



# CROMMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held at North Crommarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019,  
starting at 7.30pm**

**Present:**

Mr John Griffin (Chairman)	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Mr David Rowley	Mr Stuart Soames
Mrs Liz Ryall	Mrs F Stevenson
	Mr David Topliss

**Attending:** Prof Julian Park, Dr Yvonne Peet (Finance Officer) and Mrs Sue Rance (Clerk). County Councillor Mark Gray and District Councillor Andrea Powell attended part of the meeting. Mr Nick Robins and Mr Nigel Hannigan attended part of the meeting.

**Apologies:** Received from Prof Andrew Johnson and District Cllr Sue Cooper.

**Declarations of interest:** Mr Stuart Soames and Mr Stephen Sherbourne declared an interest in the planning application for development at the Springs Hotel and Golf Club site.

The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
4883	<b>CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS</b>  Prof Julian Park expressed an interest in becoming a parish councillor and introduced himself to those present. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Ryall that he should be co-opted as a parish councillor and this was carried unanimously. He made his declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.	
4884	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> May were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
4885	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>  <u>Item 4872:</u> No further information on Section 106 funding has yet been received from Mr Marshall and Mr Sherwood of Oxfordshire	

	<p>Highways. County Councillor Gray will chase this up.</p> <p><u>Item 4872:</u> CABI Development. Cllr Johnson is writing an article for the Crowmarsh News about the history of the names chosen for the streets at the CABI development.</p> <p><u>Item 4872:</u> Grass Cutting: Some areas on the original plan for grass cutting have been missed. Cllr Sherbourne will pass the plan to the Finance Officer who will contact the contractor.</p> <p><u>Item 4872:</u> Newnham Murren Churchyard: It was noted that this area has only been cut once this season. Cllr Griffin will follow this up.</p> <p><u>Item 4873:</u> No further news has been received following the traffic problems caused by the road works at the CABI development. Cllr Gray has contacted Keith Stenning of Oxfordshire Highways about it.</p> <p><u>Item 4874:</u> Eibe Invoice No. 5. It was noted that this has now been paid.</p> <p><u>Item 4874:</u> It was noted that Mr Strange's salary had been revised as agreed at the last meeting.</p> <p><u>Item 4878:</u> Scottish and Southern electricity company: the cabling work at North Stoke is still incomplete and causing an obstruction. Cllr Soames will draft a letter from the Parish Council.</p> <p><u>Item 4878:</u> The next meeting of Parish Transport Reps will be held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.</p> <p><u>Item 4879:</u> North Stoke Village Hall. Mr Stuart Soames reported that the council's solicitor has now agreed that the Parish Council as custodial trustee should register the land at North Stoke Village Hall. The Clerk will draft a letter for the Chairman's signature.</p>	<p><b>MG</b></p> <p><b>AJ</b></p> <p><b>SSh/ RFO</b></p> <p><b>JG</b></p> <p><b>SS</b></p> <p><b>Clerk/ JG</b></p>
<p><b>4886</b></p>	<p><b>REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County Councillor Mark Gray reported on new screening methods which have been introduced by social services.</li> <li>• There will be a programme of rolling road closures on 12<sup>th</sup> June when the women's cycle race will pass through South Oxfordshire.</li> <li>• OCC has a £3.5 million pound highways improvement programme.</li> <li>• The Oxford Park and Ride system will soon be brought together under the Oxford City Council.</li> <li>• New funding has been introduced for alcohol reduction initiatives.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new fire officer has been appointed; he has many years' experience with the fire service.</li> <li>• Cllr Gray was thanked for his donation of £1000 for repairs to the culvert at North Stoke and advised that a further £1000 is available this year.</li> <li>• Ipsden Parish Council are erecting gates and warning signs to assist with reducing speeding along the A4074.</li> <li>• Jewson's lorry traffic is an issue, particularly first thing in the morning when lorries are waiting to make their deliveries. This causes congestion and some vehicles are parking in the bus layby. The parish transport rep will be asked to raise this at the next PTR meeting.</li> <li>• It was noted that the neighbourhood policing team had suggested using social media as an alternative method of making contact for non-urgent matters.</li> <li>• Cllr Gray reported on plans for a week's trial at Stephen's Field, when roadside parking will be stopped and the old riverside access road will be closed. This will be preceded by a consultation of residents.</li> <li>• Cllr Gray reported that Highways have asked for information on traffic sensitive streets which may be affected by major events such as Henley Regatta. A new system is being introduced whereby utility companies will have to apply for a permit in advance before embarking on road works.</li> </ul>	<b>JG</b>
4887	<p><b>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR</b></p> <p>District Councillor Andrea Powell reported as follows:</p> <p><b>New Council Structure and Appointments</b>  Following the District Council elections on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, there has been a significant change in the structure and membership of South Oxfordshire District Council. After a long period of Conservative control, the new Council is run by a Liberal Democratic/Green partnership, with our very own Sue Cooper as Leader.</p> <p>A press release containing information on all the new Cabinet and Committee appointments is on the SODC website:  <a href="http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/news/2019/2019-05/new-leader-cabinet-and-chairman-south-oxfordshire-district-council-appointed">http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/news/2019/2019-05/new-leader-cabinet-and-chairman-south-oxfordshire-district-council-appointed</a></p> <p><b>Council Priorities</b>  It was clear to us that we were elected not just because of Brexit frustration and other national issues, but because the people of South Oxfordshire are deeply unhappy with the level of housing development already taking place and the unsustainable further development proposed in the SODC Local Plan. Of course we</p>	

need to build new houses, but they need to be the right kind of houses (in terms of number, size, affordability and environmental factors), in the right places, and with the appropriate accompanying infrastructure so that the increasing burden on our local services is recognised and minimised. The emerging plan, if approved, would unlock some funding from the Oxfordshire Growth Deal, but in reality this is a small drop in the ocean compared to what is needed, and is mainly directed at other parts of the District (e.g. Didcot).

Our first priority, therefore, is to take a long, hard look at the emerging Local Plan (2011-2034), currently sitting with the government inspectors, and assess what we can do to turn it into something acceptable to our communities. As a result, we have already set in motion a major information-gathering exercise, which included a full Council briefing by SODC Officers on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, and will be forming a working group to research and review all options at our disposal. This is not a trivial undertaking, given the huge amount of work that has already gone into the development of the LP2034, but we are committed to doing everything in our power to reduce the impact of new housing on the environment and on our Green Belt. We are also determined to provide more truly affordable housing in our District and we need to be creative about new ways to do this.

We want to make it very clear that this review has no bearing on the validity or enforceability of the existing Neighbourhood Development Plans, or those currently under development, like in Crowmarsh.

### **Climate Crisis**

The new Council was pleasantly surprised to find that the outgoing Council, at its last meeting in April, passed a motion declaring a climate emergency, exhorting the Council not to wait for the national Government to change its policies before seeking ways to reduce carbon emissions and to be mindful of environmental concerns in all aspects of its operations and decisions. The appointment of Sue Roberts as SODC's first Climate Crisis "tsar" is our first step towards turning this declaration into a plan of action.

### **Cooperation with Vale of the White Horse Council**

As you know, SODC and Vale share a team of officers and facilities, so we were also delighted that Vale transferred to Liberal Democrat control following the elections, giving us an excellent basis for an on-going partnership. Sue and Emily Smith (the new Vale Leader) have already had a number of meetings to discuss how such collaboration will work in future and have agreed shared priorities for the coming year and beyond.

	<p><b>New SODC Website on its way</b>          Andrea’s Cabinet position covers Corporate Services and Communication, and during the first portfolio briefing, I was given a sneak preview of the new SODC website, which is long overdue and a vast improvement on the current one. It is much more modern in its look and feel and takes into account the key “user journeys”, or reasons why people come to the SODC website and what they want to do when they get there. The actual timetable for go-live is not yet known, but watch this space!</p> <p><b>Recycling</b>          South Oxfordshire was recently ranked in a DEFRA survey as the top recycling district in the South East of England, and third nationally, recycling 63% of its waste. Well done to all our residents who diligently separate their waste and use the facilities provided to ensure we minimise the rubbish we send to landfill. Keep up the good work!</p>	
4888	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>Decisions:</b> The Council noted this decision from SODC:</p> <p>P18/S0827/O Outline application for up to 150 dwellings together with associated access, public open space, landscaping and amenity areas. Land to the east of Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford. OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION GRANTED.</p> <p><b>Applications:</b> The Council was consulted on two applications:</p> <p>P19/S1564/HH Remodelling of the front of the house and opening up of the kitchen/family room.          91 The Street Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EF. NO OBJECTION.</p> <p>P19/S1536/FUL The reorganisation of tourism facilities to deliver a Spa and Reception building, a replacement green keeper maintenance and laundry building, extension to the existing clubhouse and provision of 43 hotel lodges at The Springs Golf Club, North Stoke, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 6BE, including demolition of the former Hotel, Staff Accommodation Block, Storage Shed, Committee Building, Stores 1 &amp; 2 and Greenkeeper’s Shed, Maintenance Building and removal of Caravan. The Springs Golf Club, Wallingford Road, North Stoke OX10 6BE. RECOMMEND REFUSAL: The scale of the proposed development is excessive, particularly the number and location of lodges, with associated lighting, roadways and other urbanising features within the site. The parish council objects strongly to the lodges proposed near the Ridgeway National Trail (near Hole 10). Buildings and associated lighting and activity here would be intrusive development in the open countryside that would fail to conserve or enhance the Chilterns AONB. Building in this part of</p>	

the site, which is well beyond the settlement, would be harmful to the landscape and is not justified. Permitting building in this location would begin to urbanise this green area and potentially establish a basis on which conversion to permanent residential use and subsequent intensification could be envisaged in future. The parish council does not object to redevelopment of the hotel site itself for a spa complex with hotel accommodation and leisure facilities, subject to good design and conditions to manage the impact on the environment, including sustainable drainage, low impact lighting, traffic management and planting for biodiversity and carbon storage. A small extension beyond the existing footprint could be justified, but we consider the number of lodges and the extent of the expansion to the north to be excessive. The scale of development also leads to a visually intrusive area of additional parking near the club house that will impact on the North Stoke Conservation Area and the Chilterns AONB. If this redevelopment or a modified scheme is permitted, the additional traffic generation on the B4009 should require developer contributions to a traffic calming scheme to enforce the transition from 50 to 30 mph close to the site as southbound traffic enters the built-up area of the village.

P18/S1420/RM Reserved Matters application following Outline approval P15/S3387/FUL (The demolition of existing buildings and erection of a new headquarters for CABI) for the approval of layout, appearance, landscaping and scale. Discharge of conditions including drainage. CABI, Nosworthy Way, Mongewell OX10 8DE. Not subject to consultation.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

John Howell MP has written at length to say Neighbourhood Plans would not be rendered null and void by withdrawal of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan is ready ... Nigel and Nick will bring us up to date and tell us where we need to go next. We need to apply for a grant from Locality to spend on a 'cleaning up' consultant. We think the application should come directly from the PC and not from us.

We have received an invitation to a Neighbourhood Planning Policy Writing Workshop  
Wednesday 3 July 2019, 1.30pm - 5.30pm.

### Report on Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Nick Robins and Mr Nigel Hannigan reported that the draft plan is now ready to submit and documentation is more or less complete. There have been some problems over the last few

	<p>months which have led to delay but these have now been resolved and the District Council have carried out a health check. A consultant may now be required. A total of 360+ homes have been included in the plan, projecting the local housing needs to 2034. Two significant documents are still to be written, a public consultation report and a compliance report. Mr Robins will draft these and submit them to the district council to be sanitized. There is now some information in the document which is no longer relevant but cannot be removed. The advice from SODC is to recruit a technical consultant to go through it and make sure the format is correct. The cost of this process is likely to be £3 - £4,000. It is hoped to obtain three quotes from names put forward by SODC. The grant from SODC cannot be used for this but it is possible to apply for a separate grant. After discussion it was agreed to apply for the grant and to begin the process of recruiting a consultant. It is hoped to have the work completed in the next two or three months. When all is finished the document will be posted on the website for consultation. SODC engagement officers will help with this. The consultation period is six weeks, followed by a referendum. It is hoped the plan will be made by the autumn.</p> <p>It was noted that Howbery Park Estates are planning some further development at their site.</p>	
4889	<p><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p>a) <u>Payments made in May</u></p> <p>A schedule of payments made since the last meeting was presented. In addition a receipt for geranium planting was presented by Cllr Sherbourne, amounting to £201.60.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Ryall and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that these payments be approved and this was agreed.</p> <p>b) <u>Consider accounts for year to date.</u></p> <p>The accounts status report was noted. £32,000 had been received in Community Infrastructure funding (CIL).</p> <p>c) <u>Internet banking</u></p> <p>Forms to register for internet banking with Lloyds Bank were distributed by the Finance Officer.</p> <p>d) <u>Review of Salaries</u></p> <p>After discussion, a pay increase of 2.5% was agreed for Mr Chris Strange, Dr Yvonne Peet and Mrs Sue Rance, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup></p>	

	<p>June 2019. A further discussion on salaries will be take place at the December meeting.</p> <p>e) <u>Any Other Matters</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £745.08 has been received from the feed-in tariff.</li> <li>• All allotment rents have been paid for this year.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk (Agenda)</b>
<b>4890</b>	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p> <p><u>Vacancies for Parish Councillors</u></p> <p>There are still vacancies on the Parish Council and expressions of interest from residents in Mongewell and North Stoke would be particularly welcome to achieve a balance of representation across the parish.</p> <p><u>Annual Parish Meeting</u></p> <p>Notes on the meeting have been circulated by the Clerk. Issues raised were traffic and transport, particularly the problem of speeding. Ideas for next year's APM would be welcome.</p>	
<b>4891</b>	<p><b>REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b></p> <p>It was agreed to carry out a survey of residents during the autumn. The use of CIL money will need to be considered.</p>	
<b>4892</b>	<p><b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><u>Environment and Recreation Ground: Playground and Gym</u></p> <p>Cllr Rowley reported that there have been a few minor issues with the equipment but Mr Strange is keeping a regular check on everything. Quotes have been received for a cableway platform, five cycle racks and a gym post and A3 sign. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr Topliss to accept the quotes supplied by Arrow Fencing and this was carried with one objection.</p> <p>A few incidents of antisocial behaviour have been reported and it was noted that the headteacher of Wallingford School has asked to be informed of any involving his students.</p> <p><u>Request for a tap at Botany Allotments</u></p> <p>This was discussed but it was agreed not to provide a tap for a number of reasons. Cllr Sherbourne will advise the allotment holder who made the request.</p>	<b>SSh</b>



	<p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <p>A new speed indicator device, funded by the Parish Council, has been erected in The Street, Crowmarsh. A resident has requested that similar measures be taken in Benson Lane.</p> <p>Very positive feedback has been received on the speed indicator device which has been installed in The Street. The existing SID at Portway will need to be removed so that the new solar powered one can be fitted. It was agreed to order a third device for Benson Lane and request £1,000 from County Councillor Gray. Consideration will also be given to purchasing one for North Stoke.</p>	
<b>4893</b>	<p><b>UPDATE ON WEBSITE</b></p> <p>It was agreed to pay £5 per month to increase the capacity of the website to allow larger images.</p>	
<b>4894</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An enquiry has been received from Wallingford School about community projects which could be carried out by pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9. It was agreed to suggest pruning the bushes on the footpath leading from Benson Lane to the recreation ground. The Clerk will respond.</li> <li>• Suggestions have been invited for a deep cleanse to be carried out by the County Council.</li> <li>• Letter from the DVLA about their safe towing campaign.</li> <li>• Chiltern Society Magazine.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>4895</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July, starting at 7.30pm. It was agreed to change the date of the August meeting from 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> August.</p>	
	The meeting closed at 10.35 pm.	