

# CROPREDY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Cropredy Parish Council held in the Methodist Chapel on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 at 7pm

**Present:** Councillors Tania Johnson, Des Knight, Jacqui Smith, Bob Garland and Sheila Jones, District Cllr Phil Chapman and David Best (Clerk). One member of the public attended the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** District Councillor Chris Brant, and County Cllr George Reynolds.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** – The minutes of the meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> December were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **MATTERS ARISING:** None
5. **VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT**
  - Tree Survey** – There is no update on this.
  - Grass cutting quote** – It was agreed to accept the quote from Mr Steve Watts for grass cutting, hedge cutting and strimming. Mr Watts has not increased the price for 2025.
  - Canals and Rivers Trust** – The next Towpath Taskforce will talk place on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January.
  - Bus Shelter repairs**– It was agreed that new cedar shingles will be purchased to repair the bus shelter.
  - Bench repairs** – It was agreed to accept the £1,491 quote from Mr John Talor for replacing the wood on 4 benches. It was also agreed that recycled plastic would be used.
  - Notice in the Banbury Guardian for yellow lines** – The recent notice referred to the lines outside The Brasenose which were painted last year. No more lines are being painted.
  - Playground maintenance** – All the refurbishment work has been completed at a cost of £15,000. The equipment will be repainted as soon as the weather permits. It was agreed to obtain a quote for a new sign as the current one has holes in it.
6. **TRANSPORT, TRAFFIC & STREET LIGHTING**
  - Community Speedwatch** – Thames Valley Police follow up drivers that are logged breaking the speed limit in the following manner:  
A motorist can receive three graduated letters over a rolling six-month period; following a third transgression it will lead to a visit by a Roads Policing Officer. The Officer will discuss driving behaviour. If a motorist is 50% over the specified limit, they will automatically receive an Excess 50% letter, explaining potential police action if the speeding occurrence had been carried out by a Police Officer. If the motorist is detected at twice the specified speed limit, it will be flagged for a Roads Policing visit as soon as possible.  
A new 3 month schedule of checks will start in February.  
The Thames Valley Police Officer in charge of the Speedwatch programme will be invited to a parish council meeting in May or June.
7. **VILLAGE EMERGENCY PLAN, CRIME PREVENTION & ENVIRONMENT**
  - Snow clearing volunteers** – Cllr Sheila Jones is checking the list of volunteers to ensure that they are still available.
8. **PARISH COUNCIL USE OF INTERNET & SOCIAL MEDIA:**
  - A vote of thanks was given to Mr Hugh Brooman has kindly volunteered to assist with updating the village website.
9. **PLANNING, CLIMATE CHANGE, FINANCE & LEGAL**
  - Cherwell Local Plan** - The consultation on the new plan is in progress. Cllr Bob Garland is reviewing the plan and will submit the response from the Parish Council.

**New Planning Applications:** None

**New Planning Decisions:** None

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

11. **DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT** –

**Government changes to planning system** – Information on the planned changes to planning is starting to be released. The intention is to increase the number of houses being built and higher targets will be issued. Planning authorities that refuse to adopt the targets will have their planning responsibility transferred to central government and authorities supporting the targets will be given greater budgets. In Cherwell's draft local plan, Gt Bourton and Wardington are being upgraded to Category B and are likely to have a proportionally greater housing targets. Cropredy has been downgraded to Category C and is likely to have a proportionally lower housing target.

**Local Government Consolidation** – Plans are being developed to consolidate local government in England to streamline services, reduce costs, and increase investment. This may include merging areas with two tiers of local authority, such as district and county councils, to create larger unitary authorities. Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell may be replaced by a unitary body.

12. **SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

**Flooding** – Work has been completed to reduce the incidence of flooding in the pavilion. The Water filter for the septic tank was dislodged in the last floods but was recovered and will be reinstalled with a new stand. The ditches will not be dug out as it will just result in water from the river backing up in them. It was agreed not to pay for clearing the gulleys to reduce the puddles on the road outside the club as this is the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council but the situation will continue to be monitored

13. **PARISH MATTERS**

**Assets of Community Value** – It was agreed that an application will be submitted to Cherwell District Council to list certain assets in the village as Assets of Community Value to help ensure that they will be retained for the benefit of the community in the event that the current owners decide to sell them. A prospective list will be agreed at the next meeting in March.

**Lock Garden** – It was agreed that the Parish Council will "Adopt" the Lock Garden from the Canals and Rivers Trust. This formalises the arrangement for the Lock Garden to be maintained and developed for the benefit of parishioners & visitors. An application has been submitted to Cherwell District Council for a Grant For Community Areas for shrubs and trees. It is also planned to install an information board explaining the history of the canal.

**Churchyard Wall** – In September 2024, the PC registered with the Diocese of Oxford to be able to submit a faculty for permission to repair the churchyard wall. This registration was acknowledged but has not yet been agreed. The clerk will chase this and submit the faculty as soon as the registration is confirmed.

14. **FINANCE**

**Year to date accounts** – These were circulated prior to the meeting and there were no queries. HMRC currently owes the PC a £3,200 VAT rebate.

15. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Cllr Des Knight is going to respond to the OCC Highways survey on roads.

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

**Cropredy Tots** – This has closed as there are not enough young children in the village and many of the tots have moved to the pre-school having reached the entry age. The toys will be offered to Cropredy Pre-school and the Sunshine Centre in Banbury.

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

18. **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** – Monday 10th March 2025.

There being no further matters the Chair closed the public meeting at 8.47pm

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Chairman  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2025