

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened on 16th April 2024 at 7.30pm In the Church Room

Present: Cllrs J. Harding (Chair), S. Robson, D. Fisher, R. Neilsen; S. Jackson; J. Debney, J. Davys P. Sudbury (OCC)

In attendance: G. McEvoy (Clerk), Rosemary Pinfield, Elisabeth Murray, Kevin Murray, Anne-Marie Fisher, George Birt, Martin Birt, Tom Lester, **Anthony ..**, Henry Venners, Russell McCarthy, Kevin McCarthy, **I Robson-**, Stuart Robertson, Stuart Hill

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies received from Cllrs Baines, Gilgrass, Simpson (SODC) and Manning (SODC)
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2024 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 th March 2024 were approved and were signed by Cllr Harding
3.	Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary/Personal Interest None declared
4.	Public Participation Prior to the meeting 2 parties had requested to speak to the Council regarding Planning Application P24/S0748/FUL – The Rodings, Slade End. The Chair agreed to give each party 10 minutes to make their points to the meeting (8 minutes for each representative with 2 minutes set aside for questions/rebuttals). Henry Venners, on behalf of the applicants was first to speak: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apologies were made for a mistake on the planning application.• He referred to the South Oxfordshire Local Plan and made the point that not all amenity spaces have to be used by everyone as it is a general classification.• Accessibility is not about usage but about entering and exiting the facility.• He referred to a noise report carried out at a similar building in Blewbury and made the point that insulation can be used to prevent noise escaping. He made the point that of the 5 halls nearby there had been no complaints in respect of how the halls operate.• There is a proposal to provide a footway link to the site, walking on the southside. Not appropriate for planning application Mr Stuart Robertson then spoke about how the hall would be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hall is needed for Holy Communion for no more than 50 persons. Satellite halls are required for holy communion and prayer meetings. After 8 minutes Kevin Murray, from Beechwood House, spoke on behalf of Slade End Residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed building would have a negative impact on quality of life and peace of mind for the residents of Slade End.• Noise was of great concern with the proposed building being no more than 50 yards from the back of Beechwood House. There will be noise as people arrive: car doors, talking, singing, etc. and again as they leave – residents believe there will be significant noise intrusion early on a Sunday morning.• The other 5 halls mentioned are not comparable sites as they are not near residential properties.• There is a risk of flooding – in March 2024 the site was flooded. Concerns that hard surfaces for multiple cars will cause flood waters into neighbouring properties.• The proposed meeting hall was being sited in a residential area (unlike the other 5 halls referred to).• Slade End could be described as an accident hot spot and the increase in traffic will make the area even more dangerous to road users.• The application should be objected to. Mr Murray asked the Plymouth Brethren community to reconsider their application.• Issues of light pollution from October to April were raised.• Other residents reiterated the issues with road safety and surface water.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was suggested that a building such as the Stewart Village Hall could be used rather than adding further meeting rooms to the village. 								
5a	<p>County Councillor's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr Sudbury confirmed that he would be attending a meeting in the village with OCC's Electric Vehicle specialist from the council. Cllr Debney agreed that whilst he would hope to be in attendance, if he was unable to participate he would liaise with Cllr Gilgrass to attend. Cllr Sudbury reminded Cllr Debney that he required an email regarding issues with the new bus timetable. Cllr Sudbury had enquired as to the progress of the pedestrian crossing to be sited at Slade End and reported that, due to staffing changes, this had not made progress. The matter was now in hand. The switching off of the by-pass lights was raised and whilst the developers are in agreement, other parties need to be consulted. Cllr Debney requested that this be done by 21st June 2024. 								
5b	<p>District Councillor's Report</p> <p>Both the District Councillor's had sent their apologies prior to the meeting.</p>								
5c	<p>Clerks Report –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk has received a verbal quote from Dave Cottrell to cut 2 trees at the Recreation Ground. One tree, identified as rotten at the base would cost £850 to fell. The other tree is very close to the Pavillion/Road. The cost of felling this tree would be £900. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek 2 further quotations for this work. The Clerk informed the meeting that 3 of the defibrillators owned by the Parish Council were now out of warranty. The Clerk was instructed to obtain quotations for their replacement. The Clerk notified the meeting that the Annual Governance Audit had now started and she was collating information for the internal auditor. It was agreed that the Clerk could release £2000 to the cricket club towards grass maintenance at the Recreation Ground. Prior to the meeting the Clerk had distributed a 'Reserves Policy', it was unanimously agreed to adopt this policy. The Clerk reminded the Councillors that she would be on annual leave on Wednesday 24th April 2024. 								
5d	<p>Planning Report</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>P24/S0748/FUL</td><td>The Rodings, Slade End, New Dwelling/Meeting Room</td></tr> <tr> <td>P24/S0851/HH</td><td>The Moat Cottage, The Street (Accessible Annexe)</td></tr> <tr> <td>P24/S0990/LDP</td><td>1 Kings Orchard (Single Storey extension)</td></tr> <tr> <td>P24/S0924/FUL</td><td>Rush Court Nursing Home (Solar Panels)</td></tr> </table> <p>Cllr Davys had circulated a report from O'Neill Homer prior to the meeting in respect of the application at The Rodings. The Councillors unanimously agreed that the points raised in the report reflected the Parish Council's position in respect of this application.</p> <p>The Parish Council had been informed that the application for The Moat Cottage had been withdrawn and a revised application would be submitted.</p> <p>The application for and extension at 1 Kings Orchard had been reviewed and the Council will raise no objections</p> <p>There were no objections/comments with regard to Rush Court Nursing Home solar panel application. Cllr Davys said that he was not in a position to continue managing the workload that planning applications placed on him. As there were no offers to replace him a compromise was proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk will continue to send Planning Applications to Cllr Davys 	P24/S0748/FUL	The Rodings, Slade End, New Dwelling/Meeting Room	P24/S0851/HH	The Moat Cottage, The Street (Accessible Annexe)	P24/S0990/LDP	1 Kings Orchard (Single Storey extension)	P24/S0924/FUL	Rush Court Nursing Home (Solar Panels)
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Davys would then decide which of the Councillors on the Planning Committee would take the lead on reviewing the planning application. • Cllr Debney requested that any heritage planning issues are directed to him but via telephone. • It was agreed that this compromise would be reviewed in 3 months time. 										
5e	<p>.Agree Payments for approval</p> <table> <tr> <th>Payee and reason</th><th>£ total</th></tr> <tr> <td>Gabrielle McEvoy – Clerk’s Salary</td><td>721.27</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dog bin emptying 1/10/23 to 30/03/24</td><td>951.73</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tom Cottrell Landscapes (Tree works Well Springs)</td><td>120.00</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tom Cottrell Landscapes (Tree works Little Martins)</td><td>816.00</td></tr> </table> <p>All payments were agreed.</p>	Payee and reason	£ total	Gabrielle McEvoy – Clerk’s Salary	721.27	Dog bin emptying 1/10/23 to 30/03/24	951.73	Tom Cottrell Landscapes (Tree works Well Springs)	120.00	Tom Cottrell Landscapes (Tree works Little Martins)	816.00
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6	<p>End of Year Finance Review</p> <p>A review of budget/spending for the period April 2023 to March 2024 was distributed prior to the meeting. Cllr Harding reported that the Council spent less than budgeted for this period which meant we are able to carry forward more of the reserves than originally forecast. Some expenditure will be carried forward into the 2024/25 period but spending less than expected on election costs and legal costs, as well as interest accrued means we should be in a secure position going forward.</p>										
7.	<p>Tree Survey Report/Tree Protocol</p> <p>There had been some inconsistencies and lack of communication with regard to how we deal with trees in both an emergency situation and more generally. It was decided that the best way forward was to create a WhatsApp group for dealing with emergencies and a member of that group would communicate with the Clerk.</p> <p>It was considered that any further decisions should be discussed when the Clerk had obtained quotes from 2 other tree surgeons.</p>										
8.	<p>Preparation for Annual General Meeting on 7th May at Village Hall</p> <p>As chair Cllr Baines would carry out welcome message and introduce the Councillors to the meeting. Cllr Neilsen would give a brief outline of the current situation regarding the Pavillion Project The Clerk would email Cllr Gilgrass to ask if he would like to do an update on the Village Hall Project or nominate someone to do so.</p> <p>Cllr Debney will ask if Maddy would like to talk about the School Project</p> <p>Cllr Debney would again present the diagram about the responsibilities of local government tiers.</p> <p>Cllr Robson would offer thank you’s to the Helping Hand Group and recap on their achievements.</p> <p>Cllr Nielsen will supply wine on a sale or return basis and the Clerk will purchase snacks.</p>										
9.	<p>Pavillion Project</p> <p>Cllr Nielsen outlined the current position of this project. Following the receipt of sketches from the architect a meeting of the Pavillion groups was called. It was agreed that the initial design was modest and Cllr Nielsen would feedback to the architect.</p>										
10	<p>The Villager Article on what the PC can and can’t do</p> <p>It was agreed that a list drawn from the local government diagram would be sent to James and he would incorporate this into his article.</p>										

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11.	Flooding (Emails from Jim Whitworth and OCC) These were passed to Cllr Debney to follow-up and liaise with Cllr Fisher.
12.	Matters for reporting and items for inclusion on May's Agenda Roles and Responsibilities Verges - Mackney

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at approximately 9.15 pm