**MIDDLETON STONEY PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER 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

Ms Juliet Cornford

**Apologies:**

**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. Public Participation for items on the agenda

Catherine Fulljames spoke to the council on the following items:

* Have any updates been received following the meeting with ORFI on 8 September 2021? The Chair responded that none have been received and **resolved to** follow this up.
* Rights of way/access to Church – thanked the Council for their continued efforts on behalf of the PCC
* Following a PCC meeting, it was reported that bell ringers had been unable to gain access through the main gates. The Chair **resolved to** include this in his feedback to Nick Davenport.
* Advised that those residents affected by recent floods have not received any further assurances and requested a meeting with Cllr Corkin and Tony Brummel.

1. Any Other Business

Platinum Jubilee – The Chair advised that the council will collaborate with the PCC as they have planned an Open Garden for the weekend alongside the village hall. No dates have been agreed as yet, the Chair **resolved to** move the discussion to the January meeting.

1. Reports for District/County Councillors

The Chair advised that he had not received any communication from Cllr Corkin as yet, however this would be included within the minutes if received.

1. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20 September 2021 and the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 September 2021 – previously circulated

The Council **resolved** that the minutes from the meeting of 10 September 2021 and the Annual Parish Meeting of 23 September 2021 be accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair at the meeting.

1. Finance
2. Update of the outstanding accounts for the years ending 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 – *to consider and agree the timetable for completing the above accounts and communication with the External Auditors*

The Clerk confirmed that the above accounts have been finalised for submission for internal audit.

1. To consider the quote for internal auditing of the accounts for the years ending 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021

Councillors had before them an agreement letter from Jane Olds, Internal Auditor and were **resolved to** agree the services and advise the Clerk to submit the accounts for audit.

1. To receive the Finance Report and Budget Monitoring Report for 2021/22

Councillors requested that the finance and budget monitoring reports be considered further at an extraordinary meeting, whereby they would be able to meet with the internal auditor, consider the findings of the internal audit and agree the report formatting moving forward. The Clerk **resolved to** agree a meeting date with the internal auditor.

1. Clerk Resources – *to consider and approve resources for payment itemised on the payment schedule*

The Clerk advised Councillors of the benefits of providing for Society of Local Councils Membership and Local Council Administration publication to aid professional development. The council **resolved to** agree to these additional costs totalling £231.00.

1. Invoices for payment – *to consider and approve invoices for payment itemised on the payment schedule.*

Councillors had before them the payment schedule as below, and **resolved to** agree these payments

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Payment Schedule - 8 November 2021 |  |  |  |
|  | Payee | Description | Amount |
| 08 November 2021 | Liz Willmott | Clerk's Salary | 600.00 |
| 08 November 2021 | Liz Willmott | Clerk's Expenses | 34.20 |
| 08 November 2021 | Lucy Tyrrell | Clerk's Salary | 400.00 |
| 08 November 2021 | HMRC | Clerk's tax | 100.00 |
| 08 November 2021 | Lucy Tyrrell | Clerk's Expenses | 50.07 |
| 08 November 2021 | Playground Works | Repairs to equipment | 1,548.00 |
| 08 November 2021 | SLCC | Clerk's membership | 103.00 |
| 08 November 2021 | SLCC | Local Council Administration | 118.00 |
| 08 November 2021 | Juliet Cornford | Bulbs – greening the village | 252.00 |
|  |  |  | 3,205.27 |

1. Planning
2. Oxfordshire 2050 Consultation

The Chair advised he had attended the recent update meeting with nothing additional to report.

1. Cherwell Local Plan - *to consider updated information from the briefing of 20 October 2021 and to agree the response*

The Chair advised a response is required by 10 November 2021. The Chair circulated the Parish Profile for Middleton Stoney, which specified three separate bids for housing projects in the area. He advised that no decision has been taken on these, but they have been circulated by the District Council for transparency.

Councillors discussed that being Category C, this should offer protections from further development, however the Chair advised that Cherwell District Council have not ruled out changing the categories under this new plan.

Councillors were **resolved to** note the profile and timelines for consultations contained within, and the Chair **resolved to** draft an initial response, requesting comments from the Council prior to submission on 10 November 2021.

1. Planning applications – *to consider all recent applications received from Cherwell District Council detailed below and any other planning applications submitted and published on the CDC planning portal between the circulation of this agenda and the meeting*
   1. **Application Number: 15/01357/F**

Proposal: Erection of 89 dwellings, creation of new access arrangements from Camp Road, creation of open space, hard and soft landscaping and associated ancillary works.

Location: Land east of Larsen Road, Heyford Park

CDC URLs: <https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/planning/Display/15/01357/F?cuuid=F35FCA8B-8F24-4AA9-8E06-B43ACABD0FB1>

The Chair advised this remains unchanged from a previous application and therefore no response is required.

* 1. **Application Number 21/03177/F**

Proposal: Full planning application for employment development (Use Classes E(g)(iii), B2 and/or B8) and associated parking and servicing, landscaping and associated works

Location: Axis J9 Phase 3, Howes Lane, Bicester

CDC URL: <https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/planning/Display/21/03177/F?cuuid=ECE0E318-5A3B-4D9E-B068-AD93FCF4247D>

Councillor Fulljames commented that the Council had previously opposed this application. Following further discussion Councillors were **resolved to** oppose this application on the basis that whilst there is a need for housing, this does not extend to light industry and warehousing, taking into account the increased traffic and control of heavy goods vehicles coming in and out of the site.

Councillors **resolved to** extend the application so that Cllr Champion could draft and submit the above response.

* 1. **Application Number 21/03523/OUT**

Proposal: Outline planning application for the erection of up to 31 dwellings, public open space, landscaping, associated parking, vehicular access and ancillary works (all matters reserved except means of access)

Location: Land At Heyford Grange, Letchmere Farm, Camp Road, Heyford Park

CDC URL: <https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/planning/Display/21/03523/OUT?cuuid=A18FE596-97EF-40E7-9F1B-0374DD01A6CD>

Council advised no response was required.

1. Village Matters
2. Weight restrictions and traffic mitigation – *to consider an update received from Oxfordshire County Council regarding Section 106 funding*.

Councillor Makari expressed her disappointed at the lack of communication following what was a very positive meeting with Bill Cotton, Corporate Director for Environment and Place, Oxfordshire County Council. Whilst he had accepted that the road network had not kept pace with the last 20/30 years of development, promises made at the meeting have been forgotten. Councillor were **in agreement** that this item will remain high on the agenda, to ensure HGV weight restrictions on the Bicester Road remain a priority.

Whilst discussing the continuing issues of HGV use through the village, Councillors were aware of increased use by Smiths and were **resolved to** ensure the company were complying with the agreement to divert traffic away from the village. Councillor Cornford advised that Oxfordshire County Council suggest the council rerun the monitoring exercise in the first instance, however had not received any further information on this.

The following actions were **agreed**:

* Councillor Makari to reply to Bill Cotton to arrange another meeting within the next couple of weeks.
* Following this meeting, if unsatisfied with outcomes, contact Victoria Prentis.
* The Chair to liaise with the Chairs of Chesterton Parish Council and Weston on the Green Parish Council to coordinate a response to OCC.
* Gain additional evidence to support claims that Smiths are not complying with the agreement to divert traffic away from the village.
* Council to agree support to the ’20 is Plenty’ initiative.

1. Access to Church – *to receive an update following submission of witness statements and expenditure thereof.*

**Villiers Park access**: The Chair updated the council on the submission of witness statements and a subsequent meeting with Lawrence Smith (OCC) who had advised of parameters required with any request for a right of way. The covering letter will therefore be amended and resubmitted.

Councillors had before them a response from Villiers Park’s solicitors and were **in agreement** to enter into a dialogue with the solicitors provided that that the needs of the local community are accommodated in a legally watertight way for the benefit of future generations.

**Church gates**: The Chair advised of conversations with Nick Davenport in an attempt to determine the legal position: while it is clear that there is a right of access to All Saints’ Church, neither the Parish Council nor the landowners had been able to identify its route so far. Councillors noted the continued problems experienced by some villagers in accessing the Church. Councillors therefore requested that a timer be fitted to the pedestrian gate to allow access at specified hours, and a clear notice be attached to the main gate to allow access for car users, such as the bell ringers, and remain open for all church events. The Chair **resolved to** writeto Nick Davenport to see if an agreement on these lines could be reached.

1. ORFI Working Group – *to confirm membership of the working group*

Members agreed as The Chair, Councillors Grenfell and Fulljames, Catherine Fulljames as PCC link and Christopher Willmott.

1. Towns and Parishes Stakeholder Workshop **–** *to consider an update from Cllr Cornford*

Report circulated.

1. Broadband – *to consider an update from Cllr Greenfell*

Councillor Greenfell advised that only 15 responses had been received, therefore the cost per household would be unviable, however **resolved to** contact Openreach again to investigate alternative options.

1. Greening the village– *to receive an update of the replacement benches by the War Memorials and flower troughs*

Councillor Cornford presented information on design and advised that three quotes would be required to take this forward, and **resolved to** submit the necessary bids to Cherwell District Council in co-operation with the Chair.

1. Dog Bins – *to consider a request for dog bins and costings thereof*

The Clerk advised of a request for the council to consider the installation of dog bins at an estimated cost of £150-£300 per bin, including all fixings, and ongoing costs £180 p/a for emptying by CDC.

Councillors considered these costings alongside the fact there are two ordinary bins in the village, and no other complaints/requests had been received. Therefore, council were **agreed** that funds could be better placed in other initiatives.

1. Flooding – to receive updates from Cllr Corkin

Covered above.

1. Correspondence

None received.

1. Communications – *to agree communications to the village following the meeting.*

Councillor Mikari **resolved to** update the village on the access to the church and thank all involved for their efforts with greening the village bulb planting. Following on from discussions above with HGV’s not adhering to routing agreements, request that villagers submit any evidence of such and submit to the Council.

1. Items for next meeting’s agenda – *to be submitted to the Clerk by Thursday 7 January 2023*

* Standing Orders for Middleton Stoney Parish Council
* Middleton Stoney Financial Regulations
* Platinum Jubilee

1. Date of next meeting **–** *Monday 10 January 2022*

Councillors **agreed to** move this meeting date to Monday 17 January 2023 and schedule an extraordinary meeting for Monday 6 December 2022 for finalisation of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 accounts and internal audit thereof.( Meeting subsequently moved to 13 December)

Finished at 9.10pm