

# CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held online on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

At the beginning of the meeting Keon Petre gave a brief presentation on his proposals to develop on his property on School Lane seven holiday lets equipped for use by disabled people. The Council meeting then started at 7.35pm

**Present: -**

Councillor Margaret Boscott	Councillor Bob Dunn
Councillor Bob Garland	Councillor Tania Johnson
Councillor Sheila Jones	Councillor Des Knight
Councillor Jacqui Smith	

**In Attendance:** one member of the public who joined the meeting.

- 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON:** prior to the meeting Cllr Dunn had informed his fellow councillors that he intended to stand down as Chairman at this meeting. He then proposed that Cllr Johnson take over this role. This was seconded by Cllr Knight and unanimously agreed.
- 2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON:** Cllr Johnson then proposed that Cllr Knight take over her role as Vice Chair and this was seconded by Cllr Garland and unanimously agreed.
- 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were received from County Cllr George Reynolds, District Cllr Phil Chapman and Kenneth Porter (Clerk).
- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** there were no declarations on this occasion.
- 5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** of 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 were approved as a correct record to be signed by the Chairman.
- 6. MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr Garland reported that he and Mr Smith had received an excellent response to the call for people to attend a meeting via Zoom on forming a Cropredy Climate Change Group. A meeting has been scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> February.
- 7. REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS:**
  - (i) Village Maintenance and Development** – Cllr Knight reported that following a review of the damaged retaining wall in Hell Hole, he and Cllr Johnson had made contact with Tony Brummell (Building Control Manager – CDC) and Michael Freeman (Landlords Agent) respectively. The wall has had some dislodged stones replaced and the ivy on the retained side has been cut to take some of the stress from the wall. Mr Brummell's initial visit on 18<sup>th</sup> December established that it was not necessary to close the footpath but he would re-visit 5 weeks later. Upon re-inspection on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, he felt the wall did not appear to have deteriorated. However, he believes the underlying problem to be excessive earth pressure exacerbated by ground water not being able to readily drain through the wall. He remains concerned about the wall's long-term stability and is writing to Mr Freeman accordingly. In the meantime, he has asked Cllr Knight and the PC to regularly monitor the wall's condition and let him know immediately if we believe there is any further deterioration. He will make a further inspection in a few weeks. Cllr Knight had also been informed of a fly tipping incident along Claydon Road. This was reported through the CDC website and it was removed within four working days. It was considered that a rain harvesting system should be provided for the allotments. The enhanced facilities would be recognised by a moderate increase in the allotment fees to £10 p.a. This was proposed by Cllr Knight and seconded by Cllr Dunn and approved unanimously.
  - (ii) Transport and Traffic, Street Lighting and Trees** – Cllr Knight reported that the construction specification for the proposed school car park has been finalised. Cllr Knight compiled the tender document and it was sent to four companies (one being Keon Petre - landowner). There have been three site visits hosted by Mr Petre with Cllrs Knight and Garland, however two of the four companies have declined to quote based on other work commitments. The PC is considering whether to extend the tender period to involve a further two companies in order to achieve a competitive quote. There has been some enquiry as to when the Cropredy Bridge repairs are going to be done as it has been almost a year since we were advised that it was scheduled for summer 2020. The Clerk has written to Robin Calver (Principal Highway Structures Engineer – OCC) and we have been advised that, due to Thames Water diversion issues that still have not been resolved, it is intended to reconstruct the footbridge this summer. Thanks were expressed to Jim Smith for reporting blocked road drains in Roundbottom using fixmystreet.com and ensuring that the parked cars were moved to enable Oxfordshire Highways to successfully pump

them out. Cllr Dunn has placed the order with Nicholsons for the 'Duty of Care' Tree Survey. This was expected to be completed and reported by early February and Cllr Dunn will contact to ask for progress.

**(iii) Village Plan, Crime Prevention and Environment –Planning, Finance and Legal** – Cllr Jones reported an excellent turn out for the snow clearance team on 24 January; a vote of thanks will be placed in the Crier together with a request for more volunteers. Cllrs Jones, Garland and Knight had subsequently checked and topped up the salt bins. Two were found to be in poor condition and letting in water and Cllrs Jones and Knight will investigate replacing these.

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

**New Planning Applications:** 20/03376/F – land rear of 2 Stanwell Cottages, G Bourton – erection of two agricultural buildings;

**20/03573/F & 03574/LB** – Springfields, Station Road – replacement entrance porch, link structure & rear conservatory.

**Decisions:** 20/03293/TCA – 10 Vicarage Gardens – reduce silver birch by 60% due to severe decay – granted.

Councillor Garland commented that few planning applications have been forthcoming, probably reflecting the general state of the economy.

- 8. SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB** – the tree is to be felled as soon as the ground is firm enough to work on.
- 9. FINANCE** – the Clerk's report had been submitted to councillors prior to the meeting and it was **resolved** that the payments itemised for £3283.94, together with one further cheque for £234 in favour of Blueberry Twist for the Webbuilder renewal, be authorised.
- 10. REPORT ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS** – in the absence of County Cllr Reynolds there was no report on this occasion.
- 11. REPORT ON DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS** – in the absence of District Cllr Chapman there was nothing new to report on this occasion.
- 12. Correspondence: OCC** – Climate Action framework; Winter Support Grants for those affected by the pandemic; news bulletins **CDC** – Cherwell Parish Bulletins; Parish Precept request (submitted by Clerk); **OALC** – December & January Members' Updates; **Community First Oxfordshire** – newsletter; **OPFA** – Lockdown guidance; **CPRE** – monthly newsletters; **Rural Services Network** – Rural Bulletins; **Healthwatch Oxfordshire** – Briefings;
- 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE** – there were no further matters arising on this occasion.
- 14. ANY MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING** – Mr Brooman had submitted reports to the Clerk on the three occasions that there was some flooding in January. Mr Brooman offered to help with updating the Village Information Sheet and would put a note in The Crier asking for any updates. Cllr Boscott commented that she had some amendments which she will send through. The Teenage Shelter is currently being used as a book exchange and a more suitable location for this will be sought once lockdown has ended.
- 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** via Zoom will be held on Monday 8 March 2021 at 7pm.

There being no further matters the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

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Chairman  
8 March 2021