the Year – 2024 / 2025 The year began and ended with Beacons to commemorate the 80th Anniversaries of D-Day and VE Day. The events were well attended, and I am grateful to Brian Knights and Tom Gadsby for reading proclamations, to other residents who read, to the choir for leading the singing. but most of all to Hugh and Honor for hosting, for providing fireworks and for building what must be the most magnificent beacon in the land. I would also like to thank Hugh for all he does behind the scenes including mowing, particularly for all he does for North Field. At our last Annual Meeting we remembered Arthur Read who had recently passed away. We offered a bench to in Arthur's memory and in recognition of all his years as a Parish Councillor. The memorial bench has recently been installed in Read's Lane – the location having been agreed in consultation with Arthur's family. We have received a lovely note from Sally and Carolyn thanking the Parish Council. The feedback from the Best Kept Village competition was positive although we weren't fortunate enough to win an award this time. We will continue to work to achieve the ultimate

success. The work on the War Memorial is progressing – we look forward to developing this project - it will be an asset to the village. We thank Michael for leading the work on these projects. We were sorry to learn that The Unicorn was to close – the pub has been at the heart of village life for over 400 years. We are grateful to the Orchard Ground and Village Hall Committees for the work they have done to offer opportunities for residents to meet and socialize. We are also grateful to the Friends of the Unicorn group who are working hard to raise funds to purchase the pub and keep it as a much-loved asset in the Village. We wish the group every success. We noted at the time that it is listed as a Designated Community Asset and that it is a Grade I listed building. We hope this will help afford it some protection. Orchard Ground continues to be an asset; we are grateful to the Committee for all the work they do ensuring that the grounds and pavilion are well maintained. The new accessible path is a welcome development. Work on North Field continues. The drainage work will make it more accessible through the winter months, the new pedestrian gateway on Stewkley Road is a welcome addition, we thank the team of volunteers for all they do and Martyn for organising and leading the project. We continue to work with Buckinghamshire Council to address maintenance and improvement issues in the village. Unfortunately, we have to recognise that, due to conflicting demands on limited resources, the improvements that we seek do not always happen to the timescale or standard that we would like. Traffic through the village continues to be an issue, the recent traffic census that showed a seven-fold increase in volume is astonishing. This increase has brought with it a similar increase in the number of incidents / accidents. We now have the task of working with the council to try and identify an appropriate solution. Whenever we have spoken to officers at the Council, one of the overriding messages is that

the most effective way of slowing traffic is Speed Watch. Thank you to all the volunteers and especially to Kevin, for organising the scheme and for recruiting and training volunteers. In May, elections took place for Unitary Authority Councillors. Boundary changes mean that we are now in a Ward with Bierton and Kingsbrook and will be represented by two new Councillors. I would like to thank Diana and Ashley for their support and guidance and I would like to thank Peter in particular who has a long association with Cublington and who has provided support for many years. We wish him well as he undergoes treatment for a health condition. We will hold an event at an appropriate time to mark this change in arrangement and to recognise the work of our former Unitary Councillors. In the meantime, we look forward to working with the two Councillors who now represent us. Finally, I would like to express my very grateful thanks to Mike, whose knowledge, hard work, professionalism, and patience is invaluable. Our former Unitary Councillors always said ours was the most organised and effective of the Parish Councils that they supported, I believe that is in no small measure due to Mike. Mike, we are truly grateful for everything you do and are immensely sorry that you have decided to step down. I know I said this last year, but I would like to reiterate this year, we each have our own individual areas of interest and expertise, but I have no doubt that we each have the best interests of the village at the heart of what we do

Cllr Shults proposed Cllr Antosiewicz stand as Chair for the coming year , and this was seconded by Cllr Waters .

6. Nominations and selection of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Shults proposed Cllr Vale to stand as Vice-Chair for the coming year, and this was seconded by Cllr Waters .

Signed:

Dated:

4. Accounts for Year ended 31.3.25.

M Joy presented the end year accounts. There was a surplus of £6,893.57 for the year and a closing cash balance of £21,352.49. The precept was £13,230 an increase of 5% over the previous year's precept. The surplus funds are earmarked for traffic calming schemes.

5. Nominations and selection of Chair