



CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 1st September, 2022
starting at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr Jay Anderson	Mrs Liz Ryall
Mr John Griffin	Mr David Rowley
Prof Andrew Johnson	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Mr Julian Park	Ms Julia Streete

Attending: Dr Yvonne Peet and Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). District Councillor Andrea Powell attended part of the meeting. Two members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies: Received from Mr Stuart Soames, Mrs Fleur Stevenson and Mr David Topliss.

Declarations of interest: None.

The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
5351	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4TH AUGUST 2022 The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
5352	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES <u>Item 5341:</u> The additional £240 for grass cutting at the recreation ground will be included in Chris Strange's salary payment for August. <u>Item 5341:</u> Cllr Stevenson has arranged for the necessary action to be taken to control rabbits at the North Stoke Recreation Ground. <u>Item 5343:</u> Cllr Sherbourne is in contact with Lee Turner of OCC Highways regarding a number of highways issues including parking in The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford and the need for a crossing outside The Springs in North Stoke. District Cllr Powell will make enquiries about any regulations covering the use of a	

	<p>camper van as a dwelling while parked in a layby.</p> <p><u>Item 5346</u>: The Clerk will ask Cllr Bloomfield if there is any further news on our application for a 20mph speed limit in the village.</p> <p><u>Item 5350</u>: The Clerk will ask the school to remind parents to be careful when parking in Old Reading Road in order to drop off and collect their children from school. It is hoped that parents will be able to resume parking in The Bell car park when it reopens.</p>	<p>AP</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
5353	<p>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</p> <p>The District Councillors' report had been circulated.</p> <p>Refurbishment of the splash pool at the Riverside Park is to go ahead at an estimated cost of £240,000.</p> <p>Marketing of the former SODC office site is to go ahead. It will not be allocated for housing but could include some social housing for the elderly, plus community or medical facilities. It is expected that sustainability will be an important consideration. Cllr Sherbourne suggested the Parish Council could form a sub-committee to liaise with SODC when the time comes.</p>	
5354	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Decisions by SODC</p> <p>P22/S0318/FUL Maclean Building, UKCEH, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BB. Installation of car port structure with 258 photovoltaic panels and 19 dual 7.4kW electric vehicle chargers and a 50kW electric vehicle charger. Withdrawn</p> <p>P22/S2320/FUL Land Adjacent to Jasmin Mews, The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EJ Two-storey detached dwelling slightly sunk into the ground with garden and attached garage to the side together with 2 outdoor terraces at first floor level. (Resubmission of P21/S2010/FUL to increase ridge height and main dwelling floor levels by 40cm). Planning permission</p> <p>Consultation</p> <p>P22/S2973/LDP Mere Cottage, Mongewell Park, Mongewell OX10 8DA Solar panels to southeast roof elevation. Recommend approval.</p>	

	<p>Newnham Manor development – management of the open space</p> <p>A plan of the proposed development was circulated. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would be willing to take over the future management of all the open spaces, including the play areas, with the exception of the area to be conveyed to the school. Cllr Griffin will report this decision to the planning officer, so that a commuted sum may be calculated.</p>	<p>JG</p>
<p>5355</p>	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) Requests for grants and donations</p> <p>A letter had been received from Crowmarsh News Association, outlining their need for financial support. The association has been independent financially and self-sufficient for ten years but a lot of the advertisers have discontinued and the print run is increasing due to the additional housing in the parish. The publication has reduced in size from 20 pages to 16, 8 pages of news and 8 pages of advertising. It is difficult to increase income and the association is currently losing £100 per month. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Ryall that a subsidy of £1,500 be made this year from parish council funds, to be reviewed annually. This was agreed. The association hopes to increase the size of the publication to 20 pages again in future.</p> <p>A letter had been received from North Stoke Village Hall Management Committee, requesting a grant of £760 to cover the annual cost of grass cutting and hedge cutting at the village hall and grass cutting for the North Stoke cross roads at the junction of the B4009 and the bus stops. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne to make a grant of £760 as a Section 137 donation and this was agreed.</p> <p>b) CIL Funding</p> <p>A payment of £97,817 is due to be received in respect of the Benson Lane development. The Finance Officer recommended that payment of this sum should be deferred until April 2023 in order to avoid the cap which will be imposed if the funds are transferred during the current financial year. This was agreed.</p> <p>c) Appointment of Internal Auditor</p> <p>The Finance Officer reported that the council's current internal auditors are closing their business. A quote of £235 has been received from April Skies Accounting for a remote audit. After discussion it was agreed to accept this quote, subject to the company being on OALC's approved list. The Finance Officer will check this.</p>	<p>RFO</p>

	<p>d) Insurance Premium</p> <p>The parish council has a three-year agreement on insurance premiums which ends in 2024. The renewal premium is £4,317.66. This was reviewed and approved.</p> <p>e) Payments to be approved since last meeting</p> <p>A schedule of payments had been circulated. In addition to salaries and PAYE plus the grants listed above, this included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional payment of £240 to Chris Strange for grass cutting • Expenses paid to Chris for line paint, petrol & stationery £141.07 • Clerk's expenses for SLCC membership, McAfee and Microsoft renewal £259.98 • Monthly dog bin emptying £166.39 • Annual play area inspection £235.20 • Grass cutting for April, May and July £2,562.00 • Refuse collection in July £137.93 • Traffic surveys £828.00. <p>Cllr Johnson recommended the purchase of a replacement line-marking machine and paint at a cost of £1,162.49. This was seconded by Cllr Park and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>A further invoice is expected from SCM as an interim payment for the pavilion project.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Streete that these payments be approved and this was agreed.</p> <p>f) Consider accounts for year to date</p> <p>A summary of receipts and payments to 31st August 2022 had been circulated. Total receipts were £163,352.00 and total payments were £66,546.23. The bank balance stood at £371,586.81.</p> <p>The external auditor has commented on the high level of reserves held by the council. These include CIL money held for planned capital infrastructure projects.</p>	
5356	<p>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> <p>The Chairman had received an invitation to the RAF Benson annual reception. He is unable to attend but Cllr Johnson will represent the council at this event.</p>	

5357	<p>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</p> <p><u>Environment and Recreation Ground</u></p> <p>Cllr Johnson reported that the pavilion roof is in need of some repairs. A number of tiles are in need of attention and some downpipes and guttering need replacing. SCM has provided a quote for the repairs with replacement tiles at a cost of £4,920. Alternatively the existing tiles could be refitted at a saving of £1,500. After discussion it was agreed that refitting the existing tiles was the preferred option. Meanwhile the Finance Officer will try to contact the original builder.</p> <p>There is an option to have an automatic lock on the new toilets but Chris Strange is happy to lock them at the end of each day to avoid the possibility of anyone being trapped inside.</p> <p>The organisers of the music festival 'Crowfest' held this summer, would like to hold an all-day festival on 24th June 2023. This was discussed and it was agreed that, while another evening event would be approved, permission could not be given for an all-day festival as this would mean that other regular activities would have to be cancelled.</p> <p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <p>Cllr Griffin reported that a new bus service from Didcot to Henley (No. 23) is being introduced to replace the existing X38 service.</p> <p><u>CABI Bus Shelters:</u> David Bellchamber of OCC Highways has asked Cala Homes to clean the two bus shelters near the development as they have become extremely dirty due to the volume of traffic and contractors' vehicles while construction was taking place. No action has taken place so he has now offered to give the shelters a deep clean at the County Council's expense. Following this, he has asked the parish council to take responsibility for insurance, and ongoing maintenance. After discussion, this was agreed. The Clerk will request a valuation of the shelters so they can be added to the asset list and will confirm to OCC that the parish council is willing to adopt them.</p> <p>In regard to future cleaning, the Finance Officer will request a quote from Shield Maintenance. This could also be discussed with the Facilities Manager at CABI. Cllr Griffin reported that a local resident has volunteered to look after the bus shelter at the end of Thames Mead. It is hoped that other volunteers might help look after other shelters in future.</p>	<p>RFO</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>RFO</p>
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	<p><u>Pedestrian Crossing at The Bell</u>: there will be a hearing on 8th September at County Hall, at which this project will be discussed. This will be a public meeting and Cllr Sherbourne plans to attend. The county council officer has recommended that a raised zebra crossing should be approved. District Cllr Powell will also contact the cabinet member in support. Another speed audit will be carried out.</p> <p><u>Speed surveys</u>: Reports have been received on the speed surveys carried out on Portway and the A4130 as well as North Stoke. The report showed that 85% of vehicles were travelling at more than 50mph in the 30mph limit on the A4130. After discussion it was agreed to send the data on the A4130 to John Howell and to Matthew Barber, the Police and Crime Commissioner, who had promised a further meeting to follow up on the original held on 16th December 2021. Mr Nick McGregor will draft the wording and send it to Cllr Sherbourne and the Clerk, who will send the letter and copy it to all recipients of the first communication including neighbouring parish councils.</p> <p>Cllr Topliss is researching suitable signs to be posted on the A4130, reminding motorcyclists of the need to take care.</p> <p><u>Benson Lane Crossing</u>: £40,000 had been promised by Bloor towards a crossing but there has been no news on this.</p>	<p>SSh</p> <p>AP</p> <p>DT</p>
<p>5358</p>	<p>REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</p> <p><u>Watery Lane Surface Improvements</u></p> <p>Cllr Park had circulated photos of Watery Lane and a summary of the current situation. This was discussed and it was agreed that the various landowners involved need to be identified before any action is taken. The footpath officer at OCC may be able to help with this. Cllr Ryall suggested that a gate might be needed at the Newnham Farm end of the path.</p>	
<p>5359</p>	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police and Crime Bulletin August 2022 • SODC updates • Rural Services Network update • Update from the National Association of Local Councils • Safeguarding News • Reminder to submit Annual Return for North Stoke Village Green Charity by 31st October 2022 • Invitation to Annual Reception at RAF Benson • Message from SODC Waste Team for Crowmarsh News. 	

5360	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6th October 2022 at North Stoke Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. The agenda will include a review of the need for dropped kerbs round the village and officers' salaries will be reviewed.</p>	
5361	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>The hedge at Home Farm is in need of pruning. The Clerk will obtain quotes.</p>	Clerk
	<p>The meeting closed at 21.40.</p>	