

MINUTES

For the meeting of Parish Council, held on Wednesday, 5th January 2022

Meeting Number 22.375

Public Participation

There was nothing to note in this section.

22.375.1 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Bohm (DB), Stafford Allen (RSA), Donne (HD), Mullane (NM) and Whitfield (RW) were all present. Councillor Davis (SD) sent her apologies prior to the meeting, which were accepted.

Councillor Nigel Simpson was also in attendance for the full meeting. Councillor David Hughes and James Henderson (JH) attended part of the meeting. There was one member of the public in attendance.

22.375.2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared in relation to this meeting.

22.375.3 To Receive & Approve: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st December 2021 (DB)

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st December 2021 were discussed with no changes required.

The minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 1st December 2021 were then moved by DB and seconded by RSA. The motion was supported unanimously by the Council.

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

22.375.4 For Information: Chairs Comment

DB highlighted five ongoing issues which will require focus for the year ahead:

1. Major consultations of which we have contributed to the first evidence gathering stage: a. Oxfordshire Plan, b. Cherwell Local Plan, c. Arc Spatial Framework. The next consultation period for the three mentioned is in the spring May/June and then the autumn and the work will be required to be shared across the team.
2. Housing – there is concern that we are no further ahead getting villagers to sign up for the Housing Register. Cherwell District Council will provide some additional information for the next issue of the Village News.
3. New councillors – we continue to need two more councillors or people to lead working groups which would reduce some of the pressure on the existing Councillors.
4. Queen's Jubilee – will the Parish Council have a project or establish a memorial?
5. Neighbourhood Plan – in May we will be at the one year mark and have only one more year with the current housing expectation. What does this mean for us? There are other targets that we have: traffic/speed on the B430, the playground future plan, technological improvements etc.

DB commented it has been very difficult to carry on with a few of these pieces of work with the major issues of the Ben Jonson Inn planning applications and the drama of the Oak Tree path alongside the ongoing Covid issues.

Action: Clerk to place consultations deadlines from poster on PC website.

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22.375.5 For Information: Clerk report (Clerk)

The clerk highlighted a report provided to the Council which confirmed £500.00 had been received from Shine TV as a donation in relation to filming in village on 16th October 2021. Other items mentioned included highway updates from Oxfordshire County Council and correspondence on B430 litter with KFC.

22.375.6 For Information: Technology Advisory Group update (James Henderson, JH)

JH confirmed that unfortunately there have been no further developments with the fibre project and he has not heard anything further on the telecommunications mast.

22.375.7 For Information: District and County Councillor updates

Councillor Simpson provided an update from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) commenting that the 20mph zone work is moving forward and plans for OCC to fund the signage and road marking costs are to be discussed in the draft budget. OCC topped the nationwide recycling table for the eighth year running. He also highlighted increased electric car charging points in Bicester/Kidlington and the Oxford North Peartree developments are planned to be carbon neutral.

With regards to the oak tree footpath Councillor Simpson has had a meeting with OCC’s Principle Officer – Arboriculture, Andy Lederer, who agreed the issue needs to be sorted out and a plan put in place to work out how to get the footpath removed as quickly as possible. Councillor Simpson will keep the Council updated with the latest information.

A resident highlighted vehicles are still doing high speeds on Church Lane. NM confirmed the Traffic Advisory Group will obtain the speed camera again from Islip when it gets lighter and will contact the community speed watch team again.

22.375.8 For Information: Oak Tree footpath update (DB)

DB had circulated a report summarising the latest developments in relation to the oak tree footpath. It was noted that since the December Parish Council meeting, a handrail has been built on the top of the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) contested pathway that runs around the protected oak tree at the top of North Lane. A Health and Safety concern has been filed with OCC Highways as residents of North Lane are finding that the rail is reducing visibility at the intersection of North Lane and the B430. Cllr Nigel Simpson (OCC) has also written regarding our concern about visibility and safety. We are waiting to hear back from Cherwell District Council.

DB commented that in order for people to be able to move into the houses at the Southfield development a safety audit on the footpath is required. To be able to use the footpath safely a branch needs to be chopped off and there is concern over whether permission will be obtained prior to any work being done, given the tree has a Tree Preservation Order on it.

The Council are investigating the option of lodging an injunction against OCC preventing any further action on the path or the tree.

Councillors suggested a sign be displayed on the tree making it clear that the tree is protected and that any works on or around the tree require permissions. It was also suggested that the public are notified of the issues and advised to contact the Council should they witness anything.

Councillor Simpson mentioned he would email Andy Lederer (Principle Officer – Arboriculture) and Yvonne Rees (Chief Executive) with an aim to put a stop to all works and highlight that the Parish Council are investigating obtaining an injunction.

DB confirmed she had been in conversation with Cherwell District Councillor’s Wood and Hughes to discuss how they could help further.

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It was agreed that the Council would wait to hear further information from Councillors Simpson, Wood and Hughes prior to further discussion on the legal way forward.

Councillor Hughes provided an update on the latest issues from Cherwell District Council which included highlighting that the shortfalls in the budget are not as extreme as feared and the effect of any cost savings can be softened over the coming years. He also mentioned that the minutes of the Executive Committee are interesting documents to find out what the Council has been discussing: (<https://modgov.cherwell.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=115>)

22.375.9 Resolution To Approve Parish Council budget for FY 2022-2023 (HD)

HD confirmed that the budget for financial year 2022/23 was initially approved at the December 2021 Parish Council meeting. The Council has since received the estimated tax base from Cherwell District Council and a revised budget has been drafted. Additional highlighted costs this year included potential 2022 election costs and a new clerk laptop. Parish Council reserves have also been allocated to village projects outlined in the budget. There is no anticipated increase in precept request from the Parish Council.

Prior to the meeting the budget document had been circulated to the Finance Advisory Group for comment and approval.

The resolution to approve the Parish Council budget for FY 2022/23 was proposed by HD and seconded by NM. It was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to upload approved PC Budget FY 2022-23 to the PC website.

22.375.10 Resolution: To Approve Parish Council Precept request for FY 2022/23 (HD)

Cherwell District Council (CDC) have confirmed they would ideally like the precept request to be submitted before 14th January 2022.

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

The 2022/23 precept to be requested by Weston on the Green Parish Council is £22,056.13. According to the draft figures provided by CDC there will be no increase in council tax paid by households during the next financial year (2022/23) with Tax band D properties estimated to be paying £92.25, a 0.2% decrease on 2021/22.

The resolution to approve the Parish Council Precept request of £22,056.13 for financial year 2022/23, based on the budget approved under item 22.375.9 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 14th January 2022.

Action: Clerk to highlight to Councillors if there are any amendments to the tax base figures if CDC notify the PC of any alterations.

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22.375.11 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 (incl VAT)	Budget Line	Amount Remaining in 2021-22 Budget
243	Clerk (J Mullane)	Printer ink (Amazon)	£22.90	Sundries/printing	-£28.80

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

Action: Clerk to update invoice log with approvals.

Action: Clerk to initiative request for payments from Councillors and ensure payments authorised.

22.375.12 For Discussion: Discuss and agree recommendations from the Planning Group (HD)

Key planning applications on the planning report (updated 1st January 2022) were discussed by the Council.

Building Applications:**Decision Received – Permitted**

21/03382/F - Oakwood House, 3 Village Farm Court - Replace conservatory with single storey extension and remove a roof-light to rear elevation and add a dormer window. **Commented**

21/03591/F - The Ben Jonson Inn, Northampton Road - Relocation of children's play equipment/memorial garden. **Commented**

Decision Received – Rejected

21/02472/F & 21/02473/LB – Ben Jonson Inn, Northampton Road – Erection of two bed bungalow in pub garden. Access through car park and hole in Westlands Avenue wall. **Commented-went to Committee 2/12/21**

Awaiting Decision

21/01580/F - Kemsley Farm, Northampton Road - Change of use of land from agriculture to equestrian use. Erection of a building to provide stabling for 36 ponies with associated facilities. **Commented - Going to Committee 10/2/22**

21/00873/F – Kemsley Farm, Northampton Road – Conversion of barn to form a single dwelling house and associated works. This has been altered to remove extension. **Commented**

21/03580/TEL & 21/03752/F - Telecommunications Mast, towards A34 - The Installation of 3 x CTIL antenna at 26.7m on re used existing headframe. • The relocation of 3 x EE antenna at 19.0m and 1 x EE 0.6m HP Dish antenna at 20.0m on a new face frame on the tower at 20.4m. **Commented**

New Applications:

None

New Appeals

21/00038/REF - The Ben Jonson Inn, Northampton Road - Erection of a two-bedroom bungalow (C3) to the rear of the existing public house (Sui Generis), with a new access created off Westlands Avenue following the partial demolition of the boundary wall, and associated parking and landscaping.

Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/C3105/W/21/3278245

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21/00039/REF - The Ben Jonson Inn, Northampton Road - Partial demolition of the boundary wall to create access for new dwelling proposed under 20/03406/F

Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/C3105/Y/21/3278250

Tree Works:

Rejected / Issues

None

New Application – Case Officer Iain Osenton

None

Action: HD/Clerk to send appropriate planning replies to Cherwell District Council.

22.375.13 For Information: The Ben Jonson Planning Applications Appeal (HD/DB)

As detailed under item 22.375.12 there are two planning applications relating to the Ben Jonson Inn currently at appeal. HD confirmed that an extension for the submission of comments by the Parish Council was granted by the Planning Inspectorate until 20th January 2022. The appeal will be determined by written submissions only.

HD is currently compiling reports regarding both applications and a zoom meeting will be held with HD/DB/SD to discuss the content prior to submission.

Action: HD/Clerk to submit additional comments to Planning Inspectorate by 20 January 2022 regarding the Ben Jonson Inn planning appeals.

22.375.14 For Information: Works & weir update (RSA)

RSA highlighted that the playground was inspected on 3rd January 2022 and the general appearance was reasonable; key points are detailed in the submitted works and playground report.

There have been no further developments on the weir due to difficulties encountered when last investigated. It was agreed that this topic will be revisited once the footpath project has been concluded.

RSA provided the Council a quote of £150.00 from Mike Moss for flail trimming the hedge along the frontage of the playing field/Church Lane and Councillors supported this work to be done.

RSA commented that he would obtain quotes for a tree survey of the spinney now the Parish Council own the land. It was agreed that, if possible, volunteers could be used to clear the undergrowth this year to keep the footpaths clear.

It was also highlighted that the gateway from the playing field car park needs some protective rubber matting as it is very muddy. It was agreed that RSA would order two mats for the playing field and then evaluate their use for the North Lane footpath entrance.

Action: RSA to instruct Mike Moss to flail trim the hedge along Church Lane fronting the playing field.

Action: RSA/clerk to investigate obtaining quotes for a spinney tree survey.

Action: RSA/clerk to action purchasing two rubber mats for the playing field.

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22.375.15 For Discussion: Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (DB/SD)

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill is a private members' bill with cross-party support of more than 110 MPs and a growing number of local councils around the country. It would enshrine in law a commitment to deliver policy and action in line with the latest science - and with our Government's own ambitions. It is the only proposed legislation which addresses the interconnected crises in climate and nature, with annual legally binding targets to keep us on track.

Resolution To Approve that Weston on the Green Parish Council will:

1. Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;
2. Write to our local MP urging them to support the Bill, or thanking them for doing so; and
3. Notify the Oxfordshire CEE Bill Alliance (Zero Hour Oxfordshire) of this motion by signing the Open Letter: <https://www.ceebillallianceoxon.co.uk>

Due to time constraints this item was deferred to the 2nd February 2022 Parish Council meeting.

Action: Clerk to add Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill to 2nd February 2022 Parish Council meeting agenda.

22.375.16 Next Parish Council Meeting: 2nd February 2022, 7.30pm

Meeting Closed: 21.33

Minutes Approved:.....Dated.....
