

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and on December 20th 2022 at 7.30pm In the Church Room

Present: Cllrs S. Robson (Chair), H. Baines, J. Davys, C. Collett, B. Nielson, S. Jackson, J. Debney, P. Sudbury

In attendance: K. Fanstone (Clerk) G. McEvoy (Clerk) D. Fox, S. Caple-Davis (Heat Source project)

1	Apologies for Absence Apologies received from Cllr Harding, Cllr Gilgrass, Cllr A. Simpson
2	Minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2022 The minutes of the meeting held on 15 th November 2022 were approved and were signed by Cllr Robson
3	Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Cllr Debney declared an interest in the Parish Council car park Land. Cllr Baines, Cllr Collett, Cllr Jackson declared an interest on the potential development of land off Didcot Road.
4	Public Participation Simon Toffs, Mark Timms and Des Dunlop from Blue Cedar Homes dialled into the meeting on zoom to introduce themselves and give a small presentation on a retirement development for over 55's they would like to build on the land off Didcot Road.
5	District Councillor Report Cllr Sudbury reported that the crossing at Slade was now confirmed, and will provide the drawings and position to the Parish Council. He is also pushing for a yellow box junction at the Slade End village entrance to assist with traffic issues. There was a discussion regarding the speed limit on the High Road, Cllr Sudbury agreed that a reduction would be a good idea along all the entrances to the village. This will be a separate project to the crossing, and will start the conversations with Highways and OCC. The speed reduction on the Shillingford Road is still on Cllr Sudbury's agenda, a project of this size takes time, but he is committed to getting changes along the road. The lights on the bypass have been reduced by 50% at night, Cllr Sudbury still pushing for a larger reduction at nighttime. Current proposal is for the lights to be reduced to 10% from 8 p.m. Cllr Sudbury stated that Council Grants are still available. Clerks Report – The new Clerk Gabrielle McEvoy was introduced at the start of the meeting and will be starting with the Parish Council in January. There was a discussion regarding the PC providing a phone with email capability for the Clerk. Cllr Collet proposed purchasing a new PC phone, Cllr Robson seconded and all

agreed. Cllr Collett and Cllr Robson will also work with the new Clerk to apply for a Parish Council debit/credit card for one off purchases, in the new year.

The Parish defibrillators are all booked in for their product recall, and will be back in position over the next week. The new one at the Pavilion will be fitted between Christmas and the new year.

Planning Report

P22/S4072/LDE	Saddlestone	No Objection
P22/P4229/HH	2 Grove Cottages	No Objection
P22?S4301/AG	Chilton Farm	No Objection

There is still no date when Applecroft will be going to planning committee.

Agree Payments for approval

Payee and reason	£ total
K. Fanstone – Clerk's Salary December	£699.40
Annual Leave owed for 2022	£154.67
Brightwell Vineyard – Parish Meeting May 22 Wine	£45.71
Welmedical Defib and case (Brightfest donation)	£1500
Little Martins November cut	£360.00
OALC Training	£132.00
Amazon – printer ink	£25.80
McAfee renewal	£84.99

6 Matters for Discussion/Decision

- a) David Fox and Steve Caple Davis attended the meeting to provide a conclusion to the Community Heat Source project. All the findings and results are on the dedicated project website. Throughout the project there has been good engagement from people in the village, and the report suggests two possible options for an alternative heating source. Due to the ages and complexities of the houses in the village there are complications with both options. David, Steve and Helen are no longer able to work on the project and the Council discussed how the project now moves forward and builds on the work that has been done over the last year. Cllr Collett proposed that the Council write to the individuals that expressed an interest on the final survey to see if they would set up a working group to look at reducing the village's carbon footprint and seeing where the project could go next with some more funding. Cllr Bains seconded it. 4 agreed, 3 abstained. Motion carried and in the new year the PC will contact the individuals. The Parish Council thanked the Heat Source team for all their time and hard work on the project.
- b) The precept for 23/24 was discussed, due to the rising operation costs for the Parish Council it was suggested that for the first time in many years the precept was raised. The SODC annual adjustments have included a 2.2% increase, and it was suggested that the PC add a 2.8% increase. There were mixed feelings about an increase, after a long discussion Cllr Davys proposed the additional 2.8 increase, Cllr Collett seconded it. 8 votes for 1 abstain. (2 votes sent to the Clerk prior to the meeting)
2023/2024 precept set at £33090.28
- c) The Council financial reports with full year projection and suggested budgets for 23/24 had been previously circulated. The Council will need to be more mindful next year when looking at

	<p>operation costs, for example grass cutting, dog bins, play area maintenance fees have all risen. The budgets for 23/24 were agreed.</p> <p>d) The Parish Council had received a request from a resident to purchase a small piece of land from the Parish Council, under the deeds of transfer the Council is not able to transfer ownership of the land, and the Parish Council does not have a policy for selling land to home owners. Katie to contact the resident.</p> <p>e) The Parish Council has received a grant application from Wallingford Volunteer Drivers who help residents in the Parish. Cllr Baines proposed a donation of £200 to the charity, Cllr Jackson seconded, 6 votes to approve 1 abstain.</p> <p>The Wassail group have also applied for a grant payment, Cllr Collett proposed that the Council approved to underwrite a sum of up to £200 for the Wassail event, depending on how their crowd funding and bucket collecting goes on the night, Cllr Davys seconded, all approved.</p> <p>f) Cllr Gilgrass had circulated a full report on the spec for the car park surface and the quotes received. It was agreed by all that the contract be awarded to D. Hazel. Katie to send a purchase order to them before Christmas to secure the 2022 prices.</p>
8	<p>Matters for report and inclusion on Octobers Agenda</p> <p>Cllr Gilgrass sent an update on the Village hall plans, and would like to arrange a meeting in the new year for the liaison group, Cllr Nelson agreed to join the group.</p> <p>Chris Baines would like to paint the gold tips on the phone boxes, all approved this to be done.</p> <p>Cllr Davys will look at the Parish Council notice board and has also topped up the chippings at Kings Meadow.</p> <p>Cllr Debney reported section 16 has not started for the Neighbourhood plan yet, the sustainability proposals and screening options are to be removed and then the submission will be made.</p>

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 17th January 2022 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 9.20pm