

KIRTLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held in the Church of St Mary the Virgin on Monday 26th September at 6.15 p.m.

Present: Mrs K Chacksfield, Ms J Conway (Chair), Dr B Enser, D Grimshaw, Mrs R Powles (Clerk),
 Cllr Simpson (Oxfordshire CC), from 7 p.m.

In attendance: Mr Jim Draper (to about 6.30 p.m.)

	Action
<p>1. Apologies</p> <p>None.</p> <p>2. Declarations of pecuniary interests / other conflicts of interest</p> <p>None.</p> <p>3. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th July 2022</p> <p>The Minutes were approved and signed.</p> <p>4. The death of Queen Elizabeth II, 8th September 2022</p> <p>On behalf of the Council Cllr Conway expressed gratitude for the Queen's life of dedicated service and wished King Charles III a long and fruitful reign.</p> <p>5. District & County Councillor Reports / Members of the public</p> <p>Cllr Grimshaw asked Mr Draper to summarise the condition of the tarmac surface at the Multi-Use Games Area and give recommendations on the way forward. Mr Draper advised the dips in the MUGA surface might be settlement following the past removal of two large trees at the location. Rectification would require excavation and the formation of hard shoulders to prevent a replacement surface also sinking. A new tarmac surface would cost around £8,200, and the cost including excavation would be of the order of £10,000. He suggested it would be sensible to consider how much the surface was used. Mr Alan Draper had provided a quote of £4,400 to remove the damaged surface and return it to grass (some extra top soil might be needed); any further subsidence could be remedied easily. Noted: there was no need to remove the Sports Wall itself.</p> <p>Mr Draper also advised on the condition of Sports field football pitch and surrounds: he and Mr Cherry had chain-harrowed this area. The Sports field would benefit from reseeding and as there would be no adult football over the winter (<i>see below at Item 9</i>) there was an opportunity to do this. He referred to the purchase of a trailer from Turney's to help move heavy items, paid for by the Village Fete Committee. With regard to the Council's ride-on Toro mower Turney's had advised him that the Toro was now obsolete and so they could no longer obtain spare parts.</p> <p>The Council thanked Mr Draper for his report and all the work on the field; Mr Draper left the meeting.</p> <p>6. Highways (including road safety, place-making and traffic calming)</p> <p>a) OCC 20mph Steering Group and KPC Traffic Subcommittee: the next Steering Group meeting would be on 28th September. Traffic Subcommittee: Cllr Conway had ordered sleepers for new planters and was awaiting delivery. OCC had approved the installation of an air monitor by the School.</p> <p>b) S106 monies for parishes around Heyford Park, OCC to host hybrid meeting on 13th October: Cllr Conway and Cllr Simpson (OCC) would attend, Dr Macbeth hoped to attend. Cllr Conway said there was doubt about the sum originally thought to be for Kirtlington's use.</p> <p>c) School flashing sign: Cllr Conway confirmed Cllr Simpson's agreement to a grant for this.</p> <p>d) OCC Highways maintenance e.g. roads and pavement repairs, Crowcastle Lane tarmac: OCC Highways contractors had carried out tarmacking of the southern section of Crowcastle Lane on 16th September and had referred to complaints received over recent years about the surface condition; Cllrs Conway and Enser had spoken to the team as they felt the new surface was inappropriate for a bridleway. Also, the tarmac had infringed on the</p>	

<p>an additional sum might arise for Ady Podbery’s labour. Councillors noted that while these costs were unbudgeted the removal of the MUGA surface was the most practical choice given it was little used, and that it would be good to re-seed the field while it was not being used for winter football. The Clerk would write to Mr Jim Draper to confirm agreement for both jobs.</p>	RMP
<p>c) Sports field Play Area, play bark top-up: Cllr Grimshaw referred to the annual safety inspections and reports from Rospa PlaySafety, and his visit to both Play Areas with Cllr Conway in August. He had contacted Kompan (supplier of the Climbing Frame) with regard to a site visit, spare parts and repairs, as the item was still within its guarantee period. The site visit would cost about £260. Cllrs agreed to the site visit and Cllr Grimshaw would follow this up with Kompan. Resolved also: the purchase of 6 bags of play bark from Banbury Turf: Cllr Grimshaw would arrange delivery. Cllr Conway referred to the Roman Close Play Area where the Playsafety reports had highlighted that the edges of the wet surface were lifting in some places; Cllr Grimshaw would ask Mr Draper for advice.</p>	DG DG DG
<p>d) Football teams: Cllr Grimshaw reported the Kirtlington Men’s football team had decided to close; there would be no use of the field for football in the coming season. The two Bletchington youth teams were using the field for training on Monday and Thursday evenings in September while their ground was still being used for cricket. The Village Hall Committee had contacted Cllr Grimshaw for guidance on what to do with the goalposts. Having reviewed the situation of the posts and taken advice from Jim Draper he had suggested to the VHC that they take up the offer from the football team to have them removed. Councillors expressed a preference for keeping the goalposts, in the hope that a new village team might be established in the future. The Clerk would write to the VHC to inform them of the change in decision, and would seek advice from the Council’s insurers (Zurich) on any liability which might fall to the Council as the goalposts would now reasonably be deemed Council assets.</p>	RMP
<p>e) Churchyard extension: Oxfordshire CC’s archaeology department had approved the Written Scheme of Investigation for the required excavation east of the current churchyard wall and on 20th September Cherwell DC’s planning department had given approval for this next stage of the process.</p>	
<p>10. Parish Services</p>	
<p>a) 250 Bus service: Cllr Conway had arranged a meeting on 4th October to be attended by Cllr Nigel Simpson, Mr Dave Harrison from OCC, and village supporters of the bus service. <i>Clerk’s note: before the commencement of formal Council business some parishioners spoke to some of the Council members to emphasise their support of the continuation of this service and had then left the Church.</i></p>	
<p>b) Community Shop, Steering Group outline business plan, prior to planning application submission: as requested, on behalf of the Steering Group Mrs Hawkesworth had forwarded an outline business plan. Councillors discussed this and while appreciating the level of detail provided expressed concern with regard to various aspects, such as the projected daily income, the level of community engagement which would be required, and where ultimate legal and financial responsibility would fall if the project failed. It was therefore agreed that at present the Council could not support the submission of a planning application and would reply to the Steering Committee setting out the main areas for concern.</p>	All
<p>c) Village News profile of the Parish Council: Cllrs Conway and Enser suggested that any article on the Parish Council should portray all four members at the same time, although it might be preferable if a leaflet with this information and a description of the role of the Council could be circulated to the whole village, perhaps before the Christmas period. Councillors agreed to take this further if possible.</p>	All
<p>11. Recent Parish Events, Correspondence</p>	
<p>A parishioner had written to express regret at the over use of the Village Hall car park and the volume of traffic at South Green, and to the Community Shop Steering Group opposing the proposal for the shop. Mrs Hawkesworth had replied to the latter. The Council noted the points of complaint and the Clerk would reply.</p>	RMP
<p>The Village Hall bookings clerk had received another request for a one-off overnight stay in the Village Hall car park; Cllrs Conway and Enser had suggested that VHC ask those making such requests for donations towards the Committee’s running costs; the Clerk had forwarded this suggestion to the bookings clerk.</p>	
<p>12. Planning</p>	
<p>a) Land at Jersey Cottages –Hextall Twiddy and Abbeymill Homes proposals of 8th March: Cllr Enser had written to Mr Twiddy on 8th August but no response had been received to date.</p>	
<p>b) Oxfordshire Strategic Railfreight Interchange first stage (non-statutory consultation), noted: OxSRFI had published a summary of the themes and issues from the Stage 1 consultation in August. OCC had advised Cherwell DC would submit a response and the next stage of consultation (statutory) was now envisaged for February / March 2023.</p>	
<p>c) Review of Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan (MCNP), MCNP Forum Chairman’s letter and questions to member parishes, Annual Reports 1 and 2. Chairman Martin Lipson had asked member parishes to suggest points</p>	

