

**Minutes of the Little Coxwell Parish Council Meeting
Held in Little Coxwell Village Hall on Tuesday 7th December 2021**

1. Present: G Yarwood (Chairman), Fra Woodd, A Whiteford, Dave New (Councillors), C Weston (Clerk), Cllr Elaine Ware (VWHDC), Cllr Bethia Thomas (OCC)
2. Apologies for absence were received from N J Mattingley, Cllr Simon Howell (VWHDC), A Benford (PPW)
3. Declarations of interest. None
4. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12th October 2021 were approved.
5. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meetings.
 - 5.1. Village Notice Board. The repairs to the notice board are now complete. A new toughened glass window was included at a cost of £43.45 incl VAT.
 - 5.2. Quarry Lorries turning right onto A420 – see various items below
6. County & District Councillors' reports

District Council: The November DC monthly report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Elaine has provided an addendum to the report which will be circulated with these minutes.

County Council: Bethia Thomas's report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Glen asked that Little Coxwell is included in any A420 working group being set up. Bethia has been in contact with neighbouring councillors aiming to have a group covering the length of the A420 from West of Shrivenham along to Oxford. Initially some data analysis will take place followed by a meeting, probably early in 2022.

Village Speeding: The OCC 20mph scheme is expected to roll out across the area over the next few years. The Parish Councillors said that Little Coxwell is likely to apply. Elaine offered us some left over "Slow Down in our Village" signs which could be attached to the waste bins. Elaine also offered to get a quote from the printers used previously for a run of 50 signs which could be tailored specifically for Little Coxwell. It may be possible to apply to Bethia's priority fund to pay for these signs.

Action: Elaine

FATAC (Faringdon Area Traffic Advisory Committee) Bethia is chair of this group and Elaine is Vice Chairman. The next meeting will be held on 17th December at 9:30am and one of the Parish Councillors will attend if possible. The issue of concrete lorries turning right, against the routeing regulations, could be brought up at this meeting but we would need to register our request to speak with the Faringdon Town Clerk.

Action: Glen

7. CCTV. Nothing to report.
8. Planning
 - 8.1. The following applications have been completed and approved since the last meeting:
 - a) Fir Tree Cottage – P21/V1652/HH Reconstruction of Boundary Wall and demolition of outbuilding

8.2. The following applications are still in progress. The PC has not made any formal objections.

- a) Wellington Farm, Kings Lane - P21/V1696/FUL Erection of Cattle Housing Unit
- b) Garden Cottage P21/V2390/LB – Addition of roof windows

9. Grundon Quarry - MW.0142/21 Extension of Quarry Extraction to 31/12/2034 and restoration to 31/12/2035. This application was received by us on 23rd November.

Comments are required by 16th December. Two villagers (Tim and Jenny Gray) joined the meeting for this agenda item. Glen outlined some of the history regarding the quarry and our objections to previous applications.

The application for the concrete batching plant was based on the reduction in the consumption of materials extracted from the quarry and therefore a partner was sought to utilise more of the mined materials and provide concrete more directly from source. This application was granted but with a routeing agreement that cement related trucks do not turn right onto the A420 and an overall limit on daily truck movements. This new application applies for an extension to the end date of the quarry from the current date of 2026 to 2034 quoting that this will utilise the predicted amount of material left available. However, from the last application Grundon quoted in a mail and verbally at the planning meeting that the introduction would enable the original mining forecast figures and so ensure the planned end date of 2026 could be met so it is unclear why an extension is required.

It was originally suspected that material (sand) being quarried at the site is not very suitable for the concrete production. Weighbridge records may be able to confirm whether or not additional sand is being brought on site which would be contrary to the planning application.

The latest application states that there have been no complaints re noise, lighting or pollution from the local community. We do not know if this is factually correct but we are aware villagers have been complaining and therefore it shows how important it is to report issues as the lack of complaints is being used to justify that the quarry and concrete batching plant is performing as planned. Glen to draft a ‘round robin’ mail to advise of the latest planning application and the need to report issues.

Action: Glen

Tim suggested proposing a short extension is allowed but dependent on adherence to the other conditions such as no right turn onto the A420. As soon as they are in breach of any condition the extension is annulled.

The planning application and agreements are currently between OCC and Grundon, however the concrete plant is sublet to Wiltshire Concrete. It was suggested OCC need to bring Wiltshire Concrete or any other subcontractor into the legal contract for enforcement to be effective. Glen to draft a mail back to Emma at OCC planning to ask if this is possible.

Action: Glen

Glen agreed to prepare a draft response objecting to the planning application which will be circulated for comment – including Tim and Jenny who attended for this part of the meeting.

Action: Glen

Elaine and Bethia agreed to work together to support the Parish Council as it is currently unclear where the District Council boundary lies.

10. Finance

- 10.1. Account Status. The Actual vs Budget YTD detail was distributed in advance of the meeting.
- Total bank balance stands at £10,148. Note: £2,500 reserved for the Playing Field costs.
 - No Income since last meeting
 - Expenditure since last meeting was in line with that agreed:
 - £43.45 Cameo glass for Notice Board repair
 - £19.98 Xmas Tree Lights
 - £16 approx Cable Matting re Xmas Tree
 - Income due before next meeting - Nil
 - Expected expenditure before next meeting:
 - £150 CCTV Annual Maintenance
 - £36 CPRE

All costs and income are in line with the budget.

- 10.2. Precept/Budget for 2022/23. The 3 Year forecast was distributed in advance of the meeting. The key differences are 1) a general maintenance fund to cover items such as footpaths, fences, signage etc and 2) replacement defibrillator battery and pads which expire during 2023. The £2,500 fund for completion of the Playing Field was maintained for 2022/23. Although the reserves appear to be at a fairly high level compared to the precept it was agreed to maintain this level to ensure fund availability for any equipment/project on the Playing Field once the lease is concluded. It was unanimously agreed to maintain the precept at the current level of £1,300.

11. Footpaths – nothing to report. It was suggested to check with Andy Benford if he is still happy to do this role and if so, offer to use Zoom at the next meeting. Andy W offered to bring in a mic/speaker to help with the acoustics on the call.

Action: Glen, Andy to provide a mic/speaker at the next meeting if required

12. Electric Vehicle Charging Points – Andy has been unable to make any progress re a charging point in the village or the permission to run a cable in a gutter across the pavement. All council resources seem to be in larger towns.

13. Village Playing Field. Following regular fortnightly chasing an email was received this afternoon from the Planning Officer, Adrian James stating “It is now accepted that we are legally able to grant the lease as intended”. This is progress but the remaining steps and timescales are unclear. It was agreed not to appoint a solicitor at this stage to ensure we don’t incur unnecessary costs. (This item has been ongoing since 2014).

14. Any other business

- 14.1. Blocked/flooded drains. Dave mentioned blocked drains close to the entrance of the village. It was suggested these are reported on Fix My Street.

Action: Dave/Caroline

- 14.2. VWHDC Community Governance Review. It was agreed this is very unlikely to affect Little Coxwell.

- 14.3. Deep Cleanse. It was agreed to request the cobblestone pavement margin be cleaned and weeded.

Action: Caroline

- 14.4. Xmas Tree. Following donation of the Xmas Tree an interim meeting of the councillors was held on 22nd November to decide where to put it and how to decorate etc. Spend on tree lights and cable matting for the pavement was agreed together with a village gathering to put up the tree and turn on the lights. This took place on Sunday 28th November. Thanks to Dave for all his efforts, Matt for the tractor and Marcel for the hot chocolate.
- 14.5. Code of Conduct. Glen reviewed the recent information from Steven Corrigan and highlighted the requirements around Conflict of Interest, abuse of position etc. Glen advised that most of the information is more for full time employees and some of the confusion around responsibilities comes from the use of social media which we don't use in the PC so the regular agenda item 'Declarations of Interest' is being used as the main focus to ensure adherence to the code. There was one other element highlighted that all public figures now need to register their personal interests for transparency. Having looked at the document Glen's interpretation is that the only relevance for us as a parish council is to register our home address and properties owned in the parish to ensure there is no conflict during PC activities.

15. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 8th March at 6pm and held in the Village Hall.