

## SOUTH NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.30pm  
In the Village Hall

### **Present:**

Councillors: Vanessa Doyle, Mike Rapp, Graham Smith and Stephan Lucks

Mrs Christine Coles (Parish Clerk), Cllr A McHugh and two villagers

### **24/15. To receive apologies for absence**

Cllr Wilson-Medhurst (work)

### **24/16. To receive Declarations of Interest under the Council's Code of Conduct relating to business on the agenda**

Cllr Smith and Cllr Lucks declared interests as neighbours of The Little Forge.

### **24/17. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2024**

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record.

### **24/18. To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda**

There were no matters arising.

### **24/19. To receive reports from the County Councillor and District Councillor**

District Councillor McHugh gave the following report.

Cherwell District Council passed its budget at the last meeting. The effect of the amendment was around 0.1% of the overall budget. Passing the budget is a significant achievement. The consequences of not passing the budget would have been serious as they could not have set a council tax and not been able to deliver council tax bills. Cllr McHugh is a founder member of the Banburys Quay Consortium CIC. This is an organization dedicated to improving the cultural offering of Banbury and making it somewhere people want to go. There has been no response to the Enforcement issued reported to CDC. The millionth coffee pod has been recycled in one year.

### **24/20. To receive the Clerk's Report – circulated**

#### **Planning**

#### **New**

APP/C3105/D/24/3337036, Retrospective – Single Storey rear extension and loft conversion at 5 St Peters Close. Appeal against Refusal.

#### **Determined**

24/00007/CLUE, Hailcombe Hall, Hawthorn Hill.

#### **Other**

To receive an update on work at The Little Forge and discuss any new concerns.

Case No 23/00502/ENF, Unauthorised erection of outbuilding within a conservation area at The Little Forge. The outbuilding has been erected under permitted development rights.

There are new concerns re the new low stone wall but there has been no response from CDC about previous concerns raised through Cllr McHugh.

## **Finance**

*To agree a pay rise and note the NALC revised salary scale for the Clerk for 2023/24 with the amount backdated to April.* The new salary scale was accepted and the backpay was agreed. The Clerk has moved to the next point on the scale.

*The following payments were approved under statutory powers:*

£168.00 to OALC (membership)  
£640.91 To Parish Clerk (hours)  
£160.40 to HMRC  
£64.80 To Parish Clerk (mileage)  
£36.00 to Sort It (website maintenance - Feb)  
£72.00 to Community Heartbeat (Emergency phone)  
£36.00 to Sort It (website maintenance - March)

## **Correspondence**

- Email re overgrown hedges. A Parish Council agenda item in November was overgrown hedges and work was done on hedges on Barford Road at the end of December. Concern was raised about the lack of safety measures in place on a busy and blind junction. If hedges and trees are overhanging footpaths, they are the responsibility of the property owner to maintain and keep footpaths clear. The Parish Clerk did contact some house owners about keeping footpaths clear. Other hedges in the village were cut by the grass contractor with agreement from the Parish Council. It was a quiet Bank Holiday when this work was done and the local roads were quiet.
- Email re various village matters including CCTV and planning concerns. CCTV is a private matter and not a Parish Council matter. A property has new windows but not applied for planning permission. It was agreed the Parish Clerk should write to them first. More properties have outside lights on. A note will be put in the next newsletter.

### **24/21. Councillors Reports**

There is evidence of building rubble outside properties in the village. A note on the village email will be circulated.

Blocked drains have been reported.

The gate rubble on the A361 towards Chipping Norton has not been moved. The Chair has reported it again on FMS.

### **24/22. Public participation session (*Members of the public are invited to address the council. The session will last for a maximum of fifteen minutes with any individual contribution lasting a maximum of 3 minutes*)**

The church clock was discussed which is not keeping to time. The Parish Clerk has spoken to Time Assured who know about the work. She will chase them again.

A villager reported a tree by Tink a Tank which looks unhealthy. They will take a photo and the PC will report it on Fix My Street.

A villager spoke about the council tax bills. It notes the Parish Council percentage is 12.6% but the Parish Council raised their precept by 10%. Cllr McHugh to ask why the figures are different.

The village mosaic was discussed as it is hoped it can be placed in the Church. The PCC will be contacted to get a faculty from the Archdeacon.

A villager spoke about the end of life policy for electric car batteries and solar panels and asked if OCC/CDC have a policy to deal with this. It is not a problem today but will be later on. Cllr McHugh replied that the matter has been raised already.

**24/23. To note next meeting date and time**

Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 at 7.30pm

Meeting finished at 8.30pm.

DRAFT