

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Friday 16th March 2018

Public Participation session: 15 minutes maximum

For the benefit of the 13 members of the public present, the Chairman explained the purpose of the Public Participation session and indicated that when Item 17.322.7 – response to Lagan Homes – came up in Council Business, the meeting would be temporarily closed in order that those residents who wished to speak on the matter could do so.

In the absence of any other questions from the public, this part of the meeting was closed.

Council Business:

17.322.1 To receive any apologies for non-attendance

All councillors were present: Cllrs. Bohm, Davis, Donne, Hessian, Miller, Norris & Roper.

17.322.2 To receive any declarations of interest

Cllr. Miller declared an interest in Item 17.322.6

17.322.3 To receive and approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Wednesday, 7th February 2018 & 7th March 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th February were approved

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March were approved, subject to the last paragraph of 17.321.3 where the words “argued that this was wrong and” were deleted.

17.322.4 Past Subject Matters – for the purpose of report only

Report from Clerk of actions arising from previous meeting.

- Footpath between Village Hall and Westlands Ave. Clerk had asked the contractor involved with reinstatement of the church path to provide quotes for repairs to this path which he had done so. Clerk to obtain two other quotes hopefully by next meeting.
- Meeting had taken place with neighbouring parishes to discuss common issues-traffic, transport, planning. It is hoped that by pooling resources and acting on a united front it is hoped that better progress is made than as an individual council. A draft letter to the Chief Executive of CDC had been circulated for approval but amendments were required before it is sent.

It was agreed at this point to receive the Neighbourhood Plan report after the discussion of the two planning items – 17.322.6 & 17.332.7

17.322.6 To receive information on Planning Applications and note decisions

Cllr. Donne had already circulated a summary of current and new applications. An additional one was that for a mobile home to be situated at Manor Farm – Clerk had contacted N. Godwin who explained that this was to be used as a temporary office to oversee the management of the caravan park at Manor Farm. P.C. will comment in due course.

Shell Filling Station – extension (18/00229/F) – no objections to extension but grave concerns over the restricted access onto the A34. PC response to draw concerns to this – slip road needs extending.

Dower House – 18/00350/F. PC to object to this application using the same arguments as in the initial application.

Westfield Barn development – 18/00168/F. Cllr. Donne and clerk to liaise with Cllr. Simon Holland and stress that this application needs to be called in and not treated as a delegated decision.

17.322.7 To discuss and formulate response to a request from Lagan Homes PR consultants to meet with Parish Council to discuss the future of School-Field

Cllr. Donne explained the correspondence that had been received from the planning PR company, SP Broadway, who represent Lagan Homes. A draft proposed response which had previously been circulated to Cllrs. was read out.

“The Parish Council note your enquiry and would comment that the Parish Council has submitted a draft Neighbourhood Plan to Cherwell District Council which sets out the villages position on development matters.”

At this point, the meeting was closed and opened up for public participation.

There was agreement that the draft response from the Parish Council was the correct response and that any meeting had with Lagan Homes would be looked upon as that they had consulted with the village/parish council.

Suggested that the Parish Council keep aware of Cherwell indicating that they will be reviewing the Categorisation of villages in the local plan.

The meeting then reopened to deal with formal Parish council business.

17.322.5 To receive update on Neighbourhood Plan

See report from Cllr. Bohm attached. This was read out at the meeting with elaboration and explanation of various parts of the report.

17.322.8 To receive update on finances and auditing arrangements.

The Clerk reported that with the end of the Financial year approaching the council needs to consider who will carry out the internal audit. The Clerk suggested someone from Caversfield who had been recommended by other local parish councils. (see note 1 at end of minutes).

The Annual Audit will need to be completed and submitted to the new External Auditor by June 30th (see note 2 at end of minutes).

Clerk to provide background information on auditor to Cllr. Donne.

17.322.9 To discuss forthcoming Parish Council elections and proposals to promote interest and encourage nominations

Cllr. Davis explained the timing of the forthcoming Parish Council election (May 3rd) and the deadline for nominating candidates (April 6th). There will be vacancies for eight councillors – one more than previous. It was felt that work generated by the implementing the Neighbourhood Plan, the various working groups, etc., that at least one extra councillor was required. People with various skills were required and people prepared to be active on behalf of the council. Cllr. Davis thought that the reputation of the Parish Council needed to be repaired as it is not well regarded. All parts of the community needed to be represented on the Parish Council. Cllr. Davis suggested it would be helpful to know which councillors were prepared to stand again. Four councillors indicated that they had not made up their mind, the other three indicated they would stand.

There was a question raised by a member of the public who asked why the council had developed a poor reputation – what had gone wrong. Cllr. Miller suggested it was due to “in-house” fighting. Certain Councillors don’t report things, don’t get on, object to everything. It’s unpleasant for the public and for the other councillors.

Cllr. Norris – as this had been going on for over ten years, it was very difficult to encourage enthusiasm for members of the public to get involved.

17.322.10 To receive report from Traffic Calming Advisory Group.

Cllr. Bohm reported on the current aspirations of the group which was focusing on reducing speed in the Church Rd, Church Lane area by the introduction of “advisory” signs – drawing people’s attention to the need to reduce their speed and drive with consideration to other road users whether on foot or in a car.

17.322.11 To discuss and decide on the following two motions proposed by the Traffic Calming Advisory Group:

Motion: The Traffic Calming Advisory Group recommends that Parish Council approve the expenditure of up to £780.00 to cover the costs of erecting up to 18 “20’s Plenty” and 2 “20’s Plenty Thank You” signs on Church Road/Lane subject to the agreement of the property owners on whose property the signs will be erected. The attached document outlines the proposed locations.

See attachments..

Motion: The Traffic Calming Advisory Group requests the Parish Council’s approval to erect one “20’s Plenty - Thank You” sign at the southwest corner of the village green where the stocks are located.

Both motions were unanimously approved

17.322.12 To receive update from Transport Advisory Group

The Clerk referred to the meeting of local parish councils held in Chesterton recently where the purchase of a community bus was discussed. Middleton Stoney already has a bus service, Wendlebury have their own community bus and also have access to the S5 on the A41 (Bicester – Oxford). Bucknell were interested in a community bus scheme.

At a recent Parish Transport Representatives meeting in Oxford pressure was brought to bear on OCC and the bus companies to help resolve the plight of villages that had lost their bus service. This pressure was also being applied from MPs and County Councillors. There was agreement that some many of these villages are close to a bus route that may be running 2or more buses an hour and bus companies need to be more flexible in going off route – maybe 3 – 6 times a day to cover the villages that are in close proximity to these routes.

17.322.13 To discuss and propose projects for which funding could be requested via OCC grants.

See list attached of suggested projects.

1. Replace fence on playing field (for safety of children).
2. Provide two picnic tables for the edge of the copse.
3. Repair the mill run waterway.
4. Repair the walkway between Westlands Avenue and the Village Hall.
5. Clean the pond on North Lane and restore to a working duck pond.
6. Contribution to the improvement and addition of park benches.

Agreed that we would focus on repairing the fence, providing picnic tables and repairing the footpath between Westlands Ave & Village Hall.

17.322.14 To receive report on Playing Field and Play-area – including Spinney

Although not playing field related, the Clerk reported that Mr Wilcox is very keen on getting the leak to the mill race bank repaired as it’s in his own interests to do so as it is making accessibility difficult.

As for the playing field it has been too wet to do any work on it regarding mole clearance. The Duchy have provided a list of tree species planted in the spinney and have offered more saplings if we need them. The pathways in the spinney need to be delineated as they were covered over when the tree felling occurred.

17.322.15 Date of next meeting: April 11th 2018

Dates for 2018: May 9th, (AGM), June 6th, July 4th, August – no meeting, September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th.

Notes: not part of formal minutes.

Note 1: Name of internal auditor from Caversfield: Arrow Accounting (Phillip Hood)

Note 2: Name of External Auditor – Moore Stephens, Peterborough

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AGENDA

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