

Sibford Ferris Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Tuesday 21st November 2023** at **7pm** at Sibford School

Present: Cllrs Ginny Bennett, Michael Gordon, Andrew Meyler, Clerk.

In attendance: 0 members of the public, County Cllr George Reynolds.

54. Apologies for absence – Apologies received – Cllr Roussel, Cllr Wass. Apologies accepted – None.

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

56. Public participation session – None.

57. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 27th September 2023 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

58. Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings

- i) Update re requests to Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to repaint the road markings at the T junction and at the Elms crossroads and for general road safety improvements at the Elms crossroads – The Clerk has e-mailed the police three times and a number of Highways personnel twice but has not had any response. The sign that has been knocked down has still not been put back up. **Clerk to continue to try to get answers from Highways and the police.**
- ii) To confirm that a response was submitted to the Cherwell Local Plan Review 2040 – A response broadly supporting the plan and in particular the proposed changes re village categorisation was submitted within the required timescales.
- iii) Discussion re possibility of putting out a survey in relation to public support of a 20mph scheme in the village or whether the OCC consultation process will be adequate – It was agreed that this is not necessary as OCC are required to complete a consultation process before any implementation so the PC conducting a survey would not add any value.

59. Hook Norton Road Development

- i) General update – A parishioner has raised concerns that there are flats being built that were not part of the initial planning application. The PC has double checked the plans and confirmed that the plans do include a small number of flats so it is believed that Deanfield Homes are following the plans approved.

60. Planning applications received

23/02719/F - Faraday House, Woodway Road, Sibford Ferris. Installation of external render system and cladding to existing house. Reworking the existing extension and garage by cladding, externally insulating, re-roofing and creating new openings. The addition of a new garage building on the site of an old large shed. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

23/02400/TCA - Penn House, 9 Walford Road, Sibford Ferris. G1 x Birch No 3 - Reduce by 2 metres. B1 x Conifer – Fell. T5 x Apple - Reduce by up to 1.5 metres, to around old points - thin out water shoots. **No objection.** (Response made using delegated powers).

23/02401/TCA - Penn House, 9 Walford Road, Sibford Ferris. T2 x Beech - Reduce by 2 metres. **No representation made as the PC were given a deadline of 16th October to respond by the planning office made a decision to approve the application on 3rd October.**

61. Play area (Cllr Bennett/Clerk)

- i) Update re quotes and grant applications for new play equipment – Cllr Bennett has now received an updated quote which will allow the **Clerk to submit a grant application to the County Councillor to request £2.5k** towards the play equipment. The clerk has submitted a grant application to The National Lottery Fund for £12k. The outcome of the application should be decided before the end of February. **Clerk and Cllr Bennett will continue to apply for grants and will instruct relevant work when required as per previous instructions from the PC.**
- ii) Any other updates – None.

62. **County Councillor Report** – Nothing to report currently.

63. **District Councillor Report** – The Local Plan consultation responses are now being worked through. A new CEO is being appointed and Cherwell District Council (CDC) are looking at moving from Bodicote House due to the building being quite old and needing quite a lot of money spent on it, and moving to Castle Quay into premises that are already owned by CDC.

64. **Parishioner suggestion to put the What 3 Words location on the defibrillators in the Sibfords** - Defer to next meeting as Cllr Wass is not present.

65. Finance

- i) Confirmation of the bank balances as at 15.11.23 of £263.09 and £19,634.35 – Cllr Meyler confirmed the balances stated are correct.
- ii) To review the draft budget for the 2024/25 financial year – The draft budget was discussed and it was noted that the general reserve should be increased to £8k to meet guidance of holding 100% of basic running costs for 1 year. To increase to this level in one year would cause a significant rise in precept and the councillors agreed that due to the cost of living crisis they would like to try to keep any increase in precept to 5% or less with the aim to slowly increase the reserves over the coming years. **Clerk to rework the figures to allow for a 5% increase and present to the January meeting for review/approval.**
- iii) Confirmation of payments made since the last meeting using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

27.10.23	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of play area 7th Sep	£26.50
27.10.23	CDC	Emptying dog bins 6 months	£267.70
27.10.23	Wicksteed	Xerscape buffers	£41.70
27.10.23	Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of play area 5th Oct	£26.50
27.10.23	Kirsty Buttle	Salary and office Oct	£209.60
27.10.23	HMRC	Tax Oct	£50.00
31.10.23	NEST	Pension Oct	£14.48

- iv) To note the following receipts: Noted.

09.10.23	Lloyds	Interest	£16.82
09.11.23	Lloyds	Interest	£22.01

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

Kirsty Buttle	Salary Nov and backpay	£304.84
HMRC	Tax Nov	£73.80
NEST	Pension Nov	£21.44
Thomas Fox Landscaping	Mowing of play area 2nd Nov	£26.50

66. Planning decisions received

23/00439/CLUE - Hill House, Main Street, Sibford Ferris. Certificate of Lawful Use Existing - To determine the building opposite the main house, known as 'The Shed,' has been in lawful use as part of the main dwellinghouse. **Approved.**

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. **Approved.**

67. Banbury Vision 2050 – It was noted that this consultation is different from the Local Plan 2040 and focuses more on what people would like to see in Banbury. **Clerk to put details about the survey on the parish website.**

68. To confirm meeting dates for 2024 – proposed dates are: 16th January, 26th March, 20th May, 24th July, 24th September, 19th November – Proposed and agreed. Clerk to arrange bookings with the school.

69. Information exchange – None.

Meeting closed @ 8:03pm

Date of next meeting – 16th Jan 2024

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