**MIDDLETON STONEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD CONDUCTED ON ZOOM** **ON MONDAY 11TH MAY 2020 AT 7.30 PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Prof. Lee Chair

Mrs. D. Pay Vice-Chair

Mr. Fulljames

Rachel Makari.

Mr. Rees

Mr. A. Grenfell

Mr. Champion

Mr. M. Keighery Clerk

**1] APOLOGIES:**

There were no apologies.

**2] DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:**

There were no interests declared.

**3] MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting of March 9th 2020 were approved.

**4] MATTERS ARISING:**

* **Heyford Park Masterplan Consultation:**

Mr Rees referred to the forthcoming Dorchester Masterplan Virtual Briefing with Cllr. Corkin next week and how the parish council should prepare for it. In particular, Mr. Rees acknowledged that much of the planning application relates to the heritage site, but he stressed that transport is the biggest issue for Middleton Stoney. He highlighted three aspects – traffic at the junction especially;

the traffic calming measures that the PC would like to do and finally the likely construction traffic over the next 8-10 years.

Mr. Fulljames responded by highlighting his concerns regarding the promised mitigation in the village and feared the subsequent ‘rat run’ implications.

Rachel Makari agreed that the parish council should prepare an effective response, as it was not just an issue of traffic calming needed.

Mr. Grenfell referred to the fact that it was evident that Section 106 money was sat at CDC. Thus for the parish council, it was important to get the weight limit on HGV traffic coming into the village. After that, residual funds can be used for the speed signs.

Rachel Makari reminded members of the Informal Consultation when OCC committed to consult with neighbouring villages regarding the potential HGV restriction in Middleton Stoney. She felt that this restriction remains a viable solution and therefore it is important that the parish council does not get diverted but remains focused on pushing for the commitments already made by OCC.

Professor Lee agreed that it is important that the parish council is clear in its aims.

Mr Rees also agreed and stressed that The Dorchester Group and Councillor Corkin have discussed Middleton Stoney issues although we are not aware of the content of such discussions. He also insisted that alongside the speed signs and traffic calming, the PC will need to consider walking and cycling provision in the village.

* **Update on Annual Parish Meeting & Village Consultation:**

The annual parish meeting is currently postponed until future government guidance. Thus the proposed, related meeting with parishioners regarding the Traffic Plan cannot take place currently. Regarding the leaflet distribution in late March, members reported back that initial parishioners’ feedback has been positive generally.

* **Update on In-village Covid 19 Response:**

Professor Lee reported that the feedback regarding the Co-Vid 19 response was positive, including the in-village What’s app group. There were some minor lessons to be learned for the future but even after Kath Moss had to self-isolate because of illness, he felt the response to vulnerable residents especially was tremendous overall. He also stressed that it showed that community groups in Middleton Stoney - other than the Parish Council - can run things effectively too.

* **Highways’ Issues:**

Members were concerned of a coach that has been stationary at the lay by on the road to Weston-on-the-Green for weeks. Both Mr. Champion and Ms. Pay have contacted the police and CDC regarding the matter and the police, including PSOs, have visited the site. Cherwell District Council have hitherto refused to get involved claiming it is solely a police issue.

The clerk will investigate and report back to the council.

* **Update on Promised Patching Work on Bicester Road:**

The clerk reported that he had spoken to Mr. Fermer, Asst. Director of Community Operations at OCC, regarding the belated and promised roadworks on the Bicester Road. Mr. Fermer informed the clerk that he expected the works to be done as agreed in June, but would instruct a colleague to provide a more comprehensive update.

**5] FINANCE:**

The clerk sent the new financial year accounts to members in the Finance Report. [11th May]

In summary, the General Fund has received the first instalment of the Precept for 20/21 of £2100. The fund has also received the reduced grant of from Cherwell District Council.

Both the Village Hall Maintenance Fund and the Playground Fund have seen no transactions this current financial year.

The summary accounts for 2019/20 will be available once invoices have been paid and cheques have been signed.

**6] EXTERNAL MEETINGS:**

Dorchester Masterplan Virtual Briefing with Cllr. Corkin on Tuesday 19th May at 5.30 pm via Microsoft Teams.

Mr. Rees and Mr. Grenfell will be representing the parish council.

**7] PLAYGROUND:**

There were no updates regarding the playground.

**8] VILLAGE HALL:**

Mrs. Pay informed members that she was looking to get some internal work improvements in the hall.

**9] PLANNING MATTERS:**

Members discussed the tightening of in-council planning procedures and how a planning application should be processed and then responded to. Previously, the protocol would see an application would be circulated amongst members individually and then finally to the Chair of the council who would with the clerk finalise comments

***The Clerk reported that the parish council had responded to the following planning applications***:

19/01829/F & 19/01832/LB Middleton Stoney House - No objections

**10] CORRESPONDENCE:**

The clerk drew attention to the recent circulations:

**Tree-works** - John Rawlings, OCC notification of upcoming tree works and traffic management in Middleton Stoney. [13 March 2020]

**ABC News** – Notification from the editors that the magazine is suspended for next three months, until August. [23 March]

**Nationwide Building Society** - Notification of subsequent reduction in parish council’s business savings interest rate after Bank Of England’s base rate reduction. [8 April 2020]

**11] OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:**

The clerk highlighted the following briefings from OCC:

**OCC Covid Response’** from Cllr. Corkin - notification of OCC’s Oxfordshire All In tool to support community responses to Covid-19. [22 March 2020].

**Volunteering Signposting -** distributed by Cllr. Corkin. List of support groups to advise and help individuals and groups during the pandemic. [25 March].

**Update on LTCP** – distributed by Cllr. Corkin - key points being county launches engagement on Oxfordshire’s Local Transport & Connectivity Plan . [1 April].

**Oxfordshire residents warned against coronavirus scams’** distributed by Chris Dyson, OCC press officer [27 March 2020].

**Temporary Mortuary at RAF Upper Heyford** – distributed by Cllr. Corkin - explanation of the potential use at the former RAF facility. [3 April].

**Domestic Abuse Support**– distributed by Chris Dyson, OCC Press Office; list of support groups and organisations that can be accessed if anyone suffers from domestic abuse. [10 April].

**COVID 19 Update -** distributed by Cllr. Corkin – including Health Services in Oxfordshire; Planning for Recovery; Council meetings & events [27 April].

**Oxfordshire to Mark the 75th Anniversary of Victory In Europe** - distributed by OCC News. [6 May 2020]

**12] CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

The clerk signposted the following Cherwell District Council notifications:

* **Cherwell Parishes Newsletters –** weekly update during the crisis including Cherwell Community Hub & Emergency Food Delivery; well-being signposting; economy & business. [7 April 2020].
* **Cherwell Parishes Bulletin** – update on local elections; funds; roadworks; new delivery Service to support pharmacies & GP practices. [14 April]
* **Cherwell Parishes Bulletin -** key points being Activity & Well-being Hub; Support for Vulnerable Residents; Community First Oxfordshire. [20 April 2020].

**13] TRAFFIC:**

Members felt this was issue was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**14] ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Professor Lee initiated a discussion regarding the pending resignation of the Vice-chair, Ms.Pay. Professor Lee thanked Ms. Pay for her long service to the council and the village. He also asked about her succession as deputy chair of the parish council.

Rachel Makari asked how the process of co-option could be carried out and especially the importance of maintaining the gender balance of the council – and the broader diversity of representation - she also volunteered to take on the role of Vice-Chair.

Ms. Pay emphasised that future banking requirements would need implementing and especially signatures and it was agreed that AF, SL and now RM would be the authorised signatures on the account.

Ms. Pay informed the council that Varneys will soon submit an invoice for the village grass cutting carried out in the last year. Members discussed the current situation and emphasised the importance to village presentation and image and so that the grass verges are presentable. Hence, members agreed to instruct Varneys to conduct three cuts a year from now on - preferably in April, June and September.

The clerk will therefore liaise with Varneys regarding grass cutting and instruct the company to increase the service to three times a year, instead of two times a year.

Ms. Pay also brought to the attention of members issues relating to Villiers Park. There have been reports and complaints from residents of eight-foot bonfires, pollution and potential construction. Hence, she asked whether the parish council could make a formal complaint to Cherwell.

The clerk will investigate the issue and contact the owners of the property.

**15] NEXT MEETING:**

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for 6th July 2020 at 7.30pm at the village hall, pending on government advice.