

Sibford Ferris Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Tuesday 16th January** at **7pm** at Sibford School
Present: Cllrs Katherine Roussel, Ginny Bennett, Michael Gordon, Andrew Meyler, John Wass, Clerk.

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

70. Apologies for absence – None.

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

72. Public participation session – None.

73. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 21st November 2023 – The minutes were proposed, agreed, and duly signed.

74. 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 still not had any response from the police re the number of accidents in the area and has finally had a response from Highways who advised that the area is not considered an accident blackspot as they only have records of 2 accidents taking place there since 2014. The PC are aware of more than 2 accidents in recent years so asked the **Clerk to continue to try to get a response from the police and try contacting the fire service to see if there are other records of accidents.** Due to a restructure within Highways it is unclear who is now dealing with the PC concerns about the Elms Crossroads. **Clerk to contact James Wright at Highways to find out who he passed this on to.** There was an accident recently which was witnessed by staff driving a mini bus of children from Sibford School and the school has provided an impact report which was read out. **It was agreed that the Clerk should share this report with all contacts at Highways. Cllr Meyler to write to Victoria Prentis MP and include a copy of the impact statement.** Highways have advised that line repainting at the Elms Crossroads is now on their schedule of works.

75. Hook Norton Road Development - General update - The following questions received from parishioners were sent to Deanfield Homes and the answers they provided are noted in italic.

- What is the general timescale for the development? *Completion is Autumn / Winter 2024.*
- What have you decided to do regarding the allotments? *This matter is still under consideration.*
- Some areas of the hedge have been cut back severely on the north boundary. Why is this? *Apart from a maintenance cut the only openings were made by Thames Water bringing the water main on site. Before the development is complete we will look at infilling gaps where required.*
- Is the electric pylon going to be moved? At the moment it is on the site. *Waiting for an update but last communications before Christmas was that they were waiting on the legals to be completed for the new off site pole location.*
- Residents are concerned that you may not be following the plans that were approved by CDC. Can you confirm that you are following this exactly? *Approved plans are being followed.*
- Will work be needed to extend the sewage plant before the homes are sold and have you had confirmation that the mains sewage feed into the local sewer can manage the increased flow of sewage without infrastructure development of the Sibford Gower processing plant? *Severn Trent PLC are responsible for the foul water sewer in Hook Norton Road, and they*

were consulted during planning regarding capacity. They then granted us a formal consent to connect.

76. Planning applications received

23/03171/F - Sibford Ferris School, Back Lane, Sibford Ferris. Alterations to the existing landscape and the construction of an amphitheatre with a roofed stage. **No representations made.**

APP/C3105/W/W23/3329834 - Land South of Faraday House, Woodway Road, Sibford Ferris. Erection of 5 no two storey age restricted dwellings (55 years) for older people with access, landscaping and associated infrastructure. **Objection. (Response made using delegated powers).**

77. Play area (Cllr Bennett/Clerk)

- i) Update re quotes and grant applications for new play equipment – A grant of £12k has been received from The National Lottery Fund. The Clerk has submitted an application for £2.5k from County Councillor Reynolds and awaits the outcome of the application. The grant received plus the funds already in reserves for the play area mean that a significant amount of the work to the play area can now be instructed. **Cllr Roussel and Cllr Gordon to get another quote. Cllr Bennett to ask Selina to contact the original quote provider to ask for an updated quote as the quote was received in April 2023 so prices may have changed.**

- ii) Any other updates – None.

78. County Councillor Report – None.

79. District Councillor Report – None.

80. Finance

- i) Confirmation of the bank balances as at 10.01.24 of £114.47 and £30,946.26 – Cllr Meyler confirmed the balances stated are correct.
- ii) To confirm completion of an asset condition check and agree any actions required in response to this – Cllr Bennett confirmed the check has taken place and no issues raised.
- iii) To confirm completion of the quarterly internal control checks for Apr to Dec 2023 – Cllr Meyler confirmed the checks have taken place and all was found to be in order.
- iv) To agree the budget and resulting precept for the 2024/25 financial year – Due to the grant received for the play area the PC is now in a position to get the majority of the work done but this means that the reserve held for the play area can no longer be relied upon to help manage any unexpected costs therefore the PC need to build up the general reserves quicker than originally planned. After some discussion it was agreed to update the budget for the current financial year to £33,428.26 with the main update being to increase the budget for the play area to £20,453, and to set a budget of £15,737.40 for 2024-25 resulting in a precept of £9,891 with the difference being funded by income which is mainly VAT reclaims. It was noted that this is an increase of around 25% which sounds significant but due to the low starting point this will result in a small increase of around £10.33 per annum for a band D household. **Clerk to submit precept demand.**
- v) Confirmation of payments made since the last meeting using delegated powers: Proposed and agreed.

22.12.23	Kirsty Buttle	Salary & office Dec	£221.48
22.12.23	HMRC	Tax Dec	£53.00
22.12.23	Chacombe Parish Council	Share of Clerks laptop	£112.22
22.12.23	Kirsty Buttle	SIM and One Drive Dec	£14.99
29.12.23	NEST	Pension Dec	£15.35
17.11.23	ICO	Data Protection Fee	£35.00

- vi) To note the following receipts: Noted.

11.12.23	Lloyds	Interest	£22.22
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05.01.24	National Lottery Grants	Grant re play area	£12,000.00
09.01.24	Lloyds	Interest	£19.69

81. Planning decisions received

22/02428/TCA - Lambs Croft, Back Lane, Sibford Ferris. T1 x Birch - Crown lift 5 metres and remove limb growing through Rowan. T2 - T3 x Holly - Reduce by 1 metre and trim side growth to shape. T4 x Bird Cherry - Crown lift by 5 metres to clear fruit trees and crown thin. T5 x Cherry - Reduce to previous points up to 2 metres. T6 x Hazel - Crown thin by 10% and Crown lift by 2.5 metres. **Approved.**

22/02725/TCA - The Cottage, Main Street, Sibford Ferris. T1 x Leyland Cyprus Tree – Remove. **Approved.**

23/02504/TCA – Back Acre, Main Street, Sibford Ferris. T1 x Holly – Fell. **Approved.**

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. **Approved.**

82. Information exchange – Update from Cherwell District Council re the Local Plan Review 2040 - The official timeline for the Local Plan Review 2040 is set out in the Council’s Local Development Scheme <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/33/planning-policy/382/local-development-scheme>

There are still several stages for the plan to go through before it can be adopted. The next stage is the publication of the proposed submission plan (Regulation 19). This is the stage where the Council presents its final draft plan. This plan is then subject to a six week consultation. All objections are then considered by an Independent Inspector at the Local Plan Examination. It is only after the examination concludes that the Local Plan is ‘sound’ that it can proceed to be adopted. We anticipate that the Reg 19 draft local plan will be published in Autumn 2024. The Examination will not begin until at least Spring 2025.

A tree has fallen down in Pitch Hill Field that is owned by the PC. The area needs a bit of work to give the trees planted last year the best chance of survival. It was agreed that the **Clerk should put a note in the Sibford Scene** asking if anyone would be interested in taking away the tree that has fallen down and using the wood for their own purposes and whether anyone would like to be part of a small working party to do some maintenance work on the field ready for spring.

Cllr Wass advised that the issue with the what3words location of the defibrillator has now been resolved. Cllr Wass is going to arrange some more CPR training sessions.

Cllr Bennett asked that the **Clerk put litter picking on the next agenda.**

Meeting closed @ 8:41pm

Date of next meeting – 26th March 2024

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