

# CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held in the Methodist Chapel on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 at 7pm

**Present:** Councillors Tania Johnson (Chairman), Des Knight, Sheila Jones, Margaret Boscott, Jacqui Smith, Bob Garland, Karla Martin, County Cllr George Reynolds and David Best (Clerk). Two members of the public attended the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** District Cllr Phil Chapman.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> July were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:** None.
5. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT**
  - Hell Hole Wall** – A Routine check was carried out by CDC in August, and it continues to be monitored.
  - Canal and River Trust Volunteering Group** – A ‘Towpath Taskforce’ in Cropredy was carried out on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The next volunteer day will be Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October. Repairing/upgrading the canal towpath between Cropredy and Banbury is being carried out at the expense of the Canals and River Trust without contributions from Cropredy and Gt Bourton Parish Councils.  
More tow path clearance has been carried out. The next volunteer day will be 19<sup>th</sup> October.
  - Brown Bin Labels** – It was agreed that the Clerk would chase CDC for the addition bin labels for The Plantation, Churchyard and Kyetts Corner.
  - Canal Tow Path repairs** – Repairing/upgrading the canal tow path between Cropredy and Banbury is being carried out at the expense of the Canals and River Trust without contributions from Cropredy and Gt Bourton Parish Councils.
  - Upper Churchyard Mowing Equipment** – One of the mowers has been repaired and shears and rake purchased. The new strimmer is on order with an expected delivery by the end of the year.
  - Bin at the bus stop** – This has fallen over, and Cllr Tania Johnson will arrange for this to be repaired.
  - Book Shelter** – The concrete base has been installed and it was agreed that the shelves from the Teenage Shelter will be transferred, or new shelves purchased.
  - Bins at Broadmore Lock** – These need attention and are often overflowing.
  - Mowing quotation** – Cllr Tania Johnson met with Thomas Fox and their tender for mowing areas not mown by volunteers is expected soon.
  - Playing Field** – The chains on the Miracle Climbing Frame need replacing and the cost is approximately £500. Cllr Tania Johnson requested support for the weekly play inspections. The gates are often left open and could lead to dog fouling on the play area. It was agreed that signs would be investigated.
  - CDC Sweeper Lorry** – Cars are often parked on the roads when this comes to the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would request CDC to give notice so that notes could be put on the cars.
6. **TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & STREET LIGHTING**
  - Community Speedwatch Initiative** – Additional volunteers are required for this initiative and it was agreed that Cllr Des Knight would place an advert in the Cropredy Crier.
  - Car parking on bend outside The Brasenose Arms** – Parking signage has been installed and OCC Highways met the cost of this.
  - Closure of the bridge for footbridge replacement** – The notices are incorrect, and Cllr Tania Johnson has asked OCC Highways to clarify the dates of closures.
7. **VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN, CRIME PREVENTION & ENVIRONMENT**
8. **PARISH COUNCIL USE OF INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA**

Some residents have commented that they are not aware of notices but all notices are published on the Cropredy Village website and posted on the Cropredy Village Community Facebook page, and residents are requested to check the website.

## 9. PLANNING, CLIMATE CHANGE, FINANCE & LEGAL

**Cropredy Vision and Priority Statement** – Cllr Bob Garland had circulated the document before the meeting, and it was agreed that a summary would be published in the Cropredy crier and the full document on the Village (Parish Council) website. The Chairman thanked Cllr Bob Garland for his hard work preparing this.

**New Planning Applications:** None since last meeting

**New Planning Decisions:**

**22/01407F** – The Straw Barn – removal of condition 6 of 14/01379/F – CDC Permitted 15/08/2022

**22/0499/DISC** – The Stables Gt Borton – Site development scheme – CDC refused 3/08/20022

**22/01905/TEL56** - Station Road- Telecomms Mast – CDC refused 22/08/2022.

## 10. SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

**New agreement** – It was agreed that Cllr Des Knight would chase the solicitors for the draft agreement.

**Resurfacing of the Tennis Courts** – The Chairman of the Tennis Club had submitted quotes to the Parish Council prior to the meeting and it was agreed that Cllr Des Knight and the Clerk would meet with the Chairman to agree management of the project and submit a report to be considered at the next Parish Council meeting. The Tennis Club advised that a contribution would be made towards the cost but it was agreed that cost proportion would be agreed at a future meeting after a third quote had been obtained.

**Safety Inspection** – A safety inspection had been carried out and it is possible that a second exit ramp might need to be installed.

## 11. FINANCE

**Accounts, Bank Balances, and Payments** - The Summary of Receipts and Payments to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The bank balances total £101,564.48. Payments totalling £1,149.13 were agreed.

**External Auditors Report** – The external auditors had signed off the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 but made the following comments:

- i. The announcement to the public advising that the accounts were available for inspection was issued prior to the accounts being signed off by the Parish Council
- ii. The accounts were a receipts and payments basis, but the prior year comparison was an income and expenditure basis which should have been amended to a receipts and payments basis.
- iii. Further detail of the difference between the prior year staff costs and fixed assets was requested.
- iv. Prior year accounts and Annual Governance and Accountability Returns were not published on the website

## 12. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT – No update.

## 13. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT – No update.

## 14. CORRESPONDENCE - None

## 15. PARISH MATTERS

**Fairport Review** – The Card reader work well for ticket sales. It was agreed that the organisers would be asked to leave the bins for a few days longer next year to assist with volunteer clearing up. It was also agreed that it would be helpful to have bins along the canal towpath.

**Review of burial fees** – The clerk had obtained some comparison fees from neighbouring cemeteries, but it was agreed that the review of the fees would be carried out after checking the comparisons.

**New Code of Conduct for Councillors** – It was agreed that the new code issued by Oxfordshire County Council would be adopted. The new code would be circulated to councillors.

**Recommendation by OALC to change the Internal Auditor every 5 years** – This was agreed. The internal audit had been carried out by a different auditor for the last accounts

**Protection of Green Areas in the village** – It was agreed that this would be investigated.

**Change to digital telephone networks** – It was noted that landline phone on a digital network fail if there is a power cut and that the mobile phone coverage in the village is patchy which inhibits the ability to make emergency calls.

**Increase in the External Auditor fees** – It was noted that there will be a 5% increase in these. This will be built into the budget.

## 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE

**Grant Applications** – It was agreed that the Clerk would issue a request in the Cropredy Crier for village groups to submit requests for grants.

**Hell Hole Sign** – It was noted that the lettering needs to be highlighted

**Roundbottom Sign** – It was agreed that Mr Rob Johnson will repair this.

17. **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** - None

18. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** – Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022

There being no further matters the Chair closed the public meeting at 9.35pm

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Chairman  
14<sup>th</sup> November 2022