

Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Tuesday 15th November 2022** at **7pm** in Sibford Village Hall, Sibford Gower

Present: Cllr Alan Berks, Cllr Jackie Noquet (Chairman), Cllr James Garstin, Cllr Geoff Noquet, Cllr Andrew Downes.

In attendance: 0 members of the public, Clerk.

52. Public participation session – None.

Business

53. Apologies for absence – County Cllr Reynolds.

54. Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda – None.

55. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 6th September 2022 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

56. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- i) Update re bank mandate changes – Cllr Garstin now has access to online banking. There have been some issues getting Cllr Noquet's online banking set up due to Lloyds unwillingness to set this up on a separate login rather than on Cllr Noquet's personal account. Due to this the councillors agreed that it would not be necessary to pursue this any further and Cllrs Garstin and Berks will be the online signatories.

57. Feedback from District/County Councillors – Cllr Reynolds provided the following update by e-mail – The scheme offered by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to reduce speed limits to 20mph is now full for the first 2 years. Recent strategies have been agreed that concentrates spending on pavements and cycle ways rather than roads. Also the OCC parking standards have been changed to limit the number of spaces in new developments especially in the urban areas. Clearly the near future both at Cherwell District Council (CDC) and OCC will be budget discussions and the possible Council tax rises.

Assets and services

58. Assets - To confirm completion of an asset inspection in October and consider any actions required in relation to issues noted in the inspection – Cllr Downes has completed the check but couldn't find the dog bin on The Colony. The only issue raised is that the bench on Acre Ditch (Biddy Bennett) is in need of fairly urgent repair/replacement. Cllr Berks agreed to give a second opinion on the condition of the bench and if it is felt it is presenting any immediate health and safety concerns the bench should be removed asap. The Parish Council has had a number of requests over the past few years to put memorial trees or benches in the burial ground which has not been possible so it was agreed that the **Clerk should put a note out to villagers advising that the Acre Ditch bench needs replacing and if any parishioners still wish to donate a memorial bench this is an opportunity for them to do so.** It was noted that the benches in the burial ground are not listed on the asset register and it was unclear why this is the case. **Clerk to contact the Reverend to find out if the benches are under the ownership of the Church.**

59. Grass cutting contracts for 2023 – It was agreed that the existing contracts should be rolled over for another year and the councillors will start working on tenders for the 2024 contract in 2023. **Clerk to contact all contractors requesting prices for 2023.**

60. Burial Ground – Ongoing management including grass cutting, wildflower areas, and bulb planting – Cllr Garstin has had some discussions with a local contractor about wildflower options but they are not taking any more work on at the moment. **Clerk to advise the Churchyard and Burial Ground contractor that the PC would like to obtain prices for the implementation of a wildflower meadow in the burial ground and ask them to contact the Chairman to meet on site to discuss.**

61. Defibrillator – The door has been changed and regular checks on the status of the defibrillator are being completed. CPR and defibrillator training has been arranged to take place in the Village Hall at 6pm on

Wednesday 14th December. Anyone who is interested in taking part in the training should e-mail the Parish Clerk to book a place.

- 62. Damage to the noticeboard – consideration of repair required** – The concrete blocks behind the board to stop vehicles hitting the board have been put back in place and it was agreed that the damage to the board was minor and therefore no repair is required.

Finance

- 63. Bank balances as at 09.11.22 - £1,128.08 and £20,002.88** – Cllr Garstin confirmed the balances stated are correct.

- 64. To confirm completion of the first two quarterly (Apr to Jun, and Jul to Sep) internal controls checks** - Cllr Garstin confirmed that the checks have taken place and all was found to be in order.

- 65. To note and approve the following payments and receipts since the last meeting:**

Payments: Proposed and agreed.

10.10.22	W.C. & E.F. Lovesey & Son	Mowing Millennium Field 23/08	£60.00
10.10.22	Sibford Village Hall	Hall hire 6th Sep	£20.00
10.10.22	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of churchyard 15/09	£136.32
10.10.22	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office September	£271.40
10.10.22	HMRC	Tax September	£53.40
31.10.22	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of churchyard 25/08	£136.32
31.10.22	W.C. & E.F. Lovesey & Son	Mowing Millennium Field 20/09	£60.00
03.11.22	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office October	£271.20
03.11.22	HMRC	Tax October	£53.60
31.10.22	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of churchyard 06/10	£136.32

Receipts: Noted.

02.09.22	Lloyds	Complaint payment RP17471863	£50.00
06.09.22	Edd Frost & Daughter	Burial ground fees	£172.00
14.09.22	CDC	Precept	£4,675.00
26.09.22	Edd Frost & Daughter	Burial ground fees	£510.00
31.10.22	R Locke & Son	Burial ground fees	£510.00
10.10.22	Lloyds	Interest	£0.74
09.11.22	Lloyds	Interest	£2.14

To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed.

CDC	Dog bin emptying 6 months	£210.01
W.C. & E.F. Lovesey & Son	Mowing Millennium Field 12/10	£288.00
Kirsty Buttle	Salary & Office Nov and backpay to 1 Apr	£395.50
HMRC	Tax November	£84.80

- 66. To review the first draft budget for 2023-24** – The following points were agreed:

- A new reserve should be put in place for replacement parts such as pads and a battery for the defibrillator.
- There should be a budgeted amount for a Coronation Celebration. **Clerk to contact the parishioner who organised the Jubilee Celebrations to find out if they are interested in organising a Coronation Celebration and ask their view on funds required.**
- Income and expenditure in relation to burial fees should not be included in the budget as they are an unknown and the actual figures can be used in the following years budget.
- Due to the cost of living crisis the PC does not want the precept charge to parishioners to increase therefore any increased costs should be covered by reserves.

Planning

67. Planning applications received

22/03135/F - Sibford Park, Colony Road, Sibford Gower. RETROSPECTIVE - Formation of an external swimming pool, erection of two associated plant outbuildings and associated landscaping improvements. **No comment.** (Response made using delegated powers).

68. Planning decisions received

22/02332/TCA - Boundary of Bishops End And Land West Of Bishops End, Street Through Burdrop. G1 - G3 x Ash – Fell. **Approved.**

APP/C3105/W/22/3295704 - The Pheasant Pluckers Inn, Burdrop. Permission is sought to re-position and amend the structure of the previously allowed 3 bedroom building. **Appeal dismissed.**

Community Development

69. **Community Speedwatch update** – No update.

70. **Upcoming Local Plan Review from Cherwell District Council (CDC)** – The consultation will be published on 14th December and will be open for 8 weeks rather than the usual 6 weeks due to the consultation period being over the Christmas period. The consultation will include details of the 61 sites that CDC are looking at for development. The categorisation of villages is being reviewed and category A villages will have an allocation of up to 100 new properties whereas small villages will be allocated up to 50. This means that if the Sibfords are recategorized as two small villages the overall number of properties that could be built would not change but it would mean that each village would be limited to 50 properties whereas the current arrangement could mean that either Sibford Gower or Sibford Ferris could be allocated all 100 properties. Clerk to put a note on the village website advising when the consultation is coming out and that as soon as it is received by the PC a link will be placed on the website to allow parishioners easy access to view the detail of the consultation.

71. **To agree meeting dates for 2023 – proposed dates are 18th January, 23rd March, 24th May, 26th July, 20th September, 15th November** – Proposed and agreed.

Meeting closed @ 8:44pm

Date of next meeting – 18th January 2023

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