

**Minutes of the Little Coxwell Parish Council Meeting
Held in Little Coxwell Village Hall on Tuesday 8th March 2022**

1. Present: G Yarwood (Chairman), Fra Woodd, A Whiteford, N J Mattingley (Councillors), C Weston (Clerk), Cllr Elaine Ware (VWHDC), Cllr Bethia Thomas (OCC)
2. Apologies for absence were received from Dave New, A Benford (PPW), Cllr Simon Howell(VWHDC)
3. Declarations of interest. None
4. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7th December 2021 were approved.
5. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.
 - 5.1. 20mph signage. Elaine contacted the Community Safety Officer and Waste Team re signs to put on the wheelie bins but has not yet heard back. She will chase up.
Action: Elaine
 - 5.2. FATAc/Quarry Lorries turning right onto A420. This was mentioned at the last FATAc meeting where Faringdon Town Council supported our concerns. Elaine will ensure this remains highlighted at the next meeting. See also Section 8 below re Quarry.
Action: Elaine
 - 5.3. Blocked/flooded drains. The blocked drain by The Eagle has been cleared following investigation by Nick, Dave, Matt and the deep blockage removed by the Highways after being reporting on FixMyStreet. The drain and gully near the entrance to the village remains an issue and this has now also been reported on FixMyStreet.
6. County & District Councillors' reports

District Council: The Jan/Feb DC monthly report was circulated in advance of the meeting. The 2 controversial planning applications for housing developments are still ongoing. A meeting has been held with the Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group who has stated that Shrivenham cannot take any more people. Regular meetings every 6-8 weeks are now being held with this group. Simon Howell has also held meetings with Swindon Council to ensure they are aware of the impact of their decisions on our area and especially on the A420.

Work on the White Hart Roundabout has been extended until end April. As part of this work the A419 will be closed from 20:00 on 21st March to 6:00 on 25th March. Delays of between 10 and 30 minutes are anticipated.

Twelve Electric Vehicle chargers are being installed in Southampton Street car park primarily to enable people living in the town with no off street parking to charge cars

A council tax rise of around 4.7% for Band D property has been approved.

VWHDC is very concerned about the situation in Ukraine and will do whatever it can to help refugees. It has a good track record helping refugees from Afghanistan finding accommodation, settling in the community and finding schools. Expenses are paid by central government and not by the local council.

County Council: Bethia Thomas's Jan/Feb report was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Village Speeding. It was confirmed that Little Coxwell will apply for the OCC 20mph scheme. Bethia will send the link for application to Caroline and also write in support of our application.

Action: Bethia/Caroline

7. Planning

7.1. The following applications have been completed since the last meeting:

- a) Garden Cottage – P21/V2390/LB Addition of roof windows – APPROVED
- b) Johann – P21/V0807/HH - *REFUSED*
- c) Grundon Quarry – MW.0142/21 Extension of Quarry Extraction - APPROVED

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

- a) Walnut Cottage, A420 - P21/V3482/FUL New 2 storey dwelling
- b) Erection of Cattle Housing Unit Wellington Farm – P21/V1696/FUL

8. **Grundon Quarry.** The Parish Council sent an objection to the planning application MW.0142/21 in December 2021. The application went to Committee on 28th February and was approved despite objections from ourselves, Faringdon Town Council and our local councillors.

The communication around this application and decision is very unsatisfactory. We were not informed that it was going to Committee so had no opportunity to attend. We have not been formally informed of the outcome yet. Elaine saw it published in the Oxford Mail. There are no minutes yet available for the meeting to help us understand the rationale and conditions applied to the approval. Bethia said she is very annoyed about this lack of communication and will take it up with the relevant cabinet member. Bethia will let us know if there is anyone we should be complaining to. Glen will also write to Emma Bolster at OCC Planning enquiring why we weren't kept informed this time as we always have been regarding previous applications.

Action: Bethia/Glen

Despite there being conditions attached to planning application approvals there is no evidence of monitoring taking place. Key conditions we are aware of are total numbers of trucks, no turning right onto A420 and now a new one from the latest planning application for volume of material quarried (in order to meet the end date). It was noted that the majority, though not all, of trucks now turn left in accordance with the routeing agreement. These often turn around at the Great Coxwell junction rather than going to the Watchfield roundabout. Glen will draft a round robin for the village explaining the restrictions and how to report non compliance. Anna Hoare mentioned the excessive lighting which will impact wildlife and the environment. This lighting issue has already been reported to Grundon previously but nothing seems to have changed.

Action: Glen

We were contacted on 12th January by Jolyon Fallon to set up a local liaison group with Grundon Quarry. This group was referred to in the planning application which may have helped the approval decision. However, they have so far been unable to get the necessary people together on a suitable date. In their last email, dated 17th February, Jolyon said he would get back with agenda and possible dates. We are still waiting for a response.

9. Finance

9.1. Account Status. The Actual vs Budget YTD detail was distributed in advance of the meeting.

- Total bank balance stands at £10,136. Note: £2,500 reserved for the Playing Field costs.
- Income since last meeting £198.50 VAT Refund
- Expenditure since last meeting was in line with that agreed:
 - £150 CCTV Annual Maintenance
- Income due before next meeting - £650 Precept
- The following expected expenditure before next meeting was approved:
 - £120 Audit Fee
 - £36 CPRE Annual membership

All costs and income are in line with the budget.

9.2. Annual Audit – Meeting with the auditor scheduled for 14th June. Note this makes timescales tight for approving the annual accounts and posting to the website as this needs to be completed by 30th June.

9.3. Jubilee Celebrations – Andy Whiteford suggested that the Village Hall Committee may be looking to the Parish Council to fund parts of the celebrations that fall outside the Village Hall constitution, possibly the Beacon Lighting. Andy agreed to clarify with Clare.

Action: Andy W

9.4. Electronic Banking – currently all payments are made by cheque with 2 approvals or by pre approved direct debit. Lloyds Bank has the capability of electronic payments ensuring 2 separate approvers. Caroline to check with the auditor if utilising this facility this would be acceptable and the necessary governance. The Parish Council financial procedures would also need to be updated and approved.

Action: Caroline

10. CCTV. Nothing to report.

11. Footpaths. Nothing to report.

12. Village Playing Field. After no reply was received from a number of emails Elaine followed up and found that the planning officer we were dealing with has left the organisation. Elaine took this up with Deputy Chief Executive, Suzanne Malcolm. A new officer, James Carpenter, has now been assigned and instructed to review our case asap. Apparently the legal advice is that consent from the Secretary of State would be required to proceed with the long term lease as the land is held pursuant to the Housing Act 1985. Elaine said she will keep on the case. (This item has been ongoing since 2014).

A suggestion was made to look into applying for the Playing Field as an ACV (Asset of Community Value). Elaine offered to look into this for us.

Action: Elaine

13. Any other business

13.1. CPR/Defibrillator training. Keen interest in refresher training was shown over the village Whatsapp recently. It was agreed to follow this up. Bethia said a paramedic from Great Coxwell has given training in Faringdon and Great Coxwell and will forward their details to Caroline.

Action: Bethia/Caroline

13.2. Defibrillator Checks. The defib is checked every week and a central system updated with the OK status. Andy Benford and Caroline take it in turns each month to carry the checks. It has been suggested a third person join the checking team which would provide more cover if needed. It was agreed to action Andy B to ask Richard Kaira-Cresswell since he was one of the villagers showing keen interest re training on the Whatsapp.

Action: Andy Benford

13.3. Wall at Woodbine Cottage. Dallas reported that vehicles often try to reverse at the corner and are in danger of damaging the wall which has already been hit. It is thought drivers don't realise they can continue round to get out the village and instead turn round. Options discussed include:

- a) addition of reflective posts which may be picked up by vehicles with reversing sensors but would probably just get pushed over
- b) additional signage to inform drivers of the circular nature of the road
- c) make the road one-way – probably unacceptable to the residents nearer the green

The land outside the wall belongs to Oxfordshire highways. It was agreed to send photos to Bethia and she will arrange for Highways to assess the area and suggest ways forward.

Action: Andy W/Bethia

13.4. Growth affecting power cables by Village Hall Car Park. The immediate tall growth by the power lines was removed by Andy Benford. Having reviewed the situation the Parish Council will prune the remaining growth to approx head height.

Action: Dave/Glen

13.5. Abingdon reservoir. An email was received recently from CPRE explaining the extent and impact of the proposed reservoir and encouraging responses to the current consultation. Bethia and Elaine also stated their opposition to the reservoir and want to encourage input. It was agreed to forward the CPRE email as a village Round Robin.

Action: Caroline

13.6. Neighbourhood Plan. A pilot project is being undertaken by South and Vale for a simpler approach to neighbourhood planning. Previously Little Coxwell did not proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan due to the volume of paperwork and administration that was required. It was agreed to show an interest in the pilot project and get more information.

Action: Caroline

14. Date of next meeting.

The provisional date for the next meeting is Tuesday 21st June at 6pm and held in the Village Hall. This date may change depending on the Audit schedule.