

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Tuesday 14th December 2021** at **7pm** in Sibford Village Hall, Sibford Gower

Present: Cllr Pidgeon, Cllr Mallows, Cllr Allen, Cllr Berks, Cllr Pougatch.

In attendance: 0 members of the public, Clerk, County and District Cllr Reynolds.

Business

57. Apologies for absence – None.

58. Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda – Cllr Allen has an interest in item 71, New Rectory retrospective application as it is his neighbour.

59. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meetings held on 16th September, and 19th October – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

60. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- i) Update re concerns raised by parishioners about work taking place on land adjacent to 'the dip' between Burdrop and Sibford Ferris – 20/00446/ENF – Despite chasing there has been no response from the planning enforcement team. It was agreed that this item should now be taken off the agenda until more information is available.

61. Correspondence

- i) Parishioner support with Emergency Plan – A meeting has not yet taken place with the parishioner.
Clerk to follow up.

62. To consider and adopt the procedure for nominations to the Town Estates Charity (TEC) – It was proposed and agreed to adopt the procedure as proposed.

63. Feedback from District/County Councillors – The council tax rises will probably be an increase of £5 per band D property for Cherwell District Council (CDC) and around 5% for Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). There are 3 active pilot schemes for 20mph limits in CDC. There was a motion passed today about asking HGVs to use specific routes within the county with the aim of reducing the number of HGVs driving through villages.

Assets and services

64. Landscape Management Proposals Update – Cllr Allen advised that the PC will need to decide in January whether to go to competitive tender for the grass cutting contracts or put together detailed contracts for the existing contractors.

65. Assets

- i) Request by parishioner to install additional dog waste bins – It was agreed to purchase 4 additional dog bins which are included within the figures in the Investment Plan (item 67).
- ii) Ownership of public seating in the village – There has only been one bench claimed as owned by a member of the public and this has now been removed. It was agreed that all other benches on public land in the parish will be adopted by the PC which means they will be added to the PC asset register and will be covered by the PC insurance. The PC will also organise and pay for any necessary repairs to the benches – immediate essential work identified in the investment plan (item 67). Thanks were expressed to Cllr Mallows and Cllr Berks for their work on this.
- ii) To agree the process for asset inspections – It was agreed that **Cllrs Allen, Berks and the Clerk should put together an inspection document taking account of the new assets (benches and dog bins) and consider the best way to get the assets regularly inspected.**

Finance

66. Bank reconciliation as at 08.12.21:

Bank balance: £20,439.02

Outstanding payments: £0

Outstanding income: £0

Cashbook balance: £20,439.02

67. 2021/22 Investment Plan / Year end forecast – The investment that was going to be made on the Landscape Management has been deferred due to further plans needed in relation to the Burial Ground. The Investment Plan as presented was proposed and agreed. **Clerk to instruct work and order dog bins as per the Investment Plan.** The forecast includes a proposed additional £100 donation to the Sibford Scene but they have advised that they don't need the additional funds so the forecast will be returned to a £200 donation to the Sibford Scene. Taking account of the amounts agreed in the Investment Plan and the amendment to the forecast for the Scene the year end forecast is to have a surplus of £143.

68. To agree budget and precept for 2022-23 – It was confirmed that the Risk Assessment was reviewed as part of the process of drafting a budget for the next financial year with no changes made. The main changes to the budget are an adjustment in the clerk's salary to allow for overtime, landscape contracts increased by 3% to allow for inflation, and a nominal increase for investments partially in relation to the burial ground. It was proposed and agreed that the budget for 2022-23 will be £13,492 resulting in a precept of £9,350 with the balance being covered by the shared funding income and VAT reclaim. **Clerk to submit precept demand.**

County and District Cllr Reynolds left the meeting at 7:36pm.

69. To note and approve the following payments and receipts since the last meeting:

Payments: Proposed and agreed.

13.10.21	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of Churchyard 29/07	£129.83
13.10.21	WC & EF Lovesey & Son	Mowing Millennium Field paths	£36.00
13.10.21	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of Churchyard 23/09	£129.83
13.10.21	Kirsty Buttle	Expenses - mileage	£9.00
13.10.21	Kirsty Buttle	Salary + 4hrs overtime	£219.18
13.10.21	HMRC	Tax September	£54.80
13.10.21	Sibford Village Hall	Donation to Showcase event	£150.00
21.10.21	Cherwell District Council	Dog bin emptying	£60.06
21.10.21	Kirsty Buttle	Salary October	£172.90
21.10.21	HMRC	Tax October	£43.40
21.10.21	Kirsty Buttle	Mileage and stationery	£23.13
25.11.21	WC & EF Lovesey & Son	Mowing Millennium Field paths	£324.00
25.11.21	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of Churchyard 14/10	£129.83
25.11.21	Kirsty Buttle	Salary November	£173.10
25.11.21	HMRC	Tax November	£43.20

Receipts: Noted.

17.09.21	CDC	Precept	£4,675.00
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Planning

70. Local Plan Review Submission – A response was submitted to Cherwell District Council, the full details of which can be found on the PC website <https://thesibfords.uk/news/2021/39386>. The PC gratefully acknowledged the substantial contributions from residents who shared their professional expertise in updating the PC's draft submission. Cllr Mallows was thanked for the significant amount of work he did on putting together the response and incorporating information received from parishioners. It was noted that there was a leaflet sent out to all parishioners by an independent group in Sibford Gower in relation to their concerns about the content of the Local Plan Review.

71. Planning applications received

21/03450/F – New Rectory, Acre Ditch, Sibford Gower. RETROSPECTIVE - Two storey detached replacement dwelling, with semi-basement. **No comment.** (Response made using delegated powers).

21/03813/TCA – Brent, Main Street, Sibford Gower. T1 x Conifer - Fell because is overgrowing telegraph pole servicing adjacent properties. Replant with something more suitable. T2 x Conifer - Fell because is

overgrowing telegraph pole, and recent storm damage. Big waterlogged branch split and fell across road. **No comment.** (Response made using delegated powers).

21/04018/LB – Gowers Close, Main Street, Sibford Gower. Replacement of double height bay window to rear elevation. **No comment.**

72. Planning decisions received

21/02943/TCA – Bramley Close, Bonds End Lane, Sibford Gower. T1 x Silver Birch -Reduce height up to 10 metres. **Approved.**

21/02409/F – Mawles Farm, Main Street, Sibford Gower. Variation of condition 2 (plans) of 20/02545/F - substitute the revised drawings, with minor material amendments to the consented scheme. This application is made under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to vary the condition such as to seek approval for the minor material amendments proposed. The changes relate to adapting the internal layout of the main barns to suit the new owners of the site. In addition, the site works and landscape have been altered to take account of a prior approval permission to demolish a small, freestanding brick building under permitted development rights. These demolitions have not yet been carried out, but the landscaping and elevations have been adapted accordingly for the sake of completeness in this application. **Approved.**

Community Development

73. Community Governance Review proposing changes to the parish boundary – The Town Estates Charity (TEC) has advised that they have concerns about this proposal as they think the change may have some impact on the management of their land which is located in the area of the proposed changes. It was agreed that **Cllr Mallows should speak to the TEC to find out more about their concerns and the Clerk should arrange a meeting with representatives of Epwell PC and any other interested parties before the January PC meeting in order to understand all points of view before making a decision on how to respond to this.**

74. Sibford Support Group (SSG) update – The group remains dormant but there are still some individuals providing support. There has been a suggestion about providing IT support to help people book their boosters but after consideration it was felt that this is not a service required from the SSG at this time due to the boosters being aimed at younger members of the community. Individuals may wish to may wish to volunteer by directly contacting the NHS Covid Vaccine team at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/join-the-nhs-covid-19-vaccine-team/>

75. Climate change initiatives – Climate Change was an issue raised in this year's Annual Parish Meeting as something the PC would like to act upon if possible. A Climate Emergency talk was recently held in the Village Hall by Steven Gomersall which was well attended. A private company also held an event at the Village Hall to talk about air source heat pumps and the government schemes to support them. Zero Hour Oxfordshire has contacted all PCs across the county asking them to write to MPs to support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill. A Cllr proposed that the PC support this request and write to the local MP. After some discussion it was agreed that there may be wider implications of this bill being enacted, such as requirements placed on farmers, that the PC are not aware of therefore the PC would like to obtain further information before backing it. It was agreed that the **Clerk should put a notice on the village website asking for parishioners' views on the bill and write to the local MP (Victoria Prentis) to ask what her views are on the issue and the bill** to see if she can provide any more info re the implications.

76. To agree meeting dates for 2022 – Proposed dates are 13th Jan, 8th Mar, 10th May (APM), 19th May (APCM), 12th Jul, 15th Sep, 15th Nov – Proposed and agreed.

Cllr Pougatch announced her resignation from the PC. The councillors thanked Cllr Pougatch for her work on the council, in particular the work she put into the village showcase event.

Cllr Pidgeon announced his resignation from the PC. The councillors thanked Cllr Pidgeon for his many years' service on the Parish Council.

Meeting closed @ 8:40pm

Date of next meeting – 13th January 2022

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