

# MINUTES

For the meeting of Parish Council, held on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

Meeting Number 22.378

## Public Participation

There was nothing to note in this section.

### 22.378.1 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Bohm (DB), Davis (SD), Stafford Allen (RSA), Donne (HD) and Mullane (NM) were all present. Councillor Whitfield sent her apologies prior to the meeting, which were accepted.

Councillor Nigel Simpson, James Henderson (JH) and Roger Evans (RE) were also in attendance for part of the meeting. There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

### 22.378.2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared in relation to this meeting.

### 22.378.3 To Receive & Approve: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 (DB)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 were discussed with no changes required.

The minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 were then moved by DB and seconded by SD. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

**Action:** Clerk to present minutes to Chair to sign, then file and upload to the web.

### 22.378.4 For Information: Chairs Comment

DB commented she had attended a newly established monthly Chairs meeting hosted by OALC which was productive and considered a useful creation. There were around twenty attendees and issues raised included:

- highlighting that the recent number of consultations created a heavy load on Councils
- virtual Council meetings – at some point a discussion is to go in front of parliament
- communications with district and county councils
- training difficulties when held during day for those working

### 22.378.5 For Information: Clerk report (Clerk)

The clerk highlighted a report provided to the Council which confirmed the highway works on Bletchingdon Road/Church Lane are anticipated to take place from 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the works will reportedly involve two-way traffic lights for up to two weeks.

The annual village litter pick will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and has been advertised.

*Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022*

Minutes Approved:.....Dated.....

**22.378.6 For Information:** County and District Councillor updates (Councillor Simpson / Councillor Hughes)

Councillor Simpson provided his February update from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) which included noting the 5% budget increase by both OCC and Cherwell District Council (CDC). The dissolution of the partnership between OCC and CDC is continued to be worked through.

Councillor Simpson also commented that the consultation on the proposed new Oxford United stadium at Stratfield Brakes in Kidlington has closed and the matter will be discussed at the OCC cabinet meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The OCC February report has been circulated to Councillors and will be placed on the Parish Council’s website for information.

**Action:** Clerk to add the February Oxfordshire County Council report from Councillor Simpson to the PC website.

**22.378.7 For Information:** Oak Tree footpath update (Roger Evans/DB)

RE provided the Council with the following update on the oak tree footpath on North Lane:

1. A meeting with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highway Engineers Julian Richardson and Jon Hicks at the oak tree was organised for 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and RE thanked Councillor Simpson for organising this. Engineers told the Southfield Farm development representative, Phil Henderson, that the built path did not meet required standards and could not be adopted; further, the Parish Council designed path should be built instead. However, the OCC planning application to lift the crown of the tree to provide headroom for the built path has not been withdrawn.
2. The Arboricultural Appraisal of the impact of the elevated footpath on the oak tree has been received and a copy has been sent to the Cherwell District Council (CDC) case officer. The report concludes that:
  - i. Construction of the pathway is in breach of Hayden Homes Planning Permission.
  - ii. The oak tree has sustained damage to the roots by the construction work.
  - iii. Construction of the path is not in accordance with the ‘Cellweb’ manufacturer’s instructions and as such ‘is deemed not fit for purpose’.
  - iv. The independent Arboricultural Appraisal makes a series of recommendations including removal of the [elevated] path, reinstatement of the soft ground areas, annual inspection and a watching brief for harmful fungal fruiting bodies.
3. There has been no reply to our email to CDC of 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021 asking why enforcement action was not being taken over damage to the tree. A further email has been sent on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2022 with attached Arboricultural Assessment asking for comment re: the works breach planning conditions. No reply yet received.
4. The planning application by OCC to lift the crown has been modified to give 2m clearance rather than 2.4m clearance. Recommend that objections be reiterated as this application needs to be seen in the context of other applications and breaches of planning consent.
5. With the Sylva Consultancy Arboricultural report we now have the evidence needed to take the case to the Local Authority Ombudsman.

DB sent same material to Councillor Simpson who has forwarded it on to the appropriate parties in OCC and a response is awaited.

<i>Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022</i>	
Minutes Approved:.....	Dated.....

RSA commented that application 22/00124/TPO now has the decision to be delegated on the system following the amendment rather than it going to committee.

DB confirmed that the Council will await further investigations on follow up correspondence from OCC by Councillor Simpson. DB will also talk to CDC regarding if application 22/00124/TPO will be called in for a committee decision. Following gathering that information DB will send across suggestions to the Council regarding what will happen if there is no movement and a view over timescale going forwards.

#### **22.378.8 For Information:** Technology Advisory Group update (James Henderson)

JH confirmed he had received an update from Martin at Openreach on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. JH was informed that Weston on the Green are still progressing through the queue and approval should be due shortly, although information keeps changing. Martin has now told JH that Weston needs to be at step 4 by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 not step 1 (as he previously told us). This means we need to have all ~150(ish - tbc) pledges confirmed by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 rather than just the pledging website open. Martin also mentioned that it was unlikely that the Government will actually be ready to “pause” on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. JH will update the Council when further information is available.

JH also provided a list of UK mobile virtual network operators and indicated which of the four physical networks they use (O2, Vodafone, EE and Three).

#### **22.378.9 For Information:** Transportation Advisory Group update (DB)

DB confirmed that local parishes have met and discussed the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan for Oxfordshire and the implications for rural villages. A member of the Transport Advisory Group attended the meeting and returned concerned about transport for villages and ours in particular as we have no bus link.

A response to the transport connectivity survey is due on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and DB recommended that she work with the Transport Advisory Group to provide a response from Weston on the Green Parish Council. The Council agreed with the suggestion.

**Action:** DB and Transport Advisory Group to provide a response on behalf of Weston on the Green to the transport connectivity survey by 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

#### **22.378.10 For Information:** Works update (RSA)

RSA highlighted that the playground was inspected on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and the general appearance was reasonable; key points are detailed in the submitted works and playground report.

The spinney will need clearing this year and the fencing around the edge of the playing field needs replacing. DB agreed to help organise volunteers for work in the spinney and RSA agreed to advise following his meeting with Pedro Collins from the Environment Agency.

The Gallos Brook bridge by the picnic area keeps blocking up with wood branches. If this is allowed to build up and we have heavy rains the road will flood, RSA has cleared it multiple times. RSA has also fitted the gateway from the car park with two rubber mats and the footpath entrance off North Lane with seven.

RSA also highlighted that the mower needs maintenance over the winter and this could result in an expenditure of around £200 for resharpening and oil change etc.

**Action:** DB to organise volunteers for work in the spinney with RSA advice.

*Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022*

Minutes Approved:.....Dated.....

**22.378.11 Resolution To Approve** the following invoices for payment (HD)

HD requested approval of the following invoices detailed in the table below.

PC Ref	Payee	Purpose	Total (incl VAT)	Budget Line	Amount Remaining in 2021-22 Budget
247^	Mike Moss	Playing field hedge cutting	£200.00	Works - Playing Field & Spinney/Playing Field Maintenance	£202.61
248*	Grassmats Limited	Rubber grass mat for North Lane footpath x7	£229.61	Contingency/COMF Grant Funding	£333.32
249**	Clerk (J Mullane)	Information Commissioner's Officer, ICO - Data Protection Fee (2022-2023)	£40.00	Contingency/Additional Subscriptions	£2,365.25+
250**	OALC	Annual membership renewal subscription (2022-23)	£250.00	Subscriptions/OALC Subscription	-£1.16
251	Clerk (J Mullane)	Stationery & printer ink (Amazon)	£39.61	Sundries/stationery	£92.35
252	Sylva Consultancy	Arboricultural oak tree report on new footpath construction	£540.00	NP Initiatives/Upgrading of footpath & cyclepaths	£840.00

^ Invoice paid as sole trader & received 31/01/22. \* Invoice paid to enable purchase and installation, discussed at 2 Feb 22 PC meeting.

\*\*Subscription renewal fallen twice in same FY

+Budget line includes COMF grant funding expenditure which PC has received the equivalent income.

It was noted that invoice 247 had already been paid, as the invoice had been received on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and also invoice 248, in order to enable purchase and installation.

The resolution to approve the invoices detailed in the table was proposed by HD and seconded by RSA. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

**Action:** Clerk to update invoice log with approvals.

**Action:** Clerk to initiative request for payments from Councillors and ensure payments authorised.

**22.378.12 For Discussion:** Discuss and agree recommendations from the Planning Group (HD)

Key planning applications on the planning report (updated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022) were discussed by the Council.

**Building Applications:****Decision Received – Permitted**

None

**Decision Received – Rejected**

**21/00038/REF - The Ben Jonson Inn, Northampton Road** - Erection of a two-bedroom bungalow (C3) to the rear of the existing public house (Sui Generis), with a new access created off Westlands Avenue following the partial demolition of the boundary wall, and associated parking and landscaping.

Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/C3105/W/21/3278245

**21/00039/REF - The Ben Jonson Inn, Northampton Road** - Partial demolition of the boundary wall to create access for new dwelling proposed under 20/03406/F

Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/C3105/Y/21/3278250

Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

Minutes Approved:.....Dated.....

**Awaiting Decision**

**21/01580/F - Kemsley Farm Northampton Road** - Change of use of land from agriculture to equestrian use. Erection of a building to provide stabling for 36 ponies with associated facilities.

**Commented – Delayed - Going to Committee**

**21/00873/F – Kemsley Farm, Northampton Road** – Conversion of barn to form a single dwelling house and associated works. – This has been altered to remove extension.

**Commented**

**21/03580/TEL & 21/03752/F - Telecommunications Mast, towards A34** - The Installation of 3 x CTIL antenna at 26.7m on re used existing headframe. • The relocation of 3 x EE antenna at 19.0m and 1 x EE 0.6m HP Dish antenna at 20.0m on a new face frame on the tower at 20.4m.

**Commented**

**22/00105/F – Manor Farm Bungalow – Northampton Road** - Single Storey Front and Rear Extensions with Associated Internal and External Works.

**Commented**

**21/04299/OUT - Reynards Lodge, North Lane.** - Removal of Condition 11 (no dwelling above one storey height) of 21/02146/OUT - Outline application demolition of workshops, stables and tennis court and erection of three dwellings and conversion of existing building to form a dwelling.

**Commented**

**New Applications**

**22/00413/F - Home Farm House, Church Lane** - Proposed single storey front and rear extensions with two storey side extension, addition of dormer window and new pitched roofs to existing dormer window.

A councillor queried the height of the large gable and if it would be intrusive to neighbours. HD confirmed he will check with residents to ensure the height has been noted by them.

**22/00460/DISC - Unit 8, Manor Farm, Northampton Road** – Discharge of condition 3 of 21/02281/F.

**New Appeals**

None

**Tree Works:****Rejected / Issues**

**22/00124/TPO – Oak Tree, North Lane** - Crown lift to 2.5m over adjacent footpath. Secondary limbs where possible. Limb identified in attached correspondence - Subject to TPO 04/2018.

**Commented**

It was noted that there has been an amendment to the above planning application: 'Crown lift south west limb only to 2m. Crown lift through a combination of light selective reduction and small branch removal, with no cuts exceeding 50mm - Subject to TPO 04/2018'

Councillors agreed that the Parish Council would comment on the amended planning application.

**Action:** HD/Clerk to send appropriate planning replies to Cherwell District Council.

*Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022*

Minutes Approved:.....Dated.....

**22.378.13 For Information:** Traffic Advisory Group update & **Resolution To Approve** obtaining a traffic speed survey on B430 at a cost of £140+VAT to support application to reduce speed limit to 30mph (NM)

NM confirmed that Dave Catling, Traffic Safety Officer at Oxfordshire County Council has provided maps of the proposed 30/40mph zones on B430 from the A34 junction through the village and up to Upper Weston past the airfield. Side roads (excluding Church Road as it is already a 20mph zone) would remain at the speed limit on B430 ie.30mph if approved with no additional signage required to reflect that. Confirmation that Upper Weston would not be suitable as a 30mph zone will be sought from Dave Catling.

Dave Catling will put together costings and some potential traffic management proposals around The Manor area which when received will be discussed further by the Traffic Advisory Group.

As part of the speed amendment application a traffic survey is to be undertaken on the B430. The resolution to approve obtaining a traffic speed survey on B430 at a cost of £140+VAT to support application to reduce speed limit to 30mph was proposed by NM and seconded by HD. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

**Action:** NM to proceed with booking the speed traffic survey on B430.

**22.378.14 To Note:** Report on Welcome Back Fund grant from Cherwell District Council (DB)

The report on the cycle rack and bench items to be purchased utilising the Welcome Back Fund grant, which has been granted by Cherwell District Council (CDC) was noted. The items are to be purchased by CDC and will be gifted to the Parish Council.

**22.378.15 For Discussion and Resolution To Approve:** Co-option of up to two Parish Councillors to fill casual vacancies (DB)

Two members of the public were in attendance as potential candidates for co-option as Councillors onto the Parish Council - John Miller and Colin Rosser. Each candidate delivered a presentation to the Council and the Councillors had the opportunity to ask questions.

The resolution to approve the co-option of John Miller as Councillor on Weston on the Green Parish Council was proposed by RSA and seconded by NM. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

The resolution to approve the co-option of Colin Rosser as Councillor on Weston on the Green Parish Council was proposed by HD and seconded by DB. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

**22.378.16 Next Parish Council Meeting:** 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 7.30pm

**Meeting Closed:** 21.26

*Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022*  
Minutes Approved:.....Dated.....