

## Wardington Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom video conferencing

Present: Cllr Patterson (Chairman), Cllr Martin (Vice Chairman), Cllr Jarrett, Cllr Burnett.

In attendance: Lexi Gordon-Finlayson (Clerk), Kirsty Buttle (Cover Clerk), County Cllr Reynolds, District Cllr Chapman.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Bankes, Cllr Page.
2. **Members declarations of interest for items on the agenda** – None.
3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2021** – The minutes were proposed, agreed and duly signed.
4. **Outstanding matters/actions from previous meetings**
  - 4.1 Ash Tree by the pond – Concerns have been raised indirectly by a parishioner about the condition of the Ash Tree as it appears to be at the end of its life and that large branches may fall. The Ash Tree is in an unregistered area of the village therefore it is not owned by the Parish Council (PC). The PC have been advised not to complete any work on trees that do not belong to them unless absolutely necessary. If it is considered a significant danger to the public it may be possible to get Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to organise removal of the tree. Issues such as this should be reported to OCC using [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com). It was agreed that no further action should be taken on this issue by the PC.
  - 4.2 COMF funding - Grant of £1,666 offered and accepted – The plan is to use the funds primarily for a village get together, probably in September, dependent on the guidance at that time on public gatherings.
  - 4.3 Handover of Clerk’s responsibilities – The Clerk advised that she has now handed over the majority of the financial documentation to Cllr Jarrett who will be acting as the RFO during her maternity leave and the handover has taken place with the Cover Clerk.
5. **Planning applications received**

**21/00497/TCA - The Bishops House Street From Banbury Road To Mount Pleasant Wardington.** T1 x Yew (Taxus Baccata) - Crown reduce in height by 1.5m and reduce lateral spread by 2.0m all around. Remove deadwood (exempt). **No representations made.**

**21/00985/F – Up Corner Cottage, Wardington.** First floor rear bedroom extension. **No objections.**
6. **Planning decisions received**

**21/00577/TCA - Study Cottage, Street from Banbury Road to Mt Pleasant, Wardington.** G1 x 6 nos Leylandii – fell as trees not maintained for 20 years and are taking most of the light from the garden. **Approved.**
7. **Responsible Financial Officer’s Report** – Account balances currently are:

Wardington Community £20,954

Williamscott Acct £6,322

Playground Account £1,256

Savings Account (play ground) £4,246 – this is high because the grant £2500 from OCC went into this account.

It was agreed that as it is so difficult to take funds out of the savings account the account should be closed and all funds transferred to the main playground account. **Cllr Page to arrange closure of the account.**

Cllr Jarrett advised that there is standing order set up to pay £30 to the Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association (OPFA) which is no longer required as the fees have increased and the PC receive a request for payment annually. It was agreed that **Cllr Jarrett should cancel the Standing Order to OPFA.**

It was agreed that the Asset Register should be amended to remove the PC laptop as this has not been in the PC's possession for some time. **Cllr Jarrett to remove the laptop from the Asset Register.**

## 8. Finance

8.1 To approve payment of the following invoices: Proposed and agreed.

Payee	Description	Amt
Lexi Gordon-Finlayson	March Clerks Pay	£376.41
HMRC	March tax	£94.20
Lexi Gordon-Finlayson	April Clerks Pay	£376.61
HMRC	April tax	£94.00
Kirsty Buttle	April Clerks Pay	£207.65
HMRC	April tax	£51.91
Parish Magazine Printing	Printing Feb, May and Aug 2020	£813.00

8.2 Playground 200 club draw

Number	Name	Prize
13	Nigel Banks	£20
32	Elsie Smith	£10

9. **To consider plans for holding meetings in future taking account of COVID restrictions and the change to the rules regarding lawfulness of electronic meetings from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021** – The PC are required to hold a meeting in May in order to elect the Chairman for the coming year. The rules allowing electronic meetings expire on 7<sup>th</sup> May but they could be reinstated depending on the outcome of a court hearing before the end of April. To ensure that the May meeting takes place it was agreed that a very brief electronic meeting to complete the statutory tasks should be held on, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> May. **Clerk to confirm meeting date once councillor availability has been confirmed.** It is understood that public meetings will be able to take place again from 17<sup>th</sup> May but COVID safety measures will be required. Some councillors are concerned about the risks involved in having a public meeting before the majority of people have received their vaccinations so it was agreed to keep the original planned date of 25<sup>th</sup> May in the diary and reconsider whether this meeting should go ahead closer to the time.

**10. To consider arrangements (if any) for advertising the Fairport ticket sales given the uncertainty due to COVID** – Currently the Fairport organisers say they hope the event will be going ahead so they will be putting an advert for tickets in the Warbler.

**11. Information exchange**

Cllr Reynolds stated that he is concerned about the number of lorry movements connected with planning applications and scoping reports involving HS2. He will be keeping an eye on them to ensure the number of lorries are kept to the limit allowed. Cllr Chapman advised that there was another burglary in Williamscott last Friday and he is concerned that the police do not seem to have done much about this despite quite a lot of information being made available to them. Cllr Chapman advised that Cropredy Parish Council has a quarterly meeting with the police to discuss crime in the area and this seems to be of benefit to the parish due to the open regular communication with the police. **Clerk to put item regarding improving communication with the police on the next agenda.**

**Date of next meeting date – \*Now confirmed as 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021\***

**Meeting closed @ 8:45pm**

Signed..... Date.....

DRAFT