**MIDDLETON STONEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2020 AT 7.30 PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Prof. Lee Chair

Mrs. D. Pay Vice-Chair

Mr. Fulljames

Ms. Makari

Mr. Rees

Mr. A. Grenfell

Mr. Champion

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 4th November 2019 were approved.

**4] MATTERS ARISING:**

* **Policy Development on Traffic & Environmental Plan:**

Mr. Lee issued the draft proposal and consultation document he has been working on with members of the parish council. He then asked for members’ opinions, as he hoped that the document could be sent to residents to ascertain their expectations.

Mrs Pay stated the policy document was needed to show the aims of the council and the way forward to solving the traffic problems in Middleton Stoney.

Mr. Grenfell agreed the primary course of action was to reduce the volume of traffic through the village. It was also sensible to slow the traffic down. Of the two main types of vehicle activated signs, he recommended those which displayed the speed of drivers as opposed to those that flashed the speed limit.

Mr. Rees insisted that it is important to be clear to show what the parish council can do and what others, especially, OCC need to do. He felt that the council could afford flashing lights, but it would also need to sort out the presentation of the centre of the village as well. In general, he thought what Bletchingdon had achieved was a good example for the council to follow.

Ms. Makari also felt it was a good proposal and especially stressed it was important to show what the parish council can control, especially given what has happened since the council raised its initial concerns.

Professor Lee summarised members’ feedback and then proposed sending a final draft to parishioners which is not more than one sheet and be ready for the March meeting. He would also send the document o Cllr, Corkin with an invite from the parish council as the new chair would like to meet him. He emphasised the importance of showing how a new group on the parish council were keen to show they were able to achieve this. He also asked members to discuss how the various methods should be funded and how they want parishioners to respond in a structured way.

Mr. Champion stressed that he was broadly supportive of the proposals but insisted that the council would need to show via the Precept how the proposals are paid for. In particular, indicating how much each method would cost. He was less in favour of speed bumps as he felt they generated too much noise, but was in favour of bringing the gates in and using markings on the road to encourage drivers to slow down.

Ms. Makari suspected that parishioners would support the project financially and so she expected a positive response from them. She thought the question about the willingness to pay could be asked in the paper but asked how the document would be distributed to parishioners.

However, Mr. Fulljames cautioned members by insisting that all residents should be paying for the proposed benefits.

Mr. Rees agreed that funding was an issue and proposed using the parish council’s reserves, but he also suggested that crowd sourcing could be an option to financing the proposals. Consequently, he asked the council would it consider such an option.

Mr Grenfell responded by stating his preferred option was corporate sponsorship in potential combination with the use of existing council reserves.

Mr. Champion insisted that he is in favour of the Precept proposal of asking for one-off exceptional requests from local businesses, especially as the council are not requesting the Smiths’ grant this year.

Professor Lee then summarised the debate by confirming the need to consult with parishioners and linked the project to the VE celebrations in June. In particular, he highlighted Mr. Rees suggestion of creating something beautiful in the centre of the village. Hence, Professor Lee confirmed he would finalise the draft and commission the printer in time for the March meeting. He then proposed inviting parishioners to an earlier meeting and also sending the draft to Cllr. Corkin.

Mr Grenfell then briefed the council on his research into potential traffic calming methods. He proposed buying rather than hiring two instruments that are also solar powered. The cost of the equipment is £1495 with an extra £200 for the solar powered features. They could be relocated throughout the village and thus the council could discuss where to place the equipment in the village. However, he suggested that there may be issues with equipment that show actual speed, if drivers try to record a ‘high speed’.

Mr Rees stressed he preferred actual speed data.

Professor Lee suggested obtaining more quotes, but members agreed in principle the choice of traffic calming measures proposed by Mr. Grenfell.

* **Planning Application at Bullmarsh Close:**

Some members expressed frustration with the approved planning application at the close. In particular that approval has been granted despite the existing problems of parking in the close with one resident having seven cars, rubbish prevalent in the close and the significant construction problems and limited access into the close.

The clerk reported that having spoken to CDC twice in recent months, he would contact Sanctuary Housing and, if necessary, pay a visit to Bodicote House.

* **Village Defibrillator:**

Mr. Grenfell informed members that progress with the cricket club had been made over the choice of defibrillator. The initial quote is for £1606, although it is hoped some flexibility in price can be made with the supplier. Simon Pettit will organise the electricals with a local contractor. The unit will be locked, but users can acquire the security code to unlock the device simply by phoning the emergency services. Once fitted, Mr, Grenfell insisted that on-going costs would be minimal. However, he also stressed that there will be a need for more trained users and first aiders. The cricket club has trained first aiders but it was suggested that a ‘first aid event’ could be staged to get more qualified personnel.

* **Precept :**

The clerk has sent members a proposed Precept previously. Members debated the proposal. Some members queried whether the Precept needed to be increased at all. However Mr Champion argued, that with the forthcoming proposed community investments and the decision not to request the Smith’s grant, expenditure could not come entirely from the reserves. Therefore, he argued, that the Precept must rise. Professor Lee summarised the debate and sighted the period of transition that the parish council finds itself in, thus he suggested that the increase is warranted for these reasons. Thus, members agreed that the Precept should rise to £4200.

Hence, the clerk will advise Cherwell District Council of the decision of the parish council.

**5] FINANCE:**

The clerk sent up-to-date accounts to members in the Finance Report. [5th Jan]

Since the November meeting, the General Fund had receipts totalling £600.82, including the long-awaited post office rent. Therefore, with expenditure of £250.00 – website fees, grass cutting and the Remembrance Sunday tribute - this fund has grown.

There were no transactions in the VHMF since the November meeting.

In the Playground Account, the fund had benefitted from its second dividend [£113.80]. This has narrowed its deficit as there was no expenditure in the period.

**6] VE DAY, MAY 2020**

Prof. Lee reported that he had been in contact with Jane Brown of the Church Restoration Fund and they had discussed what to stage for this event. He and Jane will be meeting as soon as she gets back to him. Members agreed with the suggestion of a floral tribute in the village. Mr. Grenfell suggested that sponsor ship could also be an option for the event.

**7] EXTERNAL MEETINGS:**

Mr. Fulljames asked for an additional parish council member to attend the Viridor meetings- usually held at Ardley Village Hall. Mr Rees volunteered his attendance.

There are invites for the forthcoming meetings:

Viridor Meeting at Ardley village hall on Jan 24th at 3pm. Mr. Fulljames and Mr. Rees will attend.

Bicester Rural police Liaison Group 22 Jan at

**8] PLAYGROUND:**

The clerk reported that he had been in contact with Mrs. O’Dwyer regarding correspondence from a potential new supplier.

**9] VILLAGE HALL:**

Mrs. Pay reported that the Christmas Bazaar on December 7th had been another great success. Also she is arranging for MCNP’s recent recommendations to be put in place before the next inspection.

**10] CORRESPONDENCE:**

The clerk drew attention to the recent circulation;

**No Expressway Group** [29/November] circulation of a letter continuing the campaign against the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway.

**11] PLANNING MATTERS:**

Councillors debated the planning application from Viridor. Mr. Rees argued that the village did not need more lorries and the application itself was not user-friendly and so difficult to understand. He also wondered why Viridor have left it so late to apply for the extension.

As there is a meeting on January 24th, hopefully the situation will become clearer.

**12] OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL:**

The clerk highlighted the following briefings from OCC:

**‘Oxfordshire’s Unmet Housing Need’** from Cllr. Yvonne Rees which also included notification of Cllr. Corkin’s appointment as the lead member for Brexit at the county council. [7 November].

**Temporary Road Closure**, [9].

**13] CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL:**

The clerk signposted the following Cherwell District Council notifications:

* **Councillor Briefing** – distributed by Cllr. Corkin. - The key points being county councillors back .green revolution’, Winter Plan for vulnerable adults, council wins £102 million to make major improvements to A40; Graphene road trial; New Property policy to enable local organisations to acquire community assets. [5 December]
* **Precept Notification** – distributed by Ian Robinson of CDC [11 December]

**14] TRAFFIC:**

Members felt that they discussed this agenda item previously.

**15] ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr, Champion informed the council that he has problems with his internet connection and may not be getting all correspondence sent to him.

**15] NEXT MEETING:**

The next parish council meeting is planned for 9th March 2020 at 7.30pm at the village hall.