



# CROMMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021,**  
**starting at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Mr John Griffin (Chair)	Mrs Liz Ryall
Prof Andrew Johnson	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Mr Julian Park	Mr Stuart Soames

**Attending:** County Councillor Felix Bloomfield, District Cllr Andrea Powell, Dr Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer) and Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). Dr Nick Robins attended part of the meeting.

**Apologies:** Received from Mr David Rowley, Mr Robin Smith, Mrs Fleur Stevenson and Mr David Topliss.

**Declarations of interest:** None.  
The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
5186	<b>MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AND 4<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021</b>  The Minutes of the previous meetings were approved as a true record.	
5187	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  <u>Item 5165:</u> The Finance Officer offered to distribute some of the 20s Plenty stickers to local residents.  <u>Item 5166:</u> Cllr Griffin will take up the problem of noise from motorcycles with the Police and Crime Commissioner and will liaise with Mr Nick Sumner and with other local parish councils including Warborough. Noise cameras are being tested and may be available next summer.  <u>Item 5167:</u> Wildflower Meadows. Due to a misunderstanding the grassed area at Howbery Farm has been cut by the council's contractors.	<b>RFO</b>  <b>JG</b>

	<p><u>Item 5168:</u> Assets of Community Value Q&amp;A Session. Due to technical problems, Cllr Sherbourne was unable to attend this session. District Cllr Powell will send copies of the notes to Cllrs Griffin and Sherbourne.</p> <p><u>Item 5171:</u> A vote of thanks was made to Cllrs Park, Soames, Ryall, and Sherbourne for organizing the meeting and carrying out the risk assessment.</p> <p><u>Item 5171:</u> Defibrillator for Mongewell. Cllr Griffin will take this forward.</p> <p><u>Item 5175:</u> Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity: The Clerk has informed the charity about the appointment of Cllr Sherbourne as a trustee.</p>	<b>AP</b>
<b>5188</b>	<p><b>REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b></p> <p>County Councillor Felix Bloomfield was welcomed to the meeting. Cllr Griffin has briefed him on a number of highways issues. It was noted that Highways Officer Lee Turner, has not yet visited to discuss these. It is hoped to arrange a site meeting to consider the parking problems at Stephens Field and the provision of pedestrian crossings in Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke. It was noted that the proposed crossing at North Stoke should be considered as part of the planning application for The Springs development, where a proper crossing and traffic management measures are needed. The Springs has suggested dropped kerbs only which it was agreed would not be effective.</p> <p>District Cllr Powell will ask the planning officer about the discharge of conditions for the Springs development.</p> <p>Cllr Johnson requested that minutes should be taken of any highways meetings so that any required actions can be followed up.</p> <p>The parish council is considering the provision of pedestrian crossings at the following locations:</p> <p>North Stoke The Bell and another location in The Street Benson Lane. (There is a commitment from Bloor to fund this.)</p> <p>County Councillor Bloomfield reported that he has received many complaints from residents and members of the public about parking problems at Stephens Field. A residents' survey was carried out some time ago. When the Croudace development was built it was agreed that there would be a new riverside access road.</p>	<b>AP</b>

	County Councillor Bloomfield invited councillors to email him with any concerns or issues.	
5189	<p><b>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR</b></p> <p><b>Town and Parish Council Forums</b>  We'd like to know what you thought of the sessions we've had so far, what future topics you would like the events to cover and how we can make them more suitable to your needs. So we'd be grateful if you would complete this survey  <a href="https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/townandparishforumyourfeedback/">https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/townandparishforumyourfeedback/</a>  Please note that the deadline for completing this survey is midday on 6 July 2021.  Once the survey has closed, the responses will be reviewed and any comments raised will help us decide on the format and topics in future forums.  If you have any queries about the town and parish forums, please contact <a href="mailto:communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk">communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Local Plan 2035</b>  The council has received notification that the Court of Appeal has refused permission for Bioabundance CIC to appeal the recent High Court decision related to the Local Plan 2035.  The appeal had come after the Community Interest Company's failed application for a judicial review against the Council's decision to adopt the Local Plan 2035. The application for a judicial review was refused by the High Court in April.</p> <p><b>Oxfordshire 2050 Plan</b>  The Oxfordshire 2050 Plan is a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan which once adopted will form part of the Development Plan for five councils in Oxfordshire (South Oxfordshire, Vale of the White Horse, Oxford City, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire). It will provide a long-term (30 years from 2020-2050) overarching and high-level spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire.  Recently the Plan has changed considerably for the better to respond to the climate emergency and environmental and ecological protection and recovery.  The Oxfordshire 2050 Plan (Regulation 18) is on track to go to the five councils for approval in July, prior to a 10 week public consultation expected to start at the end of July. We hope that as many people as possible will take the opportunity read about the issues the plan will be tackling and express their preferences.</p>	

### **Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy**

The timeline for the county council's roll-out of the Oxfordshire-wide Park and Charge scheme has been extended, and we now expect it to launch in our districts in late autumn or winter. This short delay is partly to ensure the newly launched pilot of the scheme in Bicester can go through sufficient real-world testing to ensure the best possible user experience.

### **Proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries**

The Boundary Commission for England (BCE) has published its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries and launched an eight-week consultation, which closes on 2 August 2021. People can comment on a range of issues such as where the proposed new boundary lines are to the names of the constituencies via the Boundary Commission website You can view the proposed changes for the south east on the Boundary Commission website. In particular, we would draw your attention to numbers 28 and 41-45 which detail proposals for Oxfordshire. In summary, these include:

- increasing the number of constituencies in Oxfordshire from six to seven
- making relatively minor changes to the Henley and Oxford East constituencies (Henley constituency loses the northern part in Cherwell District which were added a few years ago)
- significantly reconfiguring the Wantage constituency, which would become more compact. It would also be renamed Didcot and Wantage to reflect its two main population areas.
- allowing Oxford city centre to be configured together in Oxford West and Abingdon, which will be made more compact by transferring two northern wards to the Bicester constituency
- a Bicester constituency containing the eastern half of Cherwell district (including the village of Kidlington), as well as extending west to include the town of Woodstock in West Oxfordshire
- a Banbury constituency that is now oriented south-westward, crossing the local authority boundary into West Oxfordshire, and would include the town of Chipping Norton
- a Witney constituency comprising the remaining wards of West Oxfordshire and the western part of the Vale of White Horse.

### **Award for Support During Covid**

We're sure you'll join in with the congratulations going to the SODC Food and Safety, Licensing, and Environmental Protection teams and our Covid Marshals, who along with the other

Oxfordshire authorities and Thames Valley Police won the Coronavirus category at a Regulatory Excellence Awards event earlier this month. It was for their collaborative work to support businesses and co-ordinate compliance during the Covid-19 pandemic. There's more information here:  
[Oxfordshire councils and police partners win top award for business support during the pandemic - South Oxfordshire District Council \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/news/oxfordshire-councils-and-police-partners-win-top-award-for-business-support-during-the-pandemic)

### **Five year land supply maintained**

Some more good news to share, this time on the Planning front. We can confirm that we've maintained a five-year housing land supply for both South and Vale, helping to limit the opportunity for speculative development in our communities. The District has a supply of **5.33 years** and the full 49 page report can be downloaded from the SODC website here:  
[South-5YHLS-June-2021.pdf \(southoxon.gov.uk\)](https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/media/1234567/South-5YHLS-June-2021.pdf)

### **A new future for the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?**

On 24<sup>th</sup> June Natural England published its ambitious new Landscape Designation Programme, forming part of broader Government plans aimed at delivering better outcomes for nature, landscapes and people. As part of its Programme, Natural England has announced that it will explore a 'boundary extension' to the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), taking into account an application made by the Chilterns Conservation Board (CCB) in 2013 and proposals set out in the Landscapes Review (the "Glover Review") - an independent review commissioned by the Government. SODC has welcomed this announcement, particularly as it aligns so well with two of the stated aims of our own Corporate Plan (protecting and restoring nature and improving community well-being). We are already developing plans to work in partnership with other local authorities, agencies like the CCB and central government to turn this ambition into reality. At the same time, we are not forgetting that residents in our more urban areas also deserve local green spaces, so we will be building such strategies into the plans for Didcot and Berinsfield Garden Communities.

The civil parking enforcement will be concentrated in the towns. District Cllr Powell will report in Crowmarsh News when more information is available.

**AP**

	<p>The Newnham Manor planning application has not yet gone to the planning committee. District Cllr Powell will try to find out what is happening.</p> <p>An update on the future use of the council offices site is expected at the end of July. A register of all land owned by SODC is currently being drawn up. It appears that Wallingford Medical Centre may be interested in the site after all. Cllr Sherbourne suggested an electric vehicle charging centre. More information will be made available at the August meeting.</p> <p>A number of trees adjacent to the Ridgeway have been illegally felled. Action is being taken by the Forestry Commission and a re-stocking order has been made. This should be widely publicized when possible so that the public knows that action will be taken.</p>	<p><b>AP</b></p>
<p><b>5190</b></p>	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>Decisions by SODC</b></p> <p><a href="#">P21/S0526/HH</a> 7 Meadow Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BH Replacement of 'ranch style' boundary fence between the property and the highway with a 1.9m high close-board fence to improve sound insulation from the highway and privacy. Planning Permission granted</p> <p><a href="#">P20/S4746/HH</a> Mere Cottage, Mongewell Park, Mongewell OX10 8DA. Erection of a workshop/hobby room. Planning Permission granted.</p> <p><a href="#">P21/S2014/LDP</a> Mere Cottage, Mongewell Park, Mongewell OX10 8DA Provision of a mobile home within curtilage of dwelling. Granted.</p> <p><a href="#">P21/S2010/FUL</a> Land Adjacent to Jasmin Mews, The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EJ Erection a two storey detached dwelling slightly sunk in to the ground with garden and attached garage to the side together with two outdoor terraces at first floor level (as amplified by email from applicant received 23 June 2021 and accompanying materials details). Planning Permission granted.</p> <p>P21/S2722/LDE Bezants 33 Winterbrook Wallingford OX10 9EB Existing landing stage on River Thames at bottom of the garden. Granted (site is in Wallingford Parish).</p> <p>P21/S1550/FUL HR Wallingford Ltd Wallingford OX10 8BA Erection of a single storey visitor &amp; training centre building. Planning permission.</p>	

### **Consultations**

[P21/S2302/A](#) The Springs Golf Club Wallingford Road North Stoke OX10 6BE Application for the siting of two new main entrance signs and new brick walling. Recommend no objection.

[P21/S2654/LDP](#) 27 Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED Erection of 1100mm high balustrade and use of part of roof area as for ancillary amenity purposes. Recommend refusal: use of the roof area at first-floor level would overlook the private garden of 27 Benson Lane and be unneighbourly.

### **Neighbourhood plan**

Dr Nick Robins reported on the neighbourhood plan. The referendum version of the plan is being assembled and will be re-submitted in a couple of weeks' time. The deadline is 19<sup>th</sup> July. Some changes have been made.

From now on the plan carries some weight. After the referendum it will be made and carries 100% weight.

The following points were noted:

Planning permission has now lapsed for the Carmel College site at Mongewell.

Crowmarsh Gifford includes the Bloor development but not phases 2 and 3.

The SODC former office site is outside the village boundary for Crowmarsh Gifford.

The Newnham Manor site may come to planning committee in the autumn.

Nine hectares of the Riverside Meadows has been declared a local green space. This safeguards the site from developers. The nature area and recreation ground are also defined as public open space.

English Heritage had concerns about 0.28 hectares at Howbery Park because of the four Grade 2 listed buildings but this has now been resolved.

The referendum should take place in September. When the date is known, canvassing through leaflets etc. may be done but public money may not be used for this. A volunteer has offered some funds and there is also a banner. Cllr Soames is happy to make the necessary arrangements in North Stoke.

A vote of thanks was made to Dr Robins for his work over the last four years. It was noted that the local plan will need to be updated in the next three or four years.

5191

**FINANCE**

**a) Payments to be made in July**

The Finance Officer reported that a grant request had been received from North Stoke Village Hall for £760 for grass and hedge cutting. It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that it be approved and this was agreed.

The Finance Officer presented a list of payments to be made. This included:

- £120 for Zoono treatment
- £732.96 for sewage pump maintenance
- £4,128 for Carroll and Partners for work on the building regs Stage 4 for the pavilion improvements
- £945 for grass cutting at the nature area and
- £330 for O'Neil Homer consultancy on the neighbourhood plan.
- £80 for the Clerk's membership of SLCC.

It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Johnson that these payments be approved and this was agreed.

The Finance Officer reported that it is not possible for the parish council to apply for a government restart grant.

**b) Accounts for Year to Date**

The Finance Officer presented a summary of the accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Total CIL money received amounts to £186,000 and this has been split into the years that the award was received.

**c) Internal Audit**

The Finance Officer reported that the internal audit has now been completed and the accounts have been sent to the external auditor.

**d) Other Matters**

Allotments: There are five tenancy agreements still to be returned. The Clerk will chase these up.

Review of Salaries: Salaries are due to be reviewed in July and this is particularly necessary in the case of Chris Strange, who is working many extra hours due to the need for extra cleaning and hygiene precautions. Prof Johnson will have a discussion with him and appropriate action can be agreed at the next meeting.

**Clerk**



<p><b>5192</b></p>	<p><b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><u>Environment &amp; Recreation Ground</u></p> <p>Horse Chestnut Tree: A report on the condition of the horse chestnut tree at the end of Thames Mead has been received. The July edition of Crowmarsh News features an article asking for views on the future of the tree. It was agreed to obtain three quotes for surgery and for felling.</p> <p>Pavilion improvements: the invitation to tender for pavilion improvements has been posted on the website.</p> <p>WiFi at the Pavilion: It was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Ryall that a contract for WiFi should be awarded to BT and this was agreed.</p> <p>CCTV: three quotes have been received. Abingdon Access can provide a higher specification, recommended by the police and more data storage (up to one month). Their quote was £2698 plus VAT excluding servicing. They have good testimonials and a vandal proof camera of the type used by police. They will put up posters advertising that there is CCTV protecting the premises. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Park and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that their quote be accepted and this was agreed.</p> <p>Car Park Barrier: The barrier has been ordered and will be installed in the near future.</p> <p>Parasols at the Pavilion: it was noted that the provision of parasols for the circular tables by the external gym and in the playground at the cost of just under £500 was agreed under delegated powers by the Environment and Recreation Ground Committee.</p> <p><u>Traffic and Transport Committee</u></p> <p>There is a PTR reps' meeting in early July. Please advise Cllr Griffin of any issues.</p> <p>It was agreed to reconvene the traffic and transport committee.</p>	<p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>JG</b></p>
<p><b>5193</b></p>	<p><b>UPDATE ON WEBSITE</b></p> <p>A vote of thanks was made to Cllr Stevenson for her work on the website. The Finance Officer reported that she herself will soon have access to post financial documents on the website which will relieve the pressure on Cllr Stevenson.</p>	

5194	<p><b>REPORTS OF REPS ON OUTSIDE BODIES</b></p> <p><u>River Users' Group (RUG3)</u></p> <p>The planned meeting had been cancelled.</p>	
5195	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OALC updates</li> <li>• NALC updates</li> <li>• Updates from SODC</li> <li>• Healthwatch Updates</li> <li>• TTRO re Nuffield road closure in August</li> <li>• Update from Sue Ryder</li> <li>• Police and Crime Bulletin June 2021</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Police Update</li> <li>• Rural Bulletin for June</li> <li>• Citizens Advice Update</li> <li>• Thames &amp; Chilterns in Bloom newsletter</li> <li>• Litter Bug Detectives Trail information</li> <li>• SLCC update</li> <li>• TTRO re. road closure at Goring in May</li> <li>• Notice of change of property name in North Stoke</li> <li>• Active Places newsletter</li> <li>• Chilterns Conservation Board newsletter</li> </ul>	
5196	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next parish council meeting will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021, at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.</p>	
5197	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that the grass verge on the left by Wallingford Bridge needs cutting back as it is full of nettles.</li> <li>• The recreation ground at North Stoke was cut in May and will be cut again shortly. This will be monitored over the next few days. It was noted that the path to the North Stoke recreation ground is in need of a cut.</li> </ul>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 21.10.</p>	