

**BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 7.30pm In the Church Room**

**Present:** Cllrs C. Collett (Chair), J. Davys, S. Jackson, J. Debney, G. Gilgrass, J. Harding, R. Nielsen, P. Sudbury

**In attendance:** G. McEvoy (Clerk) P. Southwell, Mrs M Lee

1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies received from Cllrs S. Robson, H. Baines, A-M Simpson
2.	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b> The minutes of the meeting held on 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2023 were approved and were signed by Cllr Collett
3.	<b>Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary/Personal Interest</b> Cllr Debney declared a personal interest in the Village Hall/Car Park
4.	<b>Public Participation</b> There was no public participation but it was noted by Mrs Lee that the top of Watermans Lane had been tidied and cleared for ease of use by pedestrians and cyclists.
5a	<b>County Councillor's Report</b> Cllr Sudbury reported on the issues of road closures. He suggested blocking a road to deter vehicles using the village as a cut through. Cllr Collett felt that the real issue was in the signage which could be improved. If "No-through road" and "Businesses Open" were adopted it would need to state "Access only" to prevent an impact on the Village Shop and other local businesses. Cllr Sudbury reported that he had seen a draft for consultation with respect to turning off lights at night in Wallingford. It was suggested that the PC apply for a 20mph. speed restriction from the Shillingford Bridge to just past Mobile Home Park (studies showed that this results in a 20% drop in fatalities and serious injury). This in turn would mean the 60mph zone would also need to be lowered. It was agreed by the Councillors that a request to reduce the speed limits in Shillingford should be applied for – 20mph from the Caravan Park and 40mph for the current 60mph stretch of road out of Wallingford. The Clerk confirmed the County Councillor's Priority Grant in the sum of £2000 had now been received and the contractor had been instructed to proceed with the playground resurfacing works. The meeting thanked Cllr Sudbury for his support.
5b	<b>District Councillor's Report</b> Cllr Simpson had sent her apologies and her report had been circulated to all Parish Councillors
5c	<b>Clerks Report –</b> The Clerk reported that, following on from last month's meeting, she had obtained information from 'Clean Slate' (S137 grant request) that 10 persons in the OX10 area had used their services. It was agreed that although a worthwhile cause, on the grounds of cost effectiveness to our Parishioners, the PC could not support a request for monies at this time. The Clerk notified the meeting that a Priority Grant request had been submitted to replace the deteriorating climbing wall in the Recreation Area. The Clerk shared a letter with the meeting regarding a request from the Brightfest Organising Committee to use the Recreation Ground for the event on Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2022. The Cllrs agreed this was permissible. The Clerk advised the meeting that an Insurance Claim Form had been received from Thames Water with regard to the damaged gatepost at the Recreation Ground. The form is in the process of been completed and quotations for the repairs are being sought. Cllr Harding had prepared a budget forecast for the 2023/24 period which the Clerk had circulated to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The budget was discussed in some detail and concerns were expressed regarding

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the forecasted overspend of £12,000. Cllr Harding appealed to the meeting to be mindful of expenditure as an overspend of this amount could not be sustained beyond the coming financial year. Cllr Gilgrass raised the issue of the ongoing cost of maintaining infrastructure/equipment (gym equipment and play structures) and that we would need to raise the precept to fund these expenses. He also raised the issue of the Tennis Courts and a contribution from the Tennis Club which, to date, had not been pursued. It was agreed that negotiations should start immediately.

Grass Cutting was discussed at some length with different proposals being put forward to cut costs. Cllr Gilgrass proposed that the PC commit to 5 x 10mm cuts per annum for the cricket club (the contractor will be asked to carry these out on a Thursday or preferably Friday prior to a game) and the 25mm cuts carried out throughout the rest of the village will be reduced from 15 to 10 cuts per year. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Harding and was carried with one abstention.

**Planning Report**

P22/S4391/FUL	36 Greenmere OX10 0QQ An objection to this planning application has been submitted.
P2S0470	Purbrook, West End OX10 0RU The planning sub-committee reported that they had no issues with regard to this planning application.
P23/S0872/O	Purely Plants Site It was agreed that the planning sub-committee would submit an application with regard to the planning application.

5d

**Agree Payments for approval**

5e

Payee and reason	£ total
OALC Annual Membership 2023/2024	339.00
Gabrielle McEvoy – Clerk’s Salary	£686.92
Acanthus Clew – Steward VH – Professional Services – Instalment 4	£6000.00
Forget-Me-Not Gardens – Hedge trim of footpaths	280.00

All payments were agreed

6a

**Parish Council AGM**

No date agreed. Further investigation required as to how this meeting will be impacted by forthcoming elections.

6b

**Village Hall**

An Annual General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April.  
Cllr Gilgrass reported on the recent presentation to neighbours in which some concerns were expressed but none with regard to the overall design.

6c

**Neighbourhood Plan**

The Plan is still in the process of completing Regulation 16.

6d

**Elections**

Cllrs were aware that the date for submitting nomination forms is 4<sup>th</sup> April. Cllr Gilgrass advised that there might be some confusion with regard to the correct forms for Parish Councillors.

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6e	<p><b>Car Park</b></p> <p>Land levelling should take place either 22/23 March. Cllr Debney is in the process of compiling a planting plan and costs.</p> <p>Cllr Collett raised concerns regarding the Land Registry. Cllr Jackson confirmed she had liaised with PC's solicitors and the issue is due to a backlog at the Land Registry office and it is unlikely to be resolved this year.</p>
6f	<p><b>Sarcen Stones</b></p> <p>Cllr Debney will draft wording for a plaque and the matter will be revisited in May's PC meeting</p>
6g	<p><b>King's Coronation</b></p> <p>Cllr Davy confirmed that the Road Closure Permission had been received. There was a clear schedule for all parties to work too. There was some question as to insurance for the event which will require further investigation. Mickey Moore would be approached to draw-up a risk assessment for the event.</p>
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7.	<p><b>Matters for report and inclusion on April Agenda</b></p> <p>Garage Cars Personal Computer/Email security Jubilee Pavillion End of Year Accounts</p>

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm