

DRAFT MINUTES

ENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Held by Video Conference due to Government Restrictions in line with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 on Thursday 24th September at 7.15 pm 2020

PRESENT: Parish Councillors N. Knott (Chair), P. Shaw, C. Glendinning, A. Ward, R. Parker, D. Robottom, T. Gilbert, P. Johnson, DC Andrew Beaney, CC Hilary Hibbert-Biles (7.40 pm) and three residents

APOLOGIES: None received

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Beth Sinclair – Parish Clerk

83. There were no declarations of interest.

84. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:-**

The minutes of the previous Parish Council Zoom meeting held on Thursday 27th August 2020, having been previously circulated, were read, approved and signed by Cllr. Knott.

85. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

- Oak Tree at Church Enstone – The existing bench has been removed and the fallen oak tree carved into a bench. Cllr. Knott will have a look at the old bench to establish if it can be repaired. The Parish Council agreed to pay for this work at a cost of £180.00.
- The Mullin Project – ongoing
- Thames Water – ongoing
- Articulated lorries turning around in The Spinneys – There have been no reports of any further lorries turning around in The Spinneys. Noted.
- Snow Plough – Mr. Sam Parsons has confirmed that he has the snow plough at his farm and is ready for use.
- Enstone Footpath – The Planks – ongoing
- Cllr. A. Ward – Training on “Roles & Responsibilities”, OALC. Cllr. Ward updated the Council regarding the zoom training event which was most informative. Virtual meetings will be continuing for several months and the OALC advised that the login and password details of the zoom meetings be displayed on noticeboards and on the website. It was agreed that the clerk will put this information onto the agenda.
- 20 mph signs around Enstone – Oxfordshire County Council has confirmed that the Parish Council will need to fund the feasibility study in addition to the new signage. As a result of the open meeting in March being postponed due to the pandemic, it was agreed that the Parish Council will collate a questionnaire for residents to complete either electronically (Survey Monkey) or by letter/email/phone. Items will include traffic calming measures, grass cutting around the parish and to ask residents what improvements they would like to see within the parish. Cllr. Glendinning kindly agreed to organise the questionnaire and this will be finalised at October’s meeting.

86. **PUBLIC DISCUSSION:-**

- Cllr. Knott reported that a resident had contacted the clerk querying why the trees been felled at Litchfield Farm. Cllr. Knott has responded.
- Ditchley Park – Cllr. Knott has been invited to a site meeting with Ditchley Park regarding the tidying up of the area where the Hoarstone is.
- Enstone Airfield – several complaints have been received regarding an increase in low flying aeroplanes at Enstone Airfield. This will be discussed further at October’s meeting.
- A campervan is in situ at Furlong Farm – Cllr. Knott will keep this under review.
- The caravan situated along The Green Lane is still in situ and Cllr. Gilbert reported that fires are lit most evenings and there is a lot of rubbish. The clerk will re-contact WODC concerning this.
- Cllr. Parker reported that the road surface along the B4030 towards Middle Barton/Kidlington has deteriorated and has many pot holes. Cllr. Parker will liaise with CC Hibbert-Biles concerning this.

- Cllr. Glendinning asked when OCC will be installing the 20 mph wig wag signs – the clerk will forward the previous information to CC Hibbert-Biles for actioning.
- Cllr. Glendinning queried when the white lines will be re-painted. She will re-send the information to CC Hibbert-Biles.
- A resident has queried whether the school bus can stop at an alternative site to the bus stop outside the shop due to congestion. The Council unanimously agreed that this would not be feasible.

87. **PARISH HALL**

- Cllr. Johnson reported that the Parish Hall remains open and many people are using it.
- There are further Covid measures in place and all users need to use the track & trace system.

88. **COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- CC Hibbert-Biles confirmed that the OCC had drawn up its revised budget because of significant additional expenditure due to the covid pandemic. The OCC will no longer be replacing any staff who leave in order to save monies. Savings of £15 million have been made. It is unknown what funding will be available from Government.
- All staff are working from home.
- There are currently 25 cases of residents with Covid in Oxfordshire per 100,000 population.

89. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- The District Council are now holding all meetings virtually and these can be viewed live on facebook.

90. **CORRESPONDENCE:-**

West Oxfordshire District Council:-

- No reports

Oxfordshire County Council:-

- Electric Blanket testing – new measures are in place for the testing of electric blankets and details will be put onto the website. Noted.

Other:-

- *Gagingwell, Speed Indicator Devices* – Cllr. Shaw explained that OCC were in favour of the proposed location of the two devices. The devices will be Speed Indicator Devices (SID) rather than Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). OCC will install the posts at a cost of £399.00 per post which will incur a further cost of £120.00 to the Parish Council. Renault has made a purchase order totalling £4,340.00 towards the SIDs. The ownership and maintenance of both SIDs will be the Parish Council's, not OCC. There is a three year warranty for each device. The clerk will contact Came & Company, the Parish Council's insurers regarding this and will also write a letter to Mr. Martin Cummings at Renault, thanking him for all his efforts with regards to sponsoring one of the devices. The clerk will ask for clarification from him how the stickers detailing Renault's sponsorship will be fixed to the devices. The Parish Council agreed to the additional funding of £120.00. Cllr. Shaw was thanked for all his work.
- *Display Sign – A44* – Cllr. Glendinning had circulated information on the differing costs relating to the existing display sign at Enstone, on how it could be visually improved. These costs will be made part of the parish questionnaire that is being drawn up. Cllr. Glendinning was thanked for her work on this.
- *Parking on verge – A44* – a few residents had responded to the Parish Council's request for views regarding wooden posts being placed on the verge. The majority of comments were against this idea. This item will be part of the parish questionnaire.
- *Wooden bollards, Church Enstone* – Following the article in the Ensign magazine, a few residents had responded to say they were against the suggestion of having wooden bollards installed at The Green in Church Enstone as this would aggravate the problem of vehicles parking further up the road. Cllr. Johnson suggested that low level hedging or boxes of bulbs be planted at the site. Cllr. Johnson re-iterated that there is a distinct lack of parking in Church Enstone and that if there was some lighting along the Little Tew Road and through the churchyard, this might alleviate the situation. The clerk will contact OCC regarding the installation of lighting along the Little Tew Road at the entrance of St. Kenelm's Church and ask for a quote. This suggestion will also form part of the parish questionnaire.

- *Netwise* – the new website is now live and is excellent, thanks to Rachel Hunt. Cllr. Knott reminded Councillors to forward photos and profiles to Mrs. Hunt.
- *OALC* – August's update had been circulated to all members.
- *Bench – The Green, Enstone* – A resident had contacted the Council regarding the deterioration of the bench. Cllrs. Parker and Ward will investigate this further.
- *Green Gym* – The Green Gym has requested whether any work is required by the Council. The Council agreed that further work at the Tew Crossroads was needed, up to £150.00 and that clearing the area around the Hoarstones would be beneficial at a further cost of £150.00. The clerk will contact the Green Gym.
- *Grass Cutting – 2021 Season* – A resident attended the meeting querying whether the grass cutting was over excessive, particularly along Chapel Lane (there are seven cuts per season). However, Thomas Fox, the contractor, has suggested that the graveyard and cemetery undergoes an extra cut to keep it under control and reported that most Parish/Town Councils contract to ten cuts per season. Another resident suggests that the verge along The Drive be cut later in the season, to allow wild flowers and bees to flourish. After discussion, it was agreed that these comments be part of the parish questionnaire. The clerk will ask Thomas Fox to quote for one extra cut to be undertaken for the season but only along the A44, the village greens, churchyard and cemetery.
- *Subcommittee meeting on the White Paper/Neighbourhood Plan* – Cllrs. Glendinning, Johnson, Lee, Robottom, Shaw and Ward held a zoom meeting on 10th September to discuss the Government's White Paper on the new planning processes and whether or not to progress the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Enstone. In summary, the White Paper will change the emphasis from the current system, when responses are made to individual proposals, to one of house building on land designated for Growth, Renewal and Protection. WODC has its existing Local Plan but it is unclear what effect the White Paper will have on the status of this existing plan. Enstone Parish does not have a Neighbourhood Plan and this may have little influence anyway within the proposed new planning process. Within Enstone there is land ripe for development and it is likely that within the proposed new planning process, planning to build may be automatically granted, if land is designated as being for 'growth' or 'renewal'. A Neighbourhood Plan cannot influence what happens regarding planning, but it could influence how a new housing scheme would look within the parish i.e. where it goes and how it would fit in. DC Andrew Beaney advised that the Parish Council look at the recent virtual meetings held by the WODC regarding Development & Control and the Cabinet meeting – these can be accessed via facebook. WODC feels that a Neighbourhood Plan is not currently a good idea. It was agreed that there is no real value in responding to the White Paper at parish level as feedback is required from the Planning Authority itself.

91. **Planning Applications:-**

- **Westbury Farm, Little Tew, Church Enstone - 20/02000/FUL - *Erection of agricultural building.*** After a lengthy discussion, Enstone Parish Council has no objection to the erection of the agricultural building, but with condition that should pig rearing cease, the building would need to come down. Concern was expressed regarding the animal husbandry at the site.
- **Methodist Chapel, Chapel Lane, Enstone - 20/02070/FUL - *Conversion of Methodist Chapel to create two residential dwellings*** – Two residents attended the meeting via zoom to express their concerns at the proposed development of the Chapel. There would be no parking available for the two proposed residential dwellings. This would further exacerbate parking in Chapel Lane, which is already blocked by parked vehicles. The yellow planning notice is no longer at the site. DC Andrew Beaney confirmed that all new developments need to have sufficient car parking. After discussion it was agreed that, on balance, the Parish Council was in favour of the conversion but only for one dwelling with car parking. Cllr. Johnson noted that there had been a previous planning application for a single dwelling with a garage. The clerk will contact WODC with regards to the missing yellow planning notice.

Decisions Received:-

- None

92. **Finance:-**

- a. *To agree the following accounts for payment - Santander Account (normal parish account):-*
- Mrs Beth Sinclair £693.72
 - NEST Pension Scheme (er) £18.14
 - NEST Pension Scheme (ee) £24.19
 - Mrs. N. Knott, voucher £150.00
 - NetWise £67.64
 - Thomas Fox £876.00
 - Thomas Fox, Parish Hall £156.00

RECEIVED:-

- Purchase Order, Renault £4,340.00

93. **Dates of Next Meetings:-**

- Thursday 29th October – 7.15 pm
- Finance Meeting – Monday 16th November 7.15 pm
- Thursday 26th November – 7.15 pm

There being no further business the Zoom meeting ended at 9.30 pm.