

**SIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE MEETING ROOM, SIDDINGTON,  
AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2016**

**PRESENT**

Cllrs. J Hall (Chairman), N Deller, A Painter, Mrs M Painter, Mrs A Prosser, Mrs M Turner, Mrs A Wagstaff.

**Clerk of the Council** R Cowley

Two members of the public were also present.

**1 - APOLOGIES** were received from Cllrs Ms E Jones, N Selby and Cllr S Parsons (CDC/GCC).

**2 - MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016**

Cllr Mrs Prosser proposed that minutes of the last Parish Council meeting were a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Wagstaff and the Parish Council was all in favour.

**3 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT DEALT WITH ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA**

Cllr Mrs Wagstaff reported that she was sorting through paperwork belonging to the late Cllr Chris Rumble and would pass anything related to the Parish Council to the Clerk.

**4 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Parish Council is now down to 9 members. Brian Barnes has had to resign due to ill health, we wish him well for the future (agenda item). Over the last two months there have been numerous phone calls e mails and texts regarding the cutting of the grass at the playing field. The Football Club has great concerns over the quality of the grass cutting. I and the Clerk have visited the playing field on more than one occasion and agree the cutting is not to a satisfactory standard (agenda item). I have accompanied Fred Lovatt around Siddington to view the areas of grass he cuts (agenda item). I and Nigel Deller have been involved in discussions regarding the implementation of broadband via fibre optic cable to the Village of Siddington (agenda item). My wife Christine, and I have accepted an invitation to the Officers Mess at South Cerney Barracks on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2016 for the reception of the Beating the Retreat.

**5 – REPORT ON INSTALLATION OF GIGACLEAR FIBRE-OPTIC BROADBAND IN THE VILLAGE**

Cllr Hall reported on a meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September that he and Cllr Deller had attended with Jock Soutar of Complete Utilities who would be installing fibre-optic broadband on behalf of Gigaclear. The purpose of the meeting was to advise the Parish Council of the proposed work to install fibre-optic broadband to all households and businesses in the Village of Siddington. The Government is supporting this investment to provide superfast broadband to 90% of the UK. This Installation will only be carried where BT fibre-optic is not available. Complete Utilities in conjunction with Gigaclear will

undertake the installation of the cable to all households. The work will entail laying of fibre-optic cables from a main hub (location to be confirmed). The cables will be laid either underground to grass verges where it will be at a depth of 300mm or to pavement/road at a depth of 450mm. The cable will terminate outside each property into a pot. Installation from the pot to the residence will be carried out free of charge providing the length of cable from the pot to the house does not exceed 20 metres. Over 20 metres will incur a cost per metre or the resident can purchase a self-completion kit for the additional length.

Certain areas in Siddington require wayleave (this requires the consent in writing from the owner of the land before work can be carried out) and Gigaclear will contact all land owners where wayleave is required. The Parish Council will assist to identify Complete Utilities of any properties or planned properties that have been missed off the plan. Installation will not apply to North Siddington as it is outside Gigaclear's remit.

It is anticipated that the work will commence at end of September 2016 with a minimum of 3 months installation time. Complete Utilities will employ a small team of 3 to 4 to undertake this work so disruption should be minimised and localised to a small section of any street. Where the cable is laid under a road there will be disruption and traffic lights may be required in certain locations.

Cllr Deller of Siddington Parish Council has agreed to act as main liaison on this project and will advise the residents through various notice boards of progress. Notification will also be publicised on the Parish Council website.

## **6 - CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that he had completed the declaration to the Pensions Regulator. As he is paid below a certain amount, the Parish council is not obliged to provide a pension, unless the Clerk requests it, which he does not.

The external auditors, Grant Thornton, have returned the annual return. There were some minor errors on the return with regard to allocation of certain amounts and these will need to be borne in mind when completing next year's return. The Parish Council will be invoiced £200.00 + VAT shortly for the auditor's services.

## **7 - OUTSTANDING ISSUES LIST**

- Removal of grass island on Church Avenue - ongoing
- Nature Area on playing field. The trees for the nature area would be delivered in November and Cllr Deller volunteered to take charge of them until planting. Cllr Mrs Wagstaff would contact Jenny Phelps who had offered to find volunteers to help with the planting, which would be planned by Cllr Ms Jones. The volunteers would also be able to do groundwork (cementing in etc.) for picnic tables, benches etc. Two black poplars had been selected to be planted in the autumn in memory of Chris and Rosie Rumble.
- Pursue new village signs – ongoing. Cllr Hall had been contacted by Gillian Portlock of Amey Gloucestershire and more information would follow.
- Painting of sand store door. Cllr Hall reported that the door was in a very poor state and really needed replacing. Two quotes had been received and that from R O W Berry was approved. Cllr Hall would retrieve the spare keys from the shop and get spares cut.
- Welcome pack for new residents. Cllr Mrs Wagstaff reported that these had been printed and new residents had all received copies. Some spare copies were passed to Parish Councillors to distribute to any new residents they became aware of.

## **8 - HIGHWAYS, FOOTPATHS & HEDGES (GCC ref nos)**

- 11072155 – Replacement of missing Siddington school sign – ongoing
- 11081789 – Repositioning of Park Way reflective posts – ongoing
- Restoration of fallen road sign on Ashton Road – ongoing
- Resurface parking area by playing field – ongoing
- 11102027 – Clear drain at railway bridge stanchions on Ashton Road – ongoing
- 11115630 – Drain area on Park Way opposite The Twenties regularly blocked during heavy rain
- 11115617 – Faded weight limit sign at Park Way / Ashton Road junction
- 22007678 – Overhanging hedge between Church Avenue and Cherry Tree Drive
- 22007679 – Overhanging hedge/trees between The Greyhound and Nursery View (appears to have been dealt with)
- 22007680 – Lime trees overgrowing footpath in Fraziers Folly
- 11093177 – Repair of steps/handrail leading from Upper Siddington bridge to canal.
- Gardens at Jubilee Flats are in poor condition. Cllr Mrs Wagstaff would email Bromfords again.
- Wall on western side of Ashton Road between Empire Villas and Church Avenue is crumbling in places. The Clerk would contact the Bathurst Estate.
- Silt on pavement and road by old railway bridge stanchions near The Greyhound. Cllr Hall would investigate.
- Footpath between Pound Close and the school – trench dug across for installation of the electricity cable had not been fully reinstated as tarmac. And tree roots are also damaging the path – to be reported to Highways.

## **9 - PLANNING**

### **North Hill Road**

Cllr Hall reported that the new bus shelter was ready to hand over and the transfer of the land on which it stands was being arranged. The Parish Council's legal costs for this should be covered by Bloor Homes. It was noted that the last home had been sold and the construction team expected to be off site by Christmas.

#### **16/02138/REM – 7 Empire Villas, new details**

- The Parish Council had already objected to this application and the new details involved the rotation of the proposed dwelling through 180 degrees. The Parish council felt that this made no difference to its original objection which was re-iterated to CDC.

#### **16/02598/OUT – Land off Berkeley Close, South Cerney, erection of up to 98 dwellings**

- No comment

#### **16/02860/OUT – The Old Pump House, South Cerney Road, demolition and replacement with care home blocks**

- No objection

#### **16/02863/FUL – Siddington House, alterations including replacement extension**

- No objection

**16/02863/LBC** – Siddington House, alterations including replacement extension

- No objection

**16/03187/FUL** – Erection of two detached dwellings on land behind Nursery View, minor amendment

- No objection

**16/03448/FUL** - Conversion of existing barn to 4-bed dwelling, including new access from the public highway, double garage with work space above and associated landscaping at Ophrys House, Nursery View

- No objection

**16/0075/CWMAJM (GCC)** – Shorcote Quarry – temporary storage of sand & gravel and extraction of corbrash limestone

- No objection

**16/0077/CWMAJM (GCC)** – Land to the east of Spratsgate Lane, increase permitted vehicle movements from 46 to 100 a day

- Objection. The application gives no indication as to the direction the vehicles will take when leaving the site.

## **10 - FINANCE**

The monthly schedule of cheques (for August and September) had been circulated with the agenda. The cheque totals were:-

- 1320 - £52.46 – A Painter – Key cutting and chains for the playing field
- 1321 – 81.60 – A Wagstaff – Re-imbusement for printing Welcome Pack inserts by Busy Fingers
- 1322 – £22.43 - R Cowley – Clerk’s expenses: photocopying and phone bill
- 1323 – £10.00 - A B West – Cleaning bus shelter
- 1324 – R Cowley – Clerk’s salary (August)
- 1325 – £303.60 - Peppermint Print Ltd – Printing Welcome Pack folders
- 1326 – £275.76 - F Lovatt – grass cutting (July & August)
- 1327 - £14.99 – R Cowley – Clerk’s expenses: phone bill
- 1328 - £10.00 – A B West – Cleaning bus shelter
- 1329 - £207.20 – HMRC – PAYE & NI
- 1330 – R Cowley – Clerk’s salary (September)
- 1331 – £65.00 - R O W Berry – adjust aerial runway at playing field
- 1332 - £24.00 – Siddington Village Hall – Hall hire

The Clerk presented the monthly spreadsheet showing expenditure compared with budgets, and a statement of the Council’s bank accounts.

## **11- PLAYING FIELD/FOOTBALL CLUB/GRASS-CUTTING**

Cllr Mrs Turner presented her first playground inspection report.

It was noted that the wooden planks on the Royal Wedding seat were rotting and it was agreed to ask Bob Berry for a quote to replace them with ones made of recycled plastic. Cllr Mrs Wagstaff commented that Cllr Parsons (CDC/GCC) may have funding for benches. Cllr

Mrs Turner also reported that fence posts at the children's play area were also rotting and it was agreed to ask Bob Berry for a quote for replacements.

Cllr Hall reported that the football club were unhappy with the standard of grass-cutting by the current contractor – the problem being the infrequency of the cuts and grass clippings being left behind in large clumps. The football club had suggested that they might be willing to take over the grass-cutting for the whole field although they did not have their own mower. There was a possibility they could receive grant funding from the Football Association for storage for a mower though.

The Parish council agreed that the grass-cutting was not being done to a good standard at present. Although the Parish Council was tied into a three-year contract with the current contractor, it was agreed that he should be written to expressing the Parish council's dissatisfaction with the current service and asking for ways in which it could be improved. The Parish Council would reserve the right to terminate the contract if it did not improve. Cllr Hall and the Clerk would draft a letter to the contractor.

Cllr Hall had also drafted a contract for grass-cutting in other areas of the village by Fred Lovatt. This was approved by the Parish Council for signing. Cllr Hall also reported that Cirencester Golf Club would be able to offer servicing of mowing equipment at a cheaper price than the contractor used in the past. It was agreed to thank Fred for all his continuing hard work over the years.

## **12 – CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS**

Following notification from CDC that no requests had been received to fill the two Casual Vacancies by election, the Parish Council agreed to invite letters of application from interested individuals stating why they felt they would be suitable and what skills they could bring to the role of Parish Councillor. The Clerk would advertise this on the website and in the Village News. Cllr Mrs Wagstaff would also mention this in the Wilts & Glos Standard. The deadline for receipt of applications by the Clerk, by post or email, would be Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Applicants would be invited to address the Parish Council at its next meeting on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October.

## **13 - CORRESPONDENCE**

**F= Finance    H= Highways    P=Planning    PF=Playing Field    PC=Parish Council**

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|----|---|--|
| F  | 1 | Quotation from ROW Berry for replacement door on grit store in Park Way.   |
| F  | 2 | Quotation from Barry Roberts for replacement door on grit store in Park Way.   |
| PC | 3 | Email from GRCC with link to Emergency Plan Toolkit.   |
| PF | 4 | GPFA Newsletter.   |
| PF | 5 | GPFA AGM invitation.   |
| PC | 6 | CDC Consultation on Council Tax Support Scheme.  |
| PC | 7 | The TROW – Cotswold Canals Trust Magazine.   |
| PC | 8 | Email from Cotswold Tree Wardens regarding an information event and their AGM. The Clerk was asked to forward this to Cllr Ms Jones in case she was interested in attending. |
| PC | 9 | Email correspondence regarding handover of the new bus shelter.  |

**COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Cllr Mrs Painter commented on the state of the gardens at Jubilee Flats. Cllr Mrs Wagstaff would email her new contact at Bromfords about this.

Cllr Mrs Wagstaff would be attending the CWPT meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The members of the public present had no questions and the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

The next meeting would be Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Chairman