

CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened and held on
Wednesday, 13th December hosted at Culham Church

Attendees – Councillors:	Apologies noted:
Chris Pritchard (CP) CHAIR	Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SCR) Councillor and District Councillor
Nacho Gimenez (NG) (arriving circa 8pm)	Robin Bennett (RB) County Councillor
Mike Richmond-Cooper (MRC)	
Siobhan Sargeant (SS)	In Attendance:
Caroline Baird (CB)	Denise Corney – Clerk (DC)
Members of the public:	
1 member of the public in attendance	

The Meeting Opened at 7.40pm

1.	Welcome, Apologies and Quorate The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Sam Casey-Rerhaye. The meeting was Quorate. CP was due to arrive at 8pm and MRC was appointed interim Chair for this meeting.	ACTION
2.	Declarations of personal and prejudicial interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3.	Report from SODC Councillor – Sam Casey-Rerhaye SCR had circulated the Discritct Councillor report which had been uploaded to the PC website. Councillors noted the information therein. The Clerk would update the PC website with bin collection dates and the schedule of grass cuts when available.	CLERK
4.	Report from County Councillor RB called into the meeting via telephone and gave an update regarding the crossing at Tollgate Road. RB would be contacting Matt Archer to find out the costs of the works and have a clearer picture of the additional funding which would need to be raised. CP would also follow up with Matt Archer. RB confirmed that he continued to campaign for an allocation from the CIL infrastructure funding.	
5.	Clerks' Report The Clerk (DC) gave a summary of her report. The Clerk would contact SODC planning department regarding the unilateral undertaking under Section 106 for the communal orchard and to confirm that the Parish Council agreed with the terms of the undertaking.	CLERK
6.	Public Participation (15 minutes maximum) John Taylor (member of the public representing Morrells) confirmed that he would be away from the UK from January to May 2024 but could be contacted via email for an update regarding transfer of The Green.	
7.	To Approve Minutes from 8th November 2023 The minutes from 8 th November 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were APPROVED . A signed copy of the minutes would be uploaded to the website.	APPROVED

<p>8. HIF1 Road CB gave an update from the recent Joint Committee Meeting. Sutton Courtenay were undertaking traffic modelling. The forthcoming hearing was scheduled to take 25 days.</p> <p>CB drew attention to the importance to continue to fundraise to enable legal representation on behalf of the Joint Committee at the inquiry. £3K had been raised with a further possibility of £7K from a Trust fund. Councillors discussed ideas for fundraising in Culham and agreed to continue to consider ideas as a matter of urgency.</p>		<p>ALL</p>
<p>9. Abingdon Reservoir Impact – update from CB CB had attended a meeting held in Steventon. The proposed reservoir would be 6 square miles and thus required a huge compulsory purchase order to be enforced, affecting many properties. A new road had been proposed between Marcham and the A34.</p> <p>Proposals also included a 5km underground pipeline from the reservoir to join the Thames at Culham with the creation of a weir on the bank of the Thames. The PC agreed to invite representatives from Thames Water to attend a Parish Council meeting and answer questions from Culham Parish Council and residents. CB would invite Thames Water to either 14th February 2024 Parish Council meeting or 13th March 2024.</p> <p>Councillors thanked CB for attending the meeting and her report.</p>		<p>CB</p>
<p>10 Access to Fishing John Taylor confirmed that the fishing club had agreed to access for a maximum of 10 days per year for the fishing. Access would be monitored to ensure that no additional days were taken.</p>		
<p>11 Improving safety of the pavement along Tollgate Road (NG) NG confirmed that he had contacted the Oxford Diocese and forwarded a map showing the intended gap through the hedge. To date, he had not received a response.</p>		
<p>12 Defibrillator Progress update (CP) CP had contacted Waterways again but had not managed to speak with the original contact. CP would follow up with the Culham lock keeper to ascertain an alternative contact. In the meantime, Councillors agreed it was acceptable to purchase the defibrillator from AEDdonate ahead of installation, thus ensuring the £400 funding was still available from them. The Clerk would arrange payment to AEDdonate as soon as an invoice was received.</p>		<p>AGREED CLERK</p>
<p>13 Purchase of additional trees (Orchard) and benches (SS) SS would research the possibility of funding from TOE for assisting with the funding of additional trees and fencing for the community orchard. It was agreed that the Clerk would meet with SS to work on an application. The grant application must be completed no later than 8th January 2024.</p>		<p>CLERK/SS</p>
<p>14 To agree roles and projects for each Councillor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tree planting/environmental - SS 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Neighbourhood Plan - MRC ○ Planning - CB ○ Grounds Maintenance and footpaths - NG ○ Recreation Ground - regular checks and bin – CP/MRC ○ Speedwatch - CP ○ Legal/leases etc – SCR and Clerk 	AGREED
15	<p>Finance – Budget Variance and review of Budget 2024/25 (Clerk)</p> <p>The budget variance report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting with no variance from budget. The Clerk had forwarded draft 1 of the budget for 2024/25 to SCR and CP for comment. The Clerk would update the draft and circulate to Councillors prior to the meeting on 10th January 2024, where the budget would be formally agreed along with the precept for 2024/25.</p>	CLERK
16	<p>NALC pay review 2022/23 for Clerk</p> <p>Councillors noted that agreed pay review which equated to £1.00 per hour increase.</p>	
17	<p>To Agree Accounts for Payment:</p> <p>A&W Ground – Burycroft - £100</p> <p>Clerk’s Salary for December 2023 payment scheduled 28th December. £442.00</p> <p>OALC Training – CP Chairmanship - £132.00</p> <p>OALC Training – CB – Roles and Responsibilities £132.00</p> <p>SLCC – Arnold Baker Local Council Administration £141.80</p> <p>Charlie Hopkins – HIF1 Statement of Case of Joint Committee £375.00</p>	AGREED AGREED AGREED AGREED AGREED
18	<p>To discuss the following Planning Applications:</p> <p>No further applications received during the period to 11th December 2023.</p>	
19	<p>Items for report and inclusion on next Agenda:</p> <p>Finalise budget and precept; defibrillator, TOE grant; improving pavement safety on Tollgate Road. Crossing – Tollgate Road; Community Orchard; progress with repairs to playground by Sutcliffe. Transfer of The Green – appoint lawyer.</p>	CLERK
20	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p><i>Wednesday 10th January at 7.30pm -CHURCH.</i></p>	

The meeting closed at 9.30PM