

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD IN THE JUBILEE HALL ON 11th MARCH 2024

Present: Mrs Caroline Hjorth (Chair)
Mrs Margaret Poole
Mr John Poole
Mr Ray Hudson

Ms Barbara Drysdale (Clerk)

Also present were: members of the NPSG, Cllr Freddie van Mierlo (OCC) & Cllr Georgina Heritage (SODC), Mr David Renton (Estates Bursar, All Souls College), Debbie Jones (JPPC Planning Consultant), Kevin Brady (Woodfield Brady Architects) & Angus Richards (Savills)

Apologies were received from: Cllrs Duncan Boulton & Cllr Les Gordon (LPC)

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 February 2024 were accepted as being a true record of proceedings by councillors and signed accordingly by the Chair.

Item 3: MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There were none, other than those covered elsewhere on the agenda

Item 4: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SESSION

No requests had been received by the Clerk.

Item 5: KNAPP FARM

The council received a presentation on behalf of landowners, All Souls College, on their plans for Knapp Farm in Lewknor village. The delegation stressed these plans were at an early stage but that they had had discussions with SODC Planning about how to develop this site which includes two Grade 2 listed buildings. The proposal is to convert these outbuildings into four dwellings: three two-bedroomed houses and one four-bedroomed house; with a central courtyard, private gardens for each house plus an open area to the rear where the emphasis would be on biodiversity. Afterwards, the council agreed to consider the proposals and discuss further at its April meeting.

All

Item 6: THAMES VALLEY POLICE

There were no reports. The Chair told the meeting that a car which had repeatedly parked on the pavement on the B4009 had been ticketed by OCC.

Item 7: DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS

The council noted receipt of monthly reports from both councillors. Both councillors took part in the discussions on Knapp Farm. Cllr Heritage received an update on Item 14. Cllr van Mierlo reported that the consultation period on the Watlington Relief road had closed and that the

Chair:

Date:.....

issue of access onto Manor Close was again back with Beeks. He also took part in discussions on all issues in Item 10.

Item 8: FINANCE

a) The council received and noted a budgetary control report for the year to date from the RFO which showed balances as of 6th March 2024:

Treasurers Account: £2,001.76

Business Savings Account: £16,169.04

Hall Account: £6,205.58

And noted the RFO had transferred £500 on 24th Feb 2024 and £1,200 on 6th Mar from LPC's savings to Treasurers Account.

b) The council noted payment of the following accounts as approved at February meeting:

i) Speedwatch signs Signwizzard £311.83 CIL

ii) Speedwatch shop High vis jackets £176.19 CIL

c) The council formally approved payment of the following outstanding accounts:

i) Friends of the Ridgeway Membership £15.00 S.137 LGA 1972

ii) LPRG&H Hall Rental £96.00 S.111 LGA 1972

iii) OALC Subscription £168.00 S.143 LGA 1972

iv) B Drysdale Clerk's expenses £35.10 S.112(2) LGA 1972

v) PetWasteSolutions Dog bin emptying £92.95 S.111 LGA 1972

vi) OCC New salt bin £300.00 S.111 LGA 1972

vii) Tencer Boiler repairs £1,519.78 S.111 LGA 1972

(carried over from last month: boiler finally fixed; VAT 1p higher from calculated last month)

d) The council noted LPC's annual fee to the ICO would be taken by direct debit in early April.

e) The council formally agreed to renew LPC's membership of Community First Oxfordshire.

f) The council noted payment next month (as agreed in LPC's budget) of £600 to Grapevine.

g) The council noted receipt of the RFO's List of Payments Schedule for 2024-25.

h) The council approved payment in April of LPRG&H's call out bill for boiler repair.

RH/JP

Clerk
Clerk

Clerk

Item 9: PLANNING

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/S2490/LDE The Storeground, Aston Hill, near Aston Rowant Decision awaited
Mixed use of site for residential use workshops and storage

iii) P23/S4010/HH Poplar Cottage, Box Tree Lane, Postcombe Decision awaited
Alteration/extension to existing outbuilding to form residential annexe
And to note amendment: information on drainage

iv) P23/S4282/FUL Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve Carpark, Sunken Way Walk
Provision of revised access arrangements to Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve carpark to improve public accessibility and reduce anti-social behaviour Decision awaited

Item 10: HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

a) Hill Road steps: the Chair reported that the tree cutting over these steps had finally been carried out. It was hoped the handrail would be installed asap in the new financial year.

b) Salt Lane bridge steps: the Clerk reported that the Paths Officer at OCC had said these steps were Highways and had forwarded LPC's request for a site visit to improve the steps. The Clerk would follow up and copy in Cllr van Mierlo.

Clerk

Chair:

Date:.....

c) The "funeral path" in Postcombe: The Clerk reported that the Chiltern Society had installed a height barrier for Aston Rowant PC. It was agreed the Clerk would contact the OCC Paths Officer about the possibility of a height barrier at this path, copying in Cllr van Mierlo.

Clerk/FvM

d) Postcombe speedwatch project:

Clerk/FvM

- The HiVis jackets and Speedwatch signs had been ordered and paid for.

- The Speedwatch group had carried out its first monitoring operation.

- The 30mph VAS had been moved from the 20mph areas but only one had been moved onto the A40: the Clerk would chase.

- One of the 20 mph poles had been moved into an area overgrown with trees: the Clerk would chase, emphasising the trees needed to be cut back asap, before the nesting season.

Clerk

- the new 20 mph VAS had been ordered.

Clerk

e) Mobility hubs: after further discussion, it was agreed with Cllr van Mierlo that LPC would welcome improvement to the existing paths. It was noted that Aston Rowant PC was planning to ask for a path to be constructed between the Lambert Arms and the B4009 bus stops.

Item 11: CIL

Cllrs Margaret and John Poole proposed that two planters (made from recycled plastic) be bought and installed by the Postcombe noticeboard in order to preserve the area around the bench for pedestrians and walkers and to prevent cars persistently parking on the grass. It was agreed that they would get one quote and the Chair would get a second quote; to be discussed further next month.

MP/JP/
Chair

Item 12: LPRG&H

The Chair updated the council on possible bills that LPC could take over for LPRG&H. It was agreed that, for now, LPC would organise and pay for hedgecutting and weedkilling.

Arrangements with Rentokil and for boiler maintenance would be discussed as they arose.

See also Item 8h.

Item 13: COWLEAZE WOODS

The Clerk told the meeting that following an email complaint from a member of the public, she had visited Cowleaze Woods. Major tree felling work was being undertaken which had churned up many of the paths, closed parts of the woods and the entire car park. She had contacted Forestry England who said the work should be finished by mid-April, weather permitting and that the paths would be fully reinstated. The Clerk had suggested that if Forestry England could keep LPC updated on such works, LPC could then publicise this to the wider community.

Item 14: VILLAGE SHOP

The Clerk told the council that she had been in touch with both SOHA and the prospective tenant. Legal box-ticking appeared to be lengthening the process.

Clerk

Item 15: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

There was none.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Chair:

Date:.....