

MINUTES

For the virtual meeting of Parish Council, held on Wednesday, 6th January 2021

Meeting Number 21.361

Public Participation

There was nothing to note from the public.

21.361.1 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Bohm (DB), Davis (SD), Donne (HD), Stafford Allen (RSA), Mullane (NM) and Whitfield (RW) were all present via Zoom call.

There was one member of the public present from the start via Zoom call with a further joining part way through the meeting.

21.361.2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest from the Councillors relating to this meeting.

21.361.3 To Receive and Approve: Minutes of the Virtual Parish Council meeting on 2nd December 2020

The minutes of the virtual Parish Council meeting on 2nd December 2020 were discussed with no changes required.

The minutes for the virtual Parish Council meeting on 2nd December 2020 were then moved by DB and seconded by RW. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

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

21.361.4 For Information: Chairs Comment (DB)

The Chair started her new year comments by marvelling at the work that this Parish Council has undertaken during the pandemic including the playing field and spinney purchase, audits, accounts reporting, playground inspections, Neighbourhood Plan progression, planning applications considered, ongoing Great Wolf appeal actions and issues on B430. DB is extremely proud of the team which has an amazing skill set.

The Christmas season brightened up the village with advent windows kindly organised by the Village Hall and the WI and Weston Society are holding their first joint virtual talk. However, DB also highlighted that with the new lockdown we will need to be aware of the needs of the village again and keep our eyes on residents, especially during the winter season.

21.361.5 For Information: Clerk report (Clerk)

The clerk highlighted the report provided to the Council which explained that there has been no further communication from the solicitor regarding the playing field purchase and the application form requesting permission to borrow from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government has been sent off to the Debt Management Office by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

Oxfordshire County Council also delivered two snow shovels if they are required for snow clearance.

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21.361.6 For Information: Technology Advisory Group report

In JH’s absence DB highlighted that they are working through the project process with an area manager, in order to obtain fibre optic connections through the village. The process includes setting out a financial model for the scheme to be paid for by the grant from the Government for each household.

In order to proceed further there are a couple of further steps we need to go through:

- Residents need to agree that the grant money can be applied for on their behalf
- A commitment of 140 households/businesses are required in the village, in order to completely pay for it

Councillors agreed to holding an offline discussion to discuss process with JH.

Action: JH/DB to arrange offline meeting with Councillors to discuss process of applying for fibre optic capability in the village.

21.361.7 For Information: Great Wolf Appeal update (DB)

DB highlighted the key points regarding the latest work on the Great Wolf Appeal.

1. The Inquiry is likely to now be three weeks in length due to the lengthy list of witnesses called by Great Wolf, which will then need to be cross examined by our legal team. Costs will no doubt increase. Fundraising is ongoing via raffle ticket sales - WOTG needs to be very active in this regard as we will have at least 52% of the traffic going down the B430.
2. DB has been working on increasing the number of villages in PAW by contacting Parish Councils directly, explaining how they will be affected by the traffic - the number currently stands at 23 villages and 2 more in the wings. She has also asked for support in this work from Councillors David Hughes, Timothy Hallchurch and Simon Holland. Each of these councillors have the oversight for a group of villages so the hope is they can persuade a few more parish councils to join.

Action: DB to send round a list of Parish Councils to see who Councillors may know for support for Great Wolf Appeal.

3. A Businesses Petition is about to be released.
4. DB requested some ideas on possible traffic mitigation ideas for Weston on the Green which could be suggested for Section 106 money should the scheme be approved. Councillors suggestions included costs associated with changing the speed limit on B430 to 30mph, weight limit in both directions, pinch points at entry and exit, speed bumps along B430, pedestrian crossing, solid roundabout at Chequers, remodelling of stocks junction, and additional flashing speed signs. These traffic calming measures need full discussion with the Traffic Advisory Group, residents and Oxfordshire County Council before further consideration but the list does provide a range of ideas for which the S106 money can be used for.
5. Cridland & Co Estate Agents have donated a number of steaks with anti-Great Wolf signage to go on private land. Councillors offered to support their installation.

21.361.8 For Information: Affordable Housing survey update (DB)

DB highlighted that Cherwell District Council and Community First have agreed to postpone the affordable housing survey until March 2021. It was due to begin on 4th January 2021 but is now required to be postponed due to the latest Covid lockdown.

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21.361.9 Resolution: To Approve Parish Council Precept Request for financial year 2021/22 (HD)

HD confirmed that the budget for financial year 2021/22 was approved at the December 2020 Parish Council meeting. The Council has since received the precept request form from Cherwell District Council (CDC) which is to be completed by the Parish Council.

HD informed the Council that the tax base information provided by CDC is currently in draft format and it could alter (therefore altering what each household would pay next year). It therefore cannot be completely guaranteed at this stage that there would not be an increase in council tax.

The 2021/22 precept to be requested by Weston on the Green Parish Council is £22,534.87. According to the draft figures provided by CDC there will be no increase in council tax paid by households during the next financial year 2021/22 with Tax band D properties paying £92.43, a 0.5% decrease on 2020/21 (although this is still an estimated figure).

The resolution to approve the Parish Council Precept request of £22,534.87 for financial year 2021/22, based on the budget approved at the December 2020 Parish Council meeting, was proposed by HD and seconded by RW. It was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to submit the precept request for Weston on the Green Parish Council to Cherwell District Council by 15th January 2021.

Action: Clerk to confirm the council tax payable for Tax band D properties when the finalised figures are provided by CDC.

21.361.10 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 payable incl VAT	Budget Line	Amount Remaining in 2020-21 Budget Line
168 [^]	Oxford Edens	Grass Cutting (16/12/20)	£96.00	Works/Playing Field & Highways Grass Cutting	-£296.00*
169	Clerk – J Mullane	Hire x2 excess garden waste bins for North Lane pond works (CDC)	£99.00	Works - Highways & General/North Lane pond maintenance	£401.00
170	SLCC	Membership Annual Renewal 2021	£144.00	Subscriptions/SLCC	£140.00
171	Clerk – J Mullane	Postage of playing field purchase loan documents to OALC & book (x12) 2 nd class stamps	£9.20	Sundries/Stationery	£72.22
172	OALC	Training Course – D. Bohm (Chairmanship 31/03/21)	£120.00	Staff Costs/Clerk & Cllrs training	£270.00
173	OALC	Training Course – D. Bohm (Finding New Councillors 23/03/21)	£60.00	Staff Costs/Clerk & Cllrs training	£150.00

[^] Paid already to avoid late payment fees

*Reflecting combined sum in budget for playground area grass cut, Ben Jonson/Stocks & verge cutting B430 & Bletchingdon Rd

The resolution to approve the invoices was proposed by HD and seconded by RW. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to update invoice log with approvals.

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Action: Clerk to initiative request for payments from Councillors.

Action: Councillors to process online payment requests.

21.361.11 For Discussion: to discuss and agree recommendations from the Planning Group (HD)

Key planning applications on the planning report (dated 3rd January 2021) were discussed by the Council.

Building Applications

Decision Received – Approved / Rejected:

None

Awaiting Decision:

20/02426/F – Land North of Oak View – Erection of stone entrance walls in connection with Southfields Farm development. Issues are suburban look and illuminated sign.

Commented Against

20/02555/F – Manor Farm, Northampton Road - General purpose farm barn for the storage of winter bedding, fodder and machinery.

Commented Against

20/03118/F - Stonehouse Northampton Road - Erection of 1.5 storey extension to include dormer windows in south elevation of roof slope and rooflights in the north facing roof slope; and replace flat roof over bay with pitched roof.

Commented For

New Applications:

20/03450/F - Fir Tree Farm Northampton Road - New agricultural/forestry steel frame building 5.5m tall – in Green Belt.

The Council discussed this application in relation to previous applications on Green Belt land, they remain supportive of rural employment and in this case believe the proposed building sits within the current developed site and does not encroach further into Green Belt. An appropriate response will be sent to CDC.

20/03466/NMA - The Paddocks, Church Lane - Installation of additional rooflights to storage space above garage (proposed as non-material amendment to 19/01218/F).

20/03406/F - The Ben Jonson Inn Northampton Road - Erection of a two-bedroom bungalow (C3) to the rear of the existing public house (Sui Generis/ stand alone), with a new access created off Westlands Avenue following the partial demolition of the boundary wall, and associated parking and landscaping.

Previous was 20/02180/F- Extension to 18th Jan Granted by CDC

DB and SD outlined their comments on the application to the Council and have sent them to HD to be incorporated into the Parish Council's response to CDC.

HD mentioned he would circulate comments to the Council on the new Ben Jonson application before submitting a reply to CDC by 18th January 2021.

Action: HD to circulate comments on new Ben Jonson application by end of the next weekend before sending in a reply to CDC by 18th January 2021.

20/03191/F - Keepers Cover Church Lane - Single storey residential extension - re-submission of 20/01265/F.

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Tree Works

Approved / Completed:

20/03403/TCA - Rutland Cottage Church Road – Remove the two Cypress Trees in front yard to right hand side as you see it from Road. One is very overgrown and in the power / telephone lines. Third Tree is in the garden see link [here](#) for plan.

20/03394/TCA – Hebe Cottage, North Lane - T1 x Crab Apple - Reduction and reshape removing up to 2m of growth leaving a final height of up to 4.0m as overgrown and dominating the garden. T2 x Bay - Up to 3.0m reduction due to excessive shading and excessive size for the location and position of the tree, leaving a final height of 2-3m.

New Application / Awaiting Decision:

20/03527/TCA - Jubilee Cottage Church Lane - T1 x Silver Birch - Crown reduce by 0.5m. T2 x Liquid Amber - Crown reduce by 1.0m. T3 x Beech - Crown reduce by 1.0. T4 x Conifer Tree - Crown reduce by 3.0m.

Seems required tree management

Action: HD/Clerk to submit planning application responses to CDC.

HD also noted that Oxfordshire County Council are planning to remove a tree from the verge on North Lane.

21.361.12 For Information: Update on footpath from Southfield Farm development (NM)

NM provided an update on the footpath from the Southfield Farm housing development. The response from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), when it finally arrived was bland and disappointing. They highlighted that the footpath would proceed and no other options were financially viable to be investigated since approval had been granted and construction started. The footpath now has a second layer on it with a further top layer to be applied.

Regarding the ownership of the ditch OCC mentioned that only if the ditch was overgrown and it caused a highway issue would OCC fix it. NM has also asked the builders to dig out the ditch further as the current level does not allow water to flow down it.

NM has been in contact with the landowner of the pond off B430 who is hoping to come out and look at the pond to see what work needs to be done. NM went on to highlight the tremendous support provided to Weston on the Green by Councillor Carmen Griffiths which is very much appreciated.

The footpath work is to start shortly around the corner of the oak tree and the Parish Council will highlight this to the OCC arboriculturalist team to ensure they are aware.

Action: Clerk to highlight to OCC's arboriculturalist that builders are to start work on footpath around oak tree.

21.361.13 For Information: Works update (RSA)

RSA highlighted the key points from the submitted works and playground report to the Council. The playground was inspected on 4th January 2021 and key points are detailed in the report.

RSA also highlighted that following the recent flooding on Bletchingdon Road the road is started to become undermined and there is the risk of a failed road. The clerk mentioned that she will put it on Fix my Street and will discuss it further with the Highways Inspector when they next meet.

Action: Clerk to add issues over undermining of Church Lane/Bletchingdon Road on Fix my street along with broken tarmac near Newbridge Farm.

21.361.14 Next Virtual Parish Council Meeting: 3rd February 2021, 7.30pm via Zoom

Meeting closed at 21.08

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