**Minutes of a Meeting held in Cassington on**

**Thursday 3rd June 2021 @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

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| **69/21** | **ATTENDEES**  Cllr H Thomas, Cllr B King, Cllr C Metcalf, Cllr D Butlin, Cllr Levy & Clerk Mrs T Cameron plus 2 members of the public |  |
| **70/21** | **APOLOGIES**  Cllr J Perrin, Cllr C Rylett & Cllr A Goodwin |  |
| **71/21** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  The Parish Council has made the public aware that the meeting is recorded for the clerk to type up the minutes later at home.  Cllr Thomas – Minute refs 73/21 (tree outside his house and Neighbourhood Plan re land put forward) & 83/21 (Chequers Planning)  Cllr Metcalf – Minute Refs 73/21 (A40 works), 83/21 (personal planning application and The Chequers Planning Application)  The meeting is recorded by the Clerk to enable her to type up the minutes at a later time but is then deleted. |  |
| **72/21** | **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**  The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6th May 2021 were approved. |  |
| **73/21** | **TALK FROM DOMINIC HARE CEO OF BLENHEIM**  Like most businesses Blenheim has suffered with incredible loses over the past year but have been lucky that there is a lot of open space so have been able to stay open to the public were, they have been safely socially distancing. Also being able to carry out the light trail at Christmas time was very good. Blenheim managed to secure two lots of support from the Government using the Cultural Recovery Fund. Blenheim have the Flower Show at the end of June and also the Dog Show. They have also planted a new woodland about 150 hectares, just north of Woodstock. 270,000 trees were planted last winter which comprise of about 29 species of English Trees. There will be several different walks though it from a 15-minute walk to just over 2.5 hours walk. They are also just breaking ground on a new solar array. Once it is completed Blenheim will be generating about 1.5 times the amount of energy that they use.  Dominic attended a meeting with the Allotment Association to discuss the possible planning on the allotments. Blenheim has drawn up other options for possible planning sites. One is where is skims the top of the allotment. They are hoping to do another round of consultations in a couple of months when we know that restrictions have been fully lifted and we can have normal face to face meetings.  There is also a new grazing tenant on one of the fields Emma Goldfeld <https://www.emmasewesfulacres.com/>. She is a summer only tenant.  With regards to the Queens Jubilee Canopy Blenheim has advised that they would like to work with the Parish Council. They are currently working with The Oxford Tree Opportunity Map helping communities decide on places of land to have trees planted or produce a community orchard.  Blenheim are also working with Atkins with regards to the water flow coming off their land coming towards Cassington to help with engineering solutions.  Blenheim had to cancel the lake dredge last year due to COVID, but they had to fix the dam at the cascades end which was a legal requirement that cost £1.7million. The plan is now do the lake dredge next year. But this time they are planning to do a wet dredge which is to float boats on the lake and suck up the bottom through pipes.  Cllr Metcalf brought up the Community Schools project and asked if Cassington Primary had been approached. Dominic advised that they are getting schools back into Blenheim and will make sure that Cassington Primary School are approached. |  |
| **74/21** | **MATTERS ARISING**  **a) Thames Valley Police Report –** There were no Police Alerts  **b)** **Report from the Clerk on actions from the last meeting –**   * **Horsemere Lane/Cassington Lights** – The Clerk and Cllr Thomas had another brief meeting with OCC in which we were shown a video of how the cars and bus lanes are going to work. I am still awaiting the video from them. There was also discussion that they may look at putting a bus stop at the end of Horsemere Lane. We also discussed phasing of the lights and the slip road from Cassington onto the A40 heading towards Oxford. OCC also mentioned that they are considering making the right turn from Cassington 2 lane on the A40 instead of 1. * **Website –** The website is now fully live and operational. Everything that needs to be on there is on there. I am also waiting for photos of the village. I still don’t have all of the community groups on there, but I have asked again in CAWN.All the Councillors now have their .gov email addresses and I have had them added to CAWN along with my own new email address. * **Tree outside Cllr Thomas house –** Tracey has met with Greenfields their advice is that we can reduce the tree by 1/3 but I would need to get planning permission from WODC as we are in a conservation area. I also have a meeting with Dax to look at the tree and also give us a quote.   Cllr Metcalf has made a comment that maybe we should have a map and a survey of all the trees that are on Parish Council land. It was discussed that maybe the Parish Council should plant another tree in line with the trees on The Green then possibly remove the tree outside Cllr Thomas house – **Tracey & Cllr Thomas to arrange a time to walk round the village.**   * **Neighbourhood Plan –** A member of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee gave an update on what had been happening. The committee have met a few times with O’Neill Homer. At present they have been putting together a Green Infrastructure Plan which is the background document to what will be the Neighbourhood Plan. The Green Infrastructure plan gives an insight on Traffic Pollution, Flood Rick, Noise and Light Pollution. It also covers footpaths and accessways, cycle paths and highways. There is a section on the conservation area and also the building standards that are written into the conservation area. On the 26th of June they have their first public consultation. They do have an issue that O’Neill Homer have asked is raised at the Parish Council Meeting which is that members of the village have come forward with pieces of land that they would like register for potential development sites. It comes down to two options the Parish Council would like to make a formal call for sites which is included in the Neighbourhood Plan, or they leave the Neighbourhood Plan as it is. * **A40 Consultation –** Tracey and Cllr Thomas have another meeting with OCC on 8th July. They have extended the consultation period to 6th June to enable more people to comment.   **c) Previous Planning Application: -**  **APPLICATION NO:** 20/01734/OUT  **LOCATION:** Land North of A40 Section from Barnard Gate To Eynsham Roundabout Eynsham  **APPLICANT:** Grosvenor Developments Ltd  **DECISION: AWAITING DECISION**  **APPLICATION NO:** R3.0034/21  **PROPOSAL:** Request for Scoping Opinion for the proposed A40 Smart Corridor works, including  i) Dualling of a 3.2km section of the A40 between the Hill Farm Junction to the proposed Eynsham Park and Ride and upgrade to shared path on northern verge, ii) widening of existing carriageway to provide dedicated eastbound and westbound priority bus lanes along 6.5km section between proposed Park and Ride and Duke’s Cut iii) capacity and connectively improvements over three bridges and a culvert at  Dukes Cut to enable eastbound bus lane over the bridges at A40 between Witney and Duke’s Cut  **APPLICANT:** Oxfordshire County Council  **DECISION: AWAITING DECISION** |  |
| **75/21** | **CORRESPONDENCE:**  Tracey has received an email from a resident of Elms Road who lives near the top. They weren’t sure whether to email the Parish Council or the Sports and Social Committee. There has been an issue of people using the recreation field or the play area and parking in front of their house and blocking their driveway, and also the gate to the field. They have asked if we could keep the gate open or put a no parking sign on the gate. **– Tracey to get a No Parking Sign to go on the gate.** |  |
| **76/21** | **REPORTS FROM COUNTY, DISTRICT & PARISH COUNCILLORS:**  **County Councillor**  I was very pleased to get elected on May 5th and am grateful to the people of Cassington for trusting me to be their county councilor. I will endeavor to follow my predecessor Charles Mathew in being active and holding the county council to account. I am grateful to Charles for his support since I have been elected.  **Lib-Dems and Greens form alliance with Labour:** Following the spectacular results of the May elections to Oxfordshire County Council, the Lib-Dems and Greens have formed a single political group, with 24 seats in total in the council chamber. Together with the support of Labour (15 seats), we have formed the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance and form a majority administration.  Liz Leffman, Lib Dem, has been selected as leader of the council.  Pete Sudbury, Green Party, Climate Change Delivery and Environment  Tim Bearder, Highways Management  Duncan Enright, Transport and Development Strategy  My list of things to do started long and is growing.  At the top of the list is the A40 corridor. The public consultation for this close shortly. The councilors with the relevant parts of the A40 in their divisions have met Duncan Enright, who is the relevant cabinet member (and has part of Shores Green in his division). We would all welcome a proper review of the plans for the A40 corridor to make them effective, compliant with our commitment to the environment and combatting climate change, and to ensure that nothing is built that might obstruct a rail link. Eynsham and Cassington have lots or reasons to welcome a review, not least to address the issue of crossing between Salt Cross and Eynsham and the improvement to the Eynsham Road junction with the A40.  It is early days for the new administration and for me as a County Councilor, but I really believe that we will make a difference, for instance in areas such as ensuring that all new developments promote active travel and discourage unnecessary car use.  Councilor Priority Fund now open: Applications to the Councilor Priority Fund are now open. This is a fund of £15,000 to be used over two years on projects in Eynsham division. I have been pleased to apply for the first grant, to support the play session in Eynsham being run by the Oxford Play Association.I hope some of Cassington’s younger people will go to the session.  **District Councillors**  In the Election on 5th May there was a new District Councillor Elected Andy Goodwin who is also Lib Dem.  Cllr Levy & Cllr Rylett both now sit on the Lowlands Planning Committee.  The west of Eynsham Development has now started again.  **Parish Councillors**  **Cllr King –** Made a comment that Little Lane was overgrown when she walked to the meeting. She has asked if we can contact WODC or OCC to get it cleared.  **a) Neighbourhood Watch –** There was no report from Neighbourhood Watch |  |
| **77/21** | **CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE**  They are planning to meet at the end of June. |  |
| **78/21** | **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:**  A member of the village has asked about the Neighbourhood Watch Cllr Thomas advised to speak to one of the co-ordinators.  A member of the public also asked about photos for the website, what type of photos would we like.  Cllr Thomas mentioned that we need some posts for the island. We also need posts for the piece of land on Church Lane. |  |
| **79/21** | **DITCHES DRAINAGE AND FLOODING:**  The balance pond is empty, however there is not a life buoy on there. Blenheim have the work in hand and will also put some fencing around it to keep people out. |  |
| **80/21** | **MAINTENANCE/GRANTS:**  Please can people remember to things on fix my street on the WODC website.  We have been advised that the piece of land by the War Memorial hasn’t been adopted by OCC. If we cannot find out who owns the road then it may be down to the Parish Council to pay for the maintenance of it. |  |
| **81/21** | **TRAFFIC:**  **Speedwatch** – Tracey has put a notice in CAWN to ask for volunteers for the Speed Watch.  **20mph in the Village –** Tracey emailed OCC with regards to the 20mph and was advised that her email would be passed to the relevant department but has not heard back. |  |
| **82/21** | **PLAY AREA/PLAY FIELD:**  Nothing to report |  |
| **83/21** | **FINANCE**  **Payments to be approved:**   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Individual/Company** | **Reason** | **Amount** | | Tracey Cameron | Clerk Salary | £833.85 | | Rialtus | Software Support and Maintenance | £148.80 | | Village Hall | Parish Council June Meeting | £16.00 |   **Income:**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Individual/Company** | **Amount** | | SSE – Electric Poles | £395.72 | | OALC Budget Course Refund | £60.00 | | Tree Sponsor | £262.60 |  1. **AGAR sign off** |  |
| **84/21** | **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**  **APPLICATION NO:** 21/01507/HHD  **PROPOSAL:** Erection of a single storey front extension  **LOCATION:** 6 St Peters Close Cassington Witney  **APPLICANT:** Mrs and Ms Deborah and Emily Ginns and Clark  **COMMENT:** 9th June 2021  **APPLICATION NO**: 21/01468/HHD  **PROPOSAL**: Proposed rear extension and new porch  **LOCATION**: 2 The Tennis Cassington Witney  **APPLICANT**: Mr & Mrs Metcalf  **COMMENT**: 14th June 2021  **APPLICATION NO**: 21/01654/FUL  **PROPOSAL**: Conversion of existing storage building and roof space of attached two garages to create self-contained staff living accommodation.  **LOCATION**: The Chequers Inn 6 The Green Cassington  **APPLICANT**: Mr Babu Odedra |  |
| **85/21** | **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**   1. **Lorries using The Tennis –** The new owners of Lime Cottage now park their cars on Bell Lane which stops the lorry drivers from parking or turning. 2. **Bio for the Website –** Parish Councillors still need to do their bios and pictures for the website. 3. **Community Groups on the Website –** Tracey has again put a notice in CAWN to ask if any of the Community Groups would like a page on the Website. 4. **Lease for the Playing Field –** Tracey visited Cowley to get the original. She has now given it to the solicitor. We also need the people who signed the lease to sign a map of the area so that it can be registered. When we looked into it, we discovered that the land was not registered to the Parish Council even though they own in and also that the Parish Council brought the land from the Duke of Marlborough it was not gifted. We have to advise the Solicitor on how much the Parish Council think the land is worth. It was decided that it was roughly £60k. 5. **ROSPA Training Course £285 +VAT – 1st October –** This is so that Tracey can inspect the play equipment every month when she puts up the agenda. 6. **Trees on the Green and Recreation Ground –** All the trees are being watered and we have watering bags. The Sports and Social have a rota in place for watering the trees. Cllr Thomas has had a few more people come forward to say that they would like to sponsor a tree. We think that we could get a 6 or 7 on the northern edge of the recreation ground. We would look to putting a notice in CAWN for July/August asking for sponsors. Tracey has sent out a breakdown of the trees to the Parish Council. 7. **Wall on Bell Lane by The Tennis –** A few weeks ago this wall was taken down without permission. A local resident has done some research on the wall. She has found the original owner. When the Tennis was built there was a wall round it, railing and another wall, and part of the Planning Approval stated that the builders would maintain the walls and the railings. The unfortunate thing is that the builders are no longer in business. Building Control have served notice on one of the directors to go and repair and rebuild the wall. That was on the 23rd December. Nothing was done so the resident got back in touch with OCC and on 24th May another letter was sent. If the people advise that they don’t own the wall, then it will revert back to the crown and also the person that they employed to come a remove the wall has committed a criminal offence of which we have a Crime Reference Number.   **Cllr Thomas has suggested that we have a map of all the walls in the village and include it in the Neighborhood Plan.**   1. **Road by the War Memorial –** Cllr Levy is going to find out if the road is adopted by OCC if it is not then it could be down to the Parish Council for the upkeep of the road which will involve in the precept being increased again. 2. **War Memorial –** The Parish Council have asked Tracey to get in touch with James Mackintosh to organise a structural survey. To send to the War Memorial Trust to see if they would agree to work being done. |  |
| **86/21** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS:**  Mid Monthly Planning Meeting **– Tuesday 8th June @ 8pm in the Red Lion**  Date of the next Parish Council Meeting – **Thursday 1st July @ 7.30pm in the Village Hall** |  |
| **87/21** | **NOTE FORM THE PLANNING MEETING ON 8TH JUNE**  The Parish Council decided that they would not look for a Formal Call for Sites within the Neighbourhood Plan as it could prove problematic and there would be no guarantee that any of the land offered would be allowed to be developed on by Planning at WODC. The Neighbour Plan is therefore to remain as it was. |  |