**MIDDLETON STONEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 8TH JULY 2019 AT 7PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Prof. Lee Chair

Mrs. D. Pay Vice-Chair

Mr. Fulljames

Ms. R. Makari

Mr. A. Grenfill [From item 4]

Mr. M. Keighery Clerk

**1] APOLOGISES:**

Mr. Rees sent his apologies.

**2] DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:**

There were no interests declared.

**3] MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd May 2019 were approved.

**4] MATTERS ARISING:**

* **Dewars Farm**

Martin Layer, Planning & Estates Manager at Smiths and Sons, and Gemma Crossley were invited to the meeting to explain recent developments at the quarry. Mr.Layer stressed that Smiths are committed to a positive engagement with the parish council to ensure clear lines of communication so as to prevent issues festering. Smiths have liaison meetings with both the parish council and Ardley Parish Council. Mr.Layer acknowledged that the parish council and village residents are concerned about traffic issues - especially the B4030 Bicester Road - however he pointed out that Smiths are just one of many organisations that contribute to the traffic. He also highlighted that such problems are not unique to Middleton Stoney as across the county’s roads there are similiar problems. However, he did stress that Smiths have a routeing agreement and the organisation will take action against drivers who flout it. Thus he encouraged the reporting of offending vehicles’ registration numbers and the time of the offence so Smiths can take such action. In addition, Mr.Layer stressed that if the parish council sought a HGV restriction in the village, Smiths would support the parish council if it was part of an over-riding strategic approach with OCC.

* **Co-option of Councillors:**

The clerk reported that he had been in contact with Lesley Farrell, Democratic &Elections Officer at Cherwell District Council regarding co-opting potential members. She advised him that there is no requirement to advertise the vacancies and so potential members could be co-opted with immediate effect. Thus, Mr.Grenfill was formally co-opted at the meeting. This now leaves one vacancy on the parish council. Ms.Makari wondered whether the parish council could be more proactive across the community at attracting a greater diversity amongst members for the council. Professor Lee agreed that diversity is important, but stressed that as a result of the recent elections, half of council members are new.

* **Great Wolf Theme Park Development:**

Prof. Lee and Mr.Rees went to the meetings held by Great Wolf Water Sports in June. Professor Lee reported that although there are projections of 600 new jobs, most planned recruitment will be reliant on migrant labour. More significantly, the operators expect upwards of 2000 vehicles on site and both junction 9 & 10 of the M40 will be expected to accommodate this traffic. Professor Lee felt that the business had not fully considered the impact of this traffic. Members were thus very concerned about the traffic implications for the village – especially as there is a similar proposed development in Enstone and the parish council has long been fighting for traffic control in the village.

Members agreed that MSPC will continue to support Chesterton Parish Council’s opposition to the development - especially regarding the traffic problems it will cause in Middleton Stoney.

Mr Fulljames will be attending the meeting on July 10th at Chesterton.

* **Bullmarsh Close:**

Members of the parish council met with Fiona Brown of Cherwell District Council on June 11th regarding the potential planning application for the close. The members reported back that CDC officials had inspected the site and that they were aware that a handful of residents had wriitten to CDC regarding the proposal. From the initial Housing Needs Survey sent to residents in May, the clerk said that Fiona Brown had reported that there had been 33 responses but only two housing needs identified by households. CDC have also asked for the Housing Needs Survey to be extended to neighbouring villages to ascertain evidence from a wider cluster of households. Ms. Brown has insisted that from her experience there will be a demand for affordable bungalows.

**5] FINANCE:**

The clerk sent accounts to members in the Finance Report.

Clerk confirmed that the General Fund had receipts of £5.24 [Interest], £130[CDC grant] and £408.97, [CDC grant for grass cutting]] since the May meeting. There were no transactions in the VHMF in the period. In the Playground Account, a credit 0f £113.80[half-yearly dividend payment] had been processed.

**6] EXTERNAL MEETINGS:**

Mrs. Pay attended the Parish Liaison Meeting at Bodicote House on June 12th. She reported that CDC are looking to tighten up their planning systems – especially monitoring the Section 106 agreements they have in place. There was also a discussion over rural housing needs in the district. There was also a presentation regarding the Ovo Energy Women’s Cycle Tour 2019-2021 which will include a Cherwell District Route. Also CDC have established the Cherwell Lottery to raise funds for local charities and not-for-profit groups.

Mr. Fulljames reported that the scheduled meeting with Viridor on June 26th had been cancelled as Cllr. Corkin is seeking to reshape the meetings with the organisation, as it is widely felt that such meetings are not serving the purpose for which they were intended.

There are invites for the forthcoming meetings:

Joint Parishes Meeting 10th July 2019 at Chesterton Community Centre. Mr. Fulljames will be attending.

The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust are hosting a conference for September 28th.

**7] PLAYGROUND:**

The clerk informed members that he had received notification from ROSPA that the annual playground inspection will take place in July. Mrs O’Dwyer has also been notified.

Furthermore, Mrs. O’Dwyer had organised some repairs to playground equipment and invoices for £147.60 and £38.17 were pending.

**8] VILLAGE HALL:**

Mrs. Pay updated updated members on progress; the village hall had benefitted from repainting both internally and externally; she was awaiting quotes for the kitchen floor and continuing to explore Wi-Fi options. Mrs. Pay also reported that receipts from the Summer Barbeque on 30th June were over £600.

**9] CORRESPONDENCE:**

The clerk drew attention to the recent circulations;

The clerk drew attention to the Cherwell District Council announcement that the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan has been’ made’ and will be used for planning decisions in the district. [22May]

The minutes of the recent meeting of the Bicester Police Rural Resilience Group. [30 June]

The clerk also signposted the latest update from Terry Pollard, Campaigns Co-ordinator of the No Expressway Alliance. [July 2nd]

**10] PLANNING MATTERS:**

Under Urgent Business, we have been informed of:

19/00825/LB- Dr.M. Swan – Wilmere Lodge, Middleton Park, Middleton Stoney.

Replace existing wall, reduce depth of garden shed, restoration of ground floor shutters to window overlooking garden.

**11] OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:**

The clerk highlighted the following briefings from OCC:

* **Traffic Sensitive Streets Consultation** [5, June]
* **Invitation to Open Day** at Drayton regarding highway depot and network**.** [June21]
* **Community Transport Newsletter** - distributed by John Charlton, Business SupportOfficer [1 July]

**12] CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

The clerk signposted the following Cherwell District Council notifications:

* **250 Bus service** – distributed by Cllr. Corkin. Reassurance from OCC regarding the continuation of the bus service, albeit with a probable different provider.
* **Local Traffic Briefing**  – distributed by Cllr. Corkin and his request to meet with local parish councils with regard to the development at Heyford Park.

**13] TRAFFIC:**

Professor Lee stressed the importance of traffic concerns in the village, including the effect on air quality. Thus it is vital that the council form policies and proposals to ensure that Middleton Stoney does not find itself in an increasingly worse position. Hence, the parish council will need to liaise with CDC and OCC officials, especially Cllr. Corkin, to mitigate such problems. To this end, the chair and the clerk will contact Cllr. Corkin.

**14] ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Grenfill updated members on the progress of the proposed in-village defibrillator. A lottery application has been drafted with a cost of approximately £1800 for the equipment. South Central Ambulance Service is the preferred provider in the application. Electricity supply will be needed, so a hole will need to be drilled in the wall. There are costs associated with the project – the unit, box, training and a battery which is an annual cost. However, Professor Lee hopes that there may now be no need for financing from either the cricket club or the parish council.

Ms.Makari proposed that an email group be established to allow for a more effective communication between residents and including the parish council and that she would supervise its establishment. Prof. Lee reiterated his objective to ensure clearer communication between the parish council and its parishioners.

**15] NEXT MEETING:**

The next parish council meeting is planned will be on 9th September 2019 at 7pm at the village hall.