

## MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Parish Hall, Trench Green on 2 November 2021, commencing at 8.00pm, and concluded at 9.20pm.

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

Also present: P H Dragonetti (district councillor).

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

### 261 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 September 2021 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record, subject to the name of the painter being amended to "Mr A Beecroft" in Minute 248.

### 262 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- proposals by his Council's administration about certain refreshments at Council events and meetings;
- his Council's decision to seek the reduction of speed limits in towns and villages from 30mph to 20mph;
- the maintenance and cleaning of the household recycling centres;
- his Council's Local Transport and Connectivity Plan;
- changes to on-street parking restriction enforcement.

Members commented about the intended widespread reduction in speed limits.

### 263 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

- motions passed at his Council's meeting in October 2021;
- resettling of Afghan refugees by his Council;
- the introduction of civil parking enforcement in the District on 1 November 2021;
- a simplified Community Speed Watch scheme available in the County;
- sewage discharges into the River Thames;
- grants available from or through his Council.

Members asked questions about discharges from sewerage works.

### 264 FORMER TELEPHONE KIOSK

It was reported that Mr A Beecroft had painted the former telephone kiosk in Mapledurham village. Quotations were being sought for the installation of the defibrillator in the kiosk. It was observed that, because of the relative height of the kiosk floor and the adjacent concrete road, there might be surface water ingress into the kiosk. The Chairman agreed to discuss that further with the Mapledurham Estate. She also mentioned training courses about the use and maintenance of defibrillators.

### 265 COMMUNITY ORCHARD, CHAZEY HEATH

It was reported that residents of Chazey Heath and Tokers Green had purchased 25 trees for the community orchard on the southerly field at the Rokeby Recreation Ground, which trees were to

be planted on 28 November 2021. The Chairman advised that she had met the mowing contractor, Ian Kendrick Ltd, and Mr I Beale of Tokers Green to discuss the ongoing maintenance of the orchard.

#### 266 SPEED LIMITS

##### (i) Rokeby Drive, Chazey Heath

An officer in the County Council's Environment and Place division advised, by e-mail, that the statutory consultation, under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, on the proposed 20 mph speed limit in Tokers Green and Chazey Heath (as set out in detail at the last meeting) had started on 29 September and ran until 29 October 2021.

##### (ii) Reading Road (A4074), Chazey Heath

In an enquiry to the Council's website, Ms S Allen of Bardolphs Close, Chazey Heath repeated her request for the speed limit on Reading Road, Chazey Heath (the A4074 road) to be reduced, noting the consultation about reducing the speed limit in Rokeby Drive (see Minute 266(i) above). Ms Allen referred to a number of accidents at the junction of Reading Road with Rokeby Drive, in support of her request.

Pending the meeting, the Clerk had written to Ms Allen explaining that the cost of the proposed reduction of the limit in Rokeby Drive was being met by Kidmore End Parish Council.

RESOLVED: 1 That the County Council be requested again to consider the reduction of the speed limit on Reading Road (the A4074 road), Chazey Heath.

2 That the County Council be reminded of the request to refresh the road markings on Reading Road, at the entrance to the Club at Mapledurham.

##### (iii) 20 mph speed limits

The Council noted a tool kit, issued by the 20's Plenty for Oxfordshire campaign, aimed at communities who wished to take advantage of the County Council's policy to make it simpler, quicker and less cost prohibitive to lower speeds to 20mph on most urban area and village streets where it was both suitable and supported by residents.

#### 267 FILMING IN THE PARISH

The Responsible Financial Officer reported that £2,000 had been credited to the Council's bank account from NMFL – Wonka, which he understood to be a community benefit payment, when premises in the Parish had been used for filming.

Lord Thurlow advised that he had developed a matrix for calculating future community benefit payments by filming companies.

#### 268 BROADBAND

Members noted a letter from Airband Community Internet Ltd to residents about the Company's ultrafast fibre broadband available in the Parish and mentioned approaches from representatives of the Company.

#### 269 ROKEBY RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman reported that the Sonning Common Green Gym had undertaken works to the vegetation at the Rokeby Recreation Ground on 23 October 2021 and that the Gym was to return for 2 further sessions in January and February 2022. She also advised that she had undertaken some willow weaving.

The inspection of the play equipment, by Playsafety Ltd, had been completed since the last meeting. Some works had been recommended as a result, and the Chairman had these in hand. She reassured Members that none of the works had been marked “red”, requiring urgent action.

The Chairman advised that she had sought a quotation from Ian Kendrick Ltd for replacing the in the equipment pits in 2022.

It was reported that the organisers of the Chilterns Wonderland 50 mile race had made a donation of £75 for using the Recreation Ground as a water station on their event on 18 September 2021.

#### 270 MAPLEDURHAM PLAYING FIELDS

The Chairman reported that the Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee had met in October 2021. The Pavilion had re-opened, and there had been complaints that the refurbished premises had inadequate storage facilities: the Warren & District Residents’ Association, for instance, was exploring stationing a shipping container on site. There were proposals to install CCTV, for crime prevention/reduction reasons.

It seemed that there were no parking issues on site, or in nearby roads, on weekdays – the impact of the School had not been significant in that respect. It appeared, however, that parking provision was problematic at weekends, when the Fields were in use, for instance, for football matches.

#### 271 PARISH HALL

The Chairman advised that refuse dumped at the gates to the Parish Hall carpark had been reported to, and removed by, Biffa, the District Council’s contractors.

The project to improve the toilets at the Hall was progressing slowly, with exterior works completed.

In terms of lettings, the Disabilities’ Trust intended to resume its Tuesday evening sessions. The Scout group, who had not returned, had yet to remove its equipment from the premises.

#### 272 COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE

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

Notwithstanding that, Members raised the following issues:

- damage to highway drainage grips during maize harvesting across the Estate;
- whether there was evidence that maize was bought in from elsewhere for the bio-digester plant;
- a firework display, planned for 7 November 2021, for the benefit of residents of Purley;
- works by the Environment Agency in Purley to facilitate fish movement in the River Thames;
- whether CCTV should be installed in the public realm in Mapledurham village.

RESOLVED: That the Mapledurham Estate be advised of the damage to highway drainage grips during maize harvesting operations.

#### 273 ETHICAL STANDARDS’ TRAINING

By e-mail, the Democratic Services Manager of the District Council gave details of refresher training sessions, on the behaviours expected under the ethical standards’ regime, for parish councillors and clerks. The sessions would be held virtually on 9 and 18 November 2021. The Chairman indicated that she would attend the session on 18 November.

#### 274 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The County Council’s Cabinet Member for Traffic Management, in a letter, reminded that civil parking enforcement would be introduced on 1 November 2021 in South Oxfordshire. Enforcement of

on-street restrictions would be managed by the County Council's contractors, Conduent Public Sector UK Ltd. The Cabinet Member asked that parish councils advise his Council of where enforcement of restrictions would make a difference. He also referred to a review of existing restrictions and the introduction of new restrictions.

Members commented that they were not aware of on-street parking problems in Mapledurham village, the only location in the Parish where there were restrictions.

#### 275 CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY BILL

By e-mail, a member of the Zero Hour Oxfordshire team encouraged the Council to pass a motion in support of the Climate and Ecology Emergency Bill, a private member's bill designed to deliver a legal commitment to follow the scientific advice to limit temperature rise to 1.5°C, a legal requirement to restore and protect nature and annual legally-binding targets.

#### 276 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment

##### *Parish Council*

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Playsafety Ltd – Inspection of play equipment                 | £94.80) Already |
| Sonning Common Green Gym – Work at Rokeby Recreation Ground   | £30.00) paid    |
| A Beecroft – Repainting former telephone kiosk                | £400.00         |
| South Oxfordshire District Council – Emptying dog hygiene bin | £107.64         |
| Ian Kendrick Ltd – Mowing                                     | £1674.00        |

##### *Parish Hall Committee*

|                                  |                     |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| AHL Electrical Ltd – Floodlights | £150.00Already paid |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|