

## **Virtual meeting of Charlbury Town Council held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7-30 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Mr R Fairhurst( Chairman), Mr P Kenrick, Dr A Merry, Mr R N Potter, Mr P Morgan, Mr V Hill, Mr R Puttick, Ms N Ely, Ms L Reason, Mrs J Burroughs, Mrs K Broughton.

**Apologies:** Mr R Prew.

**Also in attendance:** Ms L Leffman and Mr A Graham.

Prior to the opening of the meeting the Council was addressed by Mr T Crisp and Ann Miller as follows:

### **Mr Crisp.**

Mr Crisp had circulated a briefing note to bring Councillors up to date with respect to SUSCHA (Sustainable Charlbury) activities. He reported on work in hand/ undertaken and planned activities. Mr Kenrick asked what the geographical area covered was to clarify his understanding. Mr Crisp said that projects within a 25 mile radius were supported and this is incorporated in the trust's charitable objectives (Incorporated Charity). Trustees review all applications on their individual merit. Dr Merry asked what energy had been generated by Southill Solar. Mr Crisp said that it was 4,400 megawatt hours with a 5-8% increase each year.

**Ann Miller** then spoke with regard to the activities of the Nature Group as part of the EWG set up by this Council. There were two groups relating to nature interest with two strands identified, some now, some longer term. Covid has reduced local activity. Tree planting and work with the primary school is intended to educate and improve biodiversity. Hedgerow trees have been planted in the school grounds, 30-40 trees with more to follow. Wildflower seed bombing - more to be done in the Spring.

Road verges and hedging, mapping of and identification of ownership.

Involvement in Mill Field management.

Carbon mapping project - Mill Field

Looking at interactive mapping for wildlife - talking to others on this. Aim to generate layers of information for use by interested groups.

The Chairman thanked both speakers for their contribution.

### **1. To receive the minutes of the last meeting.**

Mr Potter proposed that the minutes be signed as a correct record, this being seconded by Mr Morgan and agreed.

### **2. To deal with matters arising.**

**Mr Kenrick** - how best to take forward the proposed development by Cottsway at Jeffersons Piece (discussed with WODC officers previously). He said that there is a development company working with Cottsway's agent who is keen for Council to endorse the proposals. How does the Council engage? It was generally considered that the Council could not endorse a proposal as a consultee on any proposal/application and that previous concerns expressed by residents needed to be kept in mind. Housing of an affordable nature for Charlbury residents, perhaps on an exception site (which this appears to be) might be beneficial. The previous group (Chairman, Vice

Chairman and Mr Morgan) to convene a meeting to prepare a possible course of action to place before Council.

**ONPA.** Mr Kenrick reported that he and Dr Merry had attended this virtual meeting. A useful discussion. Next meeting is in March.

**Mr Pollock.** Traffic in Market Street. The Chairman has responded.

**Breach of conditions at Wigwell House.** The property is now occupied. WODC still investigating concerns.

### **3. Declaration of Interest.**

There were none.

### **4. To sign orders for payment/receive report.**

The Clerk had previously circulated a list of accounts to be paid and went on to explain these. Dr Merry proposed that the accounts be paid, this being seconded by Mrs Broughton and agreed. Accordingly cheques were signed by two Councillors.

### **5. To receive a report from the Planning Committee.**

Mr Kenrick had circulated a list of planning decisions to update Councillors. The following plans were considered:

**20/03079/LBC** Remedial works at The Cottage Church Street.

1. We ask that the highest standards of energy efficiency be used in view of climate change.
2. We would prefer the use of stone slates on both roof slopes in line with advice given in the West Oxon design guide.

**20/03307/HHD** Demolish garage erect new garden room at 4 Thames Gardens.

1. We have no objection but ask that the highest standards of energy efficiency be used in view of climate change.

**20/03435/HHD** Single storey extension at 27 Nineacres Close.

1. We ask that the highest standards of energy efficiency be used in view of climate change.
2. We are concerned at the possible run-off of surface water from the road causing potential flood risk to the property ( West Oxon Local Plan policy EH7)
3. The closure of the gap between the property and the garage will prevent rear access to the building other than through the property (There is no guaranteed right via Wigwell)

**20/03452/HHD** Extensions and alterations at Cuckoo Cottage Church Street

1. We have no objection but ask that the highest standards of energy efficiency be used in view of climate change.

**20/03528/HHD.** Extensions at 57 Ticknell Piece Road.

1. We have no objection but ask that the highest standards of energy efficiency be used in view of climate change.

## **6. To deal with Correspondence.**

**Julie Penny.** Blocked drains, The Slade. Noted. The County Councillor is dealing with this.

**G Epps.** ACV for the Bell Hotel. The Chairman thought that a watching brief be kept on developments as Mr Potter had heard that there was a new owner in place with some work being undertaken on site.

**Mike Chambers.** Siting of speed measurement van by police. Clerk to write to the Police.

**Mrs Glasgow.** Resignation as trustee of the Gifford Trust. June agenda.

**EWG.** Revised carbon mapping proposal and cost for Mill Field. Noted.

**K Holmes.** Trails around Charlbury. Noted. Continue with previous success on Mill Field and Nine Acres if suitable. The other sites, Centenary Wood, BBONT and Wigwell, are not in Council's ownership.

**Jeffersons Piece.** Small group to consider best approach as previously. Report to March meeting.

**J Clements.** Noted

**Home Start.** Grant thanks noted.

## **7. To receive reports with reference to Charlbury.**

### County Councillor:

Ms Leffman reported in respect of her role as both County and District Councillor.

- WODC. Wigwell House planning breach. She will chase up the enforcement officer and ascertain progress.
- OCC. Katherine Holmes has contacted her re walks on OCC land (Centenary Wood)
- The Slade Concerns re speed on The Slade and Market Street noted. May be some OCC money to address these matters. Speeds on Market Street may be perceived as faster due to the narrow street. Previous data collected does not support the speeding assertion. Finding a solution may be difficult. Remarking of bays in Browns Lane is in scheme.
- Flooding, The Slade. Seeking a more regular emptying of gullies, currently once every four years.
- B4022 Closure at Finstock Bridge. Seeking an alternative, if possible.

### District Councillor:

Andy Graham reported as follows:

- Covid related grants to small businesses being addressed.
- There are financial issues for Leisure Centres. £2 M deficit.
- Plans for a cinema in Chipping Norton.
- Invitation by WODC for residents to comment on the budget.

Mr Morgan thanked Mr Graham for his help in gaining business rate relief for the Sports Club Premises.

## **8. To consider the Neighbourhood Forum.**

Mr Kenrick updated Councillors on progress with the examiners report. Proposals were workable and had been accepted. Now a matter for WODC to agree to these and then take forward to referendum probably in May.

Mrs Broughton congratulated the team on the work involved in producing the plan.

**9. To consider Fees and Charges for 2021/22.**

Mr Potter proposed that £5 be added to burial fees save that for a child this being, seconded by Mr Kenrick and agreed. Allotment charges to remain unchanged.

**10. To consider the Boundary Walk.**

Mr Potter proposed that in view of Covid restrictions this be cancelled for 2021 seconded Dr Merry and agreed.

**11. To consider the February Surgery (Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>)**

Due to Covid issues this will not take place.

**12. To receive an audit report.**

Report awaited.

**13. To receive a report from the Environment Working Group.**

Ms Reason said that there was nothing new to report. More speakers from other strands may be useful.

**14. To consider the Honoured Citizens Award.**

Mr Kenrick reported that the 2020 awards had been made and a full report would be included in the spring Chronicle. Mr Morgan proposed that the 2021 scheme proceed as normal (advertised in the Chronicle) seconded Mrs Broughton and agreed.

**15. Questions to the Chairman.**

**Wilderness.** Cornbury agent to attend a future meeting. No decisions yet.

**Mr Kenrick.** Walkers are Welcome report needed by the end of January.

**Community Centre.** Congratulations on all the programmes being made available.

**Mr Potter.** Election in May. Article needed in the Chronicle.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9-15p.m.

Signed.....  
Chairman