



CROMMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at Crommarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 2nd March 2017
starting at 7.30pm**

Present:

Mr J Griffin (Chair)	Mr D Mannering
Mrs D Hall	Mr D Rowley
Mr N Hannigan	Mr S Sherbourne
Mrs F Jones	Mr S Soames
Prof A Johnson	Mr D Topliss

Attending: Mrs Y Peet (Finance Officer) and Mrs S Rance (Clerk). County Councillor M Gray attended part of the meeting. Three members of the public attended part of the meeting.

Apologies: Received from Ms A Sharp, Mrs F Stevenson, District Councillors F Bloomfield and R Pullen.

Declarations of interest: Cllr Jones declared an interest in the discussion on the Corn Exchange Roof Appeal, as she is a member of the Sinodun Players. Cllr Soames declared an interest in the discussion on North Stoke Village Hall as he is a committee member.

The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
4575	CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR Mr David Rowley had expressed an interest in the vacancy for a Parish Councillor. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that he be co-opted and this was agreed. Mr Rowley signed the acceptance of office form and joined the meeting.	
4576	MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY 2017 The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 nd February were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
4577	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES <u>Item 4565 Ash Tree at Jethro Tull Gardens:</u> The Clerk reported that the ash tree was not subject to a tree protection order. Cllr	

	<p>Sherbourne will ask Mr Cottrell for a quote for pruning the tree.</p> <p><u>Item 4565 Grit Bins:</u> Two grit bins have been delivered and installed. The County Council considered the other two bins requested were not necessary.</p> <p><u>Item 4565 IT equipment for officers:</u> The Clerk has purchased a laptop for Parish Council work and this has been funded by the Parish Council.</p> <p><u>Item 4565 Storage of Sandbags:</u> Cllr Jones will circulate information on the various types of sandbags which may be obtained, some of which are recyclable. Their shelf life is five years.</p> <p><u>Item 4565: Letter to Highways re. proposed crossing at A4074:</u> A letter of response has been received from Mr Barrell with a small amount of information. OCC Cllr Gray has spoken to Mr Jason Sherwood, who will arrange to meet councillors for a discussion.</p> <p><u>Item 4565: Trees on Botany Allotments.</u> Cllr Sherbourne has arranged for the trees to be pruned on 21st March</p> <p><u>Item 4565: Surface of Watery Lane.</u> Cllr Mannering will contact Grundons about improvements at Watery Lane.</p> <p><u>Item 4565: Riverside Road at Croudace development.</u> Cllr Griffin reported that the land in question has now been transferred to the County Council. Cllrs Gray and Griffin will pursue this.</p> <p><u>Item 4565: Defibrillators in North Stoke and Crowmarsh Gifford.</u> Cllr Sherbourne reported that the two defibrillators in Crowmarsh Gifford are in need of replacement pads for use on children. Cllr Soames will check whether the North Stoke machine has separate children's pads. Cllr Soames has publicized the North Stoke defibrillator locally and 35 residents have requested training. It was agreed to purchase two sets of pads for the Crowmarsh Gifford machines.</p> <p><u>Item 4565:</u> A letter has been sent to Thames Water, in support of the local resident who has reported problems due to the mains drain which runs across her property.</p> <p><u>Item 4566:</u> Cllr Rowley reported that there will be an NHS consultation meeting on 6th March in Wallingford.</p> <p><u>Item 4566:</u> Cllr Sherbourne reported that an underground pipe had been installed to replace the section of ditch that had been filled in. OCC Cllr Gray will investigate.</p>	<p>SSh</p> <p>FJ</p> <p>DM</p> <p>MG/JG</p> <p>MG</p>
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	<p><u>Item 4567</u>: The Clerk has re-circulated information on the strategic projects identified for discussion.</p> <p><u>Item 4568</u>: Bus Shelter opposite the village hall. It was reported that the new bus shelter does not afford sufficient protection from bad weather.</p> <p><u>Item 4571</u>: Pocock Lane Postcodes. Cllr Soames has discussed this with Sally-Anne Worsley of SODC and it is now being dealt with by her.</p>	
4578	<p>REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</p> <p>OCC Councillor Gray reported that the Oxfordshire County Council tax will increase by 5%: 3% of this is for social care.</p> <p>Secondary school places for September 2017 have been allocated and 90% of students have been given their first or second choice. It is thought likely that most of the other 10% may get in on appeal due to others relocating or going to an independent school.</p> <p>From 1st April, the remaining children's centres will be run by community groups. There are currently 34 community children's centres in Oxfordshire and more are applying for transition funding. The twelve centres in the South and Vale area hope to work together on fundraising.</p> <p>Keith Stenning will visit to inspect potholes in Thames Mead. There is also a very large pot hole outside Stephens Field. It was noted that supplementary information posted on Fix my Street is not directly forwarded to the county council and has to be raised as a separate report.</p> <p>A vote will be held at the county council in March on the 'One Oxfordshire' proposal for unitary local government. It was noted that Oxford City Council is opposed to this arrangement.</p>	
4579	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) Consideration of payments made in February</p> <p>A schedule of payments made in February was presented, totaling £2,819.63 including salaries. The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £888 was paid to Arrow Fencing for repairs to playground equipment • £489 was paid for the Clerk's laptop, including software, virus protection and VAT. • £141.13 was paid to Thames Water for the pavilion water supply. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £169.45 was paid to Chris Strange for expenses at the recreation ground. • £17.27 was paid to the Finance Officer for expenditure on stationery. • £293.86 was paid to OALC for the 2017-18 subscription. <p>It was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that these payments be approved and this was agreed.</p> <p>It was noted that the cheque sent to Arrow Fencing for the new bus shelter had not been received. The Finance Officer will check on this when the bank statement is received.</p> <p>b) Accounts to date</p> <p>The Finance Officer reported that the accounts were complete as at the end of January. The February accounts will be finalized when the bank statement is received. Receipts to the end of January were £44.4K, payments £38.1K. The largest area of expenditure is on grass cutting, £7,000+ for the year to date.</p> <p>c) Precept</p> <p>Confirmation has been received that the precept for 2017/18 will be £38,201.</p> <p>d) Internet Banking</p> <p>The Finance Officer reported that Benson Parish Council is considering moving their account to Metro Bank or Unity Bank, because these offer a two-tier online approval. Other councils seem to do thorough documented approvals and the approved data is then input by the Finance Officer or Clerk. The Finance Officer recommended that the Parish Council should contact Lloyds Bank to set her up with 'read access' rights as this would allow more efficient management of the bank account. This was approved. It was noted that the Parish Council already has a Unity Bank account which was originally set up for VAT payments to be made via internet banking but has been little used to date.</p> <p>e) Requests for grants/donations</p> <p>The Finance Officer reported that Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows local authorities, including Parish Councils, to incur expenditure which will bring direct benefit to their area or any part of it, or to all or some of its inhabitants. The Finance Officer will ask OALC for information on the maximum amount per capita which may</p>	<p>RFO</p> <p>RFO</p>
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be made in grants under this heading for the year and will also check the total awarded to date.

- **South and Vale Carers' Centre**
Further information has been requested from this organisation.
- **North Stoke Village Hall**
Cllr Soames reported that he has been successful in applying for lottery funding for kitchen refurbishment for the hall and has received £10,000. The estimated total cost of the project is £13,000 but the balance can come from reserves so no grant may be requested from the Parish Council.
- **Sinodun Players (Corn Exchange Roof)**
Mr John Warburton, representing the Corn Exchange, reported that the Sinodun Players has applied to all local councils for financial assistance towards the cost of the roof project and to date have raised 50% of the £500,000 needed. The Sinodun Players own 100% of Corn Exchange Limited. They will be able to claim back the VAT and also gift aid where appropriate. Wallingford Town Council and SODC have been approached for top up loans in case these are needed for short-term cash flow. It is planned to start the work in June and it is expected to take 17 weeks. There is additional work needed as well as roof repairs and the heating system will also be considered. Mousey Lane will remain open throughout. The planning application should be approved by mid-March.
- **Memorial Bench for Maie Knight**
Emma Knight has ordered a bench in memory of her mother, Maie Knight who lived at the Old School next to the village hall and worked at the school for about ten years. She has requested a grant towards the cost which was £441 plus installation. The bench will be sited at the village hall and the village hall committee has also been asked to contribute.
- **Tricycle for a disabled child**
A resident has requested a contribution towards the cost of a tricycle for her disabled daughter. The total cost is £765 and a grant has been received from Children Today for £350. A grant application has also been made to the Emery Owen Trust.

After discussion, it was agreed that all the above grant

	<p>applications will be deferred until the meeting on 16th March. The Finance Officer will contact OALC for advice on giving grants to individuals.</p>	<p>RFO</p>
<p>4580</p>	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Decisions: The Council noted the following decision from SODC.</p> <p>P16/S2961/FUL (Full Application): Application proposal, including any amendments: Erection of two detached houses with new (shared) highway access (as amended by drawings accompanying e-mail received 17th November 2016 removing car ports, alterations of parking arrangements and reducing extent of flat roof to the side of the dwellings). Land fronting Wallingford Road, North Stoke (in the parish of Crowmarsh), OX10 6BD. PERMISSION GRANTED.</p> <p>Applications: The Council was asked to agree its response to SODC on the following applications:</p> <p>P17/S0435/HH (Householder): Construction of new porch to front elevation. 28 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8BL. RECOMMEND APPROVAL.</p> <p>P17/S0448/HH (Householder): Proposed garage building with storage, home office and guest bedroom/ bathroom. Larkrise, Mongewell (in the parish of Crowmarsh), OX10 8BP . RECOMMEND APPROVAL.</p> <p>Large planning applications in Crowmarsh Gifford</p> <p>The Chair of Planning gave a brief report to Council on a meeting he had attended at the SODC offices recently concerning the number of large planning applications in the Parish.</p> <p>The main points were follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The application for land off Old Reading Road, to the rear of Newnham Green is almost certain to be refused by the planning officer, without coming before the committee, mainly due to objections from ourselves and the Chiltern's Conservation Board. 2. The Newnham Manor application has been referred back to the developers for them to reconsider their approach to a roundabout, the closeness of some of the houses nearest to the A4074 and exploring the possibility of re-routing Old Reading Road to enable the land they want to donate to the School to be integrated into the School grounds, subject to these amendments, when resolved, will likely lead to the officer recommending approval. 3. The information for the Bloor application for the land to the east of Benson Lane was the most disappointing. The officers report (which is not available at this time) will 	

	<p>recommend approval. The Chair of Planning has requested a copy of the report as soon as its available. This application is subject to a site visit by the SODC planning committee and will then come before the planning committee on Wednesday, 29th March, at Didcot Civic Hall. Cathie Scotting (Planning Officer) made it quite clear that with the current position of SODC's five year land supply her options were very limited.</p> <p>4. The CABI appeal will be “vigorously contested” by the SODC. A public inquiry will be held in July. A member of the public asked whether the Parish Council will request Rule 6 status at the inquiry and recommended engaging the services of a planning barrister with knowledge of the case.</p>	
4581	<p>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</p> <p>Recreation Ground and Environment</p> <p>Cllr Johnson reported that Scofell will continue to maintain the nature area and will discuss the spraying of nettles. Cllrs Hall and Topliss will inspect the area.</p> <p>New Play Area: It was agreed to set up a sub-committee to discuss plans for the proposed new play area. This will include Cllr Johnson, Cllr Sherbourne and Cllr Rowley and will report to the Recreation Ground and Environment committee. Cllr Rowley reported that Wallingford Town Council is planning to re-design the Bullcroft and there might be an opportunity to liaise with them.</p> <p>Five estimates will be obtained, including one from Arrow Fencing, who created the current play area. Consultation sheets will be posted in the village shop, school and pavilion as well as on the website. Cllr Griffin will check whether it is being publicized in Crowmarsh News.</p> <p>The minutes of the recent Recreation Ground and Environment committee have been circulated. It was noted that improved signage has been ordered for the recreation ground.</p> <p>It was reported that SODC’s community fund will have £1 million for the next financial year.</p> <p>Traffic and Transport</p> <p>The 134 bus service is now operating for Wallingford school students but bus passes have not yet been issued to them. County Cllr Gray will investigate this. Cllr Jones has the contact details of the county council officer concerned.</p> <p>Cllr Jones was unable to attend the recent meeting of parish transport representatives, due to the short notice given but will</p>	<p>DH/DT</p> <p>JG</p> <p>MG/FJ</p>

	<p>circulate the minutes when available.</p> <p>The Clerk will circulate to all councillors the letter received from OCC Highways about the proposed crossing at Portway.</p>	<p>FJ</p> <p>Clerk</p>
4582	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from an allotment holder, requesting the provision of a tap, so that allotments may be watered with a hose, rather than the present water trough system. It was noted that a tap had been fitted in the past but had been removed as it had been left running for long periods. As the water is metered this had led to a significant increase in water charges. A repeat of this could necessitate an increase in the allotment rent. It was also noted that the fitting of a hose would mean that only one allotment holder at a time could use the water supply. The Clerk will respond, explaining the situation. • Information on Special Educational Needs and Disability to be posted on notice boards. • Notice of a Health and Well Being Day on 25th March to be posted on notice boards. • Request from an A-level student asking parish councillors to complete a survey. This will be circulated by the Clerk. • Article on Byelaws and Local Councils, from 'Clerks and Councils Direct' • Chiltern News. 	<p>Clerk</p>
4583	<p>REPORTS OF REPS ON OUTSIDE BODIES</p> <p>River Users' Group 3 (RUG3)</p> <p>Cllr Mannering reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new landowner in Dorchester has felled trees and erected a barbed wire fence along the riverside. • Any structure in the river must be registered with the Environment Agency and carry a registration plate. • A boat which had sunk near to the Wallingford Castle Grounds is being dragged out of the river. • Wallingford Town Council have paid £8,000 for repairs to their moorings. 	

4584	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 16th March, at North Stoke Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The main business of this meeting will be to discuss major projects. Councillors were asked to give some thought to this prior to the meeting. Grant applications will also be considered.</p>	ALL
4585	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Rowley reported that there is now a rapid access care unit at Henley Townlands Hospital, for patients to be assessed and where possible, treated without admission to hospital. • The Clerk will re-circulate the report drawn up by Cllr Stevenson on the residents' survey on housing priorities • Cllr Soames reported on problems in North Stoke with residents' overgrown hedges obstructing the pavements and roads. This will be discussed at the April meeting. • Litter picking – this will be done later in the year. The Chairman has a stock of equipment. • Cllr Johnson suggested some practical improvements to time-keeping at meetings. 	Clerk
	<p>The meeting closed at 10.10pm</p>	