It is with great sadness, our Councillor and friend Gill Moss died on November 14th. Gill had served the Parish of Cropredy for many years as a Councillor and after a short retirement returned this May. We had all benefited from her knowledge and good sense and know our Council is poorer without her. We send our condolences to Ray, sons, and family.

**Minutes of a meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held at the Methodist Chapel on Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.00pm**

Present: Councillors Tania Johnson (Chair), Des Knight, Bob Garland, Sheila Jones, Jacqui Smith, District Councillor, Phil Chapman, David Best (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence -** Councillor Gill Moss & County Councillor George Reynolds
2. **Declarations of Interest** Cllr Tania Johnson – Lower Churchyard Strimming
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** **held on 9th October 2023** These minutes were approved as correct and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda.**
	1. **Tree growing in a grave plot –** This has been removed by a member of the family.
5. **Reports of Working Groups:**
	1. **Village Maintenance & Improvement** including:
		1. **Hell Hole Wall**. There is no update on this.
		2. **Lower Churchyard Strimming** – The Lower Churchyard has been strimmed more regularly this year and is looking much tidier. Anthills and saplings have also been removed and Headstones are more visible. It was agreed that this area would be strimmed once a month next season from March to October.
		3. **Upper Churchyard Mowing** – This is carried out by volunteers. The last cut has been carried out for this season. Compliments had been received on the condition of the churchyard.Thank you to all those volunteers that help to keep the area looking presentable.
		4. **Mowing Schedule -** This has been issued by Des Knight and it was agreed to adopt this. It was also agreed that competitive quotes would be obtained. Mr S Watts who currently mows areas of the village not mown by volunteers has confirmed that he will not increase prices for the next season.
		5. **Canals and River Trust** - The next ‘Towpath Taskforce’ is expected to be held on Wednesday 29th November (last Wednesday in the month), to be confirmed.
		6. **Pothole at Kyetts Corner** - This has been reported to OCC Highways who have inspected and put a plate over it but have not confirmed who will repair it or when it will be repaired.
		7. **Crack in Wall at entrance to Kyetts Corner –** This is believed to have been caused by a nearby tree. It was agreed that Cllr Des Knight will ask Mr Tim Batchelor to investigate this as well as the tree that appears to be damaging the path on Chapel Green and carrying out a tree survey.
		8. **Playing Fields** – Cllr Jacqui Smith is chasing Wicksteed for repainting the play equipment.
	2. **Transport, Traffic & Street Lighting including:**
		1. **Community Speedwatch –** The volunteer group who carry this out are meeting on 21st November. Three volunteers have stepped down. Great Bourton has commenced ‘Community Speedwatch’ in their village**.**
		2. **20 mph limit –** The 20mph speed limit has become legal. The Vehicle Activated Speed Signs will be replaced by OCC Highways as the warning speed cannot be adjusted on them.
		3. **Dangerous parking –** The community police officers will not walk around the village to advise on dangerous parking but would attend a village event if one is held to talk about parking. Parking will continue to be monitored. It was agreed that a sticker would be designed and printed to put on cars if they park dangerously.
	3. **Village Emergency Plan, Crime Prevention and Environment**
		1. Some updates have been completed and the updated version posted on the website.
		2. The salt bins have all been checked. One is damaged and has been reported on Fix My Street.
	4. **Parish Council use of Internet & social media**
		1. It was agreed that Cllr Bob Garland will investigate a company that is offering to manage Parish Council websites.
	5. **Planning, Climate Change Finance and Legal**
		1. **Application by Obsidian for a development north of Cropredy.** There is no news on when this is likely to be considered by the planning committee.
		2. **Cherwell Local Plan**. A vote of thanks was given to Cllr Bob Garland for drafting the response to the consultation.

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

None since last meeting.

**Planning Decisions since last meeting****:**

23/02374/F – Garage block, Cup & Saucer – erect single garage – CDC permitted.

23/02434/LB – Beam Cottage – Replacement window – CDC permitted.

1. **County Councillors Report** – County Councillor George Reynolds (apologies had been received).
2. **District Council Report** – District Councillor Phil Chapman
	1. **Banbury Town Centre Vision** – CDC is encouraging residents (including those in the surrounding villages) to review proposals and give feedback. Cllr Bob Garland would write a note for *The Crier* and the website.
3. **Sports and Social Club**
	1. **Fencing quotes –** Cherwell Fencing had provided quotes but it is believed that it would be better to repair the fence rather than replace it as the wood treatment on older fencing is more effective.
4. **Finance**: **Clerk’s Report**
	1. **Year to date accounts** - These were issued prior to the meeting. Reserves are currently £88,320.
	2. **Budget for next year** – The draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. It was agreed that an increase in the Precept is likely to be required and it was agreed that the clerk would calculate the cost of this per household and an additional meeting would be convened to agree the budget.
5. **Correspondence**.
	1. **Warm Rooms Initiative** – It was agreed that the PC would support the cost this winter as it did last winter.
	2. **Age UK Information Pack** – Cllr Bob Garland volunteered to publicise this information.
6. **Any other business not of a confidential nature**
	1. **Church Wall repairs –** Andrew Baxter will be carrying out an inspection of the wall on Thursday 16th November to give recommendations on the extent of repairs that are required.
7. **Any matters raised by members of the public attending the meeting** – None.
8. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 11th December 2023

There being no further matters the Chair closed the public meeting at 8.40pm

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chair
11th December 2023