

Sibford Ferris Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 27th September 2023** at **7pm** at Sibford School

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

In attendance: 1 member of the public, County Cllr George Reynolds.

34. Apologies for absence – None.

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

36. Feedback from the Low Carbon Sibford Group – The group are working on a survey to help find out about what people want and what they want to know about in relation to 'green' options. An article is going to be put in the Sibford Scene to give parishioners information about heat pumps, solar panels etc. The group would like to put an electrical vehicle charger (EVC) somewhere in the Sibfords. Cllr Bennett advised that the Village Hall Committee have not formally discussed the possibility of an EVC on Village Hall land but they have expressed an interest to allow them to discuss the possibility in future. The group will provide a written report at the January Parish Council (PC) meeting.

37. Public participation session - A parishioner advised that an accident happened at the Elms crossroads yesterday and asked that signage be improved there to reduce the number of accidents up there. The Clerk has reported the need for repainting of road markings on fixmystreet but other than the status being changed to 'investigating' there has been no further update. Cllr Reynolds has spoken to George Gibb at Highways and he advised that if the area is an accident blackspot then they may be able to help. **Clerk to contact George Gibb, Mike Wasley, and Dave Catling at Highways to ask what can be done to make the area safer. Clerk to contact the police to find out if there is data showing how many accidents have taken place in that location which may help to support the PC's view that it is an accident blackspot. Tim Huckvale agreed to put note on the parish website asking parishioners to provide information to the Clerk if they have had an accident or any near misses at the Elms crossroads** to allow the PC to build a record to provide to Highways.

38. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 19th July 2023 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

39. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- i) Update re Fixmystreet reports requesting repainting of the road markings at the T junction and at the Elms crossroads – the requests were changed to 'investigating' fairly soon after being reported but have not been updated since.

40. Hook Norton Road Development

- i) General update – There are ongoing issues with lorries going through the village and there was quite a lot of noise today. Reports of such issues need to go direct to the site manager.

Cllr Reynolds joined the meeting at 7:23pm.

41. Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 - The public consultation started on Friday 22 September 2023 and will close on 3 November 2023. **Clerk to put notice on Sibfords website re the consultation.** It was agreed that the PC should respond to the consultation supporting the proposals for a greener transport plan and the designation of Sibford Ferris and Sibford Gower as small villages rather than a single village. It was agreed to delegate power to the **Clerk to submit a response on behalf of the PC.**

42. Planning applications received

23/02143/F - Swalcliffe House, Grange Lane, Swalcliffe. Alterations to existing Annexe Outbuilding (Converted Garage as approved under planning permissions 95/00256/F & 96/01071/F) to involve new pitched roofs over existing shed roof dormers, new external doors and windows the addition of a stove and flue, internal stair and other associated minor internal alterations. **No comment.**
(Response made using delegated powers).

23/02504/TCA – Back Acre, Main Street, Sibford Ferris. T1 x Holly – Fell. **No objection.**

43. Play area (Cllr Bennett/Clerk)

- i) Update re quotes and grant applications for new play equipment – The National Lottery Grant application was unsuccessful on the basis that they did not feel there was sufficient evidence of public support for the play area.
- ii) To receive the professional play equipment inspection report and agree any actions required – The councillors confirmed receipt of the report. Most of the issues raised were expected and will be resolved through the removal and replacement of equipment as soon as funds allow. It was agreed that the **Clerk and Cllr Bennett should arrange for the works to be completed as soon as funds are available with priority given to the issues that are considered to be highest risk.**
- iii) Any other updates – **Clerk and Cllr Bennett to apply for grants towards the replacement of the play equipment which should include an application to the County Councillor’s grant scheme.**

44. County Councillor Report – The 20mph scheme for villages is encroaching all the way around Oxfordshire. Alkerton tip was under threat around 4 years ago but it is now secured and will continue as a recycling and waste centre.

45. District Councillor Report – The main work at the moment is working on the Cherwell Local Plan and trying to revitalise the town centres in Cherwell as the town centres do seem to be suffering at the moment.

46. Request from the Village Hall Committee for the PC to consider making a donation towards the cost of purchasing a marquee (total cost £1500) for use at events held at the Village Hall – After some discussion the PC agreed that there is still not sufficient information to make a decision on this. Concerns were raised about whether consideration has been made for the ongoing storage, and maintenance of the marquee and the fact that this seems quote a low cost for a marquee which could indicate it is not built to withstand the heavy use it would possibly be needed for in a village hall. The question of whether there has been any identified demand/need for a marquee in the past was also raised. The PC agreed that in the current cost of living crisis it needs to be very sure that any spending of public funds which come directly from the tax payers should provide good value and a real benefit to the village. Given that the village hall needs repairs to the roof which is likely to cost around £80k and is clearly a significant and identifiable ‘need’ it may not be prudent to for the PC to help fund ‘desirable’ items at this time. The PC are happy to review this again if the Village Hall Committee would like to submit the request again with considerable extra detail re identified need, potential additional income generated by the marquee, and costed plans for the ongoing maintenance of the marquee. **Clerk to inform the Village Hall Committee of the PC’s decision.**

47. Concerns raised by parishioners about the unkept state of the Land South of Faraday House off Woodway Road - there are numerous thistles reseeding and ragwort which is dangerous for horses – The PC have no power to instruct anyone to maintain their own land and would not normally get involved in such issues but given that this particular issue is on a larger scale than an individual property and is not encroaching on the Highways therefore it cannot be reported to Highways to deal with it was agreed that the **Clerk should e-mail Fischer German (the land agents) to make them aware of the complaints and ask if it would be possible for them to arrange for the area to be tidied up.**

48. Proposal to apply for all 30mph areas of Sibford Ferris to be part of the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) 20mph scheme – Proposed and agreed. Clerk to submit request to OCC.

49. Parishioner suggestion to put the What 3 Words location on the defibrillators in the Sibfords – The PC discussed this but could not understand what the benefit of this would be so Cllr Wass agreed to ask some medical/ambulance professionals to see what their view is on this.

50. To confirm completion of a quarterly asset safety check and agree any actions required – Cllr Meyler confirmed the check has taken place and no issues were raised.

51. Finance

- i) Confirmation of the bank balances as at 21.09.23 of £3,984.54 and £16,825.82 – Cllr Meyler confirmed the balances stated are correct.
- ii) To review the spend against budget to date – The PC confirmed receipt of the document with no concerns raised.
- iii) Confirmation of payments made since the last meeting using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

31.07.23	NEST	Pension Jul 23	£14.48
24.08.23	Playsafety Ltd	Annual play equipment inspection	£192.60
24.08.23	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing play area 13th July	£26.50
24.08.23	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office Aug	£209.60
24.08.23	HMRC	Tax August	£50.00
31.08.23	NEST	Pension August	£14.48

- iv) To note the following receipts: Noted.

09.08.23	Lloyds	Interest	£12.87
13.09.23	CDC	Precept	£3,944.00
11.09.23	Lloyds	Interest	£15.88

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

Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing play area 10th August	£26.50
Zen	Domain name	£14.39
Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office September	£209.80
HMRC	Tax September	£49.80
NEST	Pension September	£14.48

52. Planning decisions received

23/01316/F - Land South of Faraday House, Woodway Road. Erection of 5 two storey age restricted dwellings (55 years) for older people with access, landscaping and associated infrastructure.
Refused.

53. Information exchange – An e-mail has been received from a parishioner re parking issues but this is in Sibford Gower. Clerk to forward e-mail to Sibford Gower PC. A Cllr raised concerns about people parking on the corner of Walford Road as this makes it difficult for buses to get around the corner.

Meeting closed @ 8:34pm

Date of next meeting – 21st November 2023

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