**MIDDLETON STONEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Prof. Lee Chair

Mrs. D. Pay Vice-Chair

Mr. Fulljames

Mr. Rees

Mr. A. Grenfell

Mr. M. Keighery Clerk

**1] APOLOGISES:**

Ms. R. Makari sent her apologies.

**2] DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:**

There were no interests declared.

**3] MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting of 8th July 2019 were approved.

**4] MATTERS ARISING:**

* **Bullmarsh Close:**

Fiona Brown and Frances Evans of Cherwell District Council attended the meeting so they could update the parish council on developments regarding the potential planning application at Bullmarsh Close. Ms. Brown summarised the results of the Housing Needs Survey and confirmed she had analysed the local housing register to identify needs for two bedroom properties and especially disability requirements. From this, two specific needs were identified, with one individual seeking a two bed property and the other requesting an one-bed home.

Ms. Brown also stated the intention to encourage Middleton Stoney residents to apply for housing needs - especially to get on the housing register as local needs are paramount and thus the priority of CDC.

Ms. Evans agreed and insisted of a pro-active communication with local residents and proposed an Open Day to encourage dialogue. Ms. Brown reiterated this commitment and suggested a Community Engagement Offering.

Ms. Pay asked whether the results of the Housing Needs Survey would be available to parishioners. Ms. Brown confirmed that the survey would be sent to residents who had listed their address.

Ms. Brown distributed the proposed drawings and informed the council, that as part of the building process, there would need to be an environmental assessment, that the boundary would be tidied up and a pathway established. Five new parking spaces would also be created and there would need to be accessibility for wheelchair access. She also highlighted the incorporating of wheelchair access and needs, the wet room facility and stressing again the emphasis on local housing needs.

Members asked several questions and made suggestions. In particular, Debbie Pay asked who owned the drive and had there be a consideration of the problems of reversing out of the close and right of way issues.

Prof. Lee suggested that removing a highlighted grass verge would free up parking and that there should be consideration for more living space in the properties.

Ms. Evans and Ms. Brown said they would consider these points and revise where necessary in the broader management plan.

Ms. Brown concluded her presentation by informing members that the application has yet to be ‘logged’ but she felt this was imminent. Then the application will have to go through a formal consultation after the publication of the proposed plans

* **Great Wolf Theme Park Development:**

Members reiterated their commitment to supporting Chesterton Parish Council’s opposition to the development - especially because of the likely traffic volume ramifications to Middleton Stoney.

Members are aware of two forthcoming meetings at Chesterton regarding this proposed development. Hence, it was agreed that Prof. Lee and Mr. Rees will attend the meeting on 16th September. Furthermore, Prof. Lee and Mr. Fulljames will attend the meeting on 8th October at which Cllr. Barry Wood, leader of Cherwell District Council, will be in attendance.

* **Village Defibrillator :**

Mr. Grenfell confirmed that the lottery application for the defibrillator is now processed and has been sent to the authorities. The contacts for the application are Professor Lee and Mr. Grenfell and the processing of the application usually takes 6-8 weeks.

* **Promised Road Improvements/Traffic:**

The clerk drew attention to the recent correspondence [Aug 23] between Cllr. Corkin and Sean Rooney, Service Lead, Highways Maintenance at OCC regarding promised road resurfacing. These had been delayed due to ‘other commitments’ with an acknowledgement of ‘several issues’ in the village - especially the B4030 approach from Bicester; the lay-by outside the village hall and the crossroads in the village. Mr. Rooney expects only the crossroads’ issue to carry over to the next financial year. This prompted a wider discussion amongst members of the on-going traffic problems in the village. [See below].

**5] FINANCE:**

The clerk sent up-to-date accounts to members in the Finance Report.

Clerk confirmed that since the July meeting, the General Fund had made payments of £128.18 [Tribute], £39.00 [Uncontested election expenses payable to CDC] and insurance [£593.22]. In addition, the two receipts for holding elections in May and June, [£260] were reimbursed to the village hall.

There were two transactions in the VHMF in the period. The external painting works were paid [£1950] and the recent fire inspection [£74.14] was also paid.

In the Playground Account, its contribution to Came Insurance was paid [£148.31] and repairs and maintenance were paid out to the playground team, [£147.60] and [£38.17].

**6] EXTERNAL MEETINGS:**

There are invites for the forthcoming meetings:

Joint Parishes Meeting on 16th September at Chesterton Community Centre. Professor Lee and Mr. Rees will attend.

In October 8th, Professor Lee and Mr. Fulljames will be attending at the meeting

Highways Maintenance at OCC are holding an Open Day at their Deddington depot on October 5th.

**7] PLAYGROUND:**

The clerk informed members that he had received the inspection report from ROSPA in July and that he had passed this onto Mrs O’Dwyer.

**8] VILLAGE HALL:**

Mrs. Pay reported that she is still awaiting quotes for the kitchen floor and will update members when she receives them. She also reported that she is seeking to repair/replace the parish council notice board as it has been difficult to open for some time.

The clerk reported that there were recommendations from the recent fire inspection and so will send them to Debbie Pay.

**9] CORRESPONDENCE:**

The clerk drew attention to the recent circulations;

An invitation from the Campaign to Protect Rural England for the parish council to become a member at a cost of £36. [6August].

The clerk also confirmed that Chesterton Parish Council announced that they were selling car stickers ‘Wolf Free Zone’ for their fundraising group. [8 August]

An invitation from The Theatre at Chipping Norton to their Councillors Reception. Ms.Makari will be attending on behalf of the parish council. [21 Aug].

**10] PLANNING MATTERS:**

Under Urgent Business, we have been informed of:

19/00825 Dewars Farm Middleton Stoney.

**11] OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:**

The clerk highlighted the following briefings from OCC:

A circulation from Paul Wilson at OCC regarding any Winter Salt Requirement. [5-August].

**12] CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

The clerk signposted the following Cherwell District Council notifications:

* **Viridor meeting** – distributed by Cllr. Corkin. The proposed new format and structure of meetings with Viridor, including a proposed meeting sometime in September.
* **Royal Garden Party** – distributed by Cllr. Corkin. Nominees are requested from the range of volunteers who work in the community. [23 August].

**13] TRAFFIC:**

Members continued to debate the traffic problems within the village and what can be done to mitigate such problems. Mr. Rees wondered how the council can reduce the considerable number of HGVs that enter the village and speeding traffic. He also highlighted that at the traffic lights, there is no space for HGVs to turn. Mr. Rees argued that a ‘wish list’ should be compiled for the district councillor. Mr. Fulljames agreed stressing that there are weight restrictions in force locally - such as Weston-On- Green - but no such restriction going northwards and no weight restrictions or limits going through Middleton Stoney.

Professor Lee acknowledged these concerns and suggested that the council look around neighbouring villages to see what other councils have been able to get in relation to traffic mitigation. The width of pavements within Middleton Stoney is historical and so difficult to change but ideally members should look to safety, pollution and noise improvements and even allocate funds to achieve this. Thus a policy/mission statement could be established for these aims.

M. Grenfell agreed but also stressed we need to establish what the parish council can do and what the council cannot do and look at the experience of all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists.

Professor Lee concluded the debate by insisting that such traffic concerns and solutions should be the main focus of the parish council going forward.

**14] ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Professor Lee informed the council that he has spoken to a previous councillor, Bill Champion, about being co-opted back onto the parish council. The clerk has previously reported that Lesley Farrell, Democratic &Elections Officer at Cherwell District Council had authorised the parish council to co-opt potential members. She advised him that there is no requirement to advertise the vacancies.

Mr. Grenfell proposed that Slack software be used by council members for more effective communication channels between each other. He will thus send it to members and the clerk.

Ms. Pay is looking to fix the notice board outside the village hall as it has been difficult to open for a long time now.

Members agreed that forthcoming meetings should start at 7.30 pm from now as it would enable members to arrive in good time for meetings.

Parishioners have brought to attention to council members of problems with Bulmarsh Close. The clerk will speak to officials at Sanctuary Housing.

**15] NEXT MEETING:**

The next parish council meeting will be on 4th November 2019 at 7.30pm at the village hall.