



# CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of the On-line Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021,  
starting at 7.30pm**

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**Present:**

Mr John Griffin (Chair)	Mrs Liz Ryall
Mr Ken McCrea	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Mr Julian Park	Mr Stuart Soames
Mr David Rowley	

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

**Apologies:** Received from Prof Andrew Johnson, Mr Robin Smith, Mrs Fleur Stevenson and Mr David Topliss.

**Declarations of interest:** Cllr Griffin declared an interest in planning application P21/S1550/FUL and took no part in the discussion.

The meeting was quorate.

NO.		ACTION
5164	<b>MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31ST MARCH 2021</b>  The Minutes of the meeting held on 31st March were approved as a true record.	
5165	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</b>  <u>Item 5155:</u> The allotment invoices have been sent out with a copy of the tenancy agreement.  <u>Item 5156:</u> The annual parish meeting was held on 21 <sup>st</sup> April and the following issues were noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Speeding traffic and need for pedestrian crossings in Crowmarsh and in North Stoke.</li><li>• Speeding and noise from motorcyclists during the summer months. It was suggested that the council might get involved in a trial involving sound cameras.</li></ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motorbike scrambling taking place on the Ridgeway. This should be reported to OCC Highways or Countryside Services.</li> <li>• A new burial ground will be needed in the Crowmarsh Gifford and possibly in North Stoke within the next 5-10 years. This will be added to the parish council's list of strategic priorities.</li> <li>• There is still a vacancy for a parish councillor, ideally from North Stoke or Mongewell.</li> <li>• Major drainage and flooding issues near to the river in Crowmarsh Gifford and near to Newnham Farm. District Cllr Cooper is liaising with Thames Water.</li> <li>• Future of former SODC office site. A survey has been carried out and an options appraisal is now going ahead. Wallingford Medical Centre does not wish to relocate to Crowmarsh.</li> <li>• Neighbourhood Plan almost ready for the next stage thanks to Nick Robins and Nigel Hannigan.</li> <li>• Planning permission granted for pavilion improvements and building regulations approval is the next stage.</li> <li>• A cutting regime to increase biodiversity at the nature area is continuing.</li> <li>• Litterpicking is now possible again. Beavers and Cubs are planning to do this in the next few weeks.</li> </ul> <p><u>Item 5156</u>: Sue Rowland has been elected as parish council representative to the Chilterns Conservation Board.</p> <p><u>Item 5157</u>: OCC Highways Officer, Mr Lee Turner, will visit to talk through a number of matters, including the proposed pedestrian crossings in Crowmarsh Gifford and North Stoke and the request for parking restrictions at Stephens Field.</p> <p><u>Item 5158</u>: The '20s Plenty' stickers are now available. Thanks to Cllr Sherbourne, who is going to post some on the grit bins. The Clerk will advertise their availability on the website.</p> <p><u>Item 5161</u>: The village hall in North Stoke is too small to be used for the 'Race to the Stones' pitstop. The organisers are now looking at a venue in South Stoke.</p> <p><u>Item 5163</u>: It is hoped to participate in the community training on</p>	<p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>SSh</b></p>
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	<p>speed cameras.</p> <p><u>Item 5163</u>: The availability of free Covid testing for those in a household with school children has been publicized in Crowmarsh News.</p> <p><u>Item 5163</u>: The Landscape Group has now cut the areas which were missed on the last round of grass cutting.</p>	
<b>5166</b>	<p><b>REPORT ON NOISE FROM SPEEDING MOTORCYCLES</b></p> <p>Mr Nick Sumner reported on the excessive level of noise from motorbikes on the A4074 and Portway. He has reported this to the police on several occasions. The motorcyclists meet at the H Café at Berinsfield and on their website there is a notice requesting patrons to have consideration for others. Other local parish councils are also monitoring the situation. Data from speed indicator devices shows that this anti-social behaviour is not so much a speeding issue but is caused by excessive acceleration when the bikes leave the 30mph limit. Mr Sumner offered to help to address this problem.</p> <p>It was agreed to take this up with the new Police and Crime Commissioner and also to email local parish councils suggesting a joint approach to the problem with a copy to the H Café. District Cllr Powell will also inform local parish councils of this initiative.</p>	<b>JG/API/ Clerk</b>
<b>5167</b>	<p><b>PROPOSAL TO CREATE WILDFLOWER MEADOWS</b></p> <p>Ms Susan Ray suggested that some areas in the parish could be identified as potential sites for wildflower meadows. These could be maintained by local residents which would also save some money in grass cutting. The contractors would need to be consulted about this. As a start Ms Ray would like to adopt the green area under the tree at Howbery Farm. She is happy to publicise the scheme in Crowmarsh News and to meet with other residents who may be interested. She would also be prepared to find out which species of flower would be appropriate. The wildflower meadows could be cut in August which would encourage bio-diversity.</p> <p>Cllr Ryall has a contact for wildflower seeds. Cllr Rowley reported that officers from the Environment Agency had visited in the past to consider wildflowers at the nature area. Mrs Ray will contact the Environment Agency for advice. It was suggested that the Environment and Recreation Ground Committee could consider this project. The Finance Officer requested that there should be one point of contact (herself) for the contractor to avoid confusion. Ms Ray will send a photo and map and this will be circulated to all councillors. Cllr Sherbourne suggested there is potential for land at the Bloor development to be designated as wildflower areas.</p>	<b>Env/Rec</b>

5168

## REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

### **New Climate Emergency Pages on SODC Website**

We are delighted to launch a new set of pages on the SODC website, designed to provide guidance and practical information about what individuals, communities and businesses can do to reduce their emissions and support the actions being taken by the Council and other authorities. These pages will also be used to report on the progress being made within the Council and within the District to achieve our carbon zero targets set out in our Corporate Plan (2025 within our own operations, 2030 across the District).

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/about-the-council/tackling-the-climate-emergency/>

The Climate and Ecological Emergencies will be the main topic of the Town & Parish Council Forum, due to take place on 27th May (final details to be confirmed). All feedback on the new web resource will be highly appreciated.

### **Local Elections, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

SODC is still looking for people to work at the elections as polling clerks at polling stations. Anyone interesting in applying for work should contact [electionstaff@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:electionstaff@southandvale.gov.uk); all work is Covid-safe and the daily rate is £165-£175.

### **Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy**

SODC has joined the other 5 Councils in Oxfordshire in adopting a new strategy to provide consistent and extended infrastructure for the charging of electric vehicles, particularly for those who do not have this facility at home, or who are visiting the area as tourists or on business. This is an important step along the way towards decarbonisation of transport, and will hopefully make it easier for people to choose an electric car next time they are buying, knowing that they will be able to charge it when they are out and about. Of course, electric cars are great for reducing air pollution and our reliance on fossil fuels, but it would be even better if we had fewer cars altogether on our congested roads. So the strategy will also explore infrastructure for electric buses and other commercial vehicles. Having a joined-up approach across the county means that we can aim to tap into government grants and other sources of funding to support the transition to EVs more efficiently.

	<p><b>Reminder – COMF Transportation Fund is open</b>  The COMF Transportation Fund is now open for applications. Government funding is available for voluntary and community organisations to help with the costs of arranging and providing Covid-safe transportation for residents. Groups can receive funding of between £1,000 - £15,000 and it can go on revenue costs like paying for petrol as well as capital costs like PPE supplies or wear and tear on vehicles.  <b>The deadline to apply is Friday 14 May.</b> For more information, please contact <a href="mailto:grants@southandvale.gov.uk">grants@southandvale.gov.uk</a></p> <p><b>Assets of Community Value – Q&amp;A session</b>  There will be an Assets of Community Value question and answer session on Microsoft Teams Live on Wednesday 12 May from midday until 1pm. More information will be sent to Parish Clerks in due course, but please mark this date in your diary and in the meantime if you have any queries, please email <a href="mailto:communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk">communityenablement@southandvale.gov.uk</a>.  Cllrs Griffin and Sherbourne plan to attend this session.</p> <p><b>The Springs planning application (P21/S1005/DIS)</b></p> <p>Following up from the action point in last time’s Minutes, the County Council has advised that a Road Safety Audit needs to be submitted alongside the proposals before they could be approved so Phil Moule, the officer dealing with this, will secure this from the applicant.</p> <p>Cllr Soames reported that there had been a serious road accident outside The Springs which should be mentioned in the Road Safety Audit. It is hoped that a highways officer will be able to look at the road safety situation in North Stoke as well as other local issues.</p> <p>Cllr Park asked about the possibility of getting more electric charging points for vehicles. District Cllr Powell will research this. It is hoped to have some included in new housing developments and possibly at the former SODC office site. It was noted that Crowmarsh Parish Council is interested in this project.</p>	
5169	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>Decisions by SODC</b>  <a href="#">P21/S0526/HH</a> 7 Meadow Lane Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8BH  Replacement of 'ranch style' boundary fence between the property and the highway with a 1.9m high close-board fence to</p>	

	<p>improve sound insulation from the highway and privacy. Planning Permission granted</p> <p><a href="#">P20/S4746/HH</a> Mere Cottage Mongewell Park Mongewell OX10 8DA. Erection of a workshop/hobby room. Planning Permission granted.</p> <p><b>Consultations</b></p> <p><a href="#">P21/S1550/FUL</a> H R Wallingford Ltd Wallingford OX10 8BA. Cllr Griffin declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. Erection of a single storey Visitor &amp; Training Centre Building. No strong views.</p> <p><a href="#">P21/S1677/FUL</a> Triangular portion of land south of the CALA Homes Carmel Meadows development. Proposed new 4-bedroom family dwelling. Recommend refusal: cramped form of development in an unsustainable location in the Chilterns AONB; dangerous access directly off busy A-road; destruction of trees and natural habitat (although the design statement says “soft landscaping is retained and integrated into the proposal”); impact on the setting of Grim’s Ditch ancient monument. The nearby CALA development was opposed by SODC and only allowed on appeal as enabling development on a 'brownfield' site to support the CABI HQ (which does not apply to this application).</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood plan</b></p> <p>An expert on listed buildings has submitted a report about the impact of the employment land allocation on the listed buildings at Howbery Park. If it is accepted by Historic England, we hope to be able to go to a referendum in June.</p>	
5170	<p><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p><b>a) Payments to be made on 1<sup>st</sup> May</b></p> <p>The Finance Officer reported on payments to be made since the last meeting. In addition to the regular salary payments, these included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20s plenty stickers £78.35</li> <li>• Dog bin emptying £861.12</li> <li>• Grass cutting in March £690</li> <li>• Pavilion electricity £123.91</li> <li>• 3 x planting barrels £119.85</li> <li>• Tree work at Rec £1800</li> <li>• Refuse collection £105.18</li> <li>• Memorial plaque £10.00</li> <li>• Community 1<sup>st</sup> subs £70.00.</li> </ul> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Ryall and seconded by Cllr McCrea that these payments be approved and this was agreed.</p>	

	<p><b>b) Grant Request</b></p> <p>A grant request had been received from Enrych Oxfordshire. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Park and seconded by Cllr McCrea that a donation of £150 should be made and this was agreed.</p> <p><b>c) Accounting statements and year-end figures for 2020/21</b></p> <p>(i) <u>Section 1: Annual Governance Statement 2020/21</u></p> <p>The annual governance statement was reviewed and completed. It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr McCrea that it is approved and this was agreed.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Section 2: Accounting Statements 2020/21</u></p> <p>The accounting statements for the annual return were reviewed. It was proposed by Cllr McCrea and seconded by Cllr Sherbourne that these be approved and this was agreed.</p> <p>It was noted that the playground project is now complete. Future expenditure will be charged to Playground Repairs and Maintenance. There is still £500 retention money to be paid when appropriate.</p> <p>Files will be sent to the internal auditor in the next couple of weeks.</p> <p><b>d) Accounts for Year to Date</b></p> <p>Allotments: There is one outstanding payment for allotment rent.</p> <p>The council's energy contract expires in June. Prices have increased. The Finance Officer will obtain another quote. Cllr Park recommended a green tariff. The Finance Officer will research this.</p> <p>There are a few outstanding invoices dating back to the time that the pavilion was closed due to lockdown. Mr Strange will pursue these outstanding amounts.</p>	<b>RFO</b>
5171	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b></p> <p><u>Future Meeting Arrangements</u></p> <p>Permission for online meetings comes to an end at midnight on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The government road map will allow meetings indoors from 21<sup>st</sup> June. Risk management needs to be taken into account. It was agreed to meet at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July. The hall has already been booked. There will</p>	

	<p>be no meeting in June.</p> <p>A small working group will look into planning the face to face meeting in July. Cllrs Park, Sherbourne and Soames will form the working party to consider the precautions needed. Cllr Park will convene this.</p> <p><u>Burial Ground</u></p> <p>Newnham Murren Churchyard will reach its full capacity in the next 5 – 10 years. It will be necessary to find an additional piece of land or extend the current burial ground. Extending the current ground would be preferable. This will be put on the strategic priorities list and reviewed at a future meeting.</p> <p><u>Defibrillator for Mongewell</u></p> <p>A request has been received from a Mongewell resident for a defibrillator to be installed there. Mongewell Court Flats would potentially be a good site for it. The defibrillator will need to be maintained and batteries and pads will require changing periodically. Cllr Griffin will ask the resident who requested it to suggest a suitable location.</p>	<p><b>JP</b></p> <p><b>JG</b></p>
<p><b>5172</b></p>	<p><b>REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES</b></p> <p><u>Watery Lane</u></p> <p>It was noted that the section of Watery Lane from Newnham Farm to the junction with Thames Mead is owned by the farm. Several holes have appeared recently; some of these have been filled in.</p> <p><u>Pedestrian Crossings</u></p> <p>A visit from Highways Officer Lee Turner is awaited. It was agreed to consult the new County Councillor about the crossings and the proposed parking restrictions at Stephens Field.</p> <p><u>Pavilion Improvements</u></p> <p>Cllr Park suggested that efforts should be made to move towards carbon neutrality in the Pavilion by the provision of heat pumps instead of a gas boiler. Cllr Park will ask Cllr Johnson if the Environment and Recreation Ground Management committee could consider this.</p>	<p><b>JP</b></p>

5173	<p><b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</b></p> <p><b>Environment and Recreation Ground</b></p> <p><u>Car Park Height Restrictor Barrier</u>: Cllr Rowley reported that three quotes have been received: £3,000 + VAT from Arrow Fencing, £4735 including VAT from Sure Tech and approx. £5000 from Drayton Construction. Arrow Fencing are booked up until August. It will be necessary to check that the cheapest quote is adequate. Cllr Rowley will ask Mr Strange for a copy of the specification. When sufficient information has been received, this may be agreed by email.</p> <p><u>Floodlights and CCTV</u>: Three quotes are being obtained for floodlights and for CCTV. These will be discussed by the Environment and Recreation Ground Management Committee.</p> <p><u>Hard Court</u>: There is a problem with tree roots at the hard court area. Sports Courts UK are sending someone to inspect the court surface.</p> <p><u>Playground Equipment</u>: Eibe has been inspecting the zip wire which has some snapped bolts. The wobbly bridge has a problem with one leg and the grass mounds are in need of more artificial grass or matting.</p> <p>Footballers are now starting to use the field and cricket will be starting soon.</p> <p>The environment and recreation ground committee is discussing the specification for the pavilion improvements before going out to tender.</p> <p>The plaque for the memorial tree for John Bellamy has been delivered and Mr Strange is considering its mounting and installation.</p> <p><b>Traffic and Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The motor bike scrambling on the Ridgeway has been noted and will be monitored.</li> <li>• There have been incidents of hare coursing locally and threats have been made to the public. This has been reported to the police.</li> <li>• Cllr Ryall reported that vehicles, including delivery vans, have been using the private road leading to Newnham Farm in order to reach the CABI site. She will post a notice 'No access to CALA Homes'.</li> </ul>	DR
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5174	<p><b>UPDATE ON WEBSITE</b></p> <p>The website is being updated regularly.</p>	
5175	<p><b>REPORTS OF REPS ON OUTSIDE BODIES</b></p> <p><b>Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity</b></p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr Griffin and seconded by Cllr McCrea that Cllr Sherbourne be appointed as a trustee of the Wallingford Bridge Estate Charity for a further term of office. This was carried unanimously. The Clerk will advise the charity of this appointment.</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
5176	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OALC spring update</li> <li>• SODC Town and Parish Update</li> <li>• Updates from SODC</li> <li>• Healthwatch Update</li> <li>• SLCC bulletin on guidance re death of a senior figure</li> <li>• TTR for Carmel Terrace July 2021</li> <li>• OCC Update re death of a senior figure</li> <li>• Update from John Howell MP</li> <li>• Police and Crime Bulletin April 2021</li> <li>• Police &amp; Crime Commissioner Update</li> </ul>	
5177	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, starting at 7.00pm. The purpose of this meeting will be to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for the coming year and to elect committee members for the Environment and Recreation Ground sub-committee. The next Parish Council meeting will be held at North Stoke Village Hall on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July, starting at 7.30pm.</p>	
5178	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Emergency Plan has been updated and submitted by Cllr Ryall. A vote of thanks was made to her. Councillors are asked to contact Cllr Ryall if they require a copy.</li> </ul>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 21.50.</p>	