

## MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Parish Hall, Trench Green on 1 March 2022, commencing at 8.00pm, and concluded at 9.25pm.

Present: Mrs J E Bowen (Chairman), T M Whitaker (Vice-Chairman), Dr D W H Miles, Dr J S Rogerson, Lord Thurlow.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from R W Taylor.

### 297 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 January 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### 298 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr K Bulmer, the county councillor for the Goring division, had submitted a report which covered

- the budget adopted by his Council for the financial year 2022/23, which would result in a 5% increase in its share of the Council Tax;
- the termination of his Council's joint working arrangement with Cherwell District Council.

### 299 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch ward, spoke to his previously circulated report, covering

- the benefits accruing from his Council's decision to cancel the contract which had outsourced many of his Council's core services;
- his Council's better than predicted financial position, with reserves of £25m anticipated for 2022/23;
- consultations initiated by his Council (see Minute 306(iv));
- Covid 19 support vouchers available via Citizens' Advice for eligible residents.

### 300 FORMER TELEPHONE KIOSK

Following the last meeting, the Chairman had received a quotation from AHL Electrical Ltd for fitting the defibrillator in the former telephone kiosk in Mapledurham village, in the sum of £250.00 + VAT. The Chairman had discussed the quotation informally with Members, and had, as a result, offered the contract for the work to the Company. Completion of the work was understood to be imminent.

It was noted that, when it was inspected on the day of the meeting, the kiosk was still suffering from muddy water ingress.

RESOLVED: That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed.

### 301 COMMUNITY ORCHARD, CHAZEY HEATH

The Chairman reported that extra trees were expected to be planted by local residents in the community orchard on the southerly field at the Rokeby Recreation Ground. The promoters of the orchard had sought approval to site a bench in the orchard.

RESOLVED: That the siting of a bench, at the cost of the promoters, in the community orchard at the Rokeby Recreation Ground, be approved, subject to the promoters undertaking to maintain the bench.

302 ROKEBY DRIVE, CHAZEY HEATH - SPEED LIMIT

It was reported that the signs denoting the 20 mph speed limit in Tokers Green and Chazey Heath were to be erected later in the week of the meeting, with the limit coming into force on 10 March 2022.

303 LIAISON WITH THE MAPLEDURHAM ESTATE

Mr W Sleeman, the Director, Rural, of Savills, indicated, by e-mail, that he would be happy to meet the Council on a regular basis, to discuss matters relating to the Mapledurham Estate. He advised that he was in Mapledurham on most Tuesdays. Members discussed how to take the matter forward.

RESOLVED: 1 That arrangements be made for representatives of the Council, limited to 3 in number, to meet Mr W Sleeman of Savills, on an informal basis, at the venue of his choice.

2 That the Chairman approach Mr Sleeman about the first such meeting, following discussions with colleagues of a draft outline of the subjects for discussion with Mr Sleeman.

304 OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY PLAN

The Council considered the County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, a matter the consideration of which had been deferred at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: That no comments be submitted in respect of the County Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

304 PLATINUM JUBILEE OF HM THE QUEEN

Arising from the discussion at the last meeting, it was

RESOLVED: That the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen be commemorated by the planting of an oak tree, on a site to be agreed.

305 GRANTS

The Council noted letters of thanks from the Parochial Church Council and the Oxford Samaritans for the grants made to them at the last meeting.

306 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Applications

It was reported that the comments set out in the Appendix hereto had been submitted in respect of the application for the sub-division of 7-bed dwelling to form 1 5-bed dwelling and 1 2-bed dwelling at 3 Chazey Close, Chazey Heath for Bridgland Financial Management (P21/S5334/FUL).

(ii) Planning enforcement

The Vice-Chairman reported that he had been unable to attend the virtual briefing about the District Council's updated Planning Enforcement Statement 2021, on 26 January 2022. However, the presentation slides used at the briefing had been circulated to all Members.

(iii) Design Guide

The District Council's Head of Planning sought, in an e-mail, views on the draft Design Guide, developed jointly with Vale of the White Horse District Council, which sought to provide guidance on how new development in the District could be designed and constructed to the highest quality and

sustainability. As a Supplementary Planning document, it would be a material consideration in any future decisions made on planning applications. The consultation would end on 15 March 2022.

RESOLVED: That no comments be submitted on the District Council's draft Design Guide.

(iv) Community Infrastructure Levy and developer contributions

By e-mail, the Head of Policy and Programmes of the District Council drew attention to his Council's consultations on its draft Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule and its draft Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document. The consultations ran from 15 February to 22 March 2022.

307 ROKEBY RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman reported that she had obtained quotations as follows for replacing the bark in the equipment pits at the Recreation Ground, all exclusive of VAT:

Ian Kendrick Ltd - £2,950  
Playsource – £2,643

while SAS Landscaping Ltd had quoted £1,456 to top-up the pits, commenting that the existing material was still serviceable.

The Chairman also referred to a quotation, which she had previously circulated to Members, from Ian Kendrick Ltd for additional strimming at the north margin of the Ground and an additional 2 cuts of the community orchard, in the sum of £275 + VAT.

RESOLVED: 1 That the contract for replenishing the bark in the equipment pits at the Rokeby Recreation Ground be let to SAS Landscaping Ltd, in the sum of £1,456 + VAT.

2 That the additional strimming at the north margin of the Ground and an additional 2 cuts of the community orchard be added to the existing mowing contract, with Ian Kendrick Ltd.

308 MAPLEDURHAM PLAYING FIELDS

The Chairman advised that there had been no meeting of the Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee since the last meeting of the Council. She intimated that the Bridge Club was not happy with the acoustics in the Pavilion, and might seek to return to the Parish Hall. She also referred to objections from the Warren & District Residents' Association to a proposal by the Heights Free School to organise an Easter egg hunt at the Fields.

309 PARISH HALL

It was reported that

- the new toilets at the Parish Hall had been completed, but that the final account for the work had yet to be received;
- the Disabilities Trust would vacate its premises at Dysons Wood in April 2022;
- the Sonning Common Green Gym would undertake work to the hedges at the Hall on 28 May 2022.

310 COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Countryside Committee held on 20 January 2022 were received. (A copy of the minutes is attached to the Minutes to be signed.)

It was suggested that outstanding items from the Committee's minutes should be taken up with Mr W Sleeman (see Minute 303 above).

Reference was made to the premises' licence for Mapledurham House, issued by the District Council,

under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, and concerns that the terms of that licence had been breached.

RESOLVED: That a copy of the current premises' licence for Mapledurham House be sought.

### 311 EMERGENCY PLANNING SURVEY

The County Council's Emergency Planning Officer invited, by e-mail, the completion of the annual survey regarding emergency planning by town and parish councils.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be reminded of the availability of the Parish Hall, in the event of a local emergency.

### 312 DOG HYGIENE BINS

The Council was reminded that there was a dog hygiene bin at the Rokeby Recreation Ground, Chazey Heath. Presently, the bin was serviced via a contract arranged by the District Council. The current annual cost was £346, net of VAT. The District Council had given notice that the contract cost would increase to £7.56 per week, net of VAT, on 1 April 2022 - £393 per annum. It was reported that the service could be provided by other suppliers at a much cheaper rate.

Reference was made to the possible siting of a dog hygiene bin in Mapledurham village, at a position to be discussed.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made as to other suppliers of dog hygiene bin servicing.

### 313 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

The Chairman and Clerk reported on a recent seminar about Operation London Bridge, concerning actions in the event of the death of notable people.

RESOLVED: That local arrangements, in the event of Operation London Bridge being activated, be discussed with the Church authorities.

### 314 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment

#### *Parish Council*

Sonning Common Green Gym – Work at Rokeby Recreation Ground	£30.00) Already
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£107.64) paid
Chiltern Society – Subscription	£30.00)
R F Penfold – Clerk's salary net of PAYE	£179.57
HM Revenue & Customs – Income tax deducted	£119.90

#### *Parish Hall Committee*

Ms K Macdonald – Refund of deposit	£100.00) Already
Mrs J E Bowen – Curtains	£240.00) paid
Mrs J E Bowen – Cleaning and sundries	£153.71

### 315 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 3 May 2022 at 7.30pm.

## APPENDIX

**COMMENTS ON PLANNING APPLICATION P21/5334/FUL**, for sub-division of 7-bed dwelling to form 1 5-bed dwelling and 1 2-bed dwelling at 3 Chazey Close, Chazey Heath

The Council **OBJECTS** to this application because it represents over development of the site.

The now 7 bedroom semi-detached dwelling developed, over time, to accommodate one large family. The proposal to divide the property into 2 distinct units, one with 5 bedrooms and one with 2, will inevitably lead to increased vehicle movements in a narrow cul-de-sac. Despite the applicants' assertions, there will be insufficient parking on the site for the vehicles "belonging" to the 2 proposed dwellings, let alone any visitors, and parking on the cul-de-sac may impede emergency vehicles reaching the bungalows at the south end of Chazey Close. Furthermore, use of the existing access will not be convenient for either proposed property.

In addition, the proposal to achieve pedestrian access to the rear garden of the proposed 5-bedroom house via the garden of the 2 bedroom unit lacks credibility. Any pedestrian access to the larger property's rear garden should be from the footway alongside Reading Road, ie the public highway.