

Minutes of the meeting of Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council held remotely on 2nd March 2021 via Zoom

The Vice-Chair opened the meeting at 7.15pm.

19/221. Present/Apologies

Parish Councillors present: Akshay Morye, John Peters (Vice-Chair – in the chair for this meeting), Mandy Rigault and Madhvi Saini (Chair).

Also present: Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale (OxonCC), Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SODC) and Geoffrey Ferres (Clerk).

19/222. Declarations of interest

Mandy Rigault and Madhvi Saini declared an interest in relation to the Village Hall.

19/223. Parishioners' issues

None.

19/224. Minutes of the last ordinary Council Meeting

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5th January 2021 were **approved**, then signed on each page by the Vice-Chair.

Actions: Vice-Chair to pass signed minutes to Clerk; Clerk to publish them on the Council's website

19/225. County Councillor's report

Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale introduced her latest monthly report which she had sent in two parts over the previous two days and which had not yet been published on the Council's website.

No one had succeeded in opening the second part, received yesterday, and she undertook to re-send it. **Action: Clerk to publish reports on website**

19/226. District Councillor's report

Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye introduced a written report that she had submitted a couple of hours before the meeting. **Action: Clerk to publish report on website**

During a discussion of SODC's forthcoming tree policy, Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale explained that it is the County Council, not SODC, which is responsible for trimming the trees along the main road through the village.

The Chair was concerned that she had used FixMyStreet to report a problem with the drains which had been referred to the County Council

Signed:

Madhvi Saini

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but she had not yet received any response. Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she believed the County Council had 28 days to respond. The Vice-Chair was concerned about items near his home that were left over from roadworks which were started two years ago and have never been removed in spite of him contacting the County Council on numerous occasions. Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she would try to get the matter attended to.

Mandy Rigault complained about Thames Water's response to a complaint about sewage overflows and Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye suggested that if Mandy Rigault forwarded the material to her, she could bring it to the attention of SODC's Thames Champion, Cllr Jo Robb, who has had a lot of dealings with the company. Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale asked to be kept in touch about the problem. **Action: Mandy Rigault**

19/227. Planning applications and consultations

There were no planning applications to be discussed. The Vice-Chair reported that since the last meeting he had received two planning applications as Planning Champion and had not responded to SODC about either of them.

19/228. Finance

a) Bank reconciliation to end January 2021

The Council **noted** a bank reconciliation to the end of January 2021 presented by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer.

b) Budget monitoring report to end January 2021

The Council **noted** a report, presented by the Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer, monitoring payments against the budget up to the end of January 2021.

The Council **approved** a recommendation from the Clerk to increase the following figures:

- Staff costs from £2,700 to £3,300
- Communications from £400 to £450.

c) Payments

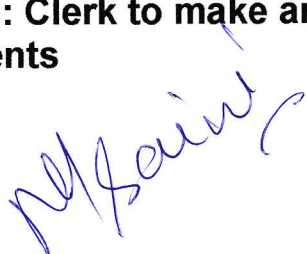
The Council **approved** the following payments:

- £165.46, Baldons PCC, share of cost of Newsletter 2020
- £223.73, Geoffrey Ferres, Clerk holiday pay 2020 net of PAYE tax deducted.

The Council **waived** Financial Regulation 6.6 so that signatories could sign the payments outside the meeting.

Action: Clerk to make arrangements with signatories to sign payments

Signed:



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19/229. Correspondence

None.

19/230. Proposed gravel extraction site

Mandy Rigault gave a verbal report. Since the last meeting, the County Council's Cabinet had removed Nuneham Courtenay's status as a preferred option.

She proposed that the Council engage Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners Ltd, a planning and development consultancy, to apply the County Council's proposed methodology to the Nuneham Courtenay site and produce a response which both Nuneham Courtenay and Sandford parish councils could submit in response to the County Council's public consultation on the Updated Site Assessment Methodology – a consultation which closes on Wednesday 17th March.

The cost of using Lichfields would only be £1,500 (plus VAT) because Lichfields had undertaken a previous piece of work regarding the site, which had been paid for by two individuals so were already familiar with the issues.

Mandy Rigault said the net cost to the Council would be only £350 because it would receive four contributions totalling £1,150. The Council had budgeted £1,200 for work relating to the gravel extraction site and had so far spent only £400 so the proposal would be well within the budget previously agreed.

The Clerk advised that engaging Lichfields without seeking alternative quotations was allowed under Financial Regulation 11.1a which exempted contracts for specialist services and specifically mentioned planning consultants.

Mandy Rigault also proposed that the Council make a joint response with Sandford on Thames Parish Council, which was being drafted by Hilda Bailey, who is the retiring chair of that council.

She said the proposed joint response would welcome:

- the commitment to protect historical assets, environment and landscape
- the recognition that the transport of minerals can have adverse effects on communities
- the commitment to protect biodiversity and the ecology.

She said the proposed joint response would dispute:

- the claim that the original site assessments had been fit for purpose
- the assertion that sensitive development can enhance the beauty of the Green Belt
- the calculations as to the quantity of gravel needed.

Signed:

M Bailey

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The Council **unanimously agreed** that:

- a joint response be submitted with Sandford on Thames Parish Council to the County Council along the lines described
- Lichfields be engaged to make representations on the Updated Site Assessment Methodology on the basis described
- Financial Regulation 6.6 be waived so that the Lichfields bill can be paid without waiting for the Council's next meeting provided that contributions totalling at least £700 have already been received.

Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye offered to contact officers at SODC if Mandy Rigault sent her a copy of the proposed response to see whether SODC's response took those points on board. **Action: Mandy Rigault**

19/231. Grant application

The Vice-Chair proposed that the Council make a grant of £300 to Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice and the Council **unanimously agreed**.

Action: Clerk to make arrangements with signatories to sign a cheque

19/232. Annual Parish Meeting 2021

The Clerk advised that the Council should choose a date before 7th May so the meeting can be held remotely before the special legal provisions that allow remote meetings expire.

Akshay Morye proposed that the meeting be held on Tuesday 23rd March and the Council **agreed**. The Council **agreed** that the meeting should start at 7pm.

19/233. Village Hall broadband

The Clerk had put before the Council the three options TalkTalk Business has offered for a new contract.

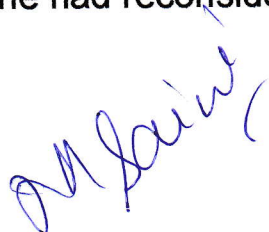
Mandy Rigault proposed that the Council choose the cheapest option, which would be the continuation of the existing service, but the Council **agreed** to find out whether the Village Hall Committee preferred a different option.

19/234. Playing field

There was nothing to report apart from the fact that a noticeboard has been placed on the Playing Field which at present does not contain any notices.

The Council **instructed** the Clerk to contact Steve Appleby and enquire whether he had reconsidered his decision not to continue with his efforts

Signed:



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to mediate between the Council and the Nuneham Courtenay Sports and Playing Field Association. Action: Clerk

19/235. Speeding and other Highways issues

Mandy Rigault said she has contacted the County Council about the fact that the markings for one of the bus stops have faded and need to be repainted but no action has yet been taken.

The Clerk had circulated information about The Ramblers' Association's "Don't Lose Your Way" campaign. The Council **agreed** that he should include something about this campaign in an article for the Newsletter.

The Vice-Chair informed the Council that he had offered to fill the vacant role of Parish Path Warden.

19/236. Conservation issues

Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye said she had been in contact with Paula Fox from SODC's Planning team. Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye suggested a proper meeting involving representatives of Planning and the Parish Council. Councillors welcomed the suggestion of a meeting.

Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye said Paula Fox had sent her some suggestions which she would pass on to the Parish Council. One of those suggestions was that in future the Parish Council should record the date on which breaches occurred as this might assist SODC with enforcement.

Both the Vice-Chair and Mandy Rigault recalled how in former years SODC had Conservation Officers who would visit and tell owners what was and was not permitted.

19/237. Neighbourhood Plan

Three members are about to attend Neighbourhood Plan training provided by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.

19/238. Automated external defibrillator

The Council was unsure whether James Fallon had put the supplies with the defibrillator and whether he would be prepared to continue to look after it. Mandy Rigault offered to contact him. **Action: Mandy Rigault**

19/239. Website

Akshay Morye said he had investigated the accessibility of the Council's current website using four different systems and 66 was the lowest number of issues with the current website that any of them listed.

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He recommended that the Council contract with a company that would ensure its website was accessibility compliant and offered to try to obtain three quotes before the Council's next meeting. **Action: Akshay Morye.**

19/240. Transport

Mandy Rigault reported that she had been unable to attend the remote meeting of Parish Transport Representatives held on 23rd February.

19/241. Bioabundance

The Vice-Chair said that the work of Bioabundance, a Community Interest Company which describes itself as the campaigning arm of South Oxfordshire Sustainability, was of benefit to everyone in the parish.

Mandy Rigault proposed that the Council use its power under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 to make a grant of £500 to Bioabundance and the Council **agreed.**

Action: Clerk to make arrangements with signatories to sign a cheque

The meeting closed at 9.26pm

Signed:



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