



# CROMMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024  
starting at 7.30pm**

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**Present:**

Mr John Griffin	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Ms Anna Best	Mrs Fleur Stevenson
Mr Julian Park	Ms Julia Streete
Mr David Rowley	

**Attending:** Dr Yvonne Peet and Mrs Sue Rance. District Cllr Sue Cooper attended part of the meeting as did two members of the public.

**Apologies:** Received from District Cllr Andrea Powell, Prof Andrew Johnson and Mr David Topliss.

**Declarations of interest:** None.

The meeting was quorate.

A member of the public expressed concern about the number of vehicles speeding through North Stoke, particularly between 8.00 and 9.00 am and 4.30 to 6.00 pm. The speed indicator device installed by OCC Highways is no longer functional and is obscured by a tree. There is a pavement on one side of the road only and no provision to facilitate crossing the road near the Springs hotel has been provided. Cllr Griffin reported that the parish council has raised concerns about this issue over a long period of time. There is now an OCC Highways Engagement Team who will come out and talk to parish councils on request and it was agreed to contact them and ask them to visit.

**ACTION: Clerk**

NO.		ACTION
5617	<b>MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024</b>  Correction to previous minutes: Minute 5608: It was noted that the quote received for defibrillator cases was £2,050 for the pair, not for each one. Subject to this correction, The Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	

5618	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b></p> <p><u>Item 5616:</u> Mr Aplin has repaired the damaged bus shelters but has reported that they may need replacing in the future. This will be an agenda item for the September meeting and councillors were asked to consider their preferences.</p> <p><u>Item 5608:</u> The lowest quote received for cutting back the overgrown trees in Watery Lane was from First Class Tree Surgeons, who can carry out this work in November. This quote has been accepted. Cllr Streete will report the excessive seasonal vegetation to the county council on Fix my Street.</p>	<p><b>Clerk (Agenda)</b></p> <p><b>JS</b></p>
5619	<p><b>REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b></p> <p>No report had been received from County Councillor Bloomfield.</p>	
5620	<p><b>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</b></p> <p>The District Councillors' report had been circulated and the following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The South Capital grant scheme is now open for applications until 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024.</li> <li>• Thames Water has launched a 12-week consultation on the proposed South East Strategic Reservoir Option. This runs until 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024.</li> <li>• District Councillor Cooper reported on recent SODC Cabinet decisions and opportunities for summer holiday activities.</li> </ul>	
5621	<p><b>REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b></p> <p><u>Update on Interpretation Boards</u></p> <p>A discussion has been held to agree further details and the orientation of the interpretation boards.</p> <p><u>Update on defibrillators for Mongewell and East Crowmarsh</u></p> <p>A quote has been received for installation of two defibrillators at £795 for the two. It was agreed to go ahead with the purchase.</p> <p><u>Update on pedestrian safety in Benson Lane</u></p> <p>Cllr Griffin reported that he has spoken to Jackie Smith, OCC Footpaths Officer, about Footpath 2 on the French Gardens development. She will be leaving her post in a few months but</p>	<p><b>SSh</b></p>

	will send letters to the appropriate residents about overgrown vegetation encroaching on the footpath.	
5622	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>Decisions by SODC</b></p> <p><a href="#">P24/S0157/LDE</a> Hatchery Cottage, Old Reading Road, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BW. To confirm implementation of planning permission P13/S3435/HH. Refusal of Lawful Use or Development.</p> <p><a href="#">P24/S1032/FUL</a> Red Kite House, Howbery Park, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BD. Installation of eight commercial size air-source heat pumps and 84 solar panels (additional plans and information received 12/06/24). Planning Permission.</p> <p><a href="#">P24/S1792/LDP</a> 12 Home Farm, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8EL. Single storey rear extension. Certificate of Lawful Use or Development.</p> <p><b>Consultations</b></p> <p><a href="#">P24/S1732/LDP</a> 2 Whitehouse Road, North Stoke OX10 6BA. Change rear fence and side fence along the verge. Recommend approval, if materials are in keeping.</p> <p><b>Major developments</b></p> <p>District Councillor Cooper reported that the parking arrangements on the land to be transferred to the school will need to be agreed before the Newnham Manor development can start.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood plan</b></p> <p>Nicholas Robins is meeting with our SODC case officer to discuss policies. His view is that no policies need to be changed, but he'd welcome our views on that.</p>	
5623	<p><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p>a) <u>Consider and agree payments since last meeting</u></p> <p>The Finance officer had circulated a list of payments to be authorized. In addition to salaries and PAYE these were as follows:</p>	

Date	Company	Details	£ inc VAT
04.07.24	Chris Strange	Petrol + cable ties	75.19
11.07.24	Sue Rance	SLCC membership + land registry fee	118.00
03.07.24	Castle Water	Allotment water	129.16
31.05.24	Grundon	Refuse collection May	159.86
30.06.24	Grundon	Refuse collection June	131.08
17.06.24	SSE Energy	Floodlighting Church May 24	£192.04
23.06.24	Suggs Security	Fire system work pavilion	£2,300
27.06.24	Bowak	Janitorial supplies	184.88
28.06.24	Shield	Dog bin emptying June	225.42
22.06.24	Ashburton	Grass cutting, verges, French Gardens, Park View	606.00
25.06.24	Ashburton	Grass cutting N. Stoke rec + Newnham Church	240.00
28.06.24	Lister Wilder	Spring for mower	£10.08
08.07.24	Eibe	Repair playground equipment	£1,170
09.07.24	Nigel Aplin	Repair bus shelters	£225.00
20.05.24	Xylem	Annual maintenance contract	£975.56
	Xylem	Pump replacement	Invoice awaited
25.06.24	Value Products	Safety signs for pavilion	102.19

The Finance Officer will query the high charge for flood lighting at the church.

**RFO**

It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Griffin that the above payments be approved and this was agreed.

b) Requests for Grants and Donations

A grant request under Section 137 had been received from Marie Curie. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Streete that a donation of £100 be made and this was agreed.

A grant request under Section 137 had been received from 'My Vision' (formerly known as the Oxfordshire Association for the Blind). After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Rowley that a donation of £300 be made and this was agreed.

c) Accounts Status at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

The financial summary was presented. It was noted that the balance at the bank was £239,201.43.

A budget review will be carried out at the August meeting.

The period for public inspection of the 2023/24 accounts expires on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July and the notices will be removed from the notice boards at this time.

d) CIL Money for The Sycamores

It was noted that a total of £20,000 will be received in respect of The Sycamores and agreed that these funds will be accepted. (Proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Griffin.) CIL money must be spent within five years of receipt.

e) Allotments

There is one allotment still to be allocated to a resident on the waiting list, after which the list of allotment holders will be re-issued.

f) Hedge at Home Farm: Quotes have been obtained for pruning the hedge at Home Farm and it was agreed to accept the lowest quote, which was £416.67 + VAT. The work cannot be carried out before September, due to bird nesting.

**RFO**

5624	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p> <p>The Chairman reported on the OALC Parish Forum. The OALC AGM is scheduled for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July. An increase in the subscriptions will be discussed. These depend on the size of the parish. The Chairman is unable to attend the AGM and requested that another councillor should go if possible.</p> <p>There is a new Highways Engagement Team who are available to visit parish councils to discuss issues they may have. It was agreed to request a visit.</p>	Clerk
5625	<p><b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><u>Environment and Recreation Ground</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The playground Orbit roundabout and Saturn disk have been repaired, the replacement sewage pump installed and the new fire call points fitted.</li> <li>• The pipework associated with the sewage pump is in need of replacement. A quote of £6,788 has been received from Xylem. Alternative quotes will be sought and the committee will discuss this at their meeting in September.</li> <li>• Andrew Nesbitt will be starting employment as assistant to Chris Strange at the end of July. The environment and recreation ground committee will discuss his hourly rate and bring a proposal to the parish council.</li> <li>• Mike Piggford has asked whether we wish to subscribe to the Lawn Tennis Association's booking system but this depends on whether the parish council adopts an automated booking system for all pavilion and recreation ground bookings.</li> <li>• There is a tree at the nature area which requires attention.</li> <li>• Cllr Best has researched two automated booking systems, 'Hall Bookings', used by Benson Parish Council and 'Lemon'. It was agreed that the Rialtus system was inappropriate for the council's needs. The committee will discuss with Benson Parish Council their findings and view a demonstration, following which they will make a recommendation to the parish council. This will be an agenda item for the October parish council meeting.</li> <li>• The scouts will open the servery for refreshments from 10am to 2pm on Saturdays from 27<sup>th</sup> July until 31<sup>st</sup></li> </ul>	<p>Env/Rec</p> <p>Clerk (Agenda)</p>

	<p>August. This will be publicized on the noticeboards and on the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good feedback on the new facilities has been received and has been forwarded to the grant providers.</li> </ul> <p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Best reported on AutoSpeedWatch which is a system to monitor speeding without the prohibitive cost of purchasing a speed camera. The system uses a solar powered camera and sign, taking photos as well as providing reports and recording number plates. The camera currently costs £589 and the cost of the sign is £53. After the first year there is an additional charge of £179 per annum for data. The camera could be sited in different locations as required and the data can be made accessible to up to five people. Cllr Best is happy to gather data which could then be submitted to Thames Valley Police as well as the Community Speed Watch team. This will be discussed further at the August meeting.</li> <li>• The results of the speed survey carried out in Benson Lane have now been received and will be circulated to all councillors.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clerk (Agenda)</b></p> <p><b>Clerk</b></p>
<b>5626</b>	<p><b>UPDATE ON WEBSITE</b></p> <p>Cllr Best will liaise with Cllr Stevenson to ensure that the website complies with the requirements for accessibility.</p>	<b>AB/FS</b>
<b>5627</b>	<p><b>REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES</b></p> <p>No new reports received.</p>	
<b>5628</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter from a resident about the grassy area next to the allotments. The Clerk will respond.</li> <li>• Notice of roadworks in relation to Benson Relief Road</li> <li>• SODC updates</li> <li>• Healthwatch Oxon update</li> <li>• Parish Online Newsletters.</li> <li>• Rural Network update</li> <li>• OALC updates</li> <li>• Chiltern Magazine – Summer edition</li> <li>• Update from the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</li> <li>• Safeguarding News</li> <li>• NALC updates</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>

5629	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>  The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> August at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.	
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The meeting closed at 21.21.