

ADDERBURY PARISH COUNCIL

TUESDAY 30 APRIL 2019

Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Theresa Goss
3 Tanners Close
Middleton Cheney
Banbury, OX17 2GD

01295 710965
adderburypc@hotmail.com
www.adderburypc.co.uk

This is a summary of the decisions and not the formal minutes of the Meeting of Adderbury Parish Council held on 30 April 2019.

If you require further information on the meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council, Theresa Goss on 01295 710965, during normal office hours.

PRESENT: Chairman Councillor Diane Bratt; Councillors Sheila August, Steven Cox, Rod Head, Vicky Head, Ann Lyons, Garrad Millier, Keith Mitchell and Martin Rye.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Goss (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer), Trish Fennell, District Councillor Andrew McHugh and ten members of the public.

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

1. **Welcome** – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised on the procedure for the recording of meetings.
2. **Apologies for absence** – Parish Councillors Colin Astley, Tony Gill and Sue Jelfs. District Councillor Mike Bishop.
3. **Declarations of Interest** – All Councillors as Trustees of the Lucy Plackett Playing Field. Other interests would be detailed in the minutes.
4. **Minutes & Matters Arising** – The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2019 were approved.
5. **Chairman's Announcements**
 - A young man from the village had undertaken litter picking in the village as part of the volunteering section of his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and he was thanked for his hard work.
 - The Chairman thanked all of the speakers who gave presentations at the Annual Parish Meeting on 16 April 2019; District Councillor Andrew McHugh on health and wellbeing, Jackie Head on the WFAC Milton Road project and Jonathan White from Environment Committee on traffic calming. It had been a well organised meeting. The speakers had been excellent and the public were impressed by the information presented to them.
 - Statement on behaviour at the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 April 2019 – The Chairman made the following statement:

As Chairman of APC I wish to make clear my disapproval of and disappointment at the behaviour of certain councillors and a few members of the public at this year's APM on 16th April.

Unfortunately, the meeting was disrupted at the end by a small minority of those present.

A number of residents have written to me voicing their disgust at the behaviour of a minority of those present using such terms as: disgraceful; rudeness; selfishness; ugly and divisive.

This was a Public meeting as questions/issues may be raised by the public (unlike a Parish Council meeting where the public only speak when allowed). However, this does not mean there were no rules nor that it was acceptable to harangue, shout and ignore the person who was chairing the meeting, as some residents and Councillor Astley did.

The following rules apply and were taken from Cherwell's Guidance on Parish Meetings and Polls

1. *The Chairman of the Parish Council is entitled to attend [any public meeting] and if he is present he shall preside over the meeting. If he is absent, the vice-chairman shall preside.*
- *In particular, NALC (National Association for Local Councils) urges that the parish council chairman will be in a position to ensure that the parish meeting only considers parish affairs, that any call for a poll relates to parish affairs, that the cost of funding a parish poll will be borne by the parish council and ultimately by the electors, and that the outcome of a poll is not binding.*
- *The parish meeting does not vote on whether or not to have a poll once this call has been made.*
- *The meeting does, however, vote on the question which is to be put in the poll, and each local government elector present may give one vote and no more on any question.*

This was the procedure I, as Chairman was following. Councillor Astley's behaviour in calling across the room, claiming 'you are not chairman' as though there was no such procedure, was totally unacceptable and appeared designed to stir up residents. This is neither acceptable nor dignified behaviour for a Parish Councillor and is against the very basis of the Council's Code of Conduct in public office which requires councillors to behave with respect to others and to promote and support high standards of conduct.

I regret to say I did not see those standards upheld by Councillor Astley who at one point was out of his seat arguing with the Police officer who had asked him to sit down.

I hope that all those who were unable to behave properly at the public meeting have had time to reflect. If a poll is called it can be done so in an orderly fashion, as shown by Mrs Scarff, following the guidance of the Chairman of the meeting. The Chairman should always be treated with respect as they hold the authority of the Parish Council. They should not be harangued by a minority group. If this is how WARA aim to conduct their meetings as an 'alternative council for West Adderbury', I hope residents throughout the village will take note.

6. **Open Forum** – Three residents addressed the Parish Council and further information would be available in the minutes.
7. **Reports from County and District Councillors** – County Councillor Arash Fatemian circulated a report prior to the meeting. District Councillor Andrew McHugh addressed the Parish Council with regard to the Community Speed Watch Scheme.
8. **Planning**
 - i) Planning Applications - The planning applications considered by the Parish Council since the last meeting were noted.

The Parish Council would object to 19/00619/F, Land East of The Leys, Adderbury for the erection of three dwellings on land east of The Leys, Adderbury.
 - ii) Results of Planning Applications - The results of planning applications determined by Cherwell District Council's Planning Committee were noted.
 - iii) Planning Application 18/00220/F – The Chairman and Clerk, with the architect, were authorised to begin pre-application discussions with Cherwell District Council's planning officers and the Chairman and Clerk were also authorised to continue to progress the discharging of condition 5, progressing of the pitch area

and continue the management of the land.

9. Village Matters

- i) FOCAL – Report noted.
- ii) Working for Adderbury Community (WFAC) – Report was noted and ideas from residents for developing the Lucy Plackett Playing Field would be welcomed. Grant applications would be investigated in due course.
- iii) Annual Parish Meeting 16 April 2019 – The Parish Poll would be held on Monday 13 May 2019, from 4pm to 9pm at the Methodist Church. There would be three questions on the ballot paper. Electors could only vote in person, there were no proxy or postal votes allowed for the Parish Poll. The cost of approximately £1000 would be met from the Parish Council's budget.

A neutral statement would be published by the Parish Council explaining the Parish Council's agreed position so far on both issues which are the subject of the poll questions, and highlighting all of the hard work which had been undertaken by WFAC on the Milton Road project and by members of the Environment Committee relating to traffic calming. It was also acknowledged that there was a very active WFAC Fundraising Committee.

On Saturday 11 May 2019, from 5-8pm Mrs Jackie Head, Chairman of WFAC, would be holding an event in Adderbury Institute advising residents on the work which the group had been undertaking on the Milton Road project.

10. Parish Council Matters

- i) Committee Minutes – No meetings of the Environment or Staffing Committee had been held since the last meeting of the Parish Council.

The next meeting of the Environment Committee was being held on Friday 10 May 2019 at 10am.

- ii) Judicial Reviews – Further discussion relating to the failed applications for Judicial Reviews be dropped because the matter was now closed and because it has become a divisive issue which is making poor use of Parish Council time and resources.

Formal agenda items regarding this matter only be added in the event that they are in accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders.

iii) Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021

(a)

- (a) the Parish Council prepares a three-year financial plan that extends beyond a single year, at least in terms of the major blocks of income and expenditure. Cllr Keith Mitchell is asked to draft this for approval, liaising with the Finance Working Group;
- (b) the Parish Council includes in the three-year financial plan details of Section 106 funding held by Cherwell DC and Oxon CC and potential additional sources of Section 106 funding where known; Councillors Diane Bratt and Keith Mitchell are authorised to do this and for it to be reported regularly to the Parish Council;
- (c) the Strategic Plan should be cross referenced to the Adderbury Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Diane Bratt will draft this for approval by the Parish Council;
- (d) the Parish Council identifies five substantial projects that should be given priority in terms of resource planning as follows;
 - (i) Sports & community facilities at Milton Road;
 - (ii) Preserve Lucy Plackett Playing Field as fantastic green space and improve facilities where possible;
 - (iii) Sympathetic traffic calming;
 - (iv) Sustainability of the village store; and
 - (v) New outdoor gym equipment to encourage exercise.
- (e) the Parish Council acknowledges items (i) and (iii) require significant resources and should be prioritised within the allocated funding available and the potential to augment this;
- (f) the Parish Council acknowledges item (ii), while important, is dependent on the successful outcome of item (i) and is unlikely to involve significant funding given the objective is stability and possible improvement. Item (ii) would link well with item (v);
- (g) the Parish Council acknowledges item (iv) is one where APC's ability to influence is limited and the role is likely to be primarily one of mediation, requiring little financial resource;
- (h) the Parish Council acknowledges that item (v), while desirable, must have a lower priority until items (i) and (iii) are achieved; and
- (i) Councillor Colin Astley be asked if he would like to step down from the Working Group, given his lack of communication or attendance described above, which would enable to the Parish Council to appoint two or three other members to expand the group.

iii) Hoey Ainscough Recommendations

(b)

- a) the appendix be approved and forwarded to the elector in answer to his enquiry;
- b) the declaration stating that *all Councillors would treat their fellow councillors with respect and not make personal attacks on individuals or their integrity*, be signed by all Parish Councillors; and
- c) given that the key officers at Cherwell who were involved in the *Hoey Ainscough* review have since left the Council, the Parish Council would ascertain where the responsibility lies in Cherwell now and renew contact with a view to reporting on progress as requested.

v) Councillors Training Courses – Noted.

vi) Parish Council Surgeries – One resident attended the Surgery on 6 April 2019.

vii) Health and Safety

- The Rise play area – No issues
- Lucy Plackett Playing Field/play area – No issues
- Adderbury Lakes – No issues

viii) Death of a Senior National Figure – Approved.

11. **Finance**

i) Accounts for Payment – The accounts for payment were approved.

- ii) Bank Reconciliation and Financial Report – Noted.
- iii) Accounts 2018/2019 - Annual Governance and Accountability Return and the Receipts & Payments 2018/2019 were approved.

12. **Correspondence** – The Clerk had received an email about dog fouling in the village.

The Lucy Jane Plackett Charity
(No Items)

14. **Public and Press** – The press and public were excluded for items 15, 16 & 17.

15. **Boreholes in Adderbury Cemetery** – The Clerk and Chairman were authorised to continue to gather the necessary information and quotes and to look into the marking out of suitable grave spaces in the cemetery.

16. **Rawlins Close Amenity Land** – This item was deferred.

17. **19/00619/F, Land East of The Leys Adderbury** – The issue of the ownership of the track would be raised with Cherwell District Council.

18. **Meeting Dates** - Future meeting dates are as follows and would commence at 7.30pm at the Church House, Adderbury, unless stated otherwise:

- 28 May 2019

19. **Items for the Next Agenda (Items of Information Only)**

- LAP/LEAP/Community Areas, Adderbury Fields
- 3 year forward budgetary plan, including Section 106 funds
- Boreholes in Adderbury Cemetery
- Rawlins Close Amenity Land
- Possible replacement of damaged Royal lime tree in Lucy Plackett Playing Field
- Registration of remaining PC land
- Results of Parish Poll/Suggested official letter to Victoria Prentis MP on the potential misuse of Parish Polls