

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Parish Hall, Trench Green on 3 May 2022, commencing at 8.05pm, and concluded at 9.30pm.

Present: Mrs J E Bowen, Dr D W H Miles, Dr J S Rogerson, R W Taylor, Lord Thurlow, T M Whitaker.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

The outgoing Chairman, Mrs J E Bowen, took the chair.

317 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Mrs J E Bowen be elected Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

(Mrs Bowen thereupon signed a declaration of acceptance of office.)

318 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Mr T M Whitaker be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuing year.

319 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 1 March 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to renumbering from Minute 304 onward.

320 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- a farmers' protest outside County Hall when his Council's Cabinet met on 15 March 2022;
- his Council's Fire & Rescue Community Risk Management Plan;
- a large number of initiatives focussed on the City of Oxford;
- action by his Council to tackle fly tipping;
- the priorities of his Council's administration.

321 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch ward, reported on

- the redeployment of staff at his Council to ensure Ukrainian refugees were supported and helped;
- the creation of a car share club in Henley;
- his Council's decision to vacate its offices at Milton Park, and to move into space at Abbey House, Abingdon, in the short term;
- the award of bathing water status for the River Thames in Oxford.

322 APOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES, REPRESENTATIVES ETC

RESOLVED: That the following appointments be made for the period until the Annual Meeting in 2023:

- a Mrs J E Bowen as a member of the Rokeby Recreation Ground Committee;
- b Mrs J E Bowen, Dr J S Rogerson, Lord Thurlow and Mr T M Whitaker as members of the Countryside Committee;

- c Dr D W H Miles as a representative on the Parish Hall Committee;
- d Mr T M Whitaker as transport representative.

323 FORMER TELEPHONE KIOSK

It was noted that the defibrillator had been installed in the former telephone kiosk in Mapledurham village. Lord Thurlow offered to pursue further donations towards the cost of the project.

324 LIAISON WITH THE MAPLEDURHAM ESTATE

The Chairman advised that she had yet to hear from Mr W Sleeman, concerning a meeting about the Mapledurham Estate. It was noted that Mr Sleeman was a trustee of the Estate.

325 DOG HYGIENE BINS

The Clerk reported that the Shield Group from Worminghall, Bucks, had offered a dog hygiene bin emptying service to parish councils in South Oxfordshire at a cost of £2 a week per bin, plus VAT. The net annual cost - £104 per bin – was significantly cheaper than the service provided by the District Council, viz £393 per annum.

Members discussed the possible siting of a dog hygiene bin in Mapledurham village, perhaps adjacent to the former telephone kiosk.

RESOLVED: That the contract with the District Council for the servicing of the dog hygiene bin at the Rokeby Recreation Ground, Chazey Heath, be terminated on 31 May 2022, and a new contract be arranged with the Shield Group with effect from 1 June 2022.

326 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Applications

RESOLVED: That comments be submitted as follows on applications:

Change of use of land for glamping pods at Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, Mapledurham (P22/S1098/FUL) for Mr D Cottam	While having no objection to the concept of glamping facilities on the site in question, the Council objects to this application, as it appears from the submitted plans that access to the site is to be via bridlepath 3.
Temporary portakabin buildings as temporary clubhouse at Caversham Heath Golf Club, Chazey Heath (P22/S1162/FUL) for RGC Charlie Ltd	The Council has no objection to this application, but expects the local planning authority vigorously to enforce time limiting conditions attached to any planning permission granted.

(ii) 3 Chazey Close, Chazey Heath

Members recalled that the Council had objected to the application for the sub-division of the 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). Subsequent to the last meeting, an amended plan had been received, showing revised off-street parking arrangements, but no views had been submitted thereon, on behalf of the Council, because the amendments did not really address the Council's objection.

District Council officers had recommended approval of the application. However, because of this Council's objection, the application was referred to the District Council's Planning Committee. The

Council was invited to make representations to the Committee, at its meeting on 27 April 2022. The Chairman decided, as a matter of urgency, that she should address the Planning Committee in opposition to the application.

The Chairman reported that the District Council's Planning Committee had decided, at the above meeting, to refuse permission for the application.

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

(iii) 1 Chazey Heath, Chazey Heath

The Head of Planning of the District Council had advised, by letter, that his Council was considering an application (P22/S0798/LDP) for a lawful development certificate for the replacement of conservatory at 1 Chazey Heath, Chazey Heath with a brick extension on the same footprint: as a result, he had sought no comments from the Council. Subsequently, the certificate had been granted.

(iv) Thatch Cott, Chazey Heath

Members noted that the works to repair Thatch Cott, Chazey Heath, had started.

(v) Keepers Cottage, Trench Green

Reference was made to works undertaken at what had previously been outbuildings at Keepers Cottage, Trench Green, the standard of which work suggested residential use of the buildings in question.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be alerted to the works undertaken at, and the use of, the former outbuildings at Keepers Cottage, Trench Green.

(vi) Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals and Waste Plan

The Planning Policy Team Leader at Reading Borough Council, advised, by e-mail, that Bracknell Forest Council, Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead and Wokingham Borough Council had consulted on modifications to their joint Minerals and Waste Plan from 28 February to 11 April 2022.

327 ROKEBY RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman reported that the residents of Tokers Green and Chazey Heath had arranged their customary Big Lunch at the Rokeby Recreation Ground, to be held on 4 June 2022, in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen.

The promoters of the Community Orchard, on the southern part of the Recreation Ground, had sought permission to plant a further 30 trees, later in the year.

The Chairman observed that the Sonning Common Green Gym had removed all the unwanted vegetation from the Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: That consent be given for

- the Tokers Green and Chazey Heath Big Lunch to be held at the Rokeby Recreation Ground on 4 June 2022; and
- the planting of 30 further trees as part of the community orchard at the Recreation Ground.

328 MAPLEDURHAM PLAYING FIELDS

The Chairman advised that the Mapledurham Bridge Club had ceased to use the Pavilion at the Mapledurham Playing Fields. In the meantime, investigations were proceeding for a solution to the difficult acoustics in the main room at the premises, and CCTV was to be installed.

Work was proceeding to include the Playing Fields in the Fields In Trust charity.

329 PARISH HALL

It was noted that a full report on the Parish Hall had been given at the Annual Parish Meeting, earlier that day. In addition, it was reported that the boundary fence was to be repaired where it had been damaged by tree falls and all the property of the Disabilities Trust had been removed from the Hall.

330 COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE

It was reported that the Countryside Committee had not met since the last meeting of the Council.

331 THE LATE LADY ANNE EYSTON

The Council noted that Lady Anne Eyston, the widow of the late Mr J J Eyston (for many years a member and Chairman of the Council), had died on 23 April 2022. Her funeral was arranged to be held at Mapledurham House on 23 May 2022.

332 JUNCTION OF ROKEBY DRIVE WITH READING ROAD, CHAZEY HEATH

In an e-mail, Mr T M Perchard, a resident of Rokeby Drive, Tokers Green, passed on a suggestion by one of his neighbours that a mirror be installed at the junction of Rokeby Drive and Reading Road, Chazey Heath, with a view to improving safety for motorists turning out of Rokeby Drive.

RESOLVED: That enquiries be made of the County Council as to the possibility of erecting a mirror on the west side of Reading Road, Chazey Heath, at its junction with Rokeby Drive.

333 CITIZENS' ADVICE OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH AND VALE

By letter, the Director of Citizens' Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale requested the Council to consider making a financial contribution to the work of the organisation, which provided advice to local residents, including 7 residents of the Parish in 2020/21. Members noted that the budgets for both 2021/22 and 2022/23 contained provision for grants to the organisation.

RESOLVED: That a grant of £25 be made to Citizens' Advice Oxfordshire South & Vale in arrears for the financial year 2021/22.

334 ETHICAL STANDARDS

The Monitoring Officer of the District Council advised, in an e-mail, that the Government had not accepted a large proportion of the recommendations of the Committee for Standards in Public Life, following the latter's review of ethical standards, in 2019. That said, all principal authorities in the County were being recommended to adopt a new code of conduct based on the model produced by the Local Government Association. The code would have more detailed advice about disclosure of interests. Parish councils would be invited to adopt the code, in order to secure consistency across the County.

335 VIRTUAL MEETINGS

In an e-mail, the County Officer of the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils recalled that, at the Q & A for Council Chairmen on 5 April 2022, she had been asked to draft a template letter to

enable councils to write to their Members of Parliament requesting the latter to support legislation to make virtual meetings lawful for parish councils. She attached a template to her e-mail.

336 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

It was reported that a group of parish councils, north and east of Reading, were working together on the preparation of a case for extending the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to cover most, if not all, of the Oxfordshire parishes between Reading and Henley-on-Thames. The group had invited the Council to participate.

RESOLVED: That the Council join the group of parish councils seeking to extend the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty between Reading and Henley-on-Thames, and that the Chairman represent the Council at meetings of the group.

337 CLERK'S SALARY

The Clerk advised that, as a result of the concluded national negotiations, his salary had increased, in accordance with the salary scale adopted in January 2019, to £610 per annum with effect from 1 April 2021.

338 TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

With e-mails, officers of the County Council gave notice of the temporary closure, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, of

- the road between junction with Mill Lane and Step Cottage, on 16 March 2022, for overhead cable repairs;
- the road in Nuney Green, from 12 to 14 April 2022, for water main repairs;
- the A4074 road between Woodcote and Ipsden, on 14 and 15 May 2022, for resurfacing.

339 DATES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED: 1 That meetings of the Council be held on the following Tuesdays at 8pm:

5 July 2022	1 November 2022	7 March 2023
6 September 2022	10 January 2023	

2 That the Annual Meeting of the Council be held on Tuesday 9 May 2023 at 8pm.

340 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment

Parish Council

SAS Landscaping Ltd – Bark for play pits, Rokeby Recreation Ground	£1747.20) Already
AHL Electrical Ltd – Fitting defibrillator	£300.00) paid
South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin	£107.64)
Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – Subscription	£150.00
Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – Subscription	£45.00
Community First Oxfordshire – Subscription	£35.00
Sonning Common Green Gym – Work at Rokeby Rec Ground	£60.00
Citizens' Advice Oxfordshire South & Vale – Grant	£25.00

Parish Hall Committee

Community First Oxfordshire – Subscription	£50.00) Already Paid
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341 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS, 2021/22

The Responsible Financial Officer regretted that he had yet to complete the receipts' and payments' accounts for the year 2021/22, and that he had, therefore, not yet prepared the draft Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ended 31 March 2022.