

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 13th APRIL 2021, 19:30

Present were:

- Nicky Brooks (Chair)
- Mark Walker (Deputy Chair)
- Lysette Nicholls (Parish Councillor)
- Martin Wilson (Parish Councillor)
- Graham Soame (Parish Councillor)
- Dan Levy (District Councillor)
- Charles Mathew (County Councillor)
- Martin Spurrier (to update on South Leigh Forest Restoration)
- Dick Pears (to update on Mobile Phone Signal)
- Gary Nicholls (to update on the Conservation Area)
- Tammy Heavens (Clerk)

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

South Leigh Parish Council and its Parishioners wish to express their heartfelt sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family following the death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh

1. Apologies: None
2. Declarations of interest: Lysette Nicholls regarding Chapel Cottage, Graham Soame regarding The Mason Arms, Eileen Mawle regarding Shores Green and A40 and Mark Walker regarding Shores green and A40.
3. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.
4. Matters of concern from Parishioners: None
5. Matters of concern from County Council or District Council: Dan Levy happy to chat through update on A40 (to be covered under item 16) Charles Mathew advised he will be attending a meeting on the 4th May regarding the Anaerobic Digester; ahead of the meeting Charles will have an updated report which he will share with us.
6. Matters arising from previous minutes not covered elsewhere: None
7. Constitutional matters:
 - a) Nicky Brooks expressed her thanks to Charles Mathew as this will be the last South Leigh Parish Council Meeting that Charles will be attending as County Councillor as he steps down from his role in May; best wishes to Charles for the future. Nicky Brooks also thanked Eileen Mawle for all her work over the past 27 years as a Parish Councillor as she will not be standing in the Parish Council elections in May.
 - b) There will be Parish Council Elections on 6th May; there are three new nominees: Dick Pears, Rita Sawrey-Woodwards and David Auger. Nicky Brooks suggested that each nominee and current councillors that are standing again put together a 200 word paragraph telling everyone about themselves and what they would like to get involved with in the village. Door-to-door canvassing is permitted. Lysette Nicholls reminded everyone that declarations of ANY expenses need to be completed even if you don't intend to claim.

8. Payments to approve: Clerk's salary and associated costs for income tax, all within budget. We have employed a new contractor for grass cutting of the village green and village hall; there is a slight increase in the costs, but this is still covered in the budget.
9. Conservation Area: Gary Nicholls advised that the consultant had visited the village today. The Consultant, Gary, Dick Pears, Martin Spurrier and Graham Soame walked around the village and High Cogges.. Te consultant will now prepare a report and instructions and come back to the team who will update the Parish Council once the information is received. Gary Nicholls advised that it was a very encouraging meeting.
10. Mobile Phone Signal: Dick Pears advised that after advice from Robert Courts, he contacted the Bladon Parish Council as they were hoping to progress with a phone mast attached to their village church. Unfortunately, progress for them is as slow as it is for us. Nicky Brooks also commented to Dick Pears that she would be more than happy to accommodate a mast on her house in Church End.
11. The Lymbrook:
 - a) Flooding: Lysette Nicholls, with assistance from Charles Mathew, are chasing OCC.
 - b) Pollution and Nature: Graham Soame reported that since the beginning of the first lockdown in 2020, there seems to be an increasing feeling by more and more people in our Parish, that we need to do more to restore nature, not just to conserve it, but to bring back as much nature as we can. When the next PC meeting occurs with the possible changes in members, he hopes we can be more proactive in this regard, and show the way rather than just commenting on what others do. Recent works carried out include clearing in the churchyard by Heather Horner and others allowing the wildflowers to flourish, good for insects and bees, and with Rita Sawrey-Woodward's efforts, we are focusing on what can be done to reduce pollution in the brook (a first step to bringing back life to the brook.) At the next Parish Council meeting, Graham Soame wishes to propose that we have a discussion to arrange an open meeting later in the summer that brings together all the talent of our two villages to create, as Eynsham is doing, a Nature Recovery Network.
12. South Leigh Forest Restoration: Martin Spurrier advised that this year they have planted over 100 trees. They had hoped to plant more, but the lack of available space to plant has hindered this. If anyone knows of any space where tree planting might be possible, please contact Martin to discuss.
13. Facilities updates:
 - a) **Village hall** - the village hall will be open for the upcoming elections and for future Parish Council Meetings, with an official re-opening planned for mid-July (more details to come) and events starting following that time.
 - b) Village green.
 - c) Playground.
 - d) Football pitch.
 - e) Bus shelter.
 - f) Postboxes.
14. Responses to Planning Applications:
 - a) Church End Farm - Temporary planning permitted for 4 years.
 - b) Mason Arms - it was agreed that a letter would be written to the council noting the the amount of retrospective applications they are submitting, and expressing the hope that these would not be so prevalent in the future.
 - c) Chapel Cottage - the Parish Councillors visited Chapel Cottage and the neighbour and a written response to planning has been submitted.

15. Speed Watch - Lysette Nicholls reported that Speed Watch would be able to recommence in the in the near future, and that they will be introducing an enhanced scheme which will improve the system of how we record speeders and will result in the police following up more. We will continue to use the current system until the new scheme is rolled out to us.
16. Shores Green and A40 - Dan Levy has been heavily involved in the meetings and he expressed his thoughts that there is still a long way to go before the plans are approved, but that we should not wait to be given a voice, we should act quickly to get our thoughts in for consideration as soon as possible. Nicky Brooks presented the OCC proposal and a detailed discussion took place. It was agreed to hold a village meeting on Tuesday 20th April at 19:30 via Zoom to show the presentation and to collate all the villagers' thoughts and comments. The presentation will also be made available for all via the village website.
17. Any other Business:
Charles Mathew reported that he has a meeting on the 4th May which will include the proposed Anaerobic digester in South Leigh. Once he has the agenda he will share this with us and update us following the meeting.

Dates for the next meeting: 18th May

The meeting closed at 21:12