

Minutes of the Meeting of East Hendred Parish Council, Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 7.30pm in Snells Hall

Present: John Sharp (Chair), Selby Stocks, Catherine Shortis, Roger Turnbull, Charles Pappenheim, Stephen Webb, Penelope Wall, Jonathan Shortis, Sarah James

Clerk/Finance Officer: Julia Evans

County Councillor: Cllr Sally Povolotsky

District Councillor:

PCSO:

Members of the Public: 2 members of the public

67/22	WELCOME AND COMPLETE DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE Cllr Sharp welcomed the new members and their forms were signed.	Action:
68/22	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: District Cllr Shelley sent her apologies.	
69/22	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None	
70/22	OPEN FORUM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Community Larder. Sally Povolotsky reported that the community larder was a great success and the now have 20 members. It runs on Mondays from 3.30 – 6.30pm b) Support for Ukraine. Sally Povolotsky reported that there is now a route to get aid to Ukraine and she was collecting items for delivery. Items can be deliver to Snells hall on Sunday. She asked on behalf of HEG for a grant of £1000. Cllr J Shortis pointed out that large organisations were looking for financial rather than material aid. Sally pointed out that Action Aid knew where things were going. c) Cedar Tree in cemetery. Mr Beddow noted that on 23rd February people cutting branches off the cedar in the cemetery. He discovered that this had been authorised by Cllr Pappenheim. The correct tree works procedure had been followed. Mr Beddow questioned whether the branches were really dangerous and asked whether anyone else had been consulted. Cllr Pappenheim pointed out that two branches had recently fallen from the tree. He assessed this to be dangerous, so he spoke to the tree officer at the vale and they gave approval for the work. The main issue was a broken branch that was suspended at 40ft which could easily have been blown down. Cllr James noted that the branch was dead and raised the point that the risk was too great to leave it <i>in situ</i>. Mr Beddow remained was concerned that additional consultation should have taken place. Cllr Pappenheim had advised the Vale of a proposal to remove dead wood from the crown of the tree and prune large branches which were protruding from the crown to reduce the chance of further shedding of branches. If the Vale had no objection, a quote was to be obtained for the work for consideration by the PC and the PCC. <p>The members of the public were thanked for attending.</p>	
71/22	ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7th FEBRUARY 2022. The minutes were reviewed and approved. Proposed Cllr Turnbull, Seconded Cllr Stocks. RESOLVED.	
	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 7th FEBRUARY 2022 NOT OTHERWISE COVERED ON THE AGENDA:	
72/22	a) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. A letter had been received from Ali Eyston seeking support for the project. The Clerk advised that there were funds available. Cllr Sharp suggested that a grant application be submitted. It was proposed that subject to receiving the application a sum of up to £1000 be awarded. Proposed Cllr Turnbull, Seconded Cllr Wall. RESOLVED. Clerk to ask for a grant application. Cllr Sharp asked whether mugs should be distributed as they had been at previous Royal celebrations.	Clerk

2021/22

	<p>b) Pole for SID on A417. Two locations had been suggested by OCC. Cllr Pappenheim pointed out that locations needed to enable servicing of the SID. He felt that both the locations were safe. He proposed going ahead with the Ridgeway Close location and agreed to look into the costs.</p> <p>c) Operation London Bridge. Clerk to write up the information and circulate for decision next month.</p>	<p>CP</p> <p>Clerk</p>
73/22	<p>POLICE REPORT. No report.</p>	
74/22	<p>COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT Cllr Povolotsky reported that</p> <p>a) The meeting about the proposed reservoir was well attended. GARD was fully on the case. The deadline for comments on the Regional; Water Strategy was 14th March. GARD had produced a PDF on how to navigate the consultation. Our MP and OFWAT are being pushed about this.</p> <p>b) Valley Park. OCC had agreed to remove the 5 arm roundabout and instal a 4 arm roundabout instead.</p> <p>c) Line marking on roads had taken place. School crossing signs on Orchard Lane were still to be installed.</p> <p>d) Rowstock relief project – a meeting was to be arranged. There were lots of designs on the table but Cllr Povolotsky was not happy with any of them. The proposal involved new roads across fields into the AONB.</p> <p>e) The OCC budget was approved in February.</p> <p>f) There were lots of scam warnings for aid and relief for Ukraine.</p> <p>g) There was a serious risk of a tree falling in Allins Lane. The Highways Emergency team came out and closed the road while they removed the dangerous tree. One tree needed further investigation and the road needed cleaning up.</p> <p>h) The SID data was encouraging, and improvements were being seen in traffic speeds.</p> <p>i) There were concerns about meeting energy bills for those in need.</p> <p>j) Landlines were going to be shut down. Cllr Povolotsky explained the issue. She was fighting for rural communities not to be cut off.</p> <p>k) Verge biodiversity. The project will cost £1k. Funds were to come from the Councillor Priority Fund. Cllr Sharp suggested Magnox funding as well.</p> <p>Cllr Povolotsky was thanked for attending.</p>	
75/22	<p>DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT Cllr Shelley sent a verbal report via Cllr Sharp:</p> <p>a) Waste Bins. The Vale had agreed that a bin at Schutchamers was a priority.</p> <p>b) Esso Site. The planning application had been refused.</p> <p>Cllr Povolotsky noted that the Vale would be opening a grant scheme for funding toward climate changes schemes on 14th March.</p>	
	FINANCE	
76/22	<p>Approval of March payments. The payments totalling £3202.50 were approved. Proposed Cllr Pappenheim, Seconded Cllr Webb. RESOLVED. Cllr Shortis to authorise them. Clerk to write to Hendred Estate about the lease invoice.</p>	CS/Clerk
77/22	<p>Approval of Transfers to EMR. The list of proposed transfers was circulated and approved. The total transfer amount was £1172. Proposed Cllr Webb, Seconded Cllr James. RESOLVED. Cllr Shortis questioned the level of reserves held. Clerk to look up details.</p>	Clerk
78/22	<p>Request for grant from St Augustines. The application was for a grant for churchyard maintenance. £245. Proposed Cllr Stocks, Seconded Cllr Turnbull. RESOLVED.</p>	
79/22	<p>Membership of CFO. Cllr Sharp declared an interest. Cllr Pappenheim pointed out that Snells Hall was a member. Membership was approved. Proposed Cllr Stocks, Seconded Cllr Shortis. RESOLVED.</p>	
80/22	<p>Interim Audit Report. The report was circulated and noted. No actions arising.</p>	

81/22	<p>Review of Asset and Risk Registers. These had been circulated. Cllr Webb suggested including an additional risk which was the loss of reserves due to inflation. Clerk to amend the document. Both documents were approved subject to this change.</p>	Clerk
PLANNING ITEMS		
82/22	<p>a) P22/V0295/HH – Hines Cottage, Mill Lane. Proposed bin store and air source heat pump enclosure to front corner of the site. Cllr Webb pointed out that permission for the heat pump had not been applied for. Cllr Pappenheim noted that the gates were close to Horn Lane so that vehicles could not pull fully off the road. Cllr Turnbull suggested asking the Vale to consult OCC Highways prior to making a decision. The response to include ‘we understand that there is a standard of 5.5m off the highway’.</p>	
83/22	<p>New applications received since the publication of the agenda.</p> <p>a) P22/V0416/O - Land south of Curie Avenue and west of Eighth Street Harwell Campus. Hybrid planning application for the provision of new employment floorspace and associated infrastructure, car parking and green infrastructure, comprising: 1. Detailed planning application for Tech Edge Zone 1 and 2 for provision of two new employment buildings, with associated infrastructure, car parking and landscaping. 2. Outline planning application for Tech Edge Zone 3 and 4 (with all matters reserved except access) for provision of employment floorspace, with associated infrastructure, car parking and landscaping.</p> <p>Response by 24th March. Cllr Sharp noted that the tree officer was concerned about the number of trees being cut down. Cllr Turnbull pointed out that all applications needed to produce a 10% biodiversity gain. Cllr Webb noted that there was a biodiversity net gain assessment. The applicants were planning to mitigate loss by means of a financial contribution. He questioned whether this was permissible. The Harwell character assessment had stated that the area in question should remain undeveloped. It was noted that opportunities were being missed for the provision of bus stops. Cllr Turnbull agreed to develop a response. Cllrs James and J Shortis offered to assist.</p>	RT/SJ/JS
84/22	<p>Proposal for Steventon Reservoir. Several Councillors had attended a meeting on this. Cllr Turnbull had submitted a response to the consultation online. He explained the content of his submission.</p> <p>a) The first 9 questions were irrelevant as they related to water abstraction which had already been decided.</p> <p>b) The population projections should have been climate change led, not employment led. The plan doubled what the population should be.</p> <p>c) He suggested that an assessment comparing the proposed reservoir with the water transfer proposal was required.</p> <p>d) He asked for clarification on environmental impact assessment. The plan showed alternative to the reservoir but regulations stated that alternatives must be considered.</p> <p>e) Leakage targets were too far in the future.</p> <p>Reporting on the meeting at Steventon Cllr Turnbull noted that</p> <p>a) The timetable for the Environment Impact Assessment showed it in 2027.</p> <p>b) The public examination was part of regional plan in 2027.</p> <p>c) He had asked an ecologist if they were going to safeguard the canal. The response was positive, but they did not seem to realise that the route of the canal went through the middle of the reservoir.</p> <p>d) The project manager felt that they were on target for RAPID approval.</p>	

	<p>e) The conclusion was that the best way to express objection was to investigate further Thames Water's work on the environmental impact assessment.</p> <p>Cllr Sharp asked whether we should contact our MP. Cllr Turnbull felt that we should copy him in on our submissions. Cllr Turnbull agreed to speak to OFWAT on this matter.</p>	RT
85/22	<p>To consider the update of the 2008 Parish Plan. Cllr Sharp reported that the environmental plan was yet to be updated. Cllr James agreed to take this forward. Cllr Pappenheim to send hard copies to Cllrs Wall and J Shortis. A discussion followed on the content of the plan and whether it should be revised or rewritten.</p>	SJ
86/22	<p>Review of Vale Design Guide. The consultation was open until 15th March. Cllr Turnbull to discuss with Jane Parker and develop a response. He felt that something should be included on springline villages.</p>	RT
87/22	<p>ROWSTOCK. Nothing to report.</p>	
88/22	<p>COMMUNITY ART PROJECT No progress. Cllr C Shortis explained the background for the new councillors. Cllr C Shortis to go back to Abi Brown to restart the discussion.</p>	CS
89/22	<p>HENDRED ESTATE ITEMS Nothing to report.</p>	
90/22	<p>VILLAGE MAINTENANCE</p> <p>a) Grass Cutting. The contract had been signed. The first cut will be later this month.</p> <p>b) Tree in Cemetery. Fallen branches and cut down branches had been cut up and removed. There was a very large lime tree that had fallen down. The Hendred Estate had offered to clear it away. It was noted that the trees belonged to the church, but Cllr Pappenheim pointed out that they did not have anyone who could work on this. Cllr C Shortis asked at what point would the church take responsibility. The Parish Council had become vulnerable for taking on this responsibility.</p>	CLOSED CP
	<p>WORKING GROUPS</p>	
91/22	<p>Sports Club. Nothing to report. Cllr Sharp noted that a new lease had been submitted to Land Registry.</p>	SS
92/22	<p>Allotments. Cllr C Shortis reported that there had been some damage as a result of storm Eunice. Muck and bark shreddings were to be delivered.</p>	
93/22	<p>Bulletin/Website. The new Bulletin had been distributed. Cllr Pappenheim asked for someone else to get involved in the production and management of the Bulletin.</p>	
94/22	<p>Courtesy Lighting. It was reported that two lights were out.</p>	CP
95/22	<p>Playgrounds.</p> <p>a) Inspections for March. These were to be carried out. Cllr James asked whether the A417 bus shelters be included. It was agreed to include them even though we did not own them</p> <p>b) Proposals for Mill Lane. Cllr Stocks reported that he was happy to work on this if someone else would help prepare grant applications. Cllr J Shortis volunteered to help with this.</p>	CP SS/JS
96/22	<p>Transport.</p> <p>a) Consultation on Local Transport Plan. Cllr Webb reported the plan was lacking any prioritisation. The target to replace 1 in 3 car trips in Oxfordshire related mainly to urban areas. There was a lack of focus on freight; it was mentioned but glossed over. There was no mention of rail to freight and nothing about the prioritisation of capital spending vs maintenance. There was nothing about funding in the document, just principles.</p> <p>b) 20 mph zone. An article had been put into the Bulletin asking for people's views.</p>	SW
87/22	<p>Rights of Way. Nothing to report.</p>	
88/22	<p>Snells Path/Nature Reserve. Nothing to report.</p>	
89/22	<p>Harwell Stakeholder Group. Cllr Sharp reported the next meeting was on 24th March. The meeting was to be online so members could join if they wished.</p>	

	Cllr Turnbull asked for timescales for decommissioning. Cllr Sharp replied that at the moment it was 2050/2060.	
90/22	Harwell Campus. Cllr Sharp had requested a meeting, but a date had still not yet been agreed. He was having trouble contacting people.	
91/22	Snells Hall Update. All Covid restrictions had gone. Only advisory items remained.	
92/22	Lengthman/Litter Picker. Nothing to report.	
93/22	GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE a) Government Consultation on Glover Landscapes Review. This consultation was about restricting motorised travel on green roads e.g the Ridgeway. Cllr Wall felt that the document was useful even if we did not comment on it. Cllrs Sharp and Turnbull to develop a response.	JVS/RT
94/22	ANY OTHER BUSINESS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY): a) Playground inspections for April –Cllr Stocks and Cllr J Shortis b) Date for Annual Parish Meeting. Clerk to check whether this could be a hybrid meeting. Cllr J Shortis suggested getting together to develop a plan for the meeting. Cllrs James and Sharp to work with him. c) Panto. Cllr Turnbull reminded the meeting that that a pantomime was to be held shortly.	JVS/JS/SJ
95/22	DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Thursday 7 th April 2022 at 7.30pm in Snells Hall.	

The meeting closed at 21.52