



Sutton Courtenay Parish Council

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7th December at the Village Hall, Sutton Courtenay at 7.15pm

Present: Cllrs Eileen Daw (chair), Rita Atkinson, Antony Willott, Fr Dr Morkos and David Butler joined by District and County Councillor Richard Webber
3 Members of the Public

2021/269 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were received from Cllrs Teresa Field, Patrick Stewart, Merouan Hemamda. The clerk was also unable to attend the meeting.

2021/270 Declarations of Interest
(a) Cllr Atkinson declared an interest in the Abingdon DAMASCUS Youth Project grant application.
(b) There were no dispensations for consideration.

2021/271 Admission of the public and press
There were no matters deemed confidential.

2021/272 Additional Agenda Item
It was discussed and
RESOLVED THAT an additional agenda item, Neighbourhood Plan was added to the agenda.

2021/273 Public Participation
In response to a query, the chair confirmed that Cllr. Patrick Stewart was resigning as a councillor at the end of this meeting. A matter was raised regarding the Footpath working party and the member of public was happy to report any matters relating to footpaths and offered to help on issues relating to Hobbyhorse Lane. All matters relating to footpaths should be referred to OCC or landowner. The chair reported that this will be an agenda item for the January meeting.

With reference to the correspondence received by parish council on the Millennium Common – the matter regarding additional footpath access/connection to the Common was raised. FCC Environment does not support any new access points. Management committee cannot have any power beyond what the freeholder bestows.

Staff from Damascus Youth Project – mentioned the work on support to young people bringing them back on track after the pandemic and thanked the parish Council for its support.

2021/274 Application for Co-option to the Parish Council
It was discussed and
RESOLVED THAT Hugo Raworth be co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill one of the vacant seats.

Cllr Raworth, signed his Declaration of Office and having been provided with the agenda documentation prior to the meeting joined in the meeting as a Councillor.

2021/275 Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2021

The minutes of the 2nd November were agreed as drawn. The same to be signed at the January meeting given the clerk's absence.

The District and County Councillor reports were deferred due to Cllr Webber's apologies for the start of the meeting.

2021/276 Accounts

- (a) The accounts for payment were approved.
- (b) Cllr Atkinson and Daw would approve the payments.
- (c) The clerk to complete Cllr Willotts application to be added to the bank mandate now all documentation received.

It was

RESOLVED THAT Cllrs Butler, Fr Morkos and Raworth to be added to the bank mandates

2021/276 Budget for the financial year 2022/2023

The proposed budget has been provided to Councillors. It was

RESOLVED THAT

- (a) to limit increase of precept to 5% over last year by using general reserves (this was against the recommendations made to Council in the clerk's budget report)
- (b) to accept the budget as amended above
- (c) to transfer to general reserves any underspend from the 2021/22
- (d) to set the level of precept at £79,262 for the year 2022/2023

A reserves policy to be considered at a future council meeting.

During the above agenda item, District and County Councillor Webber joined the meeting.

2021/277 County Councillor Report

OCC is estimating a £75 million shortfall for HIF1. Homes England may help with up to 40% of the shortfall. Project is very likely to be delayed. This has knock-on implications for delay in decisions on planning applications as there had been an embargo on applications in Sutton Courtenay until HIF1 was approved.

2021/278 District Councillor Report

VWHDC is waiting for OCC to respond to Hobbyhorse Lane North on traffic (as highway authority); also currently querying need for the reservoir and addressing strategies for addressing prejudice and harassment of the transgender community due to a rising number of threatening incidents.

Here Councillor Webber left the meeting

2021/279 Planning applications

Decisions on previous applications.

These were noted. Council raised concern that 3 houses on land to the rear of Buckridges Farm had been approved with Planning Conditions. It was resolved that the planning conditions should be included in the village news so residents are alerted and can monitor that the conditions are being observed.

Applications for consideration at the meeting.

R3.0138/21 – the OCC application for new river crossing and associated works

To date the parish council has not received evidence-based responses to issues raised in the pre-consultation period with regards:

- The cost benefit analysis for the need for a junction on the B4016, between Sutton Courtenay and Appleford, with the new HIF1 road
- Modelling data and results showing the traffic impact on Sutton Courtenay is reduced by the creation of a junction
- Implementation of mitigation measures (traffic calming, derating of the B4016 through Sutton Courtenay to a C road; removal of routing agreements)
- Possible change of use of Sutton Bridge (Tollgate Road) with regards traffic

It was agreed that the proposal in its current form was unacceptable. The clerk is to respond to the planning application outlining concerns and dissatisfaction with pre application consultations and the need for more time and specialised expertise to scrutinise over 600 weighty documents before the parish council can deliver its substantive comments to the OCC Planning Committee meeting (currently scheduled for early April 2022).

P21/V3271/HH - Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) in application

P21/V0254/HH Proposed two storey side extension 4 Town Close

This matter was not discussed so no comment can be made.

2021/280 HIF application

A long discussion took place in relation to this. Further notes have been circulated to Cllrs and are annexed to these minutes. It was discussed and

RESOLVED

- (a) THAT Sutton Courtenay wishes to continue to participate in the coalition and appointed representatives Cllrs Atkinson and Butler with Cllrs Willott and Raworth as substitutes and;
- (b) THAT, an in principle sum of £5000 would be earmarked for seeking professional support but the payment would be staged with first payment being made subject to the objectives outlined above being agreed prior to start of the work. A level of £3000 for the first stage was proposed.
- (c) THAT there should be an initial strategic scoping study which would subsequently feed into the later stage of compiling the

formal response to the planning application.

Here Councillors Willott and Butler left the meeting

2021/281 Letter from David Johnston MP

A group, including representatives from the parish council, met with MP David Johnston to discuss concerns about planning enforcement and repeat applications as impacted on Sutton Courtenay. Following David Johnston's response that there are processes in place for the parish council to make representation and, if necessary, take it to the Ombudsman,

It was **RESOLVED** THAT in principle the council would take legal advice whether pursuing such a course was viable and estimates of costs for the advice would be sought.

This would be an agenda item for the January meeting.

Here Councillor Raworth left the meeting. As the Council was inquorate the meeting ended at 9.25pm. All further agenda items will be carried over to the next meeting.