

CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held on Monday 10th February 2020 in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom at 7pm.

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.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** were received from County Cllr George Reynolds.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** there were no declarations on this occasion.
- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** of 9th December 2019 and 27th January 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 4. MATTERS ARISING:** there were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

5. REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS:

(i) Village Maintenance and Development – Cllr Johnson referred to a quote from Lewis Mullard to tidy the lower churchyard, including removing brambles, and proposed accepting this, requiring 6 man days at £840, together with fuel and waste disposal costing £48. This was seconded by the Chairman and approved unanimously. Cllr Johnson expressed the view that the area is quite large and will require regular maintenance and if it is to be used for wild flowers perhaps various village organisations could volunteer to plant and look after designated areas. Mr Batchelor has removed the Portuguese laurel from the churchyard and a suitable replacement will be planted in due course. Three Shires also quoted £1635 + VAT to clear the brambles in the Play Area and this was duly approved. Cllr Knight reported that he will put a note in the Crier seeking volunteers for the churchyard mowing rota and he will also arrange for the mowing equipment to have its annual service.

(ii) Transport and Traffic, Street Lighting and Trees – Cllr Knight reported that a costing had assessed the proposed school car park at a total figure of £20/25K. As agreed Cllr Garland has instructed Roger Cumming to act as planning consultant and once planning is approved the specification will be used to obtain three quotes from suitable contractors. Prior to the meeting Cllr Knight had sent councillors proposals from Dave Catling, of OCC Highways, for further measures to try to discourage speeding through the village. Basically this involves moving the 30 limit sign on Claydon Road 80m north to the Claydon side of Mollington Road; permanent bollards to be placed on verge by the surgery to prevent parking; new 30 sign, village name sign and give way sign on Mollington Road; move 30 sign and village nameplate to east of Sports and Social Club; also improvements to the school warning signs on Station Road. Cllr Knight proposed proceeding with the improvements on the Claydon side of the village and on Williamscot Road at a total cost of £4234 with OCC contributing £1231 for equipment and labour and this was seconded by Cllr Garland and approved unanimously. Cllr Knight also proposed that the PC ask the school governors to consider meeting the cost of changes to the school warning lights. This was agreed and the Chairman thanked Cllrs Knight and Garland for their work on this project. Cllr Knight had also been in contact with OCC about improving street lighting in the area of The Plantation/Brasenose Arms and additional solar or electric lanterns will cost in the region of £1400, but it was felt sensible to first prune back the tree on The Plantation, which is obscuring the existing lighting, to see if this improves the situation. It was also noted that storm Ciara had caused damage to a tree in the churchyard which is in urgent need of remedial attention and Tim Bachelor will be asked to look at this as a matter of urgency. Another tree which has fallen in Newscut Lane will also receive attention. The Chairman reported that he has been offered two trees for planting by Mrs Rolph in memory of Gerald and Kevin Rolph but as there is no obvious location to plant these councillors were asked to give this some thought for the next meeting. It was also reported that Mr Singh, at the village shop, had heard that Highways intend to close the road over the canal bridge for 4/6 weeks in order to remove the walkway and replace it. As yet we have no dates for this work which will cause severe disruption and the Clerk will contact Paul Wilson at Highways to see if he can obtain further information.

(iii) **Village Plan, Crime Prevention and Environment** – Cllr Jones reported that the next Rural Community Forum will take place on 4 March. It was also mentioned that a Police representative had attended an incident in Kyetts Corner recently and had no formal identification.

(iv) **Planning, Finance and Legal –**

New Planning Applications: - no new applications were recorded;

Decisions: - 19/2180/TPO – 4 Vicarage Gardens – reduce crown of yew by 1.5m & tidy branches – granted;

19/02526/TCA – Crimond, High St. - Crown reduce false acacia by 2m; beech by 1m; cherry plum by 1.5m; silver birch by 1m – granted;

19/01420/F – Mill Cottage, School Lane – demolition & reconstruction of existing 2-storey extension to be rebuilt in existing form – granted;

19/02500/F – The Hollies, Creampot Lane – single storey side extension – granted;

19/02829/TPO – Willowbank, Roundbottom – reduce willow by 6/6.5m (to previous cut), reduce & shape – granted.

6. **SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB** – the Clerk reported that, as agreed, he and the Chairman and Cllr Johnson, had met with David Cherry and Laurie Wilson, the secretary of SSC, to discuss the proposed amended Management Agreement and, following certain observations, Mr Wilson will discuss this further with his committee. The Chairman reported that the roots of a tree by the store at the Sports Club are undermining the structure and he will obtain a quote to have this taken down. Following Mr Cherry's request at the previous meeting a quote has been obtained from Three Shires to cut back the hedge in the sum of £1900 and this was duly approved. Once trimmed back it should then be easier to maintain on a regular basis.
7. **FINANCE** – the Clerk's report had been submitted to councillors prior to the meeting and it was **resolved** that the payments itemised for £2166.79 be approved.
8. **ITEM PENDING: Provision of Public Transport** – Cllr Jones reported that the new Tuesday bus service is proving successful.
9. **ITEM PENDING: Cold Calling** – Cllr Johnson reported that Trading Standards feel the village is too large to make it a Cold Calling Free Zone but signs stating cold callers not welcome can be obtained for £15 each and 200 additional door stickers can be purchased for £50. After discussion it was felt that signs might not be practical but further stickers will be obtained and offered to anyone in the village wanting one. Again it was emphasised that if parishioners with a sticker are approached by cold callers it should be reported to Trading Standards immediately.
10. **REPORT ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS** – County Cllr Reynolds had notified the Clerk that he had nothing to report on this occasion.
11. **REPORT ON DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS** – District Cllr Chapman commented that there had been concern at CDC recently when the Planning Inspector had overruled a decision to refuse a development at the Sibfords which had not been included in the Local Plan. As it was felt that the Inspector has acted wrongly in ignoring the Plan CDC has been given leave to appeal to the Secretary of State.
12. **DATE OF APRIL MEETING** – as the date of the April meeting, which coincides with the Annual Parish Meeting, is due to fall on Easter Monday it was decided to change this to Monday 20 April.
13. **CORRESPONDENCE: OCC** – Mineral and Waste Sites Draft Plan Consultation; **CDC** – removal of telephone box; **OALC** – December & January Members' Updates; **Community First Oxfordshire** – Rural Services Survey; **Healthwatch Oxfordshire** – December & January Briefings; **CPRE** – monthly newsletters.
14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE** – there were no further matters for discussion on this occasion.
15. **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING** – with no public in attendance there were no such matters on this occasion.
16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 9th March 2020 in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom at 7pm.
There being no further matters the Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the public meeting at 8.15pm.