

CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held on Monday 10th August 2020 in the Village Hall at 7pm.
Due to Covid-19 restraints strict social distancing was maintained throughout.**

Present: - Councillor Bob Dunn (Chairman) Councillor Margaret Boscott
Councillor Bob Garland Councillor Tania Johnson
Councillor Sheila Jones Councillor Des Knight
Councillor Jacqui Smith

In Attendance: District Cllr Phil Chapman and Ken Porter (Clerk); there were no members of the public present on this occasion.

Apologies for Absence: were received from County Cllr George Reynolds.

- 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** there were no declarations on this occasion.
- 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** of 9th March 2020 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING:** there were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
- 4. REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS:**

(i) Village Maintenance and Development – the Chairman reported that he has acquired a memorial plaque for the seat in memory of Lil Handley which will be affixed shortly. Mr Patel at the village shop reported that he has received complaints from Mr Cherry about rubbish from the litter bins blowing on to his property when they are full. The bins should be emptied regularly but this will be looked into. The Chairman had also been contacted by the Surgery to see if there is any alternative parking available when the annual flu jabs are to be administered as it is likely that a gazebo will have to be erected in their car park. Other than the SSC car park there is no obvious alternative and we had suggested that the SSC be used for the whole operation but this is not possible for insurance reasons. During the recent dry spell allotment holders have been trying to find alternative water supplies but we know from previous enquiries that the cost of extending a water pipe would be prohibitive. Cllr Smith wondered if it might be possible to put in another collection tank and the Chairman will look into this. Cllr Smith reported that she has been trying to contact Trevor Stewart to attend the Play Area to carry out some small repairs but he has not responded to date. If he does not do so shortly she will look to employ another contractor. The zip wire is something of a problem as it does require specialist equipment. Steve Watts will send Cllr Smith an email to confirm that he is happy with our arrangements to keep the equipment safe in the Play Area. The Chairman has asked Mr Watts to trim back overhanging foliage by the Cup & Saucer entrance and also in the pull in opposite the shop. The Chairman then proposed that the PC should purchase a leaf blower to help with village maintenance and this was seconded by Cllr Knight and approved unanimously. Cllr Knight reported that the rota for the upper churchyard mowing is in place through to the end of the season and expressed thanks to Richard Beghin for his kind donation to cover the initial fuel purchase.

(ii) Transport and Traffic, Street Lighting and Trees – in respect of the proposed school car park Cllr Knight reported that the 'Final Planning Application' was submitted on Tuesday 28th July and approval is anticipated by the end of September. Cumming Anderton are available to monitor the application through to completion. With planning approval in place, the construction phase cannot start without three competitive quotes and the 'Draft Letter Licence Agreement' signed off by all three parties. Keon Petre (The Landowner) has proposed some changes to the agreement that as yet are still unresolved. If this remains the case the planning approval will remain in place for a period of three years. The proposals to discourage speeding through the village were discussed and agreed with Dave Catling (OCC) on 10th March. The consultation for the proposed 30mph speed limit extension was delayed due to 'Lockdown' but started on 18th June running until 17 July. There was one e-mail response which was an objection from Thames Valley Police. This objection is now due to be reviewed in a Cabinet Members Decision (CMD) meeting on 17th September, details of which will be sent out about a week prior to the meeting. The tree on The Plantation which was obscuring the existing light has been cut back. OCC will now arrange to have the lamp unit turned 45 degrees towards The Brasenose to see if this improves the overall lighting situation. Chris Marks, Electrical Officer (OCC) is dubious that the outreach on the bracket will offer the required light levels. His proposal is to install a new 5m column with solar lantern by The Brasenose and has provided an updated quote of £1,100 (exc. VAT) dated 16th July. Cllr Knight enquired whether the PC wished to go ahead with the solar lantern but as our income is severely curtailed this year the Clerk suggested that we wait until the darker evenings to evaluate the effect of the work carried out. The tree in the churchyard damaged by

Storm Ciara has been cut back but needs further work to take it to ground level. Cllr Johnson has instructed Tim Batchelor accordingly but the work has yet to be completed.

(iii) Village Plan, Crime Prevention and Environment – Cllr Jones confirmed that, due to the pandemic, there had not been any Rural Community Forum meetings since March. Following a request from Highways she has looked at our salt stock for the coming winter but as the last one was so mild the supplies remain high.

(iv) Planning, Finance and Legal –

New Planning Applications: 20/00365/F & 20/01853/F – 21 Kyetts Corner – 2 storey rear extension; 20/01826/TCA – 2 Kyetts Corner – fell silver birch & replace with suitable alternative; crown reduce two thorns;

Decisions: 20/00803/TCA – St Mary’s churchyard – fell conifer – granted; 20/00348/TCA – 5 Kyetts Corner – reduction of branches on cherry; reduction of thorn and birch; removal of pear tree – granted;

20/00416/TCA – Honeypleck, Chapel Lane – pollard willow; crown lift & prune beech – granted;

20/00417/TCA – Home farm Cottage, Chapel Lane – holly & choysia – clip & reduce in height; acer & prunus reduce back to previous pruning points – granted;

20/00495/TCA – Narrowboat Bedworth, The Old Coal Wharf – reduce leylandii by 8m to increase light – granted

20/01238/TCA – North End, Creampot Lane – fell silver birch, two damaged conifers and holly - granted;

20/01239/TCA – Elderberry End, Creampot Lane – fell conifer & mountain ash in decline – granted;

20/01328/TCA – Belmont, 7 Vicarage Gardens – fell Sorbus Lutensens - too large, damaging driveway – granted;

20/01342/TCA – Chestnut Cottage, The Green – fell cherry in poor health - granted;

20/01539/TCA – Holmleigh, Roundbottom - reduce & shape holly; fell holly; reduce & shape yew – granted.

Cllr Garland also reported that he had attended the OALC online course on Neighbourhood Planning in June and recommended the PC should consider the potential benefits of such a plan and would be happy to explain further at a future PC meeting. The plan could take as long as three years to produce and we would need the assistance of a consultant but grants are available. Such a plan will strengthen the village’s ability to ensure future housing is built sensitively and lessens the risk of any opportune developments. CDC is seeking comments, by 14th September, on its ‘Planning for Cherwell to 2040: Community Involvement Paper’. The paper sets out the needs and issues to be addressed in the review. Cllr Garland will review the paper and suggest any comments and circulate to other councillors before the PC submits a response. Cllr Garland will take part in the virtual parish workshops on the Local Plan Review, scheduled for the first week in September. Cllr Garland also commented on national planning reforms proposed by the Government to promote development. Local authorities will be asked to designate land into three zones: a) ‘For growth’ where new homes, hospitals, schools, shops and offices will be allowed automatically; b) ‘For renewal’ where proposals, mostly on urban and brownfield land, will be given ‘permission in principle’ subject to basic checks; c) For Protection - To preserve protected areas (e.g. green belt and areas of outstanding natural beauty) - where planning permission will be required. Cllr Garland also reported that work has started on the northern extension to the marina which was granted planning permission on 08/08/2017.

6. **SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB** – Cllr Jones reported that she had attended the annual meeting as the PC representative and a copy of the latest accounts will be sent to the Clerk. It is proposed to obtain a card reader to allow for contactless payments at the bar.

7. **FINANCE** – the Clerk’s report had been submitted to councillors prior to the meeting and it was **resolved** that the payments itemised for £13463.61, most of which had been approved previously, be authorised.

(i) To Accept and Approve the Annual Governance Statement which forms part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return to be submitted to the external auditors, Moore, and which had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Knight that this be accepted and approved and this was agreed unanimously.

(ii) To Accept and Approve the Annual Accounts to 31 March 2020 - the Clerk then referred to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020, which had also been circulated and sought formal approval for these. The Chairman proposed acceptance of the Accounts and this was seconded by the Cllr Smith and approved unanimously. Thanks were expressed to Janet Green who had completed the internal audit.

8. **FOOTPATHS** – the Clerk reported that a notice had been placed on the gate by Mr Cherry’s bungalow on Spring Lane forbidding entrance as the remainder is private land. This appears to be in response to the PC’s

application in April 2019 to have Spring Lane designated a right of way by modifying the definitive map. Our application was accompanied by evidence forms from sixteen residents confirming that they had often walked the route, in many case for over 50 years. We await the outcome of OCC's deliberations. The Clerk also wondered if anybody is still walking the footpaths in the village to ensure ready access and Cllr Boscott confirmed that Gill Moss continues to carry out this task on our behalf and thanks were expressed for her help in this matter.

9. **REPORT ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS** – County Cllr Reynolds had reported by email that HS2 is clearly going ahead which means that there will be a new set of traffic lights at J11 of the M40 in order to help traffic flow when lorries supplying the work start coming up the motorway. The recognised route will be from junction 11 up the A422 to Welsh Lane, then A423 to Southam and up to the A361 . Time will tell if this works but there will be a need to watch for rat running. Cllr Reynolds supplied further information including details of HS2 Helpdesk – Freephone 08081 434434, hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk . Options and feasibility studies are also continuing over various connected schemes in Banbury including a Hennef Way relief scheme. The push for cycle traffic will mean more lanes in the towns and the possibility next year of work on the path from Banbury to Bourton. The Unitary argument is likely to return in the near future with the devolution white paper from the Government.
10. **REPORT ON DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS** – District Cllr Chapman had nothing new to report on this occasion.
11. **Correspondence: OCC** – residents urged to follow social distancing to avoid local controls; Plans for increased cycleway; Improving Social Care; **CDC** – Parish Liaison Meeting – 30 July; Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040; Cherwell Parish Bulletin; **OALC** – March, April, May, June & July Members' Updates; **OPFA** – Spring newsletter; **CPRE** – monthly newsletters; **Rural Services Network** – Rural Bulletins, **Healthwatch Oxfordshire** – Briefings;
12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE** – Cllr Smith enquired whether it would be possible to hold virtual meetings in future and this will be looked into.
13. **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING** – with no public in attendance there were no such matters on this occasion.
14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 12th October 2020 at 7pm, venue to be decided.

There being no further matters the Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the public meeting at 7.50pm.

Chairman
12 October 2020