

FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM DUE TO THE ONGOING CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, ON THE 20TH JULY 2020, IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORDSHIRE AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT: Chairman: Peter Newell
Vice-Chairman: Robert Crocker
Councillors: Mary Ann Canning, Peter Foster, Matthew Ruddle, Véro McCoy, Bill Phillips.
District Councillors: Alaa Al-Yousuf (till 9.45pm)
County Councillor: Liam Walker (from 8.00pm)
Clerk: Lisa Smith

At the time of this meeting taking place, the UK and rest of the world were still experiencing a Coronavirus (Covid -19) pandemic, and legislation and rules around social distancing were being updated regularly. The current Government advice was to not allow public meetings to take place, but legislation had been changed to allow virtual meetings instead.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Four members of the public were present for this session – Kenny Wylie, who wished to listen to the meeting, Peter Leigh, Parish Transport Representative who was going to provide an update on the buses, and Amy Jackson and Roger Faulkner who both wished to speak about traffic and speeding issues in the village and what could be done about it.

Amy spoke first and wished to ask 2 things from the Parish Council, with regards to improving safety in the village, these were:

- (i) Support the early rerouting of construction and commuter traffic away from the village, on to alternative routes as part of a new holistic and sustainable approach to traffic management;
- (ii) Help to reduce the speed of traffic through the village, especially at sensitive areas where there are crossing points, poor visibility or vulnerable groups.

Amy raised concerns that the village was already heavily used as a rat run. Whilst it was recognised there had been a temporary fall in traffic volume over the past few months due to lockdown, the village potentially faced years of increasing impact from growing congestion and housing development, including the garden village, before any traffic plans were implemented.

Concerns were also raised that when the plans for traffic reconfiguration for the garden village were eventually implemented that they would prioritise the needs of its own residents and not interact with the needs of Freeland. With Freeland being a ribbon village with a care home, retail outlets, a pub, a church, a school, two livery stables, no street lights and several blind bends, they felt it should not have to contend with existing – let alone future higher – levels of traffic, when there's an alternative route available with none of these challenges. So she asked the Council for help in finding ways to secure an early rerouting of traffic around Freeland, and to apply continued pressure to ensure local travel and transport needs are considered holistically, so that everyone could benefit from the changes ahead.

Roger then spoke about Speedwatch and the need to reduce traffic speeds through the village. He advised that since the introduction of Freeland Speedwatch in June 2017, in the 16 months of operation, 42 sessions had been carried out. 3,693 vehicles had been observed, of which 547 (or 15%) were recorded at speeds in excess of 35mph. The most alarming statistic was that 29% of the vehicles entering the village towards The Green were caught doing in excess of 35mph with the highest recorded speed of 53mph. Unfortunately, Speedwatch sessions were currently suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Roger then went on to note that with the increased number of delivery and construction vehicles and the forthcoming development of the Garden Village the safety of Freeland residents would be improved if the speed limit could be reduced to 20mph along Wroslyn Road from just before Oakland Close to The Green if possible but, if not, at the most sensitive points which he suggested would be around the areas of the school and The Green. He proposed sending a questionnaire to each household in the village asking if they would approve of this speed reduction and also if they would

support the early rerouting of traffic away from the village as outlined by Amy. He and Amy would be willing to draft this questionnaire for the Council's approval and to distribute it and hoped the Council would meet all relevant costs.

Peter Leigh then gave a brief update about the buses. The S106 money for a new bus shelter on the A4095 had been received by OCC and the work was being put out to tender. Peter had flagged up about a resident whose driveway was right by the bus stop and would need consulting. With regards to the electric bus, an application had been submitted, even though not everyone in the group was in agreement, it was still put forward. He has asked Marilyn to get involved, and the outcome would hopefully be known in July. He was hopeful of a positive response, but thought that if it did get approved, it was likely it would need to be more Hanborough based than Freeland due to higher usage.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Tim Webster – unwell, and Marilyn Davies.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT:

3.1 TO RECEIVE ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no amendments to the Register of Members' Interests.

3.2 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM COUNCILLORS FOR MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING

Mary Ann Canning (personal) as a member of Freeland Charitable Foundation.

Robert Crocker (personal) as a member of Freeland Charitable Foundation (FCF) and as having a local business.

Matthew Ruddle (personal) as caretaker of the Little Free Library and as a member of 1st Hanborough/Freeland Scouts Committee.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 15th June 2020

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15th June were approved and would be signed by the Chairman (outside of the meeting) as a true record of those proceedings.

4.2 To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Monday 15th June 2020

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15th June were approved and would be signed by the Chairman (outside of the meeting) as a true record of those proceedings.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to report.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Mobile coverage in Freeland – to receive an update on progress to improve mobile signal

There was nothing further to report. Peter F would keep the Council updated on any further developments.

6.2 Freeland Methodist Church: To receive an update on future of Methodist Church

There was nothing further to report.

6.3 Little Free Library – to update on progress in transforming phone box into a new library

Both libraries were now back up and running as normal and Matthew passed on his thanks to the following volunteers who had helped him with the running of the libraries – Jenny Wylie, Sue Thomlinson and Fiona Lehayne. Both libraries were now running as normal.

6.4 Actions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic – to receive an update on prescription service and to consider when to finalise the service

The Clerk gave a brief update. As lockdown restrictions were being eased further, the Parish Council needed to review when to cease the prescription service and central helpline as these were only ever

meant as an emergency measure. It was agreed by the Council to keep the service running until the end of August and a note would be placed in the Grapevine to inform residents about this date. For any residents who were contactable via email, the Clerk would email them to advise them of when the service was finishing, and any who phoned the helpline would be advised accordingly. The Clerk mentioned that she was advising those that were still concerned to contact the pharmacy direct to see if they could be added to their direct delivery service.

Council passed on their thanks to the Clerk and Vero for all the work they had done in setting up and running this invaluable service during the pandemic.

7. PLANNING - Applications received & WODC Decisions plus:

7.1 Applications Received:

20/01734/OUT LAND NORTH OF A40, A40 SECTION FROM BARNARD GATE TO EYNSHAM ROUNDABOUT, EYNSHAM (NEIGHBOURING PARISH)

Outline application with means of access for a mixed-use Garden Village, comprising residential, retail, food and drink, health and community facilities, hotel, class B1, B2 and B8 employment uses, education provision, burial ground, public open space with sports pitches together with ancillary facilities, landscaping and associated infrastructure and works for Grosvenor Developments Ltd.

As the above planning application had only been received literally a few days before the PC meeting, it was felt there was not enough time to fully digest all of the information contained in the 206 associated documents before the meeting. One positive thing to note was that there was a bridleway connection to Freeland shown at the bottom of the site which was also to be used as a cycleway. A query was also raised about whether there was a doctor's surgery included in the plans, but the plans merely showed a "health facility" which was likely to be some sort of dispensary or similar as there was not enough houses to warrant another full surgery service. It was noted some of the documents were very vague and the traffic modelling figures used in the report were puzzling. It was agreed that the Councillors would review the documents and feedback any comments to the Chairman and Clerk who would then put together a suitable response to the application. It was suggested looking at the Draft Area Action Plan (AAP) in conjunction with the outline planning documents as the AAP contained various aspirations for key considerations such as active travel solutions, building design options, environmental factors etc.

Action: Councillors to review planning application documents and feedback any comments to Chairman/Clerk for them to submit response to WODC.

7.2 Applications Approved:

20/00510/FUL FREELAND PLAYING FIELD, WROSLYN ROAD, FREELAND.

Erection of replacement storage building (amended plans) for Freeland Parish Council.

7.3 Applications Refused: None.

7.4 Applications Withdrawn: None.

7.5 Applications Awaiting Decision: None.

7.6 To note new name of Garden Village

The new name for the Garden Village was likely to be Salt Cross, and the meaning behind the name had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. A competition to identify the name had generated 115 entries which had to be measured against a published set of criteria. Salt Cross was chosen because it could be specifically linked to the site as historic Salt Way and Saxon Way cross over on the site. As such, the name was unique to its location.

8. REPORT OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS

Alaa gave a brief update on a number of items including the draft Area Action Plan that was due to be agreed by the Cabinet on Wednesday and then would go to full Council the following week for approval. It would then be put out to a six-week public consultation before being signed off by the Planning Inspector. WODC had had to re-deploy staff due to the Coronavirus pandemic and was fortunate enough to have enough reserves to cover their shortfalls. Overall, they had suffered a

combined loss of around £3m, however £1m of the extra costs was being compensated by central government and the extra £2m would be covered by reserves.

In Liam's update he advised about being keen to spend the County's allocation for Highways and roads all across the county were being fixed. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic the County Council had suffered a £15m deficit so they were currently investigating how savings could be made, with only minor adjustments being made to the Highways budget.

The Unitary Council debate had returned with some of the other Councils in the County not being in as fortunate a financial position as WODC, and so swift action needed to be taken. A Government White Paper was due to be released in the Autumn and it was likely plans would move quickly towards some kind of unitary council.

OCC was also looking at lessons being learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic and the onus was now being shifted onto local government to decide on whether to implement local lock downs, and OCC were working with all district councils in case this become necessary.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.1 Presentation of the monthly financial report

The monthly financial report was presented to the Council showing details of the bank balance at 30th June 2020 and the receipts and payments received or paid out in the last month. The bank statement was checked as agreeing with the figures on the finance sheet and would be signed by Matthew or Bill outside of the meeting.

9.2 Motor Insurance Renewal – to approve the insurance renewal premium for the tractor – details emailed around

Details of the insurance renewal premium had been emailed to Councillors prior to the meeting. Came & Company had confirmed the insurance renewal premium for the motor insurance policy for the tractor to be **£181.93** (£191.51 last year), inclusive of insurance premium tax, that is payable on 1st August 2020.

This policy was aimed at the agricultural community providing cover to comply with the laws relating the compulsory motor insurance legislation within the EU.

The policy included comprehensive cover for personal accident up to £10,000 and £1,250 cover for loss of keys/replacement locks.

After a brief discussion, Council **resolved** to approve the renewal of the motor insurance premium of £181.93.

Action: Clerk to arrange payment of motor insurance renewal.

9.3 Annual audit – To receive an update on the annual audit for 2019/20, and to approve the Internal Audit report, and Section 1 and Section 2 of Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2019/20

The internal audit report for 2019/20 had been received and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. This report was duly noted and accepted with no issues arising or causing concern.

The completed AGAR had also been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Council **resolved** to approve Section 1 and then Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20. The Clerk was working on the explanation of significant variances and hoped to have this completed shortly. Everything had to be submitted to the external auditors by 31st August.

Action: Clerk to complete audit work and submit to external auditors.

9.4 To consider offering a financial contribution towards payment of a skip for disposing of the old shed and associated items

A request had been received from the Sports Clubs as to whether the Parish Council would offer a financial contribution towards the cost of a small skip to help with disposing of the old shed and associated contents. After a brief discussion, Council **resolved** to pay for the skip in full, total cost being £205 + VAT.

Action: Clerk to arrange payment for skip.

9.5 Approval of invoices for payment

The Council approved invoices for payment as listed on the invoices for payment sheet distributed with the meeting papers. Council therefore **resolved** to approve all of the following invoices for payment:

The following invoices are requested to be approved for payment:			
Cheque Number	To whom paid	Details	Amount (£)
102641	Lisa Smith	Clerk's salary - July	902.57
102642	Nigel Green	Mowing/hedge cutting - March - June	825.00
102643	WODC	Field mowing - 03.04.20 & 30.04.20	185.83
102644	Whites Cleaning Company	Sanitiser for field	49.20
102645	Came & Company	Motor insurance renewal for tractor	181.93
102646	George Browns Ltd	Tractor winter service	704.25
102647	Sawscapes Play Ltd	Trampoline - supply & install	5,334.00
102648	Lisa Smith	Clerk's salary - August	902.57
102649	Freeland Football Club	Contribution for skip to remove shed	246.00
102650	Sawscapes Play Ltd	New benches x 4 & safety surfacing	6,261.60
102651	Bill Phillips	Litter picking Jan - June 2020	250.00
		Total:	15,842.95
Plus:	NEST pension payment of £67.64 (employee & employer contributions). £38.65 has been deducted from Clerk's salary for July & August salary payment. Local Government pay award negotiations not finalised yet so Clerk's salary has remained unchanged.		

9.6 Approval of invoices during August - to discuss the approval of invoices that need to be paid during August and decisions on any planning applications received.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that any urgent cheques up to a maximum value of £1,500 that needed paying before the September meeting (or any expenditure that had previously been agreed) could be signed off by the Chairman and Vice Chairman (or another cheque signatory in their absence). The Clerk would confirm with the Chairman or Vice Chairman the urgency of the payment to be made.

It was also agreed that the Planning Team would review any applications that were received over the summer and would make recommendations to the full Council, and anything considered controversial would be circulated to the full Council with Councillors giving feedback via email.

The Planning Team could also try and delay any large schemes that could be controversial by asking WODC for an extension to the time limit.

9.7 Any other financial business – Online banking – to consider changing bank account from Barclays to Unity Bank to enable online banking to be carried out in a secure manner

OALC were now actively encouraging councils to move towards online banking rather than paying by cheque. The Clerk had investigated with the Council's current bank (Barclays) the option of having different levels of authorisation for online banking, but this was not available with them. One option that was used by other Parish Councils and that had been suggested by OALC as a bank who could offer the authorisation facility was the Unity Trust Bank. The Clerk had emailed round to the Councillors some details about the bank and the facilities on offer, and after a discussion, Council approved transferring the Council's bank account to the Unity Trust bank, keeping the same signatories where possible. The Clerk would look at getting this done over the summer.

Action: Clerk to change bank account over to Unity Trust bank.

10. PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ITEMS

10.1 Play areas/Playing Field – to receive any reports:

10.1.1 Play area reports – to update on reopening of play park, trampoline tile gluing and installation of new benches and additional trampoline and new safety surfacing, plus to update on installation of picnic tables near village hall; plus to formally approve the play area Covid-19 risk assessment document

The restrictions on play parks had been lifted from the 4th July and so the play area had been re-opened from this date, following all the Government safety guidance. Notices had been put up around the play park regarding the ongoing need to maintain social distancing, limits of numbers of children on each item of equipment and the need to wash hands and to clean safety equipment before and after use. A bottle of hand sanitiser had been purchased and installed by the toddler play area gate.

Peter F had the pink book and as the play areas had re-opened, safety checks had resumed and there were no problems to report apart from the hand sanitiser bottle being empty. The Clerk would refill it.

The trampoline tile had been glued and the new additional trampoline, two new benches and extra safety surfacing had all been installed and looked great. The two new picnic tables had also been sited next to the Newell Room and also looked great and were being used. Positive feedback had also already been received regarding the benches and tables.

It was noted that these new items needed to be added onto the insurance policy – the Clerk would arrange this.

A play area Covid-19 risk assessment had been carried out and Council **resolved** to formally approve the document that had been circulated to them prior to the meeting.

Action: Clerk to add items onto insurance policy as above and to refill hand sanitiser.

10.1.2 New storage building on field – to update on progress of planning application and to update on order of new shed and dismantling of old shed

Mary Ann gave an update. Planning permission had been received (as reported last month) and the shed had now been ordered and would take approximately 8 weeks to arrive. An application to WODC had been made to discharge the planning conditions re the colour of the shed and there would be a charge of £114 to pay for this service.

The specifications for the base needed clarifying, and Mary Ann and Robert would cost up the groundworks together. Robert was confident he could prepare the base and do the groundworks and make a path, which he hoped to do during August. It was queried whether bolts were required in the concrete to attach to the shed, Robert would check this with the supplier. Councillors passed on their thanks to Mary Ann for all the work she had done on the play park and shed.

Action: Mary Ann and Robert to cost groundworks, and Robert to speak with supplier re whether bolts in concrete required.

10.1.3 Tractor – to update on getting a winter service carried out

Simon Hole had arranged this on the Council's behalf and the tractor service had been carried out. The invoice for the work had been received and included on the list of invoices to be paid this month.

10.1.4 Replacement of Hornbeam trees on the playing field – to update on replacement of the dead Hornbeam trees on the playing field

All 3 replacement trees were healthy and being regularly watered and looked after by Robert, and they would be planted when weather conditions allowed, hopefully during August.

Action: Robert to replace Hornbeam trees on field.

10.1.5 Water for cricket square – to consider a proposal to investigate adding a water supply to the new storage shed to enable sports clubs to use their own water supply

Mary Ann had met with the Sports Clubs last month and a few suggestions had been put forward by them regarding drainage, and the possibility of having a water supply to the new shed. This was felt to be a good idea as they could use their own water supply to water the cricket square which used a lot of water in the summer months. It was suggested contacting Thames Water to find out how much it would be to have a new water supply to the new shed at the far end of the playing field and then this could be discussed further in September. Mary Ann offered to draw up a plan showing where the shed would be in case this was needed.

Action: Clerk to contact Thames Water re charge for new water supply, Mary Ann to do plan and send to Clerk.

10.2 Village Highway Matters – to receive any reports

10.2.1 Highways reports: Overgrown hedge by riding school on Wroslyn Road / Loose kerb stones by 42 Church View; Fly tipping on grass verge near A4095

The hedge by the riding school had become overgrown and needed cutting back, Tim had offered to take a look and get this done. The loose kerb stones near 42 Church View needed checking to see if they had been fixed – the Clerk would take a look. Some fly tipping had occurred on a grass verge by a resident's house near the A4095, the Clerk would place a note in the Grapevine about it.

Action: Clerk to check kerb stones as above and place note in Grapevine, Tim to cut back hedge by riding school.

10.2.2 Parking near the Church – to discuss any response from Witney Town Charity re suggestion of leasing their field as a temporary car park and planting trees on their land

The Clerk had chased this up again this month but there was nothing further to report. However, the Chairman's brother in law had been in touch with Savills regarding securing some extra land for the allotments and they had advised they would investigate and get back to him.

10.2.3 Comet Bus/Electric Bus – to receive an update on the possible co-funding with OCC for a Freeland to Witney Comet Bus service and to receive an update on a proposed electric bus service

The Comet bus service had been suspended across the County in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. An application had been submitted for another period of funding from OCC, but this was on hold until the Covid-19 crisis had calmed down and the service had resumed. Liam advised he was trying to find out when the service would resume.

It was also reported that the 233 was no longer on an emergency timetable but had resumed to how it was pre-Covid-19, with an extra service being added in at the beginning of the day.

10.2.4 Pigeon House Lane – to receive an update on any action to be taking to stop HGVs driving down this lane (change of signage, blocking lane etc)

Liam provided a brief update. It could be possible to block the road off by the farm/ equestrian centre and just have it as a one way road or a width restrictions, although this could be tricky as would need to ensure delivery vans could get through to the properties. Another option was to put in an Emergency Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) which would give the legal right to block the road off at some point between Church Hanborough and Freeland so as to allow access but to block the road as a through route. The public would get a chance to feed in their views. Installation of bollards would not be hugely expensive, but residents would have to be consulted as the first step. Liam agreed to investigate the legality side of this and report back, the Clerk would place this on the September agenda.

Action: Liam to investigate legalities of above, Clerk to carry item forward to next meeting.

10.2.5 20mph zones – to consider whether PC support would be offered to having certain 20mph zones in the village

Liam gave an update. Unfortunately, the pot of money that he hoped would help with this was not hugely beneficial as only 50% was received. The 2nd tranche had just come out and favoured Oxford City which was also disappointing. It was unlikely much could be done in rural areas at present, but he would keep trying to see if he could get something done. A few discussions took place about introducing a 20mph zone near the school, but this would mean moving the VAS sign (it was not possible to change the VAS to 20mph) and having a traffic order in place and changing all the signs – a basic scheme for this would cost in the region of £40 - £50K, and the police were apparently quite dismissive of these zones as they were difficult to enforce.

Action: Liam to keep trying to get some funding available to help with a 20mph zone.

10.2.6 Traffic/speeding in Freeland – to notes resident's concerns and to consider whether the PC would support the diverting of traffic from A40 to A4095 via Cuckoo Lane, and to consider the installation of a traffic calming measure at the hill by The Green; also to consider whether the PC would be willing to fund a traffic survey to provide evidence in relation to speeding, and to note social media responses regarding speeding in Freeland

Considerable discussions took place about the traffic and speeding issues raised by the two residents. The Parish Council had already raised the idea of re-routing traffic via Cuckoo Lane with Highways last year, and this may come under the changes that would be made when they looked at Cuckoo Lane and the forthcoming Park and Ride and Garden Village, but as yet it was not clear where the road system would go. It was noted this would need to be changed before the main contractors started thundering through the village, rather than using Cuckoo Lane. James Wright had previously said that this matter would be looked at as part of the Garden Village costing.

Unfortunately, the whole road layout and any changes to Cuckoo Lane had not yet been finalised so it was difficult to decide what could be done until plans for Cuckoo Lane had been completed.

Councillors felt that traffic calming measures by The Green would be very controversial with lots of people probably against it. It was noted it would be difficult to try and obtain a consensus about traffic calming and also it was suggested street lighting may well be required for things like chicanes. A suggestion was made of having '20's Plenty' signs through the village, but this was not legally permitted. Moreover, the police would not enforce it and such signs could cause confusion to drivers within a 30mph legal speed limit with signs then saying '20's Plenty' and lead to loss of convictions for

motorists caught exceeding the 30mph limit. An automatic traffic monitoring system was also discussed, and it was agreed to fund 3 such devices over a 7-day period to hopefully reinforce the argument about diverting traffic away from the village. The cost of the systems would be approximately £180 per system, so it was agreed to fund one at each end of the village and one in the middle. Liam agreed to find out who arranges these devices and to report back.

Action: Liam to find out who arranges traffic monitoring system and report back so that it could be organised.

10.2.7 Possible bike rack funding – to note possible funding available for bike racks and to note submission of bid

The Chairman had been made aware of some possible funding available for bike racks and after consulting with Councillors via email (due to the tight timescale) a bid had been submitted to OCC for some bike racks by the village hall and by the new storage building on the playing field. James Wright from Highways had carried out a site visit but had mentioned that the funding was really meant for urban areas rather than rural villages so it was unclear whether the bid would be successful or how many bike racks were available. This was all duly noted and the outcome of the bid was awaited.

10.2.8 Freeland Speedwatch – to receive an update on when Speedwatch activities can resume

Speedwatch activities were still on hold but it was hoped they would be able to resume in the near future.

10.3 Footpath & Bridleway matters/Footpath Book – to receive any reports: gate off hinges on FP6

The gate on FP6 was off the hinges - Robert would take a look. Robert had the footpath book and would pass it to Vero. The Clerk would email Robert a copy of the 2020 footpath rota to place in the book.

Action: Robert to pass book to Vero and check gate on FP6, Clerk to forward copy of rota to Robert.

10.3.1 Footpath/cycleway funding – to note new Government funding available to improve footpaths and cycleways and to discuss which ones to be given priority

An email had been received from Robert Courts regarding some new Government funding available to improve footpaths and cycleways. A suggestion was made of making all the kerbs dropped along Wroslyn Road or to convert Pigeon House Lane to a cycleway and access only road for traffic. Councillors were asked to submit their ideas and suggestions to Liam.

Action: Councillors to feedback ideas to Liam.

10.4 Garden of Remembrance – to receive any reports

No reports had been received.

10.4.1 To receive an update on the outstanding archway work

Russ Canning was going to carry out the work and he was currently sourcing some oak.

Action: Mary Ann to arrange last bits of archway work with Russ.

10.4.2 To update on the progress to review the GOR rules and consider some slight alterations to wording with regards to plot sizes/locations

Following on from last month, it had become apparent that it may be necessary to amend the wording of the GOR rules in relation to sizes of stone tablets and options to choose plots. The GOR Working Group would arrange a virtual meeting and review the rules and report back to the Council. It was suggested using Word 'track changes' as an easy way to do this.

Action: Mary Ann to arrange virtual meeting of GOR Working Group re reviewing rules, Clerk to attend.

10.5 Freeland Hall Management Committee – to receive any reports

There was nothing much to report. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Hall had been closed, and various maintenance work had been carried out. The Committee had offered the Hall to groups of 14 people or less, but there had been very little uptake. The new litter bin that was to be placed by the boot wash would be chased up again, and it was suggested installing it by the post as it may get in

the way of the newly installed bike racks if it was placed in the original location – this was agreed.

Action: Clerk to chase up litter bin.

10.5.1 To update on installation of bike racks by the Village Hall

The bike racks had been removed from Blenheim Lane and had been installed by the boot wash near the village hall. Another set of bike racks had been installed at the front of the village hall to the left of the entrance. Councillors passed on their thanks to Robert for getting this done.

11. CORRESPONDENCE – To discuss and agree any actions arising from:

- (a) OALC – June update – details had been emailed around.
- (b) OALC Autumn Training – details had been emailed around.
- (c) OPFA/OALC advice on reopening of playgrounds – details had been emailed around.
- (d) Thank you notes – received from Grapevine and Hanborough Day Centre for donations given last month – details had been emailed around.

12. CIRCULATION

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, no circulations were being circulated.

13. TO RECEIVE A MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING FREELAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Clerk gave a brief update. Reception, Y1, Y5 and Y6 children were all now back at school with social distancing measures in place. Two new teachers had been appointed, Miss Waters for Year 2, and Miss Bailey for Year 3. Mrs Nickelson was supporting Heyford Park Free School for a few days a week, so Mrs McCarthy would be Acting Head on the days she was not in school.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ONLY

VAS sign – it was reported that the 30mph VAS sign on the hill as you entered the village had become hidden due to overgrown vegetation. It was agreed to log this on Fix My Street website so it could be fixed.

Action: Clerk to log above on website.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Until the regulations changed about public meetings, the next meeting of the Council would be held remotely via Zoom on **Monday 21st September** at 7.30pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00pm.