



# CROMMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015,  
starting at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

|                      |                 |
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| Mr J Griffin (Chair) | Mr S Sherbourne |
| Mr N Hannigan        | Mr S Soames     |
| Mrs F Jones          |                 |

**Attending:** County Councillor M. Gray, Ms C M Malcolm (Finance Officer) and Mrs S Rance (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Received from Prof A Johnson, Mr D Mannering, Mrs F Stevenson and District Councillor R. Pullen. .

**Declarations of interest:** None.

The meeting was quorate.

| NO.  |   | ACTION  |
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| 4353 | <b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b><br><br>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 <sup>th</sup> June were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.  |   |
| 4354 | <b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b><br><br><u>Item 4343:</u> It was noted that the car and caravan are still parked next to the A4074 close to the turning to Mongewell. County Councillor Gray has spoken to OCC Highways. PCSO Sue Harris will investigate and Cllr Gray will continue to monitor the situation.<br><br><u>Item 4343:</u> Cllr Griffin has written in support of 'Go Ride' as the contractor for the 134 bus service. Consultation is currently taking place on the service and Cllrs Gray and Griffin will ask for a meeting so that further discussion can take place. It was agreed that representatives from Goring and South Stoke will be invited and Cllr Jones will also attend. Cllr Gray will fix a date.<br><br><u>Item 4343:</u> Cllrs Gray and Hannigan will meet to discuss the proposals for a pedestrian crossing in The Street. | <b>MG</b><br><br><b>MG/JG</b><br><br><b>MG/NH</b> |

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|                    | <p><u>Item 4343</u>: Contract for grass cutting. Cllr Griffin has discussed a number of issues with Scofell and the Finance Officer has a list of areas which have been missed recently, including the path from Crowmarsh Hill to Botany Gardens, which had been reported by a resident. Cllr Soames has been in touch with Scofell regarding North Stoke recreation ground and will arrange for a lock to be put on the gate.</p> <p><u>Item 4343</u>: Request for dog bins and litter bins at Mongewell. The Clerk reported that Mrs Lowes has requested a litter bin for each bus stop on the A4074 at Mongewell, plus a dog bin by the underpass. Cllr Griffin had also requested a litter bin by the bus stop at the main entrance to Howbery Park on Benson Lane. The Clerk and Finance Officer will research the cost of the litter bins and report back. The purchase of a dog bin was approved, subject to the agreement of the District Council. The Clerk will contact SODC.</p> <p><u>Item 4343</u>: Flower Tubs: The Clerk will request the Town Council to return the flower tubs so that alternative arrangements can be made in future. Mr Wells is happy to water the tubs placed on his side of the roundabout. Future planting will be discussed further at the next meeting.</p> | <p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>SS</b></p> <p><b>RFO/<br/>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>Clerk<br/>(Agenda)</b></p> |
| <p><b>4355</b></p> | <p><b>REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b></p> <p>Cllr Gray suggested that the Parish Council might consider underwriting the 134 bus service. Consultation on subsidised bus services is taking place until 14<sup>th</sup> September. There are a number of public meetings taking place in the next two weeks. Cllr Jones will attend the meeting in Didcot on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July. There is also a meeting at Kidlington for voluntary community and social organisations.</p> <p>Cllr Gray reported that the County Council has very limited resources and further cuts are anticipated. Education personnel and finance services are to be provided from Hampshire County Council in future to cut costs and there have been some staff redundancies.</p> <p>Children’s centres are to be reviewed and some non-statutory facilities are likely to be cut. Cllr Gray is working towards obtaining community funding to maintain the local children’s centre services.</p> <p>OCC Highways would like parish and town councils to take over responsibility for some work such as grass cutting. (This is already being done in Crowmarsh.) Another idea is for town and parish councils to keep street signs clean. Potholes will remain the responsibility of Highways.</p>               |   |

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|                    | <p>Cholsey Parish Council are hoping to provide a cycle path along the Wallingford Road and quotes are being obtained.</p> <p>Fifteen per cent of the Community Infrastructure Levy will be for Parish Councils to allocate. This is likely to be introduced by SODC in the near future.</p> <p>The road works at Clacks Lane will be completed soon.</p> <p>Cllr Gray reported on the method of recycling road sweepings.</p>   |                   |
| <p><b>4356</b></p> | <p><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p>(a) <u>Consideration of payments made in June</u></p> <p>A schedule of payments made in June was presented. In addition the following payments were put forward for approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Aid Training for Chris Strange</li> <li>• Expenses claim for Chris Strange.</li> </ul> <p>The terms of the security alarm contract will be checked by the Finance Officer before payment of £936.50 is made as this might not be needed.</p> <p>After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Hannigan that the payments be approved and this was agreed.</p> <p>(b) <u>Accounts Status at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015</u></p> <p>The accounts at 30<sup>th</sup> June were presented and it was noted that income and expenditure were broadly in line with budget. The solar panels are working well and British Gas has asked for a photograph of the meter to prove that the reading is correct before they will make payment.</p> <p>(c) <u>Review of Employees' Salaries</u></p> <p>An increase of 1% for each employee was agreed with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. Salaries will be reviewed each March in future.</p> | <p><b>RFO</b></p> |
| <p><b>4357</b></p> | <p><b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p> <p><u>a) Vacancies for Parish Councillors</u></p> <p>The vacancies have been advertised in the school newsletter and in Crowmarsh News. Councillors were asked to encourage those who show an interest in joining the council.</p>   |                   |

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|             | <p>b) <u>Long Service Awards for Councillors</u><br/>         In the absence of Cllr Johnson, this item was deferred until the next meeting. The Clerk will seek advice from Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.</p>   | <b>Clerk</b>    |
| <b>4358</b> | <p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>Decisions:</b> The Council noted the following decision from SODC.</p> <p>P15/S0947/FUL (Full Application): Application proposal, including any amendments: Erection of a two storey, four-bay building to be used as a maintenance shed, garden machinery store and garage for two cars on the ground floor and storage for the kennels business on the first floor. Avalon Kennels Ltd, Benson (in the parish of Crowmarsh), OX10 6PP: PERMISSION GRANTED.</p> <p><b>Applications:</b> The Council was asked to agree its response to SODC on the following application:</p> <p>P15/S1679/A (Advertisement Consent): Erection of two mooring signs to alert visitors by boat. River bank at HR Wallingford (within the parishes of Crowmarsh and Wallingford), OX10 8BA: RECOMMEND APPROVAL.</p> <p><b>South Oxfordshire District Council Offices</b></p> <p>The Council had received a communication from SODC with regard to the temporary security fence surrounding the fire damaged council offices in Benson Lane. It was decided to wait for a retrospective application by SODC for the fencing before making comments.</p> <p><b>Lister Wilder Appeal Decision</b></p> <p>Following the Inspector's decision to dismiss Lister Wilder's Appeal with regard to the landscaping of their site, it was agreed that the Chair of Planning would contact the Planning Officer at SODC to discuss what the procedure is for enforcement of the decisions. Cllr Jones proposed that a letter should be sent to SODC complaining against the decision on landscaping. She will draft a letter to be sent by the Clerk.</p> <p><b>CABI</b></p> <p>Representatives from CABI had asked to address the Council about their proposals for development. It was agreed that they will be invited to speak when a new planning application has been submitted.</p> | <b>FJ/Clerk</b> |

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| 4359 | <p><b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Jones recommended reading the consultation document on bus services. The 134 service is to continue with Go Ride on a short term contract but will then be retendered.</li> <li>• Cllr Sherbourne has drafted a letter regarding the traffic problems on the A4074. It was agreed to send this. He will send the draft to the Chairman and Clerk.</li> </ul>  | SSh  |
| 4360 | <p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation to the Chairman to attend the Wittenham Rose Ceremony on 10<sup>th</sup> July at the Earth Trust.</li> <li>• Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils Bulletin. This included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A recommendation that Clerks and Finance Officers should not be asked to use their own computers for Parish Council work. This will be discussed at the September meeting.</li> <li>○ Advice on Lone Working. Should the Council have a Lone Worker Policy? Councillors are advised to read the advice given in the bulletin. It was agreed to refer this to the Recreation and Environment Committee for further discussion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Winter Preparedness: it was agreed that no additional salt will be ordered as stocks remain from last year.</li> <li>• There is a vacancy for one parish councillor on the Conservation Board for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This will be discussed at the August meeting. Cllr Griffin is already on the Conservation Board.</li> </ul> | <p>Clerk (Agenda)</p> <p>Rec/Env</p> <p>Clerk (Agenda)</p> |
| 4361 | <p><b>REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES</b></p> <p><u>River Users' Group (RUG3)</u></p> <p>The group has met and minutes of the meeting are on their website.</p> <p><u>North Stoke Village Hall</u></p> <p>Cllr Soames reported that a grant has been applied for. This will be considered at the end of July. The village hall is in need of a new boiler and it is planned to renovate the kitchen. Cllr Jones reported that the recently circulated Rural Opportunities Bulletin</p>   |  |

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|             | contains details of available grants   |                           |
| <b>4362</b> | <p><b>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR</b></p> <p>District Councillor Pullen reported in writing that SODC is now fully moved into Milton Park, and as yet there has been no news from the insurers as to whether the old offices will be considered to be beyond economic repair or not.</p>   |                           |
| <b>4363</b> | <p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The Clerk gave her apologies for this meeting. The Finance Officer will take the minutes.</p>   |                           |
| <b>4364</b> | <p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Soames suggested setting up a forum to improve communications between councillors.</li> <li>• Cllr Sherbourne suggested considering ideas for future community projects. This will be discussed at the September meeting.</li> <li>• It was noted that there is a leaking water pipe in The Street; Thames Water will be notified.</li> </ul> | <b>Clerk<br/>(Agenda)</b> |
|             | The meeting closed at 9.40 pm.   |                           |