



# CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021,**  
**starting at 7.30pm**

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**Present:**

Mr John Griffin	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Prof Andrew Johnson	Mr Stuart Soames
Mr David Rowley	Mrs Fleur Stevenson

**Attending:** Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk) and one member of the public.

**Apologies:** Received from Mr Julian Park, Mrs Liz Ryall, Mr Robin Smith, Mr David Topliss, Dr. Yvonne Peet, County Councillor Felix Bloomfield and District Councillors Sue Cooper and Andrea Powell.

**Declarations of interest:** Cllr Sherbourne declared an interest in planning application P21/S4578/HH 54 Park View and took no part in the discussion.

The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
5238	<b>MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021</b>  The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record and signed by Cllr Sherbourne, who chaired that meeting.	
5239	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  <u>Item 5227:</u> The gov.uk email addresses for the Chair, Finance Officer and Clerk are now active.  <u>Item 5227:</u> Broken Car Window. The Clerk has referred this compensation claim to the council's grass cutting contractor for consideration and a response is awaited.  <u>Item 5228:</u> It was agreed that a 20mph limit on residential roads in Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke would improve safety and should be pursued with OCC.  <u>Item 5234:</u> Cllr Sherbourne confirmed that Grundons will donate a sack of native daffodil bulbs this year.	

	<p><u>Item 5237</u>: The churchwarden, Mrs Margaret Foster, is awaiting a quote for repair or replacement of the control box for the light timer at St Mary Magdalene Church and will advise the parish council when this is received.</p>	
<b>5240</b>	<p><b>REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b></p> <p>No report was available.</p>	
<b>5241</b>	<p><b>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</b></p> <p><b>Garden Waste Collections</b>  The garden waste collection service should be back to normal this week. Those using this service have had their subscription period extended by 3 months.  As you may have heard from OCC, Oakley Wood will be closed on Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 November for a deep clean and to enable essential work to be carried out.</p> <p><b>Capital Grant funding available to help good causes in South Oxfordshire</b></p> <p>South Oxfordshire District Council is launching a new round of its Capital Grant Scheme with grants available of up to £75,000 for local voluntary and community organisations and town and parish councils.</p> <p>This grant can fund up to 50 per cent of the total cost of capital projects like contributing to buying a building, replacing or making improvements to long term assets such as play areas and equipment.</p> <p>Voluntary and community organisations and town and parish councils will also need to consider how their project will contribute to at least one of the council's Corporate Plan 2020-2024 priorities, such as 'protect and restore our natural world', 'action on the climate emergency' or 'improved economic and community well-being'.</p> <p><b>New offices at the Gateway site opposite Didcot station</b>  The concept design for the new district council building at Didcot Gateway has been approved, and the detailed design process is now getting underway.</p> <p>The concept design for the building is available to view on the council's website. Because of its location the building is being designed to reflect the town's industrial and railway heritage as well as meeting the principles set out in the Didcot Garden Town</p>	

delivery plan, meaning it reflects both local history and the town's future.

In line with the councils' commitments to tackle the climate emergency, the offices will be built to meet a strict sustainability standard, known as the BREEAM Excellent standard – this would put the building in the top 10 per cent of new non-domestic buildings in the UK in terms of its sustainability performance. To help meet that standard, the building will feature solar panels on its roof and potentially even on covered visitor parking spaces.

To help the councils meet their commitments to building stable finances, the building will also include commercial office space the councils can let to a third party.

The location opposite the station should help in our efforts to encourage sustainable commuting and the flexible space will accommodate organisations, which like the council want to explore more flexible ways of working after the pandemic. The central site will also be more accessible to the public than the current expensive offices at Milton Park.

#### **SODC car parks changes**

Next year there will be some minor changes to how parking is enforced in our car parks. This will include changes to the way in which people can appeal a parking fine, and the introduction of two set levels of fine, one for more serious offences like parking in a disabled bay without a badge, and a lower level for less serious misdemeanours like overstaying your time.

In November public notices informing people how the orders will change will be published. People will then have 21 days to submit any comments. Changing a parking order is quite a long process and then signage in all our car parks will need altering – as a result, the changes won't come into effect until 1 April 2022.

The parking orders need altering so that they match the Traffic Management Act 2004 legislation that will be operating across Oxfordshire following the move to Civil Parking Enforcement from 1 November. Enforcement in district council car parks will continue to be carried out by Saba. This will remain separate from on-street enforcement, which will be carried out by Oxfordshire County Council.

## **Council Motions**

At its council meeting on Thursday 7 October, South Oxfordshire District Council agreed a series of motions aimed at boosting efforts to address the climate emergency, and to protect and enhance the natural environment and increase biodiversity.

The motions all highlight the need for government to take action to remove unnecessary barriers which are delaying or impacting measures to tackle the climate emergency at a local level. In the run up to COP26, councillors believe these actions will be vital if the UK wishes to lead by example in the fight against climate change.

### **Levelling up and planning**

Following a motion proposed by Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson and seconded by Cllr Pieter-Paul Barker, Cllr David Rouane, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, has written to HM Government to call on it to scrap the current proposals for planning reform and instead boost rights of local residents to engage in the planning process.

Cllr Rouane asks the government to transform the process into one that assesses the 'climate fitness' of a district and plans for growth within the environmental capacity of that area, looking at carbon emissions, water availability and the pressing need for nature recovery at scale.

Cllr Rouane also calls for a thorough review of Building Regulations and the National Planning Policy Framework to ensure require property developments to be built to net-zero standards in manufacture and use, and reiterates the council's belief that the 5 Year Housing Land Supply measure is flawed and inappropriate, as councils should not be held to account for the actions – or indeed lack of action – of developers, with regard to the delivery of housing on allocated or approved development sites.

### **Decarbonisation of leisure centres**

In order to achieve its own carbon reduction targets, South Oxfordshire District Council needs to be able to successfully decarbonise its leisure centres. Funding to carry out this work has been made available by the government through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. However, so far, the fund has been significantly oversubscribed and the application process made more difficult by stop-start initiatives and significant restrictions on how the money can be provided.

South Oxfordshire District Council believes it would be more effective to resource local areas to deliver their own decarbonisation strategies, meaning long-term funding to boost the future of public swimming pools, potentially decrease the

long-term cost of operating pools, and contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions. This would also provide local suppliers with the confidence to invest in staff, skills and the technology.

Following a motion proposed by Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers and seconded by Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye, Cllr David Rouane, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, has written to the department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to highlight the barriers councils currently face when applying to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund, and the urgent need for a long-term approach to decarbonising leisure centres in order to support local authorities to lead the way in the delivery of a net zero future for leisure.

### **Retrofitting homes for energy efficiency**

Following a motion proposed by Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye and seconded by Cllr George Levy, Cllr Rouane has also written to the government to urge it to address retrofitting as a priority. The letter highlights the need to recognise retrofitting's importance in achieving our national and international carbon emission targets and calls for adequate funding to be made available for all local authorities in any retrofit strategy.

Finally, the council calls for the government to develop long term support for householders, including changes in relevant laws, guidance and tax regulations, and to encourage businesses and the skills development needed to support retrofitting.

All of the Leader's letters can be viewed on the SODC website.

### **COP26**

Cllr David Rouane, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "There are significant barriers in place nationally which stops climate action from happening effectively at a local level, from restrictive funding application processes to a planning system that puts developer desires ahead of the needs of the climate, our environment or our residents. We need the government to focus on having the strategies, processes, and funding in place as quickly as possible that will allow us to achieve our carbon reduction targets and to better protect our environment.

With COP26 and climate change being so topical, here is a list for

### **TEN WAYS YOU CAN HELP FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE**

See

<https://davidsuzuki.org/what-you-can-do/top-10-ways-can-stop-climate-change/>

Good luck!

5242

## PLANNING

### Decisions by SODC

P21/S3906/FUL The Old Court, Winterbrook, Wallingford OX10 9DX, Variation of condition 2 Approved Plans on planning application P20/S2920/FUL for a smaller property and repositioning on site. Replacement dwelling – Planning permission

P21/S3847/HH 4 Halifax Road, Mongewell OX10 8FP. Side Extension – Planning permission.

### Consultations

P21/S4223/FUL 'The Sycamores' Land east of 206 Crowmarsh Hill Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BG. Alterations to extant planning permission P20/S0267/FUL (Erection of five dwellings and associated works). The new proposals include habitable rooms in the roofspaces with rooflights and a lower storey for the two semi-detached houses. Siting and other aspects appear the same as the approved plans. Recommend approval as long as other aspects such as environmental footprint and landscape treatment remain unchanged.

P21/S4578/HH 54 Park View Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BN First floor rear extension over existing. Two storey extension to rear and side. Single storey rear extension. Single storey side extension. Recommend approval subject to any views from neighbours.

### Major developments

*Carmel College, Mongewell (P11/W2357)*

Redevelopment to provide 166 residential dwellings (C3), refurbishment of Grade II and Grade II\* listed buildings including provision of a restaurant, community cafe and swimming pool and retention of boating facilities and associated landscaping, access and parking arrangements.

<https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P11/W2357#exactline>

This development was approved in 2016 and in view of the time past before beginning construction some conditions, particularly access, flood risk assessment and sustainability, are outdated and should be revisited. There is also the CABI development nearby. The travel plan will need to be revisited in the light of changes to public transport since 2012.

	<p><i>Newnham Manor</i> Amendment received including energy statement based on air source heat pumps. No news about a date for planning committee. The travel plan will need to be revised in the light of changes to public transport since 2016.</p>	
<p><b>5243</b></p>	<p><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p><b>a) Payments to be made in November</b></p> <p>The Finance Officer had circulated a list of payments to be made. As well as salary payments, this included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £549.99 inc VAT for a new laptop for the Responsible Finance Officer.</li> <li>• £120.00 for a final Zoono treatment at the play area</li> <li>• £450 for pressure washing the tennis courts</li> <li>• £17.42 for domain hosting for three months.</li> <li>• £220.50 for nettle spraying at the nature area</li> <li>• £378.00 for grass cutting at the nature area</li> <li>• £2,070.00 for grass cutting in September</li> <li>• £104.87 for refuse collection</li> <li>• £1,722.24 for dog bin emptying for three months.</li> </ul> <p>Charges for dog bin emptying have risen sharply in the last few months. This was referred to the Environment and Recreation Ground Management Committee to consider options. The Clerk will circulate details of dog bin locations to councillors.</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) Requests for Grants and Donations</b></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that a £100 donation should be made to the British Legion Poppy Appeals for Crowmarsh Gifford and also for North Stoke, a total of £200. This was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>A request for a donation had been received from Cleanslate who support victims of abuse in Oxfordshire and rely heavily on donations. It was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that a donation of £100 be made. This was unanimously agreed.</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>

	<p><b>c) Accounts for Year to Date</b></p> <p>The Finance Officer had circulated a summary of the accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. Receipts for October 2021 totalled £6,869.58, including the VAT reimbursement of £4,253 and £1,838.17 received for the feed-in tariff. Total receipts for the year to date were £121,030.06 and total payments £73,345.37.</p> <p>CIL Money: A payment of £97,817 was due in October but due to the cap set at £88,396.36, only £23,204.79 would be received. On advice from SODC the payment has therefore been deferred to April 2022, when we would be entitled to £88,396.36. The next payment would then also be deferred to April 2023 to maximise our CIL income.</p> <p>d) Tender details logged on the Government Contract Finder website have been amended as requested to reflect a figure of £50-£150K for the pavilion improvements project. Itemised bids have been requested and the deadline for expressions of interest is 10<sup>th</sup> December. A minimum of three quotes is required.</p>	
5244	<p><b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><u>Environment &amp; Recreation Ground</u></p> <p>The committee met on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The zip wire has been improved but could do with further tightening</li> <li>• Eibe will repair the benches themselves</li> <li>• Two of the hand sanitisers have been vandalized and it was agreed to replace them at a cost of £220.</li> <li>• The car park barrier has been installed and a new padlock is available. Chris Strange is getting some keys cut.</li> <li>• Building regulations has been granted with conditional approval. An updated fire risk assessment is needed. Cllr Park and Chris Strange will complete this.</li> <li>• New floodlighting has been installed on the hard court.</li> <li>• The recent asbestos survey showed that there is no asbestos in the surface finishes of the building.</li> <li>• The CCTV is installed and is working well.</li> <li>• The photographic club is happy with the WiFi provision</li> <li>• The cherry tree root under the hard court will be reviewed in the spring.</li> <li>• Service agreement with football club: If we agree to Crowmarsh Youth being allowed to rent for 10 years they can apply for charity funding to maintain the playing fields up to £5,000 per year. After discussion, it was agreed to</li> </ul>	



	<p>delegate this decision to the Environment and Recreation Ground committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The football club have a licence for music from 6 to 11pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. The committee asked the club to turn their speakers towards Howbery Park and site their equipment as far from residents as possible. More details will be requested on parking arrangements and a risk assessment will be carried out.</li> <li>• Chris Strange will advise customers that fees will be increased in January in line with those agreed for the village hall.</li> <li>• Plans to re-wild part of the west side of the recreation ground are being considered. Cllr Johnson will circulate a map and suitable trees will be researched. There is an online map of suitable areas for tree planting and other measures on the Oxfordshire Tree Project website. Forty horse chestnut saplings have been offered by a local resident. A meeting will be held in Wallingford Town Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> December about the Queen's Green Canopy Project to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and all tree planting can now be registered under that scheme.</li> </ul> <p><u>Proposed Platinum Big Jubilee Lunch – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022</u></p> <p>An initial summary of the likely cost to the Parish Council was circulated. This amounted to approximately £1,800 plus the cost of marquees, tables, chairs, decorations and insurance. After discussion it was agreed to go ahead with the booking of the lunchtime and evening bands and await the other costs, in particular for toilets and marquees. Cllr Soames recommended running the event with separate accounting but it was felt this would make the organization more complicated and would not be needed.</p> <p>The PTA, scouts and church will run their own activities and charge for them, as will the provider of the swing boats and bouncy castles.</p> <p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <p>Cllr Sherbourne has drafted a letter of complaint to be sent to the police about the noise from motorbikes. This will be typed by the Clerk and sent to the Chief Constable.</p> <p>Speed checks in North Stoke have not been carried out since 2011. The Clerk has requested that these be re-instated following the recent speed survey, the results of which have been sent to the police. Mr Simpson, who attended the meeting and is a Mongewell resident, reported that speeds of up to 80mph have been recorded and the 50mph signs have disappeared. White</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p>
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	<p>gates at the entrance to North Stoke and speed limit marking on the road may help.</p> <p>A speed survey outside the church in The Street, Crowmarsh, showed that speeds in that area are too high for an ordinary pedestrian crossing and a toucan or puffin crossing would be required.</p> <p>The pedestrian crossing near The Bell is to go ahead and another speed survey will be done before work begins.</p> <p>Double lines at Stephens Field have been agreed. These will be actioned by OCC Highways.</p>	
<b>5245</b>	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p> <p>The Chairman reported on an online meeting at which the strategic priorities of OCC were discussed with parish and town councils and hoped there would be more such meetings.</p>	
<b>5246</b>	<p><b>UPDATE ON WEBSITE</b></p> <p>The website is up to date.</p>	
<b>5247</b>	<p><b>REPORTS OF REPS ON OUTSIDE BODIES</b></p> <p><u>Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity</u> The next meeting is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> November.</p> <p><u>Emery Owen Trust</u> The next meeting is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> November.</p>	
<b>5248</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural Services Network bulletin October 2021</li> <li>• SODC South News October 21</li> <li>• SODC communications updates</li> <li>• Information on Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill</li> <li>• Healthwatch Oxfordshire Newsletter</li> <li>• Chilterns Conservation Board Update</li> <li>• NALC Update</li> <li>• Notice of Sustainable Wallingford AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> October</li> <li>• Waste Team South and Vale Notice of Deep Cleanse Service in February 2022. Councillors were asked to propose areas to be cleansed.</li> </ul>	

5249	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 9th December 2021 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.</p>	
5250	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Charity Commission return for the Village Green, North Stoke for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 had been submitted. There were no changes to report. This was approved.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 21.25.</p>	