

MINUTES

For the meeting of Parish Council, held on Wednesday, 5th February 2020

Meeting Number 20.349

20.349.1 Apologies for Absence

Councillors Bohm (DB), Stafford Allen (RSA), Donne (HD) and Mullane (NM) were all present. Councillors Davis (SD) and Whitfield (RW) sent their apologies (the latter due to illness), both were accepted.

There were 2 members of the public present.

Councillor David Hughes sent his apologies.

20.349.2 Declarations of Interest

The Chair asked for Declarations of Interest, Cllr Stafford-Allen noted his interest in the Schoolfield, to the rear of his property.

20.349.3 To Receive and Approve: Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th January 2020

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9th January 2020 were discussed with no changes required.

The minutes for the Parish Council meeting on 9th January 2020 were then moved by DB and seconded by NM. It was supported unanimously by the Council.

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

20.349.4 For Information: Chairs Report

DB highlighted to the Council that traffic and housing issues that affect the village are also a national concern. The Chair also highlighted the amount of time spent at meetings with campaign groups, other villages and Councils. There are a tough few months ahead with some key projects including the re-examination of the Neighbourhood Plan, Great Wolf Resorts planning application in Chesterton and the Expressway.

The Chair also feels that whilst not everything may be carried out satisfactorily to all in the first instance, the Council does listen hard and acts on the individual concerns of villagers.

The next consideration for the Chair is a meeting with village groups regarding Operation London Bridge (the plan for when a senior member of the Royal family dies).

20.349.5 For Information: Parish Clerks Report

The clerk highlighted the key points from her report. The clerk confirmed that the precept request for financial year 2020/21 has been submitted to Cherwell District Council and confirmation of its receipt has been received.

The clerk had a very useful walkaround meeting with the village's Highways Inspector from Oxfordshire County Council on 29th January 2020. A number of ongoing issues in the village were discussed and a full report has been provided to Councillors. Key points included 42 potholes identified for repair, Westlands Avenue cobblestones to be repaired, defects to signs in the village highlighted and flooding issues at North Lane and the Ben Jonson footpath have been passed onto the drainage team.

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A resident also highlighted a drain issue on Knowle Lane when it rains heavily.

Action: Clerk to check the drain issue on Knowle Lane and report it to Highways, OCC.

Councillor Donne has submitted the Asset of Community Value application for the Ben Jonson pub.

This month the street cleansing team from Cherwell District Council came and cleaned the streets and pavements. The clerk has already passed on the Council's thanks.

The clerk confirms the approval of Weston on the Green Parish Council's 2019/20 Councillor Priority Fund application for the Village Hall's heating fund and the Weston Pantry's access works.

The Council has suggested that the village spring litter pick would be held on Saturday 21st March (starting at 9.30am) so it could be combined with the coffee morning in the village hall, subject to the village hall's agreement. The clerk will confirm the date and contact Graham Barnett and Cherwell District Council to arrange collection of the rubbish sacks.

Action: Clerk to contact the village hall to check that the proposed date of 21st March would be suitable. Once confirmed clerk to let Graham Barnett know and contact Cherwell District Council to arrange collection of the rubbish sacks.

HD suggested incorporating a Parish Council Safeguarding notice on the website and noticeboard.

Action: Clerk to add Safeguarding notice to website and noticeboard.

20.349.6 Resolution: To Approve Parish Council quarterly accounts (Q3 2019/20) (HD)

HD presented the Parish Council's quarter 3 accounts for 2019/20, highlighting that total expenditure this quarter was £7,922.81 and the Council received income of £0.23. Year to date operational expenditure as a percentage of total operational costs for 2019-20 is 49%.

The plan remains for the Council to allocate the reserves in the accounts to future projects. A full summary of the reserves from the financial year will be provided at the end of the financial year.

HD also highlighted that the Council are in the process of closing 2 of the 4 bank accounts currently held. A formal letter has been written to Barclays Bank requesting the accounts closure.

The resolution to approve the Parish Council quarterly accounts (Q3 2019/20) was proposed by HD and seconded by NM. It was supported unanimously by the Council.

Action: Clerk to upload the approved Q3 accounts to the website.

The Finance Group has also been in contact with the Weston Pantry regarding the Councillor Priority Fund payment highlighting that the Parish Council would hold onto the money until the work has commenced.

Action: Finance group to pay the Councillor Priority Fund allocation to the Weston Pantry when the building works commence or when required to enable the works to commence.

20.349.7 For Information: Neighbourhood Plan update (DB)

DB outlined the latest developments on the Neighbourhood Plan. There have been nine responses to the proposed modifications, eight positive and one negative (from Pegasus, land owner of the Schoolfield) who submitted a 123 page objection. Pegasus has also accused the Parish Council of inappropriate leverage with Cherwell District Council (CDC) and accused CDC of being incompetent. DB has subsequently spoken to Councillor David Hughes to discuss the matter.

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It appears Pegasus are prepared to mount a procedural challenge against CDC over their right to modify the Neighbourhood Plan. DB is concerned that after all the hard work the village will get upset and the Neighbourhood Plan will not be supported. DB will keep the Council updated with any further developments.

With regards to the Neighbourhood Plan the next step is for CDC to provide a choice of two examiners for the Parish Council to choose between. DB has also established that the Parish Council can write to the examiner if required.

HD suggested the Parish Council write to our MP, John Howell, who has just become patron of the ONPA (Oxfordshire Neighbourhood Plans Alliance) and is Government Champion for Neighbourhood Planning.

Action: DB to write to MP John Howell to explain the latest situation over the Neighbourhood Plan.

20.349.8 For Discussion: Biodiversity, future planning applications and areas for improvement (DB)

DB highlighted to the Council that one of the items in the Neighbourhood Plan to take forward is biodiversity and the future of planning applications in the village linking to the environment.

This is a potential growth area of the Council and is of vital importance, however there is currently no capacity to take this forward, however it could be outsourced to someone in the village who would report back to the Council. DB has suggested talking to a resident who is committed to the environment, Carolyn Itoh, about pulling together a biodiversity policy for the village.

All councillors agreed this was a very important piece of work and supported the Chair conducting initial discussions with Carolyn Itoh.

DB also highlighted a Local Environment Groups' Conference on 28th March which the Parish Council potentially could attend, this can be discussed at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to add Local Environment Groups' Conference to March Parish Council meeting agenda.

20.349.9 Resolution: To Approve the following invoices for payment (DB)

DB requested approval of the following invoices detailed in the table below. The resolution to approve the below invoices was proposed by DB and seconded by RSA. It was supported unanimously by the Council.

Payee	Purpose	Total payable incl VAT	Budget Line
Clerk (J Mullane)	Clerks Pay - January 2020	.*	Staff Costs/Clerks Salary
Clerk (J Mullane)	Transport Advisory Group: 4 Waterproof Noticeboard Posters & 250 double sided A5 flyers (Instant Print)	£53.99	Transport/Data gathering/survey costs
Jill Robinson (Book Keeper)	Book keeping work (12 hours, July-Dec 2019)	£180.00	Staff Costs/Book keeper
The Village News	Weston on the Green Village News - 8 pages of PC content	£40.00	Subscriptions (additional)
Clerk (J Mullane)	Stationery pens for village meetings (Co-op)	£4.00	Sundries/Stationery
Clerk (J Mullane)	Laminator, printing paper & noticeboard magnets (Amazon)	£67.47	Sundries/Stationery
Clerk (J Mullane)	Printer paper, noticeboard magnets & dividers (Amazon)	£27.78	Sundries/Stationery
Clerk (J Mullane)	Printer Ink (Argos)	£19.18	Sundries/Printing
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Duchy of Cornwall	Uplift in rent for playing field & spinney (Sept 19-Sept 20) due to RPI Review	£69.11	Works-Playing Field/Playing field rent
Community First Oxfordshire	Annual Subscription 1 st April 2020 – 31 st March 2021	£55.00	Subscriptions/Additional

*Pre-approved by the FG & HRG

Action: Clerk to update invoice log with approvals.

Action: Clerk to update Transparency log of invoices in excess of £100 and add to PC website.

Action: Clerk to initiative request for payments from Councillors.

Action: Councillors to process online payment requests.

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

HD highlighted the key items in the planning report from the January Parish Council meeting.

Building Works:

Decision Received

None

Awaiting Decision

None

New Applications

19/02697/F - Weston Manor Hotel, The Manor, Northampton Road | Variation of condition 1 of 16/02021/F - to allow the continued retention of the existing portacabin for an additional period of one year

At previous we asked for time limit

HD highlighted that as the hotel is up for sale they have asked that the permission for the portacabin be extended for one more year. All Councillors agreed this was suitable.

19/02996/F – The Cedars, Mill Lane. Variation of Conditions 2 and 4 of previous app 19/01486/F.

This is a switch from stone facing to render on garage as stone not available – Not seen as an issue as links with house and within design code of NP – CDC Gemma Magnuson

20/00013/F – Land at Forge Works, Northampton Road. Change of land use to add further hard standing, with screening.

CDC Matthew Chadwick

HD highlighted the land is currently agricultural hence the change of use request to hard standing. All Councillors agreed this was a reasonable application.

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Tree Works:**Approved / Completed**

19/02950/TCA – 10 Leylandii – Fell – One B430 outside Oxford Court. Planted for sound break by residents but due to lack of maintenance now of excessive size. Application by Parish Council – CDC Iain Osenton

Allowed time limit passed

19/02953/TCA – Coppice Willow at back of Pond on North Lane. Application by Parish Council – resident issue raised late

Allowed time limit passed

HD noted that there is a resident raising an issue over screening for their property, to be discussed in the works report.

19/02905/TCA - Robins Folly Mill Lane - T1, T2 x Leylandii - Fell. 2 overgrown trees,

Allowed time limit passed

New Application / Awaiting Decision

19/02880/TPO – 10 Blacksmith Close – works to the Horse Chestnut on corner with Church Road. TPO on tree.

CDC Iain Osenton

HD commented that the tree is oversized so they are taking the weight off. All Councillors agreed this seemed a reasonable application.

19/02895/TCA – Monks Walk, Church Lane – Extensive Tree works in Garden and around Tennis Court, maintenance only.

Seems sensible tree management – CDC Iain Osenton

Ongoing Planning issues**Southfield Farm / Land north of Oak View Phase 2**

Recent appeal REF 19/00038/REF - **Rejected**

Great Wolf Resorts Water Park – Chesterton

PC is involved with Chesterton PC due to traffic issues - Clare Whitehead is Officer – **Have commented Against**

Bicester Sports Association app, Green Lane Chesterton

19/00934/F | Change of Use of Agricultural land and extension of the existing Bicester Sports Association. CDC Officer is James Kirkham - Bicester Town looking at buying back Town Centre land

Objection Sent in re Traffic- **Awaiting CDC – James Kirkham**

Great Wolf Resorts Application Update

DB mentioned the publicity around Great Wolf Resorts application with the BBC interview on South Today in January 2020. Whilst the end of the BBC report didn't reflect the situation accurately any publicity is good publicity.

She also confirmed that Chesterton Parish Council have handed in their objection to Cherwell District Council. The objection spoke on behalf of Chesterton along with 5 neighbouring Parish Councils, including Weston on the Green. HD commented that it is a well written response encompassing all issues in the surrounding area, although he felt that perhaps, understandably they don't do enough regarding the traffic issue through our village but did a great job at picking holes through the application.

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Oxfordshire County Council Highways and Thames Water's objections have been strong, the latter highlighting the lack of consultation and that there is not enough water in the area and no sewage capacity.

There is currently no planning committee date as Highways and Thames Water need more time to consider the issues.

Chesterton Parish Council have included S106 money requests in their objection letter and it was highlighted that Weston on the Green should do the same. Money for traffic schemes has been discussed and HD and NM will discuss this further and circulate the information to the Council.

Action: HD/NM will discuss S106 monies relating to the Great Wolf application and circulate the information to the Council.

A resident queried whether it was appropriate to highlight projects for S106 money when an application hasn't even been approved.

HD confirmed that we are encouraged to advise of S106 monies in the objection letter stating *if you are minded to approve this application this is what we want in return...* otherwise other areas would receive the money if a scheme were approved.

DB's view is that we need traction with Cherwell Planning Councillors and now is the time to write letters to editors and lobby Councillors.

20.349.11 For Information: to receive an update on the Works Group (RSA)

The equipment and playground were inspected on 3rd February 2020 and the general appearance is as it was last month. There are some actions, none of which are classed as major. The significant general problem is the safety surfacing as this is shrinking away from the wooden edging to the surfacing and this still needs repair.

RSA also highlighted that the children's garden area is a mess and we need a plan for this.

The fence behind the green hut where the mower is kept has collapsed completely and is being used as a cut through onto the playing field. RSA suggested that when the weather improves it would be sensible to put the fence back up and include a gate. RSA will obtain three quotes and put a proposal together for the Council.

Action: RSA to look into obtaining 3 quotes for repairing the fence at the playing field.

The hedge around the carpark is overgrown and RSA mentioned he will contact Mr Moss (hedge layer) to gain advice about when the best time is to trim the hedge.

Action: RSA to contact Mr Moss to gain advice about the best time is to trim the hedge adjacent the car park.

The treeworks to the front of Oxford Court, Northampton Road and at the North Lane pond have been booked for 12th February 2020. The Parish Council have received confirmation from Cherwell District Council of approval to undertake the treeworks.

A resident has recently expressed their concern over losing screening to their property with coppicing of the willow at the North Lane pond. RSA and DB have been in contact with the resident and discussed the option of pollarding part of the tree instead. RSA suggested that, subject to the tree surgeon's advice, some branches could be left going upwards and the horizontal ones could be removed as they will cause the trunk to split. RSA also confirmed that the bough over the pond would remain.

Action: RSA to confirm in an email the date and time of the tree works to the concerned resident regarding the North Lane treeworks, so they can attend if they wish. Potential alternative solution, subject to the tree surgeon's advice, to be discussed with the resident also.

Residents to the rear of the hedge on Northampton Road were sad about losing the privacy and sound deadening screening of the current leylandii. RSA confirmed however that the trees are out of control and require work.

The Parish Council would look at replanting with an appropriate hedge, however this will require maintenance.

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RSA has also contacted Oxfordshire County Council Highways, who have checked that the land the leylandii trees are situated on is not Highways responsibility.

Action: RSA to discuss works on the leylandii trees to the front of Oxford Court with the residents again.

20.349.12 For Information: to receive an update on the Transport Advisory Group (DB)

DB confirmed that the transport survey was launched in January via leaflets to the village and posters on the planter noticeboards. The paper versions of the surveys have been inputted onto the online survey version by the clerk and this will be continued until completion of the survey. The business version will also be inputted online.

A summary of the results will be presented to the next Parish Council meeting.

Action: Clerk to add Transport Survey results to March PC meeting.

20.349.13 For Information: to receive an update on the Traffic Advisory Group (NM)

NM confirmed that a meeting has been set up with Mike Wasley and another representative from Oxfordshire County Council highways department, to see if the 20mph scheme on Church Lane can be progressed. Further confirmation of the actual process and costs will be established at the meeting and reported back to the Parish Council as it appears processes may have altered.

NM also confirmed that the Traffic Advisory Group are in discussion with Islip Parish Council over training and the use of the traffic sentinel.

AOB:

DB highlighted the recent request received by the Parish Council from Oxfordshire County Council regarding removing some of the signs in the village, over there being too many and the issue of road safety.

DB has been in contact with the Expressway group about relocating some of their signs into the planter noticeboards; this request has been refused as the group wish to remain with a strong presence on the roadside.

The 20s plenty signs are another option the Parish Council are looking at reducing. This will be discussed with Oxfordshire County Council at the highways meeting in the village on 20th February 2020. If the 20mph speed limit application is successful these signs would no longer be required.

Action: NM to discuss the number of signs in the village with Oxfordshire County Council at the highways meeting on 20th February 2020.

Public Participation Session

Patsy Parsons, the village’s Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, confirmed to the Council that Trading Standards will not support our No Cold Calling Zone; we can however set one up ourselves and fund signs, door stickers etc. We are advised to do it in conjunction with the neighbourhood policing team.

Patsy has agreed to find out more information about signs and price them up before reporting back to the Council at a future meeting. A consultation with villagers will also be required before proceeding.

Patsy also highlighted that the “Have Your Say” Police van will be located by the Village Hall this Saturday 8th February (12:00-12:30).

Action: Clerk to check if “Have Your Say Police van to be in the village on Saturday 8th February” is a notification on Facebook.

Action: Clerk to place No Cold Calling Zone on future Parish Council agenda.

20.349.14 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4th March 2020

The meeting ended at 21.35

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