

Maugersbury Annual Parish Meeting
Monday 5th June 2023 at Stow Youth Centre, Fosseyway, Stow on the Wold

M I N U T E S

Present: Cllr R Boyens (Chairman), Cllr H Totham, Cllr R Warmington, Ms E Sajewicz (clerk), County Cllr M MacKenzie-Charrington, District Cllr D Neill, PCSO K Graham, Mr G Golby and 18 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Mr & Mrs M Braddell

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 6th June 2022 were approved as an accurate record and signed by Cllr Boyens.

3. Report from Police

PCSO Kim Graham introduced himself and explained the staffing at Stow Police Station. There are two PCs and two PCSOs making up the team of Neighbourhood Officers. There had been 5 crimes related to Maugersbury in the last year that included damage to the noticeboard by the Maugersbury Road car park, 3 of antisocial behaviour and one theft. PCSO Graham spoke about what the team does which includes regular patrols of Maugersbury especially in the runup and during the horse fair. They take out engagement vehicles as often as they can to the villages for 4-hour sessions giving advice on crime prevention and answering questions. Bledington recently had a series of thefts from outbuildings, and Police cadets had gone door to door there, covering 75% of homes and planned to return to mop up. The team was working with HMRC, the Environment Agency and CDC on traffic in Bourton on the Water, to check legality of vehicles, fuel and emissions. They regularly visit primary schools to talk about internet safety, the law generally, and the significance of 10 being the age of criminal responsibility. He said fraud is one of the most reported crimes in the Cotswolds. The team gives talks on how not to become a victim, including a recent talk in Stow. Police attend as many fetes and events in the area as they can.

A resident said he had reported an incident during the horse fair concerning an attempt to steal sheep, and asked why it was apparently not included in the 5 crimes. PCSO Graham took the details and said he would look into it. The resident said he had been detained by Police and PCSO Graham advised him how to make a complaint.

Another resident described an incident concerning horses being chased and items stolen from stables, which had been reported but did not appear in the statistics.

Post meeting note: PCSO Graham advised both incidents had been linked to Stow Fair so the location was shown as Stow not Maugersbury.

PCSO Graham was thanked for his report.

Cllr Boyens said there would be a meeting on 22 June about horse fair issues.

4. Report from Cllr Mark MacKenzie-Charrington, Gloucestershire County Council

Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington's report had been circulated. He added that his inbox was full of highway reports, saying that the last year or two had seen a significant amount of complete resurfacing work, including almost all of the Fosse. Smaller roads would inevitably be lower down the pecking order. He spoke about the number of potholes due to last winter's weather and said GCC was trying to improve repairs by cutting out a whole section rather than just filling them in with tarmac.

He said developments were adding to pressure on infrastructure including highways and mentioned a review of parking in Stow and Moreton which had been delayed because of staff changes.

He spoke about flood management work being done by GCC and other agencies working together, particularly in Bledington which had 24 houses flooded out in the 2020 floods, and also around Moreton.

He spoke about the increase in quarrying and the impact of increased quarry traffic, including the effect on horses which are very susceptible to dust and particles, saying there are efforts to change the approval process so that the cumulative effects can be taken into account.

He described how Build Back Better funding had been spent in the area, including on a new bench on the green outside The Porch House in Stow to pay tribute to key workers.

He spoke about the Robin bus, and encouraged people to use it as it is a trial. It is aimed at communities north of the A40 that don't have any public transport. It will pick up in village centres and costs £2 a ride.

Cllr Warmington noted the interest in river pollution and asked about any plans to tackle it, for example on the Windrush. Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington said he had the River Dikler at the bottom of his garden and had seen the wildlife disappearing. There were plans to upgrade the sewage works at Bourton. Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP, has organised a meeting of all the agencies locally about this issue.

5. Report from Cllr Dilys Neill, Cotswold District Council

Cllr Neill's report had been circulated. She made the following additional comments.

CDC agrees with Cllr Warmington's concerns about sewage pollution and has written to Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown.

Cllr Neill said she had been re-elected at the May elections and thanked voters. She was still on the Planning Committee.

Horse Fair:

Cllr Neill said she tries to keep her ear to the ground, gives out her phone and email, and has a hotline to the police. She had been contacted this time about another sheep incident (not the one referred to above). She invited anyone with an incident to report to contact her if they could not get hold of the Police.

Reviews of the fair had been carried out regularly in the past by CDC, but this had not happened recently because of measures taken such as installation of bunds and bollards to prevent parking along verges. The Silver Group had gone into abeyance. Another group had been established but it didn't receive reports from the Safety Advisory Group. Cllr Boyens suggested MPC and CDC be represented on that Group. Cllr Neill said there was a need for the Safety Advisory Group to be aware of the problems and a need for the Stow Fair Group know what they were doing. She said working with the Police over the last two years had resulted in better deployment of officers around the area not just on the field. Cllr Neill the May event seemed to have produced very little theft and antisocial behaviour in Stow, and she had made a point of asking businesses. She had not seen youth with catapults or a catapult stall on the field.

Cllr Neill had asked for the reviews to be revived, and to include talking to all interested parties including MPC to understand impact on the community and plan for the future. An officer at CDC had been allocated to manage this. Cllr Neill had a list of questions and asked for any more to be provided.

A resident said bad behaviour by youngsters was an issue, with pony and traps being driven the wrong way on Digbeth Street and intimidation of members of the public particularly along Mangersbury Road.

Cllr Boyens said the event in its current form was not legal and someone needed to be in charge and get a grip.

PCO Graham said there had been two Police officers dedicated to the fair on the days before.

Cllr Neill asked for questions to be sent to her in advance of the 22 June meeting, including any incidents not already reported.

Cllr Boyens said he would compile the list of issues and questions.

A resident said the main issue currently was pony and traps tearing round the village. Cllr Boyens said that was why a significant Police presence was needed several days earlier and MPC would be pushing for that.

Cllr Neill said clarity was needed about when the field was allowed to open.

A resident said their grandson had been bundled into the nettles on his way home from school.

Residents were asked to report everything to MPC so it could be included.

A resident asked whether there had been conversations with the field owners to say they were in breach of planning law and would be issued with stop notices. He said they appeared to have had free rein for 25 years, and CDC had facilitated, paid for toilets and clean-up, and not told them to stop.

A resident said their solicitor could be contacted.

Cllr Neill said she heard what was being said. She noted that there were discrimination laws and Gypsy culture was protected.

A resident asked about the Pound Lane junction (on agenda for MPC meeting to follow this meeting). Cllr MacKenzie-Charrington said he had raised the problem again following the accident in February. Because there had been no serious accidents at the junction GCC had no records of any issues. He confirmed GCC's consultants, Atkins, had been asked to prepare a feasibility report on improvements to the junction, and asked to be reminded ahead of the next meeting if there had been no progress. He said he would be meeting the local highways manager tomorrow and would raise it with him.

Planning: Cllr Neill said she was continuing to follow up the Spring Bank situation with officers but the officer working on the case had left. She will keep pursuing and noted that enforcement matters are time-sensitive.

Cllr Neill was thanked for her report.

6. Report from Graham Golby, Burial Board:

Mr Golby gave a report on Stow Town Council's Burial Board. The board had four Stow Town Councillors as members and two advisors, one of whom is connected to the Church and the other is Mr Golby who represents MPC. He said he was willing to continue in the role. Recent decisions were to name a section of the cemetery Coronation Row, and approval of the erection of new signage to identify Commonwealth war graves.

Mr Golby was thanked for his report and his service to MPC.

7. Report about Defibrillator/Cardiac Arrest Response Training for the community

Mrs Warmington reported that Defibrillator and Cardiac Arrest training for the community had been held last July at the Lees field. Councillors agreed it had been an excellent and worthwhile course.

It was noted that CIL funds could be used to pay for this type of training.

There had been a small issue with one of the electrode pads but it was being resolved.

Mrs Warmington was thanked for her report and for looking after the defibrillator.

8. Questions and comments from parishioners

There were no other questions or comments from members of the public.

The meeting closed at 7.12pm and was followed by a Parish Council meeting.

Signed by Chairman of
Maugersbury Parish Council:

Date: