**Minutes of a meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held at the Methodist Chapel on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.00pm**

Present: Councillors Tania Johnson (Chair), Des Knight, Bob Garland, Sheila Jones, Jacqui Smith, David Best (Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence –** District Councillor Phil Chapman and County Councillor George Reynolds.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - None
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** **held on 12th February 2024.** These minutes were approved as correct and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda.** None
5. **Reports of Working Groups:**
	1. **Village Maintenance & Improvement**:
		1. **Hell Hole Wall** – Mr Tony Brummell from CDC, who is monitoring the wall, has been advised of the contact for Vicarage Flats to ask to remove the ivy but the PC has not received an update.
		2. **Upper Churchyard Mowing** – The mowers are being serviced but one requires replacement. F N Pile has quoted £542 ex VAT and it was agreed to purchase the replacement.
		3. **C&RT Towpath Task Force** – The next date for work is 27th March 2024.
		4. **Crack in Wall at entrance to Kyetts Corner –** A builder has been instructed and it will be repaired when the weather improves.
		5. **Broken Salt Bin** –This still has not been replaced.
		6. **Playground –** A quote has been received for maintenance and repairs. It was agreed that Councillors would meet at the playground and agree what work will be carried out.
		7. **Damaged tree on Station Road** – OCC has confirmed that the branches should be trimmed by the end of March.
	2. **Transport, Traffic & Street Lighting:**
		1. **Community Speedwatch –** One person has shown interest in volunteering, but the speed checks will be reduced to once every 2 weeks until more volunteers come forward. The speed check carried out in the previous week identified 50% of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. **OCC have issued an information request sheet for the ‘Vehicle Activated Speed’ (VAS) replacement scheme.** It was agreed that the clerk would look back through the records to identify if the PC purchased the **VAS** signs or if they were donated by OCC as they must be replaced because the speed that triggers them cannot be changed. **The Cropredy team need to follow up on some initial enquiries with Great Bourton and their activity.**
		2. **Parking issues –** No incidents of dangerous parking were observed since the last meeting although a car has been seen parking on the pavement opposite the Methodist Chapel and another parking on the green at Kyetts Corner.
		3. **Damaged Verge –** A verge with soft soil after being dug by the contractor installing fibre internet has been damaged by a vehicle driving over it. A volunteer is going to try to restore it.
	3. **Village Emergency Plan, Crime Prevention and Environment**
		1. **Police Forum** – There is a meeting in April.
		2. **Break ins reported** – There have been some break ins at stables between Cropredy and Great Bourton.
	4. **Parish Council use of Internet & social media –** The new website is ready to go live in April when the current contract ends. Councillors will have .gov.uk email addresses.
	5. **Planning, Climate Change Finance and Legal**
		1. **Application by Obsidian for a development north of Cropredy –** A document from Obsidian and Cropredy Surgery had been received a few days before the meeting which was circulated to all Councillors before the meeting and circulated to members of the public attending the meeting. It advised that “We want to stay in Cropredy as a village practice – but if we can’t grow into a sustainable business in a sustainable premises, there is a limit to how long we can do that” and “A section 106 agreement will be part of any planning permission for the whole site, meaning that delivering the surgery building would be legally guaranteed and enforced”.Residents attending the meeting were opposed to the development and It was agreed that the PC would not change its response at the planning committee meeting. It was agreed that the Councillors would accept the invitation from Cropredy Surgery to attend a meeting and ask questions. It is anticipated that the application will be on the agenda for the CDC planning committee meeting on Thursday 21st March.

**New Planning Applications & Appeals since last meeting:**

**24/00321/F –** 10 Kyetts Corner – Two storey rear extension – PC supports this application.

**Planning Decisions since last meeting –** None since last meeting.

1. **County Councillors Report** – County Councillor George Reynolds: No update
2. **District Council Report** – District Councillor Phil Chapman: No update
3. **Sports and Social Club**
	1. Damage to metal barrier at entrance to the Sports and Social Club – An estimate of £768 had been received to repair the metal barrier and it was agreed to make an insurance claim as the excess is £100 and Zurich Insurance had advised that a claim should not adversely affect future premiums.
4. **Churchyard Wall**
	1. **Investigation of wall structure** - The Oxford Diocese has given permission to dig 7 trial pits 2 foot square and 2 foot deep in the churchyard next to the wall to investigate the structure. It was agreed that the first trial pit would be dug on Tuesday 19th March.
5. **Finance**: **Clerk’s Report**
	1. **Year to date accounts** - These were circulated prior to the meeting. Reserves are currently £82,823.
	2. **Unity Trust Bank savings account** – The application has been signed to open a Unity Trust savings account which pays higher interest than the current Barclays savings account. It was agreed that the Barclays accounts would be closed and the money transferred to Unity.
6. **Correspondence** – No matters to discuss.
7. **Any other business not of a confidential nature:**
	1. **Tree Survey –** The quote had been received from Mr Tim Bachelor and it was agreed to accept this if the survey can be completed by the end of April.
	2. Tree to celebrate the contribution that Mr Magaret Boscott has made to the village – It was agreed that this would be planted near the Millennium sign and a plaque will be purchased. The planting date is to be agreed.
	3. Fairport Cropredy Convention Wrist Band Collection – It was agreed that the organiser would be asked is wrist bands could be collected from the cabin at the S&SC if residents are unable to collect them from the Methodist Chapel. Details of ticket ordering will be published in The Crier.
8. **Any matters raised by members of the public attending the meeting:** None.
9. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 8th April 2024

There being no further matters the Chair closed the public meeting at 8.35pm

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Chair
8th April 2023