



CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 4th August, 2022
starting at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr Jay Anderson	Mrs Fleur Stevenson
Prof Andrew Johnson	Ms Julia Streete
Mr Stephen Sherbourne	Mr David Topliss
Mr Stuart Soames	

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 John Griffin, Mr Julian Park, Mr David Rowley and Mrs Liz Ryall.

Declarations of interest: None.

The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
5340	MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7TH JULY 2022 The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
5341	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES <u>Item 5330:</u> Cllr Johnson reported that Chris Strange has cut the grass at the recreation ground eight times this year. This takes three hours each time. Calculating this at his hourly rate of £10, there is an additional £240 due to him. It was agreed to pay this as an additional sum in September. <u>Item 5330:</u> Cllr Soames reported that the Parish Council has a duty to control rabbits on its land. Cllr Stevenson will arrange with the pest control officer for action to be taken.	RFO FS

<p>5342</p>	<p>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</p> <p>The District Councillors' report had been circulated.</p> <p>District Cllr Powell reported that SODC has published its 2022 5 year Housing Land Supply as at 1st April 2022.</p> <p>The Oxfordshire 2050 programme has been terminated as it proved impossible for the five districts to reach agreement on it. Central government has been informed.</p> <p>SODC and Vale of White Horse are collaborating on a joint local plan.</p> <p>Lots of activities are available during the summer holidays and a new grant scheme 'Everyone Active' has been launched.</p> <p>Cllr Topliss questioned the management of the splash park which he feels needs improvement. Cllr Powell will pass on any feedback. A cover has been ordered for the swimming pool but there are supply problems.</p>	
<p>5343</p>	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>Work has begun on refurbishment of The Bell.</p> <p>A local resident reported on use of the lay-by opposite the church in The Street. This has always been used by the community for allotment users, bus passengers, churchgoers, people working in Wallingford, carers visiting residents and parents dropping off their children to catch coaches going to private schools. Since parking restrictions have been introduced in Stephens Field, the lay-by has been increasingly used by a number of vans and contractors' vehicles. At least one of the vans is being used as living accommodation. The situation is now becoming a problem for residents, some of whom have no off-street parking available to them and rely on the lay-by. There are facilities for camping in the village but it was noted that the SODC site could not be used as it is subject to flooding in the winter months.</p> <p>Cllr Sherbourne is planning to discuss this and a number of other issues with Lee Turner of OCC Highways. It was suggested that residents' parking only should be introduced although enforcement could be difficult. District Cllr Powell reported that there are areas in Didcot where residents' parking schemes are in place. District Cllr Cooper may be able to suggest a solution.</p> <p>Cllr Streete reported that pubs have the facility to provide some public car parking in their own car parks.</p>	<p>SSh</p>

5344

FINANCE

a) Requests for grants and donations

A grant request had been received from Clean Slate a charity which provides long term emotional support for survivors of abuse in Oxfordshire. They aim to encourage individuals to explore their own mental health needs and adopt coping strategies for long term recovery. The last donation made by the parish council was £100 in November 2021. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Topliss that a donation of £150 be made under Section 137 and this was agreed.

b) Consider and agree payments since last meeting

A schedule of payments had been circulated. In addition to regular salary payments this included the following:

- £113.34 for refuse collection
- £166.39 for dog bin emptying
- £154.80 for annual licence and support for finance software
- £580 for nettle strim in the nature area
- £100 for hall hire for parish council meeting and jubilee weekend
- £972 for grass cutting in June
- £540 for tree work at Newnham Church
- £900 for professional fees for The Bell crossing
- £194.70 for service and new battery for the garden tractor
- £22.19 for battery charger for the above tractor
- £17,204.81 for the pavilion project
- £310.11 for church flood lighting April – June
- £806.26 for annual renewal of pump station maintenance at the pavilion
- £30.00 for Chiltern Society membership renewal.

It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Streete that these payments be approved and this was agreed.

It was noted that the controller for the church flood lighting will be repaired by Paul Brewer.

c) Consider accounts to date

A summary of receipts and payments to 31st July had been circulated. Income for the year to date was £161,429.86 and expenditure was £43,077.30. Total funds stood at £393,133.60.

	<p>d) Consideration of Investment Strategy</p> <p>The auditor had recommended that an investment policy should be adopted and a draft had been circulated. OALC's advice was to accept the auditor's recommendation. The maximum deposit which may be held with one institution should not exceed 60% although the council may approve an exception to this rule. After discussion it was resolved to hold all deposits with Lloyds as at present and review this when current projects such as the pavilion improvements and pedestrian crossing in The Street have been completed. Cllr Sherbourne suggested opening an online account for some funds. Suggestions welcome. After discussion the investment policy was approved, proposed by Cllr Sherbourne, seconded by Cllr Johnson and carried unanimously.</p>	
5345	<p>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> <p><u>Pedestrian Crossing at The Bell</u></p> <p>Cllr Sherbourne has emailed Lee Turner and is waiting for OCC Highways to approve the design.</p> <p><u>Crossing in Benson Lane</u></p> <p>Information is awaited on this project from OCC Highways and Bloor Homes.</p> <p>The buffer zone at the Bloor development was to include humps and trees but it was noted that not many trees have been planted to date and the humps are not as large as expected.</p> <p><u>20 mph speed limit on residential roads</u></p> <p>An application has been submitted but no update has been received to date.</p>	
5346	<p>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</p> <p><u>Environment and Recreation Ground</u></p> <p>Pavilion Improvements: It was noted that the FCC grant application included provision of windows and shutters in the meeting hall. Grant funding had been received in full and the decision to proceed with the windows and shutters was ratified.</p> <p>Cllr Johnson reported that a monthly meeting will be held with the contractors, SCM, Cllr Rowley, Chris Strange and himself to monitor the project and deal with questions. It was agreed to circulate the minutes after each meeting to parish councillors. All councillors are welcome to attend the next meeting on 31st</p>	

	<p>August. The builders report that they are currently slightly ahead of schedule. The demolition and sub structure are completed and the steel bar in the meeting room is in place.</p> <p>Lighting in the meeting room needs to be suitable for those with disabilities. LED lights in warm white would be preferred. The specification of the meeting room in terms of technology needs to be agreed.</p> <p>SCM are providing a running total of expenditure. The plan provides for security shutters on doors. These are not needed so this will save £3 - £4,000.</p> <p>Trees at the Nature Area: the dry weather is making it difficult to maintain the new trees. It was suggested that some equipment could be purchased to assist Chris Strange with watering.</p> <p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <p>A resident has filmed motorcycles at Crowmarsh roundabout and reported again on excessive speeding and noise. Bikes need to be monitored leaving the 30mph limit on the A4130. The police are awaiting the results of the traffic survey on the A4130 before taking further action. When the results are known the council will pursue the follow up meeting promised by Matthew Barber, the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p> <p>The situation will be reviewed again at the September meeting. Meanwhile it was proposed to post safety awareness signs on lamp posts. Cllr Topliss will research this.</p> <p>Dropped kerb crossing at North Stoke: Cllr Soames reminded the council of the need for a suitable crossing outside the Springs. The situation has become more dangerous as there are no sight lines on the grass verge here. The Springs say they don't own the land in question and it belongs to OCC Highways. Cllr Sherbourne will take this up with Lee Turner. It was noted that two more speed surveys are being done at North Stoke, one at the crossroads and the other outside The Springs.</p>	<p>DT</p> <p>SSh</p>
<p>5347</p>	<p>UPDATE ON WEBSITE</p> <p>The website is up to date. Cllr Stevenson reported that there are nine posts on the Facebook page, all in favour of the pavilion project.</p>	

5348	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice of free testing of electric blankets by OCC Trading Standards • Information on winter preparations from OCC • Notice of change of British Legion Poppy Appeal Organiser for North Stoke • Ridgeway National Trail News • Notice of Ewelme and Benson Liaison Group meeting on 14th November. • Police and Crime Bulletin • SODC updates • Rural Services Network update • Health Watch Oxfordshire Briefing • NAHT update • OALC update • Chilterns Conservation Update 	
5349	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st September 2022 at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Cllr Stevenson gave her apologies for this meeting.</p>	
5350	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Cllr Anderson reported on the dangerous situation in Old Reading Road and Newnham Green during the school term with parents trying to park their cars. When the Bell reopens it is hoped that this problem will be alleviated if parents are permitted to use their car park when dropping off and collecting their children.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 21.25.</p>	