



# CROMMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 16th March 2017  
starting at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Mrs D Hall	Ms A Sharp
Mr N Hannigan	Mr S Sherbourne
Mrs F Jones	Mr S Soames
Prof A Johnson	Mr D Topliss
Mr D Mannering	

**Attending:** Mrs Y Peet (Finance Officer) and Mrs S Rance (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Received from Mr J Griffin, Mr D Rowley and Mrs F Stevenson.

**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.  
The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
4586	<b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2017</b>  The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 <sup>nd</sup> March were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
4587	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>  <u>Item 4577 Tree Work:</u> Cllr Sherbourne has arranged for Mr Cottrell to carry out tree work on Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March. This will include work on the ash tree at Jethro Tull Gardens, the overhanging sycamore trees at Botany Allotments, plus the berberis bush at the end of Thames Mead and the buddleia bush outside the school.  <u>Item 4577 Storage of Sandbags:</u> Cllr Jones liaise with Cllr Mannering on storage of sandbags.  <u>Item 4577: Surface of Watery Lane.</u> Cllr Mannering will contact Grundons about improvements at Watery Lane.  <u>Item 4577: Riverside Road at Croudace development.</u> Cllr Griffin is liaising with Oxfordshire County Council about the riverside road.	<b>SSh</b>  <b>FJ/DM</b>  <b>DM</b>

	<p><u>Item 4579</u>: Arrow Fencing had cashed the cheque for the work on the new bus shelter.</p> <p><u>Item 4582: Letter from an allotment holder</u>: The Chairman has this in hand.</p> <p><u>Item 4584: Residents' Survey on Housing Priorities</u>: The Clerk will re-circulate the report drawn up by Cllr Stevenson.</p>	<p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<p><b>4588</b></p>	<p><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p><b>a) Consideration of payments made in March</b></p> <p>A schedule of payments made in March was presented.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that these payments be approved and this was agreed.</p> <p><b>b) Accounts to date</b></p> <p>The Finance Officer reported that the accounts were complete to the end of February. Receipts to the end of February were £49,087, payments £43,680. These figures include VAT data.</p> <p><b>c) Section 137</b></p> <p>Current spend on Section 137 payments and grants for the year to date was £822. The budget for the year was £2,000, leaving £1,178. The total expenditure on Section 137 payments in 2015/16 was £1,300. OALC's advice is that Parish Councils may donate £7.57 per elector in 2017/18. The current electorate for Crowmarsh Gifford is 1,269, resulting in a possible total of £9,606. However the Parish Council should consider how many people from the parish are benefitting from the service provided by the organisation which has requested the grant in order to put it into perspective.</p> <p><b>d) Requests for grants and donations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South and Vale Citizens' Advice: the Finance Officer will check on the amount of previous grants.</li> <li>• Memorial bench for Maie Knight: the Chairman had reported that Section 137 money may not be used to make donations to individuals. The Clerk will contact Mrs Knight's family.</li> <li>• Tricycle for Disabled Child: The restrictions on Section 137 donations also apply to this application.</li> </ul>	<p><b>RFO</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>

	<p>However, Cllr Johnson reported that the Emery Owen Trust will consider awarding a grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sinodun Players (Corn Exchange Roof)</li> </ul> <p>After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Topliss that a donation of £1,000 be made and this was agreed.</p>	
<b>4589</b>	<p><b>PLANNING UPDATE</b></p> <p>Cllr Hannigan reported that consultations are in hand on the major planning applications in the area.</p>	
<b>4590</b>	<p><b>ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING</b></p> <p>The Annual Parish Meeting was arranged for Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May at Crowmarsh Gifford Primary School, starting at 7.30pm. Thames Water and the Police Community Support Officers will be invited to send a representative.</p>	<b>NH/JG</b>
<b>4591</b>	<p><b>DISCUSSION ON PROPOSALS FOR MAJOR PROJECTS</b></p> <p>The list of possible projects was reviewed and the following was noted.</p> <p><u>A4074 Crossing</u>: this project is on hold, pending a decision on the proposed housing development at Newnham Manor.</p> <p><u>Crossing in The Street</u>: As above, this is on hold, pending a decision on proposed housing development in the village.</p> <p><u>North Stoke Chicane</u>: Siting is a problem due to the need for power and the position of driveways in the vicinity. Cllr Soames will encourage North Stoke residents to make representations to OCC Highways about the need for traffic calming measures.</p> <p><u>Scout Hut</u>: this could be a future project, possibly using funds from housing development but it is too expensive to be considered at present.</p> <p><u>Local Bus Subsidy</u>: not currently necessary.</p> <p><u>Nature Area Plus</u>: This is a long-term project, possibly create a pond and bridge over the ditch, improve signage and have an information board on trees, shrubs and wildlife. Cllr Johnson suggested that councillors make a tour of the nature area, after which a plan for improvements could be drawn up.</p> <p><u>Mower for Pavilion</u>: more research needed.</p> <p><u>Pavilion Room</u>: this is a long-term project, not a current one.</p>	

	<p>Some changing facilities could be removed to create additional space. This would be complicated by plumbing and drainage issues.</p> <p><u>Footpath Improvements</u>: possible resurfacing could be considered.</p> <p><u>A4074 speed camera</u>: not a realistic option at present.</p> <p><u>New Noticeboards</u>: it was agreed this is not a capital item but a worthwhile project to pursue as part of the work of the Parish Council.</p> <p><u>Further investment in website</u>: as above it was agreed this is not a capital item but a worthwhile task for the Parish Council to take on.</p> <p><u>New Playground at Recreation Ground</u>:</p> <p>Cllr Sherbourne proposed that the new playground project put forward by Cllr Johnson be adopted as the council's major focus for the year. After discussion this was agreed. The play area sub-committee will arrange an initial meeting. Members are Cllrs Hall, Hannigan, Sherbourne and Johnson and the Finance Officer. Additional councillors will be very welcome.</p> <p>The Clerk will re-issue the list of strategic priorities with their new ranking.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>4592</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.</p>	
<b>4593</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog fouling will be an agenda item for the April meeting.</li> <li>• Cllr Hall will investigate the possibility of obtaining some free trees for the nature area.</li> <li>• It was agreed to purchase plants for the flower tubs at the Benson Lane roundabout.</li> </ul>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.10pm</p>	