

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF STEEPLE BARTON PARISH COUNCIL
Monday 19th February 2024
THE ALICE MARSHALL HALL, MIDDLE BARTON

Councillors Present: Roger Tyers (Chair), Kate Carter-Windle (Vice), Jane McRobie, Andy Barry, Steve Rogers, Graham Cox

Also in Attendance: Cllr Jackson, Alison Umney (School Liaison Governor), PCSO Helen Duffield

Clerk: Annette Fowler

Public: 2

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Prior to the council meeting commencing there will be an opportunity of up to 15 minutes for members of the public to make comments and to ask questions of the Parish Council.

A member of the public asked if the PC knew about the Community order on the Fox and was it still in place. Cllr Tyers will look into it and report back.

1516 **To receive apologies for absence.**
Cllr Parry, Cllr Graham

1517 **Declarations of Interest**
To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct (and section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992).

None

1518 **Minutes of the last meeting**
The minutes from the meeting held on **15th January 2024** were approved and signed as an accurate record by Cllr Roger Tyers.

Matters arising:
None

1519 **To receive updates on the action points from previous minutes –**
a) **Update on traffic calming** – see Reports item (b) below.

b) **Flooding** – Cllr Tyers reported that the Mill had flooded again over the weekend. He is trying to arrange a meeting with the OCC Flood & Structures officers to agree a way forward to resolving the issues.

Signed

Date.....

- c) **Trees** – The Clerk has contacted KP Treecare to ask for quotes on the Silver Birch in Dorn Close and a Cherry tree outside number 24 Holliers Crescent that has died.

1520 Reports from County and District Councillors (Appendix A)
 Full reports can be found on the PC website www.steeplebartonparishcouncil.org

Cllr Jackson -

The main topic to report this month is to do with Highways. On Tuesday 6th February I had arranged a catch-up meeting with Chris Grain, the OCC Highways "Engagement Officer ". I invited Roger Tyers and Andy Barry too. Chris updated us as to how the recent restructuring of the highways department was evolving. There were two ongoing issues that I wanted to highlight.

The hidden kerbs down Kiddington Road and the difficulty of stepping aside when traffic comes down (especially for families with children /pushchair) has been mentioned to me by several folk. Chris is going to see if the appropriate department could bring a mini digger to remove all the compacted soil which is also hiding several drains.

Residential streets where the tarmac is badly crumbling, but not deep enough for pothole filling.

My original enquiry was whether the "Dragon Patcher" could be "booked" to try to do all the streets at once, but it is unfortunately tied up with other pothole work. However, Chris was going to enquire whether the streets could be included in "minor patching" work from the "preventative and reconstruction " team. He asked if I could send a list of the streets.

These are the streets that I believe need attention:
 JERVIS CLOSE, DORN CLOSE, KIRBY CLOSE, MARSHALL CRESCENT, ORCHARD WAY.
 MILL LANE (north end).

Andy Barry kindly offered to give me a hand to do a tour of the rest of the village to finish off pothole marking around the Holliers Crescent area, which we did on Wednesday 7th February. All the 40+ potholes we had previously marked have been done.

WODC have a fund of £40,000 for youth projects, this will be included in the bulletin report.

Thank you to Councillor Rogers for painting and replacing the sign for Woodway.

Cllr Rogers asked why Highways are not repainting white lines, Cllr Tyers confirmed it was part of the 20mph campaign.

1521 **Letter of engagement – new internal Auditor**

The current internal auditor Jane Olds confirmed she would no longer be able to carry out the PC Audit. The Clerk approached another auditor, Kirsty Buttle who confirmed she could work on the next audit and sent a letter of engagement. The Clerk signed and dated the letter of engagement.

Signed

Date.....

1522 **Price increase from grass cutting contractor – NR Prickett**
The current contractor, Nigel Prickett has increased the price of a cut from £368 to £393, an increase of 6.7%. The Clerk confirmed that he had previously held the price for 4 years and has agreed to hold the new price for 2 years, but has stated that if petrol prices go up he may have to review the agreement.

1523 **Donation request from Life Education Wessex & Thames Valley**
The company work to provide health programmes to Schools covering health, well-being and drug prevention education; they are visiting MB school on 1/3/24. The cost of each day is £530 with Schools covering 70% of the cost. The request is for a donation of £155 to cover the shortfall. Cllr Carter-Windle confirmed that The Destiny Foundation would be happy to share the cost.

RESOLVED

THAT, the PC would donate £77.50.

1524 **Village Matters**

a) Parking

Last week an emergency vehicle had problems accessing the School due to a badly parked truck in Church Lane. PCSO Helen Duffield was in attendance and said she would be happy to speak to residents if the details were passed to her. She also supplied notices that the PC can place on cars. The Clerk will include a note in the bulletin.

b) Traffic Mirror at the top of Mill Lane

Cllr Barry will make a bracket for the telegraph pole and the Clerk will order a mirror from Amazon for £62.00.

RESOLVED,

THAT, the cost was approved by all.

c) email received from a resident regarding the dry stone wall at the Dock.

Cllr Carter-Windle had approached the owner who had quickly made repairs to the wall.

1525 **Reports**

(a) School Governors report - (Alison Umney, School Liaison Governor)

Attendance remains high at almost 97% [the highest in the trust].

Children have participated in various events recently including:

a swimming Gala, hockey tournament, a West Oxfordshire Cross country running event, a drama workshop and water safety sessions.

Two classes will soon be receiving some free Ukulele lessons to teach the basics.

Signed

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The newly formed Eco Committee have worked with Mrs Horner to hold a clothes swap event in a bid to reduce the amount of clothing that ends up in landfill. Leftover clothes were bagged up and collected by the Rags to Riches company who work to reduce landfill and send clothing to Ukraine.

School have also participated in Safer Internet day with activities and lessons helping children to stay safe using the internet and the newsletter provided a list of websites for parents to develop their knowledge of how to ensure their children stay safe when online.

Information from the Early Years Alliance was also included in a newsletter to encourage parents to ensure their children are vaccinated against Measles following the recent increase in cases.

Just before half term there was also an open afternoon and a cake sale hosted by Acorn class. Each class is taking a turn to raise some money to buy things for their classroom.

In the last week of term there was a minor incident in which portable cooking equipment caught fire. Whilst the fire was quickly extinguished by staff using the relevant equipment and nobody was harmed, Kim called the fire brigade to ensure that the gas canister used was safe. Apparently any fire in a public building is attended by 4 fire vehicles which made the incident appear far more dramatic than it was. There was some concern that the fire engines approaching from South Street direction were delayed getting through to the school due to poor parking by vehicles on Church lane.

(b) Highways (Cllr Barry)

This month I have covered a lot of footpaths around the village and quite a few are impassable due to the weather I will continue to walk them and monitor them. The roads are slowly falling into more disrepair I am helping Dave Jackson monitoring the potholes and marking them when they are the desiccated depth. We have now covered most of the village the ones we reported last time have been dealt with to various standards which we have reported to WODC.

SIDs - I am sad to say that the SIDs have been subject to some tampering over the last week, the one positioned at the rectory had been turned to face the bushes and the one near Hollier’s was covered in foliage, and when this was removed it was found the following day to have had the feed from the solar panel disconnected this is very disappointing behaviour. Please could people keep an eye on them and report any incidents to a member of the parish council.

The SIDs download I completed last week shows the average speed from the 2 cameras is less than 23 mph, so I can say that the traffic through the village has slowed down since the 20mph limit was set. I do have more in depth readings.

Cllr Tyers talked about the ANPR speed watch camera. This camera would be on a tripod and would need to be manned with data being sent to TVP and dealt with as appropriate. It was confirmed that this is not something the PC would want to do at this time.

(c) Drainage and Flood Protection (Cllr Tyers)

As above. Cllr Tyers checked Mole Lane and Mill Lane drains and will use the rods to clear if

Signed

Date.....

needed. Mill Lane needs to be reported on Fix My Street.

(d) Sports and Social Club/Playing Fields (Andy Hinton), Bowls Club Andy Barry

Playing Fields - No report.

Bowls club – Cllr Barry mentioned that the PC may receive a request for funding.

1526 Planning applications (Cllr McRobie)

23/03357/LBC - Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act - **2 Old Turnpike Cottages Bartongate** - Internal and external alterations to erect a single storey side extension

23/03356/HHD - Town and Country Planning Act - **2 Old Turnpike Cottages Bartongate** - Erection of a single storey side extension

No objections

1527 Finance

(a) Accounts for Payment

i) To consider and approve accounts for payment (*Appendix B to agenda*)

ii) Accounts not on Appendix B submitted by 8pm on **19th February 2024**

Payment Method	Purpose	Payee	Amount
BACS	Clerk Salary (Jan)	Annette Fowler	CONF
BACS	Hire of AMH Oct-Dec 22	AMH	£ 60.00
BACS	Removal of Christmas Tree	Brian Woods	£100.00

1528 To receive items for next agenda.

To be emailed to the Clerk.

1529 For Information only

Thank you email from Oxfordshire Mind.

PCSO Helen Duffield talked about the new TVP crime Alert system. The Clerk will register the PC to receive updates via email.

1530 Date and location of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next meeting, this is scheduled for **Monday 18th March 2024** at the Alice Marshall Hall, Middle Barton at **8.00pm**.

Signed

Date.....