

CHEDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING AND MAY MONTHLY MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2025 AT 7PM IN THE PAVILION



052/25 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Present - Cllr C. Fee in the Chair, Cllr A Hollett Vice Chair, Cllr D Bevan, Cllr T Richards, Cllr K Oastler, Cllr M Kehoe, Cllr D Nabbs, Cllr L Firmin and Roz Roberts, Clerk

Cllr C Poll – Buckinghamshire Council
4 members of the Public in attendance

Apologies:-

Cllr P Brazier

053/25 TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR CHRISTINE FEE

'Looking back over the last year we continued with the tidying up theme around the village. For example, clearing back vegetation at the top of Hillside, keeping verges strimmed, tidied up overgrown allotment plots, tidied the Little Orchard, planted more Daffodils at the Old Allotments, installing a new notice board at The Green together with some new planters. Installing picnic benches at the recreation ground, which I am delighted to say were being used soon after they were in place.

As it was such a wet Spring we asked our grass cutting contractor to cut weekly rather than fortnightly, which made a real difference to the grass areas around the village.

The History Society had mentioned in the past that there were some servicemen's name missing off the Roll of Honour at the War Memorial, so this year we were able to have these names engraved, just in time for Remembrance Day.

All this seems to have paid off as Cheddington won the DeFraine cup in the Best Kept Village competition, not only that, as Cheddington scored the most points we were awarded the Sword of Excellence, something this village has never achieved before.

The presentation afternoon was especially nice as one of the judges Bill Chapple, was retiring, so the BKV committee gave a few of its own speeches at afternoon tea in the Chapel. The BKV, I am sure, would not have been won if it wasn't for all the hard work done by our Handyfolk, Keith and Lucy. Although we may smile when we see Keith painstakingly brushing moss off the cobbled area at Gooseacre, this and all the other seemingly "little" jobs make a huge difference. I think we are lucky to have two people who take such a pride in the village.

I would also like to thank Mary for her work in maintaining the flower border at the Memorial and the allotment working group for all its work in keeping the plots looking cared for.

The one big grumble this year was the street lights, they have been off and on more times than the proverbial (am I allowed to say that), allegedly caused by power surges, but this resulted in our contractor almost running out of replacement bulbs, so we have now embarked on a programme of phasing out the old fluorescent lamps and replacing with LEDs, which, I am assured, have built in surge protectors.

In conclusion I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and also for signing up for another four years as we were returned unopposed at last week's election. Thanks to Tony Daly who stood down after six years on the Parish Council and I would also like us to remember with fondness Cllr David Finch who we lost so unexpectedly last October. We welcomed Cllr David Nabbs and Cllr Matthew Kehoe in December, Matthew being the youngest ever member of CPC, although I am sure he is fed up of hearing that now. And very recently Lorraine Firmin who we welcome to her first meeting today.

Thank you to our Buckinghamshire Councillors Chris Poll and Peter Brazier who were also re-elected last week and to Derek Town for his past years as a Buckinghamshire Councillor.

And to our Clerk, Roz who undertakes a vast variety of administrative duties and also practical work around the village, especially in the upkeep of the Pavilion. As the Auditor now requires an "income / expenditure" finance system rather than a "payments / receipts"

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system, this year's treat to Roz was a new accountancy package (if you remember last year's treat was a course on Football grounds maintenance). I feel we spoil you. So thank you Roz for all your work, even if you did make me go on a site meeting up Hillside in a lightning and hailstorm.'

Cllr Christine Fee, Chair CPC

054/25 ANNUAL REPORT FROM BUCKS COUNCILLORS

Cllr Chris Poll -

'At the elections held on 1st of May 2025, the resultant vote count for each candidate was as follows:

Peter Brazier (Conservative) 1105 (Elected)

Chris Poll (Conservative) 1081(Elected)

Harry Murgatroyd (Labour) 735 (Not elected)

Trish Owen (Labour) 679 (Not elected)

Andrew Eaves (Reform) 635 (Not elected)

Amanda Trayte (Reform) 630 (Not elected)

Johanna Wheeler (Green Party) 372 (Not elected)

Michael Culverhouse (Green Party) 369 (Not elected)

Andrew Cole (Liberal Democrats) 332 (Not elected)

Jeremy Leonard (Liberal Democrats) 226 (Not elected)

Peter and I are both pleased to have been re-elected to Buckinghamshire Council for the Ivinghoe ward.

You now have 2-member representation at Buckinghamshire Council, and I would like to pay tribute to Derek Town who stood down after 10 years' service at both AVDC and Buckinghamshire Council. Derek served you well and at one point was my go-to when I needed cover for absentee members at meetings. Particularly with his role on the planning committee his experience will be missed, and we wish him well on his retirement from his local government role. With Peter and I having served the previous 4 years, we are well versed in the current issues and challenges and will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of all residents. Our good relationship with all 7 parish councils will continue and we will undertake again to attend all Parish Council meetings over the term. This amounts to nearly 100 per year.

As I write this the council is under "no overall control", we both await which party or group will be taking charge of the executive. The outgoing administration undertook to further reduce costs not only by the reduction of member numbers but also reducing Councillor allowances by at least 10% across the board and in some cases more than this. Staff pay has been increased by more than inflation for the lower pay bands. These pay awards are always conducted with staff union representation and over my time on AVDC and now BC, relationships have been good. Finances remain under strain, partly due to the Chancellor's decision to raise NI which has an impact on an employer like BC.

Nonetheless, we await to see what the new administration will bring and in the meantime our ward work will be unaffected. If you need to get in touch, we attend every parish council meeting across the ward, or you can of course email.

chris.poll@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

peter.brazier@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Thank you for putting your trust in us both. Cllr Chris Poll

Kind regards, Chris Poll.

Councillor for Ivinghoe ward.

Tel: 01296 663737'

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055/25 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Fee was nominated as Chair by Cllr Oastler and seconded by Cllr Richards.
Cllr Fee completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form.

056/25 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Hollett was nominated as Vice Chair by Cllr Fee and seconded by Cllr Bevan.
Cllr Hollett completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office Form.

All newly elected Parish Councillors completed the Declaration of Office form and book.

057/25 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES

See Appendix 1 (page 8) for updated details.

058/25 PUBLIC FORUM

Increase of HGVS High Street, Cheddington

Several residents, who were in attendance, were very concerned at the increase in HGVs using the village High Street and Station Road as a 'rat run' despite the introduction of the Freight Zone. Cllr Hollett stressed again that the Freight Zone Strategy could not be enforced. This was the main issue which the residents agreed with.

The main issues/concerns raised in respect of the HGVs were danger to schoolchildren, the noise and vibration caused resulting in potholes/damage to the recently resurfaced High Street and cracks in the houses. The incursion onto the public footpath/damage to the road verge, when lorries try to turn at the Marsworth/Pitstone Road, was also highlighted.

Resident had contacted the Freight Strategy Team and in light of the response he received he suggested that the Parish Council request an open meeting with the officers of the Highway Authority when the Automatic Number Plate Recognition surveys, recently carried out by Buckinghamshire Council, were available. Clerk would contact Graham Hillary.

Janet Roffe – Asked for permission to erect a Bowls Club Sign at the entrance to the Recreation Ground. Her husband, a founder member of the Bowls Club, would donate the funds to do this. *See Minute No 063/25 – Chris Yates 22.04.25.*

059/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations made.

060/25 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council's April Monthly meeting held on the 2nd April 2025 were approved and signed by the Chair.

061/25 TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES FROM BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCILLORS

Cllr Poll

See report 054/25.

Cllr Oastler asked Cllr Poll about Buckinghamshire Councillors public surgeries as members of the public have raised issues that are more relevant for them than the Parish Council.

Cllr Poll advised that those councillors that offer surgeries tend not to attend Parish Council meetings which he and Cllr Brazier want to continue to do so.

Cllr Richards felt it was important that they attend parish meetings as it was important that the Parish Council knew what was going on at Buckinghamshire Council.

062/25 CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT - to note updates to ongoing matters:

- **Cheddington Neighbourhood plan** - Nothing to report.
- **Barratts - Land at Gooseacre - Tree** – Nothing to report.
- **Connecting Path Suggestion at Recreation Ground** – On hold until any decision regarding the MUGA made.

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- **Cheddington s106 Pedestrian and Cycling Improvements Scheme** – i.e. New MVAS/SIDs x3 update: -
Clerk scheduled to have training on 14th May.
Resident asked if the PC could share the raw data and analyse - Agreed.
- **Cheddington Roll of Honour plaque** – Clerk to research examples and costings for June meeting.
- **Planting Barrels at The Green** – Planted up by Cllr Fee.
- **Overgrown vegetation Hillside** – see Finances agenda item no 068/25/(c)
- **Clerks & Council's Direct** – Article about Cllr Kehoe being CPC's youngest councillor will be in the July edition.
- **AGAR and Internal Audit for Year 24-25** – End of Year accounts closure completed with Rialtas and internal audit by Roger King carried out. AGAR paperwork and accounts for Year 23-24 will be approved at June meeting. Clerk will provide an update every quarter of the budget compared to the actual figures and any other relevant reports that the system can produce.
- **Election Nomination Papers** – Non contested election. 8 councillors.
- **New village website** – See agenda item No 067/25.
- **VE Day** – Refreshments/cakes for the children arranged for Thursday 8th from 3.15pm at The Green. A thank you to Carol and Andy Lister and Sue and Graham Day who decorated The Green railings along with the handyfolk.
- **MUGA Update** – See agenda item no 064/25.
- **Café at Recreation Ground** – See agenda item no 066/25.
- **Container clear out** – Tidied, racking installed and football, petanque, tennis club equipment sorted.
- **Outside tap at chapel** – Agreed no longer needed.
- **Football Foundation Grant Year 2 claim** – Cllr Fee and Clerk had to reapply, plus update with the new email contact details, so it has been very confusing on both sides. Clerk approved. Waiting on Cllr Fee to be approved so that the Year 2 claim can be drawn down.
- **PC strimmer serviced along with the lawnmower and spare strimmer.**
- **Alarm at the Pavilion** – Clerk arranging a new contract with Demon Fire & Security who have bought over Network Security. Site visit 12th May 8am for service and update my access via the Cloud system on laptop and mobile.
- **Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village competition** – Cheddington entered for the Tindall Cup.
- **Incident at The Green – older children seesaw** - reported to Clerk by Cllr Bevan but no feedback from parent - Clerk to ask Wicksteed or Playground Facilities if there was some sort of cover.
- **Streetlights LED Upgrade Update** – L & T waiting on the planning permits to work in the Highway. Hope to start 19th May. Will advise Clerk when approval granted.
- **Kissing Gate/other type of gate, off Station Road** - rRIPPLE has contacted Bucks Council to see if we can replace the rotted kissing gate CHD/23 on CHD/8/2.
- **Speedhump at village hall** – Clerk to ask handyfolk for update.
- **Mobile Phone for clerk** – Clerk would sort as now in the new financial year.

063/25 CORRESPONDENCE, CONSULTATIONS AND CIRCULARS

14.04.25 - Hannah Mays Chandler, Resident – email - Nets at Community football pitches. Asked to remove them for the months May and June as a compromise - The proposal to remove the nets in May and June was discussed but one of the councillors had been doing some research and asking around locally and it was deemed by the PC to be a low risk. It was agreed to monitor the situation and obviously if anything happened the PC would revisit.

22.04.25 - Chris Yates, Cheddington Bowls Club – email - Bowls Club request for a sign at the entrance to the Recreation Ground – Clerk to advise that although the Parish Council

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agreed that new signage for the Recreation Ground was required it did not agree to an individual sign for the Bowls Club as the Recreation Ground was used by a number of clubs. Instead, it would investigate a larger, double-sided sign (so it could be seen on the approach to the Rec from both ends of the village) replacing the small burgundy coloured one. It was also proposed that a directional signpost be installed as you enter the car park. Clerk to get costings.

8.04.25 - Tim Hamper, Resident – email - Survey - Field Bordering Manor Pound Road and Leeches Way – Clerk responded, and response acknowledged.

28.04.25 - Chris Joyce, Cheddington Allotments – email - Bark chippings and shelving for excess produce request – Clerk contacted usual contractor regarding supply of bark chippings.

Shelving – agreed but must be manged.

28.04.25 - Roger Carey, Burkott Lodge Farm – email - Buckinghamshire Council's unlawful decision to withhold planning comments from on-line publication – Suggests that the Parish Council (PC) lodges the strongest possible objection to BC's decision and requests an immediate reversal – Councillor Poll would pursue this on behalf of the Parish Council once the new cabinet member was in place. Cllr Fee advised that although the number of comments are provided it does not say if they are objecting or not objecting. Those present felt that the PC needed to see all comments to gauge thoughts of the village as the PC represents the village. Also, by seeing the comments it is helpful as the PC can investigate other things that may have not been considered.

06.05.25 - Ian Hale, Spirit Drama – email - Spirit Youth Drama request to use The Green and put up poster for the show – agreed to both requests but those involved with filming at The Green to make sure they advise what was happening if anyone was there.

Posters advise up 2 weeks before and take down as soon as possible after.

06.05.25 - Clare Cleland, Resident – email - Village Fete – request to use the Recreation Ground on 12th July – All agreed that it was a great idea.

064/25 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS/MEETINGS ATTENDED

MUGA Meeting with Mark Furnish, Planning Manger Sports England – 24th April – Cllr Fee, Cllr Hollett and Clerk

It was evident that there was a bit of confusion where the MUGA was to be positioned in relation to the zip wire and play equipment. Sports England asked that the location plan and Design and Access Statement (D & A) be updated to reflect the discussion. Clerk has updated the D & A statement. Hugo Hardy asked to update the plan/s.

Once these amendments had been carried out and the application re-submitted by Hugo Hardy the planner can be advised that the Parish Council had received pre planning advice from Sports England.

065/25 VILLAGE WALK DATE

Clerk to send around possible dates. Preference Wednesday and Thursday early evenings.

066/25 YOUTH CAFÉ/CAFÉ FACILITY AT RECREATON GROUND – DATES OF MEETINGS

Clerk to send around possible dates. Preference Wednesday and Thursday early evenings.

067/25 VILLAGE WEB SITE

Clerk to send around possible dates. Preference Wednesday and Thursday early evenings.

068/25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) The May 2025 payments, in accordance with the financial report, were checked and signed off prior to the meeting by Cllr Fee and were countersigned by Cllr Bevan.

b) Annual BALC Subs & NALC Affiliation Fees subscription of £353.54 – Agreed.

c) The quote from B&C Landscaping to complete works at Hillside in the sum of £908 plus VAT was agreed.

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d) The purchase of a case of wine (as in previous years) for the internal auditor, Roger King – Agreed.

069/25 PLANNING MATTERS

To Consider Applications Received via Buckinghamshire Council: -

25/01197/APP - 1 Church Lane Cheddington Buckinghamshire LU7 0RU - Householder application for replacement of existing single storey converted garage with two storey side and single storey rear extension (Part-Retrospective) – No objection.

To Receive Determinations by Buckinghamshire Council: -

Ref. No: 24/02688/APP - Falcon House High Street Cheddington Buckinghamshire LU7 9AA - Householder application for detached garage and gym with loft accommodation – Approved 17.04.25

Other Planning Matters

24/02222/AOP Appeal Ref: 25/00019/REF

Site Address: Land Adj The Duke Of Wellington Ph, Cheddington Road, Marsworth, Buckinghamshire - Proposal: Outline planning application with all matters reserved except access and layout for the erection of 9 dwellings with associated parking and access.

Cllr Brazier had advised those relevant Parish Council Clerks, by email, to re-present comments to the Inspector for the appeal process – Agreed.

070/25 REPORT ON ANY URGENT MATTERS

Cllr Richards asked that Simon Barrow be thanked for the good job he was currently doing regarding the grass cutting in the village.

071/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be the June monthly meeting on Wednesday 4th June 2025.

The meeting finished at 8.50pm.

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APPENDIX 1 - APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES 2025 - 2026

Recreation Ground Fence/Recreation Ground Area Old Allotment Site	Handyfolk
Planning Working Group	A Hollett – Planning Manager D BevanT Richards (NB All councillors are requested to examine all planning applications)
Play Equipment Quarterly Inspection done by Playground Facilities	Keith Malcolm (Handyman)
Finance Working Group	All Councillors
General Data Management Group	R Roberts
Village Hall Mgmt Cttee	C Fee
Street Light Warden	C Fee
Rights of Way Group	Cheddington Walking Group - Paul & Lucy Culleton
East Bucks Board (was Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board)	All Councillors
War Memorial	M Glendinning
Flag Pole	D Bevan
Allotment Warden	Position Vacant - Working Group Managing
Tree Warden	C Fee
Community Speed Watch/MVAS	S Vessey, R Roberts & C Poll
Clock Winding	School Caretaker
Town Lands Trust	C Fee, P Banister & M Watson
Handyfolk	Lucy Lawson / Keith Malcolm
Defibrillator	Guardians - L Firmin / R Roberts