

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened on 21st May 2024 at 7.30pm In the Church Room

Present: Cllrs H. Baines (Chair), S. Robson, J. Davys, J. Harding, S. Jackson, R. Neilsen;
B. Manning (SODC)

In attendance: G. McEvoy (Clerk), Stuart Robertson, Stuart Hill, Anne Salisbury

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies received from Cllrs Debney, Gilgrass, Fisher, Simpson (SODC) and Sudbury (OCC)
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2024 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 th April 2024 were approved and were signed by Cllr Baines
3.	Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary/Personal Interest None declared
4.	Public Participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Salisbury wanted to raise awareness of the dangers speeding cars are posing on the bends by St. James Church. She voiced her concerns that it is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs on these bends and speeding cars present a danger to those exiting the churchyard, residents, pedestrians and other vehicle users. It was agreed that this matter would be added to the Parish Council meeting on 11th June for discussion with Cllr Sudbury from OCC.
5a	County Councillor's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County Councillor had sent his apologies
5b	District Councillor's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Manning shared details from the District Councillor's Report (distributed after the meeting). He highlighted the availability of Grants from the UK Share Prosperity Fund, Active Grants of up to £1000. Changes to housing enforcement with a particular emphasis on landlords. On-line training for SME's. He talked about the cash boost for Didcot and the intention to create more cycle routes. Cllr Baines asked if these would include links to Brightwell but this information was not available at this time. Cllr Manning also informed the meeting that Wallingford Beach had been awarded bathing water status which would involve weekly testing of the water. Cllr Davys asked if there had been changes to planning protocol. With regards to a recent planning application, the planning consultation period had been extended to allow the applicant to make an amendment to their original submission. This amendment ostensibly appeared to present a counter-arguments to the Parish Council's submission and had been submitted over a month after the closing date. Cllr Manning said he would discuss the matter with Cllr Simpson and ask her to respond.
5c	Clerks Report – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk had been requested to obtain 2 further quotes for the felling of 2 trees on the Recreation ground to compare with the verbal estimate given by Dave Cottrell. She reported that she had Approached Treemendous who quoted £1205 (without VAT) to carry out the works and 1st Class Tree Surgeons who quoted a sum of £1300 (without VAT). The meeting asked the Clerk to request that Cottrell's are asked to submit a formal quote so that all 3 quotes could be reviewed. The Clerk had received 2 quotes for the replacement of the "out of warranty" defibrillators. Initially a quote of £850 per defibrillator was received from our current supplier (WelMedical) and a quote for £950 from a competitor. However, the competitor, on learning they were the higher bidder, adjusted their quote to £850 (they had no knowledge of the WelMedical quote). It would be the Clerk's preference, as there is not price difference, to accept the WelMedical quote. A vote was taken to replace the 3 out of warranty defibrillators and it was agreed, 5 to 1, that they should be replaced as soon as possible. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received confirmation from Kingerlee that they would be responsible for the costs of cutting the swale at Little Martins (£750).

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5d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk reported that she had received a request to spray weed killer along the path near the Tennis Courts. The Councillors objected to using chemicals in the interest of safety and sustainability. The preferred option when dealing with weeds would be to have them strimmed. The Clerk reported that she had been advised that there were missing tiles on the Pavillion roof. It was agreed that she should approach the roofing company who carried out roofing works last year for their opinion. 	
	Planning Report	
	P24/S1124/HH	Northcote House, High Road (demolish Conservatory)
	P24/S1194/HH	1 Kings Orchard (Single story extension) -
	P24/S1272/HH	3 Monks Mead (2 Storey and single storey extensions)
5e	P24/S1233/HH	The Highlands, High Road (extensions)
	<p>Cllr Davys stated that the Council had offered no objections to the applications for Northcote House and Kings Orchard. Whilst the Council had no objections to the Monks Mead proposal a neighbour had some concerns and our submission asked for the planners to take this into account when making their decision. Cllr Davys discussed a letter and amendment sent by the Planners with respect to The Rodings (as discussed with the District Councillor 5b). He had discussed this new submission with our agent, O'Neill Homer, who would offer a reply at a cost of £400. It was agreed that Cllr Nielsen would read over the correspondence and, if able, would compose the Council's response. If Cllr Nielsen felt unable to respond then O'Neill Homer would be engaged.</p> <p>Cllr Davys then went on to discuss The Highlands and advised the meeting that the Planning Committee had submitted a comprehensive objection in this instance.</p>	
	Agree May Payments for approval	
	Payee and reason	£ total
	Gabrielle McEvoy – Clerk's Salary	798.00
6	Scofell (grounds maintenance)	1089.42
	O'Neill Homer (The Rodings/Moat Cottage)	1788.00
	St Agatha's Room Hire	120.00
	Parish On-line	54.00
	All payments were agreed.	
	Parish Council Roles and Responsibilities 24/25	
	Finance – Janet Harding	
	Footpaths – Jason Debney	
	Kings Meadow and Recreation Ground – Graham Gilgrass	
	Jubilee Pavillion – Bob Nielsen	
	Village Hall – Graham Gilgrass	
	Highways – Bob Nielsen	
	Playgrounds – Graham Gilgrass	
	Millennium Wood – Environmental Group/James Davys	
	Grass Verges – Jason Debney	
	Public Transport – Derren Fisher	
	Neighbourhood Plan – Jason Debney	
	Plannning – James Davys, Jason Debney, Derren Fisher	
	Staffing/Legal – Sarah Jackson	
	Drainage – Derren Fisher	
	Website/E-Publicity – Helen Baines	
	Communications – Sue Robson	

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7.	Clerks Appraisal/Salary Review Appraisal outcome and salary reviewed and approved.
8.	Verges along Mackney Lane Following an approach from neighbours at the top of Mackney Lane regarding the hedgerow opposite – it was noted that this is not Parish Council land and, the hedgerow in questions, whilst unkempt did not cause an obstruction to the highway. It was agreed that Cllr Debney would advise the neighbours of our position.
9.	Pavillion Cllr Nielsen informed the meeting that the Architect had attended to take further measurements. Following a request to purchase further chairs for use/storage at the Pavillion Cllr Nielsen felt that decisions regarding the Pavillion should be the responsibility of the whole Parish Council and not solely the remit of the Pavillion Chair. It was agreed that, due to the impending refurbishment, no further chairs should be purchased at this time. However, should more chairs be required, the Community Association have 59 chairs in their possession which can be borrowed. Cllr Nielsen informed the meeting that the current Booking Clerk/Caretaker had resigned from his role with effect from 1 st September. Cllr Nielsen said he had made some initial enquiries regarding SODC CIL fund grants for the Pavillion refurbishment. They had agreed, in principle, to match the £200,000 he believes we can raise. It was agreed that the CIL money currently held by the Parish Council should be shared 50/50 between the Village Hall Project and the Pavillion Project, therefore a sum of £75,000, along with the 106 money allocated to the Pavillion, totalling approximately £100,000 should be allocated to this project. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.
10	S137 Donations Requests: Homestart and Brightfest The Donation requests from both charities were circulated prior to the meeting. The Councillors felt that the HomeStart charity, whilst undoubtedly a very worthwhile cause, was not sufficiently beneficial to the Parish as a whole to warrant a donation at this time. It was agreed that, as in previous years, the Parish Council would underwrite a sum of up to £500 with regard to Brightfest payable only in the event of bad weather or other circumstances resulting in festival costs not being met out of profits.
12.	Matters for reporting and items for inclusion on June's Agenda Speeding on the bends by St. James Church

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 11th June 2024 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at approximately 9.05 pm