



CROWMARSH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held at Crowmarsh Gifford Village Hall on Thursday 3rd April 2025
starting at 7.30pm

Present:

Mr John Griffin (Chair)	Mr Stephen Sherbourne
Ms Anna Best	Ms Julia Streete
Prof. Andrew Johnson	Mr David Topliss
Mr Julian Park	

Attending: District Cllr Sue Cooper, Dr Yvonne Peet and Mrs Sue Rance. Seven members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies: Received from Mr David Rowley, Mrs Fleur Stevenson and District Cllr Andrea Powell.

Declarations of interest: None.

The meeting was quorate.

A member of the public reported that the gate to the footpath at the top of Benson Lane, which leads across the fields towards Preston Crowmarsh has been locked for some time. It was noted that this belongs to Crowmarsh Battle Farm and is a permissive path and not a public right of way, so the landowner may close it off. It was originally locked during the very wet conditions in winter.

It was reported that the new SID in Benson Lane is working well and recording many incidents of speeding. Consideration will be given to installing another SID to monitor traffic entering the village from Wallingford.

NO.		ACTION
5718	MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2025 The Minutes of the parish council meeting held on 6th March 2025 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	

5719	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES</p> <p><u>Item 5706:</u> At his own request, Cllr Johnson has been removed from the list of councillors who are permitted to authorize payments.</p> <p><u>Item 5706:</u> Re. the phasing of the traffic lights on Wallingford Bridge which periodically creates queues in Crowmarsh, it was noted that this is a County Council issue. Cllr Johnson will raise this again when appropriate in the future.</p> <p><u>Item 5706:</u> The Finance Officer has in hand the query regarding the charges for the church floodlighting.</p> <p><u>Item 5706:</u> The unstable basketball post at the spare ground at Botany Allotments has been laid flat and Cllr Sherbourne is contacting the owner about its removal.</p> <p><u>Item 5706:</u> The Finance Officer is liaising with Cllrs Best and Stevenson about the website accessibility statement which is required by the auditor.</p> <p><u>Item 5712:</u> Mr Nigel Aplin will repair the North Stoke bus shelter.</p> <p><u>Item 5713:</u> Cllr Rowley has in hand the photos of the recreation ground.</p> <p><u>Item 5713:</u> Cllr Streete has in hand the consultation about future use of the open space at Botany Allotments and will include the option of designating the area for nature recovery.</p> <p><u>Item 5717:</u> The Clerk has written a letter of complaint to the developers of The Sycamores at Crowmarsh Hill and a reply is awaited. OALC had advised that the criteria for compensation have not been met.</p> <p><u>Item 5717:</u> The damaged flint wall at Newnham Manor has been repaired.</p>	<p>RFO</p> <p>SSh</p> <p>DR</p>
5720	<p>REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR</p> <p>No report had been received from the County Councillor Bloomfield.</p>	
5721	<p>REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS</p> <p>The District Councillors' report had been circulated and the following points were noted:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recent session offering advice on grants was oversubscribed but will be repeated in May. SODC is carrying out a trial of solar powered car park ticket machines in the Cattle Market and Goldsmiths Lane which do not issue paper tickets. It was noted that car parking charges in Wallingford have increased significantly. 	
5722	REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PRIORITIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to Watery Lane are in hand. Quotes are needed for material to improve the surface. Cllr Griffin is progressing with Oxfordshire Highways the extension of the pavement along Benson Lane to French Gardens. Cllr Griffin continues to pursue with OCC Highways the provision of a replacement vehicle-activated speed indicator on the B4009 at North Stoke. Consideration will be given to installing a similar device on the northbound carriageway but a pole will be needed on which to mount it. Cllr Johnson is hoping to obtain better signage at the entrance to the village. He will follow this up with OCC Highways. 	SSh JG AJ
5723	PLANNING Decision by SODC P25/S0233/DIS Blackburn Farm, Church Lane, Ipsden OX10 6AE. Discharge of Conditions 3 (Surface Water Drainage), 4 (Biodiversity Net Gain Habitat Management & Monitoring Plan), 5 (Construction Traffic Management Plan) and Biodiversity Gain Plan submitted to discharge the general Biodiversity Gain condition on planning application P24/S1565/FUL (Erection of a livestock building with associated feed bins). Partially Agreed. Consultation P25/S0932/LDE Land Adjacent to Jasmin Mews, The Street, Crowmarsh Gifford OX10 8EJ. Certificate of Lawfulness to confirm implementation of planning permission reference P22/S2320/FUL - erection of a two-storey, detached dwelling slightly sunk into the ground with garden and attached garage to the side together with 2 outdoor terraces at first floor level. No comment.	

	<p>P25/S0203/HH North Stoke Farm, The Street, North Stoke OX10 6BL. Side extension to form covered pool. No strong views.</p> <p>Appeal</p> <p>Application No: MW.0115/21, District Council Ref. No. P21/S3961/CM. Land at White Cross Farm, Wallingford, Oxfordshire. Extraction and processing of sand and gravel including the construction of new site access roads, landscaping and screening bunds, minerals washing plant and other associated infrastructure with restoration to agriculture and nature conservation areas, using inert fill. Refused by OCC in September 2024.</p> <p>Reasons for Refusal: Due to its location, the proposed development would have an adverse landscape and visual impact on the River Thames, the Thames Path National Trail and on the setting of the Chilterns National Landscape (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), contrary to the provisions of policy C8 of the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan – Part 1 Core Strategy and policy ENV1 of the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035.</p> <p>We are asked if we wish to join Cholsey PC and Wallingford TC in becoming a Rule 6 party, which means having the right to exchange statements of evidence with the principal parties at the appeal and to call witnesses and cross-examine the appellants at the public inquiry, probably in July. It was agreed to join the group to present a unified objection, subject to any cost coming back for consideration.</p> <p>Major developments</p> <p>A meeting on the Newnham Manor application legal agreement has still not been arranged but it is hoped that this will take place in the near future.</p>									
5724	<p>FINANCE</p> <p>a) <u>Consider and agree payments since last meeting</u> The Finance officer had circulated a list of payments to be authorized. In addition to salaries and PAYE these were as follows:</p> <table><tr><th>Date</th><th>Company</th><th>Details</th><th>£ inc VAT</th></tr><tr><td>03.04.2025</td><td>Sue Rance</td><td>Ink cartridges</td><td>39.00</td></tr></table>	Date	Company	Details	£ inc VAT	03.04.2025	Sue Rance	Ink cartridges	39.00	
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21.03.2025	Westcotec Ltd	SID device + solar kit	5,679.60
28.03.2025	Shield	Dog bin emptying	225.42
28.02.2025	Grundon	Refuse collection	130.73
28.02.2025	Castle Water	Allotment water	17.04
01.04.2025	Duncan Reed	Fitting of SID	110.00
25.03.2025	Ashburton	Grass cutting N Stoke rec and Newnham church	240.00
28.02.2025	Crowmarsh Village Hall	Hall hire, Feb	20.00
13.03.2025	Core Clean	Bus shelter clean	100.00
31.03.2025	Lister Wilder	Baroness mower repairs	1,158.92
13.03.2025	NALC	Training course J Griffin	39.22
15.03.2025	SSE	Church lighting Feb	173.45
31.03.2025	OPFA	Membership	49.00
03.04.2025	C. Strange	Expenses	25.01
03.04.2025	Cllr Johnson	Expenses – refreshments	45.00
03.04.2025	Henley Contractors	Line marking	120.00

It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Streete that the above payments be approved and this was agreed. It was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Streete that the purchase and fitting of the SID will be funded from CIL money. Cllrs Streete and Sherbourne will authorise the payments on-line.

b) Review of accounts status at 31st March 2025

The financial summary was presented. Total receipts for the year to date were £132,793.70 Total payments for the year to date were £102,477.65. The balance at the bank was £210,898.83.

	<p>c) <u>Requests for Grants and Donations</u></p> <p>A grant request had been received from Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue. It was noted that 14 animals and birds had been rescued by the charity in Crowmarsh in the past year. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Sherbourne and seconded by Cllr Streete that a donation of £250 be made and this was agreed.</p> <p>d) <u>Review of Salaries</u></p> <p>The Finance Officer reported that the Parish Council uses the NALC rates of pay when calculating pay increases. These are reviewed in November and back-dated to April 1st. It was agreed that officers' salaries will be reviewed when the NALC rates are agreed along with Mr Strange's salary.</p> <p>e) <u>Review of New Model Financial Regulations</u></p> <p>The new financial regulations document had been circulated and will require tailoring to reflect the parish council's practice. It was agreed that this will be done by the Finance Officer and Clerk.</p> <p>f) <u>Review of Publications Scheme</u></p> <p>The publications scheme was reviewed and approved with one minor amendment.</p> <p>g) <u>Other Matters</u></p> <p>The allotment invoices have been sent, mostly by email and a few by hand. The tenancy agreements have all been hand delivered.</p>	RFO Clerk
5725	<p>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> <p><u>Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting</u></p> <p>The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the pavilion, on Thursday 22nd May, starting at 7.00pm. It was agreed to invite our MP, Mr Freddie van Mierlo, our District Councillors and the new County Councillor when the result of the election is known. Mrs Eaglen, Headteacher of Crowmarsh Gifford School will also be invited.</p> <p>The Clerk will arrange for tea and coffee to be available.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p><u>Exhibition of Jewson Site Plans</u></p> <p>On Friday 11th April at the village hall, from 3.00pm until 8pm, there will be a public exhibition of site plans for the redevelopment of the former Jewson site. Cllrs Sherbourne and Streete will unlock the hall at 2.00pm and will provide tea and coffee making facilities.</p> <p><u>Report on NALC webinar</u></p> <p>Cllr Griffin reported on a webinar he had attended entitled 'Breaking the mould of local councils', giving advice on ways in which councils could attract new members.</p>	SSh/JS
5726	<p>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES</p> <p><u>Environment and Recreation Ground</u></p> <p>Quotes have been obtained for repairs to the tunnel at the playground. It was noted that grass matting could be purchased separately which would reduce the cost.</p> <p>Two quotes have been received for the sewage pipework and three quotes have been received for the cricket sight screen, which will cost approximately £1500. It was agreed that Mr Strange may select his preferred quote for this and go ahead with the purchase.</p> <p>Scofell and Ashburton have been asked to quote for maintenance of the nature area. This is currently costing £2,000 per annum. It may be possible for Mr Strange and Mr Nesbitt to do some of the work. It was noted that the paths need urgent attention. It was agreed to discuss the options with Mr Strange and submit them to Cllrs Griffin and Sherbourne for approval.</p> <p><u>Traffic and Transport</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Best reported that the new Autowatch camera is operating on Portway and shows that the average speed in the 30mph limit is currently 48mph with speeds of 61mph being recorded. The camera's presence is resulting in some vehicles slowing down. Cllr Best will try to obtain a larger sign to draw attention to it. It was agreed that the data can be publicized in Crowmarsh News and on the website. Cllr Best would like to request a meeting with Thames Valley Police to discuss their lack of intervention. The Clerk will send her copies of the letters which have previously been sent to them so that she is fully informed of the background to this. 	<p>Env/Rec</p> <p>AB</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>Cllr Best has some volunteers who would like to re-start the Community Speedwatch initiative. They will need training.</p> <p>In due course, Cllr Johnson would like to trial the camera in another location and suggested The Street between the Queen's Head and Wallingford Bridge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A consultation on subsidized bus services is currently running until 25 April. This includes the 134, currently operated by Going Forward Buses and the 139, currently operated by Thames Travel. Cllr Griffin will discuss this with Mrs Amanda Griffin, the council's Parish Transport Rep and a meeting will be arranged with her and the Traffic and Transport Committee (Cllrs Sherbourne, Streete and Best). <i>(Subsequently, Cllr and Mrs Griffin submitted a comment based on Mrs Griffin's experience as Parish Transport Rep.)</i> 	JG
5727	<p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Finance Officer reported that recently issued NALC guidelines specify that from 1st April 2025, parish councillors and officers should use a gov.uk email address. These were set up some time ago and details were sent to councillors by the Clerk but they have not been used. The Clerk had requested Public Internet to issue a gov.uk address for Cllr Best when she joined the council but had received no response. The Clerk will check to see whether her own gov.uk email address is still accessible. Cllr Best offered to assist in resolving this issue. A North Stoke resident has reported that the telephone box outside the village hall in North Stoke is under threat of removal. Residents hope to retain it and have started making more calls. Sharon Crawford of SODC has made representations to BT in support of the service continuing. If this is refused the North Stoke residents will consider asking the parish council to adopt the kiosk for another use. A letter has been received from Freddie van Mierlo, MP, requesting information on any problems encountered with Thames Water now or in the past. The Chairman and Clerk are collating information for a response. An invitation has been received to an online workshop on street lighting proposals. This will be held on 8th April. Cllrs Griffin and Sherbourne plan to attend. 	<p>Clerk/AB</p> <p>JG/Clerk</p> <p>JG/SSh</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An invitation has been received to attend the Didcot Mayor Making Ceremony to be held on Tuesday 6th May at Didcot Civic Hall, starting at 6.30pm. Cllr Griffin is not available and councillors were asked to advise the Clerk if they can attend in his place. Failing this, the Clerk will send apologies. <p>The following correspondence was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Update Rural Funding Digest Police and Crime Bulletin SODC updates Chiltern Society Magazine Healthwatch Oxon update Parish Online Newsletter. Rural Network update OALC updates NALC updates. 	ALL Clerk
5728	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council meeting, to be held on Thursday 8th May at North Stoke Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair should be sent to the Clerk.</p>	
5729	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Best reported that a resident of Botany Gardens has had her garden fence broken by a tree planted against it. The tree was planted by an allotment holder some years ago. Cllrs Griffin and Sherbourne will make a site visit to assess the situation. Cllr Johnson reported that the grass verge on the left hand side of The Street just before Wallingford Bridge, has not been cut. Cllr Sherbourne will check the specification for the contract with Ashburton. 	<p>JG/SSh</p> <p>SSh</p>

The meeting closed at 21.10.