

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 25th July 2023 at 8.00pm

Present:

Councillor Jim Broomfield
Councillor David Sullivan
Councillor Phil John
Councillor Peter Gorman
The Clerk
Residents and Public – 6

Welcome and introductions

Members are reminded that this is a meeting in public, not a public meeting, and all points, questions and comments should be addressed through the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Received from District Councillors Phil Chapman and George Reynolds, Councillor Steve Lapper

Declarations of Interest *Members are asked to declare any personal interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.*

1104 Minutes of the meeting held 16th May 2023 (previously circulated) and Matters arising.
The minutes had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. They were agreed to be a true record of the Meeting and were signed by the Chairman. It was agreed that there were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

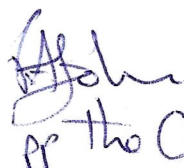
1105 Clerks Report
Financial Statement

The Clerk reported that eight cheques had been raised in May and June 2023.

719	Thomas Fox	Grass cutting 1+2	647.20	In Budget
720	Thomas Fox	Coronation Grass Cut	446.40	Over Budget
721	Proludic	Play Equipment Maintenance	2885.59	In Budget
722	Thomas Fox	Grass cutting 3+4	647.20	In Budget
723	Gallagher	Insurance	650.99	Over Budget
724	CDC	Election Expenses	100.00	In Budget
725	Clerk	Salary	702.30	In Budget
726	HMRC	PAYE	156.00	In Budget

There was £809.75 VAT outstanding at the end of June 2023 which has been claimed but not yet received.

Taking the above into account, the expected bank balance is £18,183.27 which is reconciled to Bank statement sheet No.222 at 6th July 2023. This balance contains the remaining reserves of £2857.50 for Orchard Piece Community Play Area. The General Fund at the end of June stands at £15,545.12.


pp The Chairman

The new members of the Parish Council are still to complete the bank mandate; the Councillors agreed that until this is completed, John Summers was authorised to continue sign cheques, and we resolve that

- ☐ if we add or remove Authorised Signatories in the "Add or Remove Authorised Signatories" section on the "About your request" page of this form, the Bank will update our mandate accordingly for the accounts we specify in this form's "About your business" section
- ☐ if we change the Signing Rules in the "Change the Signing Rules on the Mandate" section on the "About your request" page of this form, the Bank will update our mandate accordingly for the accounts we specify in this form's "About your business" section
- ☐ and the current mandate will continue as amended.

The AGAR exemption certificate was sent as requested on 29/5/23, with the Notice of Public Rights. The relevant documents have now been published on the website.

Resolved: To accept the financial report

1106 Consultations

Councillors Sullivan and John, and the Clerk attended the recent CDC Parish Liaison meeting at Bodicote House where presentations regarding Cherwell's environmental services and planning departments were heard.

It was reported that parishes need to encourage more use of the food waste bins, and that in future, the District Council may publish the road sweeping schedules. It is hoped that a deposit on drink containers to be brought in in 2025, may cut down on littering.

Cherwell' planning department have not yet made a decision on housing needs in the district. Further training is to be arranged, and duty officers reinstated, with the Local Plan review going through 3 phases before expecting being finalised and submitted to the state in June 2025. In relation to planning applications, officers intend to consider Parish responses first.

1107 Planning matters


Applications

- 23/01451/TCS T1 x Mature Birch - Fell due to large size and close proximity to house and telephone and electric lines. T2 x Mature Birch - Fell due to lean towards house. T1 and T2 to be replaced by ornamental trees in garden. 4 Lower Farm Lane
- 23/01750/TCA H1 Conifer Hedge removal to ground level. Poplars Farm House Main Street. Permitted
- 23/01867/DISC Discharge of Condition 3 (material samples) of 23/00511/LB Mansion House Farm
- 23/00334/F Amended plans received reducing height and area of dwelling, re-positioning, plans received for existing outbuilding. Land to the NW of Old Farm House Adjoining Orchard Piece. Comments permitted until 1/8/23

Planning Applications published after the agenda. None.

Decisions

- 23/01513/TCA T8 x Silver birch – fell Hillside Roundhill Road. Application permitted
- 23/01546/TCA T1 Conifer – removed one branch Poplars Farm House Main Street. Application permitted
- 23/0957/TCA 5 FIVE DAY NOTICE T1 x crab apple remove T2 flowering cherry remove Mansion House Farm. Application permitted
- 23/00274/F Variation of Condition 2 (plans) and 8 (Addendum Structural Report) of 21/00935/F - to amend the scheme to include underpinning works to existing walls in accordance with details provided by the Structural Engineer. Manor House Main Street. Application permitted
- 23/00275 Variation of Condition 2 (plans) 10 (Addendum Structural Report) of 21/00936/LB - to amend the scheme to include underpinning works to existing walls in accordance with details provided by the Structural Engineer. Manor House Main Street. Application permitted


pp The Chairman

1108 Councillors Reports

Councillor Broomfield

None recieved

Councillor John

Thomas Fox has continued to undertake grass cutting as per the agreed schedule. Significant cutting back of areas has taken place. The schedules will continue to be reviewed to ensure that the grass areas are cut appropriately.

Some tree / branch cutting has been done on the village hall grassed area due to this being dangerous for the public.

The mirror on the Village green opposite the entrance to Lower Farm Lane has been damaged and will need to be replaced, once responsibility and finance has been finalised.

The VH committee has now a significant level of villager representation and steps are being taken to

1. Improve the Enquiry & Booking as well as Terms and Conditions for Hiring purposes after recent complaints from villagers on noise issues. New payment methods are also being adopted.
2. Various bookings have been received and confirmation that Pilates will restart in Sept 2023.
3. Revamping of banking processes / sign off due to new committee members (e.g. Chairperson, Treasurer etc)
4. Significant maintenance of the flat roof has been undertaken and completed due to water damage.
5. Minor maintenance works continue to be planned and scheduled.
6. Repainting of internal walls and ceiling are being planned with considerable support from a local decorator. It is expected to be undertaken within the next month or so.
7. Local Stitch / Craft ladies are offering to undertake some 'mural' work depicting Mollington.
8. Further interaction with villagers who manage the Church fund raising activities have taken place to see how it can be supported.
9. Future social events being discussed for 2023 - History of Mollington (29/09), Kids Film showing (02/09), Quiz Night (20/10) and Xmas Fayre (01/12)

Some damage / vandalism has been reported on the Scout Hut - this is being investigated but initial review was that nothing has been stolen.

Councillor Lapper

Work has started putting up 20mph road signs throughout the village. No information was provided in advance relating to the work content or schedules. Concerns have been raised by various villagers on the location of such signs and it has been noticed that some signs have been taken down in places. Further communication with OCC Highways will take place to review works done and those yet to be undertaken. Outstanding works will require painting of road signs before the signs become legal.

Further works are being taken by Internet Service Provider with respect to installation of underground cabling works to supply future Full Fibre Internet Service. As yet no confirmation has been received on when service will become available as this requires additional local distribution cabling works. It is expected that more road works will be undertaken in the coming months.

Councillor Gorman

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme is to be updated and linked throughout the village to ensure that all areas are covered by co-ordinators.

Councillor Sullivan

The footpath leading out from the Village Hall to Shotteswell is overgrown, and in places is difficult to walk through. This was reported by several villagers to Oxfordshire County Council in June 2023. While the first part of the footpath to the open field has since been cleared, nothing had been done to the remainder that runs to the parish border and beyond. This has again been reported to Oxfordshire County Council.

John
33 The Chermer

The other footpaths appear to be in reasonable order, although a foot bridge on the footpath leading out to Warmington has lost two planks, but otherwise appears sound. This is being monitored.

There are no issues apparent with the five dog bins in the village.

1110 Councillors Points of Interest:

The amended planning application 23/00334/F for the proposed dwelling on land to the MW of Old Farm House and adjoining Orchard Piece was discussed, with a response due to be submitted to CDC before their extended deadline of 1/8/23.

The Chairman asked that the Conservation Officer's points were taken into account, with particular emphasis to the type of windows (not velux) and doors permitted and the unsuitable choice of a close boarded fence, where a hedge would be the preferred boundary. The Parish Council would also like to see the removal of any permitted development rights. Councillor Gorman reiterated the need for restrictions and a schedule for the movement of vehicles to, from and around the site due to the limitations of the access.

1111 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 26 September 2023 Mollington Village Hall at 8.00pm

Parish Council meeting closed at 8.30pm

Chairman, Mollington Parish Council

Public Participation Session

Permission has been given by the Parish Council, on request, to allow a concert and picnic to be held in the Mollington Playing Fields in September as a fundraiser for the church and Village Hall. It was advised that further permission will be needed from the Village Hall committee if the hall and facilities are going to be used.

Two members of the Keep Hanwell Village Rural action group, Chris Brant and Tony Skwirzynski, gave a presentation and answered queries regarding the proposed industrial solar development planned between Hanwell, Horley and Shotteswell.


It was reported that the Elgin proposal would see the industrial solar development on 200 acres of Grade 2 and 3 farm land with 10 fields affected, causing harm to the landscape, the open views and countryside access. The solar development would be visible from over 3 miles away, including from Mollington and Great Bourton.

The development would be the size of 18 Wembley Stadiums; the height of the solar panels are 10.5 feet tall with fencing height of almost 8ft around the whole development.

It is suggested that the location would be better kept as agricultural land, and that a solar development of this size is more suited to another site; the land is not included in Cherwell's Development Plan, the electricity (which will take 10 years before it is connected and fed into the National Grid) will not benefit the local community directly – the 10-15% efficiency of the proposed solar panels at this site will eventually provide enough electricity for 11.5 thousand homes.

The Action Group is communicating with all local Parish Councils who will be affected by this industrial solar development and are seeking financial donations to help fund a planning consultant to work on a joint objection led by the Action Group, which Parish Councils can also use as part of their own objection when the application is received by Cherwell District Council.

Mollington Parish Council asked that they are kept informed of any further developments, and would discuss the proposal and its implications. If possible, a Councillor would join the Action Group, who were also asked to provide material for publication in the next Mollington Matters.


PP The Chairman