**Crawley Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held on 8th July 2021 at The Lamb**

Present: Colin Dingwall, Sue Bremner-Milne, Mark McCappin (joined at 20.00), Tony Connell, Graham Howkins, Gill Hill, Liam Walker, Sheena Derry.

1. Apologies: None.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th May 2021 were approved.

3. Declarations of interest: None.

4. Matters arising:

* The new website is now live.
* The WW2 bunker has not been closed up again, but it is very overgrown and does not appear to be being “used” at the moment.
* Crawley Inn – WODC has carried out a site visit and has asked the owner how long the occupants have been there.
* Restoration of war memorial. This has been inspected and we are waiting for a quote to carry out the work. CD will try to get a contribution towards the cost from the War Memorials Trust once he has the quote.
* Community Library. The box CD identified locally is not for sale, but the owner will look out for another. SD and MM have also seen a box in a barn at High Cogges. CD thinks he may know the owner and will make enquiries.

5. District Councillor’s Report. Gill reported that things are gradually getting back to normal, with some face-to-face meetings taking place. Keith Butler is retiring.

6. County Councillor’s Report. Liam expressed confidence that the data and community feedback against the continuation of the experimental weight limit through Burford would lead to it being stopped, but thought a decision is unlikely to be taken until 2022. The PC will write to express its concerns, but Liam encouraged parishioners to write in individually as well.

7. Treasurer’s Report.

1. Online banking is now set up. A mystery credit of £100 has appeared in the account, which SB-M thinks may be compensation for the delays involved in setting up the account. She will try to get clarification.
2. SB-M circulated the accounts for q1 2021 to the PC before the meeting.
3. Exemption from external audit has been officially acknowledged.

8. WiVTAG update. MM reported that the full appeal document has been sent in hard copy to Oxfordshire County Councillors and will be sent in electronic form to all the PCs that have pledged their support in the next week. A review of the scheme is scheduled for the Cabinet Meeting on 29th July, and representatives of WiVTAG have been invited to attend and give a short (3 minute) presentation. They are hoping for support but expecting the decision will be delayed until January. Printing the document cost £613, and it is hoped that the PCs involved will each contribute £77 to cover this. Crawley PC agreed to contribute up to £100.

9. Repairs and maintenance to infrastructure in the village. MM reported a very good site meeting with two OCC officers (Matthew Timms, Wayne Barker) on 17th June.

1. OCC will cut the grips at the roadside, but landowners must clear the ditches.
2. OCC will do what it can with the drains, but in practice this may be limited.
3. Any action to clear Showell Brook needs to involve the Environment Agency to ensure that we do not damage habitats. MM has requested a site visit with the EA.
4. Culverts under Dry Lane – one of these was rebuilt during previous works, but the other two are showing major distress (not helped by heavy vehicles driving up over the kerb) and OCC agreed they need urgent repair. They recommended a double kerb to stop vehicles driving onto the verges. OCC is preparing a maintenance scheme.
5. OCC accepted part responsibility for the repair of Rob Helyar’s wall on Farm Lane on the grounds that it is a retaining wall. Rob is getting quotes and will liaise with OCC.
6. OCC offered to give us some ‘Road Closed’ signs to put up when Dry Lane floods – we inform OCC when they are deployed, and they liaise with the police. Rob has offered to store them. CD asked if we could have some sandbags too.
7. GH offered to take on being a Fix My Street “super user”.

10. Post lockdown village event. It was agreed to hold a social event at The Lamb in August, before schools go back. A small charge will be made per head. CD and SD to discuss with Sebastian and Lana and publicise.

11. Future dates

* 23 September 2021
* 9th December 2021

12. AOB

1. CD brought to our attention an invitation to a (virtual) roundtable discussion on 19th August about the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan. He will attend but would welcome another councillor to join him. SD to forward the email with details to the other Crawley councillors.
2. Cotswold AONB comes up to the edge of the village and does not include the Windrush Valley. There are three SSSIs in the parish. CD has written to Natural England to ask about extending the AONB to try to protect the valley from further development. Natural England is still working at reduced capacity due to Covid and has a backlog of new designations to consider, so are currently unable to accept new proposals. In addition, National Park and AONB designations are under review following the Glover Report. Gill Hill has a potential contact who may be able to help and will pass details on to CD.
3. Emergency Plan. SB-M has done some work to gather information and has identified some useful booklets etc that she would like to put on the website. One pressing need is to have an up-to-date map of the parish and be able to identify individual houses (she suggested using What Three Words) and vulnerable residents. She is happy to continue sifting through things and will put together a list of action points. CD and SD have offered to help.
4. SD has responded to a WODC survey on the number and location of litter and dog waste bins in the village. Their plan is to have “an accurate digital mapping system and emptying schedule of all bins that we can share with all Parishes and Towns within the district”. They have also been installing new dual bins in some places that accept both litter and dog waste, which “reduces the number of bins but not the capacity of the bins and in our view they are a visual improvement”.