

**Minutes of a Meeting of Little Coxwell Parish Council  
Held by video conference on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

1. Present: G Yarwood (Chairman), N J Mattingley, A Whiteford, Dave New (Councillors), A Benford (PPW) , Cllr Judith Heathcoat (OCC), Cllr Elaine Ware (VWHDC), Cllr Simon Howell (VWHDC), C Weston (Clerk). Also present were 2 candidates for the upcoming County Council elections, Bethia Thomas (Lib/Dem) and David Leigh-Pemberton (Conservative)
2. Apologies for absence were received from Fra Woodd.
3. Introductions were made to the meeting of Bethia Thomas and David Leigh-Pemberton, 2 candidates for the next County Council election, after which they had an observation role only.
4. Judith Heathcoat is standing down as County Councillor at the next election. The Parish Council thanked Judith for all her help and support over the years. Judy will be sorely missed.
5. Declarations of interest. Dave New declared an interest in the Footpath Improvement items. Glen Yarwood declared an interest in the Jacinta planning applications.
6. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were approved.
7. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meetings.
  - 7.1. Village Notice Board. Glen is to see if his son-in-law can provide a replacement front. If not we could consider buying a new notice board.

*Action: Glen*

8. County & District Councillors' reports

**District Council:** The DC monthly report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Additional Covid related updates are sent out by Simon as appropriate. The following items were highlighted.

- Brown bin Garden Waste collections. These collections have restarted following a break due to low staffing levels as a result of the Covid pandemic.
- More housing. There are 3 planning applications in Highworth which may result in another 380 dwellings with an associated increase in traffic on the A420.
- Litter on A420. Following the recent clearance work along the A420 verges a large amount of litter was revealed. Biffa are planning to remove this in the next few weeks. Dave New asked if McDonalds could put an id, such as car number plate, on their packaging and Elaine replied that they are discussing this with McDonalds.
- Leisure Facilities. A consultation document re use of local leisure facilities is being prepared.

**County Council:** Judith Heathcoat's report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Judith has been helping with the issues regarding the Grundon appeal (see 10.3). Judith highlighted several areas including

- Risks of using mobile phones while driving
- Rise in council tax kept as low as possible
- Trading standards staying very active

- Faringdon shop staff receiving verbal abuse from people unwilling to wear face coverings
- Importance of checking smoke alarm batteries
- Good work done by landowner coppicing the hedge along Coxwell Road

9. CCTV. The annual service was completed early March and nothing to report.

## 10. Planning

10.1. The following applications have been completed and approved since the last meeting:

- Gorse House - P20/V2353/HH amendment Car Port and 1<sup>st</sup> floor to replace Barn
- Garden Cottage - P20/V2677/HH and P20/V2804/LB Extensions
- Jacinta – P20/V2857/HH and P20/V2859/LB Rear extension

10.2. The following applications have been received and reviewed. The PC have no objections.

- Little Coxwell House – P21/V0080/DIS Discharge of tree protection on Planning
- Jacinta – P21/V0359/LB Demolition of internal wall etc

10.3. Cement Processing Plant at Faringdon Quarry

Planning Appeal ref APP/U3100/W/20/3250471 re limit on truck movements

MW0068/19. The appeal decision was received on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. The appeal was allowed. However, on 10<sup>th</sup> March a letter was received stating that Grundon has withdrawn the application. It is unclear why they have done this and what this means for the routing agreement. Glen has emailed the Planning Officer for clarification. Judith is also following up directly with Emma Bolster, the Planning Officer, and will feed back to us.

On 9<sup>th</sup> March Glen noticed another drop of concrete at the A420 junction. He reported it in person to the Grundon site manager who was helpful and they cleared up what they could. Such drops seem to be more apparent when the trucks turn right onto the A420, so the site manager will check with Wiltshire Concrete whether the trucks are overloaded.

## 11. Finance

11.1. Spend is in line with budget with some funds from the 'fencing, signage' line item being used for the footpath work.

- Total bank balance stands at £9,655. Note: £2,500 is reserved for Playing Field costs.
- Expenditure since last meeting was in line with that agreed:
  - £1,108.38 on footpath improvements
  - £102.41 on annual CCTV service contract
- No income since last meeting
- Expenditure expected before next meeting:
  - £36 approx CPRE annual membership
  - £260 approx for annual insurance
  - £120 annual audit fee
  - *Above items pre-approved*
- Income expected before next meeting :
  - £650 April Precept
- The £118 cheque for the 2019/2020 audit has not been cashed. The cheque was sent on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2020. In October 2020 two emails were sent and two phone calls made but no response or reply was received. Another email was sent in March

2021. The £118 will be written back into the accounts before the end of the financial year.

11.2. Audit Process. The internal audit will take place remotely. A timetable has been agreed with the new auditor to provide the requested documentation, receive and review the audit report in readiness for approval at the next PC meeting.

## 12. Footpaths

12.1. Andy Benford (PPW) cleared an issue with a gate chain which was reported to the PC and passed to Andy. There is an initiative being led by the Ramblers to identify lost footpaths across the country. There are no such lost paths in the Little Coxwell area. Andy reported the improved footpath 278/1 to Dave Cavanagh and Arthur McEwan James. Dave suggested making the ducking bar at the end of the path into a hinged bar if anyone complains. Andy noted that he hadn't heard from Arthur McEwan James since 2019. Judith said he is still around but really busy.

12.2. The work on the gullies alongside Fernham Road carried out by Dave has been very well received and the informal path is being well used. He has received requests to extend the work even further and along to the village entrance. Dave to provide an estimate for the work.

*Action: Dave*

13. Village Playing Field. Elaine has continued to chase this. If nothing has been heard by 22<sup>nd</sup> March Elaine will chase. This item has been ongoing since 2014.

*Action: Elaine*

## 14. Any other business

14.1. Electric Vehicle Charging Point. Andy and Glen have continued to participate in council led meetings however they believe Little Coxwell is too small to be prioritised for funding or action. Options are to look at a point in the Village Hall car park and possibly another by the phone box. An alternative is to have channels, with covers, cut in the pavement which could house a cable when charging is taking place. This would be a cheaper option but it is very difficult to obtain permission for work on pavements. Judith asked to be kept in the loop.

## 15. Date of next meeting.

The Parish Council annual meeting will be on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 6pm.