

**SIBFORD FERRIS PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of meeting held via Zoom conferencing on July 7th 2020

**\*WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS**

Those contributing were Councillor S Rayner [Chair] Cllrs G Bennett, A Taylor, J Wass, District and County Councillor G Reynolds, and one member of the public. We welcomed K Buttle ,Clerk to Sibford Gower Parish Council ,who we hope will take on the position of clerk. after discussions with Cllr A Lamb.

**\*APOLOGIES**

Cllr A Lamb sent his apologies.

**\*DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

GB will not take part in the item concerning Sibford Village Hall car park .

**\*MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The meeting was held on May 12<sup>th</sup> 2020, via Zoom conferencing and the minutes were agreed as correct ,and will be kept on file until they can be signed at our next actual meeting.

**\*MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES-None**

**\*CORRESPONDENCE**

--An E-mail had been received from D Allen in his position as a Trustee and Grant Manager for the Village Hall. DA is seeking financial support for the Car Park Safety Upgrade fund. He said that the car park has been deteriorating for some years and is in need of complete resurfacing. The estimated cost of the project is around £11,000, £4,000 of which the Trustees had already raised by fund raising events. SGPC had contributed £500 .SR, AT and JW agreed in the principle of making a donation .but wanted to assess the council finances before making a decision. AL to be asked for the relevant information.

--AL had received an invoice from T Fox for grass cutting, and an E-mail from our Insurers ,but we do not know yet if these have been paid, as we have not seen financial statements for some time He will ask AL to circulate these to council members.

--GR reminded us that he still has some funds available for special needs , but pointed out that the Play Area refurbishment would not qualify.

**\*PLANNING**

--Long House 20/01677/TCA to fell a hawthorn tree. There were no objections to this . AT will respond to Cherwell District Council.

--Folly Barn, Grange Lane 20/01554/Q56 barn conversion. This is the second application for a conversion on this site ,although a different barn. The first application was commented on by SFPC and refused by CDC. It is now under appeal. The application above is similar to the first and we wish to comment that CDC should

check compliance to Class Q rules and the site activity that is already ongoing. The site is in a prominent position on the edge of the village and should be screened with trees. AT will write to CDC.

--Hook Norton Road development 18/01894/OUT update-As this development appeal was upheld there is little we can do. All agreed that when the definitive planning is applied for we will scrutinise it closely ,to make sure there are no major changes.

#### \*COMMUNITY

--Village Recategorisation. SR had circulated an outline plan. He had attended a meeting at CDC and SFPC and SGPC have applied to put their case for change. They propose that the CAT A village that CDC now consider the combined Sibfords and Burdrop to be ,should be changed . SFPC believes that the villages should be considered separately ,and due to our lack of facilities we should be a CAT B village. GR said that all Pcs will be issued invitations to comment. CDC agreed a process that should be environmentally friendly and watertight. JW spoke of the Sibford Action Group ,but as they are a lobby group ,the SFPC should remain impartial. GB ,JW and AT agreed that SR should write a statement recommending that the villages are considered separately. SR and Cllr R Mallows[SGPC] have been sharing discussions, but will make separate statements.

GR mentioned that the bus service may not be sustained, thereby reducing our facilities further.

#### \*PREVIOUS ISSUES

-- Cotswold Close Play Area.- Having received advice on a Covid secure play area ,we initially felt that we could not re-open the area and keep it clean and under surveillance. There have been requests from residents that it is open for the summer holidays. SR has asked S Chard and C Davies [steering group for play area refurbishment] to do a risk assessment .Once this is done and guidance notices are posted up ,it could re-open. Also the annual safety inspection which was due in June will need to be carried out before the re-opening.

--Fly tipping -this remains a problem ,but GB will do a check twice weekly. The abandoned trailer outside the Manor has been removed.

--Dog bins.-After an article in the Sibford Scene a resident has expressed support for more bins and would like to see one at the end of Grounds Farm track .Small House Lane has also been a suggestion .We will review the cost of bins and the ongoing cost of emptying and see if we can fund them. It was agreed that this was desirable. AT will ask AL about this.

--Defibrillator /First Aid training- this had to be put on hold due to the pandemic, but we will activate plans once it is safe to do so.

--Tree planting -We are waiting to find out if there is any funding /grants available for this.

#### \*JOINT INITIATIVE of PARISH COUNCILS.

--This idea came from the Sibford Support Group meeting. As the villages have worked well together with many volunteers, to support people in need during the

pandemic, it is felt that the use of volunteers is an invaluable resource. All PCs have been asked in the past about forming an Emergency Plan in case of pandemic ,or severe weather conditions. A joint meeting to discuss drawing up a plan using the experience gained during the last few months could be the way forward ,and GB has agreed to contact Cllr D Allen, SGPC .

**\*ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

--Heavy traffic through the village- Following an approach by a resident , SR had contacted GR about this, and received a reply from Mike Wasley , Principal Officer, -traffic and traffic schemes. Road signage could help to deter heavy vehicles from attempting to come through the village. An assessment will be done by MW `s team to see the best way forward.

-- Several reports of strange youths in cars in the village ,during the evenings ,have been reported by a resident. When approached they say they are waiting for a friend ,but do not know where he lives or sometimes even his name. They have been sited opposite the Manor , on the MUGA and along Woodway Rd .As this is not the first time suspicious behaviour has been noticed, we agreed that Lana Smith ,our Community Police Officer should be made aware and asked to write an article for the Sibford Scene. SR will contact her. GR says he encourages the reporting of any information on this , so that the police can get a bigger picture of the problem.

--GR reported that the Thames Water works on the Broughton Road , near the Castle were now complete ,and the traffic lights removed.

**\*NEXT MEETING**

This will be on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 at 7-45pm. It may need to be held via Zoom ,but a decision will be taken at the end of August to confirm this ,or make other arrangements.

The Meeting closed at 9-20pm