



CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 3rd March, 2022
starting at 7.30pm**

Present:

Mr John Griffin (Chairman)	Mrs Liz Ryall
Prof Andrew Johnson	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Mr Julian Park	Mr Stuart Soames
Mr David Rowley	Mr Jay Anderson

Attending: Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). District Councillor Andrea Powell and County Councillor Felix Bloomfield attended part of the meeting. Mrs Amanda Griffin attended part of the meeting to report on Traffic and Transport.

Apologies: Received from Dr Yvonne Peet, Mrs Fleur Stevenson, Ms Julia Streete and Mr David Topliss.

Declarations of interest: Cllr Griffin declared a personal interest in planning application P21/S5379/FUL, repairs to 15.5m of the riverbank and took no part in the discussions.

The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
5276	CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR An expression of interest in becoming a parish councillor had been received from Mr Jay Anderson, a local resident living in Crowmarsh Gifford. Mr Anderson has lived in Crowmarsh Gifford for five years. He was employed as caretaker at Crowmarsh Gifford School for three years and has his own photography studio in Old Reading Road. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Rowley that he be co-opted. This was carried unanimously and after completing the declaration of acceptance of office, Mr Anderson joined the meeting. The resignation of Cllr Robin Smith was noted with regret.	
5277	MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2022 The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	

<p>5278</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <p><u>Item 5265</u>: Repairs to the faulty floodlighting at the church are to be carried out by a local electrician and this is in hand.</p> <p><u>Item 5270</u>: The Chairman is liaising with Revd Beer about 'Operation London Bridge'.</p> <p><u>Item 5271</u>: The speed survey at The Springs was carried out and a report has now been received.</p> <p><u>Item 5271</u>: A speed check has recently been carried out at the crossroads in North Stoke.</p> <p><u>Item 5272</u>: Quotes have been received from the Landscape Group for cutting the grass verges and other areas in Crowmarsh Gifford and the recreation ground at North Stoke. Two more quotes are expected. These will be circulated and a decision may need to be made by email.</p> <p><u>Item 5272</u>: The grant application to the district councillors' fund for tree planting at the Nature Area was successful and a grant of £957.19 had been approved.</p> <p><u>Item 5272</u>: To comply with OALC advice, the agreement with Crowmarsh Youth Football Club will be signed by two councillors and witnessed by the Clerk or the Finance Officer.</p> <p><u>Item 5272</u>: North Stoke Village Hall Committee has requested permission to plant an oak tree on the edge of the recreation ground in North Stoke, to be funded by the committee. This was agreed.</p> <p><u>Item 5272</u>: The speed survey at the A4074 (Portway) is in hand.</p>	<p>RFO</p> <p>AJ</p>
<p>5279</p>	<p>REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</p> <p>County Councillor Felix Bloomfield reported that he would support an application from Crowmarsh Parish Council to have 30mph speed limits on residential streets reduced to 20mph. Applications need to provide details of the areas to be included.</p> <p>A County Council officers' meeting will be held on 24th March to discuss objections to the introduction of double yellow lines in Stephens Field and Bellamy Way.</p> <p>The Highways Team has inspected faulty street lights in Crowmarsh Gifford and on Wallingford Bridge.</p>	

	<p>Extended government funding has been allocated to bus services but passenger numbers are still low following the pandemic. There is still some grant funding for charitable groups available from the County Councillor's budget. The deadline is the end of March. Cllr Rowley asked if an application for a grant from the school PTA would be allowable. It would be for suitable projects, up to £5,000. Cllr Bloomfield would encourage this in the current financial year as he has not had any applications from a Crowmarsh group.</p> <p>Motorcycle Noise: OCC Cllr Bloomfield would like to be kept informed of any correspondence on this topic.</p>	
5280	<p>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</p> <p>The District Councillors reported on the budget for 2022/23 as well as council tax energy rebates and discretionary funding to support vulnerable people.</p> <p>The joint design guide consultation has been extended to 15th March and two more consultations relating to housing developments have been launched.</p> <p>Plans for the former SODC office site are still not known.</p>	
5281	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Decisions by SODC P21/S5196/FUL</p> <p>New Barn Constitution Hill Mongewell OX10 8BS Variation of conditions (see Schedule of Conditions) on planning application P20/S1342/FUL. Demolition of building. New dwelling with garden and laid out parking area and improved entrance (amendments to approved scheme). PLANNING PERMISSION</p> <p>Consultations</p> <p>P22/S0506/HH 20 Park View Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BL Proposed single and two storey rear extension. Recommend approval.</p> <p>P22/S0688/LB 79 The Street Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EF New entrance archway/new path, single storey rear extension, extended smoking shelter, new jumbrella, internal alterations & external redecorations. Recommend approval.</p> <p>P22/S0687/FUL 79 The Street Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EF New entrance archway/new path, single storey rear extension, extended smoking shelter, new jumbrella, internal alterations & external redecorations. Recommend approval.</p>	

	<p>P22/S0399/HH North Stoke Farm House The Street North Stoke OX10 6BL First floor rear extension including alterations to front door and first floor front window. No objection - recommend approval.</p> <p>P22/S0283/A Wallingford Reach Bloor development (construction access off A4074) Benson Lane Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8ED Proposed signage. No strong views.</p> <p>P22/S0234/HH Archgate The Street North Stoke OX10 6BL Construction of a new timber barn garage with an electrical charging point, integral log store, ground floor outside covered dining area and a first-floor gym space in part of the attic without restricted headroom. No objection.</p> <p>P21/S5379/FUL Land to the east of Reading Road Cholsey OX10 9HG (PART RETROSPECTIVE). Repairs to 15.5m of the river bank, comprising woven willow spiling, backfilled soil and turf. (In Cholsey parish) No objection.</p> <p>P22/S0306/LB 1 Church Cottages Church Lane North Stoke OX10 6BH. Repair/replace the porch roof and bread oven roof. No objection, subject to conservation department's views.</p>	
5282	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) <u>Payments to be made in March</u> The Finance Officer had circulated a list of payments to be paid in March. In addition to salaries this included £230.99 for expenditure on fertilizer, petrol, sand and paint for the recreation ground, £368.67 for membership of OALC, £429 paid to Lawncare Garden Machinery for a strimmer, £798.00 for seven cuts to the grass at Newnham Church in 2021, £104.27 for refuse collection at the pavilion, £691.20 for pump station maintenance and £318.90 for excavator hire and labour at the allotments, carried out in order to clear an additional plot. It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Soames that these payments be approved and this was agreed.</p> <p>b) <u>Accounts Status at 28th February 2022</u> The accounts status at 28th February 2022 was noted. There was £181,341.36 in the current account and £102,351.84 on deposit.</p>	

	<p>c) <u>Review of asset list</u></p> <p>The asset list had been circulated by the Finance Officer, together with a list of items to be added, to the value of £18,119.99, bringing the total value of the fixed assets for 2021/22 to £841,447.43.</p> <p>After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Ryall and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that the list of fixed assets be approved and this was agreed.</p> <p>d) <u>Review of financial risk assessment</u></p> <p>The financial risk assessment had been circulated and this was reviewed and approved without amendment.</p> <p>e) <u>Review of allotment fees</u></p> <p>Allotment fees are currently £15 per plot, or £7.50 for a half plot. After discussion, it was agreed to increase the annual fees to £20 for a plot, or £10 for a half plot with effect from 1st April 2022. Tenancy agreements will be sent out with the invoices.</p> <p>f) <u>Consideration of CIL money</u></p> <p>The CIL money due in October 2021 had been deferred to April 2022. It was agreed to accept this payment in April 2022.</p> <p>g) <u>Bank Mandate</u></p> <p>Cllrs Griffin, Sherbourne and Soames are currently authorized as signatories on the bank account (two out of three to sign for each transaction). After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Park and seconded by Cllr Ryall that no changes be made and this was agreed.</p> <p>h) <u>Contract for emptying dog waste bins</u></p> <p>SODC's charge for emptying dog waste bins has increased to £7.25 per bin now that the subsidy has been removed. The Finance Officer had reported that an alternative contractor, The Shield Group, would charge £2.00 per bin and already have contracts for other local parish councils. Another company had quoted £13 per bin. After discussion, it was agreed to take out a contract with The Shield Group. The Finance Officer will contact them.</p>	<p>RFO/ Clerk</p> <p>RFO/ Clerk</p> <p>RFO</p>
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5283	<p>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Litter Picking: The Chairman will contact the Wallingford 1155 charity about a suitable date for litter picking. Annual Parish Meeting: It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 19th May at the Pavilion, starting at 7.00pm. <i>(This was subsequently changed to Thursday 26th May to avoid a clash with the date for the annual meeting of South Oxfordshire District Council.)</i> 	JG
5284	<p>REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</p> <p>It is hoped to proceed this year with improvements to the surface of Watery Lane and with the pedestrian crossing near The Bell.</p> <p>The parish council had been advised that a pedestrian crossing near the church would require traffic lights and possibly traffic calming due to the recorded speed of the traffic.</p>	
5285	<p>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</p> <p>Environment and Recreation Ground</p> <p><u>Improvements to Pavilion</u></p> <p>A vote of thanks was made to Cllr Rowley and the Clerk for their work on the SODC grant application for improvements at the Pavilion. This application had scored 28 out of a possible 30 points and is therefore very likely to receive funding. Two points were lost due to the high level of reserves held by the parish council. Cllr Rowley will speak in support of the application at the online meeting of the grants panel on 7th March when recommendations for the grant award funding will be decided. This will then go to the Cabinet member for approval in consultation with the Head of Service.</p> <p>A vote of thanks was made to Cllr Sherbourne for providing details of the parish council's commitments to other projects and to Cllr Griffin for his work on the parish council environmental policy. Community benefit and community consultation were key elements in achieving a high score so thanks were expressed to all who provided feedback and letters of support.</p> <p>A meeting had been held with SCM, the possible preferred contractors for the project. The lowest two tenders, one of which was SCM, had omissions that needed to be clarified. Funding from SODC may have conditions added to improve disabled access to the servery and to improve the ramp to comply with current legislation. Cllr Rowley has had initial discussions with the architect to determine the changes that may be needed and</p>	DR

will discuss these with the South and Vale Equalities Officer.

The current estimated cost of the whole project is £171,000, including a contingency of 10%. A grant application has also been submitted to FCC (formerly WREN) but the outcome of this will not be known until late June or early July. Work on site is unlikely to begin until after the Jubilee weekend. Cllr Rowley explained to councillors that it may be possible to split the project into two sections, with £148,000 in one section, this being the figure on the SODC grant application and the balance in the second section. When the SODC funding is known, adjustments may be made to the FCC application during April.

After discussion, it was agreed to go ahead with the modifications to the ramp and the servery if required. It was noted that improvements to the ventilation of the two changing rooms that will be retained, plus the ventilation to the new toilets and new heat reclaim to the new meeting room and servery have been costed at about £15,000. These proposals need to be clarified.

With increasing prices of materials some tender figures may still rise.

It was agreed that an update on the project will be circulated to councillors in advance of the April council meeting.

Other Matters

Chris Strange will carry out grass cutting at the recreation ground in future and the equipment required has been purchased. The Environment and Recreation Ground committee will check on the requirements for petrol storage.

An online meeting will be held on 7th March to explain the arrangements for the Crowfest event on 5th June and answer questions and concerns from local residents.

Hard Courts: Three quotes have been received for removal of the cherry tree roots and repairs to the hard court surface. The lowest, received from Sports Courts, is £4,995. After discussion, it was agreed to accept this, subject to checking the details.

Big Jubilee Lunch – Sunday 5th June at the Village Hall

The Jubilee Lunch is being publicized and posters will be produced. An article has been included in the March edition of Crowmarsh News and on the parish website. The event is being organized on behalf of the parish council.

	<p>Traffic and Transport</p> <p><u>20mph speed limits in residential roads</u></p> <p>It was agreed to apply for the speed limit to be changed from 30 mph to 20 mph in all residential roads in Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke.</p> <p><u>Consultation on local transport and connectivity plan</u></p> <p>Parish Transport Representative Mrs Amanda Griffin, reported that anyone may respond to this consultation and said that she has already responded personally. Rural areas are largely neglected; rural bus stops are in need of real time information. Councillors are asked to email the parish council Chairman with any ideas to be passed on. There is a plan to electrify the rail link between Oxford and Didcot and a whole section on cycle routes and charging points for electric cars. There is also a section on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.</p> <p><u>Support for bus services</u></p> <p>The government has extended bus funding for another six months. Buses are still running on low passenger numbers following the pandemic and the number of people working from home.</p> <p>The County Council is applying for funding for electric buses and now need to prepare a business plan. They are also bidding for funding for more bus stops to carry real-time information.</p> <p>A new community transport initiative, called 'First and Last Mile' has been set up in Eynsham. It was noted that driver's licences issued in recent years do not cover minibuses so younger drivers need to do a minibus test.</p> <p>There is a possibility that the distance requirement to qualify for free school bus transport may be reduced from three miles.</p>	
5286	<p>REPORTS OF REPS ON OUTSIDE BODIES</p> <p><u>North Stoke Village Hall</u></p> <p>Cllr Soames reported that North Stoke Village Hall Committee is planning a street party, barbecue and tree-planting to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. The Parish Council would be open to funding requests.</p>	

5287	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to the Chairman to attend the launch of the South Oxfordshire Chilterns branch of the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire on Friday 18th March 6 – 8pm at Shiplake Cottage. • Thames and Chilterns in Bloom – Spring/Summer 2022 • Safeguarding News January 2022 • SODC News February 2022 • SODC Updates • NALC Update • Notice of temporary closure of Benson Lane for gas works in February 2022 • Notice of temporary closure of High Street, Wallingford from 20th – 23rd February. • SODC Notice of consultation on community infrastructure levy and developer contributions • Notice of fire safety training at RAF Benson 26th February – 3rd March 2022. 	
5288	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 7th April 2022 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm.</p> <p>Agenda items to include: Review of financial regulations Review of publications scheme.</p>	
5289	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that a Japanese rowan tree has been planted at Crowmarsh Village Hall by the Village Hall Committee to mark the Platinum Jubilee. The Flower Club, which closed on 31st December 2021, has planted a flowering cherry tree at the hall. Suggestions are welcome for additional trees to mark the Jubilee. • The damage to the flint wall at Newnham Manor was noted. • Cllr Anderson was invited to join the Environment and Recreation Ground Committee. • The question of a gift for local children to mark the Platinum Jubilee was raised. 	
	<p>The meeting closed at 22.10.</p>	