

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Parish Hall, Trench Green on 5 July 2022, commencing at 8.00pm, and concluded at 9.15pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

342 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 3 May 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

343 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- the continued debate about the style of food to be served at County Council meetings;
- a transgender rights' motion considered by his Council;
- the Police view on the reduction of speed limits from 30mph to 20mph;
- support by his Council for Ukrainian refugees;
- his Council's commitment to increased tree planting;
- the election of a new chairman of his Council;
- plans to reduce his Council's carbon emissions;
- funding from the Government's Active Travel Fund for infrastructure improvements at Bicester, Witney and in Oxford;
- his Council's adult social care plans, for which £212m was budgeted;
- his Council's detailed proposals for children with special needs and disabilities.

344 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

In presenting his apologies for absence, Mr P H Dragonetti, the district councillor for the Kidmore End and Whitchurch ward, had submitted a report which covered

- the payment, on behalf of the Government, of financial support for fuel costs was largely complete;
- a voucher support scheme for households unable to pay for life's essential;
- support by his Council for Ukrainian refugees;
- his Council's councillor grant scheme;
- consultation on his Council's new joint Local Plan;
- planning enforcement by his Council.

345 OPEN SESSION

During the Open Session, Ms E Bromfield of Caversham asked the Council to consider installing a latch on the gate at the entrance to the Rokeby Recreation Ground, with a view to reducing the risks of children or dogs running into the highway in Rokeby Drive, Chazey Heath.

346 FORMER TELEPHONE KIOSK

The Chairman reported that the defibrillator kiosk had suffered damage: the Vice-Chairman had removed the resultant broken glass. The Chairman had ordered replacement glass panels etc.

Members discussed whether local residents should be trained on how to deploy the defibrillator.

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

347 LIAISON WITH THE MAPLEDURHAM ESTATE

The Chairman reported on her meeting with Mr W Sleeman, on 21 June 2022, about the Mapledurham Estate. She felt that the meeting had been very positive.

Mr Sleeman had advised that the Estate was embarked on a programme to refurbish many of its houses, had indicated that the wedding venue at Mapledurham House would be on the front lawn and that much of the work on the Estate was being undertaken by personnel drafted in from East Hendred.

The Chairman had raised a number of issues such as repairs to the road junction at Lilley Farm and the desire to plant an oak tree near Bottom Lane, in commemoration of the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen.

348 HIGHWAYS/TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MATTERS

(i) Junction of Rokeby Drive with Reading Road, Chazey Heath

By e-mail, a Technical Officer from Traffic & Road Safety at the County Council advised that his Council was against the use of road mirrors, as the image they provided could be misleading in terms of vehicle speed and distance, giving drivers a false sense of security. As a result, his Council would not support the installation of a mirror at the junction of Rokeby Drive and Reading Road, Chazey Heath.

(ii) Entrance to Club at Mapledurham from Reading Road, Chazey Heath

In the e-mail mentioned in Minute 348(i) above, the Technical Officer agreed that the road markings at the junction of the entrance to the Club at Mapledurham with Reading Road, Chazey Heath were worn, and he had asked for a quotation for the work. In a subsequent e-mail, he advised that the markings would be refurbished over the summer of 2022.

(iii) Speed limit on Reading Road, Chazey Heath

Also in the e-mail mentioned in Minute 348(i) above, the Technical Officer felt that, as there had been no injury accidents recorded on Reading Road, Chazey Heath during the past 3 years and looking at the character of the road, there would be no priority for a reduction of the speed limit through Chazey Heath. He pointed that his Council's current priority was seeking a reduction in limits, and vehicle speeds, on roads in towns and villages.

(iv) Temporary road closures

With an e-mail, an officer of the County Council had given notice of revisions to the temporary closure, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, of the A4074 road between Woodcote and Ipsden, on 16 and 17 May 2022, for resurfacing.

(v) One-way traffic

By e-mail, an officer of the County Council gave notice that, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the un-named (sic) road between Lilley Farm, and Cross Lanes, Mapledurham be restricted to southbound from 0900hrs on 24 August until 1700hrs on 29 August 2022, when it would be changed to northbound, to assist egress from Reading Music Festival.

349 CITIZENS' ADVICE OXFORDSHIRE SOUTH AND VALE

By letter, the Director of Citizens' Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale thanked the Council for its grant.

350 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

The Chairman reported that she had attended a meeting of representatives of parish councils,

north and east of Reading, working together on the preparation of a case for extending the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) to cover most, if not all, of the Oxfordshire parishes between Reading and Henley-on-Thames. She had pointed out to the joint meeting that there was only a small part of the Parish not in the AONB. The Chairman advised that a watching brief be kept on the activities of the group.

351 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS ETC, 2021/22

(ii) Annual Accounts, 2021/22

The Council considered the summary receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 March 2022. (A copy of the report is attached to the signed Minutes.)

RESOLVED: That the accounts presented be approved.

(ii) Annual Governance and Accountability Return

Moore, the external auditor for the parish, gave notice about the annual governance and accountability return for the financial year 2021/22, which would be subject to a basic limited assurance review. The Council would be required to complete a "part 2" return, as its gross income or gross expenditure was below £25,000. The return should have been submitted by 30 June 2022.

The Council considered draft Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year 2020/21, circulated in advance of the meeting by the Responsible Financial Officer. (Copies are attached to the Minutes to be signed.)

The Responsible Financial Officer advised that a certificate of exemption could be submitted, as the Council's transactions fell below the threshold. Such a certificate had been circulated in draft prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: 1 That Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the financial year 2020/21, as circulated, be approved.

2 That the certificate of exemption, as circulated, be approved.

352 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for installation of 4 linked, single storey temporary Portakabin buildings to be used as a temporary clubhouse at Caversham Heath Golf Club, Chazey Heath (P22/S1162/FUL) had been permitted conditionally and that the application for subdivision of existing 7 bed dwelling to form 1x 5-bed and 1 x 2-bed dwellings at 3 Chazey Close, Chazey Heath (P21/S5334/FUL) had been refused (see Minute 326(iii) of the last meeting).

(ii) Applications

It was reported that objections had been submitted, as set out in the Appendix hereto, to the application for the construction of 2 padel tennis courts with canopy over at Caversham Heath Golf Club, Chazey Heath for Padel4All Ltd (P22/S1383/FUL).

(iii) South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils Joint Local Plan

The District Council had announced on 12 May 2022 the consultation on its joint Local Plan, being developed with Vale of the White Horse District Council, seeking thoughts on the main issues facing the districts and how the Local Plan could be used to address those issues.

(iv) West Berkshire Minerals and Waste Plan

The Service Director Development & Regulation of the West Berkshire Council, advised, by e-mail, that his Council was consulting on modifications to its Minerals and Waste Plan from 23 May to 6 July 2022.

353 ROKEBY RECREATION GROUND

The Council considered the request (see Minute 345) of Ms E Bromfield for the gate at the entrance of the Rokeby Drive Recreation Ground to be latched closed. The Chairman undertook to investigate whether a self closing device could be fitted.

The Chairman reported that about 60 residents of Tokers Green and Chazey Heath had celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen at the Recreation Ground on 4 June 2022. She advised that a bench had been installed in the community orchard at the Recreation Ground, and that the Sonning Common Green Gym would attend again in August 2022.

354 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.

355 PARISH HALL

It was reported that the grass around the Parish Hall was being kept tidy and that Sonning Common Green Gym would be tidying the hedges around the Hall in September 2022. The doors and window frames would be repainted during coming months.

Members noted that there was only one regular hirer of the premises presently.

356 COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE

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

Reference was made to the meeting with Mr W Sleeman (see Minute 347 above).

The Chairman referred to 2 donations made by Midsomer Murders S23 Ltd, each of £250, towards the cost of an oak tree to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen and the installation of a bench near the tree.

It was suggested that, in connection with its proposed Deep Cleanse, the District Council be requested to arrange for the clearance of the footways in Chazey Close, Rokeby Drive and Reading Road (the latter to the County boundary), Chazey Heath.

RESOLVED: That the District Council be requested to arrange for the clearance of the footways in Chazey Close, Rokeby Drive and Reading Road (the latter to the County boundary), Chazey Heath.

357 OXFORDSHIRE TREESCAPE PROJECT

The Council noted a newsletter from the Oxfordshire Treescape Project.

358 WILD OXFORDSHIRE

The Council noted the Spring Newsletter of, and an invitation to join, Wild Oxfordshire.

359 CODE OF CONDUCT

In e-mails, the Monitoring Officer of the District Council advised that his Council, along with the other principal authorities in the County, had adopted a model Code of Conduct, to provide consistency across all tiers of local government. He formally commended the Code to the Council and urged the Council to adopt it. The Monitoring Officer had arranged 2 remote training sessions on the Code for parish councillors, on the evenings of 15 and 28 September 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Code of Conduct adopted by the District Council earlier in 2022, be adopted, pursuant to Section 27(2) of the Localism Act 2011, with immediate effect

360 FIBRE-TO-PREMISES BROADBAND NETWORKS

In an e-mail, a Community Engagement Executive of Gigaclear Ltd, one of the companies seeking to develop a fibre-[cable]-to-premises Broadband network in the Parish, sought an opportunity to explain to Members that Company's plans to develop a network in the Parish and beyond.

361 HOUSE NAMING

By e-mail, the GIS Team Leader & Street Naming and Numbering Officer of the District Council advised that the property known to the Royal Mail as Green Dean Farm had been renamed Greendene Farm, following its conversion into 3 flats, and that the spelling of the names of Greendene House and Greendene Cottage had similarly been changed.

362 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment

Parish Council

Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd – Insurance premium	£1715.34
Mrs J E Bowen – Glass for defibrillator kiosk	£86.88
Shield Maintenance Ltd – Servicing dog hygiene bin	£10.39
Mr R Taylor – Website builder package	£84.84

Parish Hall Committee

SSE – Electricity	£472.97)Already
Thames Building Solutions – Final payment for toilets	£168766.90) paid
SSE – Electricity	£360.01

APPENDIX

Comments on planning application on P22/S1383/FUL for construction of 4 padel tennis courts with canopy over at Caversham Heath Golf Club, Chazey Heath

The Council **OBJECTS** to this application

The proposed structure, covering an area of 24.5m x 54.7m and being 9.7m tall, will be inappropriately obtrusive, with its silvered roof, in its setting, in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Whilst it may not be particularly visible from the carriageway of the nearest road, it will be overbearing when viewed from Newells Lane (bridleway 7), part of the Chilterns Way: there appear to be no plans to screen the structure from that lane.

There appears to be no proposal for the capture of run-off from the 1340m² canopy. Given the complex soil and substrata of the immediate vicinity, discharge into the ground will exacerbate the already wet conditions in Newells Lane, which is subject to a number of springs near its junction with the Chazey Heath to Trench Green road.

The Council is also concerned about light pollution generated by the structure.