

SUTTON COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall, Sutton Courtenay on Tuesday 4th June, 2019 at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Rita Atkinson, David Butler, Michael Jenkins (Chairman), Jennifer Corrigan, Teresa Field.

Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin

Joined by Cllr. Richard Webber (County Councillor and District Councillor)

6 members of the public

2019/153 Apologies for Absence

2019/154 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest on specific items for the Agenda. Cllr. Jennie Corrigan stated that at the May meeting, she had been appointed the Council's representative on the Culham Liaison Committee. She stated that her husband was employed at Culham Science Centre, and she had therefore decided it would be preferable for another councillor to represent the Council at the Liaison meetings. Cllr. Rita Atkinson offered to attend if she were available.

RESOLVED:

that Cllr. Rita Atkinson be appointed the Council's representative on the Culham Liaison Committee in place of Cllr. Jennie Corrigan.

2019/155 Vacancies for Members on the Parish Council

Council considered two applications from parishioners wishing to join the Council. They had both declared that they met the criteria for joining the Council and were not disqualified.

The first was from Merouan Hemamda who was unable to be at the meeting.

Cllr. Rita Atkinson proposed, seconded by Cllr. Teresa Field and

RESOLVED nem con:

that Merouan Hemamda be co-opted to the Council to fill one of the vacant seats remaining after the election in May.

Council then considered an application from Eileen Daw who was present at the meeting. Members put questions to her.

Cllr. David Butler proposed, seconded by Cllr. Rita Atkinson and

RESOLVED:nem con:

that Eileen Daw be co-opted to the Council to fill one of the vacant seats remaining after the election in May.

2019/156 Declarations of Acceptance of Office

Eileen Daw, then signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

RESOLVED: :that Merouan Hemamda's declaration of acceptance be signed at or before the next meeting of the Council.

2019/157

Minutes of the meeting held on 7th May, 2019

Minute 97/2019, relating to comments made at the time of the election of Chairman, was questioned. There was lengthy discussion as to what was said. Cllr. Rita Atkinson stated that her comments regarding treating others with respect had been directed to the Chairman and not all members. It was therefore proposed that the word "members" be removed and the word "Chairman" substituted, in the last sentence. "Cllr Rita Atkinson asked that it be recorded that the Code of Conduct should be observed in particular treating others with respect and not bullying, as she believed that there had been incidents where (*members*) the Chairman had not fully observed the Code during the period of the previous Council.

The minutes in all other respects were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

2019/158

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th May, 2019

Footpath Walking

Council noted that the leader of the local Nordic Walking group had offered to assist with walking the public footpaths and bridleways and to report to the Parish Council any issues identified. A resident too had offered to help.

A member queried whether there was an insurance issue. The Clerk confirmed that as footpaths open to the public, anyone could walk them and then report any findings to the Parish Council. They would not be insured by the Parish Council. If, however, the Parish Council arranged a specific event for volunteers, there would be the need for a risk assessment, acceptance of those risks by the volunteers, and everything documented within the minutes if any policy held by the Council were to cover volunteers. Anyone walking the footpaths would do so as individuals and not on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was noted that anyone identifying matters with the public footpaths, should not have false expectations that all issues could be resolved.

Recreation Ground

The trial of re-angling of security cameras on the pavilion was referred to in the last minutes, It was pointed out that not all would be re-angled, as the intention when the football club acquired them, was to focus on the building and not the wider field area. Following the meeting between a representative of the Parish Council, the Police and the Football Club, it had been established that the installer approached by the Football Club was suitable, and that he was in the process of preparing a quotation. Should the quotation be received, then this would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

2002 Festivities

Cllr. Jennie Corrigan advised that she had found some slides showing village festivities from 2002. She would arrange for these to be digitised.

2019/159

Public Participation

Footpaths

A member of the public expressed disappointment in that she had been walking the footpaths for 17 years reporting to the Council, and now there seemed to be new input. It was believed that budget was available for works to the paths. The paths where Magnox and Thames Water had carried out works had been left in a poor condition.

Conduct at meetings

A member of the public commented that there seemed to be cross talking at meetings, and from experience discussion should be always through the Chairman.

Church Street – footpath

It was reported that the path alongside the Norman Hall was in a poor state, and it was difficult to walk along it.

Electronic copies of minutes for the public

The Parish Council was asked to publish in Sutton Courtenay News, the numbers of members of the public who receive electronic copies of the agendas and minutes. It was suggested that by publishing these, other members of the public may become interested and may wish to then receive them.

Didcot “A” Power Station site

A request was made for the Parish Council’s assistance in objecting to the trees at the southern side of the Didcot “A” site close to the railway having been cut down. The work was carried out at the beginning of March after the birds had started nesting, and before planning consent had been granted. Questions were raised as to what could be done. The member of the public had raised the issue with the Police’s Wildlife Crime Officer. The Chairman would raise this at the next RWE Liaison Committee meeting.

Refusal of planning consent

Reference was made to the refusal of planning consent for a kitchen extension to a property at Cross Trees, in Church Street, apparently on grounds of traffic. The Chairman confirmed that where the County Council has objected to an application on grounds of vehicle impact in the area, owing to the current congestion on Sutton bridge. The District Council followed, and refused the application. The Clerk commented that she was unaware of the refusal referred to.

2019/160

County Councillor’s and District Councillor’s report – Cllr. Richard Webber

Oxfordshire County Council – Traffic policy

Cllr. Webber confirmed that the County Council put a blanket ban on any additional traffic in Sutton Courtenay, until the new river crossing was in place. The County Council, however was a consultee, and the Vale of White Horse District Council was the planning authority, who would determine the majority of planning applications.

Cllr. Webber offered to investigate the planning application that was mentioned.

Growth Deal

Growth was related to economic development, and progress with the growth deal would depend on numbers, and there was difficulty in planning when there was uncertainty regarding the number of houses.

FCC Liaison Committee

Discussion had taken place as to the future of the FCC site. The need for housing in the Vale of White Horse area versus the agreement to return the sit to agriculture in 2030. Compositing was a seasonal issue. Odours should be reported via FCC or the Environment Agency. A new machine was in place which aerated and turned the compost faster.

Didcot Garden Town

Cllr. Webber had met the new Chairman of Didcot Garden Town Board, and had expressed the need for the Neighbourhood Plan group to speak with those involved in the Garden Town project, in regards to the power station site and Milton Park. The Neighbourhood Plan group was not able to hear what was being planned just outside of its area. The Clerk confirmed that the Council had requested a seat on the Board.

Drayton Road – Build Out

FCC was financially supporting the build out, and Hanson would donate product. Phasing of any build out was requested to co-incide with Thames Water works in Drayton Road.

2019/161 Cllr. R. Webber left the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

2019/162 Oxfordshire County Council – Proposed river crossing
Council noted the Optioneering and Proof of Concept Report produced on behalf of the County Council in regards to the new river crossing. A conclusion had been reached as to the preferred route and a conclusion arrived at that there would be no impact on Sutton Courtenay. Questions as to why local people had not been involved in the process from the outset had not been answered.

RESOLVED:

- a) that this Council remains dissatisfied as to the lack of local involvement and consultation before conclusions were reached.
- b) that officers from the County Council be invited to attend a meeting to discuss the matter.

2019/163 FCC Liaison Meeting 3rd June, 2019
A report had been provided by Cllr. Webber earlier in the meeting.

2019/164 Matters raised by Councillors for information

Footpath 27 – restoration

It was suggested that when the Harwell discharge pipe is removed from the footpath, that Magnox undertaking the removal, be required to reinstate the surface of the footpath, and it be made free from trip hazards. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Magnox requesting restoration. It had been noticed that the path was now wide enough for a vehicle to drive along it and it was suggested that bollards be placed at the end. The Clerk advised that as a public footpath, the public had rights to walk along it on foot, and the Council should carefully consider the installation of bollards on what was private land.

Drayton Road – Field adjacent to 2 Drayton Road

Concerns were raised regarding activities taking place within the field. The gate access had been changed, and there were fears for development. It was recognised that a previous planning application for housing development on the site had been refused.

2091/165 Police Matters/Neighbourhood Action Group Matters

Cllr. Rita Atkinson advised that an abandoned car, leaking oil, had been left in the village hall car park, and placed on record her thanks to the Clerk in arranging its removal via the Police.

2019/166 Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

P19/V0428/HH Demolition of existing conservatory and single storey rear extension. Erection of new side and rear two storey extension, alteration and installation of first floor windows on northern elevation.
30 High Street

Permitted 1st May, 2019

P19/V0205/HH Erection of car port
April Cottage, 83 Drayton Road

Permitted 10th May, 2019

P19/V0702.LB Minor proposal to supplement existing listed building consents

Tudor Cottage, 20-22 Church Street

Permitted 14th May 2019

P19/V0913/D Demolition including the remaining building and structures associated with Didcot A Power Station

Didcot "A" Power Station

Permitted 14th May, 2019

P19/V0420/HH Removal of conservatory and construction of single storey extension

Permitted 15th May, 2019

P19/V0572/HH Single storey rear extension
Jasmine Cottage, Abingdon Road
Permitted 15th May, 2019

P19/V0573/HH Single storey rear extension
Rosemary Cottage, Abingdon Road
Permitted 15th May, 2019

P19/V0758/HH Single storey rear side extension
9 Lady Place
Permitted 21st May, 2019

P19/V0589/HH Erection of two storey and single storey extensions to
existing dwellinghouse and associated alterations including replacement
of existing roof
14 Abingdon Road
Permitted 24th May, 2019

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

None received

c) Applications considered at the meeting

P19/V1114/HH Single storey rear extension
23 Tyrrells Way
Comments: Council had no objections

MW.00408/19 To haul phase 5 and 6 mineral across B4016 and to
import inert fill to effect approved restoration scheme in phase 5
Bridge Farm Quarry
Hills Quarry Products Ltd
Comments: Council objected as no alternatives had been investigated.
Aggregates had previously been taken under the road. There had been a
significant increase in traffic in recent years, and crossing the road
would generate much dust.

MW.0049/19 Continuation of working the small extension to Bridge
Farm Quarry to extract sand and gravel and restoration to agriculture
and lakes with reed fringes at Bridge Farm without complying with
conditions 1,3,18,19, 41 and 42.
Comments: Council continued to object in view of the fact that this
application was linked to the previous application, and if that
application were refused, the reordering of the working of Bridge Farm
would not be required.

d) Parish Partner

Council considered the post of Parish Partner for the parish in
connection with planning matters with the Vale of White Horse District
Council.

RESOLVED:

that Cllr. David Butler be appointed to act as Parish Partner in regards to planning issues with the Vale of White Horse District Council.

2019/167

Neighbourhood Plan

Council received a report from its representatives on the Steering Group. A new Neighbourhood Plan Officer for the Vale of White Horse District Council, Robyn Tobutt, had been appointed and a meeting had taken place with her. Issues had been raised with Cllr. Webber, as District Councillor, as Milton Park, and the Power Station whilst in the parish had been excluded from the Neighbourhood Plan area, and a satisfactory response from the District Council as to how these areas were going to be dealt with within the Plan had not been received. The District Council was organising a training event in July, for drafting Neighbourhood Plan policies. A query was raised as to how the Parish Council could expedite the Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that it should be in a draft form by the end of the year. It was not identifying new sites for housing, and was accepting the housing need figures. Some draft documents were in place and needed amalgamating.

2019/168

Culham Liaison Committee 15th May, 2019

Cllr. Jennie Corrigan gave a report on this meeting which she had attended. It was noted that the JET project had an extension to operate until 2021 with a further possible extension to 2024. The development of the whole Culham site was dependent, on the South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan, and whether the new Council, following the elections, kept it in its current format. Public transport to the site was lacking, since the bus services stopped, and trains were too infrequent. There was talk of a shuttle bus from Abingdon.

2019/169

Appleford Road – VAS Signage

Council considered VAS signage for the Appleford Road on the approach from Appleford. Residents had not wanted traffic lights. It was proposed that the 30 mph sign be relocated first as that was part of the requirement for the housing development on the Amey site. Discussion took place as to the need for engagement with those planning the whole site e.g. the District Council planning officers, and the County Council's highway engineers who were also involved.

RESOLVED:

that the Clerk progress the relocation of the 30 mph sign in the first instance.

2019/170

Recreation Ground

It was noted that weeds in the rubber surfacing were being treated. The quarterly inspection report had identified some of the posts in the Multi Use Games Area which were in need of replacement. Quotations for this work had been sought.

The repairs to the small holes in the concrete skate park, deferred from Winter, were now in need of attention. The Clerk would instruct the contractor to proceed. Plans of what could be achieved with the whole area would need to be made, The Clerk would contact the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association for advice.

Council noted the CCTV and comments from the Police as to requirements in order to take action. These included images of the vehicle registration number and facial images that could be identified. The report from the CCTV engineers was awaited before a decision could be made as to CCTV arrangements.

Cllr. Eileen Daw offered to undertake checks on the play area until the next meeting of the Council. Cllr. Jennie Corrigan would accompany her on the first visit. The Clerk would provide the check sheets for the play equipment checks.

Council noted that the Kwik cricket event in the recreation round did not take place on 19th May.

RESOLVED:

that Cllr. Eileen Daw undertake inspections of the play equipment and area until the July meeting of the Council.

2019/171

Correspondence

a) Low flying aircraft

Council noted a complaint from a Milton Road resident regarding low flying aircraft which caused a noise nuisance. It was thought that the aircraft may originate from RAF Benson. It appeared not to be a significant parish wide problem and

RESOLVED:

that no action be taken for the time being

- b) The Bridge, Abingdon – Invitation to attend AGM Thurs 13th June at 7.00p.m. St. Michael’s Church, Park Road, Abingdon. Cllr. Rita Atkinson would represent the Council at this event.
- c) Oxfordshire County Council – Harwell Road - road closure
A Road Closure Order would be in place between Bradstocks Way and Milton Road for up to 18 months from 2nd August. Work was expected to take 8 days by SGN (gas networks).
- d) Oxfordshire County Council – Emergency Planning
Training exercise was to take place on 7th June. There was a requirement for volunteers to participate.
- e) The Abbey, Sutton Courtenay - Open tour Monday 10th June 2.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.
- f) Oxfordshire County Council – Order for temporary closure of Footpath 27 from 8th July for up to 6 months. Work expected to take 15 days.
- g) Vale of White Horse District Council – Announcement of new Leader as Emily Smith
- h) Magnox discharge pipeline – All Saints Lane
Request from Magnox for permission to store aggregate needed for backfilling trenches in All Saints lane following the removal of the discharge pipe, on land rear of All Saints Church.

RESOLVED:

that permission be granted to Magnox for the storage of aggregate on land in the ownership of the Parish Council at the rear of the Church.

- i) Bradstocks Way no. 40 – dead tree branches
Report of a tree with dead branches which have fallen in Bradstocks Way. This matter had been reported to Oxfordshire County Council.
- j) Oxfordshire County Council – consultation traffic sensitive streets
- k) Healthwatch Oxfordshire – Briefing
- l) British Balloon and Airship Club – hot air balloons
Council noted a request from BBAC to launch hot air balloons from the recreation ground on Saturday evening 22nd June, 2019.

RESOLVED:

that permission be given to launch hot air balloons from the recreation ground provided proof of a risk assessment and insurance documents were supplied.

- m) Vale of White Horse District Council – Deep Clean August
Council noted that the Vale of White Horse District Council would be undertaking a “deep clean” of the parish during August.

RESOLVED:

that the District Council be advised that the areas to focus on were the Bradstocks Way estate and shops, including Tyrrells Way and Barretts Way and also the Drayton Road cycle track which had many weeds within it.

2019/172

Accounts

The accounts for the year 2018/19 had been finalised Council had been provided with a copy of the governance statement, the receipts and payments accounts, and the proposed annual return and the internal auditor’s report which it considered.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that Council notes the Internal Audit Report on the AGAR form
- (ii) that the governance statement 2018/19 be approved
- (iii) that Council notes and approves the annual receipts and payments accounts for the 2018/19 year.
- (iv) that the Annual Return figures for the year 2018/19 showing balances of £98483 be approved

Council noted the cheques to be signed and authorised payments totalling £ 8653.55 in respect of administration costs, grant, play area inspection, repairs to village green posts, and neighbourhood plan event.

2019/173 Items for inclusion in Sutton Courtenay News
The Clerk would prepare an article for the next issue of Sutton Courtenay news. This would include reference to the river crossing and action being taken by the Parish Council, odours from the landfill site and the availability of the minutes from the Clerk.

2019/174 Date of Next Meeting
Council agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 2nd July, 2019, at 7.15 p.m. in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed Date