

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 4th October 2017

Public Participation session: 15 minutes maximum

Welcome: County Councillor (Carmen Griffiths)

Cllr. Griffiths was welcomed to the meeting. She explained that she needed feedback from the Parish Council as to what issues we had. Her role as a District Councillor allowed her to give advice as to how to work with Cherwell, appreciating the fact that we do have our own district councillors (3) who represent us. Lack of funding from OCC has caused problems and will continue to do so. Bus services had been cut where there was little use of them. She explained the Kidlington volunteer bus scheme that was in place but there were problems due to a lack of volunteers.

Public:

BT: Is there a Tree Preservation Order on the Oak Tree at end of North Lane?

Clerk: Cherwell have indicated that there was no need for a TPO as the tree was in the conservation area and that legislation "protected" the tree. Further conversation a few days ago with Cherwell Arboricultural Officer indicated that he was unaware of footpath issue and the Southfield Farm development. He has asked CDC planning to halt planning decision until full survey done on oak tree.

RS-A: Superfluous road signs on mini-roundabout by Chequers – e.g. Black Sheep

Clerk: OCC Highways have been informed about this and the one for the Ice Cream farm.

RS-A: would fence between playing-field and spinney be reinstated?

Clerk: Duchy have been asked if they will fund the replacement fence (can't use old posts as base of most posts have rotted). Opportunity to install mole defences when fence is put back.

RS-A: Pleased to see pillars at Manor entrance being reinstated to their correct height.

Clerk: work now complete.

RS-A: Any news on the Stargate (Weston Manor)?

Clerk: a request to carry out repairs had been put in writing to the management.

Council Business:

17.316.1 To receive any apologies for non-attendance

Apologies received from Cllr. Donne & Cllr. Norris (rcvd. via phone message)

Present: Cllrs. Bohm, Davies, Hessian, Miller, Roper.

17.316.2 To receive any declarations of interest

None declared

17.316.3 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 6th September 2017

Minutes were approved as read with an additional note of thanks to those people involved in clearing the hedgerows at the south entrance to the village. Written thanks had been sent to them by the Clerk.

17.316.4 Past Subject Matters – for the purpose of report only

Mill-race leakage: Clerk has spoken to farm manager of Wilcox & Co. farms who accept that leakage is a nuisance but are unable to identify where the leak is and cannot justify spending £1000s rebuilding the bank. They do think the seepage is not as it has been. Noted that it shouldn't affect the general public as there is no public right of way on that part of the track. But it is an inconvenience to them and they will keep an eye on the situation.

The hedge that had been taken out at the entrance to Stonehouse, Northampton Rd had been reported to Cherwell and a Breach of Planning Control order had been issued.

17.313.7: BDO had completed their audit with no additional comments raised regarding the Annual Return.

17.315.9: Clerk circulated copies of booklet provided by CDC, summarising the Unmet Housing Need proposals. A reply to which is needed by October 10th.

17.315.10: Our decision that we wished to raise the number of parish councillors to eight (8) had been ratified to CDC.

Cllr.Griffiths (O.C.C.) raised the issue of the Unmet Housing Need proposals and a brief discussion followed as to how we could respond. She suggested that the response made by Begbroke & Yarnton and Kidlington may provide helpful guidance in our response.

17.316.5 To receive update on Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr. Bohm)

Cllrs. Bohm & Davis reported on the additional information being provided for a Bio-Diversity Plan as suggested by Natural England and others. Important to note that this new policy as part of the NP is not promoting land for building on but preserving land as a wild-life habitat. Cllrs were asked to comment on the new addition in the following 5 days.

17.316.6 To receive information on Planning Applications and note decisions

Cllr. Donne had provided a summary of planning applications received and waiting decisions.

Concerns raised that some planning application amendments are not notified to neighbours or the Parish Council. Cllr. Griffiths (OCC) indicated would she raise this with Barry Wood. Concern raised regarding alterations ongoing at Stonehouse, Northampton Rd. Cherwell have been notified and have visited the site.

Concern also regarding most recent Southfield Farm application involving installation of LPG tanks under the area scheduled as Public Open space and Local Play Area.

17.316.7 To receive report on School Field (Weston Front 2) Planning Group

No report received.

17.316.8 To approve the following items of expenditure:

Eric Payne – grass-cutting: July – Aug. 2017	£120.00
(Item deleted as this payment approved at September meeting)	
Continental Landscapes: August 2017	£187.20
Nora Gibson – internal auditing	£ 85.00
J. Miller Engineering: playing field shed	£4095.60
B.D.O – External Audit	£120.00
Village Hall – Hire of hall: July – Sept 2017	£ 45.00
	All items - Approved

17.316.9 To receive report of Conclusion of Annual Audit

Annual Audit has been approved by BDO without any issues or comments being raised.

- 17.316.10 To receive report from Traffic Calming sub-committee**
The group has met and it was agreed that it be an Advisory Group with Neil Mullane as the Chair.
- 17.316.11 To receive update from Transport sub-committee**
This group has met and also set up as an Advisory Group with the Clerk as Chair. Currently fact finding and liaising with other villages. Meeting being arranged with Community First Oxfordshire (Emily Lewis-Edwards) who can advise on community transport schemes.
OCC had confirmed that monies were (or would be) available from Section 106 monies derived from the Southfield Farm development.
- Cllr. Griffiths (OCC) informed the Parish Council that funds were available from Cherwell District Council for projects but monies had to be applied for. She provided details as to how these funds could be accessed – initially via Paul Sutton, Head of Finance.
- 17.316.9 To discuss and agree response to Cherwell Consultation – Local plan – meeting Oxford’s unmet housing need – due by 10th October 2017. Documents previously circulated September 2017.**
Agreed that Clerk liaises with Cllr. Donne to formulate response. See earlier comment by Cllr. Griffiths recommending that we view the responses made by Kidlington, Yarnton & Begbroke
- 17.316.11 To agree remedial work on large willow in front of Oak View, North Lane.**
The branches that were resting on the overhead electricity cables had been dealt with by SSE. Three quotes had been obtained for removing the remaining broken branches and pollarding the rest of the tree.
Cllr.Griffiths (OCC) suggested contacting Rhodri Jones (CDC Arboricultural Officer) to see if they are prepared to do the work.
Agreed work would be carried out by either Chesterton Tree Surgeons or Cherwell District Council depending on cost.
- 17.316.12 To receive report on Playing Field and Play-area – including Spinney**
Goal posts have been painted (Kieran Evans). Goal posts instability (as reported by RoSPA inspector) are not as loose as we thought and are not a danger. Now that shed is in-situ, the mower can be taken down and stored there and a team of volunteers are available to cut the grass as and when necessary. Duchy have been asked to replace the fence (taken down for the felling of the spinney trees). Duchy representative will be visiting the spinney over the next few weeks to advise on possible replanting.
- 17.316.13 Date of next meeting: 1st November 2017**
Other meeting dates for 2017: 6th December 2017
Provisional dates for 2018: