

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th January 2017

Public Participation session: 15 minutes maximum

G. Barnett:

- expressed surprise that Parish Council had not objected to the chicken farm planning application – likely to affect Weston on the Green far more than Bletchingdon who had objected quite strongly. CDC had refused the application.
Cllr. Donne explained that the site owner (A. Wilcox) had spoken to Cllrs. at a previous meeting and had allayed concerns over the possibility of smell by describing the special design of the barns for housing the chickens and also the management of the waste on site.
- Were there any plans to deal with the moles on the playing field?
Clerk replied that eight traps were currently in use and would continue to be used over the proceeding weeks with the hope that the numbers of moles would be decreased or, better still, eradicated.

Council Business:

17.308.1 To receive any apologies for non-attendance
Apologies received from Cllr. Roper – on vacation.

17.308.2 To receive any declarations of interest
None declared

17.308.3 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting (307) held on 7th December 2016
Minutes were approved as read.

17.3084 Past Subject Matters – for the purpose of reporting only.

- From the Public Participation session (December 2016):
 - Tarmac drive - no response from planning dept. Clerk to follow up.
Action: Clerk
- 16.307.4 (16.306.5) - no response from Cllr. Gearing or the Big Society Fund.
A 'phone call 11th Jan to OCC – the original query was resent and they promised a response by end of next week! Clerk to follow up **Action: Clerk**
- 16.306.10 – goal posts appear to have been repositioned in an upright position but have not been painted. Evidently children have been swinging on them which exacerbated the original problem.
- 16.306.6 – entrance pillars to Weston Manor – formal planning application has been submitted to reinstate pillars to correct height.
- 16.306.6 – Blacksmith's Close – Clerk to follow up.
Action: Clerk
- 16.307.9 – Southfield Farm planning appeal - response was submitted after consultation with Cllrs.

- 16.307.13 – Partial Review of Local Plan – response submitted this week – deadline was extended until end of the week (Friday, 13th January 2017).
- Painting of exterior doors of Weston Manor a bright red – this has been reported to Planning and Conservation team at Cherwell querying a concern but no response. Clerk to follow up.

Action: Clerk

- Cllr Donne had forwarded information as to how people could receive regular email updates on new planning applications from the CDC Planning Portal.
- 16.307.7 – Cllr. Miller explained the choices of materials available for suppressing weeds in front of the village gates and on which the planters will stand. Rubber matting 1.5M x 1.8M and approx. 6mm thick would cost c. £15.00 each. It was agreed that 8 mats would be purchased for a cost of approx.. £120.00

Action: Clerk/Cllr Miller

- 16.307.10 – Traffic calming – Cllr Hessian updated councillors on progress. OCC had provided more information on the process for applying for a reduction of speed limits. Three sources who could supply grants had been identified. Virador contribution is based on the total amount we are looking to spend.
- 16.307.14 – Cllr. Miller provided various costings of a “mole-proof” defence around the edge of the playing field:
 - a. Running a trench around the edge of the field and burying wire-netting into the trench - £3.00 / metre
 - b. Erection of boundary fence - single rail fence to which wire-netting is attached - £4.00 / metre (half-round posts with half-round rail on top. With additional rail - £5.75 / metre (wire not included) using tanalised timber. A top quality creosoted timber fence would cost £20.00 / metre.

Suggestion of asking Mr A Wilcox to contribute towards the fencing on his boundary side of the field – likewise ask the Duchy to contribute towards the fence on the spinney side when the fence is reinstated after timber removal from the spinney. Suggestion that we ask the Duchy to pay for fencing (against moles for the whole field).

Clerk to investigate above suggestions and also enquire as to how Ardley made their playing field “mole-free”.

Action: Clerk

- 16.307.14 – Duck pond, North Lane.
Water levels in the pond have risen. Mr Kirk has confirmed that the water that collects in the “sump” against the taking on the outside of the house is automatically pumped towards the pond. Mr Kirk has indicated that he would like to see the pond returned to how it was. It does need desilting before being made attractive again. Cllr. Miller to approach Mr Kirk and investigate how much help he is prepared to give to help return the pond to its original state. Ideally the pond would be dredged, banks tidied up, new ornamental duck-house erected. A number of people from North Lane have offered help towards this. Once dredged, the pond may need lining to make it watertight. Further investigation required.

Action: Cllr. Miller/Cllr. Donne

- 16.307.14 – Website – Facebook page. Cllr. Donne to speak with Kirtlington Facebook organiser as to how best to set this up.

Action: Cllr. Donne

17.308.5 To approve following items of expenditure

Clerk's salary (Sept – December 2016): £947.25 - Approved

- 17.308.6 To approve the Parish Precept**
The Clerk had already provided information on the previous 3 years' precepts, along with an estimate to the actual expenditure for this financial year. See attached expenditure sheet. Taking into consideration the need to increase the Clerk's salary, website costs, village maintenance costs, an increase over last year's precept was proposed and approved = £10,600. The costs used to calculate the precept needs have been added to the attached sheet.
- 17.308.7 To receive information on Planning Applications and note decisions**
A list of current applications had been circulated the week previously. .
- 16/02342/LB – Mill House, Mill Lane
16/02447/F – Land adjacent to 5 Landscape Close
16/02532/LB – Reinstatement of gate piers – Weston Manor
16/02534/F – The Moat – extension and alterations to stables
- Cllrs. had no objections to the above applications and CDC would be notified accordingly.
- 17.308.8 To receive verbal report from Staffing Committee.**
First meeting of the Staffing Committee took place on the 1st December 2016. Committee looked at ways to help the Clerk and lessen the workload, although increased workload is likely once the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted and implemented. Future meetings will take place quarterly.
- 17.308.9 To receive update on Neighbourhood Plan**
Cllr. Bohm reported on current status. Feedback from Cherwell had been received and amendments had been incorporated. Draft final version was being prepared before being ready for formal acceptance by Parish Council for submission to CDC.
- 17.308.10 To receive report on playing field / pond.**
The Clerk had already reported various issues relating to the playing field (moles, goal posts, grass-cutting), and pond.
- Overhanging tree(s) in Dower House garden had still not been cut back. Cllr. Miller suggested asking owner if a working party could lop the trees on the road side of the wall and leave branches in the garden.
- Action: Clerk**
- The Clerk queried whether John Howell, MP be asked to come and address villagers questions and concerns. Meeting needs to be structured so that local issues dealt with first. Ask villagers prior to meeting as to what they would like to have discussed.
- Action: Clerk**
- 17.308.11 Discuss and approve siting of defibrillator sign on playing-field car park fence.**
It was approved that a sign explaining the siting of the Village Defibrillator, as supplied by the Village Hall Committee, be placed on the fence of the Playing Field Car Park.
- 17.308.12 Date of next meeting: 1st February 2017**
Other meeting dates for 2017:
1st March, 5th April, 3rd May, 7th June, 5th July, 6th September, 4th October, 1st November, 6th December.