

Maugersbury Parish Council

2 Cotswold Heights, Stow on the Wold, Glos GL54 1LT
01451 831446 | maugersbury@gmail.com

Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 4 March 2024, 6.30pm

At the Church Room, Church Walk, Stow on the Wold, GL54 1BD

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs R Boyens (Chairman), V Jepson, H Totham and R Warmington

In attendance: Ms E Sajewicz (Clerk), and 8 members of the public

- 1. Apologies:** County Cllr M MacKenzie-Charrington, Ward District Cllr D Neill, residents Mr & Mrs R Fisher, Messrs G Golby, M Braddell and S Meyrick.
- 2. Vacancy.** It was noted that there is one existing vacancy on Council and after this meeting there will be two.

Cllr Warmington spoke noting this would be Cllr Totham's last meeting, and thanked her on behalf of MPC and residents for her hard work and important contribution during her eight years as a councillor.

Cllr Warmington stressed the need for new people to come forward to join the Council, noting that 3 councillors were needed for a quorum, so if numbers were to drop further the parish council may not be able to function.

- 3. Declarations of interest:** Members were reminded to declare any interests in items on the agenda as they arose.
- 4. Minutes of previous meeting**
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4 December 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record and approved to be signed by the Chairman.
- 5. County Councillor's report (Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington)**
Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington had given his apologies. His report had been circulated. Cllr Boyens highlighted the following points from the report:
 - Road closure of the A436 Adlestrop Bridge Oddington Road, 18-28 March, 8am-4.30pm. (Clerk to circulate.)
 - Aiming to resurface at least 156 further roads plus £500,000 in specialist new equipment
 - The huge amounts needed to pay for vulnerable children and adult social care were noted.
- 6. District Councillor's report (Cllr Neill)**
Cllr Neill had given her apologies. Her report had been circulated. Members highlighted the following points from the report:
 - Planning Enforcement has been under resourced. A new digital system for residents to report planning breaches online is being introduced, and a new enforcement officer has been appointed.
 - Empty properties in the district number 932. MPC members wished to understand what is classed as an empty home. *Post meeting update: see link for definition on page 2 of the document: <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/sjsf1whf/long-term-empty-homes-strategy-2019-2024-cdc.pdf>*
 - Stow Fair is likely to be on 9th May.
 - CDC's planning roadshow for town and parish councils has yet to be arranged. MPC is looking forward to it and hopes it will take place soon.
 - Cllr Neill provided the cost of transitioning some services from Publica to individual councils. It was noted that it only partly answered MPC's question. MPC had asked for the costs involved in setting up Publica and now reversing it, including the cost of consultants, and whether any savings had resulted while Publica was in existence.
 - CDC will only continue to fund one set of public conveniences in Stow.

- There will be an opportunity for local “citizen scientists” to contribute to water quality, river pollution and sewage projects.

7. Stow Fair – to receive an update on the next event expected to be on 9th May

Cllr Boyens said he would be on hand and would have the contact list for Police, etc, as last time. A meeting with the agencies would be held before the event, and MPC will ask for a Police presence in the days before and a Police vehicle at The Bell which was successful last time. A resident said there used to be one at the field entrance too in previous years.

8. Parish environment

a) Pound Lane junction – to receive any update on options

GCC Highways had been asked to review Options 1 and 2 in light of the possible availability of land that would allow for increased visibility splays for Options 1 and 2, and might put Option 2 back on the table. A response was awaited and Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington was asked to chase it.

b) Highways work and any other issues in the parish

It was noted that ponies had got loose from the Gypsy Field three times in four days recently. One was on the Arch Road and could have got on to the Fosseyway. There was also the question of getting them back in the field with the gates being locked. MPC will follow up with the Police and Cllr Neill to see what can be done.

It was agreed that the roads and verges were a mess following the closure of the A436 in February. It was noted that GCC Highways had carried out an inspection and concluded there were no safety issues. MPC will ask the Local Area Highways Manager what the options are for cleaning the roads and re-levelling the verges.

Cllr Boyens reported that the grass cutting contractor would be starting soon but not quite yet. He would cut further, down to the telephone box, for an additional £25.

Cllr Boyens hoped to get the sweeper put back to mid-November instead of October following the fair when most leaves were yet to drop.

c) Verge on the Burford road – update

Cllr Boyens said he would be following up in the summer regarding the suggestion from residents that the verge be improved to make it suitable for walking.

d) Sewage flooding

Noted that MPC had written to Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP about sewage flooding in the parish, asking whether there were plans to increase the capacity of the Broadwell sewage treatment works, whether there were plans to increase the capacity of the pipe network between Stow and the Broadwell treatment works, why planning applications were being allowed when the sewage infrastructure did not have enough capacity, and what environmental monitoring was being done. A formal response had been received from Thames Water through Sir Geoffrey. It said the recent blockage at Oddington Hill Farm had been caused by a brick in the pipe and not inadequate capacity. It said an upgrade was planned for the Broadwell sewage treatment works to be completed in 2026. Thames Water will be doing a yearly sewer clean in this area to decrease the chances of blockages/flooding incidents.

e) Thames Water billing (new subject)

Concerns had been raised about the way Thames Water automatically bills residents for wastewater and waits for them to realise they are not connected to a sewer and shouldn't be paying. Residents were encouraged to tell new neighbours to look out for this, and existing residents should note that overpayments can be claimed back for a number of years.

9. Planning

a) To consider current planning applications

- 24/00465/FUL – Valley View, Chapel Street** – Erection of external chimney stack, addition to permitted application no: 23/02137/FUL

A member of the public who was associated with the application spoke briefly. He was unsure why the external chimneystack hadn't been part of the original application, and said it represented a 225mm extension.

Members had not had time to look at the application in detail. It was agreed to finalise the response after the meeting. MPC would welcome residents' views before the deadline of 28 March.

It was noted that CDC had published guidance on the design of traditional chimneys that showed the local vernacular did not appear to include external chimney stacks.

b) To note decision notices received for the following planning applications:

Applica-tion	Address	Description	MPC Comment	CDC Decision
23/02137/ FUL	Valley View, Chapel Street	Erection of a side and rear extension	Various concerns, object.	Permit
23/02727/ FUL	Hyde House Hotel, Fosseyway, Stow-on-the- Wold, Cheltenham, Glos GL54 1FA	Rebuilding of main entrance walls to the site to include new ashlar stone piers and entrance gate and associated landscaping. Erection of acoustic fencing behind south eastern boundary hedgerow	No objection but would prefer to see the mature hedge on the right-hand side of the entrance retained.	Permit
23/03518/ FUL	Gray Cottage, 2 Chapel Street	Addition of obscure window to rear	No objection.	Permit
23/03444/ FUL`	2 Rock Cottages, Chapel Street	Demolition of conservatory and erection of single-storey rear and two-storey side extension, replacement of annex, erection of detached garage, fenestration alterations and associated works	Support.	Permit
24/00076/ TCONR	Dower House, Maugersbury	Tree work	No comments made.	Permit

Cllr Totham gave the following updates:

- 23/01513/FUL - the application for a development of 37 affordable houses on land off Oddington Road in Stow was agreed by CDC's planning committee to be permitted but no decision had been issued yet.
- 23/01288/FUL - Byrig House – the changes to the wall are reportedly being withdrawn from the application.
- 23/03536/FUL – Caravan site variation of condition – MPC objected to the variation because the site is an important part of the Local Plan's provision of sites for Travellers, and secondly as the site is currently on the market it appears to negate the applicant's argument that the pitch will be for them.
- 23/03792/FUL – The Green Cottage solar panel array – MPC objected on the grounds that the scheme would be visible in the wider AONB landscape and visible from the public footpath adjacent to the site. It would blight an important view of the village and impact on the setting of listed Half Moon House.
- Information from CDC explained that the requirement for a Heritage Statement as part of a planning application was not based on listed buildings within 50m but was considered on a case-by-case basis and based on the impact of the proposal.

c) To receive update from Cllr Neill about caravans at Spring Bank

Cllr Neill's report expressed the hope that this would progress with the appointment of a new enforcement officer.

d) To receive any update on the issue that CDC is not being clear and transparent in dealing with heritage aspects of planning applications

Cllr Totham reported that MPC had sent its question to CDC's new head of planning.

e) To consider CDC consultation on Local Plan Update, deadline 7th April

It was noted that MPC has submitted detailed comments on the previous round of Local Plan Update consultation. The proposed changes were aimed at making the Local Plan "green" and also to extend it to 2041 (currently 2031). Residents were encouraged to comment, and Cllr Totham said she would try to look at it again.

10. Report by any members who have had a meeting or attended any event on behalf of Council

None to report.

11. Finance

a) To receive update on arrangements for independent internal audit

A postal audit has been arranged with the independent internal auditor.

b) To note there has been unbudgeted expenditure related to the defibrillator of £61 for replacement electrode pads and £285 for a replacement battery, and to approve the funds being sourced from General Reserves

Cllr Warmington explained that faults had developed and as a result the consumables had to be replaced earlier than usual. He had compared prices for the battery and found the price to be competitive for this type of lithium battery. The funds were provided for in next year's budget so the overall position would not be affected. It was agreed to source the funds from General Reserves this year.

c) To approve payments as per the payment schedule

Payments were approved as per the payment schedule: Community Heartbeat Trust - defibrillator battery £342.00 incl VAT; E Sajewicz reimburse expenses for website, stamps £71.12; E Sajewicz clerk's salary £477.40; HMRC PAYE on clerk's salary £99.80; St Edwards Church Room £13.00.

12. Defibrillator: To receive an update on the defibrillator and volunteers to help with checks

Mrs Warmington's report was read out as follows:

"Repaired unit returned and now installed with new battery. The unit was repaired free of charge due to previous reported problems. Unit was out of warranty period. New battery installed that will last three years. ... Training to be arranged around time of summer lunch to utilise village tents. Looking for volunteer(s) for carrying out monthly checks and back-up."

Mrs Warmington was thanked for her work looking after the defibrillator and residents encouraged to consider helping out with the monthly checks.

13. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

It was noted that Council has £209.54 of CIL funds to be spent within 4 years, and that it was intended to use the funds to pay for another community training session on Cardiac Arrest and Defibrillator Use to be arranged for June/July 2024.

14. To note 2024 meeting dates: 3 June, 9 September and 2 December 2024

Noted.

15. Questions from members of the public

Gigaclear – Cllr Totham advised she had finally had a response from Gigaclear and it appears connections will be available around June/July.

16. Date of next meeting (MPC meeting and Annual Parish Meeting)

Monday 3 June 2024

Meeting closed at 7.28pm.

Signed by Chairman: _____

Date: _____