



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th APRIL 2022
HELD AT THE HEATHFIELD CENTRE, CADDINGTON

Parish Council Chairman Mark Russell chaired the meeting.

Present: Central Bedfordshire Ward Councillors K Collins & E Perry, Clerk M Whiting and 31 members of public.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 12th April 2021 were an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

2. REPORT FROM THE CADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Before writing this year's Chairman's report, I glanced over last year's for a reminder of where we've come from, to get some idea of where we are heading.

I spoke about how the village pulled together and how the various organisations came forward helping out the community and doing what they do best. And guess what, one year on the only change is to Covid restrictions. Caddington Care, Medigreen Pharmacy, Co-op and Doctor's surgery are all still there helping the community whichever way they can.

Positive news for this year starts with the reopening of the Heathfield Centre, masterminded by Heathfield Friends and Central Beds Council. Obstacles have been difficult at times, but overcome and once again all the community groups can meet in this central hub, once more connecting the community.

The parish council have embarked on what I hope will be a continued planting of new trees in the village to coincide with the Queen's Green Canopy, a scheme to mark this Platinum Jubilee year. This was kicked off by 3 trees kindly donated by the local scouting group, with 12 more having been planted by the Parish Council in the 2 parks and in Crosslands.

Preparations are well underway for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village, centring on the party on the green, for which there are bands booked, food and drink ordered and fun family attractions for all.

After a long break, shortly a much missed village magazine will be back in print replacing 'The Villager' that was, providing advertising space for local businesses and information on local goings on.

Thank you all for coming tonight, and please carry on doing what you do for the community.

Summary of Accounts 2021 – 2022: The Parish Council began the financial year with a balance of £213,956.76 ending on 31st March 2022 with a closing balance of £271,438.36. The precept for 2022-23 was set at £147,894, equating in a 2% annual increase (£1.61) per Band D property, bringing it to £81.80 per annum (£6.81 per month)

3. REPORT FROM BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

Caddington Community Team representatives are A/INSP – 758 TWYFORD, A/PS – 6278 SHARP, PCSO – 7704 BIMBIRCA, PCSO - 7006 RUMA, PC – 252 HOLLANDS

The average crimes recorded in Caddington at the end of each financial year has decreased since 2018 where an average of 27.1 crimes were recorded compared to 2021/2022 current financial year which is standing at an average of 17.8.

Year to date crimes show: 2018/2019 – 325 crimes recorded 2019/2020 – 278 crimes recorded 2020/2021 – 235 crimes recorded 2021/2022 – 214 crimes recorded

OP METEOR: Operation Meteor is Bedfordshire Polices response to the issue of anti-social riding, nuisance bikes and related criminality. The team is specially trained to identify and target offenders who use their vehicles in an anti-social or dangerous manner. The operation consists of regular ride outs of trained officers on off-road bikes, which allows them to crack down on bikers trespassing and causing a nuisance in our communities.

At Dunstable community team our Community PC'S and PCSO'S are fully aware of the issues that have been reported to us by concerned residents in Caddington regarding nuisance off road bikes. Patrols in the Village are being carried out to target this behaviour and action will be taken against both rider and vehicle if displaying unacceptable behaviour this is in means of speaking and educating persons involved and by issuing section 59's on both the rider and the vehicle or by seizing the vehicle.

Anti-Social Behaviour Caddington-Hot spot areas.

Anti-social behaviour covers a wide range of unacceptable activity that causes harm to an individual, to their community or to their environment. This also includes fear of crime or concern for public safety, public disorder and public nuisance. Within Dunstable Community team is the Priority Anti- Social Behaviour team who review and grade anti-social behaviour reports for Caddington.

Reports by residents is vital and helps us identify hot spot areas to patrol to help tackle the anti- social behaviour that is happening in the village. We are aware of some of the concerns that have been brought to our attention

over the last year by residents. Just some of the Anti-social behaviour that has been reported to us includes Criminal Damage, Drug dealing/Paraphernalia left, vehicle interference and gatherings of persons displaying anti-social behaviour.

These are some hot spot areas that our patrols have been focussed on, The Park Elm Avenue, sports and social club, Folly lane, the green outside the shops on Manor Road, Millfield Lane, Caddington Allotments and Caddington Woods. Anti-social behaviour can cause a detrimental effect on a community and we are always looking to speak to and educate people who are displaying this behaviour and enforce action when necessary.

Vehicle Crime in Caddington

Dunstable Community Team is aware of the recent spike in Vehicle theft/attempted Vehicle Theft and Catalytic Converter thefts that have been happening not only in Caddington but in the whole county. Pro-active patrols have been a priority into identifying suspects and vehicles involved relating to this activity. Dunstable community teams PCSO'S are ensuring patrols are carried out in the village and with our new extended shift to 00:00hours/midnight we are keen to speak to anyone who may be acting suspicious in the village and to help decrease this type of crime. We urge residents to report any sus vehicles or persons to us with CCTV footage if available, this can help to build up our intelligence into who may be operating in the area.

I would like to thank the residents, business owners, street watch, speed watch and parish council for their help and support over the last year with reporting crimes and concerns, supplying intelligence and CCTV footage and for letting us know your concerns within the community. It is with this information we are able to build up a bigger picture into what is happening in the village and who may be operating. Our focus is to reassure its residents and decrease the crime that is happening within Caddington Village.

We urge the community of Caddington to continue to report any concerns they have to us and to feel free to stop and talk to us if you see us on patrol. You can report crimes in many ways and this can be done online via the Bedfordshire website, calling 101, crime stoppers and in an emergency 999. Your intelligence and information can help us build a bigger picture into what is happening in our community and to help us with prioritising areas of interest.

4. REPORT FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL WARD CLLR K COLLINS

Lorna Carver is the newly appointed Director of Place and Communities which consists of Development and Infrastructure, Assets, Business and Investment, Community Safety, Parking and Programmes, Highways and Environment, Public Protection and Transport. She will meet with me shortly in the village to have a closer look and gain a better understanding.

CBC are holding hybrid meetings but back in person for decision making meetings which are open to the public. Hope that the Central Government money for grants has been claimed and received by all those that were entitled.

Glad to have the Heathfield Centre back open and now meeting with groups to discuss the future development of the site.

Local Plan was adopted last summer and in place.

Heritage Greenway is progressing and CaSE Trust have engaged an independent consultant. Currently discussing with landowners and hope to start in the near future.

Hope that all residents have responded to the recent Airport consultation on expansion from 18million to 32million passengers. CBC are not in support and have sent their response. Secretary of State has called in the application and a local inquiry will be held.

5. REPORTS FROM VILLAGE ORGANISATIONS

Caddington Watch: John Waller provided below report:

Street and Dog Watches active every week, with enough participation to split into separate teams and cover a good part of the village, each session.

Speed Watch regularly active and a now includes residents from Caddington Woods. We share the equipment with Kensworth volunteers.

Until December we supported the Covid vaccination effort at Priory House gardens in Dunstable.

Caddington Watch creates monthly crime statistics covering all of Bedfordshire. They are distributed to each Town and Parish Council, as well as other Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

Please to note the downward trend in crimes reported year on year by Beds Police report.

Currently working with the Police to improve communications using the messaging system known as BedsAlert.

Heathfield Friends: John Waller provided below report:

The Heathfield Centre remained closed longer than expected due to Health and Safety concerns, and potential on-going running costs.

Heathfield Friends worked with CBC's Assets team to overcome these obstacles. Necessary works were completed by CBC contractors in February 2022 and the buildings are now segregated, as you will have seen when entering the building.

Bookings are now at a level expected to cover running costs, during the re-opening period. We appreciate now being able to closely control the heating from within the building.

Cleaning and low-level maintenance is now performed by Heathfield Friends.

The old playground is still made available for parking during school term-times. Heathfield Friends has applied to the Charity Commission to become a 'Charitable Incorporated Organisation' (CIO). Nine people have come forward to be trustees and includes two current Parish Councillors. We have been approached by 'New Vista Homes' to assist their contractors as they ready plans for both the Centre and the site as a whole. External and Internal surveys were completed last week. Heathfield Friends are acutely aware that we, the Parish Council, and the wider community will need to actively engage once plans are brought forward for the whole site. Quite possibly in the next few months.

Caddington Care: Jane Payton provided below report:

Writing this report proved harder than I expected, as in my mind the last two years have all melded into one. A year ago we were coming out of the second lock down as roll out of the first vaccinations came to the point where 50% of the population had been vaccinated. A trial match at Wembley with a small number of spectators was planned but there was no inside dining at restaurants and people were not going into one another's homes. Our priorities continued to be shopping, prescription delivery and supporting people who were isolated. The OFFICE is the 'hub' of CaddingtonCare. Manned daily every weekday the phone holders do a sterling job in dealing with the incoming calls. During the year the requests for shopping have dwindled to a few regulars but the prescription rota which has been running for two years continues to be well used. We had expected to be inundated with requests for lifts as the lock down eased but in fact this was not the case as so many medical appointments are still not face to face. Even now the number of lifts is relatively low compared with previously. We now have more drivers willing to cover the requests and we are most grateful to all of them for their care of the clients. Quite often a lift to the hospital can involve collecting a wheelchair from Heathfield, taking the client to their appointment, waiting with them and then taking them home again. Befriending arrangements are still a vital part of what we do. Many are very longstanding and firm friendships have been made. Some volunteers say that their client is almost like a mother. Some volunteers helped last year at Priory Gardens Vaccination Centre and we were also able to support Kiran at Medigreen with his vaccination programme. Sadly this ceased once all vaccinations became Pfizer or Moderna. With the end of any legal restrictions on activities on 19th July we were able to plan for some kind of normality. We held our first Chat and Coffee on 9th August. As Heathfield was not available this was held at the Sports and Social Club and with strict guidelines re masks and with table service. These have continued monthly, bar one when we cancelled in January due to the prevalence of the Delta variant. Terri, the steward at the club, has been really helpful. Seated exercises restarted at Collings-Wells Hall in September. After a trial walk in July, walks have started and there is a full schedule for the coming year. The loan of wheelchairs has become a valuable service. We have bought a new one in the last year. Every Christmas we send cards to all our clients – always much appreciated but this year we could not repeat the bundles to some disappointment, I fear. Town and Country Estate Agents collected gifts under their tree for our coffee mornings. We have a wonderful collection of tea, coffee and biscuits which will last us for some time. Which brings me to Heathfield. Heathfield for the last year has felt like Shangri-La. Just out of reach. I can report that today we held our first Chat and Coffee there for two years and a very happy occasion it was. Fingers crossed this will continue weekly. The Mens Group and Seated Exercises moved back last week and monthly Bingo will start in May. Our thanks to Heathfield Friends for all the work that has happened to get to this point. Many of our Cobra volunteers are still with us. Some have joined us as fully DBS'd volunteers and some have remained doing the shopping/ prescription runs. We are very appreciative of their support. Committee meetings continued on Zoom until August when we were able to meet in person for the first time for over a year. Our AGM in September was also 'live' – a great relief to all. We have a good relationship with the Doctors surgery and have got to know Rabia Abbas – the Care Co-ordinator – a very useful link to help support some of our clients. Beds Rural Charities Committee continue to provide support and back up, with special thanks to Simon Paterson. Through them we have been able to distribute supermarket vouchers to some clients to help with increasing food/ energy bills. More recently energy-saving packs have been available. We send in quarterly returns of our activities to Beds RCC. We are told that these stats and accompanying stories are always well received. Again, the last year has been like no other. The twists and turns of the pandemic have necessitated regular decision-making to act in the best interests of both clients and volunteers. Coffee mornings were planned and then cancelled involving many, many phonecalls to make sure that everyone was covered. Our grateful thanks go to Town and Country, the Co-op, Caddington Store, the Santa Float and the many people of Caddington who support us. Thank you to the Parish Council – who will always be there for us, as you were many years ago when we started. Last but by no means least, our thanks to the Committee and volunteers for your support and encouragement. We look forward enthusiastically to normality and beyond.

Caddington Pre-School: Niki Summers provided below report:

Due to starting this academic year with high numbers of attendance we kept in place guidelines to restrict the spread of Covid-19 especially as pre-school was classed as one bubble and one outbreak would result in the closure of the whole setting affecting just over fifty families.

Luckily any outbreaks were identified within families before Covid could make its way into pre-school ensuring we were able to remain open. Some staff members contracted Covid-19 from their children however this was contained during the school holiday.

Once guidelines were lifted this spring and the country appeared to return to normal, it took only a matter of weeks for families to test positive and for pre-school to be hit hard with the loss of three staff members testing positive for Covid-19 at the same time and the threat of closure just before the end of term. We were extremely grateful we made the decision to continue testing for the remainder of the spring term even though the government decided to withdraw testing kits for early years settings. With the remaining staff members pulling together with the support of parents who were able to keep their children at home, we were able to remain open to children without alternative child care according to the statutory requirements of the EYFS.

As an early years setting PPE has always been a daily requirement even before the world encountered Covid-19. Our expenses tripled in cost due to the increase in prices. Only now have we seen a slight decrease in prices however costs are still double pre-covid prices. Even with these price increases we have not passed these costs onto families. We still remain one of the cheapest settings within the area and have maintained our fee at a low rate for many years.

Places at pre-school are filling up quickly and much earlier than previous years. With full sessions during the morning, lunch and afternoon we have restructured the room layout to accommodate the increase in the number of children. We have asked for support to provide an extra table and additional chairs which will alleviate the need to move tables and chairs from one area to another during the session.

We would like to thank you for your support this year. It is very much appreciated at this time when we have been unable to fundraise for ourselves during the last few years.

Scout Group: Rita Tims Group Scout Leader, provided below report:

The Membership of Caddington Scout Group is now standing at 80 Members as we have had several Members move away from Caddington.

The Group has 4 Sections, 1 Beaver Colony for 6- 8 years old, 1 Cub Pack for 8 – 9 years old, 1 Wolf Pack for 9 – 10.1/2, and finally a Scout Troop for 10 ½ to 14 years old. We have 12 Leaders who are supported by 20 Parent Occasional Helpers. We are still looking for more Leader, so if you are interested in joining our Te4am please contact Rita Tims 01582 418014.

We run very active programmes for all sections and are planning Camps for 2022. We have over the past year cleaned all the Road Sign in Caddington and plan to do a litter pick in the Village soon.

Allotments: John Dudley Caddington Allotments and Leisure Gardens Management Secretary, provided below:

The number of tenants on the allotments has now grown to 72 – an additional five more than last year and we are now at almost full occupancy. Only two and a half plots, those which experience substantial winter flooding, have not been let. The rental income for this season (starting 1st October 2021) has amounted to £1920 to date.

The Covid situation last year meant that some of our fund raising activities such as open days, etc. were curtailed and this had an impact on the balance in our account. However, we managed to raise a total of £458 at our annual Plant Sale, which we considered good in the circumstances then prevailing. Unfortunately we recently learned that our electricity supplier was moving us from a 'vacant building' tariff to a business one with a significant daily standing charge. This, when combined with our essential insurance payments, means our fixed costs are now over £500 per annum. So, generating sufficient income for the Association to break even has become more challenging.

The Association funded a major clear-up day (including skip hire) last autumn to get rid of historical rubbish that had been generated by winter storms over the past few years. No sooner had we done this than a whole series of new storms came on the scene and wreaked more havoc to greenhouses, sheds, and poly-tunnels!

We can report that there has been no vandalism on the plots this year and the main allotment Hut has had no further damage after the last break-in (thanks to the CCTV cameras installed by the PC). The Hut continues to serve the community as a library and coffee morning venue and we are considering extending the opening times to include alternate weekend Saturday mornings.

The committee welcomed Parish Councillor Jack Bean to their meetings and thought this would further improve communication and liaison between the Association and the Council.

Yet again we continue to receive positive comments from our many tenants saying how much they value their plots and expressing their appreciation of their 'outdoor space' for exercise, interest and food production.

Caddington Amateur Dramatic Society: Sarah Fitzsimmons provided below report:

CADS is back following the reopening of Heathfield Centre and will be putting on a production the first week in September; 'A Bunch of Amateurs' by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman.

Caddington & Slip End Community Trust (CaSE): Rebecca Lewry provided below report:

I am the Trust Manager based at Lyons Community Centre in Caddington Woods.

Next few months will see Redrow leaving and the handover of final phase of properties. 46 properties available to people with local links.

The free 203 bus service is currently under review.

Community Centre is doing very well and employing a manager, caretaker and cleaner.

Held some virtual events during lockdown and had a fun day in September.

Hope to help support the Caddington jubilee event and also provide a shuttle bus to/from Caddington Woods.

Lunch Unplugged is a popular event consisting of a circular walk every Monday and Thursday from 12:30.

A defibrillator was installed at the centre in April 2020 and a community first aid awareness course held also.

All Things Caddington: Carol Hardy provided below report:

All Things Caddington is a new village magazine which hopes to be up and running this June.

I had my arm twisted to be the treasurer and Jan Rolings is the editor but currently poorly and unable to attend.

WI: Carol Jones provided below report:

After the lockdown, Caddington WI members held an informal meeting at the Sports and Social Club in June last year, after which I found myself the President. We planned to do a mail shot funded by the Parish Council to encourage some new members to join us. I am pleased to say that we increased our membership by seven. We also purchased a sound system to aid those who are hard of hearing.

Since then we have been meeting monthly and have enjoyed listening to some interesting speakers on a variety of subjects, ranging from Riding or the Disabled to Downtown Abbey.

In September we held our 66th birthday party and welcomed visitors from other WIs in our group. After a lovely meal we had a singalong accompanied by Fred Thomas.

We are still a small group, so would welcome more new members, they would be assured a warm welcome.

Gardening Club: Sarah Fitzsimmons provided below report:

Club is now back up and running meeting on the second Tuesday of the month 7:30 at The Baptist Hall plus we running some summer trips and a Plant Sale on The Green on May 28th.

6. GRANT AWARDS

The parish council awarded the following grants for 2022/23:

Group	Purpose	2022/23
Caddington Scout Group	Hike Tent	£ 270.00
All Saints Church PCC	2 x St George Flags	£ 180.00
Caddington Pre-School	Table & Chairs	£ 325.20
Caddington Village Magazine	Printing costs (funds set aside)	£ 600.00
Caddington Recreation Assc	Play area	£ 612.10
Collings Wells Hall	Repointing of brickwork	£ 500.00
Heathfield Friends	Purchase lawn mower	£ 525.00
Caddington School PTA	Outdoor picnic bench 2 x £445	£ 890.00
	Total given	£ 3,902.30

Representatives from the above groups thanked the parish council for their support and financial contributions.

7. QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Thanks to all volunteers who make a big difference to the community.

The meeting was closed at 9:15pm and refreshments were served.

Signed.....Dated.....