

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 9th September 2020** at **7:30pm** via Zoom video conferencing

Present: Cllr Pidgeon, Cllr Mallows, Cllr Berks.

In attendance: 2 members of the public, Clerk, County and District Cllr Reynolds, District Cllr Chapman.

Business

- 1. Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Allen and Cllr Thomas.
- 2. Members declarations of interest for items on the agenda** – None.
Item 15 was discussed at this stage to allow the County and District Cllrs to leave to attend other meetings.
Cllr Reynolds left the meeting at 8:04pm.
Cllr Chapman left the meeting at 8:15pm.
- 3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meetings held on 13th May and 8th July 2020** – The minutes were proposed and agreed.
- 4. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings** - Cllr Mallows stated that he had a meeting with Openreach about the telegraph poles and they agreed to report back to the PC in due course. Much will depend on the finance made available by OCC.
Mawles Farm Barns is now subject to a live enforcement -Ref: 20/00180/ENF. There is also some working going on there which is possibly permitted development but the Conservation Officer may be looking into this.
Cllr Pidgeon confirmed that the defibrillator is covered under the PC insurance.
- 5. Correspondence**
 - i) TEC Charity seeking Treasurer nomination – A notice has gone out advising parishioners that there is a vacancy for a treasurer on the Town Estates Charity. The deadline for applications is next week..
 - ii) Concerns expressed re the state of some of the paths in the village – A parishioner has contacted the council via the footpaths warden about overgrown footpaths in the parish, one of which forces pedestrians to walk in the road, creating a significant safety issue. The clerk advised that as the Parish Council do not have any powers over footpaths that are not on PC land parishioners should be encouraged to report issues such as this on fixmystreet.com which should get the concern reported to the correct organisation. **Cllr Pidgeon to provide details of fixmystreet to parishioner.**
 - iii) Subject Access Request received – The Clerk advised that a Subject Access Request/FOI request has been received to which the clerk has sent a response. The requestor has queried the response so the clerk will seek further advice on this.
 - iv) Electric Blanket safety check provision – A request to put up a poster about a free electric blanket safety check service has been received by the PC. Due to COVID-19 the blankets will be collected from the owners and returned the same day. It was agreed that this should go on the noticeboard and on the website. **Cllr Pidgeon to put up on noticeboard. Clerk to organise publication on the website.**
 - v) Any other correspondence – None.

6. Proposal to adopt the following documents:

- i) Complaints Policy – Proposed and agreed.
- ii) Code of Conduct – Proposed and agreed.
- iii) Privacy Notice – Proposed and agreed.
- iv) Records Retention Policy – Proposed and agreed.

Assets and services

- 7. Update on Land Management Proposals** – A first proposal has been received from the land management consultant which provides quite a long list of checks and/or considerations that the council need to make in order to inform the next part of the process. The councillors had some questions about items in the review which Cllr Berks will look into. **Cllrs Berks and Allen will continue to work on this in conjunction with the land management consultant.** The councillors expressed their thanks to Cllrs Berks and Allen for their work on this.
- 8. Proposal to hold a volunteer Autumn Party clear-up of the Millennium Field** – Last cuts of the grass paths will be completed by the end of this month and a full cut of the field together with the hedges will be completed in November. It was agreed to plan the clear up for end of September/beginning of October. **Cllr Pidgeon and Cllr Thomas have agreed to co-ordinate the Autumn party clear-up.**

Finance

- 9. Confirmation of the total bank balance as at 03.09.20 of £16,434.19** – The balances were confirmed as correct.
- 10. To propose and ratify a £100 support grant to Sibford Village Hall Committee to underwrite the Picnic and Jazz event of 29.9.20** – Proposed and agreed. **Clerk to set up the payment.**
- 11. To note and approve the following payments made since the last meeting:** Proposed and agreed.

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| 26.05.20 | BHIB | Insurance | £277.60 |
| 26.05.20 | WC & EF Lovesey | Millennium Field | £72.00 |
| 26.05.20 | Aero Healthcare | Defibrillator Equipment | £1,193.03 |
| 26.05.20 | Kirsty Buttle | Clerk Salary | £369.10 |
| 26.05.20 | Kirsty Buttle | Clerk Salary Income Tax | £33.20 |
| 08.06.20 | ICO | Registration Fee | £35.00 |
| 18.06.20 | Thomas Fox Landscaping | Church Yard & Burial Ground | £259.66 |
| 18.06.20 | NR Prickett | Highway Verges | £270.00 |
| 18.06.20 | WC & EF Lovesey | Millennium Field | £72.00 |
| 18.06.20 | NR Prickett | Highway Verges | £270.00 |
| 01.07.20 | Kirsty Buttle | Clerk salary | £208.35 |
| 01.07.20 | Thomas Fox Landscaping | Church Yard & Burial Ground | £259.66 |
| 14.08.20 | Sibford Village Hall | Hire of the Village Hall for the SSG | £20.00 |
| 14.08.20 | WC & EF Lovesey | Millennium Field | £72.00 |
| 14.08.20 | NR Prickett | Highway Verges | £270.00 |
| 14.08.20 | Kirsty Buttle | Clerk salary July | £208.15 |
| 14.08.20 | Thomas Fox Landscaping | Church Yard & Burial Ground | £259.66 |
| 14.08.20 | WC & EF Lovesey | Millennium Field | £288.00 |
| 14.08.20 | Kirsty Buttle | Expenses | £11.14 |
| 14.08.20 | Kirsty Buttle | Clerk salary Aug | £208.15 |

12. To note receipts received since the last meeting – Noted.

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| 17.06.20 | Sibford Gower Endowed Primary School | Defibrillator refund | £994.19 |
| 19.06.20 | HMRC | VAT refund | £937.72 |
| 30.06.20 | Lloyds | Goodwill pymt | £2.00 |
| 30.06.20 | Lloyds | Goodwill pymt | £125.00 |

Planning

13. Planning applications received

20/01975/TCA - Greenacres And Buttslade House, Main Street, Sibford Gower. T1 x Norway Maple - Fell as outgrown location beside greenhouses and pond. G1 x Woodland group - Carry out thinning by removal of 1 x Bird Cherry, 1 x Sorbus and 1 x Cypress to allow space for more desirable specimens.

No comment. (Response submitted using delegated powers).

20/01748/F - Heath Barn, Sibford Gower, OX15 5HQ. Retrospective - Change of use of land and associated works to form a vehicular access and extension to residential curtilage associated with Heath Barn. **No comment.** (Response submitted using delegated powers).

20/01917/TEL – Gautherns Barn, Colony Road, Sibford Gower. Install fixed line broadband electronic communications apparatus – 16 new poles. **Sibford Gower Parish Council wishes to object to this application.**

Using the plan provided by Openreach, it is evident that a section of the proposed route for the wooden poles will pass through a section of the Sibford Gower & Burdrop Conservation Area. We are concerned that the erection of wooden poles will have a negative visual impact within the conservation area, particularly as a number of other wooden pole in the same area have recently been removed to enhance the visual amenity. Should the proposal proceed further, we would ask that due consideration is given to placing the required cabling underground. (Response submitted using delegated powers).

20/02076/LB – Stickleys House, Main Street, Sibford Gower. Relocation of staircase, minor internal alterations associated with staircase and alterations to a single window and external door. **As a participant in this consultation, Sibford Gower Parish Council wishes to acknowledge the high quality of the Heritage Statement submitted with the application.**

14. Planning decisions received

20/00954/F - Top Barn Farm Agriculture Building, Unnamed B4035 Single Carriageway 6811256, Sibford Gower. Creation of single dwellinghouse through conversion and partial re-building of existing barn with parking, amenity space, landscaping and associated works in replacement of dwellinghouse permitted under 18/01094/Q56. **Approved.**

20/00835/LB - Friends Meeting House, Temple Mill Road, Sibford Gower. Replace the two failed south-facing windows at the front of our Quaker meeting house with purpose-made hardwood windows and frames to match the originals. **Approved.**

20/01086/F – Muddle Barn Farm, Colony Road, Sibford Gower. Alterations and conversion of existing stable building to provide a gym and swimming pool and change of use of land to amenity land, providing tennis court associated with dwellinghouse replacing existing manège. **Approved.**

20/01258/TCA - Leasowe House, Bonds End Lane, Sibford Gower. T - 1 Cedar - Fell. Poor specimen tree growing beneath a more dominant tree. T2 x 2Cedar - Crown thin 15% and raise over garage by 2.0m, down clean moving all deadwood (exempt) and branches damaged in storm. **Approved.**

15. Consideration of response to the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 – A discussion was held with Cllrs Reynolds and Chapman about the impact of the Cherwell plan 2040 on the parish and it was asked if there was any chance of the District Council overturning their previous decision on the categorisation of the Sibfords as one village. Cllr Pidgeon expressed the view that the decision was an error of judgement that had had significant implications for the

ability of the Councils of the two parishes to exercise any long-term. Influence over local planning decisions. A wide-ranging discussion followed. Cllrs Reynolds and Chapman both confirmed their support of the PC's request that the villages be recategorised as separate villages, and indeed had spoken against it at the time of the 2014 Review decision but advised that the best way to try to do this is to fight hard in this consultation process as it is almost impossible to overturn a previous decision which had been reached in due process and after public consultation. Cllr Pidgeon expressed the appreciation of the Council for joining the meeting, for the candour of their contribution and for their long-term support for small villages in the District like the two Sibfords. The PC agreed to submit their completed Community Representation form. **Clerk to submit PC representation asap.**

16. Other planning issues – None.

Community Development

- 17. Sibford Support Group update** – The Chairman expressed his respect and admiration for the dedication of the significant number of the community who were, and continue, to be involved in this initiative. It has set a standard of care for anyone who is vulnerable or needing support of any kind allowing the community to network efficiently.
- 18. Defibrillator installation update** – South Central Ambulance Service have advised that they are not able to offer any training currently due to the social distancing constraints of COVID-19. The training is very hands on and close contact therefore it cannot go ahead for the time being.
- 19. Speeding Group update** – Cllr Pidgeon has had a welcome new approach from a villager offering to review the work done so far to resolve issues of speeding in both villages and investigate further options.
- 20. Pond Group update** – Due to COVID-19 it has not been possible for the group to get together and there is now some doubt as to whether the group will continue. Cllr Pidgeon expressed concern at this as a potential outcome and a desire to learn more about the background.

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 8th December @ 7:30pm

Meeting closed @ 9:18pm

Signed..... Date.....