

Sibford Ferris Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Tuesday 22nd November 2022** at **7pm** at Sibford School

Present: Cllrs Katherine Roussel, Ginny Bennett, Andrew Meyler, Michael Gordon, John Wass, Clerk.

In attendance: 1 member of the public.

51. Apologies for absence – District and County Cllr Reynolds.

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

53. Public participation session – None.

54. To approve the minutes of the PC meeting held on 27th September 2022 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

55. Planning applications received

22/03070/TCA - 1 Home Farm Court, Main Street, Sibford Ferris. T1 x Silver Maple - Reduce side growth over boundary by up to 2 metres. T2 - T3 x Field Maple - Crown raise up to 5 metres and reduce remaining face over garden by 2 metres. T4 x Cedar - Remove lowest limb with kinked upright rubbing on neighbouring branch. T5 x Cyprus - Remove small leaning tree on fence. **No objections. (Response made using delegated powers). APPROVED.**

22/03145/F - The Long House, Main Street, Sibford Ferris. Installation of ground based solar panels with a total surface area of 18 square metres. **No objections. (Response made using delegated powers).**

22/03032/F - Shortland Park Stud, Hook Norton Road, Sibford Ferris. Alterations and extensions, erection of new garage, and formation of swimming pool. (Amendments and reduction in size of previously approved 21/04038/F). **No objections. (Response made using delegated powers).**

56. Update re Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 – Local Plan 2040 will replace the Local Plan 2015. The next stage of the consultation will come out on December 14th and it will be open for responses for 8 weeks to 8th February 2023. It will hold some weight from the day it is published but it won't be adopted until early 2025. Cherwell District Council (CDC) advised that they are reviewing the settlement hierarchy (currently known as village categorisation) and will be reducing 15 category A villages to 10 larger villages (made by the recategorisation of 5 of the existing category A villages). Anywhere that does not have a regular bus service will not be included in the larger village category. There will be approximately 40 smaller villages. The number of houses allowed within a small village will be limited to small infill only and must be within the village confines. **Cllr Roussel to write an article to go on The Sibfords website once the report is published on December 14th.** This will help parishioners to be aware of the content of the document especially the points that are relevant to Sibford Ferris. **Cllr Meyler to prepare a draft response to the consultation to be considered at the January Parish Council meeting before submitting to CDC.**

57. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- i) Update on Speedwatch – The co-ordinator has stood down due to a lack of volunteers. It was agreed to put this on hold over winter and try to relaunch the scheme in the spring with a note in the February Sibford Scene and on the parish website looking for volunteers. **Clerk to diarise a note to go out in February 2023.**
- ii) Update re request to Sibford Manor Residents Company to put up a sign advising not to park at the T junction between Main St and the road to Burdrop – It is felt

there has been less parking in the area. A note has been put in the Sibford Scene asking parishioners not to park there. It was agreed that this item no longer needs to be on the agenda.

58. Hook Norton Road Development - General update – Work will begin on December 5th. Gade have provided the Parish Council (PC) with contact details for the Site Manager and the Head of Construction should the PC have any concerns during the build. Parishioners should report concerns directly to Gade Homes. **Clerk to check with Gade Homes that there will be notices up advising parishioners who to contact during the development and that there will be road signs advising construction traffic that they should not drive through the village.** The PC has contacted CDC and Severn Trent with a request to put on hold the Blue Cedar planning application and appeal for the site adjacent to the Gade Homes Development due to contradictory statements in the Severn Trent responses that suggest the sewage plans have not been fully considered. CDC has confirmed receipt of this request and has passed it on to the Planning Inspectorate. **Clerk to chase up Severn Trent to confirm they have received the information.**

59. Play area (Cllr Bennett/Clerk)

- i) To receive quotes for replacement fencing and agree which contractor to appoint – Not yet received.
- ii) Update re quotes for new play equipment – Not yet received.
- iii) Update re actions in response to the professional play equipment inspection report – The contractor has agreed to complete the tightening up of the outdoor exercise equipment but has advised that he cannot source the relevant buffers. **Cllr Bennett to try to obtain the relevant items.**

60. County Councillor Report – Cllr Reynolds provided the following information by e-mail: Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) 20mph scheme is beginning to make progress but villages applying today are likely to be dealt with in 2 years time. Precepts are due soon with the expectation of an increase of 5% for OCC and 3% for CDC but this could still change. It has been well advertised that the Botley road into Oxford will be closed for most of 2023 for a new railway bridge.

61. District Councillor Report – See item 60.

62. Finance

- i) Confirmation of the bank balance as at 16.11.22 of £24,212.83 – Cllr Meyler confirmed the balance stated is correct.
- ii) To confirm completion of the second quarterly (Jul to Sep) internal controls checks - Cllr Meyler confirmed the check has taken place and all was found to be in order.
- iii) Update re changing the bank account provider to Lloyds Bank – The mandate form has been completed and sent to Lloyds so now we are just waiting for the account to be opened.
- iv) Confirmation of payments made since the last meeting using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

18.10.22	CDC	Emptying 4 dog bins	£253.97
18.10.22	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of play area 15.09.22	£25.24
18.10.22	Zen	Domain name thesibfords.uk	£11.99
28.10.22	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office October	£183.70
28.10.22	HMRC	Tax October	£42.80

- v) To note the following receipts: None
- vi) To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed.

Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of play area 06.10.22	£25.24
Kirsty Buttle	Salary and Office November, plus back pay	£279.50
HMRC	Tax November	£67.00

- vii) To consider the draft budget for 2023-24 – It was agreed that the PC should be aiming to build up it’s general reserve to £7.5k (100% of precept) as per guidance for small councils. The councillors would like to review the Clerk’s salary and potential increase in order to ensure the Clerk’s salary budget is accurate when agreed in January 2023. It was agreed that although there is a need to increase the reserves in order to ensure the security and business continuity of the PC in the event of an emergency it is also important to consider the cost of living crisis and the impact any increase could have on the parishioners, therefore the PC would like to aim for no increase in the precept if possible. **Clerk to send out salary scales information to all councillors.**

63. Planning decisions received

22/02760/F - 7 Walford Road, Sibford Ferris. Single storey rear extensions and steel structure for off-street parking and external pergola on the new decking area. **Approved.**

64. To agree meeting dates for 2023 – It was agreed that the meetings will be held on 17th Jan, 21st Mar, 23rd May, 19th Jul, 12th Sep, 21st Nov.

65. Information exchange – The new noticeboard was due for delivery this afternoon so should be installed in the next few weeks. CDC has asked for ideas for what the ‘Investment to Rural Areas Fund’ could be spent on. Cllr Gordon to collate the ideas made by councillors and provide to the Clerk to submit to CDC before 12th December.

Meeting closed @ 8:25pm

Date of next meeting – 17th January 2023

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