

CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held in the Methodist Chapel on Monday 9th Dec 2024 at 7pm

Present: Councillors Tania Johnson, Des Knight, Jacqui Smith, Bob Garland and Sheila Jones, and David Best (Clerk).
Two members of the public attended the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** District Councillor Chris Brant, District Cllr Phil Chapman and County Cllr George Reynolds.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting of 11th November were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:** None
5. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT**

Tree Survey – Mr Tim Batchelor is transferring the tree survey plan over to a digital mapping system which he normally charges for, but he will not charge the PC. The Low spend/ Immediate priority works will be started in December or early January and progress will be updated on the digital mapping system. In the absence of a volunteer working party to remove ivy from trees Mr Tim Batchelor will try to get a competitive quote from a contractor.

Canals and Rivers Trust - Clearance of overgrown vegetation and bulb planting has been completed. The CRT is encouraging people to suggest projects for 2025 and these should be sent to the Volunteer Leader at alex.higginbottom@canalrivertrust.org.uk. The next Towpath Taskforce is on Wednesday 29th January 2025.

Lock Garden – The Canals and Rivers Trust has asked the PC if it would like to adopt the Lock Garden so that they will contribute to the cost of materials and tooling. This was agreed.

Damage to Bus Shelter – A quote will be obtained for cedar shingles.

Bench repairs – A quote is being obtained for replacement planks for the benches at The Plantation and Vicarage Gardens. A decision on replacing the planks on the Burial Ground and Caydon Road benches will be taken to future proof them will be taken when the cost is known.

Dog waste bins for School Lane – These have been delivered and will be installed later this month or early in the new year.
6. **TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & STREET LIGHTING**

Vehicle Activated Speed Signs – The new signs have been installed.

Temporary Emergency Road Closure on 361 at Wardington – Drivers are ignoring the recommended diversion and using Appletree Road which has been causing severe congestion. It was agreed to ask County Councillor George Reynolds to ask OCC Highways to consider additional temporary signage to reduce congestion through Appletree Road, and permanent signage that the road is unsuitable for heavy vehicles.
7. **VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN, CRIME PREVENTION & ENVIRONMENT**

Snow clearing volunteers – The volunteers have confirmed to Cllr Sheila Jone that they are ready for any snow.

Flood Signage – Thanks to Mr Stephen Watts for putting these out.

Bags of Salt – It was agreed to investigate a container for the salt bags if they are moved to the shed at St Mary's Church to prevent damage to the equipment there.
8. **PARISH COUNCIL USE OF INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA:** No update
9. **PLANNING, CLIMATE CHANGE, FINANCE & LEGAL**

Planning Application for Residential Development off Claydon Road to the North of Cropredy: 23/00977/OUT
The latest update is that this application is still passing through the determination processes, and the target decision date has been amended to 31/01/2025.

It was noted that Thames Water had submitted a consultation response to CDC Planning on 11/10/2024, requesting that conditions be added to any planning permission, regarding upgrades to sewerage treatment infrastructure (but not the foul water sewerage network), and to the water supply infrastructure.

New Planning Applications:

24/01390/F – Brasenose House – Extensions and garage conversion – PC to decide response

New Planning Decisions:

24/02691/Q56 - Poplars Farm – Change of use of agricultural buildings to 5 dwellings – CDC Refused.

Sewage Discharge into the River Cherwell

It was noted that Cropredy Womens Institute has raised with Thames Water the issue of sewage discharge into rivers and, in particular, into the River Cherwell at Cropredy. It was agreed that the clerk will write to Thames Water to add the PC's concern about this issue.

10. **COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT** – No update

11. **DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT** – No update

12. **SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

Flooding – The Sports and Social Club was flooded but volunteers cleared the mud and the carpet is being professionally cleaned. Flooding will be monitored going forward and ways to mitigate flooding damage will be reviewed.

13. **PARISH MATTERS**

Ditch along the road at the S&SC – Digging this out will not improve flood water drainage but the cleaning the gulleys will be investigated to reduce large puddles on the road.

2025-26 Budget and decision on the Precept – The budget that had been circulated prior to the meeting was reviewed. It was agreed to increase the Precept from £14,300 to £15,015.

14. **FINANCE**

Year to date accounts – These were circulated prior to the meeting and there were no queries.

15. **CORRESPONDENCE:** There was no outstanding correspondence.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT OF A CONFIDENTIAL NATURE**

Canal Towpath Damage – A large part of the towpath has been washed away below Slat Mill Lock severely restricting access.

17. **ANY MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** None

18. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** – Monday 13th January 2025.

There being no further matters the Chair closed the public meeting at 8:26pm

Chairman
13th January 2025