

FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, FREELAND ON THE 18TH OCTOBER 2021, IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORDSHIRE AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT:	Chairman:	Roger Faulkner
	Vice-Chairman:	Mary Ann Canning
	Councillors:	Bill Phillips, Andrew Bird, Tony Tomkys, Andy Bain Peter Foster, Amy Jackson
	District Councillors:	Alaa Al-Yousuf (till 10.30pm)
	County Councillor:	Liam Walker (from 8.15pm till 9.45pm)
	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 this were constantly being updated. The current Government advice was for Council meetings to be held face to face, so the meeting was held in the Village Hall to allow for social distancing and better ventilation.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Two members of the public were present for this session, Kenny Wylie and Tom Harden who both wished to listen to the meeting.

1.1 Neighbourhood Planning – Rep from WODC to speak re next steps to launch Neighbourhood Planning in Freeland

Unfortunately, no one from WODC was present for this item.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Merilyn 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.

Roger Faulkner (personal) as Vice Chair of Freeland Community Benefit Society and Speedwatch Co-ordinator.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 13th September 2021

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th September 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman 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.

Peter gave a brief update. It was anticipated that all planning and design work for the site would be completed by the end of the year. CTIL would make the final decision as to when it would be given the go ahead, and this was likely to be dependent on budget priorities for this financial year and next. Peter would continue to keep the Council updated on progress.

6.2 Bench on The Green – to discuss quotes to replace the bench on The Green and to discuss how to fund this

A donation of £429 had been received from the Teddy Girls that was to be put towards a new bench, this was from funds raised at their coffee morning and sale held on 16th October. Councillors were very grateful for this donation and the Clerk would write a letter of thanks.

A report detailing various options and styles of benches had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. After careful consideration, Council **resolved** to order option number 6, a 6-foot Sustainable Swedish Redwood Garden Bench costing £460 inc VAT from Sustainable Furniture, plus it was also agreed to include the protection oil at an additional cost of £35 plus a brass plaque with the wording "Funded by Freeland Teddy Girls 2021". The Clerk would email the Teddy Girls to advise of the bench that had been chosen.

Action: Clerk to order bench, write letter of thanks and email Teddy Girls as above.

6.3 Yellow Rattle trial sites – to receive an update on progress and to consider giving a donation towards cost of seeds for project

An update on the trial sites had been provided prior to the meeting. The Green had been scarified and a wildflower mix including Yellow Rattle had been sown. Robert Crocker had spoken with most of the near neighbours prior to planting and all had been very supportive, and Robert had provided the seeds and carried out the work at The Green free of charge. The areas on Broadmarsh Lane verge had also been prepared and seeds sown.

It was expected that the areas would green over by the end of October so the Green would look good for the winter and give a good display next summer.

Russell Fisher had advised that the cost of Yellow Rattle was quite expensive, with the cheapest he found being £225 for 500 Grams. Naturehood had done some fundraising at the Farmer's Market to help pay for the seeds but had only managed to raise a minimal amount so Councillors were asked if they would be willing to help fund the cost of the seeds.

After a brief discussion, Council **resolved** to approve expenditure up to £300 for the seeds. It was also agreed to approve an additional site outside 151/151A Wroslyn Road if this was required.

The other sites that were due to be sown were Parklands and Oakland Close verges and these would be done shortly.

The Clerk would advise Russell of the above and also pass on the Council's thanks to Russell and team and to Robert for all their help and hard work getting this work completed.

Action: Clerk to contact Russell and Robert as above.

6.4 Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – to receive an update on possible tree planting sites for the initiative to "Plant Trees for the Jubilee"

Russell Fisher and Andy Bain were both investigating possible planting sites and tree options for the above. Andy had taken photos of 10-15 possible sites, and it was agreed that he would liaise with Russell regarding possible locations and work together so there was no duplication. They would also apply for the grant for 20 trees and discuss options for tree species.

Action: Andy and Russell to work together re tree locations, species, and grant application.

6.5 WASP (Windrush Against Sewage Pollution) – to note further info re local river pollution and to discuss how this is being tackled by local groups and whether the parish council wish to take any action

An article in the Times was emailed around detailing how the bacteria levels that were monitored in water downstream from the sewage treatment works in Church Hanborough showed *E.Coli* regularly at 100 times the safe limit in both wet and dry conditions. Although the location itself was not used for swimming, the pollution would have affected water quality further downstream. It was also noted that the amount of raw sewage being dumped into local rivers by water companies was completely unacceptable and appeared to be under-reported after monitoring for nitrates and phosphates was carried out at regular intervals.

Alaa also updated the Council on an upcoming event he was due to attend at Magpie Farm in Chipping Norton for the official launch of the River Evenlode Smarter Water Catchments initiative organised by the Evenlode Catchment Partnership. This event would include talks from expert practitioners from Wild Oxfordshire, Cotswolds AONB, Earthwatch, Natural England, Thames Water and the Environment Agency, about their 10-year catchment plan that would be delivered in partnership. The key themes were Water Quality; Biodiversity, Habitat and Landscape; Natural Flood Management; Education; and Sustainable Farming. It was noted that the problem of raw sewage being dumped in rivers was not an easy one to solve, and it had previously been raised at every

possible level including Parliament. Everyone was aware of the problem, but WODC had no leverage over water companies even as the local planning authority.

After some discussion, Council agreed to write to Thames Water and Robert Courts MP to express their dissatisfaction at the current situation and it was hoped the new Environment Bill would help to ensure water companies were held more to account with accurate reporting requirements, although it was recognized this ultimately may not happen.

Action: Clerk to write to Robert Courts MP and Thames Water as above.

7. PLANNING - Applications received & WODC Decisions plus:

7.1 Applications Received:

21/03106/HHD

1 CHURCH VIEW, FREELAND.

Erection of rear and side storey extensions for Ms Maria Admans.

After reviewing the above application, Council agreed there were no objections they wished to make regarding the proposed changes to the property.

7.2 Applications Approved:

21/02671/HHD

BROADVIEW, BROADMARSH LANE, FREELAND.

Proposed conversion of first floor of an existing garage to create an annex for Mr & Mrs Hopkins.

7.3 Applications Refused: None.

7.4 Applications Withdrawn: None.

7.5 Applications Awaiting Decision:

20/01734/OUT

LAND NORTH OF A40, A40 SECTION FROM BARNARD GATE TO EYNHAM ROUNDABOUT, EYNHAM (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.

21/00961/FUL

LAND SOUTH OF SHASTON, THE GREEN, FREELAND.

New Build Chalet Bungalow with detached double Garage for Mr & Mrs Neil and Catherine Tregear.

21/02359/HHD

8 PARKLANDS, FREELAND.

Single and two storey rear extensions, extension over garage for Mr E Tweedie And Mrs A Tweedie-Wood.

21/02627/OUT

LAND OFF THE WEST SIDE OF WROSLYN ROAD, FREELAND.

Outline planning application for the erection of a retirement community of up to 160 extra care units (C2 use class) with associated communal facilities and open space, with access from Wrosllyn Road, (all matters reserved except access) and retention of veterinary practice in the coach house for Inspired Villages.

7.8 Neighbourhood Plan – to discuss and agree next steps to kick starting the process for a Neighbourhood Plan and discuss ways of encouraging involvement from residents

Amy had produced a comprehensive document with notes from the meeting held with Eynham PC representatives about producing a Neighbourhood Plan which noted the key points, some of the challenging areas and noted the importance of engaging residents, communicating clearly and managing their expectations. This had been emailed around last month. Whilst the PC may not lead on this completely and devolve responsibility to others in the community, it was felt to be important to have PC involvement, especially to sign off documents before submission to WODC for inspection. There were 3 residents who were keen to be involved, and possibly a few others. Amy, Tony and Peter were all happy to be involved., plus Andrew if time allowed. The next step was to contact Astrid

Harvey at WODC to discuss next steps and to decide on making an application for the designation of the Neighbourhood Area (either within the parish boundary or outside).

Action: Amy to contact Astrid to set up meeting to kick off next steps.

8. REPORT OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS

No report had been received from Merilyn.

Alaa updated the Council on the upcoming event he was due to attend at Magpie Farm in Chipping Norton for the official launch of the River Evenlode Smarter Water Catchments initiative. He also reported that he had shared information on social media about The Woodland Trust tree packs that could be applied for.

In Liam's update he advised the Council that the OCC Cabinet were due to meet the following day where they would be deciding on a possible policy change to allow towns and villages to apply for a 20mph speed limit which would be primarily funded by OCC. This was an initiative that would be rolled out over the next 4 years and parishes would need to apply for the 20mph limit. Once the website was launched to promote this, it was advisable to apply - County Councillor support would be required.

Liam and Alaa were both thanked for their updates.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.1 Presentation of the monthly financial report

The monthly financial report for September was presented to the Council showing details of the bank balance at 30th September 2021 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 was signed by Bill.

9.2 Conclusion of annual audit – to receive an update on progress

The Clerk gave a brief update about the audit. The audited annual return had now been received and had been signed off and approved. The auditors had raised a point about the completion of the tick boxes regarding the notice of public rights and this had been duly noted. The notice of conclusion of audit had been displayed on the village notice board and Council thanked the Clerk for her work on the audit.

9.3 Approval of invoices for payment

The Council approved invoices for payment as listed on the invoices for payment sheet distributed with the meeting. These invoices would all be paid by BACS online. Council therefore **resolved** to approve all of the following invoices for payment:

The following additional invoices were paid between meetings as they had already been agreed & required urgent payment:

Cheque number	To whom paid	Details	Amount (£)
BACS 077	Came & Company Ltd	PC Insurance renewal	2,125.21
BACS 078	Sawscapes Play Ltd	25% deposit for new toddler play equipment	7,436.58
		Total:	9,561.79

The following invoices are requested to be approved for payment:

BACS Ref Number	To whom paid	Details	Amount (£)
BACS 079	Nigel Green	Underpayment from last month's invoice	100.00
BACS 080	Lisa Smith	Clerk's salary - October*	950.42
BACS 081	Moore	Audit fee 2020-21	360.00
BACS 082	RBL Poppy Appeal	Donation for poppy wreath	17.00
BACS 083	Lawnsience (Oxford) Ltd	VH Lawn treatment	42.00
BACS 084	Freeland Village Hall Bookings	Hall hire 18.10.21 & NR hire 13.10.21	37.50
BACS 085	Ubico Ltd	Weekly empty of bin on field 01.04.21 - 30.09.21	223.90
BACS 086	WODC	Weekly empty of dog bin 01.04.21 - 30.09.21	104.12
BACS 087	Ubico Ltd	Weekly empty of dog & litter bin at GOR & weekly empty of litter bin at VH 01.04.21 - 30.09.21	457.83
BACS 088	Bill Phillips	Litter picking July/Aug/Sept	250.00
		Total:	2,542.77

Plus: NEST pension payment of £33.09 (employee & employer contributions). The amount of £18.91 has been deducted from Clerk's salary for October salary payment.

*Pay award pending for Clerk's salary - negotiations still taking place so previous salary continued.

NI rate has slightly decreased so £23.50 has been deducted this month (rather than £24.10).

9.4 Review of VAT reclaim

The Clerk had prepared the VAT reclaim for Q1 and Q2 which she would email to the Chairman for review.

Action: Clerk to email VAT reclaim to Chairman as above.

9.5 Any other financial business – to receive an update on change of bank signatories

All necessary forms had been completed to add Tony to the bank account, so hopefully he would be set up shortly.

Action: Clerk to check Tony had been added to bank account.

Clerk's laptop – The Clerk had not had chance to review options but would have a look this month and bring along some information to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for new laptop and bring to next meeting.

10. PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ITEMS

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

10.1.1 Play area reports – Gates at each end of field - Blenheim Lane & PHL gates both need attention; zip wire needs a step added to rear of platform; Junior multiplay, rope frayed and log split ; update on defibrillators (battery packs, transformer).

Pink book– Roger had the pink book and would pass it to Mary Ann. A number of items had been reported as follows:

Gates at each end of field – it was reported that the gate on the Blenheim Lane side of the field did not close properly and needed a new spring. The gate on Pigeon House Lane entrance was missing a long lever on the latch as this was currently missing making it difficult to open the gate. It was agreed to ask Robert Crocker who installed the gates if he could fix these, if not the Clerk would ask the local maintenance man.

Zip wire steps – a suggestion was made of adding some steps to the rear of the platform to help grandparents access the platform which was quite high. It was agreed to ask Sawscapes for a quote to see if they could do the work whilst the toddler area was being updated.

Action: Mary Ann to contact Sawscapes for quote.

Junior Multiplay rope frayed and log split – it was agreed to monitor this for the time being as this equipment was due to be replaced shortly.

Defibrillators – a query had been raised about battery packs that were visible in the village hall cabinet but not in the Parklands cabinet. Upon further inspection both defibrillators appeared to be in full working order, although the light above the one in the Parklands phone box needed checking. The Clerk would check this.

Action: Clerk to check light in defibrillator as above.

Wooden wicket – this was missing and had been for a number of years. It was agreed to ask the local maintenance man to see if he could make a piece of wood to fit in the gap.

Action: Clerk to ask local maintenance man re above.

10.1.2 Water for cricket square – to update on progress with adding a water supply to the new storage shed.

An update had been received from Robert Crocker to advise that Thames Water would be applying for a road closure licence so it could take a further 3 months for connection. This was duly noted, and Robert would keep the Clerk updated when it had been approved and connected.

Action: Robert to arrange connection to pipework.

10.1.3 Play equipment replacement for wooden climber and toddler area development – to receive an update re order and installation of new equipment.

Mary Ann gave a brief update. The new equipment had been ordered and a 25% deposit was required to be paid at time of order, so this had been paid online and detailed on the invoices sheet. An installation date of mid-November had been provisionally agreed. As the toddler area would not be available during the installation work, the Clerk would place a note in the Grapevine this month and next to advise residents. Council passed on their thanks to Mary Ann for all the work she had put into this project.

Action: Clerk to place note in Grapevine as above.

10.1.4 Playground Inspection Training - to receive an update on updating the weekly play area checklist following Playground Inspection Training

This had not yet been done but would be done for next month. It was suggested adding the new equipment to the updated list.

Action: Andrew to update list in pink book to reflect points raised at training course and to include new items of equipment.

10.2 Village Highway Matters – to receive any reports: Overgrown conifer hedge by A4095 & Wroslyn Rd junction; Overgrown conifer hedge in Broadmarsh Lane footpath; 3 new trees in Broadmarsh Lane amenity area looking dead?

Overgrown conifer hedge on corner of Wroslyn Road and A4095 – this had been reported by a resident but upon checking it appeared to have been cut back.

Overgrown conifer hedge in Broadmarsh Lane footpath – it was thought this hedge was owned by 78 Broadmarsh Lane and was overhanging the footpath quite considerably. It was agreed the Clerk would write to the residents to see if they could arrange to have the hedge cut back.

Action: Clerk to write to residents as above.

New trees in Broadmarsh Lane amenity area – it was reported that the 3 new trees in the amenity area near Broadmarsh Cottage appeared to be almost dead. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to leave them till the Spring to see if they would be revitalised and then decide if any action was required.

Cherry tree in Broadmarsh Lane amenity area – it was also reported that a resident wished to trim one of the cherry trees in the Broadmarsh Lane amenity area that was overhanging their garden, and the Chairman and Clerk had met with them and discussed their request. The resident was happy to cover the costs of the work for which they were thanked.

10.2.1 Traffic calming measures – to receive an update from Traffic Calming Working Group, and to update on the traffic survey

A brief update was provided by Tony who had taken over as Chair of the Traffic Calming Group. The first meeting of the group since April was held on 13th October where the aims and objectives were reviewed to check they were still valid, together with any actions that were agreed at the time. During this meeting it had become clear that most of the aims and priorities of the group would not be able to be carried out without Highways' approval, so a key action was to get in touch with a representative from Highways to talk through the vision for Freeland and how this could realistically be achieved.

The results of the traffic survey had only just been received and the numerous spreadsheets were not easily interpreted. Following on from Liam's report about the possible change in 20mph policy, it was suggested sending the details of the vision for Freeland with the annotated maps to him so that he could pass it on and discuss with a rep from Highways.

Action: Tony to summarise the key actions and requirements from TC meeting and send with maps to Liam for him to forward and discuss with Highways rep.

10.2.2 Dead oak tree by 149B Wroslyn Road – to receive an update on removing deadwood from tree

The dead branches had now been removed and the invoice for the work had been received.

10.2.3 Hedgerow & Wildflower Grants – to receive an update on whether the PC is eligible and to apply for the Wild Oxfordshire Hedgerow Grant and the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands Grant

Russell Fisher was investigating these grants. The Clerk would request an update for next month from him.

Action: Clerk to obtain update from Russell for next month.

10.2.4 Speedwatch – to receive an update from Speedwatch group and to approve the purchase of two Speedwatch signs

The Vice Chair took over chairing the meeting for this item.

The Chairman provided a brief update on the Speedwatch activity. A team of 9 volunteers were currently carrying out Speedwatch sessions 3-4 times each week.

Since resuming their activity at the beginning of September, a total of 21 sessions had been conducted. During these sessions, 1,928 vehicles had been recorded in total, of which 189 (or 10%) were travelling in excess of 35mph. Of these 189, 138 were doing 36-40mph, 40 were doing 41-45mph, 6 were doing 46-50mph and 5 were doing in excess of 50mph. The fastest was recorded at

63mph travelling from the village centre towards The Green. Thanks were passed to the Speedwatch team for carrying out this valuable work.

Some new signs to advise that Freeland was a Neighbourhood Speedwatch area were suggested that could be placed at each end of the village and would cost approx. £250. After a brief discussion, Council approved the purchase of the two signs. The chairmanship was then passed back to the Chairman.

Action: Clerk to place order for signs.

10.2.5 First and Last Mile – to update on progress and to approve an agreement between PC and First and Last Mile re procurement of bus services via S106 funds

Following approval last month, the Chairman and Clerk had now signed an agreement between OCC and the Parish Council regarding the provision of S106 funds to the Parish Council to be passed on to First and Last Mile for bus service provision. It was also suggested and agreed to set up a separate bank account for these funds to be paid into to keep them separate from the general PC funds.

However, it had since been suggested that an agreement between First and Last Mile and the Parish Council would also be required to ensure what is being requested and agreed is provided and that if anything went wrong, that any outstanding monies would be returned to the Parish Council.

However, concerns were raised about the fact that at the initial meeting between OCC and the Chairman and Clerk, the proposed request was for the Parish Council to only be used as a way of passing money from OCC to First and Last Mile as it couldn't be passed to them directly. This had been done in a couple of other parishes in Henley and Banbury. Councillors were wary that they were now being asked to enter into an agreement in terms of monitoring what was being provided, and as the money ultimately didn't belong to the Parish Council it was felt it was not up to the Parish Council to decide how the money was spent or utilised.

After some detailed discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact John Charlton at OCC to advise that it should be OCC entering into an agreement with First and Last Mile, not the Parish Council and it was also agreed to copy in Philip Earnshaw at OCC who it was felt should be made aware of this request.

Action: Clerk to contact John Charlton as above.

10.2.6 Laurel Hedge trimming in Broadmarsh Lane – to approve revised quote for this work

Council approved the revised quote for this work costing £800 + VAT (due to an additional person being required to carry out the work). A provisional date had been set for 19th November for this work, so the Clerk would write to the residents to advise them when the work was being done.

Action: Clerk to write to residents as above.

10.2.7 Hedge trimming in Village Hall Car Park – to approve quote for this work

Council approved the quote for this work costing £500 + VAT. The Clerk would arrange for the work to be carried out.

Action: Clerk to arrange work with contractor.

10.3 Footpath & Bridleway matters/Footpath Book – to receive any reports: Footpath signage on BR1 needs attention

Andy had the book and there were some signage issues on BR1 that the Clerk had already reported to OCC Public Rights of Way Team and an acknowledgement had been received. There were no other problems to report. The rota was now complete so the book could be passed to the Clerk to retain till the Spring.

Action: Clerk to chase up response re BR1 if needed.

10.4 Garden of Remembrance – to receive any reports:

There was nothing to report.

10.5 Freeland Hall Management Committee – to receive any reports

Bill gave a brief update. The AGM had been held and all officers had been re-elected. The Christmas tree lighting event was due to be held on 3rd December and all councillors were invited to attend. The curtains in the Hall were due to be replaced soon.

11. GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME – to consider whether the PC wishes to set up a Good Neighbour Scheme in conjunction with Age UK and Volunteer Link Up

The Clerk had attended a Zoom call with David Bates from the WODC Communities Team and Martha Holland from Volunteer Link-Up this month, who were encouraging parishes to continue supporting the volunteering spirit shown during the Covid 19 response, either by establishing a Good Neighbour Scheme in Freeland, or joining forces with another parish (Volunteer Link Up also covered Long Hanborough). An alternative option could be that anybody interested in continuing to volunteer in the community could register with Volunteer Link Up and volunteer in Freeland, and neighbouring parishes if they so wished.

It was then reported at the meeting that Alaa had previously set up a Good Neighbour Scheme in Freeland and Hanborough back in 2019, however it was not clear if the scheme was still running as Martha and David both seemed to be unaware of its existence. It was also reported that Marilyn was also working on rolling out a type of Good Neighbour Scheme across the district and would update the Council with further information once things were finalised. In the meantime, it was agreed to place a note in the Grapevine to encourage residents who enjoyed volunteering to sign up with Volunteer Link-Up if they wished to continue offering their services, and the Clerk would feed back to David and Martha.

Action: Clerk to place note in Grapevine as above and feed back to David and Martha.

12. FREELAND METHODIST CHURCH – To discuss whether to write to the Methodist Circuit to enquire about future intentions for the church and to raise concerns about maintenance and current empty status for 4 years to ensure it doesn't fall into disrepair.

Concerns were raised about the current condition of the Methodist Church building that had stood empty for 4.5 years. This was a Grade II listed building and there were now visible signs of deterioration including damp on the northern wall, and it was not known if any maintenance had been carried out on the building since its closure. As it was a Grade II listed building the Conservation Officer at WODC would have an interest in ensuring the Methodist Circuit fulfilled its legal obligation to maintain the building and ensure it was not neglected. It was therefore agreed to write to the Methodist Circuit and copy in Marilyn and Alaa (who could forward it on to the WODC Conservation Officer) to express the above concerns and to seek reassurance that the building was being maintained and not left to rot.

Action: Clerk to write to Methodist Circuit as above.

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

- (a) OALC September update – details had been emailed around.
- (b) OPFA – AGM to be held on Tuesday 26th October, 7.30pm at Exeter Hall, Kidlington – details had been emailed around.
- (c) WODC – Invite to Town & Parish Forum - to be held on Thursday 4th November, 7-9pm at Tiddy Hall, Ascot-under-Wychwood – details had been emailed around.
- (d) Community First Oxfordshire – invite to AGM on Monday 1st November, 2-3.30pm via Zoom – details had been emailed around.
- (e) OCC – A40 Corridor – to note archaeological investigation work to commence 18th October for 8 weeks – details had been emailed around.
- (f) OCC – Workshops to introduce OCC Cabinet's new priorities – to be held on Monday 18th October, 7-8.30pm or Thursday 21st October 2-3.30pm via MS Teams. Details had been emailed around.

Plus additional items since agenda sent out:

- (g) Village pond – to discuss if anything needed to be done about the pond as it had been reported that it was getting very overgrown and looked a mess. It was agreed to leave this till next month and, in the meantime, Peter would speak to Robert Crocker about what needed to be done and whether he knew of anyone who could carry out this work.

Action: Peter to speak to Robert and Clerk to carry item forward to next month.

12. CIRCULATION

It was agreed that now the Council was back to meeting in person that the papers could now be circulated. October circulation – out at meeting.

13. TO RECEIVE A MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING FREELAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was nothing to report this month.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ONLY

Tommy Soldier statue – As Remembrance Day was approaching the Tommy Soldier needed to be placed somewhere visible on The Green. Amy agreed to find a suitable spot to place the statue.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Council would be held on **Monday 15th November 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.35pm.