

CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held on Monday 9th March 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: County Cllr George Reynolds and Ken Porter (Clerk) and one member of the public.

Prior to the meeting Verna Wass was invited by the Chairman to speak on the probable effects of the corona virus on parishioners. Mrs Wass acknowledged that the village has an established emergency plan but felt that, when formulated, the possible effects of a pandemic had, understandably, not been considered. There are already some in the village having to self-isolate and Mrs Wass felt that efforts should be made to promote the wellbeing of anybody affected and suggested that representatives of the PC, the church, chapel and WI should form a network to provide support. Cllrs Garland, Jones and Johnson offered to represent the PC and an initial meeting will take place later in the week.

Apologies for Absence: were received from District Cllr Phil Chapman.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** there were no declarations on this occasion.
2. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** of 10th February 2020 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
3. **MATTERS ARISING:** Cllr Johnson was initially going to conclude matters relating to cold calling but, following the Rural Community Forum on 4 March the Police had expressed a wish to attend a meeting within the village to better inform parishioners of the dangers of “county lines” drug operations as it was felt that Cropredy could be vulnerable being close to a motorway and on the border of three counties, each under the auspices of different police forces. As such the co-operation of the public is sought and parishioners can report any suspicious activity on 101 although it is probably more effective to email thamesvalley.police.uk. A meeting will be arranged when there will also be advice on cold calling and new advice packs handed out.
4. **REPORTS OF WORKING GROUPS:**
 - (i) **Village Maintenance and Development** – Cllr Knight reported that the mowing equipment has had its annual service. Unfortunately, his notice in the Crier asking for new volunteers for the churchyard mowing rota elicited no response and it was agreed to put a note on Facebook to see if this proves more successful.
 - (ii) **Transport and Traffic, Street Lighting and Trees** – in respect of the proposed school car park Cllr Knight reported that a topographical study has been completed and there is to be a site meeting on 10 March with the planning consultant in order to identify the potential number of parking spaces. Hopefully the planning application can be submitted shortly thereafter with a view to receiving approval by the end of May. There is also to be a meeting with Dave Catling, of OCC, on 10 March to discuss the agreed proposals to discourage speeding through the village. However, the school governors have indicated that they are not in a position to fund changes to the school warning lights. Cllr Knight confirmed that the tree on The Plantation, which is obscuring the existing lighting, will be pruned back, but this will require CDC approval, and Alan Cockbill, of OCC, will have the lamp unit on The Plantation turned 45 degrees towards The Brasenose to see if this improves the situation. It was also reported that the hedge opposite the school has now been trimmed back. In respect of the tree in the churchyard damaged by Storm Ciara Cllr Knight has obtained approval from CDC to have this removed and Tim Bachelor will deal with it. The tree which had fallen in Newscut Lane was reported to OCC and was removed within hours of making the call. The Chairman commented that the hedge by the Sports & Social Club has been cut back but there is a remaining stretch which now looks out of place and he will arrange for this to be cut back to match. There is also concern about a tree by the Sports pavilion garage which is starting to undermine the building and this will be removed. The Chairman also reminded councillors that he has been offered two maple trees for planting by Mrs Rolph in memory of Gerald and Kevin Rolph but as these have the potential to grow up to 20m suitable locations must be found although it was suggested that one could be planted in the churchyard to replace the fallen tree.

(iii) **Village Plan, Crime Prevention and Environment** – Cllr Jones had nothing further to report other than the outcome of the Rural Community Forum noted in Matters Arising.

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

New Planning Applications: -20/00348/TCA – 5 Kyetts Corner- reduction cherry; reduction to two thorns; reduction of birch by up to 3m; removal of pear tree;
 20/00416/TCA – Honeypleck, Chapel Lane – pollard willow; crown lift and prune beech;
 20/417/TCA – Home Farm Cottage – holly & choysia clip & reduce height by 1.5m; acer & prunus reduce back to previous pruning points;
 20/00495/TCA – Narrowboat Bedworth, The Old Wharf, Appletree Lane – reduce leylandii;
 20/00527/F – 2 Station Road – erection of 2 semi-detached houses with parking and gardens.

Decisions: - there were no planning decisions received during the month.

6. **SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB** – the Clerk reported that Laurie Wilson, the secretary of SSC, has now submitted their comments on the proposed amended Management Agreement and these will be considered by councillors and discussed at the next meeting.

7. **FINANCE** – the Clerk’s report had been submitted to councillors prior to the meeting and it was **resolved** that the payments itemised for £14075.51 be approved, together with one further cheque in favour of CDC for £265 being the annual rental of the Play Area. Included within cheques paid are grants which the PC has awarded to various local organisations as follows:

Local Organisation:	Authority for awarding Grant	Amount
Cluster Care Group	Section 137 Local Government Act 1972	£1000
Cropredy Cricket Club	Section 19	£500
Cropredy Garden Club	Section 19	£250
Cropredy Historical Society	Section 19	£200
Cropredy Painting Group	Section 19	£200
Cropredy Short Mat Bowls Cl.	Section 19	£250
Cropredy Sports & Social Club	Section 19	£800
Cropredy Tennis Club	Section 19	£350
Cropredy Tots	Section 19	£200
Cropredy Village Hall	Section 145 Local Government Act 1972	£2500
Cropredy Women’s Institute	Section 145 Local Government Act 1972	£500
FIRS Group	Section 145 Local Government Act 1972	£500
Oxfordshire Citizens Advice	Section 137	£100
Katharine House Hospice	Section 137	£500
	TOTAL	£7850

8. **ITEM PENDING: Provision of Public Transport** – with the new Tuesday bus service now up and running the Clerk confirmed that the agreed sum of £500 has now been paid to the operators, a grant for this sum having been obtained from OCC.

9. **REPORT ON COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS** – County Cllr Reynolds referred to the rumours of a lengthy closure of the canal bridge for the replacement of the walkway and whilst OCC has made it clear that this should only be for a matter of a few days the delay in making progress is caused by Thames Water insisting on a main being put in place. The revision of the Local Plan and arrangements for the Community Infrastructure Levy will be underway shortly and the PC and residents are urged to submit comments on the provision of housing in the village. Andrew Johnson, one of the school governors, has been in discussion with Network Rail about flooding under the railway bridge and if an on-site meeting can be arranged the PC will send a representative.

10. **REPORT ON DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS** – District Cllr Chapman had notified the Clerk that he had nothing to report on this occasion.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE: OCC** – Supported Bus Services Fund, none of the proposals impacts upon Cropredy; **OCC Highways** – temporary road closure Claydon towards Appletree 4-6 May; **OALC** –

February Members' Update; **Oxfordshire Youth Awards 2020**; **Healthwatch Oxfordshire** – February & March Briefings; **Friends of the Earth** – Action on Climate Change; **CPRE** – monthly newsletter.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE** – the Chairman referred to a request from the Historical Society for funding of £100 towards the VE day celebrations in the Village Hall. This will be an agenda item at the April meeting. Cllr Knight commented that he had recently attended a seminar organised by NatWest Bank on “scamming” and the organiser indicated a willingness to attend a village meeting to notify parishioners of the various plays being used at present. It was agreed that this would be a good idea and, if possible, this will be included at the meeting in the Village Hall when the Police will be attending.
13. **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING** – with no public remaining in attendance there were no such matters on this occasion.
14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Monday 20th April 2020 in the Methodist Chapel Schoolroom immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting which commences at 7pm.

There being no further matters the Chairman then thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the public meeting at 8.15pm.

Chairman
20 April 2020