

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Cublington Parish Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2024 at Biggs Pavilion at 7.00pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Gillian Antosiewicz  
Cllr Kevin Shults  
Cllr Michael Reilly  
Cllr Martyn Waters

In attendance Mr M Joy (Clerk)

**1. Apologies**

Cllr Hugh Vale

**2. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

**3. Chair's Report**

The Parish Council began the year with an event to celebrate and thank Hugh for his 17 years' service as Chair. Councillors and Clerks past and present joined us as well as the current Buckinghamshire Councillors for what was a really lovely evening.

In early June, the new Lectern was installed, marked by a short unveiling ceremony held on a warm and sunny afternoon. Thank you to Michael for driving and organising this and to Gary for the work he did in designing the lectern. The lectern has been well-received.

The annual Best Kept Village judging took place in June and we were delighted to learn that we had been awarded the Runner Up position in the Gurney Cup and that we were to be presented with the Dashwood Trophy. Thanks again to Michael for organising and promoting this competition and to all the residents who worked hard to ensure the village was looking well-kept for the judging. Thanks, must also go to all those residents who keep grass areas tidy and mown and verges trimmed not just for the Best Kept Village but throughout the year. Thank you all.

Cublington was also awarded the prestigious Community Award certificate for 'the commendable community issues' that are being pursued. Thanks to Martyn for all the work he has done and continues to do in driving the

development of North Field and to the team of volunteers that support the work.

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Best Kept Village committee attended a meeting in the Autumn to present the cup - a lovely silver watering can - and the certificate for the community award. The event was well attended by village residents. We look forward to taking part in the competition again this year.

The traffic calming project has been an ongoing success, many thanks to Kevin for co-ordinating this and to the volunteers who turn out regularly regardless of the weather and the hour and for the impact that your presence has on traffic through the village.

Orchard Ground and the Biggs Pavilion continue to thrive. I would like to thank the Committee for all they do and for all the organisations that use and support the facilities including, the tennis club, the cricket club and the allotment society. The facilities 'always look well looked after and cared for thanks in no small part to all the unseen work that quietly goes on behind the scenes. A special mention must go to Harry Gadsby for his commitment to keeping the Cricket field look immaculate.

Hugh has continued to be 'spotted' mowing North Field pathways, the verges and hedges.

One of the big achievements of the year was the replacement of the streetlamps with new LED lights. The difference is remarkable. Not only are the lights brighter and more effective, but they are also more eco-friendly, they use less power, and this has had an enormous beneficial impact on our electricity charge.

In April we heard the sad news that Arthur Read had died. Arthur made a significant contribution to the work of the Parish Council having served as a Councillor from 1968 to 1991 and as Chair between 1978 and 1987. We will consider in due course how we will commemorate his life and contribution.

I would also like to thank the Buckinghamshire Councillors for their support. Their presence and advice and input at our meetings is invaluable as is the help they have given us with a variety of issues outside the meetings.

I would like to thank Mike for his professional commitment and support. The Buckinghamshire Councillors have commented on more than one occasion that Cublington Parish Council is one of the best organised and most professional Councils of those that they

deal with – and it is, without question, Mike that we must thank for that. The work that goes on behind the scenes is phenomenal.

I would like to thank you all for your support during the year and for all you have done. We each have our area of interest and expertise and I know we all have the best interests of the village, its community and its environment at our heart.

**4. Accounts for Year ended 31.3.24.**

M Joy presented the end year accounts. There was a deficit of £7,244 and a closing cash balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 of £14,459. The major cost during the year was the upgrading of the street lighting to LED of £7,980. The precept was £12,600 an increase of 5% over the previous year's precept. The surplus funds are earmarked for traffic calming schemes and street lighting.

**5. Nominations and selection of Chair**

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: .....