



CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the On-line Parish Council Meeting
Held on Thursday 1st October 2020,
starting at 7.30pm**

Present:

Mr John Griffin	Mrs Liz Ryall
Mr Ken McCrea	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Mr Julian Park	Mr Stuart Soames
Mr David Rowley	Mr David Topliss

Attending: Dr Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer) and Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). County Cllr Mark Gray and one member of the public attended part of the meeting.

Apologies: Received from Prof Andrew Johnson, Mrs Fleur Stevenson, and District Cllrs Andrea Powell and Sue Cooper.

Declarations of interest: None.

The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
5078	MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3RD SEPTEMBER 2020 The minutes of the meeting held on 3 rd September were approved as a true record.	
5079	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING <u>Item 5067:</u> Footpath to North Stoke Village Green: Cllr Soames reported that when he last used the path it was overgrown to such an extent that it is unlikely that it could be used by the grass cutting contractor. Cllr Soames will check again and report back. <u>Item 5067:</u> The new plaque for the replacement bench outside Crowmarsh Village Hall has not yet been completed but the bench has now been installed. <u>Item 5067:</u> The new planter near the bus stop in The Street has been damaged by a vehicle. Cllr Sherbourne has carried out interim repairs and recommended replacing it in the spring with a half barrel. Meanwhile it has been planted with pansies and spring bulbs. Cllr Sherbourne has also purchased a half barrel to	SS SSh

	<p>be placed at the junction of The Street and Benson Lane, opposite the Queen's Head.</p> <p><u>Item 5069</u>: P20/S1589/FUL The Springs Golf Club. It was noted that plans for a pedestrian link to connect to the B4009 have not yet been submitted to the planning authority, which is required as a condition of the planning permission. This will be monitored.</p> <p><u>Item 5070</u>: Allotments. It was agreed that the allotment tenancy agreement will be reviewed by Cllrs Sherbourne and Griffin. They will report back to the parish council with a view to issuing an agreement to allotment holders next spring.</p> <p><u>Item 5070</u>: CIL Money. The Clerk has made a formal request to SODC to pay any money due to the parish council in October. The Finance Officer reported that the parish council has received £105,000 in CIL money to date and a separate budget area has been created for this funding so that it can easily be monitored.</p> <p><u>Item 5070</u>: Financial Regulations. The updated financial regulations, which were agreed at the September meeting, have been circulated to councillors.</p> <p><u>Item 5070</u>: Pavilion Rebuild Cost: Cllr Johnson will research the likely rebuild cost of the pavilion.</p> <p><u>Item 5070</u>: The Clerk has ordered an additional salt bin to be located just inside the entrance to the recreation ground car park. An additional bag of salt has also been ordered.</p>	<p>JG</p> <p>SSh/JG</p> <p>AJ</p>
<p>5080</p>	<p>REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</p> <p>County Councillor Gray reported that the county council wishes to emphasise the importance of sticking to the rules and guidance on social distancing etc. during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Active Travel: The county council wishes to encourage more cycling and some cycle lanes and bus stop parking areas have been re-marked. OCC received half of the money applied for from central government in the first tranche of funding and made up the other 50% from county council funds. Central government has said that, for the second tranche, they want to concentrate on towns and cities where there will be a greater benefit per head of population so there will be no more money coming to South Oxfordshire at present.</p> <p>It was noted that the planning application for gravel extraction and a marina near the Wallingford bypass on the Thames opposite the Carmel boathouse has been refused.</p>	

	<p>County Councillor Gray will make enquiries about a possible development at the Hithercroft industrial estate, with access from the A4074. Notices have been posted about this close to the junction with the Wallingford bypass.</p>	<p>MG</p>
<p>5081</p>	<p>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</p> <p>Local Plan Examination in Public</p> <p>We have now received a letter from the Inspector, Mr Jonathan Bore, with his preliminary findings set out (see www.southoxon.gov.uk/examination), and the Council has responded with a set of “Proposed Main Modifications.” Sadly, none of these is the removal of any of the Greenbelt strategic sites nor the reduction in any target numbers – all have been retained by the Inspector. The modifications relate more to things like building design and active travel plans. To give people another chance to have their say on the Local Plan (but only on the modifications), the Council is carrying out a six-week consultation which runs until Monday 2 November.</p> <p>To view and have your say on the Proposed Main Modifications and supporting documents please visit southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan.</p> <p>Hard copies of the main modifications are available at public libraries (check OCC website to see which ones are now open) for review. The consultation documents are also available at SODC offices on Milton Park, however as the offices remain closed to the public this is strictly by appointment only. Appointments can be arranged through our Planning Policy team on 01235 422600 or email planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk – they can also provide any support with accessing the consultation materials.</p> <p>As it stands, the district council still remains under the Legal Directive from the Secretary of State to continue the path towards adoption by the end of the year.</p> <p>Changes to “Use Class Order Groups” rushed through for 1st September</p> <p>New legislation has been fast-tracked in order to permit changes to town centre use classes, allowing far greater flexibility to change uses within town centres without the need to obtain planning permission. They will make current shop frontage planning policies obsolete or toothless, restricting the ability of local planning authorities to control the mix of uses. The new approach aims to promote the vitality and viability of town centres by allowing more diversification in a way that can respond to rapid changes in the retail and leisure sectors. The increased flexibility will be welcomed by many landlords and fund managers with vacant premises, although there may be unintended consequences over which SODC will now have no control. In many ways this new legislation supports the district council’s</p>	

stated aim of “reimagining our high streets”, but the concern is that the council will have no control over what developments take place.

Local Government reorganisation

Following the resignation of Local Government minister, Simon Clarke MP, there are rumours that the proposed White Paper on Devolution (aka Local Government reorganisation) will not be published in October after all. The Local Government Association has made vocal representations that the middle of a pandemic is a very bad time to embark on such a process, particularly since local authorities are delivering many of the frontline services to support local residents. Our stated policy is that a single unitary authority for Oxfordshire is too large and undemocratic, and there are serious concerns that this exercise was always more about cutting costs than improving services or devolving powers. A recent proposal from Surrey County Council to form a single unitary authority, against the wishes of many of the district councils, has now been rejected by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, almost certainly because of opposition from Tory MPs and Councillors. So watch this space!

Planning White Paper

District Councillors have previously reported that the Government is consulting on wide-ranging changes to the current planning system, and this issue has received much press coverage. SODC is preparing its response to the consultation, and all Parish Councils are encouraged to submit their responses too (closing date 29th October 2020).

The White Paper can be found at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907273/Planning_for_the_Future_web_accessible_version.pdf

The website for more information and submissions can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

One key concern is that, overall, there is a clear shift of power. Local residents and elected councillors (including parish and town councils) will have far less power in the new system while planners, developers and central government will have more.

Reform of the S106/CIL system is welcome, as there is so much complexity and confusion surrounding the current one. However, there is a shift of burden from the developer to the taxpayer being proposed, since developers will be able to delay their payments and Councils will have to borrow at risk to build necessary infrastructure.

	<p>SODC Corporate Plan Following the excellent response the district council had to their consultation (932 responses received in total and many thousands of individual comments), the council is now making adjustments to their 4-year strategy. The theme which scored the highest in the eyes of the public was to “Protect and Restore our Natural World”, and anyone who watched David Attenborough’s recent “Extinction” documentary would doubtless agree that this should be the top priority. Councillors are mapping out the specific programmes of activity which they will aim to deliver over the next four-year period, along with the measures of success so that they can report on progress. Cabinet will (hopefully!) be approving the final format and text of the Plan at its meeting on 1st October so that it can be formally adopted at the Full Council meeting on 8th October.</p> <p>Recent SODC Communications relevant to Crowmarsh Recent communications from SODC to Parishes have covered a wide range of topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Rivers Day on 27th September • New parking charges and proposed changes to the parking order • New emergency assistance grant scheme and payments for low-income families having to self-isolate • New SODC website soft launch • Safety Advisory Group advice for events to be held locally • Oxfordshire Investment Plan (from OxLEP) • Coronavirus testing • Electric blanket testing • Re-opening of leisure centres • Lockdown lifestyle survey • Local Business survey regarding impact of Covid-19 	
5082	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Decision by SODC <u>P20/S2455/FUL</u> 27 Benson Lane Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED Detached dwelling (amended scheme to planning approval number P18/S2866/FUL) PLANNING PERMISSION</p> <p>Withdrawn <u>P20/S2770/N2A</u> Flex Electrical Wholesale Old Reading Road Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BW External improvements and internal alterations to the structure of 3 industrial units at Gould Yard, Old Reading Road, Crowmarsh Gifford.</p> <p>Consultations <u>P20/S2748/FUL</u> Crowmarsh Pavillion, Bellamy Way, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8FN Internal alterations, new window/door</p>	

	<p>openings, extension of external walkway and paved areas. SUPPORT</p> <p><u>P20/S3153/DIS</u> The Springs Golf Club, Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BE Discharge of conditions 5 - landscaping, 6 - landscape management plan, 7 - tree protection, 8 - sample materials, 12 - surface water drainage, 13 - foul water drainage, 14 - construction traffic management, & 20 - archaeology WSI on application ref. P20/S1589/FUL (revised Construction Traffic Management Plan received 17 September 2020). Not subject to consultation – NOTE</p> <p><u>P20/S3024/DIS</u> Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED Discharge of condition 12 (noise mitigation) on application ref. P16/S3608/O - Appeal Ref: APP/Q3115/W/17/3186858 for up to 150 dwellings together with associated access, public open space, landscaping and amenity areas. Not subject to consultation – NOTE</p> <p><u>P20/S0545/FUL</u> New house at the Woodyard, Constitution Hill, Mongewell. As amended by drawings accompanying email from agent received 21 September 2020 and accompanying revised tree information and planning statement. OBJECT – loss of woodland / biodiversity, traffic danger at the bottom of Constitution Hill, Mongewell is an unsustainable location for new housing with no services, the site lies outside the designated infill area in policy CRP1 of the pre-submission Crowmarsh Neighbourhood Plan (fig.9 p.34).</p> <p>Major application The Newnham Manor application for 100 houses (40 affordable), access, land for the school and a Toucan crossing on the A4074 is expected to go to the Planning Committee next month.</p> <p>Neighbourhood plan An online meeting has been arranged with SODC officers and councillors on Friday 9 October at 15.00. Councillors are asked to advise Cllr Griffin if they want to attend.</p>	
5083	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) Payments made in September</p> <p>A schedule of payments made since the last meeting was circulated. This included £580 for nettle strimming at the Nature Area, £220.50 for nettle spraying at the Nature Area and two payments of £100 each for biomist sanitizing using Zoono at the playground. £702 was paid to Arrow Fencing for the memorial bench and installation outside the Village Hall and £180 for repairs to the bus shelter roof in North Stoke. £4,185.09 was paid to Came and Co. for the parish council’s annual insurance</p>	

	<p>premium. £145.97 was paid to Cllr Sherbourne for supply of the planter, tub, compost and daffodil bulbs and £52.80 to Cllr Rowley for labels at the playground. Grass cutting in September amounted to £690.00.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr McCrea and seconded by Cllr Griffin that these payments be approved and this was agreed.</p> <p>b) Accounts for Year to Date</p> <p>The Finance Officer had circulated a summary of receipts and payments for the period ended 30th September 2020. The total income to date was £127,002.82 including the second half of the precept.</p> <p>Expenditure to date was £42,496.72 The current account bank balance was £149,356.42 and there was £102,337.35 held on deposit. Total funds of £251,693.77 included £105,051.96 received in CIL money.</p> <p>c) Requests for Grants and Donations</p> <p>A grant request had been received from the Wallingford Volunteer Centre, an organisation which provides volunteer drivers to transport those in need to and from hospital visits, among other activities. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr McCrea that a donation of £200 be made and this was agreed.</p> <p>d) Charity Commission Return for Village Green, North Stoke</p> <p>The charity commission return for the year ended 31st December 2019 had been submitted online and acknowledged by the Charity Commission.</p> <p>e) Audit Report</p> <p>The audit report is awaited. The only query related to the high level of reserves.</p>	
5084	<p>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> <p>The Chairman has ordered a memorial plaque for the tree at the recreation ground which was purchased by the family in memory of Mr John Bellamy.</p> <p>The gate pillar at the entrance to Carmel College has been repaired.</p>	

	<p>A complaint has been received from a resident about the poor standard of grass cutting to the east of the Portway and the fact that the play area next to the allotments has not been cut. A decision needs to be made about whether to keep this area mown as a play area or whether part or all should be a meadow. Cllr Sherbourne suggested that some trees could be planted on part of this area, as well as on the boundary of the area at the top of Park View, which is mown regularly. The Chairman is arranging a meeting with a local group to discuss tree planting in this part of the village. Residents would be asked for their views on any proposals that emerge.</p> <p>A local resident queried the absence of progress with the proposed crossing at Portway. This crossing remains the top priority for the parish council. If the planning application at Newnham Manor is granted, then it is essential that the crossing will be constructed before work begins on building the houses.</p> <p>It was suggested that a Freedom of Information request is submitted to ask how often the police have carried out speed monitoring at Portway this year and what speeding issues were recorded.</p>	JG
5085	<p>REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</p> <p>The parish council's top three priorities are currently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A toucan crossing at Portway • A pedestrian crossing in The Street • Improvements to the Pavilion. <p>Cllr Sherbourne met with Mr Lee Turner of the County Council on 15th September to discuss the proposed crossing in The Street, near to The Bell pub. Mr Turner saw no problem in proceeding with this and said the existing speed bumps could remain in situ. Two quotes have been received for the design. Peter Brett Associates (now Stantec) has quoted £6,450 + VAT. Peter Whitehead of Glanville Associates has quoted £5,300 + VAT. It has not been possible to find another company for a third quote and Mr Turner was unable to suggest one.</p> <p>After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Park and seconded by Cllr McCrea to accept the quote from Glanville Associates and this was carried unanimously. Cllr Sherbourne will take this forward.</p> <p>Watery Lane Improvements: Cllr Griffin has been surveying the surface of Watery Lane and will circulate his findings with photos. Some sections of the path are rutted and narrow and become water-logged when it rains.</p>	SSh

	<p>SODC Former Office Site: If the District Council does not return to Crowmarsh, the parish council will give consideration to community facilities which may be obtained on the site and a pedestrian crossing in Benson Lane will also be a possible future project. Ideas for facilities of community value are welcomed.</p> <p>The provision of electric charging points was suggested and also cycle lanes for the promotion of cycling.</p>	
5086	<p>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</p> <p><u>Environment and Recreation Ground</u></p> <p>Pavilion: Cllr Rowley reported that consultation on the planning application for improvements to the pavilion ends on 1st October and no comments have been received. A decision is expected by 30th October. The case officer has said she hopes to visit the site shortly. Cllr McCrea has been obtaining quotes from structural and mechanical engineers for wall removal and ventilation. This will be discussed further at the next Environment and Recreation Committee meeting.</p> <p>Play Area: A second Zoono biomisting of the play area has been carried out and was witnessed by Cllr Rowley who was pleased with the coverage. As well as the general play equipment, it included the 6m climbing net, artificial grass on the mound, seats and tables, gates and sanitizers. An ATP test was carried out on the slide prior to the second Zoono application and it recorded zero which is excellent. Cllr Rowley has been encouraging other organisations to use Zoono which will help to protect the local community. Millets Farm has adopted the system and Beale Park is likely to follow suit. It is hoped other local playground owners will also.</p> <p>Some of the sanitizer pumps have not been working well and the manufacturers have sent replacements.</p> <p>Fresh Air Fitness has changed the bike in the outdoor gym. It was noted that the roundabout needs remedial work. The base of the memorial train is rotting and Mr Strange has received a quote of around £500 from Arrow Fencing to repair it. This work will be done in November.</p> <p>Traffic and Transport</p> <p>The Clerk has replied to Bix and Assendon Parish Council to say Crowmarsh is happy to support them in contacting the police about the problem of speeding motorcyclists. This will be followed up. It was noted that Benson PC has written to John Howell, MP.</p>	

	<p>The X38 bus to Henley is now running through Crowmarsh Gifford rather than around the bypass. There is now an hourly service to Henley on Sunday too.</p> <p>The bus shelter near to Crowmarsh roundabout has not yet been replaced but currently no buses stop there.</p> <p>It was reported that Benson is to fund a toucan crossing on the A4074 near to the Waterfront Café.</p> <p>It has been reported that there is a problem with traffic using the vehicular access to Newnham Green, and parking at the junction with Old Reading Road at the beginning and end of the school day. There are risks to pedestrians who have started using the road instead of the footpath due to the need for social distancing and young children crossing to go to and from school.</p>	
5087	<p>UPDATE ON WEBSITE</p> <p>The website is currently up to date.</p>	
5088	<p>REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES</p> <p>North Stoke Village Hall: Cllr Soames reported that all risk assessments are now in place for North Stoke Village Hall and the hall is open for bookings.</p> <p>River Users' Group (RUG3): Cllr Ryall reported that the RUG3 group have not met. A willow on the Wallingford side of the river was struck by lightning recently and had to be removed from the towpath as a matter of urgency.</p>	
5089	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email from a resident re. a street sign in North Stoke • Email from a resident re. the standard of grass cutting on the east side of Portway • Email from a resident re. the overgrown hedge at Home Farm • Emails from several residents about the Portway crossing as a strategic priority • Letter from the Station Commander at RAF Benson about recent activities there as annual reception was cancelled. • Updates on deliveries at Jewsons • Chiltern Society Magazine Autumn edition • Active Places October update from Sport England • Invitation from the Chilterns Conservation Board to their 	

	<p>online event on 15th October 'Green Recovery in the Chilterns'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation from Crown Inn, Benson re. their re-opening event • Notice of temporary road closure for Young Traders' Market in Wallingford on 18th September (sent 17th Sept) • Sue Ryder information re. their Walk to Remember • Information on SODC Local Plan • NALC Chief Executive's Bulletin • OALC Update • Updates from SODC • Update from Health Watch • Update from Thames Valley Police 	
5090	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will take place on-line on Thursday 5th November 2020, starting at 7.30pm. Cllr Sherbourne will be away and gave his apologies for this meeting.</p>	
5091	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Sherbourne has received a donation of 50 native daffodil bulbs from Grundon and intends to plant some on the corner of Lane End and The Street. Ideas for other suitable locations are welcomed. • The Clerk has requested quotes for pruning the hedge at Home Farm. Cottrells were the only contractor to respond and their quote is awaited. They are unable to carry out the work until late November. 	
	<p>The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.</p>	