

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 6th July 2016

Public Participation session: 15 minutes maximum

No member of the public was present at this point of the meeting.

Council Business:

Present: Cllrs. Bohm, Davis, Hessian, Miller, Norris, Roper.

Statement: The Chairman read out the attached statement prior to the commencement of formal business.

All councillors except Cllr Roper accepted the statement. Cllr Roper asked to see copies of the correspondence and claimed he had a right to do so as this was a complaint against the Parish Council and he was a Parish Councillor. It was explained that no complaint had been levelled at the Parish Council but was a personal complaint against the Chairman and the Clerk. What councillors were being asked to accept was concerning the behaviour of Parish Councillors as part of policy. All other councillors were in agreement with this.

16.303.1 To receive any apologies for non-attendance

Apologies received from Cllr. Donne

16.303.2 To receive any declarations of interest

None received.

16.303.3 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th May 2016 2016

The minutes were approved and signed without any changes.

Cllr Davis asked whether the report requested from Cllr. Roper under 16.301.10 would be discussed under item 16.303. 13 of this meeting's Agenda. The Clerk reported that no report had been received.

16.303.4 Past Subject Matters – for the purpose of report only

The Clerk explained that a number of items had been added since the original Agenda had been circulated and would be explained under item 16.303.5 – Expenditure.

The gates had been painted and are waiting for a team of volunteers to put in the posts and erect the gates.

Mole traps had been successful but trapping needs to be continued. Cllrs. need to revisit the idea of putting a trench around the edge of the playing field. Rabbits are also a big problem.

The hole in the verge of Bletchingdon Road (next to the stream) is still waiting to be repaired.

Bus service – the County Council are looking at a scheme similar to the dial-a-Ride service. Wendlebury have recently acquired a new mini-bus and their Parish Council are looking to see whether it could be used to provide a service that would benefit local villages. No further information available from Stagecoach as to whether they would be able to divert some of the S5 Bicester/Oxford service into the village.

There had been a need to ask Continental Landscapes to pick up grass from the playing field prior to the Jubilee Celebrations. They did so but dumped the grass on the children's allotment which subsequently destroyed all the plants that the children had planted.. A complaint had been registered with the contractor but no response had been received.

The CAME insurance item has been put back on as an expense item to be approved. At the previous meeting it was stated that the 3 year fixed premium period had finished and new quotes would be required. In fact there is still another year left.

Safety mirror – the Clerk had spoken with Mr Price, Jubilee Cottage, who, although very much in favour of a safety mirror, has been advised by his insurers not to have the mirror in his garden because of public liability implications. There is also an issue as to ownership of the mirror especially in respect to the situation should the house come under new ownership. The Clerk is liaising with Highways as to placing the pole in the highway verge immediately outside of Mr Price's garden fence. This needs Highways/Dept. Transport approval and there are costs involved. If approved by Highways/DoT, the mirror would be put in place for a trial period of 12 months and the situation reviewed by Highways/DoT after that time. They also discuss the erection of the mirror with TV Police. This is separate to the new white lines at the junction as suggested and offered FOC by Highways – a July date for installation had been suggested by them. When both schemes are in place (lines & mirror) and have been operational for 12 months, the residents of Church Close will be consulted as to their opinion of these schemes.

16.303.5 To approve following items of expenditure:

1. CAME Insurance	£545.29
2. Continental Landscapes (April 2016)	£212.16
3. Continental Landscapes (May 2016)	£212.16
4. Village Hall hire	£ 60.00
5. Linnell & Bros. – timber for gates & pond edging	£1355.78
Gates & posts -	£1267.34
Timber for pond -	£ 88.44
6. R B Painting & Decorating	£200.00
7. E. Payne – grass cutting	£150.00

These items of expenditure were approved.

16.303.6 To receive information on Planning Applications and note decisions and discuss.

See attached planning summary which had been circulated previously to councillors.

Additional to the items on the list is the Reserved Matters application for Southfield Farm (16/00574/REM). Cherwell had suggested a meeting to discuss our and their concerns regarding this application. Cllr Bohm, the Clerk and Mr N Mullane (Oakview) would be meeting with CDC on the 8th July.

16.303.7 Proposal to form a Staffing Committee – with Terms of Reference as attached. – Cllr Davis

Cllr Davis explained the need for a Staffing Committee. A draft Terms of Reference had been circulated. It was agreed that Cllrs Bohm, Davis and Donne be the Staffing Committee.

The Clerk welcomed the decision, otherwise the position of Clerk becomes very vulnerable to issues that crop up.

- 16.303.8 Proposal to submit an application to Oxfordshire County Council for a reduction in the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in all roads and lanes off the B430 in the village.**
 Full details of the proposal had been circulated previously by Cllr Bohm. It was agreed that the Parish Council apply to have a 20mph speed limit on all roads in the village, excluding the B430. It was agreed that Cllrs Davis and Hessian will look at funding options available to pay for these schemes.
- 16.303.9 Proposal to form a small group to manage the beautification/ enhancement of the “village gates” and the immediate area surrounding them.**
 Full details of the proposal had been circulated previously to councillors (see attached). The proposal was approved and Cllr. Norris volunteered to be responsible for leading the group.
- 16.303.10 Grass-cutting – to discuss offer of Cllr. Miller**
 Cllr. Miller had offered the use, f.o.c., of a ride on triple-gang mower for cutting the playing field grass. The idea was that a rota be set up of people willing to use the mower to cut the grass. However there was a problem as to where the mower could be stored as it was too big to be transported by car. A storage facility on the playing field needed to be considered. Cllr. Miller agreed to draw up a formal proposal of what could be done to achieve this.
- 16.303.11 Complaints Procedure – discussion of draft procedure**
 Cllr Davis presented the procedure as previously circulated. This was approved by councillors.

At this point Cllr. Norris left the meeting.

- 16.303.12 Update on Neighbourhood Plan**
 Cllr Bohm gave an update of the progress of the plan process and the current state of play and probable timetable of the next events.
- 16.303.13 To receive report on Playing Field, Play Area and Village Pond**
 Moles continue to be a problem although trapping with the new traps has been successful. RoSPA will be inspecting the playing field and pond in July. The Clerk has asked whether he could be present at the inspection as he wanted to query the deterioration of the soft-surfaces of some of the equipment. The grass that had been dumped on the childrens allotment area had been moved on to the area that had been planted with trees as part of the Gallosbrook Way development . This area which is overgrown is the Parish Council's responsibility (not Sanctuary) Cllr. Miller had rotovated the childrens allotment area and Cllr. Bohm and Kieran Evans had organised a replanting of the allotment by the local children. The area does need protection from rabbits (and probably deer?). Kieran had been keeping the footpaths in the spinney clear for the last two years but was now unable to do so as he doesn't have room to store the necessary equipment. The overgrown paths into spinney had recently been cleared but more work was required.

- 16.303.14 To discuss Oak Tree pond and its clearance**
The Clerk reported that he was trying to obtain a written statement from Oxfordshire C. C. as to how they perceive their legal position regarding “ownership” of the pond and the surrounding area.
- 16.303.15 To discuss conduct of councillors**
The Chairman reiterated the last part of her earlier statement that discussing the Clerk’s contract by councillors with members of the public is not allowed and if confirmed then it could lead to a Code of Conduct issue.
- 16.303.16 Date of next meeting: 7th September 2016**
Other meeting dates:, 5th October 2016, 2nd November 2016,
7th December 2016