

# Sibford Gower Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023** at **7pm** in Sibford Village Hall, Sibford Gower

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

In attendance: 5 members of the public, Clerk.

**46. Public participation session** – A parishioner noted that an appeal has been published on the Cherwell District Council (CDC) website re Blaze Inn Saddles and the parishioner asked how the Parish Council (PC) are going to manage to respond to this as the deadline is before the next PC meeting. As the publication of the appeal is so recent the councillors have not yet had a chance to have a look at the documentation which will help the councillors decide whether or not an extraordinary meeting is required. The original application is no longer showing on the CDC planning portal and when the original application was put on the site it didn't include much in the way of documentation so it is not clear what the PC would be responding to. **Cllr Garstin to contact the planning team at CDC to find out if they will be publishing further information and to gain understanding on whether the appeal is the original application being considered by the Secretary of State or if the appeal purely about the non-determination of the application by CDC.** The PC will make a decision regarding calling an extraordinary meeting once this information has been obtained.

## Business

**47. Apologies for absence** – Apologies received from Cllr Andrew Downes. Apologies accepted – None.

**48. Members' declarations of interest for items on the agenda** – Cllr Berks declared an interest in item 23/02368/F - Longview, Pound Lane therefore will not vote on this item.

**49. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2023** – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

### **50. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings**

- i. Update re meeting with Highways re the bollards outside the doctors' surgery – Cllr J Noquet spoke to Highways about this and they said they were going to look at it but no update has been placed on Fixmystreet so **Cllr J Noquet will follow this up again.**
- ii. Update re meeting with Highways regarding white lines painted in the village without approval and request for the 'Keep Clear' markings outside Ryehill Farm to be repainted – Dave Catling at Highways advised that he did not get the original response from the PC regarding what the PC thought was acceptable from the proposals previously made. This has now been resent to Dave. Dave also advised that when he was on annual leave someone else instructed the other lines that hadn't been agreed but it is too costly for Highways to remove them so they will just be left to fade over time. Dave has confirmed that the 'Keep Clear' markings outside Ryehill Farm will be repainted.
- iii. Other feedback from meeting with Highways re yellow lines on the crossroads at Bonds End and Main Street, and metal railings at the school – Dave Catling has suggested that as it costs £3.5k to apply for yellow lines it would be a better option for a wider Keep Clear area wrapped around the corner. After some discussion the PC agreed not to pursue yellow lines or wraparound Keep Clear markings. Whilst in the village Dave raised a query re the railing near the school that has been damaged by a vehicle so is leaning. Dave suggested getting the rails removed. The councillors agreed that the fact the rail has been hit suggests that there is a need for the rails to be there to keep the children safe and that the rail should be straightened rather than removed and possibly there is a need for more railings. **Cllr Garstin to speak to the school to find out their view before the PC make any response to Highways.**
- iv. Update re meeting with parishioners regarding parking problems in the Bonds End Lane and Main Street area of the village – A meeting has not yet been held but it is hoped that a meeting can take place in October in the Village Hall. **Cllr Garstin to arrange the meeting and send out invites to those who live in that area of the village.**

- v. To agree which parts of the village should be submitted to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) as areas that the PC feel should be included in the 20mph speed limit project – It was agreed that all areas within the parish that are currently 30mph should be changed to 20mph. **Clerk to inform Oxfordshire County Council (OCC).** It was also agreed that the **Clerk should put a note in the Sibford Scene re the white lines issues (item 50ii) and the 20mph scheme.**
- vi. Update re contact with the police re the possibility of adding The Colony to their list of locations for mobile speed detection vans – The Clerk e-mailed the police and received the following response – ‘Since the re-introduction of the community speed watch schemes following the withdrawal during Covid we no longer have speed monitoring equipment as a neighbourhood team and the police in general would not complete visits for data gathering.’

**51. Report from Town Estates Charity and preparation for appointment of a new PC nominee due to a term of office coming to an end in November** – A member of the Town Estates Charity (TEC) advised that them coming to report to the PC is not something they have ever agreed to do. **Cllr Berks to speak to the PC nominees on the Town Estates Charity to discuss the requirement for a nominee to feedback to the PC in their March and September meetings. Cllr Berks to speak to Peter Morgan from the TEC to find out what the criteria/skills required are to fill this vacancy. Clerk to put a notice in the next Sibford Scene once the criteria has been agreed.**

**52. Feedback from District/County Councillors** - None.

### Assets and services

**53. Burial Ground - Enforcement of Burial Ground Regulations** – There are two plots that are not complying with the regulations which is causing problems with mowing. **Clerk and Cllr J Noquet to put together a letter to go to the named contacts for the plots to ask them to remove the vases etc from the plot within a set timeframe. Clerk to highlight this part of the agreement to funeral directors when they book plots in future.**

**54. Confirmation of completion of August asset check and to agree any actions required** – Cllr Berks has completed the check and no issues were noted but it may be worth considering staking some of the trees in the Miriam Tebbs Land in future. Cllr Berks also checked the amount of grit in the grit bins and advised a top up is not required this year.

### Finance

**55. Bank balances as at 14.09.23 - £4,721.10 and £13,912.37** – Cllr Garstin confirmed the balances stated are correct.

**56. To consider the possibility of placing PC funds in an investment in order to benefit from the current interest rates** – The CCLA fund requires a minimum investment of £25k which is more than the PC has available. Clerk to take this item off the agenda.

**57. To review the spend against budget to date** – The PC confirmed receipt of the document with no questions raised.

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

**Payments:** Proposed and agreed.

27.07.23	NR Prickett	Grass cutting 17th July	£345.00
27.07.23	Sibford Village Hall	Hall hire 26th July	£16.50
04.09.23	Lovesey Rural Services	Millennium Field paths and field mowing 4th and 20th Jul	£408.00
04.09.23	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing Churchyard 13th July	£143.14
04.09.23	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office August	£313.06
04.09.23	HMRC	Tax August	£38.20
31.08.23	NEST	Pension August	£19.84

**Receipts:** Noted.

09.08.23	Lloyds	Interest	£12.77
11.09.23	Lloyds	Interest	£13.35
13.09.23	CDC	Precept	£4,675.00

**Invoices to be paid:** Proposed and agreed.

Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of the Churchyard 3rd and 24th August	£286.28
Lovesey Rural Services	Millennium Field Paths mowing 18th Aug	£72.00

## Planning

### **59. Planning applications received**

**23/02030/F - Ruby Cottage, Street Heading North From Acre Ditch, Burdrop.** Installation of an air source heat pump at rear of garage. **No objection.**

**23/02368/F - Longview, Pound Lane, Sibford Gower.** Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling and outbuildings. It was agreed to **delegate authority to the Clerk to respond as Cllrs have not yet had time to look at the application in detail.**

### **60. Planning decisions received**

**23/01092/F - New Barn Farm, Colony Road, Sibford Gower.** Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of a replacement detached dwelling including the partial removal of existing outbuildings, replacement outbuildings, proposed swimming pool and associated landscaping. **Approved.**

## Community

- 61. Update re Community Speedwatch** – Defer to next meeting due to Cllr Downes' absence.
- 62. Draft Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040** - The public consultation will commence on Friday 22 September 2023 and will close on 3 November 2023. **Clerk to publish details on the PC website.** A meeting may be called if the councillors think it is necessary.
- 63. 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 councillors agreed that at the moment, particularly given the cost of living crisis, they do not feel they should use public funds which come from parishioners' council tax to contribute to an item that is not an essential need of the Village Hall. This does not mean they would not be open to considering a request in future but more details would be needed regarding why a marquee is required and what financial benefit this would have for the village hall, particularly given that the PC understands that the Village Hall is likely to need funds spending on repair of the roof which is a necessity, whereas a marquee is not. **Clerk to inform the Village Hall Committee of the PC's decision.**

**Meeting closed @ 8:50pm**

**Date of next meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

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