

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 26th March 2024 at 8.00pm

Present:

Councillor Peter Gorman
Councillor Phil John
Councillor Steve Lapper
Councillor David Sullivan
The Clerk
District Councillor Phil Chapman
Residents and Public – 0

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 Vice Chair.

Apologies for Absence

None received

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.*

1135 Co Option of Councillor

Councillor Broomfield has resigned from the Parish Council. We would like to thank Jim for his time and contribution to the Parish Council.

In the interim, Councillor John will continue as Vice Chair, and following the 14 day period of notice, the Parish Council will co opt Mr John Summers as a Councillor, with responsibilities for Chestnut Vale Play Area, and the grass cutting contract.

1136 Minutes of the meeting held 23rd January 2024 (previously circulated) and Matters arising. The minutes had been circulated in advance of the Meeting. It was agreed that there were no matters arising that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

1137 Clerks Report

Financial Statement

The Clerk reported that 3 cheques had been raised in the period December 2023 to the end of February 2024

744	Thomas Fox	Hedge cutting	1152.84	In Budget
745	Thomas Fox	Jubilee cut	144.00	Re issued chq 684
746	Thomas Fox	Coronation cut	446.40	Re issued chq 720

There was £776.50 VAT outstanding at the end of February 2024 which has been claimed, but not yet received.



Taking the above into account, the expected bank balance is £17,577.41 which is reconciled to Bank statement sheet No.229 at 29th February 2024. This balance contains the remaining reserves of £2857.50 for Orchard Piece Community Play Area. The General Fund at the end of February stands at £15,496.41.

Resolved: To accept the financial report

1138 Consultations

- The Bank Mandate has been completed and delivered in person to NatWest bank. A text has been received stating that they are progressing the request for the removal of two signatories (Denise Hall and John Summers) and adding David Sullivan and Peter Gorman.
- The Spring edition of Mollington Matters has been printed and distributed. It includes details of the Fete, Village Hall activities, Councillor vacancy and village news and information.

1139 Planning matters

Applications

- **24/00087/TCA** Fell 1 x sycamore by toilet block The Green Man OX17 1BB. *It is recommended that MPC do not object to this proposal*
- **24/00513/TCA** Fell 1 x Hawthorne Orchard Piece Play Area. *Application made by MPC granted under 5 day rule*
- **24/00148/F** Erection/re siting of agricultural storage building Land SE of Tile Barn Farm Farnborough Road *It is recommended that MPC do not object to this proposal*

Applications after Agenda Published

- **24/00711/F** Reception, store, office and site shop Anita's Caravan site, The Yews OX17 1AZ *It is recommended that MPC do not object to this proposal*

Decisions

- **23/02671/F** Day Room Corner Meadow OX17 1ND *Application permitted*
- **23/00117/REF** First floor side extension Fairways, Church Lane OX17 1AZ *Appeal allowed*
- **23/03083/F** Discharge of condition 3 DeeJay Farm OX17 1BG *Application permitted*
- **23/03056/F** Discharge of condition DeeJay Farm OX17 1BG *Application refused*
- **24/00087/TCA** Fell 1 x sycamore by toilet block The Green Man OX17 1BB *Application permitted*
- **23/00334/F** Single dwelling on land NW of The Old Farmhouse and adjacent to Orchard Piece – update – The Officers have advised that the application remains undetermined at this time as they seek to progress the section 106 agreement in relation to the biodiversity net gain.

Decisions after Agenda Published

- **22/1/01157/LB** Installation of PV array on S facing garage roof The Chestnuts OX17 1BQ *Application withdrawn*

1140 Councillors Reports

Councillor John

It was reported that Thomas Fox undertook the first cut for 24/25 financial year (15th March), they will probably NOT cut first week of April). Councillor John will email their office to make the following points –

No notice was given for the earlier start, which the Parish Council felt was an unnecessary cut. It had been requested that the grass was cut much shorter each time, this was not done. Large parts of the village had not been mowed, and although there are a number of spring flowers in the grass, more could have been done.



John Summers is being co-opted on the PC and will take 2 responsibilities – Thomas Fox contract and Mollington Playing Fields maintenance. The new grass cutting schedule has been requested.

Treetops has been contracted to cut several trees (Orchard Piece PF, Cow Lane and VH Green). Initial approval has been given for OP tree with temporary strapping to be done before cut down in early May. This has been approved with CDC through submission of various documents. VH green is not responsibility of CDC and we will go ahead without CDC involvement. The Green is not in the conservation area and the diseased tree is not protected. The diseased Cow Lane tree will be handled through Treetops but documentation has been given to CDC in advance.

Power company has removed significant ivy growth on power post on the village green, and at other locations in the village for safety and operational necessities.

Village Hall

1. Monthly munch was successful with approx. 30 attendees
2. Church organised Rock Choir concert was attended by 40+, VH committee supported this event.
3. Quiz was successful with approx. 40 people.
4. Coffee morning was provided this week, noted low attendance.
5. Both storage cupboards have been cleared and new shelving done
6. Replacement new drainpipes were installed, and the fitting of an outside tap is planned
7. VH limited audit is being requested and discussions ongoing

Councillor Lapper

It was reported that a plan of action needs to be determined for the Orchard Piece play area, ie what budget is available, bark/weed supressing membrane versus rubber matting. There is a small sum left in the equipment funds to be spent on a new slide/climbing frame and/or new safety matting. In the first instance the play area needs tidying and the equipment made safe; in the long term an easily maintained area needs to be designed. Ideas and quotes are to be researched, and a work party to be planned. The cost and type of play bark will also be researched, as this needs replenishing in both parks.

On March Lane and Main Street the road surface is continuing breaking up and is becoming a danger to cyclists etc. This is being regularly reported to FixMyStreet by both the Parish Council and residents. When reporting, it is important to place the blame solely at Thames Water, so that they cannot pass the problem on to anyone else. The danger to cyclists needs emphasising.

The broken rail outside the Green Man has been repaired.

Councillor Gorman

A recent survey of the villages drains revealed that 60 were blocked, and 20 were draining. This was reported to the District Council. An estimate of costs to replace the wooden posts that edge the greens in the village is to be sought.

Following a meeting and communication with local police officers, it is confirmed that an officer and car will attend the Fete. They will also be giving information regarding Neighbourhood Watch and it's role in the village.

The Emergency Plan is being prepared for submission to CDC. Any amendments can be made at any time, as long as they are documented.

Councillor Sullivan

It was reported that Councillor Sullivan had received a report of dog fouling in the village and an article has been included in Mollington Matters to remind people to clear up after their dogs.

No other current issues relating to Dogs or Footpaths have been reported.

The Fete planning is continuing to go well, under a strong committee.

1140 Councillors Points of Interest:

Following the tree work scheduled and completed around the village by Oxfordshire Highways, and in line with Cherwell's replacing trees policy, Headley Tree Planting has planted a Field Maple on Roundhill Road. Following concern from residents that it is close to a secluded gateway and obstructing the line of vision, the clerk has contacted Headley to suggest that it is replanted somewhere else in the village, and are awaiting their reply.

A framed portrait of King Charles II has been ordered for the Village Hall.

It has been noted that both Cropredy and Great Bourton are monitoring traffic speeds, using a speed gun with support from Oxford Traffic Police. Councillor John has spoken to a member of Cropredy PC for more information. Following a discussion between councillors, it was decided not to pursue traffic speed monitoring in Mollington at the moment, unless a speed problem is noted. It was felt that the new 20mph limit, which has been in place for six months, had decreased the speeds of vehicles through the village, helped in a small way by the poor road surface. Ongoing communication regarding the speed of traffic to residents (who are usually the culprits) and possibly renewing the white lines at narrow points could also be effective.

1141 Date of next meeting

Due to the known absences of councillors at the proposed date of the next meeting, this has now been changed to **Tuesday 30th April 2024** in Mollington Village Hall at 8.00pm

Parish Council meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Chairman, Mollington Parish Council

Public Participation Session

None

