**MIDDLETON STONEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY MAY 22nd 2019 AT 7PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Mr. Fulljames Chair [to item 2]

Mrs. D. Pay Vice-Chair

Prof. Lee Chair [from item 2]

Mr. Rees

Mr. M. Keighery Clerk

**1] APOLOGISES:**

Ms. R. Makari sent her apologies

**2] ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Proposed by Mrs.Pay and seconded by Mr. Rees, Prof.Lee was elected Chairman.

Prof.Lee recorded his appreciation of the previous chair, Mr.Fulljames.

Proposed by Prof.Lee and seconded by Mr.Fulljames, Mrs.Pay was elected Vice-Chair.

**3] DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:**

There were no interests declared.

**4] MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting of 4th March 2019 were approved.

**5] MATTERS ARISING:**

* **Update on Informal Consultation with Oxfordshire County Council Officials:**

The clerk reported that after OCC agreed in March to start an informal consultation he had been asking Jacqui Cox who is supervising the project for an update on this progress. Hitherto, this has not happened, but he will continue to seek this update.

* **Bullmarsh Close:**

Cherwell District Council have contacted the parish council to discuss a potential planning application for this site. Effectively, CDC would be resurrecting the original planning decision in 2010 to build a further three bungalows in the close. Fiona Brown of CDC has asked for a meeting with the parish council to explain the project in more detail, especially as the project is dependent on exceptional funding and can only be developed as a ‘rural exception site’. Furthermore, CDC will be sending out a housing needs survey to residents by Friday 24th May.

Councillors discussed dates for a potential meeting and asked the clerk to liaise with CDC officials to agree an appropriate time.

* **Defibrillator Update**

The parish council discussed the possibility of providing and storing a defibrillator in the village. Simon Petit has been investigating the possibility of the defibrillator on behalf of the cricket club, especially as several visiting cricket clubs have asked the club whether MSCC, thus establishing a duty of care. Initially, the cricket club wanted to explore provision as a community initiative and see where the parish council can support the project. Dr. Marc Swan has also recommended that such a facility is provided in the village and is prepared to train volunteers and maintain the equipment. He has also suggested using a Gilbert Scott-style red London phone box where the previous phone box was as this would make it more accessible and attractive.

There is a significant cost to purchasing the equipment but it could be supported via lottery funding and the British Heart Foundation. However, both the cricket club and the parish council may need to contribute financially to the project. Hence, members agreed to explore further options and accepted the need of a defibrillator in principle. The cricket club would continue to explore options.

* **Banking Arrangements:**

As a result of the recent election, the clerk informed members that there were now only two signatures of the banking arrangements and therefore a new mandate was needed to ensure a third signature could be authorised for transactions made via the bank accounts held at Barclays and Nationwide.

**6] FINANCE:**

The clerk informed the council that the summary accounts were effectively complete once authorised signatures were completed to complete the accounts. The clerk had also sent these accounts to members in the Finance Report.

Clerk confirmed that the General Fund had receipts of £1925.00 [Precept, 1st Instalment] and [£91.09, CDC grant] since the May meeting. There were no transactions in the VHMF in the period. In the Playground account, the trampoline debit of £4068 had been processed.

Members of the new council deliberated on what financial information they would find most useful in the future and recommend to the clerk what they need going forward.

**7] EXTERNAL MEETINGS:**

Mr. Fulljames reported that he had attended a meeting with Viridor, the operators of the Ardley energy recovery facility on April 17th. He explained to new members the purposes of the meetings and the on-going relationship, including a routeing agreement with Viridor although it can often be ignored. He also reported that Viridor admitted that the turbine was currently not working and that emissions had risen.

There are invites for the forthcoming meetings:

Parish Liaison Meeting at Bodicote House on June 12th.

The Bicester Police Rural Community Resilience Group, at Chesterton Community Hall on June 19th.

**8] PLAYGROUND:**

As a result of recent investments in the playground, the Playground Fund is now in deficit. Members discussed how extra funding could take place, but in the meantime the clerk was instructed to utilise the Clara Burgess charity donation to underpin the finances of the fund.

**9] VILLAGE HALL:**

Mrs. Pay explained to new members of the council how responsibility for the maintenance of the village hall is shared. The Village Hall Committee is responsible for internal issues, whereas external features are the responsibility of the parish council. She informed members of on-going issues; she is currently investigating the damp prevalent on some parts of the internal walls and she will check the roofing guarantee to see if it will cover this problem. She is also looking to renovate the small tables in the hall and the kitchen floor still needs to be replaced and she is looking to provide Wi-Fi in the hall. In addition, Mrs. Pay confirmed that the barbeque is booked for 30th June.

**10] CORRESPONDENCE:**

The clerk drew attention to the recent circulations;

A request from Scope, the disability charity, to establish a ‘clothes bank’ in Middleton Stoney. Members discussed the proposal but with a bank at Ardley and a further one just outside the village on the road to Weston-on-the Green, members felt the village is currently well served in relation to this request.

The clerk also highlighted the newsletter sent from the Community First Oxfordshire [Spring Update] which included a notification of the government’s new £3mn Village Hall Improvement Grant fund.

The clerk drew attention to the Bicester New Motorway Junction Feasibility Study discovered by Tim Hibbert, the Chair of Wendlebury Parish Council that has been commissioned by the Bicester Strategic Delivery Board.

The clerk also signposted the latest update from Terry Pollard, Campaigns Co-ordinator of the No Expressway Alliance.

**11] PLANNING MATTERS:**

Under Urgent Business, we have responded to:

18/03319/OUT Mullins Motor Museum at Enstone – Objected.

OCC have approved the planning application [MW.0123/15] of Smith & Sons at Dewars’ Farm to continue to develop beyond 2020, to permit working until 2028 and restoration by 2029**.**

**12] OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:**

The clerk highlighted the following briefing from OCC:

* **Calor Community Fund**  – distributed by Cllr. Corkin. Key points – Oxfordshire’s County Council’s Councillor Priority Fund for community based projects. Also the Community Infrastructure Capital Grants for improving indoor and outdoor spaces.

**13] CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

The clerk signposted the following Cherwell District Council notifications:

* **Sale of Knives to Young people** – distributed by Cllr. Corkin. Originally from Trading Standards regarding the regulations of such sales.
* **Local Traffic Briefing**  – distributed by Cllr. Corkin and his request to meet with local parish councils with regard to the development at Heyford Park.
* **Opportunity for a tour of food and garden waste recycling plants -** distributed by Cllr. Corkin and originally from Becky Kenton-Lake, Waste Projects Officer at OCC.

**14] TRAFFIC:**

Members were told that we are still awaiting an update from J.Cox regarding the informal consultation that she is supervising.

**15] ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Prof. Lee suggested that members of the new parish council should consider the over-arching principles/vision of the council. This could then help to devise a plan to focus on the basic role of the parish council – the role of the chair, the role of the clerk, what skills and experiences members can offer for the common good by adding value, what information should be passed on to the residents of the village and how we can influence departments.

Mr Rees stressed that traffic through the village should remain our priority given the issues of speed, quantity of traffic – especially HGVs, state of the roads, safety of pavements and air quality too.

Mrs. Pay sought to ensure we achieve parity with other neighbouring villages and yet not to be too NIMBY.

**16] NEXT MEETING:**

The next parish council meeting is planned will be on 8th July 2019 at 7pm at the village hall.