**Minutes of a meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held at the Methodist Chapel on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.00pm**

Present: Councillors Tania Johnson (Chair), Des Knight, Bob Garland, Sheila Jones, Jacqui Smith, David Best (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence –** District Councillor Phil Chapman and County Councillor George Reynolds.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** **held on 11th December 2023.** These minutes were approved as correct and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda.** None
5. **Reports of Working Groups:**
	1. **Village Maintenance & Improvement**:
		1. **C&RT Towpath Task Force** – The next date for work is 31st January 2024.
		2. **Crack in Wall at entrance to Kyetts Corner –** A builder has been instructed and it will be repaired when the weather improves.
		3. **Tree Survey** –A response is awaited from Mr Tim Batchelor.
		4. **Broken Salt Bin** – OCC has confirmed that it has received a delivery of new bins, and that it will be replaced.
		5. **Fallen tree along Station Road** – Mr Steve Watts has cut up the tree and the logs have been removed.
		6. **Bench in memory of Pam Keegan –** The base has been laid and the bench is in place by the Millenium sign**.**
		7. **Playground –** Quotes have been requested for repairing the skateboard surface and resurfacing it. A quote is also being obtained for tarmacking the concrete pad below the basketball post. It was agreed to get the earth mounds removed as rabbits constantly dig holes in them and make them hazardous. Further maintenance is required on other equipment including replacing plastic caps on bolts. The chain on the single swing will require replacing next year. It was agreed that no work will be carried out on the zipwire posts which move slightly in the winter but are firm when the ground dries.
		8. **Dog Bin in Churchyard –** This was repaired the day after being reported at the last meeting, thanks to our Clerk.
	2. **Transport, Traffic & Street Lighting:**
		1. **Community Speedwatch –** The speed of vehicles continues to be monitored.An appeal notice for additional volunteers was submitted in January’s edition of the Cropredy Crier and posted on the Parish Council’s website and Facebook. OCC has been asked to replace the village signs that were integrated with the 30mph signs and were removed when the 20mph limit was introduced. Great Bourton will be asked how their speedwatch monitoring is progressing.
		2. **Parking issues –** Another incident was reported to OCC. Residents are encouraged to report issues.
		**Dangerous Parking** - where there are no parking restrictions on bends, brows of hills, junctions, and obstructions on pavements where there are no parking restrictions should be reported to the Police by ringing 101.

**Parking infringements** – Where there are parking restrictions (yellow lines) infringements should be reported to OCC with photographic evidence at:[**http:**//www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transort/parking/illegal-parking](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transort/parking/illegal-parking)

* + 1. **Potholes and Streetlights not working –** Residents should report these via Fix my Street at
		<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>
		Mr Laurie Wilson monitors potholes in Cropredy within the 20mph limit.
	1. **Village Emergency Plan, Crime Prevention and Environment**
		1. Councillor Sheila Jones has called a meeting of the emergency team volunteers on Wednesday 10th January to confirm that they are still willing to participate.
		2. A vote of thanks was given to Mr Steve Watts and Mr Ian Hubbard for putting out the flood warning signs.
	2. **Parish Council use of Internet & social media -** Councillor Bob Garland has investigated migrating the current website to Parish Online which gives 30% discount to OALC members. The annual cost of £315 is higher than the current supplier but it includes “.gov.uk” email addresses for Councillors. Councillor Bob Garland offered to manage the migration and provide ongoing management of the site. This was agreed (proposed by Cllr Bob Garland and seconded by Cllr Des Knight).
	3. **Planning, Climate Change Finance and Legal**
		1. **Application by Obsidian for a development north of Cropredy –** A letter from the NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxford and BerkshireIntegrated Care Board was posted on the CDC planning portal at the end of December. It objects to the planning application unless the build cost of the proposed new surgery is clarified by the applicant. It was agreed that the Parish Council will send a brief statement to CDC planning reinforcing the importance clarifying this if CDC approves the planning application. This was a majority decision (4 councillors in favour and 1 against).

**New Planning Applications & Appeals since last meeting -** None since last meeting.

**Planning Decisions since last meeting –** None since last meeting.

1. **County Councillors Report** – County Councillor George Reynolds
	1. **Alkerton Recycling Centre Charges** – OCC is planning to take small DIY Items for free (it currently charges for building waste disposal). Residents will require a permit for each visit.
2. **District Council Report** – None
3. **Sports and Social Club -** None
4. **Churchyard Wall**
	1. **Meeting with Surveyor** - a meeting will be held on Thursday 11th January at the churchyard to agree a plan for rebuilding the churchyard wall along Red Lion Street.
5. **Fairport Grants –** Grant applications had been received from Cropredy Tots, Cluster Care Group, Clean Slate, Cropredy Painting Group, Cropredy Historical Society, Life Education (for Cropredy Primary School), Cropredy Gardening Club, Cropredy Football Club. These were all agreed.
6. **Finance**: **Clerk’s Report**
	1. **Year to date accounts** - These were circulated prior to the meeting. Reserves are currently £84,888.
	2. **Unity Trust Bank savings account** – Unity Trust Bank has opened a savings account that pays 2.75% interest vs. the Barclays Bank savings account rate of 1.40%. It was agreed to open a savings account with Unity Trust Bank and transfer the savings from Barclays Bank.
7. **Correspondence** – No matters to discuss.
8. **Any other business not of a confidential nature** - None
9. **Any matters raised by members of the public attending the meeting.**
	1. **Dead Swan –** A dead swan was found under the power lines at the Sports and Social Club. Dead swans have been found here in previous years. It was agreed to write to National Power and the RSPCA to request that markers be put on the power lines.
10. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 12th February 2024

There being no further matters the Chair closed the public meeting at 8.41pm

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chair
12th February 2023