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| Present | Mr C Broad | Chairman |
| | Ms L Bent | |
| | Dr J A Berry | |
| | Dr S Druce | |
| | Mr F Dumbleton | |
| | Mr R Girling | |
| | Mr J Lewis | |
| | Mr M Urso-Cale | |
| | Mr M Fox-Davies | County Councillor – left the meeting at 8.30pm |
| | Ms H Gascoigne | District Councillor |
| | Mrs M E Morris | Parish Clerk |
| | 1 members of the public | |

- 1. Apologies for Absence** Ms S Medley, District Councillor.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** None.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting** were signed as true record.
- 4. Area Beat Officer's Report**
From the written report it was noted that a vehicle had been stolen from The Rookery in December and there had been a report of abandoned vehicles in Crafts End.
- 5. Open Forum**
It was noted that Mr Softley is still progressing the car park lights issue.
- 6. District Council Report**
From the previously circulated report it was noted:-
 - (i) The Country is in a national lockdown again.
 - (ii) Mass vaccination for Covid-19 has begun at Didcot Civic Hall.
 - (iii) Community support details are given.
 - (iv) There are rising Covid-19 rates in the Vale.
 - (v) Garden waste collections are temporarily suspended.
 - (vi) Covid-19 response councillor grant scheme - still open for applications.
 - (vii) Business support grants are available.
 - (viii) Environmental award for the Science Vale cycle route from Wantage to Harwell Campus.
 - (ix) Cycling – Chilton Road closure to vehicles. There will be a formal consultation on the closure of the Chilton – Upton Road starting later in January.
 - (x) The Appeal for the petrol station at the Chilton A34 interchange was dismissed.
 - (xi) Renewal applications for taxi drivers to be processed remotely where possible.
 - (xii) Full council and Climate Emergency Advisory Committees held in December.
 - (xiii) Measures to tackle illegal parking could be introduced in the Vale next year following Cabinet approval.
 - (xiv) The Census 2021 needs your help, to be completed digitally.The full report can be found on the Parish Council website.
Ms Gascoigne reported that she had contacted the Enforcement Officer regarding the carpark lighting and a retrospective application has been submitted.
Mr Girling noted that with the closure of the Chilton Road crossing at the top of Hagbourne Hill is hazardous for walkers and cyclists.
Ms Gascoigne said that as there had been an objection to the TPO on the Lower Road trees it will have to go to Committee, the Parish Council wants the TPO on the trees.

7. County Council Report

From the previously circulated reported it was noted:-

- (i) The latest COVID-19 statistics for Oxfordshire make for sombre reading, with a doubling of cases in the space of a fortnight. In the last week alone, the number of cases increased by 64 per cent and this follows a substantial increase from the previous week.
- (ii) National lockdown restrictions announced this week by government mean people in Oxfordshire and elsewhere must stay at home.
- (iii) The first vaccinations using the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine on Monday 4th signalled another key milestone in our fight against the pandemic. It was wonderful to see the first doses of a vaccine that had been developed in Oxford delivered at the city's Churchill Hospital.
- (iv) Residents are warned to be on their guard against scammers using the promise of a coronavirus vaccine to con them out of money.

The full report can be found on the Parish Council website.

Mr Fox-Davies said that the closure of Chilton Road was accelerated because of lockdown to enable people to walk safely. Hagbourne Hill is not fit for purpose, the road needs to be wide enough for 2 farm vehicle coming up and down the hill. The crossing at the top of the hill is dangerous to walkers, cyclists and motorists.

Mr Fox-Davies was reminded about the adoption of the Chilton Field roads.

Mr Fox-Davies left the meeting at 8.30pm

8. Planning

(i) Applications considered by the Parish Council

Application for Conversion of building to dwelling with garden and parking. Stables to northwest of The Manor House Townsend P20/V3154/FUL

Comments

In line with the application, the Council recognises that it is in open countryside and not within the built area of the Village. It should be treated as a way of preserving a vernacular building in open countryside. The Parish Council has no objections to the application.

Application for Single storey extension to rear with internal alterations. 26 Chilton Field Way P20/V3315/HH

Comments

No objections.

(ii) Applications determined by the Vale

Permission for the replacement of 3no. external modern 6-panel timber door leafs with a similar timber leaf design. Place Farm House The Lane P20/V2930/LB

Permission for Installation of new 2000l Argon storage tank Cclrc Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Harwell P20/V2894

Dismissal of Appeal for petrol station at Chilton A34 interchange P18/3052/FUL

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Prior to the meeting Dr Druce had circulated the Neighbourhood Plan and accompanying documents to all Councillors. Mr Girling thanked the Neighbourhood Plan Group for all their hard work, he queried why only the piece of land outside the School had been included as a green space and not included the land on the other side of Chilton Field Way. Mr Broad said the whole area did not meet the criteria of NPPF but that the smaller plot is more likely to be approved as of historic value.

Mr Broad proposed that the Parish Council accept the Neighbourhood Plan and documentation for submission to the VWHDC, it was seconded by Ms Bent and accepted by all.

10. Matters Arising

(i) Hagbourne Hill

A letter re consultation on closure of the Upton road has been received.

(ii) Work of Art

Nothing to report at the moment.

(iii) Chilton Field Way

There has been no further correspondence from the householders.

(iv) Footbridge Lights

The lights cannot be turned on and off as the timer is broken, Highways England will repair the timer.

(v) Lower Road paddock

The Clerk has written reminding the tenants to move the pigs. A petition was received from some children to keep the pigs.

(vi) Thames Travel

Bus timetable circulated with the Chronicle again. Mr Dumbleton contacted Thames Travel re timetables at the bus stops as they were rather confusing, updated timetables have been put in.

11. Finance

(i) Expenditure

Cheques

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|---|----------------|
| 64. CPRE – membership renewal | 36.00 |
| 65. SLCC – membership renewal | 95.00 |
| 66. Nuture Landscapes - removal of concrete lumps | 308.40 |
| 67. Nuture Landscapes - November POS work | 2216.30 |
| 68. Moore - External Audit | 720.00 |
| 70. Mrs Morris - December salary | 354.79 |
| 71. Mrs Morris - Chronicle 474 | 99.36 |
| 72. Nuture - December POS work | 2216.30 |
| Total | 6046.15 |

Petty Cash

4 weeks litter clearing 40.00

(ii) Income

SA Clothing Bank 15.32

Balances

Treasurers Account 500.00

Instant Access 170582.91

Business Account 142702.29

Petty Cash 80.00

(iii) The Charity Commission Annual Return has been completed.

(iv) A request for a donation has been received from Citizens Advice Bureau, this year they have supported 48 residents. It was agreed to donate £150.00

(v) Mr King has offered to donate to the Council a strip of land adjacent to the Village Hall access as his company no longer has any use for it. The Council discussed the offer and felt that if it was accepted there would have to be a definite purpose for it as it is a liability. The Council's solicitor has been contacted and it was agreed to wait and see what conditions may be placed on the transfer.

(vi) Dr Druce had sent a list of footpaths to be considered for regular clearance. It was agreed to ask The Landscape Group Oxford (TLGO) to quote for the footpath from Crafts End to Lawson Lane and the footpath at the Garden Centre end of Jubilee Bridge. The footpath at the end of Latton Close to adjoining footpath, Dene Hollow to The Lane (adjoining above footpath) and the length of Church footpath are already part of TLGO's schedule.

(vii) Prior to the meeting the Budget papers for 2021/22 were circulated, following a discussion the Budget was proposed, seconded and accepted by all that the Precept for 2021/22 should be £18,996 giving a figure of £27.65 per band D house.

12. VHMC Report

Dr Berry reported that the Hall and Community Room remain closed, both buildings are checked weekly, the Hall is cleaned weekly and the Community Room every 10 -14 days.

13. Play Equipment Inspection

Dr Berry checked the playing field equipment, next inspection Mr Dumbleton. The Clerk contacted Paul Neill, Sawscapes, re a quote for maintenance inspections for the playing field, the Clerk to chase up the quote.

New signs are needed for the play areas with Covid restrictions. Mr Urso-Cale and Mr Girling to check the Chilton Field equipment.

Ms Gascoigne left the meeting at 10.02pm

14. Correspondence

From the circulated list it was noted:-

Mr Birkett-Jones of Middle House had written to the Council reporting a road traffic accident on Church Hill. Whilst walking up Church Hill by Cross House with his wife, 2 children and 2 dogs a car drove down the hill, brushed them and hit one of the dogs, the dog is now recovering. Mr Birkett-Jones requested that the Parish Council should give consideration to making Church Hill safer, however the final paragraph of the letter was abusive and inaccurate.

After a discussion the Parish Council agreed it would like to consider the matter further but felt unable to do so at present due to the content of the final paragraph in the email. The Parish Council felt it is inappropriate to include such personally abusive and factually inaccurate statements when writing to a public body comprising unpaid volunteers serving their local community.

It was also noted that the appropriate highways department to be consulted is within Oxfordshire County Council (not VOWH District Council) and the Thames Valley Incident reference number given (43210003111) in the email was incorrect, so the PCSO was unable to follow up the incident.

A letter to be written to Mr Birkett-Jones inviting him to withdraw his 8 January email for the record and write again to the Parish Council with the factual information he would like to be addressed by the Parish Council.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.05pm