



CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Mr J Griffin (Chair)	Mrs E Ryall
Mr Jay Anderson	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Prof A Johnson	Mr S Soames
Mr Julian Park	Mrs F Stevenson
Mr David Rowley	Ms Julia Streete

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

Apologies: Received from Mr David Topliss.

Declarations of interest: None.

The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
5373	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6TH OCTOBER 2022 The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
5374	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES <u>Item 5357:</u> Cllr Topliss is researching suitable signs to be posted on the A4130, reminding motorcyclists of the need to take care. <u>Item 5361:</u> First Class Tree Surgeons will carry out the pruning of the hedge at Home Farm on Thursday 8 th December. <u>Item 5364:</u> Cllr Streete reported on a meeting in Charlbury at which tree planting was discussed. Some free trees are available and she has ordered two for Park View. Cllr Griffin is in touch with the Earth Trust about replacement trees for the riverside. <u>Item 5364:</u> Cllr Ryall reported that SODC is attending to work needed to the ditch between their land and that belonging to Newnham Farm.	

	<p><u>Item 5364</u>: The application for bathing water status for Wallingford Beach has now been submitted on behalf of SODC and Wallingford Town Council.</p> <p><u>Item 5365</u>: Cllr Griffin is planning to set up a meeting with Benson Parish Council to discuss the arrangements for the commuted sum for the Newnham Manor development. The Finance Officer has spoken to the SODC planning officer in charge of this and has asked if it would be possible to take the funds annually rather than a large sum. This would probably be more acceptable to the parish council's auditor.</p> <p><u>Item 5367</u>: There has been no news on plans for the crossing at The Springs, North Stoke. The Clerk has emailed County Councillor Bloomfield about this. Cllr Soames has spoken to The Springs who are also chasing this up with the County Council. The speed detection van has visited North Stoke recently.</p> <p><u>Item 5370</u>: It was noted that the planned road closure in Benson Lane from 24th October to 11th November had not yet taken place.</p>	
5375	<p>REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</p> <p>No report had been received from the County Councillor and there had been no update on the highways issues raised.</p>	
5376	<p>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</p> <p>The District Councillors' report had been circulated. There are various strategy documents including housing issues which are in the pipeline. SOHA is to build more social housing in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>The sewage pumping station at Newnham Farm has now been completed. Some vandalism had taken place but this has now been repaired. Hedges and trees will be re-planted as previously.</p> <p>Cllr Johnson suggested that a housing survey could be carried out with a view to identifying grants that could be accessed by residents to improve their housing insulation. District Cllr Andrea Powell is on the SODC Environment Group and insulating homes is a key priority. There is a cost of living area on the SODC website which includes suggestions on this topic. A thermal camera could help in identifying homes requiring improved insulation. Age UK has produced a winter wellbeing pack which includes grant information.</p>	

<p>5377</p>	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Decision by SODC</p> <p>P22/S2973/LDP Mere Cottage Mongewell Park Mongewell OX10 8DA. Solar panels to southeast roof elevation. Certificate of Lawful Use or Development</p> <p>Consultations</p> <p>P22/S3672/HH The Thatched Cottage Old Reading Road Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BW. Proposed refurbishment existing dwelling. Recommend approval</p> <p>P22/S3870/HH Spring River Pocock Lane North Stoke OX10 6ET. Demolition of existing conservatory and proposed single storey front extension, single storey infill extension and new garage canopy roof. New cladding. Recommend approval</p> <p>P22/S3789/FUL Avalon Kennels Icknield Way Benson Oxfordshire OX10 6PP. Change of existing residential unit to specialised veterinary clinic; construction of replacement dwelling, relocation of parking areas. Recommend approval</p> <p>Vegetation alongside the footpath from the new Bloor development to Benson is very overgrown and this has been reported to the parish council. Residents need to be able to use this path to take children to school. Leylandii trees are overhanging the surface of the path. This requires intervention by the County Council.</p> <p>Plans for the redevelopment of The Bell public house include a gate at the rear of the property which would enable access from the Bloor development.</p>	<p>JG</p>
<p>5378</p>	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) <u>Requests for grants and donations</u></p> <p>A grant request had been received on behalf of North Stoke PCC for the printing costs of The Window magazine. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Soames that a donation of £150 be made under Section 137 and this was agreed.</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 and PAYE this included dog</p>	

	<p>bin emptying, grass cutting for September and hall hire for September. It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Soames that the payments be approved and this was agreed.</p> <p>c) <u>Consider accounts for year to date</u></p> <p>A financial summary to 31st October had been circulated. The bank balance stood at £344,591.64. Receipts for October were £32,080.08 and payments were £22,425.81.</p> <p>Two grant instalments had been received from the FCC Communities Foundation; £9,557.11 and £7,267.03.</p> <p>Four invoices have been received from SCM to date and a further one is due. Cllr Rowley and the architect, Michael Simpson are monitoring progress. Overall expenditure to date on the pavilion project is £82,000 and income is £53,000. The Finance Officer requested permission to allocate the Parish Council's contribution of £75,000 from the CIL money for 2019/20 and 2020/21. This was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne, seconded by Cllr Park and agreed unanimously.</p> <p>d) <u>Review of staff salaries</u></p> <p>The rate of pay and hours worked by the Clerk and Finance Officer were reviewed and an increase was agreed. Mr Strange's salary will be reviewed by the Environment and Recreation Ground Management Committee.</p>	AJ
5379	<p>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> <p><u>Queen's Green Canopy</u></p> <p>Cllr Griffin reported on a meeting at Wallingford Town Hall to discuss tree planting under the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.</p> <p><u>Arrangements for Parish Council Meeting on 8th December</u></p> <p>Mr Matthew Barber, the Police and Crime Commissioner and representatives of the Roads Policing Team will attend the meeting on 8th December to give an update on the problem of speeding traffic. They will arrive at 7.30pm and it was agreed to begin the Parish Council meeting at 7.00pm in order to make a start on the agenda. District Councillors Sue Cooper and Andrea Powell gave their apologies as there is a full District Council meeting on this date.</p> <p>It was agreed to invite John Howell, MP as well as OCC Cllrs Felix Bloomfield and Robin Bennett plus other interested parties.</p>	

	<p>Neighbouring parish councils will also be invited to send a representative.</p> <p>The business meeting will have a shortened agenda as time is needed to discuss the budget and precept for 2023/24.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
5380	<p>STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</p> <p><u>Pedestrian Crossing at The Bell</u> Cllr Sherbourne reported that the Parish Council is waiting for confirmation from OCC before proceeding.</p> <p><u>Pedestrian Crossing in Benson Lane</u> This project is awaiting confirmation from OCC.</p> <p><u>Improvement to the surface of Watery Lane</u> Cllr Park has spoken to Mr Ryall of Newnham Farm about ownership of the land and will also contact the Ridgeway Officer at the County Council.</p> <p>Public access to farmland was also discussed with Mr Ryall and Cllr Park suggested purchasing noticeboards indicating the location of footpaths and the Countryside Code, with particular reference to dogs and dog walking. Six or seven boards would be needed across the parish. Cllr Park will draft an article for Crowmarsh News about appropriate behaviour on farmland. This will be circulated to the parish council before submitting. Cllr Park will research suitable boards.</p>	<p>JP</p> <p>JP</p>
5381	<p>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</p> <p><u>Environment & Recreation Ground Management Committee</u></p> <p>Cllr Johnson reported that the hard courts have been cleaned and the tree root, which had damaged the surface, has been removed.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Tree Scape report has been received and this shows that 99% of the land included is privately owned. Cllr Streete is researching the availability of free trees to replace those lost from the nature area. Ideal trees for this location are alder, birch and willow. Volunteers may be recruited to plant them or a contractor could be used.</p> <p>Additional trees could be planted at the recreation ground between the cricket nets and the nature area. Oak trees would be suitable for this location.</p>	

	<p><u>Pavilion Project</u></p> <p>The committee met on 1st November to review progress. The builder aims to finish by the end of November. The contractor for the ventilation system has not yet been agreed but two quotes have been received.</p> <p>The paving and drainage of the patio will be more expensive than anticipated because an improved disability ramp has been chosen as well as a more robust drainage system. This has now been installed and will require use of some of the contingency fund.</p> <p>Fixtures and fittings are now being discussed including shutters and doors. These will be in white to match the existing window frames. The internal tiling will be white with a green border.</p> <p>A television set and chairs for the meeting room are to be decided.</p> <p><u>Discussion on the need for dropped kerbs</u></p> <p>This was deferred to a later date.</p> <p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the speed indicator device in The Street does make drivers more aware of their speed.</p> <p>The street lamps on Wallingford Bridge are not always working. This has been reported.</p>	
5382	<p>UPDATE ON WEBSITE</p> <p>The website is up to date.</p>	
5383	<p>REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES</p> <p><u>River Users' Group (RUG3)</u></p> <p>Cllr Ryall reported that the navigable channel under Wallingford Bridge is getting narrower. The Environment Agency is inspecting all farms which border the river.</p> <p>Due to the outbreak of avian flu, any groups of three or more dead birds, particularly owls and water fowl, should be reported on gov.uk, where more details can be found.</p>	

5384	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A complaint has been received from another resident about someone living in a van in the lay-by opposite the church. • Email from a resident requesting that Jethro Tull boundary hedge is pruned asap. NB This is scheduled for 2023. • Email from a resident about overgrown vegetation on the public footpath from the Bloor development to Benson Lane. • Invitation to OCC Vision Zero Summit on 25th November 2022. • SODC information on reducing light pollution. • Notice from the SODC Waste Team about Christmas collections. • Notice of Race to the Stones event 8th and 9th July 2023. • Police and Crime Bulletin October 2022. • Healthwatch Update. • Rural Services Network Update. • SODC updates. • NALC Update. 	
5385	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8th December 2022 at Crowmarsh Village Hall, starting at 7.00pm.</p>	
5386	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Finance Officer reported that a motorist has collided with the dog bin in North Stoke. Shield Maintenance has been asked for a quote to replace it. • Cllr Soames reported that despite previous requests, the street lamp in North Stoke still has an orange light instead of a white one. The Clerk will report this again on Fix My Street. • It was noted that parking on pavements in Newnham Green and Thames Mead is creating a hazard for pedestrians, especially those with prams and pushchairs. • It was noted that Crowmarsh Stores is due to close permanently on 17th December. It is regrettable that the village will lose this facility. Possibly a community shop could be included as part of the former SODC office site. It was agreed to ask residents whether there is any interest in opening a community shop if suitable premises can be found. • Cllr Johnson reported that smoke from wood burning stoves in Thames Mead is a problem and a potential health hazard. 	Clerk
	The meeting closed at 21.40.	

