

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened on 19th December 2023 at 7.30pm In the
Church Room

Present: Cllrs S. Robson (Chair), H. Baines, J. Davys, D. Fisher, J. Harding, S. Jackson; A-M Simpson (SODC)

In attendance: G. McEvoy (Clerk), P Southwell, S. Hill; G. Sillcott

	Apologies for Absence							
1.	Apologies received from Cllrs Gilgrass, Debney, Nielsen, Manning (SODC) and Sudbury (OCC)							
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2023 The minutes of the meeting held on 21 st November 2023 were approved and were signed by Cllr Robson							
3.	Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary/Personal Interest None declared							
4.	Public Participation <div><div>1.</div><div>Mr Hill advised the Councillors that preparations for refurbishing the bus stop on the High Road were underway and he was hoping to complete the works in January.</div></div> <div><div>2.</div><div>Mr Southwell asked if the Parish Council knew when a road sweeper would be present in the village. He was advised to contact SODC as the Parish Council did not have this information.</div></div>							
	<p>The Chair started the meeting by requesting that Councillors who cannot attend a meeting or have information relevant to the meeting, inform the Clerk preferably no later than the Monday prior to the meeting or at least before 10 a.m. on the day of the meeting. The Councillors were reminded of the Clerk's hours of work and the limitations these pose.</p> <p>It was agreed that the meeting Scheduled for December 2024 would be held on the second Tuesday of the month (i.e. 10th December 2024) in recognition of how busy this time of year can be.</p>							
5a	County Councillor's Report Cllr Sudbury was not in attendance.							
5b	District Councillor's Report Cllr Simpson was able to clarify the position with regard to S106 monies and how they are collected and allocated. The District Councillors' report would be circulated with these minutes. Cllr Simpson endorsed recent Neighbourhood Plan training and suggested that Councillors may wish to watch the associated training video.							
5c	Clerks Report – <div><div></div><div>The Clerk asked for an update on accessing IT support as raised at the previous meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Jackson would approach a commercial IT support company in Wallingford, specifically to request help with the email issues she is experiencing and to obtain information as to their costs and availability to support the Parish Council with IT issues.</div></div> <div><div></div><div>The Clerk confirmed that £500 had been received from Kingerlee with regard to grounds maintenance at Little Martins in 2023.</div></div>							
5d	Planning Report <table><tr><td>P23/S3829/HH</td><td>Benjamin House, Sotwell Street (extension)</td></tr></table> <p>Cllr Davys reported that the Forestry Officer had placed a holding objection regarding this application and that a neighbour had raised an objection. Both of these responses were acknowledged in the Parish Council's response.</p> <p>Cllr Davys gave a general update on recent planning applications and stated that we were up to date with regard to the Parish Council's responses to planning applications.</p>		P23/S3829/HH	Benjamin House, Sotwell Street (extension)				
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5e	.Agree Payments for approval <table><tr><td>Payee and reason</td><td>£ total</td></tr><tr><td>Gabrielle McEvoy – Clerk's Salary</td><td>721.27</td></tr><tr><td>Hedges Law – Land Registry Fee for Little Martins</td><td>45.00</td></tr></table>		Payee and reason	£ total	Gabrielle McEvoy – Clerk's Salary	721.27	Hedges Law – Land Registry Fee for Little Martins	45.00
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6	<p>All payments were agreed.</p> <p>Precept</p> <p>Following a discussion relating to the 2024/25 budget and information received from the SODC Strategic Finance Manager, Cllr Harding proposed raising the precept to £42,000, this was seconded by Cllr Baines and the motion was carried unanimously.</p>
7	<p>2024 Grass Cutting/Cricket Club Proposal/S101 Agreement</p> <p>Following on from discussions at previous meetings it was unanimously agreed that the S101 Agreement Amendments, in which the schedule is reduced from a minimum of 2 cuts per year to 1 should be signed and returned to the Area Maintenance and Operations Team without further delay.</p> <p>The Clerk had obtained quotes from Scofell for cutting just the perimeter of the Recreation Ground and the meeting were now able to consider the Cricket Club's grass cutting proposal. It was agreed that in 2024 the Parish Council would make a contribution of £2000 towards the purchase of a ride on mower for the Cricket Club on the understanding that they would cut the grass at the Recreation Ground (with Scofell carrying out perimeter strimming 12 times per year). However, the Parish Council's contribution from 2025 would be £500 as a contribution towards the servicing of the ride on mower. The Clerk was asked to make this proposal to the Cricket Club.</p>
8.	<p>Cut Your Hedge Day</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Debney and the necessity that this should take place no later than February 2024 it was agreed that Cllr Debney should proceed with selecting an appropriate date and should publicise the event in the new year.</p>
9.	<p>Neighbourhood Plan Meeting (30/01/24)</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Debney this matter was deferred to the next meeting.</p>
10	<p>Joint Local Plan</p> <p>The consultation period for the Plan is between 10th January and 21st February 2024. Cllr Simpson stated that the best way to access the draft document was the online interactive version. Should any councillor wish to make comment it will need to be discussed at the meeting in January as the any response requires full council approval.</p>
11.	<p>Matters for reporting and items for inclusion on January's Agenda</p> <p>No matters were raised.</p>

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 16th January 2024 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at approximately 8\30pm