



CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 2nd February 2023
starting at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr Jay Anderson	Mr Stuart Soames
Mr John Griffin (Chair)	Mrs Fleur Stevenson
Prof Andrew Johnson	Ms Julia Streete
Mr Julian Park	Mr David Topliss
Mr Stephen Sherbourne	

Attending: District Cllr Sue Cooper, Dr Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer) and Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). Six members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies: Received from Mr David Rowley, Mrs Liz Ryall, District Councillor Andrea Powell.

Declarations of interest: None.
The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
5397	REQUEST FOR A DONATION Mrs Susie Ibbotson reported on plans for a sponsored walk to raise money to be divided between Floatability and the Churches Conservation Trust, which owns Newnham Murren Church, St John's Church at Mongewell and St. Peter's Church in Wallingford. The walk will take place on 10 th June and will start at Newnham Farmhouse, and follow the Ridgeway path through Mongewell, crossing the river by shuttle boat and returning up the Thames Path through Cholsey Meadows and Wallingford. Mrs Ibbotson would like to request a donation from the Parish Council. The walk will be publicised in Crowmarsh News.	
5398	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8TH DECEMBER 2022 The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	

5399	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <p><u>Item 5396</u>: Thames Path Closure. The footbridge across the Thames at Benson has been closed as repairs are needed, following damage to one of the supports. The Thames Path has been diverted through Crowmarsh and Cllr Topliss reported that the footbridge is likely to be closed for three years due to Environment Agency budget restrictions. The Clerk has contacted Wallingford Town Council and Benson Parish Council with a view to making joint representations to the Environment Agency about this matter. Their replies are awaited and a letter will be sent in due course to the Environment Agency.</p> <p><u>Item 5386</u>: Streetlamps on Wallingford Bridge. Southern Electric has visited the site but repairs have not yet been successful.</p>	Clerk
5400	<p>REPORT ON TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT</p> <p>Following the meeting on 8th December, which was attended by Mathew Barber, the Police and Crime Commissioner, members of the roads policing team and representatives of the County Council, information had been received on the Community Speedwatch scheme but there had been little action taken by the police or PCC. District Cllr Cooper reported that the traffic island on the A4074 at Benson has helped pedestrians to cross the road and suggested that a traffic island and bus stop near the Benson Lane Bloor housing estate would be of benefit. This could be funded by CIL money from OCC and the parish council.</p> <p>It was reported that a road accident had taken place on Monday 30th January just south of Crowmarsh roundabout on the A4074. A motorist travelling towards Reading had collided with a pedestrian, who had sustained significant injuries. The Air Ambulance attended and the pedestrian was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital.</p> <p>It was agreed that Thames Valley Police should be held to account. A meeting of the traffic and transport sub-committee will be convened to discuss the appropriate action to be taken. Cllr Sherbourne will draft a letter and circulate it to the Traffic and Transport sub-committee, who will meet within the next two weeks. Thames Valley Roads Policing will be asked to send a representative to the parish council meeting in March. The letter will also be circulated to neighbouring parish councils and to County and District Councillors as well as John Howell, MP.</p> <p>Cllr Topliss will investigate the Community Speedwatch scheme. Cllr Streete suggested asking for volunteers to come forward to help.</p>	<p>SSh</p> <p>DT JS</p>

5401	<p>REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</p> <p>No report had been received.</p>	
5402	<p>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</p> <p>The District Councillors' report had been circulated. District Cllr Cooper reported that the budget will be approved in the next couple of weeks and is looking more positive than in previous years.</p> <p>The Head of Service for South and Vale will be leaving in March.</p> <p>A new CIL strategy has been introduced for developments approved from 3rd January 2023 onwards. Details will be published in Crowmarsh News.</p> <p>The Clerk will make a Freedom of Information request on what is happening at the former SODC office site.</p> <p>District Cllr Cooper requested residents to contact the SODC Waste Team to report specific areas where litter is a problem. Photos should be sent where possible. Problem areas locally are Benson Lane, Clacks Lane and the Crowmarsh to North Stoke road.</p> <p>The Great British Spring Clean will run from Monday 17th March to Sunday 2nd April. Equipment can be loaned from SODC via the booking form on the website. Volunteers will be needed and it is hoped the scouts may like to participate.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>JG</p>
5403	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Decisions by SODC</p> <p>P22/S1045/FUL Maclean Building, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BB. Installation of ground mounted solar arrays to the north-east and west of the site (amended block plan and flood risk assessment received 6 October 2022). Planning Permission</p> <p>P22/S4370/HH 6 Little Hitchen, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8FW. Single storey side extension with Ultraframe 380 replica roof tiling system and two double glazed roof panels. Planning Permission</p> <p>P22/S3672/HH The Thatched Cottage, Old Reading Road, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BW. Refurbishment of existing dwelling. Alterations to external materials. Planning Permission</p> <p>P22/S4100/S73 Crowmarsh Pavilion, Bellamy Way, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8FN.</p>	

	<p>Retrospective S73 application to vary condition 2 on approved plans P20/S2748/FUL to reconstruct the ramp to the rear to current Building Regulations standards. Planning Permission P22/S3870/HH Spring River (formerly Minyak), Pocock Lane, North Stoke OX10 6ET. Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey front extension, single storey infill extension and new garage canopy roof. New cladding. Planning Permission P21/S5270/DIS CAB International, Nosworthy Way, Mongewell OX10 8DE</p> <p>Discharge of condition 25 in application P15/S3387/FUL. (As amended by additional information received 01 November 2022). Discharge Details Rejected as the report on remediation of contaminated land has not been supplied to the satisfaction of SODC despite the Cala Homes having been occupied. District Cllr Cooper will investigate.</p> <p>P22/S3789/FUL Avalon Kennels, Icknield Way OX10 6PP. Change of existing residential unit to specialised veterinary clinic, construction of replacement dwelling, relocation of parking areas. (As amplified by revised energy statement received 09 November 2022). Planning permission.</p> <p>Application withdrawn</p> <p>P22/S3794/HH Maple Croft, Mongewell OX10 8BP. To add two bedrooms to new first floor. Mary Busby (the applicant), a former parish councillor, spoke about a letter received from the planning officer. District Cllr Cooper will investigate.</p> <p>Consultations</p> <p>P23/S0169/HH 6 Elizabeth Road, Mongewell OX10 8FQ, Single-storey rear extension. Recommend approval</p> <p>P23/S0119/HH North Stoke Farm, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL, Erection of detached garage with two dormer windows. No strong views.</p> <p>P22/S4576/HH 13 Park View, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BL, First floor dormer extension. No strong views.</p> <p>P22/S4648/S73 Blenheim Farm, Icknield Way OX10 6PR. s73 application to vary conditions 2 (approved plans), 7 (contamination remediation strategy), 9 (parking & manoeuvring areas), 10 (vision splay protection), 13 (landscaping) and 15 (restriction of use) on application P20/S0826/FUL (demolition of existing buildings and erection of new dwelling, new B8 storage building and 2 x holiday let dwellings with access and parking), to revise the wording of Condition 7 (contamination) to allow for a phased development, and to make minor amendments to the approved landscaping scheme. This seems a lot, but the phasing is acceptable to the officers, the oak tree will be better protected under the new landscaping scheme, the holiday units continue to</p>	<p>SC</p> <p>SC</p>
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	<p>be restricted to short-term lets and the highway conditions are subject to OCC approval as before. Recommend approval.</p> <p>P22/S4382/HH 6 Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BD, Proposed cart shed. Cllr Soames declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. No strong views.</p> <p>P22/S4431/HH The Old Farmhouse, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL, Outdoor swimming pool. Recommend approval.</p> <p>P22/S2233/FUL Sheringham House, Crowmarsh Hill, OX10 8BG. An appeal has been lodged regarding this planning application.</p> <p>Major application</p> <p>Following Arron Twamley's letter on behalf of Avant Homes about the management of the open spaces on the Newnham Manor site, a meeting was held with district councillors and planning officers to discuss how to take this forward.</p>	
5404	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) <u>Financial Regulations</u></p> <p>The RFO will modify the financial regulations to reflect the fact that VAT invoices are required for purchases and three quotes should be obtained if appropriate. The council felt that local suppliers should be supported where possible. A recommendation will be put before the council for adoption at the March meeting.</p> <p>b) <u>Payments to be approved since last meeting.</u></p> <p>The Finance Officer had circulated a list of payments to be authorized. In addition to salaries, PAYE and expenses, this included 2 x £166.39 for dog bin emptying, £113.34 + £137.93 for refuse collection, £3,252.00 to SCM to fit a new distribution board at the pavilion, £224.17 + £111.57 for church lighting, £69.17 for allotment water, £423.17 + £50 for Pavilion water, £972 for grass cutting in October, £20 for hall hire at Crowmarsh, £90 for hall hire at North Stoke (x3), £571.18 + £135 for a TV at the pavilion including a screen protector and £684 paid to Tom Cottrell for grass cutting at Newnham Murren Church in 2022. Two invoices had been received from SCM for work at the pavilion, £15,962.29 and £2,349.49.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Park and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that the payments be approved and this was agreed.</p> <p>The Finance Officer recommended that water bills should be paid by direct debit in future and this was agreed.</p>	

	<p>Shield Maintenance had quoted £168.60 for a replacement dog bin for North Stoke in plastic or £321 for a metal one. It was agreed to purchase a metal bin.</p> <p>The Finance Officer will ask Shield Maintenance to quote for cleaning the bus shelters at the CABI development.</p> <p>In addition to the above, it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Park that £55 be paid for membership of Community First Oxfordshire. This was agreed.</p> <p>c) <u>Accounts status at 31st January 2023</u></p> <p>Expenditure in January was £21,912 and income was £20,405, of which £19,301 was a VAT rebate.</p> <p>Receipts for the year to date were £240,051.31 and total payments were £273,338.59.</p> <p>The CIL money from 19/20 has now been spent on eligible projects.</p> <p>d) <u>Requests for grants and donations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A grant request had been received from Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice. It was proposed by Cllr Park and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that a grant of £500 be made and this was agreed. • A grant request had been received from Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub. It was proposed by Cllr Topliss and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that a grant of £500 be made and this was agreed. • North Stoke Village Hall Committee had requested a grant towards their coronation celebrations, the estimated cost of this is £260.55. After discussion, it was agreed that the committee may claim up to £200 on presentation of invoices. • It was proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Park that a donation of £200 be made towards the sponsored walk in aid of Floatability and the Churches Conservation Trust. This was agreed. <p>e) <u>Annual Review of salary for Mr C Strange</u></p> <p>Mr Strange has been doing a lot more work at the Pavilion in recent months. His salary has not been increased since 2019. After discussion, it was agreed to increase his salary to £11,000, backdated to April 2022.</p>	<p>RFO</p> <p>RFO</p>
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	<p>f) <u>Grass Cutting</u></p> <p>It was noted that Mr Cottrell will be unable to cut the grass at Newnham Murren Church in future. Three quotes will be needed for the verges and other areas in Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke Recreation Ground. The specification needs amending as Mr Strange now cuts the grass at the recreation ground. Newnham Murren Churchyard will be listed as a separate item. Cllr Sherbourne has the name of a possible contractor.</p> <p>A notice will be placed in Crowmarsh News and on the website.</p> <p>Cllr Soames will find out what is needed in terms of grass cutting for North Stoke Village Hall.</p>	<p>RFO/SSh</p> <p>SS</p>
5405	<p>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> <p><u>Coronation of King Charles III</u></p> <p>After discussion it was agreed that a community orchard should be planted near to the recreation ground. This project was considered to be one of which King Charles would approve and was referred to the Environment and Recreation Ground Committee to discuss.</p> <p><u>Parish Council Elections</u></p> <p>Parish Council elections will be held on 4th May 2023. Current councillors and other residents, including those who have recently moved into the village, are encouraged to come forward. The parish covers Crowmarsh Gifford, Mongewell and North Stoke. There are three vacancies for North Stoke and Mongewell ward and nine for Crowmarsh Gifford.</p> <p>This will be publicized in Crowmarsh News and on the website.</p> <p><u>Annual Parish Meeting</u></p> <p>Cllr Griffin will not be available for the meeting, scheduled for 25th May. The Clerk will ascertain whether the pavilion is available on 18th May.</p>	<p>Env/Rec</p> <p>Clerk</p>
5406	<p>REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</p> <p><u>Countryside Code Information Boards</u></p> <p>Cllr Park had circulated some information outlining possible locations for the information boards, which could provide details</p>	

	<p>of the Countryside Code. It was agreed that quotes could be obtained for three boards initially, to be sited in Mongewell, North Stoke and Crowmarsh.</p> <p><u>Pedestrian Crossing at The Bell, Crowmarsh Gifford</u></p> <p>OCC has suggested three possible contractors to be contacted. One of these was found subsequently to be unavailable. The Clerk will email the two other contacts to see whether they would be interested in receiving the plans and quoting.</p> <p><u>Watery Lane Improvements</u></p> <p>Cllr Griffin consulted Sarah Wright in January and is awaiting information. Cllrs Griffin and Park will make another site visit.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>JG/JP</p>
<p>5407</p>	<p>REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION GROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</p> <p><u>Update on Pavilion Project</u></p> <p>Cllr Johnson reported that the project is making good progress and is expected to be finished by the end of February. The total initial budget was £215,000 and the parish council's contribution will be £75,000 + 10% contingency if needed. The current estimate of the cost is approximately £220,000 including the architect's fees and planting. Fitting out costs will be extra.</p> <p>Cllr Rowley has claimed a further £35,189 from the FCC Communities Foundation grant, leaving a balance of £15,225 to claim from their grant of £67,238.74.</p> <p>A separate quote has been agreed for the new roofing tiles; these will be separately funded by the parish council. Broken guttering and downpipes have led to damp walls in some areas. It is hoped to replace the guttering and downpipes with metal instead of the existing plastic. One quote has been received for £28,000 and others are being sought.</p> <p>It is hoped to have a grand opening of the new facilities, possibly in the Easter holidays or the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend. Mr David Beasley may be able to provide photographs for an exhibition. Publicity will be needed. The church will be invited to sell refreshments from the new servery. It was agreed to delegate the arrangements for the opening to the Recreation Ground committee.</p> <p>It is hoped to carry out tree planting at the far end of the recreation ground. Three hundred free trees should be available in November.</p>	<p>Env/Rec</p>

5408	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about Coronation Mugs • Information about Queen Elizabeth II memorial benches • Active Places Newsletter January • Information from Sustainable Wallingford • Notice of temporary road closure in Henley for May Fayre on 1st May • Expression of interest in a possible community shop • Request from SODC on sports facilities information • Notice of Sustainable Wallingford meeting on 9th January • Email from County Councillor Bloomfield about erosion on Constitution Hill, Mongewell • Enquiry from a resident about drainage from the housing development at Benson. • Police and Crime Bulletin • Chilterns Conservation News • Information from SODC about election fees and timetable for the elections in May • SODC updates • NALC newsletter • NALC Chief Executive's bulletin • OALC updates • Rural Services Network bulletins • Information about a health information morning at St Mary's Church, Wallingford on 25th March. • Healthwatch Update • Letter from UWatch Limited about crime awareness. 	
5409	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd March 2023 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.</p>	
5410	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Anderson reported on a meeting held on 31st January to consider the possible opening of a community shop or community fridge. There are two residents who might be interested in leading this initiative. A survey was suggested, to gauge interest among residents. The parish council would not lead on this scheme but would be keen to support it financially or otherwise. The best way forward would be for those interested to put forward a proposal. This will be put on the agenda for the March meeting. The parishes of South Stoke, Brightwell and Ewelme all have relevant experience and could be asked for advice. 	Clerk

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Park raised the question of electric vehicle charging points to be discussed at a future meeting.	
	The meeting closed at 21.50.	