

**Minutes of a meeting of Cublington Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm**

Present:

Cllr G Antosiewicz (Chair)  
Cllr H Vale  
Cllr M Reilly  
Cllr M Waters  
Cllr Shults

In attendance: Mr M Joy (Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

None

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were discussed by the meeting and duly signed by the Chair.

**3. Declaration of Interest**

None

**4. Reports**

There no reports received from our Unitary Councillors.

**5.1 To approve payments since last meeting.**

The following invoices were passed for payment from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025:

17/3/25 Jenny Brown £24.00 refreshments for village clearance day  
31/3/25 Clerk Salary £198.27 March salary  
2/4/25 Cublington Village Hall £150.00 – donation  
17/4/25 Autela Payroll £94.56 – payroll services  
14/4/25 Bucks Assoc of Local Councils £60.72 – annual subscription  
18/4/25 H&HS Vale Limited £7,380- drainage work on Orchard Ground rec'd £5,000 from Cublington Cricket Club and Orchard Ground £1,150.00  
22/4/25 Best Kept Village £25 – entry fee  
29/4/25 Clerk Salary £211.75 – April Salary  
29/4/25 PAYE £52.80 – April PAYE  
30/4/25 SSE Energy £3.27 -March electricity costs

**5.2 To consider the accounting statement to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

M Joy presented the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 which showed a surplus of £6,893.57 and cash balances of £21,352.49. The reserves are earmarked for traffic calming.

**5.3 To adopt the accounting statements by resolution.**

Cllr Shults proposed a resolution to adopt the accounting statements which was seconded by Cllr Waters and passed by the meeting.

**6. Orchard Ground/ North Field Report**

The fortnightly drinks evenings are well attended with monthly food nights. Drainage work concluded with grant of £5,000 from Hearts of Bucks and Orchard Ground £1,150. Looking at grants from Rothschild Foundation.

**6.1 New Charity and lease**

The application for registration of the charity is still in progress.

Memorandum of understanding agreement with Cublington Cricket Club to be sent to NALC lawyers for their review.

**7. Planning Permissions**

**7.1 25/00672/APP** Double Dairy Farm Stewkley Road Cublington – Erection of two agricultural buildings to the east and southeast of the holding (retrospective) – no objection

**7.2 25/00756/APP** 7 Bell Close Cublington – application for part single , part 2 storey rear extension – no objection

**7.3 25/01371/CPL** Ridings Cottage, Ridings Way – certificate of lawfulness for proposed single and two storey side and rear extensions , new front porch , two domestic outbuildings (swimming pool and double garage/workshop to also include

extended hardstanding to access garage, plus PV array to front of main house. This is an application to Buckinghamshire Council to determine whether a planning application is required.

## **8. Village Matters**

### **8.1 Traffic – calming.**

**Speedwatch** There has been a lot of activity this month due to the pleasant weather. There are on average 160-180 vehicle movements into the village from Wing between eight and nine in the morning and a lot of the vehicles are exceeding the 30mph speed limit. More volunteers are required.

**Traffic Calming** The meeting discussed the results of the recent traffic survey which was published in the Crier. There has been a seven-fold increase in vehicle movements into the village since the last survey conducted in 2019. The total number of movements into the village were 24,790.

A 'scoping' Teams meeting was held with Buckinghamshire Council Highways concerning a feasibility study of our traffic issues following the traffic survey. We set out our issues concerning traffic – volume, speed, size of vehicles and an increase in the number of road accidents. It was noted that 'Dragon's Teeth' and White Gate traffic calming measures were already in place. The road survey recorded 42.62% of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. Highways stated the norm is 50% so our figures reflect the good work of Speedwatch. Weight limits are difficult to implement and hard to enforce. Police reports will be obtained by Highways concerning the traffic accidents. Road bumps and chicane will be considered however Highways felt speed bumps were noisy and had a detrimental effect on air quality, and chicanes were proven to increase speeds. The narrow road on Whitchurch Road was highlighted and will be reviewed. An estimate of £2,000- £3,000 was given for the feasibility report. Since the scoping meeting we have received an estimate of £672 for a mini-feasibility study

to identify potential measures to mitigate against the increase traffic volumes through the village which will include a site visit. The site visit will involve representatives from the Parish Council. The estimate was approved by the meeting. The clerk had contacted Wooton a parish council which had installed variable speed cameras to determine the costs. The cost was £80,000 plus annual maintenance costs of £10,000. This cost was far more than our financial capabilities.

A site visit was held with our Local Area Technician Paul Foot concerning missing road signs. He agreed to have a 'Pedestrians Walking' sign put up on the Wing Road. There is one missing on the Whitchurch Road, but it was agreed to leave this one until after we had received the feasibility report.

### **8.2 Granite sculpture**

Cllr Reilly ran through the plans for a war memorial. Planning permission had been submitted with the assistance of Pippa Cheetham. At this early stage it is suggested the memorial should be located next to OG car park. Councillors to review location for suitability with consultation with OG. Cllr Reilly will prepare a budget, but it was felt there will be a need for public donations like that of Orchard Ground Pavilion – 'buy a brick' and an inscription of 'built by voluntary subscriptions' could be placed by the memorial stone.

### **8.3 Arthur Read's Memorial Bench**

The bench has now been installed, and Arthur's family had written to the PC thanking it for the memorial. It was suggested a small brass plaque would be appropriate on the back of the bench stating, 'Arthur's View.' Clerk to contact Arthur's family for approval.

### **8.4 Best Kept Village Competition**

The bus stop shelter to be painted and volunteers had been contacted regarding the flowerpots at the village gates. An

article would be placed in the Crier concerning the competition and asking villagers to ensure their hedges and areas around their properties were neat and tidy.

### **8.5 VE Day**

Thanks were given to Hugh and Honor Vale for hosting the event , to Tom Gadsby for reading the proclamation, and the church choir for their singing.

### **8.6 Appointment of Clerk**

The clerk had written to the Chair giving notice that he would be stepping down. Initially an advert will be put in the Crier for the job of parish clerk.

### **8.7 Thames Water**

Another update call on 28<sup>th</sup> April concerning the service work on the sewage pipes at Silver Street/Chapel Alley . They have no planned date for the work. Next update call scheduled for July. The issue always occurs in the winter months so we should notify the Complaints department in the middle of November requesting that the annual maintenance work is conducted in Dec/Jan.

### **8.8 Bins**

A quotation for three bins was obtained . Two to replace the bin at the crossroads and the entrance to OG and a new bin at the top of Whitchurch Hill. The cost of the bins is £650.85 excl VAT and installation cost of £280. The quotations were accepted.

### **8.9 The friends of The Unicorn Pub Cublington**

An email had been received from the Friends of The Unicorn asking if the Parish Council would like to contribute towards the costs of the group. The Plunkett Foundation, a registered charity which supports people in rural areas, had been engaged to advise (£350), and there was a need for a 'Red Book Valuation' of the pub (£2,000).

It is critical that this valuation is obtained to substantiate the offer to owners of the Unicorn is at the market value. This would be essential evidence to submit to Buckinghamshire Council should the owners refuse the offer and look for a change of use to private residence . The pub is registered as a community asset. It was agreed the pub has value to the community and a donation of £250 was approved.

### **8.10 VJ Day**

Cllr Shults informed the meeting Trish Bundock was arranging an event to commemorate VJ Day on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

### **8.11 Unitary Councillors**

Our previous Unitary Councillors had either stood down or were not re-elected , and it was agreed we should hold a reception to thank them for all their support.

We have been allocated two new unitary councillors – Julie Ward Conservative and Kathy Gibbon Reform. Clerk to invite them to an informal meeting to discuss the issues facing the village.

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**

Signed:

.....Dated:

