

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 8th DECEMBER 2020, 19:30

Present were:

- Nicky Brooks (Chair)
- Mark Walker (Deputy Chair)
- Lysette Nicholls (Parish Councillor)
- Martin Wilson (Parish Councillor)
- Graham Soame (Parish Councillor)
- Eileen Mawle (Parish Councillor)
- Charles Mathew (County Councillor)
- Gary Nicholls (on behalf of the Conservation Area group)
- Martin Spurrier (to update on South Leigh Forest Restoration)
- Dick Pears (to update on Mobile Phone Signal)
- Justin and Will Bull from Just Cartridges
- Tammy Heavens (Clerk to Parish Council)

The meeting was held via ZOOM - four additional members of the public joined.

1. **Apologies:** Carl Rylett (District Councillor)  
Dan Levy (District Councillor)
2. **Declarations of interest:** Eileen Mawle - Shores Green  
Mark Walker - Shores Green
3. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
4. **Matters of concern from Parishioners:** See AOB
5. **Matters of concern from County Council or District Council:** None.
6. **Matters arising from previous minutes not covered elsewhere:** None.
7. **Constitutional matters:** Mark Walker has the loan of the spare Parish Council Clerk's laptop.
8. Payments to approve: Clerk's salary and associated costs for income tax, grass cutting for the village green and grass cutting for the church.
9. **Conservation Area:** The Clerk advised the result of the village poll conducted between noon on Tuesday, 24 November and 11:00pm Monday, 30th November 2020. The question asked was: Do you agree, disagree, or remain uncommitted to a proposal that the Campaign Group should prepare a draft application for Conservation Area status (with options, e.g. boundaries etc.) for the Parish of South Leigh including High Cogges, for consideration by the Parish Council and Parish residents and to be voted on by residents in due course?

The number of people who polled is shown in the table below.

	Number	Agree	Disagree	Uncommitted
Online	108	66	31	10
Polling box	31	23	7	1
Total	139	89	38	11
%age proportion of total number of people who polled	100%	64.028%	27.338%	7.914%

With this evidence to hand and after some further discussion, the Chair proposed the following Resolution.

To authorise the group to proceed to commission and fund a report on the exact terms and area of the proposed Conservation Area and present the the Parish Council for their approval.

This Resolution was passed unanimously.

The Chair acknowledged that during the lead up to the poll, feelings had run high throughout the Parish and stated that any behaviours that could be seen as anti-democratic in any way will not be tolerated by the Parish Council. Genuine mistakes had been made, including by herself, and that they had hopefully been learned from.

To avoid any similar difficulties in the future, the Chair outlined the suggested forward plan which was agreed by all:

- PC to approve the experts commissioning document prepared by the CA group.
- The CA Group will be responsible for raising any monies needed for the production of the independents expert's report.
- To avoid any misunderstandings and in the interest of transparency, the CA Group will be free to organise their own affairs, a nominated Parish Councillor will attend meetings and be copied in on all relevant correspondence. At this point the group will be a fact-finding group.
- Once the final copy of the report is available, another consultative poll of residents will be undertaken and then reviewed and voted on by the PC.
- Two weeks preceding the poll, and again to avoid any misunderstandings, the PC member will resign from the group and the group will be free to campaign for the passing of the poll.
- If the PC approves the resolution, the report will be sent by the PC to WODC for their approval.

It was agreed that Martin Wilson would be the initial Parish Council representative and that Graham Soame would act as information point. This was to be reviewed if Martin finds that the commitment is too great.

10. **Mobile Phone Signal:** Dick Pears advised that Robert Courts, MP had a positive meeting with members of Vodaphone headquarters and that ongoing investigations would continue. Dick and Nicky are due to meet again with Robert in March 2021. Robert is conducting a survey into mobile phone signal in the area. To participate, the survey can be found here: <https://www.robertcourts.co.uk/mobilesurvey>

**11. The Lymbrook:**

- a) **Flooding:** Lysette advised there has not been a substantial amount of heavy rain since the last meeting, so nothing to report, except that Graham has jet washed the gullys, but they could do with further assistance. Mark Walker to take a look.
- b) **Nature:** Graham Soame reported on the quality of the water in the Lymbrook. Graham has been and will continue to collect samples from the Lymbrook for testing. The levels of phosphates in the water was so high that it was not measurable. This will affect the type of nature that is able to live in the Lymbrook. Graham will continue to take samples and record the results, also from additional locations along the Lymbrook. Graham advised that Lucy Stoddart, BBOWT bio-diversity officer, visited and surveyed one point on the Lymbrook recently. She is about to carry out further surveys along the Lymbrook in South Leigh in the next month. There is already clear evidence from her detailed study, that water voles have returned to the Lymbrook in the village, which is really exciting news.

12. **South Leigh Forest Restoration:** Martin Spurrier reported that they have planted the eleven trees along the north hedgerow of Chapel Road. Many thanks to those who helped and those who supported them. As they are now in the planting season (until February / March) they shall press on with the other two approved sites as soon as they hear if they have been successful in their grant application to TOE (Trust for Oxfordshire Environment). They expect to hear this month. On 2nd December, long-time resident of South Leigh, Mrs. Phyllis Broome (and author of South Leigh Remembered) dedicated a tree to mark her 89th birthday. She dedicated the oak nearest to Wayside Cottages, where she lived from childhood, to past members of her wider Harris and Tipping families. A small plaque now marks this dedication. A second dedicated tree will be planted at Wayside Cottage for Mrs. Broome soon.
13. **Shores Green:** There is no further update. Nicky Brooks has been advised that information will be sent early in 2021. Charles Mathew advised he has written to Yvonne Constance to ask that all options are discussed with the Parish Council before decisions are made. Nicky has also made this request.
14. **A40 Eynsham to Oxford update:** Nicky Brooks advised that works are being pushed forward to start works earlier than planned, but no dates to date. Charles Mathew confirmed that the projects are being considered as on large project instead of individual projects in order to carryout works in succession.
15. **Tree Safety:** The chestnut tree opposite the entrance to the church has been pollarded by the local council, but it's felt not enough has been removed. Nicky Brooks will ask for it to be looked at further.
16. **Low Carbon Hub:** Nicky Brooks has joined the Green T group in Eynsham, that is looking at the Eynsham Garden Village, and its substation, and looking at innovative ways and ideas for energy reduction.
17. **Village Christmas Tree and Santa's Grotto:** Nicky Brooks wanted everyone in the village to be able to enjoy some festivities after a tough year and the continuing pandemic. She noted that these were not under the Parish Councils aegis.
18. **Traffic:**
  - a) **Just Cartridges:** Nicky Brooks has written to the haulier company that makes frequent deliveries to Just Cartridges to ask that they consider using smaller vehicles where possible to reduce the number of articulated lorries that travel through the village. Will Bull from Just Cartridges advised that they have looked at ways to reduce the number of articulated lorries, and that they would continue to keep on top of this, currently only once or twice a week.
  - b) **Traffic flow through the village:** Lysette Nicholls is regularly checking in to see when Speed Watch can recommence.
  - c) **Traffic signage:** Lysette Nicholls advised that following her meeting last year, almost all signs have been replaced; we are just awaiting new passing place signs. Lysette will continue to chase these.
19. **Facilities updates:**
  - a) Village hall
  - b) Village green
  - c) Playground - Cottsway draft lease. It was agreed that the terms of this lease (previously circulated to councillors) were acceptable. It was noted that this would commit the PC to paying £150 p.a. but it would also make it even clearer that the PC insurance policies would cover this area. Eileen Mawle advised she has received some positive comment from children who have used the new equipment in the playground.
  - d) Football pitch.
  - e) Bus shelter.
  - f) Postboxes.

20. **Responses to Planning Applications:** Shuttles Cottage have lodged an application to appeal to the Secretary of State with regard to their planning application.
21. **Items to Note:** Supplementary Planning Decision: The policy is available for review.
22. **Any other Business:** A special meeting will be held to discuss the three items as listed here in Any other business.
  - a. Precept
  - b. Parish Public Rights of Way
  - c. Resolution to Agree the Signing of the Playground Lease
23. **Date for the next meeting:** 5th January 2021 at 19:30

The meeting closed at 20:54