

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 19th JANUARY 2021, 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 Mathews (County Councillor)
- Martin Spurrier (to update on South Leigh Forest Restoration)
- Dick Pears (to update on Mobile Phone Signal)
- Greg Murphy (to discuss Church Farm)
- Sean Grace (Conservative Candidate for Eynsham and OCC)
- Tammy Heavens (Clerk to Parish Council)

The meeting was held via ZOOM – seven additional members of the public joined.

1. Apologies: Carl Rylett (District Councillor)
Dan Levy (District Councillor)
2. Declarations of interest: Eileen Mawle – Shores Green and Church Farm
Mark Walker – Shores Green
3. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
4. Matters of concern from Parishioners:
 - a) David Hindley contacted Nicky Brooks with concerns over lorries and high volumes of traffic around High Cogges Farm, Nicky will investigate.
 - b) We received a report from Martin Collett re. drains and flooding (covered in section 11)
 - c) The Parish Council would like to thank Jeremy Walker for cutting the grass on the area near Shores Green. The Parish Council would like to consider how this area is maintained in future, should it continue to be kept as grass, or a nature area of wild flowers, or perhaps a combination of both? Consideration is required, and this will be added to the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.
5. Matters of concern from County Council or District Council:

Nicky Brooks introduced Sean Grace who will be standing as the Conservative Candidate for District and County in May 2021 elections. Sean advised that there may be funds available to help with clearing ditches and introducing 20mph areas, and will investigate if South Leigh qualifies for this.

Charles Mathew advised that repairs to Swinford Bridge were due to start next week. The works will be undertaken by OCC. This will mean the bridge is closed whilst the works take place. Charles also advised that Thames Water are carrying out repairs on Station Road in Eynsham, and this road would also be closed whilst the works take place.
6. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered elsewhere: None.
7. Constitutional Matters:

Dick Pears wrote to the Parish Council, with concerns over minutes from Parish Council meetings. Nicky advised that Tammy will be undertaking Cleck training as soon as a course comes up. This will also be added to the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

8. Payments to approve:
Clerk's Salary and associated costs for income tax, all within budget.
9. Conservation Area:
The Conservation group are in the process of contacting an expert to provide advice on the next steps. We hope there will be more information for the next meeting.
10. Mobile Phone Signal:
Dick Pears provided an update to the Parish Council prior to the meeting. The summary is: Dick had a positive telephone conference with the Lead Political and Parliamentary Affairs Manager of Three and asked them to undertake further investigation into whether their proposal of more masts in neighbouring areas would increase coverage in South Leigh. Dick is chasing all four major providers and is also in discussions with BT for which the Parish Council are grateful. Dick also reminded us that he has a meeting with Nicky and Robert Courts scheduled for 19th March. Mark reminded everyone that it is possible to divert calls to a mobile phone to a landline.
11. The Lymbrook:
 - a) Flooding: Lysette Nicholls is in discussions with WODC and Highways to get the drains at High Cogges cleared and signage and line marking within the village updated. Lysette will also bring to the attention of WODC the items of concern from Martin Collett's report. But she has been advised by Highways that they are currently at budget and are awaiting the new year's (April) funds before they can continue with any promised works. Mark Walker advised that he has cleared these pipes and drains in the past; advice would be sought from WODC to find out if we are able to continue to clear these. Charles Mathew will support in getting these highways works completed.
 - b) Nature: Graham Soame has supplied another sample of the Lymbrook water to Lucy Stoddart, BBOWT bio-diversity officer, and the results indicate extremely high levels of nitrate and phosphate in the water. Lucy has offered to lend us a mink trap which Graeme will check daily. Graham will also contact WASP (Windrush Against Sewage Pollution) to get advice on the nitrate and phosphate levels.
12. South Leigh Forest Restoration:
Martin Spurrier advised, following the grant of £300 from TOE (Trust for Oxfordshire Environment), that they shall now press on with purchasing and planting at the Bury's Triangle in Stanton Harcourt Road and at the entrance to Just Cartridges. Martin asked for the Parish Council's thoughts on planting the 15 trees along the northern and eastern boundaries of the football field, despite the lease not being confirmed and signed, so as not to miss out on the planting season and have to wait another year. The Parish Council had no objections to this.
13. Shores Green:
Nicky Brooks was invited by Charles Mathew and attended a Locality Meeting with members of OCC to discuss the need to be kept informed on progress with Shores Green. Nicky confirmed that she has been added to a list of parties to be notified first of any progress. Nicky will continue to chase. Martin Wilson asked if there was any update on the proposed A40 roundabouts at Eynsham. Charles Mathew confirmed that it has been decided it will just be one roundabout now. Charles will check the drawings and share and advise.
14. Facilities updates:
 - a) Village hall
 - b) Village green - Should we look to form a volunteer party to carry out the grass cutting of the village green. Lysette Nicholls to investigate insurance coverage for this and, if appropriate, Martin Spurrier will seek volunteers (NB. Remy Martin's son could support this as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award).

- c) Playground – we await the Cottsway lease for final signature. New COVID 19 relative signage has been reinstalled on the entrance to the park. Karen Wilson asked for assistance with disposing of the now removed spinner from the playground. The Clerk is awaiting a response from WODC as to whether they will collect this under bulky waste items for us. Mark Walker advised he will take a look at the item, as he may be able to assist with disposal. Martin Wilson advised concerns over the gateways into the park from private properties. The Clerk to discuss with Karen Wilson and get some advice from local Safeguarding Officers as to whether these gates are appropriate or if they should be removed.
- d) Football pitch.
- e) Bus shelter.
- f) Postboxes.

15. Responses to Planning Applications:

White Cottage: No concerns as long as external lighting appropriate with Neighbourhood Plan.

Church Farm Change of Use: Eileen Mawle left the meeting at this stage after declaring an interest (the applicants being her daughter and son-in-law). Greg Murphy (one of the applicants making up the Church End Farm Partnership) attended and asked that the PC outlined their concerns. Stating that in principle that the Parish Council would like to support these plans but that they have serious concerns – such as the uncertainty to the number and type of vehicles, the exterior lighting and the entrance point into the barn. Greg took on board some of these points particularly to do with exterior lighting but also expressed his view that the plans as submitted were the way he thought a business would need to operate. After some discussion and input from individual councillors including some ideas that might ameliorate some of the concerns, this part of the meeting closed with considerable differences still being voiced. Greg left the meeting at this time after first restating that he would be more than happy to show any of the Parish Councillor or villager around the proposed site should they wish. After further discussion between the councillors it was decided that Nicky Brooks would write to WODC expressing their concerns. All but one councillor felt this was the correct way forward. Mark Walker felt that the application should be supported without alteration.

16. Any other Business:

- a) Eileen raised concern over the footpath on Station Road particularly outside ‘Thorns’ which is narrowing and that works to the verge are needed in order to maintain this pathway. The Clerk to write to the council and highways.
- b) The Parish Council would like to thank Janet Soame for her hard work collecting litter from the roads and pathways.
- c) Lysette Nicholls advised that she is liaising with Karen Wilson and Martin Spurrier and they are considering a village raffle to raise funds for village project in case the Summer Fayre is unable to be held this summer.
- d) Should we consider passing information on planning applications in the area to the Webmaster to provide links and information on the website? It was agreed that the Clerk would advise the Webmaster, on receipt of notification for WODC, but that a caveat should be included on the website, in case any were missed.

Dates for the next meeting: 2nd March 2021 at 19:30

The meeting closed at 21:55