

## MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Parish Hall, Trench Green on 6 September 2022, commencing at 8.00pm, and concluded at 9.00pm.

Present: Mrs J E Bowen (Chairman), Dr J S Rogerson, Lord Thurlow.

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

Apologies for absence were received from Dr D W H Miles, R W Taylor.

### 363 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 5 July 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the correction of the sum "£18766.90" for the sum "£168766.90" in Minute 362.

### 364 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- his Council's ambition to eliminate all road deaths and serious injuries by 2050;
- consultation by his Council on support for transgender residents;
- the position of Thames Valley Police on enforcement of 20mph speed limits;
- the cost of ending the partnership between his Council and Cherwell District Council;
- issues about low traffic neighbourhoods being introduced in Oxford;
- his Council receiving permission to enforce non-speeding traffic regulations.

### 365 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

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

- his Council's councillor grant scheme;
- the collapse of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, the county-wide plan for growth and development;
- the withdrawal of his Council from the Ox-Cam Arc project;
- bathing water quality tests on the River Thames from Abingdon to Wallingford;
- the introduction by his Council of a customer relationship system.

### 366 FORMER TELEPHONE KIOSK

It was reported that the replacement glass had yet to be fitted to the former telephone kiosk in Mapledurham village.

### 367 READING ROAD, CHAZEY HEATH - ENTRANCE TO CLUB AT MAPLEDURHAM

Members noted that the road markings at the junction of the entrance to the Club at Mapledurham with Reading Road, Chazey Heath had been renewed.

### 368 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

The Chairman advised that there had been no further 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.

### 369 CODE OF CONDUCT

Members were reminded of the 2 remote training sessions for parish councillors on the Code of Conduct, on the evenings of 15 and 28 September 2022 and the necessity to complete declarations of interest in response to the new Code.

### 370 DEEP CLEANSE

It was noted that the cleaning of the footways requested of the District Council, as part of its Deep Cleanse, had yet to take place.

### 371 PLANNING MATTERS - APPLICATIONS

It was reported that the following comments had been submitted in respect of the application for repairs and internal alterations to Thatch Cott, Chazey Heath for Mr W Sleeman (P22/S2682/LB):

“The Council has no objections to this application, but suggests

- 1 the waste pipe through the wall on the south elevation should be at ground level, and
- 2 the new shed should be further away from the existing building.”

### 372 ROKEBY RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman reported that:

- the Sonning Common Green Gym had removed more bramble growth at Rokeby Recreation Ground, and the resultant debris would be shredded by the Club at Mapledurham;
- the report arising from the annual examination of the play equipment had been received: a number of repairs etc were suggested, which were in hand;
- the goalposts at the Ground needed to be replaced;
- a new sign would be erected near the gate at the entrance of the Ground requesting that the gate was kept shut, a no suitable self-closing device had been identified;
- further work had been undertaken by volunteers at the community orchard;
- she had consented, on behalf of the Council, to Centurion Running using the Ground as a refreshment station during its event on 17 September 2022.

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

### 373 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.

### 374 PARISH HALL

It was confirmed that Sonning Common Green Gym would be tidying the hedges around the Parish Hall on 8 September 2022, and that the Estate was providing a trailer to facilitate the disposal of the resultant debris.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Hall Committee had agreed in principle to the installation of a WiFi service at the Hall.

### 375 COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE

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

It was further reported that

- Mr W Sleeman had consented, on behalf of the Estate, to a commemorative oak tree being planted near Bottom Farm, Mapledurham;
- the Estate had appointed a contractor to examine trees adjacent to footpaths and bridleways
- another meeting with Mr Sleeman had been arranged for October 2022.

The question was posed as to whether the Estate was importing maize to feed the biomass plant.

Reference was made to weddings at Mapledurham House, with particular to the unneighbourly noise generated by some of the events. Members wondered whether this was in contravention of the premises' licence under the Licensing Act 2003, issued in respect of the House. It was observed that no-one now lived in the House.

Reviewing the Reading Festival, held in August 2022, Members were not aware of any traffic issues, although significant volumes of litter had been left on the concrete roads on the Estate.

#### 376 MYVISION OXFORDSHIRE

A fundraising assistant at My Vision Oxfordshire (formerly known as Oxfordshire Association for the Blind), in an e-mail, requested the Council to consider making a financial contribution to the work of the organisation, which sought to provide any person with a visual impairment in the County with the tools and skills they needed to live independent and active lives.

RESOLVED: That My Vision Oxfordshire be requested to advise whether the organisation presently supported any residents of the Parish.

#### 377 MAPLEDURHAM ESTATE

With an e-mail, a support officer in Countryside Records at the County Council reported that Mr W Sleeman had submitted an application under Section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980, designed to prevent any further public rights of way over the land comprising Mapledurham Estate being recorded on the definitive map and statement of rights of way.

#### 378 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment

##### *Parish Council*

Shield Maintenance Ltd – Servicing dog hygiene bin	£20.78
Playsafety Ltd – Inspection of Rokeby Recreation Ground	£96.60
R F Penfold – Clerk's salary net of PAYE	£179.57
HM Revenue & Customs – Deducted Income Tax	£119.90