**MIDDLETON STONEY PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 P.M.

**Present**:

Mr Jonathan Rees Chair

Ms Rachel Makari Vice-Chair

Mr Andrew Fulljames

Ms Jo Dunne

Mr Bill Champion

Mr Al Grenfell

**Apologies:**

Ms Juliet Cornford

**In Attendance:**

Ms Lucy Tyrrell Clerk

1 member of the public

The meeting started at 7.30pm

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Ian Corkin.

1. Declarations of Interest

None received.

1. Appointment of New Clerk

Councillor Champion nominated Ms Lucy Tyrrell for the position of Parish Clerk, which was second by Councillor Dunne, and **approved** by all Councillors.

1. Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 July 2021

The following amendments were noted:

Item 5 – should read *£18m* and not *80m.*

Item 8 – Noted that Jo Dunne **resolved***to* ***discuss*** *rights of way with legal WSLaw,* not ***schedule meeting****.*

With the above amendments taken into account, the Council **resolved** that the minutes from the meeting of 12 July 2021 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair at the meeting.

1. Matters arising

The Chairman advised that following the flooding of properties in the village, the issue had been escalated to Councillor Ian Corkin, who had supplied an update via email after following up with the landowner. He advised that remedial works have significantly improved the capacity of the system and is pursuing an infrastructure review at county level. The Chair **resolved to** ensure provision of a more formal update to all those affected for reassurance.

The Chair advised that notice had been served on the bus parked in the layby which has now moved to Weston on the Green.

Councillor Greenfell advised that the cut off date for requesting faster broadband from BT is 1 November 2021 and will then await quotations. Advised that as a ribbon village, connection would be taken to edge of public land and a connection charge incurred. Councillor Greenfell **resolved** to update the Council at the next meeting.

Councillor Fulljames advised that the draft note regarding Talbot Lodge planning application has been completed.

1. Finance

The Chairman advised that the outstanding accounts for 2018/19 and 2019/20 have been reported to the External Auditors and will now expect a public interest report and subsequent penalties.

The accounts are currently being finalised by the previous Clerk, who will also complete the accounts for 2020/21, who will then hand over to the new Clerk for auditing.

Councillors expressed concerns that they have not received sight of the accounts for some time, the Clerk **resolved** to include the accounts as a statutory agenda item moving forward and aimed to have these completed by the end of October.

Councillors are aware that an Internal Auditor is required and **resolved** to follow up with any known contacts.

1. Greening the Village including Welcome Back Fund

Councillors were advised that the Council had received a grant for approximately £8,400 as part of the Post-COVID Welcome Back Fund. It is proposed that the funding will pay for the replacement of benches by the War Memorials and flower troughs as per the bid application.

The Chair reported that the Council had also received funding from Councillor Ian Corkin and **resolved** to plan a village planting day to enhance the attractiveness of the village. Councillor Makari **resolved** to send a letter of thanks to Councillor Ian Corkin.

1. Traffic

Councillor Makari updated Council on recent meetings held with Jacqui Cox, Ian Lewis, Joy White of OCC and Councillor Ian Corkin of CDC regarding the implementation of weight restrictions and speed signs in the village. No further information was provided regarding Section 106 monies owing to the Council and Council **resolved** to follow up with a request for a further meeting with the Directorates at Oxfordshire County Council.

1. Village Path – next steps

The Chair thanked those parishioners who had completed witness statements and reported a good number received. Advised that he will meet with Councillor Champion to finalise and **resolved** to submit to OCC by the end of October. No legal support is required at this stage, OCC will have 12 months for initial response.

Councillors agreed that access to the Church via the playground is the first priority and **resolved** to follow up with the access to the Cross-Roads gate at a later date. Advised that initial requests had been made for the gate to be left open, however these have refused. A further update will be available at the next Council meeting.

1. Council Response to ORFI

The Chairman updated Council on a recent meeting with Oxallis, subcontractors to this scheme, note of which is attached to these minutes. No input has been received from CDC.

The Chair advised that moving forward, the Council will have to work collaboratively with surrounding Councils, via the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Forum and form a smaller working group, agreed to consist of The Chair, Councillors Grenfell and Fulljams, Catherine Fulljames as PCC link and Christopher Willmott.

1. Planning

**Oxfordshire 2050** – The Chair advised a response is required by 8 October and Councillor Champion **resolved** to action this.

1. Preparations for Open Meeting

Councillors finalised plans for the above meeting and **resolved** to advertise through the WhatsApp group in the village.

1. Communications

Councillor Makari **resolved** to circulate information to the village for the AGM and Greening the Village dates.

1. AOB

Comments were received from Parishioners regarding the overgrown footpaths from the playground through to the Church. The Chairman **resolved** to contact Villiers Park to action.

**Remembrance Sunday** – Councillor Fulljames **resolved** to organise a wreath.

1. Date of next meeting

8 November 2021 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.

*The meeting closed at 9.10pm*