**Minutes of a meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held at the Methodist Chapel on Monday 9th October 2023 at 7.00pm**

Present: Councillors Tania Johnson (Chair), Des Knight, Bob Garland, Gill Moss, Jacqui Smith, District Councillor, Phil Chapman, David Best (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence -** Councillor Sheila Jones & County Councillor George Reynolds
2. **Declarations of Interest** Cllr Gill Moss – Cluster Care Group
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** **held on 11th September 2023** These minutes were approved as correct and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda.**
   1. **Changes to the minutes –** A resident requested two changes to the minutes after reading them in The Crier. The first was to add the date of the December Cherwell Planning Committee meeting to Item 4.i. This was agreed and added as 7th December. The second was to delete Item 5.i.e about the proposed defibrillator at the Village Hall as he had no recollection of this being discussed. This was not agreed as it was in the notes that the clerk took in the meeting and the chairman confirmed that she gave an update in the meeting. It should be noted that the minutes that are published in The Crier are draft as the minutes are not adopted until agreed at the subsequent meeting.
5. **Reports of Working Groups:**
   1. **Village Maintenance & Improvement** including:
      1. **Hell Hole Wall**. There is no update on this.
      2. **Mowing Schedule.** This has been issued by Des Knight to all councillors and some feedback has been received. It has been a difficult year for mowing due to weather conditions.
      3. **Play area inspection**. This has been completed and the clerk will send out the report. The zip wire needs tightening. Cllr Jacqui Smith is obtaining quotes from Wicksteed for repainting and remedial work. A supplier is being sought for work to the skate park.
      4. **Canals and River Trust**. The working parties are 10am-2pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month.
      5. **Gravel for the Lock Garden**. This will be purchased by Liz. Atkins
      6. **Wildflower Area** – This has been identified. It will be left unmown initially and then strimmed closely before the Fairport festival.
      7. **Playing Fields** – Pictures of the equipment have been sent to Wicksteed to enable them to quote for painting and remedial work. Other quotes will be sought.
      8. **Path on Chapel Green** – Tree roots are damaging the path at the top of the steps this will need to be fixed by the PC rather than Sanctuary Housing.
      9. **Dead tree at the Playing Fields** – There is a dead tree which needs to be taken down and Newscutt Lane.
      10. **Brown bins at Churchyard –** It was confirmed that there is one brown bin in use but there is a spare bin.
   2. **Transport, Traffic & Street Lighting including:**
      1. **Community Speedwatch –** This has been suspended temporarily with the introduction of the 20mph speed limit.
      2. **20 mph limit -** Thames Valley Police has confirmed that anyone exceeding 30mph in the 20mph speed limit will receive a warning letter. The Vehicle Activated Speed Signs will be replaced by OCC Highways as the warning speed cannot be adjusted on them. A resident had complained about the location of one of the speed limit signs. OCC Highways has advised that the signs will not be moved as they are located to make them easy for drivers to spot even if residents do not consider them to be in an ideal location.
      3. **Dangerous parking –** This will be discussed with community police officers later this month. The location of the yellow lines was chosen from four proposals from OCC Highways.
      4. **Pothole at Kyetts Corner –** This has been reported and is being investigated.
      5. **Street lighting at Hell Hole –** This has been reported but there is an intermittent fault.
      6. **Wooden bollards to restrict parking at entrance to Prescot Farm –** There has been only one case of a vehicle being parked here restricting access since the bollards were replaced and a notice was put on the vehicle
   3. **Village Emergency Plan, Crime Prevention and Environment**
      1. Some updates are being implemented.
   4. **Parish Council use of Internet & social media**
      1. The village information sheet is being updated.
   5. **Planning, Climate Change Finance and Legal**
      1. **Planning Application for housing adjacent to Claydon Road.** There is no update.
      2. **Cherwell Local Plan**. Councillor Bob Garland is drafting a response to the consultation which will be circulated and published to residents before being submitted.

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

22/02530/F – Oxhay Farm – modified application – PC deferred to CDC to decide.

23/02350/F – Wood Elf Cottage – Single storey extension – PC supports application.

23/02374/F – Garage block, Cup & Saucer – erect single garage - PC supports application.

23/02434/LB – Beam Cottage – Replacement window - PC supports application.

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

23/01919/F – Crimond – Two storey rear extension – CDC permitted.

22/02530/F – Oxhay Farm – modified application – CDC permitted.

1. **County Councillors Report** – County Councillor George Reynolds (apologies had been received).
2. **District Council Report** – District Councillor Phil Chapman
   1. **Cherwell Budget** – The budget for next year looks manageable although there are some cuts
   2. **Cherwell Local Plan 2040** – Responses need to be submitted promptly so that it can be agreed as soon as possible.
3. **Sports and Social Club**
   1. **Fencing along the river –** This needs to be replaced but it can be replaced with a lower fence.
4. **Finance**: **Clerk’s Report**
   1. **Year to date accounts** - These were issued prior to the meeting. Reserves are currently £88,338.62
   2. **Budget for next year** – This is being prepared but it is anticipated that there will be an increase in the Precept this year as there will be a significant cost of repairing the church wall.
   3. **Grants to local organisations** - It was agreed that notice will be put into The Crier asking local organisations to submit applications for grants.
5. **Correspondence**.
   1. **Donation request from Life Education Wessex** - A £192 donation was agreed to this charity that is carrying out emotional well-being training at the school.
   2. **Donation request from Cluster Care Group** – This will be considered with the grant requests from local organisations.
6. **Any other business not of a confidential nature** – None.
7. **Any matters raised by members of the public attending the meeting** – None.
8. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 13th November 2023 to be confirmed

The Chair asked that any members of the public and press to withdraw from the meeting during consideration of any confidential items.

There being no further matters the Chair closed the public meeting at 8.16pm

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Chair  
13th November 2023