

**KIRTLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

Present: J A B Charlesworth, Ms A Kennedy, Dr H Macbeth, Mrs R M Powles (Clerk), Mr D R Pratt (Chairman), S Tylor, Cllr A Gearing (Oxfordshire CC, until 7.55 p.m.), Cllr S Holland (Cherwell DC, Item 5 iv onwards)

Apologies: Miss S van Loen, R Sadler

Before the main business of the meeting Cllr Pratt invited Cllr Gearing to present his report. Cllr Gearing said he had been involved with the preparation of the County Council's budget. Cllr Macbeth re-iterated the Parish Council's priorities for maintained support of roads, rural transport, and care of the vulnerable and elderly. Cllr Gearing said if possible rural bus services would be maintained but overall he anticipated further cuts in the foreseeable future. Cllr Charlesworth raised the question of the long-term viability of BT's proposed provision of high speed broadband in the County; Cllr Gearing would forward the details of the County Council officer who was dealing with this matter.

**1. Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

These were signed as a correct record.

**2. Matters arising from the minutes**

Affordable housing: it was agreed ORCC should be asked for an update.

Playbus location next to the Pound: the operators of the Playbus service had explained the bus was too large to be driven past the east end of South Green and so could not access the Village Hall car park. Cllr Pratt had accepted this was the case but had asked that parents using the facility did not park on the approach to Mill Lane.

Footpath from Roman Close to the Bletchington Road: Cllr Macbeth reported that the path would remain unchanged, as a mown grass track, although there was a possibility that gravel might be put on the first couple of metres, which sloped downwards.

Bus cancellations: A parishioner had raised the problem of passengers awaiting a scheduled bus which was cancelled without any effort to notify those waiting of its cancellation. Cllr van Loen had contacted the County Council and reported that Oxfordshire County Council was now deducting money from the subsidies to the bus company for each cancellation, subject to a right of reply, and as a result the bus company had incurred losses. The County Council thought the service had improved as a result.

**3. Declarations of interest**

None.

**4. Reports**

As above.

**5. Village Hall, Play Areas and Sports Field**

(i) Village Hall: Mr Waterhouse had reported the energy saving improvements to the main hall were largely complete, as was the installation of the new windows and doors. The Committee was still seeking a contractor for the refurbishment of the ladies' lavatories.

(ii) Play Areas:

Roman Close Play Area: Cllr Pratt had written to residents to explain why no new equipment would be installed.

Sports Field Play Area, "birds nest" swing: the Council approved the installation and delivery quotation of £518 plus VAT.

(iii) Sports Field and adjacent

Fence, Molly Minns Lane: Mr Cherry had carried out some repairs pro tem. Cllr Pratt reported Barlows had provided a lower quotation than previously; the replacement fencing would now cost £755 plus VAT. Eynsham Sawmills had not yet responded. He would liaise with Mr Cherry and Mr Draper about dates for the work. Cllr Tylor agreed to check the condition of the boundary fence with the Park.

Remedial surgery to Cedars etc: the Council approved a further £120 payment to Sylva for additional shredding and removal of the brush. This would be partially offset by the reduced scale of work to one of the sycamores.

(iv) Other

Cllr Charlesworth was still obtaining quotations for the construction of the tennis court. He provided samples of different artificial surface types for consideration.

Hedge trimming, Gravel Pit field: Cllr Tylor would arrange for the hedges to be cut alongside Mill Lane and Crowcastle Lane. It would not be possible to trim the hedges from the field side this year because the ground was too wet.

#### **5. Village Greens**

South Green: for further discussion at the next meeting.

#### **7. Website, fibre optic provision**

Fibre optic broadband provision, approach from Gigaclear: Cllr Charlesworth said the next step would be a meeting with Gigaclear which would cover matters such as how to publicize their proposal and how to obtain the views of both Kirtlington and Bletchington parishioners. He said it would be important to ensure that an equal platform was given to BT and the Council should remain impartial.

#### **8. Planning**

Separate report circulated at the meeting to be filed with the approved minutes.

Planning applications from smaller properties: the Council noted the frequency of planning applications which proposed a substantial increase in size of smaller traditional cottages and a significant reduction in garden size. It was agreed this was undesirable in the context of the Conservation Area. It was also noted that large extensions such as this reduced the number of small properties in the village available for purchase by smaller households and added to the parking problems of the most sensitive areas. It was agreed to consult the Conservation team of Cherwell District Council's Planning department for advice.

#### **9. Correspondence**

Dorchester Group's invitation to Parish Councils in Cherwell District to discuss a potential Neighbourhood Plan comprising up to sixteen of the parishes surrounding the Heyford Park development: Cllr Holland outlined some of the possible benefits and disadvantages. For example, to be excluded from such a plan might leave parishes vulnerable to unwelcome development; to be included might entail very great expense and effort. It was suggested the Parish Council explore the possibility further in order to establish whether there might be particular benefits to Kirtlington.

Oxfordshire Ramblers Assoc: Cllr Macbeth confirmed the Footpaths Society would fulfil the role of path warden and set up a reporting system.

Local Government Boundary Commission, electoral review of Cherwell District Council: Cllr Holland had advised the review would not have any significant impact on the Kirtlington ward.

#### **10. Finance**

Accounts status and payments: separate report circulated at the meeting (to be filed with the approved minutes).

New Homes Bonus payment, £3,765: Cherwell District Council had approved expenditure on the tennis court.

#### **11. A.O.B.**

Lamb Ale weekend, 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> June: invitations had been sent to Hebborn's and the stallholders to attend on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Monday 16<sup>th</sup>. The start time would be unchanged at 3 p.m., and the fair could operate until 11 p.m. on Saturday and Monday, and until 9 p.m. on Sunday.

Signed **D R Pratt** Chairman

Date **11.3.14**