

CRANHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council meeting 23/1/24

Present : Parish Councillors Nigel Cooper, Sue Elliott, Jenny Barraclough, Peter Shaw, Richard Overs, Jeremy Strickland. District Councillor Julie Job.

Apologies – County Cllr Sue Williams

1. Apologies – none
2. Declarations of interest- none
3. Public participation- none
4. Minutes of previous meeting – approved
5. Consider position regarding absence of Parish Clerk/RFO. Chair reported that SDC Monitoring Officer had not been able to advise on situation. It was resolved that in the meantime the Chair was authorised to carry out the duties of the Clerk and RFO, pending appointment to the post. Chair to consult GAPTC for advice and help on recruitment. It was agreed that help on managing the website would be sort from within the community. It was also agreed to investigate getting short term help from another experienced Clerk, particularly with reference to audit and year end statutory requirements
6. County Councillor had already submitted a written report. District Councillor Job reported verbally that SDC had recently cancelled committee meetings because of lack of business, but an Extraordinary Full Council had been called to explain SDC's position regarding their revised Local Plan that had not been received well at the current inspection stage, and SDC had requested a six months delay in the plans consideration to allow more work to be carried out.
7. Chair presented financial report and revised budget for consideration. After lengthy discussion the budget was approved, with additional amounts to cover tree work and speed watch costs included. Members also approved the financial report after due consideration of reserves position. Chair explained that reserves could be reallocated and underspends on the budget could be vired to other budget items.
8. It was agreed to pursue internet banking but that the possibility of moving a large proportion of Council funds to an interest bearing deposit account (non internet) would be researched, as concern about security of internet banking accounts was expressed, Chair did explain that there would always be a dual authorisation requirement for all payments
9. Playing Field. Council approved the letting of the annual grass cutting contract, and the tree safety survey (previously agreed). Chair confirmed he had still to contact Zip wire supplier as previously agreed. It was agreed that residents should be consulted regarding changes to existing play equipment on Playing Field and what additional items would be welcome, perhaps for younger children. It was agreed that consolidating play equipment generally in one area was a good idea, again public opinions to be sort, via Village Magazine and Village email. Table Tennis Club to be asked about siting of tables. There was a verbal update on the Playing Field boundary matter .

10. Allotments. Chair reported that rent invoices did not appear to have been sent for two years. It was agreed that letters be sent setting out arrears and requesting payment within 30 days.
11. Planning. Mill Lane Barn. Chair updated meeting on actions and thanked Cllr Job for chasing matter at SDC. Cllr Job added that the Parish Council had acted very quickly on receiving first complaint, going to see effected neighbour immediately and relaying complaint direct to SDC planning, and as result enforcement officer taking action. Other matters discussed at length was the subject of light pollution , Dark Skies, particularly in respect the AONB , now CNL (Cotswold Natural Landscape) and the impact of 2023 Levelling Up Act , now the there is requirement of a duty of regard AND to seek to further the purposes. More detailed information to be circulated. Intrusive lighting was generally under remit of SDC Environmental Health. Comments were made about excessive and intrusive lighting in the village and it was agreed that a campaign of public information and awareness would be helpful.
12. Members agreed that circulating details of all planning and licensing applications within Stroud District was not required.
13. With elections coming up in May it was agreed to publicise this and encourage parishioners to consider becoming Councillors.
14. Date of next regular meeting agreed Monday March 4th 7p.m.

Approved 22/2/24