**MIDDLETON STONEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 7th JANUARY 2019 AT 7PM.**

**PRESENT**

Mr. A J Fulljames Chairman

Mrs. D. Pay

Mr. Champion

Mr. P.Brown

Mr. S. Moore

Ms. R. Makari

Mr. M. Keighery Clerk

**1] APOLOGISES:**

Mr. Vadivale was absent.

**2] DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:**

There were no interests declared.

**3] MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting of 5th November 2018 were approved.

**4] MATTERS ARISING:**

* **Proposed CDC Traffic Schemes for Middleton Stoney:**

Members assessed the recent correspondence from Cherwell District Council and Cllr. Ian Corkin especially, with regard to the traffic issues within the village. In particular, Ms.Makari spoke of her meeting on November 14th with Cllr. Corkin, which she felt was quite productive. For example, there is an acknowledgement that measures will have to put in place to mitigate the traffic problems in the Middleton Stoney. Furthermore, discussions appear to be leading towards some key recommendations and proposals such as the acknowledgement that Ardley is much more able to accommodate larger vehicles than Middleton Stoney, that it is unacceptable and dangerous that HGVs are mounting narrow pavements and so restrictions need to be put in place on both the main roads through the village. Ms. Makari had also requested that the recent OCC report from Jacqui Cox be published in full, however Mr.Corkin declined this request due to its impact on neighbouring villages and that he considered the report to be ‘incomplete’. However, there is an acceptance that Oxfordshire County Council must provide short, medium and long term solutions to these traffic problems. Yet, although Ms.Makari has insisted that the meeting with OCC officials [to present the findings of their modelling work takes place as soon as possible even before the end of the year], Mr.Corkin again insisted that the meeting takes place in the New Year. Ms.Makari also asked for an open meeting so that as many residents as possible can be encouraged to attend, something which other parish council members agreed. She also stressed the need to keep the focus on specific traffic issues as she has found this the most effective strategy. Ms. Makari also reported that Mr.Corkin is meeting with a resident in the village soon to address some their traffic concerns.

* **Dewars’ Farm Application Progress and Proposed Meeting:**

After considerable deliberation and analysis - and after Mrs Pay and Mr Champion had attended the Dewars’ Farm Quarry Liaison meeting in October - the parish council has objected to the planning application made by Smiths. Subsequently, the applicant has requested a further meeting with the parish council to discuss the application in more detail. Thus, the clerk is expecting some potential dates soon and will liaise with the applicant to ensure the best dates for parish council members.

* **Oxford-Cambridge Expressway:**

Mrs. Pay updated the council with regard to her attendance at the recent meeting at Weston-on-the-Green on November 20th. She noted there was a substantial information conveyed with several speakers including the Berkshire, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust’s Director of External Affairs, Tom Beckett. Members agreed to continue to support neighbouring villages including Weston-on-the-Green in opposing the proposed expressway.

* **Precept 2019/20.**

There was a preliminary discussion regarding next year’s Precept. Mr Champion and the clerk will be meeting to discuss key points of the proposal. However, members have agreed to reverse last year’s reduction to the Village Hall Maintenance Fund because of proposed investments later this year. This will mean the annual transfer to the fund will be back to £1500.

After the meeting with Mr. Champion, the clerk will send the final proposal to members to analyse and accept. Once the Precept is agreed, the clerk will send to Mandy Anderson, Principal Accountant at CDC, before the deadline requested.

**5] FINANCE:**

The Clerk confirmed that the General Fund had receipts of Interest [£5.95], Dividends [£113.80] since the last meeting in November and payments of £30.00 [Royal British Legion] and £150.00 [website fees].

There were no transactions in the other two funds.

**6] EXTERNAL MEETINGS:**.

As reported previously, Ms Pay had attended the recent meeting at Weston-on-the Green on November 20th.

There were invites for the forthcoming meeting:

15th January – Oxford Resilience Group, Community Evening Meeting to be held at Kidlington Fire Station at 6pm.

The chairman called on members to make certain that they are available to represent the council at these important meetings.

**7] TRAFFIC:**

Members discussed the recent air quality report which provoked considerable concern as Middleton Stoney recorded one of the highest scores in the whole of Oxfordshire, supporting the members’ concerns over their very significant traffic concerns. Cherwell District Council has also voiced concerns over the report. Mr. Moore will investigate how and where the air quality is recorded in the village

**8] PLAYGROUND:**

Members noted that the playground was missing its roundabout and had been replaced with a small trampoline. Ms. Pay will check this with Grace O’Dwyer but it is likely because of the inspection. Invoices from the recent improvements have yet to be received, so the clerk will follow up.

**9] VILLAGE HALL:**

Mrs. Pay updated members by informing them that the Christmas Bazaar held on 1st December had been a great success with approximately £400 raised.

In addition, members had noted some areas of potential damp on the hall’s internal walls. Therefore, Mrs Pay will investigate this issue thoroughly.

**10] CORRESPONDENCE:**

The clerk drew attention to the recent circulations:

Members noted Martin Lipson’s update of Jan 4th from the MCNP Forum and especially the playground’s approval and protection as a designated Local Green Space and the MCNP’s continuing support for the need for traffic mitigation within Middleton Stoney.

The clerk also reported that the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire completion date has been delayed until June 2019.

The clerk drew attention to the Pocket Parks announcement and had also sent this to Mrs. O’Dwyer to assess and make recommendations.

**11] PLANNING MATTERS:**

The council has responded to the following applications:

1, Kennel Lodge – 18/02036/F – No objections

Cedar Lodge – 18/02057LB - No objections.

**12] OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:**

The clerk highlighted the following briefings from OCC:

**Community Wardens** to enhance accident prevention in Oxfordshire and part of OCC’s Thriving Communities initiative.

**Oxfordshire Matters, November 2018** Key items included: Funding for daycare services; additional central government funding; Review of health & social care system and Oxfordshire gets ready for winter.

**Oxfordshire Matters December 2018.** Key items included: Budget Proposals; Older People’s Strategy; Daytime Support Grants Awards; Extra £10mn boost to road repairs; OCC’s welcomes government’s waste strategy.

**13] CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

The clerk signposted the following Cherwell District Council notifications:

**Street Lighting Contract** – OCC’s interim maintenance partnership with Bouygues E&S Infrastructure while the £40mn lighting investment procurement is undertaken.

**Cherwell Wellbeing Activity Map** – the publication of an on-line resource to enable residents to find something to help them get active and connected in the district.

**13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

The Chairman was pleased to report that the Trees of Remembrance tribute was successfully commemorated by the parish council with an oak sapling planted on Remembrance Day.

Members asked for a list of dates for meetings for this calendar year. The clerk will send a proposed list of meeting dates for 2019.

The chairman’s succession was discussed further with especially a dialogue about the potential for a rotating chairmanship system.

Other members signposted the May elections and the planned requirement for seven councillors. The chairman assured members he will speak to any residents who would be interested in becoming parish council members.

**14] NEXT MEETING:**

The next parish council meeting will be on March 4thth 2019 at 7pm at the village hall.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm