

Minutes of a Meeting of Little Coxwell Parish Council
Held at Little Coxwell Village Hall on Wednesday 4th December 2019

1. Present: G Yarwood (Chairman), Dave New, N J Mattingley, A Whiteford (Councillors), C Weston (Clerk), A Benford (PPW) , Cllr Judith Heathcoat (OCC)
2. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr F Woodd, Cllr Simon Howell (VWHDC) and Cllr Elaine Ware (VWHDC)
3. Declarations of interest. None.
4. It was noted that Andy Benford no longer represents the Village Hall Committee.
5. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd September were approved.
6. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting:
 - 6.1. The action to circulate a notice re loan sharks acting in the area was carried forward.

Action: Glen/Caroline

7. County & District Councillors' reports
Judith Heathcoat's report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Elaine Ware's report was read at the meeting. No additional points were raised.
8. CCTV. Nothing to Report
9. Planning
 - 9.1. Faringdon Quarry Concrete Batching Plant Truck Movements – MW.0107/19. The Parish Council has objected to this application and at least 14 objections were received by the planning officer. The Planning and Regulation Committee date has been delayed to 28th January as the highways report wasn't ready for the December meeting. Judith Heathcoat will be able to attend this January meeting. Judith said that traffic lights are still planned for the Great Coxwell A420 junction but are caught up with discussions between the developers and planning on the remaining Steeds Farm site.

Judith suggested we consider contacting CPRE as we have membership in case they can assist in any way.

Action: Glen/Caroline

10. Finance
 - 10.1. The Parish Council Financial Regulations document was circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed that no changes are required.
 - Total bank balance stands at £10,450. Balances are £6,059 and £4,391.30 in current and deposit accounts respectively. Note: £872 is reserved for footpath related cost and £2,500 reserved for the Playing Field costs.
 - Income since last meeting was £650 precept
 - Expenditure since last meeting was in line with that agreed:
 - £18 Domain renewal which covers 2 years
 - No expected income before next meeting
 - Expected expenditure before next meeting:
 - i. £118 Annual Auditor Fee
 - ii. £150 approx CCTV maintenance
 - iii. £36 CPRE annual membership. A brief discussion confirmed that we will renew.
 - iv. Materials for bench on playing field

- v. Further footpath costs, e.g strimmer, matting, sprayer, pipe and other material for gullies
 - Above expenditure pre-approved. All costs and income are in line with the budget.
- 10.2. A proposed budget for 2020/21 and 3 year forecast was circulated in advance of the meeting. Caroline reported that the Auditor has commented on the amount of our general reserves. The guidelines are that this should be no more than twice the annual precept, so in our case £2,600. Our reserves are considerably larger. It was unanimously agreed not to reduce this, at least until the Playing Field has been sorted out. The proposed budget was agreed and the precept for 2020/21 will remain at £1,300.

11. Footpaths

- 11.1. PPW (Parish Path Warden) Report. Nothing to report.
- 11.2. Path 278/1 Upgrade (Church to Fernham Road). The footpath is being used frequently by walkers and the surface appears to be holding up well with just some small ruts appearing. The local Ramblers magazine published 'before' and 'after' photos of the path to showcase the good work that can be done by Parish Councils. Andy will forward the photos to Arthur McEwan James.
- 11.3. Dave said he will do the gullies which involves clearance, laying some pipes, soil and gravel movement.

12. Playing Field

The valuation report is still awaited from the District Council. It was agreed not to chase up but just wait.

13. Any other business

- 13.1. Village Pond Restoration and Maintenance. The last attempt at restoration work (10+ years ago) was stopped due to concerns on the wildlife, however the habitat has changed since then and the pond has even less water. Dave will discuss with Anthony Symington to determine if he is interested in restoration.
Action: Dave New
- 13.2. West Green Rights of Way. The highways responded to our request for road markings – "I do not feel that it would be appropriate to install road markings which would urbanise the street scheme whilst having little benefit to road safety".
- 13.3. Grove Road. The state of the road is extremely poor with large potholes and generally broken up surface. This has been an ongoing issue for many years. Judith Heathcoat offered to take this to the highways meeting on Friday. Caroline to send Judith and email with the details.
Action: Clerk
- 13.4. Benches/Picnic table on Village Field. Dave New offered to make a bench for the playing field provided the council pay for the materials. He has made several benches recently. The size and design was left to Dave.
Action: Dave New
- 13.5. Village Sign. Andy Benford has engaged Jeanette to help in the design. Different styles/heights of sign were briefly discussed. It was noted that planning permission may be required depending on where the sign is to be located.
Action: Andy Benford

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st April at 6pm in the Village Hall