

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING****Cubbington Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 8:30pm, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025  
the meeting ANNUAL PARISH MEETING was held at the Village Hall**

**Present:**

Councillor Ian Hodges (Chairman)	Councillor Paul Watkins
Councillor David Saul (Vice Chairman)	Councillor Esther McCarthy
Councillor Val Roberts	Councillor Gary Willoughby
Councillor John Roberts	Councillor Colin Marrow
Councillor Martin Key	

**Warwick District Councillors:** Councillors Daniel Russell, Alan Boad, Josh Payne

**Warwickshire County Council:** Councillors Sarah Boad, Ben Edwards

Members of the public: 0

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Parish Councillors, Meggitt and Smith and WDC Councillors Pam Redford and Phil Kohler.

**2. Chairman's Report (Councillor Ian Hodges)**

Welcome to the Annual Parish Meeting for 2025. At our Annual Parish Council Meeting we have reconfirmed our eligibility to retain the General Power of Competence.

The past 12 months has been another very busy year for the Parish Council yet again with many issues being resolved and new projects progressing.

**Recreational Facilities**

The Recreation Ground continues to be maintained by our Maintenance Officer and Mowing Contractor. The 350+ trees we have planted are continuing to grow and add colour to the grounds. The trees in the fruit Orchard are getting established and it is hoped will provide fruit to harvest this year. We have a variety of fruit trees including plum, apple, cherry, pear, apricot and walnut. Additional trees were planted around the grounds to replace ones that were lost and also to increase the number. These were donated by the WCC.

The Recreational Ground is a huge asset for the parish and is used by many residents who really enjoy the environment that we have created.

The junior goal posts installed last year have been well received and are well used.

**Hobby Centre**

The Hobby Centre is now open and in use, this is a project that will never be complete as new hobbies come along, and we welcome these. It is currently open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.30 till 12.30. We have had upwards of 30 people come along and spend time there, currently we are using it more as a drop-in centre where people contribute donations to cover running costs.

We have completed a few community projects, and the centre is self-financing.

### **Restoration of Assets**

The Parish Council looks after circa £3m in Parish Council assets including play equipment, community buildings, benches, bus shelters the list goes on. The RFO controls a tight budget to meet the costs, relying on free labour, without which the Precept would be much higher. We have managed through prudent management to keep our precept at a realistic level with a minor increase.

### **Village hall**

The Village Hall is running well and is making a small profit with the hire charges being kept to a minimum, security improvements have been made to ensure the hirers are protected while using the facilities.

Our thanks go to Karren Meggitt, John and Lisa for their dedication and work to promote and keep this facility in pristine condition.

### **Pavilion Update**

The community centre is a much-improved venue with the retaining wall removed and it is hired out on a regular basis.

The lighting has been improved in the Pavilion car park by the installation of solar powered lighting, these have helped to illuminate the area and are cost free for their use.

### **Community Events**

Organised by Councillor Meggitt and funded by the Parish Council we have all experienced some excellent community events including the Fun Day, Christmas Light Switch on. The Village is filled with the Christmas Trees and illuminated by attractive lights. A sincere thanks to all involved which included many local residents giving a real community spirit.

### **Cubbington Youth Club**

The youth has been a huge success thanks mainly to Councillor Esther McCarthy who has spent many hours supervising and running the events, our thanks go to all who have been involved with it. Long may it continue as we have 120 plus registered youths who love it.

### **Neighbourhood plan**

This plan headed by Councillor Paul Watkins has been completed and submitted, it has taken a great deal of time and effort by Paul and his team, and our community will be better placed for the future as a result of it.

### **Cubbington flood prevention**

Councillor Willoughby monitors this situation and revises our recommendations as required.

### **Cubbington Link**

We believed it to be important that we advise our parishioners what we do and what we have achieved. To this end a leaflet has been produced that will be distributed to all households in our parish. We hope this will be a useful tool to keep everybody informed as to what we do and also encourage others to participate. Many thanks to all who contributed to this first issue.

### **20 mph areas**

We have successfully lobbied the WCC to install 20 mph flashing lights at both our schools, St Treaseas and Cubbington Primary School we hope these help look after our children

### Projects for 2025-26

The Parish Council have many projects which we would like to complete this financial year including:

- Crossing on the Rugby Road near the new housing development
- Updating the Village Hall and Pavilion
- Build a MUGA centre to replace the existing netball area in the Recreation Ground
- Improvements to our bus services and to hold the WDC and the WCC to account for their statutory obligations.

Thanks to all Parish Councillors for the work, they have done for the parishioners, and we look forward to the next year when we can move forward.

## 3. REPORTS FROM PARISH CHARITIES

### 3.1 Cubbington Freeholders

The Trustees of the Cubbington Freeholders charity are Robert Inman, Jerry Lewitt, Carole O'Donnell and Norman Pratt (who is also the Clerk to the Trustees).

The Trust are the owners of the former quarry situated off Leicester Lane which was awarded to them through Commissioners who were appointed to administer the Inclosure Award for the Parish of Cubbington dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 1768. The objectives of the charity are stated as: *“Common stone quarry to be used for the digging and getting of stone for freeholders and landowners of the parish; income for public purposes for the benefit of the parish of Cubbington”*. This was subsequently amended and until the end of May 2023 the quarry area was occupied by Warwickshire County Council for the storage of highways material. This provided the charity's sole income.

From the income received the Trust provides funds for the good and benefit of the community and community-based organisations within the Parish of Cubbington. The charity's financial year ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December and since the last report made in May 2024 the following grants have been made:

**Cubbington Players:** grant towards the provision of storage facilities      £ 1000

Discussions are continuing regarding their future use of the area. This is still a very protracted process and thanks must be recorded to Norman, in his role as a Trustee and Clerk to the Trustees, for all the work that he has carried out over the past twelve months and into the current year. My thanks must also go to Carole and Jerry for their invaluable support for the Charity.

Robert Inman  
Trustee, Cubbington Freeholders

### 3.2 Thomas Sotherne's Charity

The Thomas Sotherne Charity was founded on a charitable fund set up in the seventeenth century through the Will of Thomas Sotherne, who lived in Stareton, to help elderly residents of Cubbington by making small gifts towards the cost of living.

Income is derived from dividends from units invested in the COIF Charity Investment Funds which are managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd. When sufficient funds are available, usually every two years, small gifts towards the cost of living are given to local residents who receive a state pension, and were born and have lived in the Parish of Cubbington all their lives. The charity has available only a very limited amount of funding and donations are always welcome to help individuals within the local community.

The Trustees are appointed by Cubbington Parish Council for a three year term of office and last expired in May 2024. When the appointments were reviewed last May the Parish Council decided to reappoint Jerry Lewitt but not the other two Trustees. No other appointments were made and it was suggested that the two new Trustees should be selected from the younger members of the community for succession planning. Since then, as far as I am aware, no further action has been taken and therefore the charity has been inactive and will remain so until the two new Trustees are appointed by the Parish Council.

It should be noted that the Parish Council liaised with Jerry Lewitt, via telephone, email and in person. The request for a meeting has not been forthcoming. The Parish Council have therefore not been engaged any further.

## 5. MATTERS RAISED FROM THE FLOOR OF THE MEETING

### South Warwickshire Local Plan

Expecting next stage of consultation in December. These will be the solid proposals.

Meeting closed at 8:40pm