

KIRTLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 6p.m.

Present: Ms Trudy Brock, Mrs R Powles (Clerk), D Richardson (Chairman), Cllr Nigel Simpson (Oxfordshire County Council) to 6.50 p.m., Dr B Enser, S Jenkins

Mr J East, a member of the public, Mr P Kurgo
 Ms Mandy Johnson, Mr Mike Trasmundi, Mr N Baviere (U-Live), to 7.05 p.m.
 Mr Tim Northey (Abbeymill Homes Ltd), Mr W Twiddy (Hextall Twiddy Ltd), to 7.25 p.m.

	Action
<p>1. <u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Parish Council: Mrs K Buckingham-Fry, Ms Jean Conway</p>	
<p>2. <u>Declarations of pecuniary interests / other conflicts of interest</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2022</u></p> <p>The following corrections were noted and approved: Present – Cllrs Enser and Jenkins; Apologies – Cllrs Brock and Conway; the Minutes of the meeting were then approved.</p>	
<p>4. <u>District & County Councillor Reports</u></p> <p>Cllr Richardson asked if any of the public attending had questions at this stage; there were no questions.</p> <p>Cllr Richardson invited Cllr Simpson to report on County matters: Cllr Simpson said that following the extended public consultation period on the Oxford United FC proposals to relocate from the Kassam Stadium to Stratfield Brake (Kidlington) it seemed there was overall support. Cabinet would consider aspects of the proposal next week (15th March).</p>	
<p>5. <u>Kite Festival (Kirtlington Park) 2022 and Lamb Ale Weekend, 10th to 12th June 2022</u></p> <p>Mr Trasmundi and Ms Johnson outlined the remit of the Licence (granted 28th January 2020), the Festival schedule and the steps in hand to comply with the various management plans required by Cherwell DC as licensing authority.</p> <p>Preparation of the site would commence on 30th May and dismantling/clearance would be complete by 17th June; the entertainment programme would commence on the afternoon of Friday 10th, and the full performance programme would take place throughout Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th. The License set the times at which musical entertainment should cease (2 a.m.) but the main stage music (Saturday and Sunday only) would finish latest 11 p.m. The site plan had been modified from the 2020 version to ensure among other things that any noise was directed away from the village. Attendance in this first year was expected to be at the lower end of a range between 3,000 and 6,000, comprising campers and day ticket holders. Traffic would be directed to enter and leave the site from/via the north, not through the village, the entrance and exit being at Akeman Street.</p> <p>Members of the public and the Parish Council raised concerns about litter management and potential traffic impact on the village, and the scheduling clash of a modern commercial festival with the ancient agricultural Lamb Ale tradition. U-Live said contracted litter pickers and patrols should ensure the site was cleared before the removal of the perimeter fence. U-Live did not anticipate that those attending the festival would wish to visit the village centre. As regards traffic impact parishioners and members of the Council expressed scepticism about the prevention of traffic approaching from the south, i.e. through the village; U-Live conceded this was not guaranteed.</p> <p>Publicity and communication with residents and the Council: U-Live would summarise the event and nuisance management plans in a letter for circulation to the parish, and this would include email and telephone contact details. U-Live declined to carry out a letter drop. Further updates to the Council would be by email, not in person, and U-Live could copy the Council in on its updates/reports to Cherwell DC's Licensing Team. Ticket prices would be reduced for locals. A member of the public and Cllr Richardson asked if the Festival would contribute financially to the</p>	

village, as this could offset financial loss incurred because of the competition with the Lamb Ale, a notable case being the School for which the Lamb Ale was the biggest fundraising event of the year. U-Live declined, on the grounds that for the first years of the Festival they anticipated significant financial loss. It might be possible to re-consider this in the future. Concern was expressed about traffic management during the Morris dancing events as dancing took place in the street. U-Live confirmed they were in touch with Kirtlington Morris about the Morris programme and reiterated that festival goers should not enter or leave via the village. *Cllr Simpson left the meeting during this part of the discussion, at 6.50 p.m.*

U-Live confirmed they would forward the event summary and contact details for circulation and publication, and would share with the Council the outcome of their engagement with Kirtlington Morris.

RMP

Resolved: to invite Hebborn's to provide the Funfair for the Lamb Ale weekend. Hebborn's had confirmed they could attend and the Clerk would issue the usual invitation letters and conditions to Hebborn's and the independent stallholders.

RMP

U-Live left the meeting at 7.05 p.m.

6. Land at Jersey Cottages, proposal by Hexall Twiddy Ltd and Abbeymill Homes

Cllr Richardson invited Mr Twiddy and Mr Northey to give their presentation.

Mr Northey referred to the two previous applications of 2015 and 2017. The primary concerns of a possible new application would be heritage and character. The new properties would form a cluster at the site and the proximity with Home Farm would be reflected in the concept. There would be about 14 new dwellings, down from 20. In terms of outstanding delivery of housing needs in Kirtlington Mr Northey estimated 13 or 14 were needed, and the new properties would include provision for affordable housing. The existing access would need improvement and it might be possible for this to interface with speed reduction measures. It was acknowledged that this was a sensitive site, and that there was need for a wide range of market opportunities. Local stone would be used and the aim was for a high quality finish. The application would be for full permission, not outline. The proposed housing mix was of two, three and four bed properties with 35% affordable and a 70:30 ratio of full and shared ownership. The change of use of land was acknowledged to bring an element of harm but it was hoped this would be low, and the listed status of the adjacent parkland was also recognised. The provision of smaller properties and affordable housing would be identifiable benefits and Cherwell DC as the LPA might require contributions to local facilities. A standard requirement might be the creation of ecological gain, and heritage benefits such as wall repairs could be considered. The concept of the development was still at early stage.

Mr Twiddy would forward a summary of the points. Cllr Richardson asked if members of the public wished to ask questions but no questions were raised, so he thanked Mr Twiddy and Mr Northey, who left the meeting at 7.25 p.m.

7. Highways and road safety; footpaths

(i) Place-making and traffic calming further to OCC Highways trial commenced June 2019:

Noted: updates from OCC 20mph Steering Group, including:

The public consultation (OCC) on the Kirtlington proposed 20 mph and 40 ph limits had ended 4th February; the proposals were presented at The (OCC) Cabinet Member for Highway Management decisions meeting on Thursday 24th February 2022. The Clerk would ask Cllr Conway to forward details of the outcome.

Resolved: to apply to the County Councillor Priority Fund 2022-23 for the purchase of a programmable flashing School sign at £2,267.80 NET of VAT (application deadline January 2023). The Clerk would contact Mr Allison (Chairman of School Governors) and Cllr Buckingham-Fry to confirm the decision and to request further information on the details needed for the application, such as the benefits of the new sign.

RMP

Noted: Ms Jacqui Cox of OCC had written on 8th February with details of S106 funding arising from Upper Heyford development available for traffic calming in the parish; just over £14,500 had been identified for expenditure in Kirtlington (the exact amount was subject to variation with interest accruing at the end of the financial year), and £10,552 was currently held with the remainder to be released by the developer once a scheme had been agreed. Cllr Buckingham-Fry had written to Ms Cox to thank her.

(ii) OCC Highways verges maintenance; village footpath maintenance; village bridleways:

Noted: Crutchmoor Plantation, roadside vegetation south of the southbound bus stop on the Bletchington Road –

following a complaint that the bushes here were overgrown and caused drivers to move out towards the centre of the road, the problem had been reported to OCC Highways' online reporting tool, FixMyStreet. FixMyStreet had responded to advise they had inspected the vegetation here but the growth was insufficient to meet their criteria for cutting back.

8. Parish Council Assets, including maintenance

Key maintenance tasks including arboriculture (Sports Field and Play Area – see next Item)

Resolved: Greens mowing contractor and quotation for 2022 season: to accept the Greenscape Inspires quotation of £165 a cut. The cost per cut was unchanged from 2021.

Allotment, replacement of southern gate: Cllr Enser had advised the Allotment Committee the Council was unlikely to have spare resources this year; the Allotment Committee was therefore currently pursuing options from its own resources.

9. Village Hall, Sports Field and Play Areas

To note, updates: Post Office offer of outreach service to follow the Kirtlington Postmistress resignation effective February 2022 (or date to be advised); Village Hall Management Committee liaison with Post Office:

Mrs Hawkesworth had met Mr Graham Simmons of the Post Office at the Village Hall on 1st February: an outreach service seemed possible but there was no update from the Post Office at 1st March. However Mr Brett has confirmed the Gigaclear contract with the Village Hall should be robust enough to support the IT requirements.

Councillors noted that at present there was no information on the actual date of the Postmistress's resignation.

Resolved: the Clerk would contact Mr Simmons to ask for more information including the basis for determining the suggested outreach provision of 1 hour/week, and to ask what factors might allow this to be increased.

Community Shop: Mrs Hawkesworth advised that Sustainable Kirtlington would circulate a leaflet to the village in mid-March with an invitation to a public meeting on 24th April to gauge support; if there was sufficient support then any emerging committee would submit formal proposals to the Parish Council; the Clerk had circulated an advance copy of the leaflet to Councillors with Mrs Hawkesworth's agreement.

Sports field Play Area, Sports field mowing and outfield maintenance: Mr Podbery had quoted for the season's mowing, with an increase from £88 to £96 / cut, and had given reasons separately for this increase. Cllrs Richardson and Jenkins considered the increase reasonable and the Clerk estimated this would amount to an additional £250 for season; *the quotation was therefore accepted.*

Noted, Storm Eunice (19th February) tree damage to Oak in Play Area and two Sycamores adjacent to Molly Minns Lane: the Clerk had contacted Sylva Consultancy to inspect and quote for emergency remedial work so that these public areas could be made safe. The work identified by Sylva was 1 x Oak Play Area – removal of split branch and tip back to reduce sail area of canopy; 1 x Sycamore adjacent Molly Minns Lane – main stem to be left in situ but tip back remaining branches overhanging lane. Cllr Richardson had authorised acceptance of the quotation from Sylva of £780 plus VAT for the team, van and chipper plus £350 plus VAT for a 14 m tracked cherry picker for the day and to proceed without delay and the Clerk had submitted a 5 Day Notice. Sylva had carried out the work and while at the Play Area had identified a previous split in the Oak and so had fitted a brace at high level and the tree was now safe.

Noted for consideration at a later date: health and safety inspection of the Sports field and Play Area trees, also hire of cherry picker so that broken branches suspended at high level in a second Sycamore could be removed. The area beneath this Sycamore had been taped off.

10. Planning

(i) Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Richardson noted that the Forum Chairman, Martin Lipson, had asked member parishes to review the Plan during 2022-23 to parallel the Cherwell Local Plan Review.

(ii) Monthly planning application schedule; *updates as reported on planning applications in the parish:* no comments to report.

Noted: 21/02214/F – Cherwell Concrete Enslow Wharf, Station Road, Enslow (Bletchington Parish), RETROSPECTIVE - Operational development for the installation and operation of conveyor, hoppers and tank storage plant for concrete distribution: Cherwell DC's planning decision had been postponed until 18th March.

RMP

RMP

RMP

11. Correspondence

Cllr Richardson had replied to parishioner requests for consideration of a footpath to Bletchington; as noted previously the Parish Council would expect the cost of such a project to be prohibitive and considered County Council funding in support of it unlikely.

Dr Macbeth, as village transport rep, had co-ordinated the printing of a flyer to every household in the parish about the likely loss of the 250 bus service and had forwarded to the Council an advance copy of the flyer. Noted: the Council supported the production and circulation of the flyer. Noted, that the Dorchester Homes S106 funding for the current route of the 250 was due to end in December 2022. The Council noted its thanks to Dr Macbeth for attending a meeting in Chesterton to discuss the response of local parishes to the County's Local Transport Connectivity Plan; minutes of that meeting would be forwarded in due course.

12. Finance

Monthly receipts & payments: the Council **approved the proposed payments** (schedule as presented to the meeting and published on the Village Website).

13. Date of the next Parish Council meeting; date of the Annual Parish Meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting was set provisionally as Tuesday 12th April, at 6 p.m.

The Clerk would liaise with Councillors about the date of the Annual Parish Meeting (none had taken place in 2020 or 2021 because of the Covid pandemic).

The Clerk would liaise with Cllrs Buckingham-Fry and Conway about whether a public presentation of traffic calming proposals was appropriate in the near future.

14. Councillors' reports and items for future agendas

Minor matters of information not elsewhere on the agenda (not for debate/decision): None.

Noted: Covid-19 and continuing impact on Parish Council meetings and public gatherings – end of most restrictions from 24th February; Government guidance applying to England: *"You will not be legally required to self-isolate if you test positive for COVID-19. Stay at home if you can and avoid contact with other people. You will not have to take daily tests."*

Agenda items for future meetings:

Ongoing: Kite Festival Kirtlington Park

Ongoing: Highways and traffic calming (Sub-committee reports)

Ongoing: Parish Council assets – monitoring and maintenance

The meeting closed at 7.45 p.m.

Signed

Chairman

Date

RMP/
All

RMP