

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE JUBILEE HALL ON 10th JULY 2023

Present: Mrs Caroline Hjorth
Mr Duncan Boulton
Mrs Margaret Poole
Mr John Poole

Ms Barbara Drysdale (Clerk)

Also present were: Cllr Georgina Heritage (SODC) and Mr Peter Gardner (Lewknor NPSG)

Apologies were received from: Cllr Ray Hudson & Les Gordon (LPC) and Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (OCC)

Item 1: MEMBERS’ DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None were received.

Item 2: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the parish council meeting held on 12th June 2023 were accepted as being a true record of proceedings by councillors and signed accordingly by the Chair.

Item 3: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

It was noted that the church warden had publicised a 3-day working party (28th-30th July) to clear the Lewknor churchyard (item 13); it was decided that Clerk would contact Cllr Hudson and put him in touch with the church warden to discuss getting a topper.

Clerk

Item 4: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SESSION

No requests had been received by the Clerk.

Item 5: THAMES VALLEY POLICE

There were no reports.

Item 6: DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

The council noted receipt of Cllr Heritage’s report. She also reported on the following issues:

- SODC was asking residents to report if Biffa did not collect and store extra items (such as small electric items) properly. It was suggested that SODC send an official note to all parish councils so they could publish it.

GH/
Clerk

- SODC Planning had asked her to remind PCs that the planning surgeries are available to councillors; no one at the meeting knew about them so it was suggested that SODC issue a notice about them as well.

GH/
Clerk

- Cllr Heritage said she had received correspondence from a Postcombe resident concerned about speeding on the A40. Councillors all agreed it was a problem in areas where there are 30 speed limits especially through Postcombe village; but that to date no road calming measures had been introduced by OCC. The council agreed that it would like to see something done to slow down motorists but were unsure what OCC would approve. Cllr Heritage said she would relay this to Cllr van Mierlo.

GH

The council noted Cllr van Mierlo’s report and his apologies for absence.

Chair:

Date:.....

Item 7: FINANCE

a) Councillors received and noted a budgetary control report for year to date from the RFO which showed balances as of 5th July 2023:

- Treasurers Account: £3,877.67
- Business Savings Account: £16,221.68
- Hall Account: £9,817.18

And noted RFO has transferred £3,000 from LPC Bus Savings to Treasurers Acc

b) The council approved payment of the following outstanding accounts:

i) B Drysdale	Clerk's expenses	£77.40	S.112(2) LGA 1972
ii) Pet Waste Solutions	Dog bin emptying	£92.95	S.111 LGA 1972
iii) BGG	Grasscutting x 2	£577.68	S.19 PG(MP)A 1976
iv) Allen Landscaping	Grasscutting	£84.00	S.19 PG(MP)A 1976

Chair/JP

c) The council discussed the Internal Auditor's report in detail. It was noted and welcomed that there were "no further recommendations" in almost all categories. The council agreed to consider further her comments on reserves and LPC possibly having a debit or credit card; these would be further researched and discussed at LPC's October meeting when talks on next year budget would begin.

All

d) The council formally agreed that any outstanding bills would be paid during the summer recess, in the usual way - with all invoices emailed to councillors and two councillors approving online payments: these would include grasscutting, dog bin emptying and weedkilling on the village hall grounds.

e) The proposed expenditure for bulk purchase of mixed daffodil bulbs from Boston Bulbs of around £256 (including VAT) for Postcombe using CIL funds was formally approved. It was agreed that the Clerk would try to get an invoice direct to LPC and that the order could be placed and paid as soon as.

MP/
Clerk

f) The quote to finish the CIL groundworks in the playground was formally approved. It was agreed that this cost would be shared with the LPRG&H committee (which has already approved this).

g) The council formally approved an amendment to the budget & spreadsheets putting Microsoft back under Petty Cash; it was noted that this did not affect the total budget but was simply for ease of paying this invoice.

Item 8: LPRG&H

The Clerk told councillors that she had had a meeting with the chair of LPRG&H to discuss regular expenditure that LPC could take on and pay for out of its LPRG&H account. The council formally approve two quotes: weedkilling £100 +VAT and hedge cutting £580 +VAT.

Clerk

The Clerk had also discussed the plans by LPRG&H to install CCTV at the village hall because of recurrent problems with thefts and vandalism. She said Cllr van Mierlo had pledged a grant of £500 towards this and Cllr Heritage would look into the possibly of an SODC grant too, though the timing might not work. It was formally agreed that the Clerk would make the grant applications along with the LPRG&H chair.

GH/
Clerk

Item 9: PLANNING

a) The council noted the status of the following applications:

- i) P22/S2744/HH & P22/S2745/LB Poplar Farm, Box Tree Lane, Postcombe Decision awaited
Proposed single storey rear extension, and internal/fenestration alterations to the existing house.
- ii) P23/S0047/HH Chiltern View, Lower Road, Postcombe Decision awaited
Three storey rear extensions and reconfigure internally

Chair:

Date:.....

- iii) P23/S1108/DIS Moorcourt Barn, Weston Road, near Lewknor
 Discharge of conditions 3(Reptile Mitigation Strategy) & 4(Landscaping & Drainage)
 on application P20/S0909/FUL (1. Demolition of existing green barn, closure of access
 to footpath track. 2. Erection of 1 dwelling with new access, garage, outbuilding,
 and associated works. 3. Provision of additional parking/car storage area to adjoining
 commercial unit (at The Barn/Str8six.)) Fully discharged
- iv) P23/S1518/HH Chiltern Croft Lower Road Postcombe
 Single storey extension Approved
- v) P23/S1974/DIS 12 Weston Road Lewknor Decision awaited
 Discharge of condition 5(drainage) on appeal decision for P19/S2262/O

Item 10: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

- a) The Clerk told the meeting that OCC had said the fallen B4009 bus stop post would be restored by 24th August at the latest.
- b) The Chair told the meeting that, as agreed last month, she had spoken to the residents of Beacon View and agreed the position for a new salt bin which the Clerk would now order. Clerk

Item 11: CLERK’S APPRAISAL

It was agreed that Cllr Margaret Poole would carry out the annual appraisal in August; she asked all councillors for any comments. All

Item 12: SOUTH AND VALE AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN

The council agreed that the Chair would respond to this consultation. Chair

Item 13: NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The meeting noted that the Clerk had formally written to SODC Planning Policy to approve the proposed examiner for the Lewknor NP. The decision was made unanimously by councillors in writing via email (as approved by SODC). The chair of the NP committee attended to voice his concern at the time being taken by SODC to formally appoint the examiner. It was agreed the Clerk would chase this. Clerk

Item 14: CPRE

Cllr John Poole reported on the “Championing the Countryside” meeting he had attended. The main focus was the upcoming joint Local Plan (SODC and Vale of White Horse) and the issue of house building, with the prospect of around 20,000 new houses being built on Green Belt; these were houses Oxford City Council says it cannot accommodate within its boundaries. There were also discussions about renewables: aims to restrict solar farms on or near Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the hope that all new homes would be built with solar panels; and increasing hedgerows by 40% in the coming years <https://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/>

Item 15: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- SODC Outdoor Fitness coaching session: the Chair would investigate further. Chair
- SSEN grant: it was agreed that after being refused last year, no application would be made.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Chair:

Date:.....