

MAPLEDURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Parish Hall, Trench Green on 1 November 2022, commencing at 8.00pm, and concluded at 8.55pm.

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.

379 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 6 September 2022 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

380 ROYAL PROCLAMATION

The Council noted the text, below, of a Royal Proclamation issued at St James's Palace, London, on 10 September 22:

"Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call to His Mercy our late Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth the Second of Blessed and Glorious Memory, by whose Decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George: We, therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this Realm and Members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her late Majesty's Privy Council and representatives of the Realms and Territories, Aldermen and Citizens of London, and others, do now hereby with one voice and Consent of Tongue and Heart publish and proclaim that The Prince Charles Philip Arthur George is now, by the Death of our late Sovereign of Happy Memory, become our only lawful and rightful Liege Lord Charles the Third, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of His other Realms and Territories, King, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith, to whom we do acknowledge all Faith and Obedience with humble Affection; beseeching God by whom Kings and Queens do reign to bless His Majesty with long and happy Years to reign over us."

381 REPORT OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

- a motion before his Council about seeking subsidised bus and travel, the provision of financial support for consumers of heating oil, bottled gas and solid fuels and a reduction in VAT;
- consultation on the draft Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan;
- the opening of the secondary school place application process for Year 6 children;
- consultation on further measures to restrict private car use in Oxford;
- complaints to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman about his Council, which had increased by 60% in the year to 31 March 2022.

382 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 review of the performance of his Council's contractors for waste collection, carparks and leisure centres;
- the County Council's rejection of participating in the Government's proposed

- investment zones;
- water quality testing in the River Thames near Wallingford;
- the move of his Council's staff to offices at Abbey Hall, Abingdon;
- the review of the collection of Business Rates, across the District, which had led to the collection of an additional £2.6m;
- his Council's request to the Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner to take action about speeding and noisy motorcycles on the A4074 and A4130 roads;
- the fixing, by his Council, of maximum tariffs for hackney cabs plying in the District.

Mr Dragonetti answered a question about alternatives to the withdrawn facility for reporting dumped waste on "Fix My Street".

383 FORMER TELEPHONE KIOSK

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

384 CHILTERN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY

The Chairman advised that there had been 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. At that meeting, it had been agreed to ask participating councils to commit to meeting a share of the costs of the exercise, most of which would be the fees of consultants hired to undertake a landscape assessment of the proposed extension areas.

Members, while recognising the value of including all of the land adjacent to Reading in the AONB extension area, felt that the small area of the Parish, excluding the flood plain, not currently in the AONB as not presently, or, they considered, the medium term, at risk of development. Furthermore, they had no ambitions presently for the Council to foster a neighbourhood development plan, and so the Council would be unlikely to be able to meet the cost of a landscape assessment: the Council noted that most such assessments elsewhere were externally funded by way of Government funded grants.

Members were, therefore, concerned at the estimated cost of the Council's likely share of the exercise which was thought to be in excess of its annual precept in the current year.

RESOLVED: That, while wishing the group every success with its campaign, the Council withdraw from the exercise to prepare 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.

385 CODE OF CONDUCT

Some Members reported attending the training sessions for parish councillors on the Code of Conduct. All were reminded of the necessity to complete declarations of interest in response to the new Code. In this connection, the Clerk was requested to recirculate the web link to the form.

386 DEEP CLEANSE

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

RESOLVED: That the District Council be reminded of the above request.

387 PLANNING MATTERS

- (i) Decisions

The Council noted that the application for construction of padel tennis courts, with canopy over, at Caversham Heath Golf Club, Chazey Heath (P22/S1383/FUL) had been withdrawn.

(ii) Applications

It was reported that the following comments had been submitted in respect of amended plans relating to the application for change of use of land for siting glamping pods at Cross Lanes Fruit Farm, Mapledurham for Mr D Cottam (P22/S1098/FUL):

“Given that access to the glamping site will not be via bridleway 3, the Council withdraws its objection to this application”.

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

The Communications' Team of the District Council, in an e-mail, advised that that Council had published the results of the call for land and buildings available for change, part of the process in creating the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils Joint Local Plan. The District Council was assessing the submissions made on a range of environmental, heritage and physical constraints, to determine their potential “suitability”, “availability” and “achievability”.

Members noted that there were no sites under review in the Parish.

388 ROKEBY RECREATION GROUND

The Chairman reported that:

- the repairs to the play equipment at the Rokeby Recreation Ground, arising from the annual inspection, continued to be discussed;
- the Sonning Common Green Gym were due to return in the Spring of 2023 to clear the spinney between the 2 parts of the Ground;
- the debris resulting from previous clearce work had been shredded by the Club at Mapledurham.

By e-mail, Centurion Running had requested permission to use the Ground as a feeding station for their proposed event on 16 September 2023. In the meantime, they had made a donation of £75 in thanks for using the facilities for their 2022 event.

RESOLVED: That Centurion Running be permitted to use the Rokeby Recreation Ground as a feeding station on the Chilterns 50 event on 16 September 2023.

389 MAPLEDURHAM PLAYING FIELDS

The Council noted that the term of office of Mrs J E Bowen as the Council's representative on the Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee had expired at the Council's Annual Meeting in 2022. It was proposed that she was reappointed to the role, backdated to May 2022.

The Chairman advised that a meeting of the Committee had been arranged for 23 November 2022, when it would elect its chairman.

RESOLVED: That Mrs J E Bowen be appointed as the representative on the Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee from the Annual Meeting in 2022 until the Annual Meeting in 2025.

390 PARISH HALL

Reference was made to the hedge tidying work undertaken by the Sonning Common Green Gym at the Parish Hall in September 2022: the Estate had removed the resultant debris.

Quotations were being sought for the repair of the post and rail fence around the additional carpark, damaged by a fallen tree.

The contract for replacing the lights in the Hall with LED fittings had been let to D J Scott Electrical Services Ltd, and the work was due to be undertaken later in the month of the meeting.

391 COUNTRYSIDE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Countryside Committee held on 24 October 2022 were received. (A copy of the minutes is attached to the Minutes to be signed.)

Reference was made to the concrete path running from Chazey Close to Reading Road, Chazey Heath, the condition of which posed a tripping hazard.

RESOLVED: That Soha Ltd be advised of the tripping hazards on the concrete path running from Chazey Close to Reading Road, Chazey Heath.

392 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Council noted invitations to the annual general meetings of Community First Oxfordshire, the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association, Age UK Oxfordshire and CPRE South Oxfordshire District. The Chairman advised that she attended the AGM of Community First Oxfordshire and intended to attend that of the CPRE branch.

393 IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT WITH PARISH COUNCILS

In an e-mail, the Comms Team of the District Council set out arrangements introduced by that Council to improve engagement with parish and town councils, comprising briefings on new policies or projects and monthly bookable surgeries. Members indicated their support for these arrangements.

394 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment

Parish Council

Shield Maintenance Ltd – Servicing dog hygiene bin	£10.39) Already
Sonning Common Green Gym – Work at Rokeby Recreation Ground	£30.00) paid
Moore – Reminder letter for AGAR	£48.00
Mapledurham Leisure Partnership – Rent for part of Rokeby Recreation Ground	£170.00
South Oxfordshire District Council - Emptying dog hygiene bin	£78.25
Shield Maintenance Ltd – Servicing dog hygiene bin	£10.39

Parish Hall Committee

Mrs J E Bowen – Cleaning and sundries	£228.61) Already
SSE – Electricity	£209.25) paid
Red Box Fire Control – Servicing fire extinguishers	£207.07)
Mrs J E Bowen – Painting windows	£78.38