

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Parish Hall, Trench Green on 5 September 2023, commencing at 8.05pm, and concluded at 8.55pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Dr D W H Miles, Lord Thurlow, P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

39 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 4 July 2023 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

40 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- party political differences regarding his Council's low traffic neighbourhoods, enforcement of the scheme by automatic number plate recognition cameras and a petition delivered to the Prime Minister about these and related schemes;
- decisions by the Oxfordshire Pension Fund Committee to reduce investments in companies with links to oil, gas and mining;
- the award of £6.417m of Home Upgrade Grant to his Council;
- a pothole innovation trial;
- the conversion of his Council's streetlighting to LED lights.

41 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:

- his Council's proposed new offices in Didcot;
- the determination by the County Council of its planning application for the HIF road.

42 COMMEMORATIVE TREE

It was noted that the wording for the plaque for the oak tree, planted to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth 2, continued to be under consideration. Protective fencing had been erected around the tree.

43 HIGHWAYS' MATTERS

(i) Road to Nuney Green – possible passing bays

It was noted that no progress had been made with the request for the provision of passing places on the road to Nuney Green from the Trench Green to Crays Pond road.

(ii) Mapledurham Hill – passing bays

By e-mail, an officer in Traffic & Road Safety at the County Council suggested contacting the District Council's Street Cleansing Team regarding the removal of debris in the passing places on Mapledurham Hill.

(iii) A4074 road, Chazey Heath – drainage

Members commented that no highway gullies seemed to have been cleaned on the A4074 road between the county boundary and Chazey Heath, The Chairman undertook to take the matter up

at the imminent Highways' open day.

44 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MATTERS

(i) Junction of Rokeby Drive and Reading Road (A4074 road), Chazey Heath

By e-mail, an officer of the County Council had forwarded the raw data from the vehicle speed count undertaken on the A4074 road, just north of the junction with Rokeby Drive, Chazey Heath. The survey had been undertaken from 4 to 10 July 2023. During that time, 39,484 vehicles had been recorded travelling northbound and 37,220 southbound. The average recorded mean speeds were 42.9mph northbound and 39.8mph southbound.

Another officer of the County Council, also by e-mail, observed that the results of the speed survey had demonstrated very good compliance with the 50mph speed limit. He commented that speed was one aspect of the road, and, looking at both injury collision data for the junction over the past 3 years – nil – and the strategic nature of the road, there was no real priority to look at making any changes to the speed limit at this time. Nevertheless, any significant development nearby, which affected the junction, could lead to a further review.

(ii) Temporary road closures

With e-mail, an officer of the County Council gave notice of the temporary closure, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, of the un-named road at rear of Pack Saddle PH, Chazey Heath, between 7 and 11 August 2023, for chamber installation and ditching works.

45 DONATIONS MADE BY FILMING COMPANIES

It was reported that, after consultation with colleagues, the Chairman had selected a dog waste bin from Glasdon to be installed near to the former telephone kiosk in Mapledurham village. The bin had been ordered.

RESOLVED That the action of the Chairman be approved and confirmed

46 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

The Council considered the summary receipts and payments account for the year ended 31 March 2024. (A copy of the report is attached to the signed Minutes.)

RESOLVED: That the accounts presented be approved.

47 READING FESTIVAL

Members discussed matters relating to the Reading Festival, held in August 2023. Members were not aware of any issues with performance noise, noted that not all tickets were sold for the event, and were advised that the post-event review meeting had yet to be arranged. While no problems had been reported about the traffic stewards, Members had been concerned that a number of Festival goers were observing walking to the campsite via roads and paths in the Parish, given the easier pedestrian access from Reading.

48 CAMPAIGN TO EXTEND THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CHILTERN'S AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

It was reported that the application for a grant towards the cost of the landscape study of the 2 areas in the Parish, not presently included in the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, was in hand.

49 PLANNING MATTERS

(i) Possible unauthorised development

Members observed that the portable toilets were still being stored at the former wood yard at Trench Green.

(ii) South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Joint Local Plan

By e-mail, the Project Manager of LUC advised that his consultancy had been commissioned to review and refresh existing landscape evidence and create a new joint Landscape Character Assessment across the districts of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, as part of the new Joint Local Plan. The consultancy was, therefore, inviting information about local landscapes, why they were valued and any changes which were affecting landscape character and quality.

50 ROKEBY RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman advised that hedging plants had been purchased, for planting at the Rokeby Recreation Ground in November 2023, by the Sonning Common Green Gym. She reported that she had approached Ian Kendrick Ltd to quote for certain works at the Ground and that the goal posts had been repainted. The play equipment had been inspected by Playsafety Ltd, and the resultant report was awaited.

It was noted that the Chairman intended to attend the annual general meeting of the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association.

51 MAPLEDURHAM PLAYING FIELDS

The Chairman reported that a new Chairman, a representative of the Warren and District Residents' Association, had been elected by the Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee. There had been local complaints about vandalism.

52 PARISH HALL

Dr D W H Miles reported that the annual general meeting of the Parish Hall Committee had been held on 10 July 2023. Dr Miles advised that

- the bench had been purchased and installed in the car park at the Hall;
- the baby changing unit had been purchased;
- the Estate had installed a new water connection to the Hall;
- estimates for renovating the floor in the Hall, and the renewal of the floor in the kitchen, were being clarified;
- a new clock had been installed;
- the toilet had yet to be repainted.

53 COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE

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

A meeting was being arranged with Mr W Sleeman later in September 2023, concerning Mapledurham Estate.

54 OXFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The Council noted the updates for members published by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils in July and August 2023.

55 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS

The District Council's Communications Team advised, by e-mail, of a scheme promoted by the County Council and other principal councils in the County to provide a network of public electric vehicle charging across the County. To that end, the principal councils were asking parish councils to

provide details of sites in their ownership which would be suitable for public electric vehicle charging.

Although not in the Council's ownership, it was suggested that the car park at St Margaret's Church might be a suitable location for charging points.

56 WINTER PREPAREDNESS

By e-mail, a technical support officer from the County Council's Highway Maintenance (West) Team requested parish councils to advise him of requests for bulk bags of salt and additional salt bins, which could be supplied at a cost of £250+VAT. Existing bins would be refilled by his Council prior to the winter.

RESOLVED: That the County Council be reminded of the previous request for the installation of a salt bin at the junction of Mill Lane with Mapledurham Hill.

57 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment

Parish Council

Moore – Accounts' reminder fee	£48.00)
Seated Furniture Ltd – Baby changing facilities	£332.99)
Seated Furniture Ltd – Bench	£615.31) Already
Shield Maintenance Ltd – Servicing dog hygiene bin (2 months)	£20.78) paid
Oxfordshire County Council – Vehicle speed survey, Chazey Heath	£140.00)
Mrs J E Bowen – Hedging plants for Rokeby Recreation Ground (reimbursement)	£236.38)
Mapledurham Leisure Partnership – Rent for part of Rokeby Recreation Ground	£170.00
R F Penfold – Clerk's salary net of PAYE	£198.60
HM Revenue & Customs – Deducted income tax	£132.40

Parish Hall Committee

Airband Community Internet Ltd – Fibre WiFi	£20.00)
Mrs J E Bowen – Cleaning and sundries	£176.99) Already
John Wooldridge – Replacement of ladies' WC	*£290.00) paid
Airband Community Internet Ltd - Fibre WiFi	£20.00)
R F Penfold – Reimbursement for payment made to Mr Wooldridge	*£290.00

* Barclays had declined to honour the cheque drawn in favour of Mr Wooldridge, claiming "payment prohibited by legal order". The Parish Hall Hon Treasurer paid Mr Wooldridge personally, in order that payment for his services should not be delayed.