

SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting
held on Tuesday 22nd January 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:

Councillors: Dr Peter Thomas (Chair), Vanessa Doyle and Sarah Wilson-Medhurst (Vice-Chair), Mrs Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), County Cllr George Reynolds and three villagers

- 19/01. To receive apologies for absence
District Cllr Hugo Brown (work)

- 19/02. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda
There were no interests to declare.

- 19/03. Public participation session
Mrs Smith spoke about the newsletter and the importance of having a printed copy. She suggested to the Parish Council to continue to print four copies per year. This matter will be discussed later in the meeting.

There were complaints about the Christmas tree being too small. It was agreed to have the same size as last year to keep costs down. A larger tree would have needed securing. It was noted at this point that the first ever bought tree was put in a tub which made it taller. Mrs Smith passed an invoice for lightbulbs and the Chair reminded her that all expenses should be authorised by the Parish Council first.

Mr Braithwaite reported the illegal occupation of the mobile home at Millstream Farmhouse which does not have planning permission. This has been reported to CDC Enforcement before. Mr Braithwaite to forward photographic evidence to the Parish Clerk to pass on to CDC.

Miss Robertson noted that a villager had said the A361 was much quieter recently. This was because a noise reduction surface was put down. She spoke about the newsletter and agreed that some people like a paper copy. If more copies are needed the Parish Council should consider increasing the precept to pay for it.

- 19/04. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2018
The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed as a true record. It was agreed for the Parish Clerk to circulate the final draft minutes with the Clerks report before each meeting.

- 19/05. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only
The Chair has planted the two whips with the plaque as part of the Remembrance project. The Winter flowering tree was planted in the Poleaxe to replace the blackthorn.

The Welcome Pack requires updating. At this point the Chair noted that Darron Maddock had resigned from the Parish Council due to family and work commitments. Thanks was given to Mr Maddock for all his contributions to Parish Council work including setting up and managing the website and email communications until very recently. Miss Robertson agreed to make the changes.

- 19/06. To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor
Cllr Reynolds reported the following: Oxfordshire County Council would be making a 3% Increase, CDC a £5 increase on a band D property, Thames Valley Police, a £24 increase which is the maximum amount allowed. The divorce between SNC and CDC is slowly happening. The Planning Department will be the last to separate. The merger with OCC has been successful with Leading Officers for Trading Standards, Licensing and Housing.

Cllr Brown had emailed his report. The main points included:

Purchase of the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury

- CDC have purchased the Mill Arts Centre, Banbury from OCC for £1 (+£50K Transition funding).
- CDC would take on various commitments to undertake remedial works to the building (£250K) and short term revenue support.
- The purpose of the purchase is to allow the Arts Centre to continue now that OCC is withdrawing support.

Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Council Tax Discounts

The Council Tax Reduction Scheme is a mandatory scheme. Around 6600 households in Cherwell are eligible costing gross £740K. Council tax reductions are optional and set locally. The proposal was that these should remain unchanged.

Executive Meeting on 7th Jan 2019

The following was discussed:

- Business Rates Relief Policy
- Local Discretionary business Rate Relief Scheme for 2019-20. This scheme is to assist businesses whose business rates increased sharply following the 2017 revaluations. Funding provided by the Government to pay for this scheme has reduced significantly.
- Draft business plan and summary Medium Plan Financial Strategy.

19/07. To discuss the newsletter and printing costs

It was decided in July 2018 by five Parish Councillors that the newsletter would be distributed by email unless someone came forward requesting a paper copy. This would save money on printing costs. Previous quarterly printing costs were £40.00. The Parish Council are looking to balance budgets to maintain existing as well as new services. The latter include the defibrillator and associated costs, and dog waste bin maintenance. There has also been additional expenditure this year in getting the War Memorial cleaned and the church clock repaired. The newsletter is not the organ of the Parish Council but a worthwhile means of communicating in the village. Two Councillors noted that they felt it was worthwhile printing as in addition to those who have already expressed a preference for a paper copy there is evidence youngsters will also look at a printed copy. They suggested that the precept could be increased to cover the additional printing costs or extra income is generated from advertising. The idea of purchasing a printer was discussed but it would not be a cheaper option. To be discussed in more detail under item 19/13.

19/08. To discuss improvement work to the Poleaxe

Cllr George Reynolds has a Councillor Priority fund of £15K and he uses it to help small villages put in schemes that they would not be able to do. The Chair has asked Nicholsons to quote for improvement work to the Poleaxe. Village working parties have done work in the past but it is hard to get volunteers to come forward. The quote is for £6K and in seven parts. If work is agreed it would not take place until next Autumn/Winter time. The work could be done in parts. The idea of disabled access was discussed too.

Action: The Chair to ask Nicholsons if they have a plan of the area. Councillors to visit the area and look at the suggestions. The Chair to get a quote for disabled access.

19/09. To discuss the church clock repairs

The Church clock was repaired in November but it is broken again. The Chairman has told the PCC to desist from bell ringing for the time being until the problem is sorted out.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact Time Assured Ltd and ask them to come back and produce a report.

19/10. To receive feedback from the meeting re the A361

A site meeting was held with the OCC Project Manager, Chair of the Parish Council and Cllr George Reynolds on 16th January 2019. The two junctions of concern (by the Slibber and Barford Road) were pointed out. The white lines put down less than one month ago have already eroded. The Project Manager witnessed the big artics driving through the village and is recommending that the piece of road near to the pub and bend is widened by 1M.

There is overgrown vegetation down the Slibber which reduces sight lines when turning onto the A361. This will be cut back. At the junction of Barford Road there is overgrown vegetation and old signs. The vegetation will be cut back and signs changed. They will also cut back overgrown vegetation opposite Bakers Lane. The Chair has asked the Project Manager to forward the notes from the meeting.

There is more highway work to be done on the Barford Road. Large branches on the Barford Road have been reported. A water leak opposite 9 Barford Road has been reported.

Action Chair/Clerk to forward the report to all Councillors once it is available.

19/11. To discuss the need for new Councillors

There are currently two vacancies and elections are due to be held in May. Someone has shown an interest.

Action: The Parish Clerk will follow this up.

19/12. To discuss the website and cover for holidays

The Parish Clerk is to liaise with Sue Robertson about the village email list and log in details for the website to provide cover for holidays.

19/13. To receive the Clerk's Report – circulated

New Planning

The following new applications had been received:

- 19/0005/TCA, Tree work at South Newington House. No further comments.
- 19/00016/TCA, Tree work at The Old Post Office, Church Street. No further comments.
- 19/00007/F, Demolition of existing buildings. Erection of a replacement dwelling and associated outbuilding. Landscaping of associated holding at High Haven Farm, Hawthorn Hill. Under consideration.

Approved

- 18/02003/F, Car port to front: Conversion of existing car port in inner courtyard to indoor pool room with glazed cloister extension; associated internal alterations and new windows in existing openings at Hallcombe House, Hawthorn Hill.
- 19/01565/F, Retention of mobile home (first approved January 2008) at Little Haven, Barford Road.
- 18/00307/TCA, Tree work at The Gables, Green Lane.
- 18/00308/TCA, Tree work at Poleaxe.
- 18/00366/TCA, Tree work at South Newington Manor, High Street.

Financial Report

The following payments were approved under statutory powers:-

- £58.00 to N Morris (Christmas tree)
- £204.00 to Time Assured Ltd (church clock repair)
- £96.00 to Nicholsons Nurseries Ltd (purchase of plant for Poleaxe)
- £348.00 to N Prickett (maintenance)

To set the precept for 2019/20

The Clerk had circulated a budget sheet. Estimated income for the year is £7428.00 and estimated spend is £8456.00. It was agreed not to give donations to the Thames Valley Chiltern Air Ambulance or

Banbury Citizens Advice Bureau. The Parish Clerk to check the rental figure for the emergency phone with the defibrillator. It was agreed to set the precept at £6934.00 (increase of £630.00) for 2019/20.

Action: The Parish Clerk to notify CDC.

Correspondence

The following correspondence were received and circulated:-

- Citizens Advice, Donation letter
- OCC, Updates on A361 Improvement work
- CDC, Deddington Neighbourhood Plan - Consultation
- CDC, Weston on The Green Neighbourhood Plan – Consultation
- OCC Countryside Records, Notice of Modification Order South Newington Footpath No 21
- Highways, Road closure on Wigginton Road (from 25th February for Thames Water)
- CDC, Cherwell Wellbeing Activity Map
- OALC, Section 137 amount for 2019/20
- OCC, Rights of Way, Notice of Confirmation of Order, South Newington Footpath No. 11 (part), South Newington Footpath No. 12 (part), South Newington Footpath No. 13 (part) and Swerford Footpath No. 4 (part), Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2018
- Linda Brecknell, Barford Road
- John Braithwaite, Parish Council matters
- CDC, Whos who and Housing Strategy Consultation
- Email from Stella Darke, Chair of VHC.

Several items of correspondence were highlighted:

- OCC Countryside Records, Notice of Modification Order South Newington Footpath No 21 and OCC, Rights of Way, Notice of Confirmation of Order, South Newington Footpath No. 11 (part), South Newington Footpath No. 12 (part), South Newington Footpath No. 13 (part) and Swerford Footpath No. 4 (part), Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2018. The notices are on the board and will be circulated on the village email list.
- Linda Brecknell, Barford Road. A complaint has been received about the state of the verge on the Barford Road due to parking. It was agreed the Parish Clerk would write to the person concerned to ask them to re-instate the verge when their building work is complete.
Action: Parish Clerk to write to villager concerned as agreed above.
- Email from Stella Darke, Chair of VHC. There are seven members on the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council are entitled to have a representative on the committee. It was agreed to leave this for the moment whilst there are two vacancies. The Chair noted he would be happy to receive minutes of meetings by email.

19/14. To receive the following reports

Neighbourhood Watch (NW) – There was nothing to report.

Highways – A report has been given.

Website/Email List – There was nothing to report.

Other Meetings – There have been no meetings.

Meeting finished at 9.05pm.

Date of next meeting, Tuesday 26th March 2019 at 7.30pm