**MIDDLETON STONEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD CONDUCTED ON ZOOM** **ON MONDAY 6TH JULY 2020 AT 7.30 PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Professor. Lee Chair

Rachel Makari Vice-Chair

Mr. Fulljames

Mr. Rees

Mr. A. Grenfell

Mr. Champion

Mr. M. Keighery Clerk

Three Parishioners

**1] APOLOGIES:**

There were no apologies.

**2] DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:**

There were no interests declared.

**3] MINUTES:**

The minutes of the meeting of May 11th 2020 were approved.

**4] MATTERS ARISING:**

* **Planning Breaches:**

The clerk reported that he had been dealing with several planning breaches in Middleton Stoney recently. First, the aircraft noise pollution from Weston-on-the-Green has been resolved after several calls to RAF Brize Norton culminating in a conversation with Sergeant James based there. He promised to investigate the matter and report back. Soon after the aircraft missions reduced, although he did not return the calls promised.

**Villiers Park**

Secondly, the clerk reported that he had raised a planning breach with CDC regarding unauthorised building construction at Villiers Park. CDC’s planning enforcement officer, Jane Law has visited the site and admitted she was very concerned with the issue. Subsequently, she has wrote to the owners of the property demanding a meeting and an explanation.

Members voiced serious concerns regarding the two buildings being constructed there - although the rotunda building was less of a concern than the seven foot red brick-wall which several residents of School Lane described as ‘ghastly’, especially as it is so close to a listed building.

Mr Fulljames insisted that it was inappropriate’ and expressed his dismay over such unauthorised planning and construction.

Mr. Grenfell asked what was most disconcerting about the construction was it the size of the unauthorised buildings or the colour of it?

Professor Lee culminated the discussion by proposing that the parish council write to CDC expressing their concerns about the developments at Villiers Park.

Rachel Makari raised the issue of the footpath at Villiers Park as parishioners are concerned regarding access to it, especially as some fear that it may make the pathway inaccessible in future years, if it continues. The path divides the properties owned by the residents of Villiers Park and the builder based there. Rachel Makari suggested using the what’s App group to seek volunteers to help solve the problem. Furthermore, Mr. Grenfell said that he would use his streamer to cut back some of the excess growth surrounding the footpath.

However, Mr Fulljames insisted that the landowners must be made accountable to the pathway and ensure access to it.

***Middleton Park***

Members also raised concerns about the new gates installed at Middleton Park. Professor Lee insisted that the gates will open automatically until 10pm and there have been no issues in relation to access to the cricket ground. He was also aware that today workmen were fine tuning the gate mechanism. However, he stressed that there is no intention to keep parishioners out, instead the owners only wanted to make the gates more effective in their operation.

Rachel Makari countered that the new gates were troubling for many residents, especially as some see this potentially as the ‘thin edge of the wedge’ and sends the wrong message to neighbours.

Professor Lee agreed to relate the issues raised to the Davenports and seek a clear statement to alleviate the concerns of neighbours.

**Coach in the lay by on the B430 to Weston-on-the-Green**.

The parish council are aware that both Mrs. Pay, when Vice Chair, and Mr. Champion had both tried previously to get the police and Cherwell District Council to investigate the coach/bus stationary at the bottle bank without success. Consequently, the clerk spoke to Peter Gammond, the Service Manager at OCC’s Gypsy & Traveller Services, who has visited the site and confirmed that the occupant was not a gypsy or a traveller. Therefore, the clerk has reported the problem as a planning breach and has also raised a complaint against CDC over its handling of the situation. Consequently, Jane Law has also now been out to the site and spoke to the occupant. She claims that the occupant is prepared to co-operate once an eviction order is served. However, the land is actually owned by OCC and so Cherwell District Council have had to pass the case onto the former to serve this eviction order. The planning enforcement officer has also warned the clerk that the matter is being treated as a potentially homeless situation. The clerk will continue to follow this up to resolution.

* **Heyford Park Masterplan Consultation:**

Mr Rees referred to the latest Dorchester Masterplan application with a deadline of August 2nd and insisted that he has no new comments on the proposed new stack. However, he proposed lobbying councillors on the Cherwell Planning Committee for their September meeting regarding the Masterplan.

Mr. Fulljames agreed with this suggestion, insisting that the parish council should ensure that those on the planning committee are aware of the problems, even if they do not live nearby.

Mr. Grenfell also agreed and highlighted the current volume and noise of traffic going through Middleton Stoney.

Rachel Makari expressed her frustration of the lack of progress on traffic matters, She also queried why Jacqui Cox had not been in contact with the parish council and why she had not been present at the meeting with Cllr. Corkin and Andrew Lewis on May 27th as planned.

Mr Rees postulated that there seemed to be too many officials involved in the situation, doing different things. He also referred to his meeting with Dave Catling, Acting Technical Officer of Oxfordshire Highways, on June 25th. In particular, Mr. Catling had seen from himself the problems that the parish council are dealing with as he walked around the village, notably the resurfacing at Bicester Road; the traffic speed signs; the volume of Smiths’ lorries; the 30 mph roundel at the entrance of the village and the sunken drains on the Ardley Road. Mr. Rees emphasised ‘the big issue’ of the 20-30 per hour Smiths lorries travelling down the Bicester Road which he claimed was just too many. Therefore, he suggested that the parish council needs to write to Smiths regarding this situation.

Professor Lee agreed with this suggestion and said he would draft a letter to Smiths and then take stock of the situation and report back their response.

**Letters of Appreciation –**

Mr. Champion has proposed sending Letters Of Appreciation to parishioners who have done notable work in the community during the lockdown. After consulting with community groups, Sathya Vadivale and Debbie Pay were the main nominations. Professor Lee stated that he will deliver the letters thanking Sathya and Debbie.

Mr Fulljames highlighted the contribution of Goyo Reston at Talbot Lodge who has been making masks during the lockdown.

* **Co-option of new councillor:**

Professor Lee reported there was no update in recruiting a new parish councillor to fill the vacancy after Mrs. Pay resigned in May.

**5] FINANCE:**

The clerk sent the Finance Report to members. [6th July]

In summary, the General Fund has received the annual grant from Cherwell District Council for grass cutting [£408.97] and bank interest [£1.08].

The Playground Fund has received its first half-yearly dividend [£113.80] for the financial year.

The Village Hall Maintenance Fund has not had any transactions this financial year, but the fire extinguisher service is due soon.

Mr. Champion asked about the accrued cheques on the account. The clerk explained this is because some cheques still need to be processed once members can sign off these cheques when social distancing measures are eased.

**6] EXTERNAL MEETINGS:**

19th May - Mr. Rees and Mr. Grenfell attended the Dorchester Masterplan Virtual Briefing with Cllr. Corkin.

27th May – MSPC attended the Middleton Stoney Traffic Mitigation Plans Discussion with Cllr. Corkin and CDC and also OCC officials.

**7] PLAYGROUND:**

The clerk reported that he had received confirmation that the playground inspection will be conducted this month.

**8] VILLAGE HALL:**

Mrs. Pay is currently organising the repair and renovation of the notice boards outside the village hall. Thus the clerk does not have the keys presently, but Mrs. Pay will inform him when the work is completed and he will have the keys returned.

**9] PLANNING MATTERS:**

The clerk thanked members for the early responses to the Viridor application MW0066/20 which is due to be replied to by 13th July.

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

18/00825 HYBRID Heyford Masterplan Application - Objection

**10] CORRESPONDENCE:**

The clerk drew attention to the recent circulation:

**Aves Ditch redirected -** distributed by Heyford Park Parish Council. Communication between the chair of the parish council and Councillor Corkin regarding access to this long-established path and the subsequent OCC involvement. [16 June 2020].

**11] OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:**

 The clerk highlighted the following briefings from OCC:

**Temporary road closure, [T7897]** **-** distributed by Angel Collodel, of Communities at OCC -notification of 24 hour closure at from Bicester Road from 17-21 August. [26 June 2020].

**New Bus Operator** **-** distributed by Dave Harrison, OCC Planning & Place - notification of new provider, Hallmark Connections, instead of Oxford Bus Company after tendering process. [24 June].

**Bus gates, school streets & more space for cyclists –** press release distributed by OCC News**.**

**Pledge Your Support for Carers Week**- distributed by Louise Chandler, Media & Communications, notification of Carers’ Week 8 -14 June. [8 June 2020].

**Cycleways & footpaths to be cleared** - notification of forthcoming programme of works in anticipation of demand surge in cycling and walking. [28 May 2020].

**Essential Maintenance Works** - distributed by Simon Wagstaff, of Highways England. Notification of works in the area - especially Ardley Roundabout - in June which will include week night and full weekend closures. [18 May 2020]

**12] CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

The clerk signposted the following Cherwell District Council notifications:

* **Cherwell Parishes Bulletin** – update including Changes to Bus Passes and Parking; Track & Trace Scam [15 June 2020].
* **Residents Update on Bullmarsh Close** - distributed by Frances Evans, updating residents in the area regarding the planned building works. [12 June].
* **Cherwell Parishes Bulletin** – update on cancelled Parish Liaison Meeting; how to access Webcast Council Meetings; Extended hours at recycling centres. [2 June].
* **Cherwell Parishes Bulletin -** key points being reopening of sports facilities & playgrounds; guidance on the status of village hall and community centres; Community Connect Social Prescribing service; Opening of waste & recycling centres. [18 May 2020].

**13] TRAFFIC:**

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

**14] ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Rees asked whether these minutes could be circulated earlier than the May minutes and that the agenda be published seven days in advance for members. He also hoped that Cllr. Corkin could attend future meetings. Professor Lee agreed and said he would invite him.

Mr. Fulljames referred to the potential problems at The Jersey Arms and asked the parish council to consider how the parish council could support the business.

Professor Lee acknowledged, that due to the resignation of Mrs. Pay, banking requirements would need implementing, especially updating authorised signatures on the account.

Rachel Makari stressed the importance of effective communication from the parish council to villagers. She highlighted the example of the What’s App group and how the parish council could promote better communication and community spirit. For example, volunteers could be sought to help with some of the projects planned for the village centre.

**15] NEXT MEETING:**

The next parish council meeting is scheduled for 7th September 2020 at 7.30pm at the village hall, pending on government advice.

[Ends]