**Crawley Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on 24th November 2021 at The Lamb**

Present: Colin Dingwall, Sue Bremner-Milne, Mark McCappin, Graham Howkins, Liam Walker, Sheena Derry.

1. Apologies: Gill Hill, Tony Connell.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September 2021 were approved.

3. Declarations of interest: None.

4. Matters arising:

* Community Library. SD had asked parishioners if they were in favour of having a community library (e.g. in an old telephone box), and received two positive responses. Council decided to keep looking for a suitable “container” at an affordable price and review if one is found.
* The litter pick and bridge clearing on 24th October was well attended and collected over 20 bags of litter. Thanks to all who helped.
* Defibrillator. MM has replaced the battery and pads for the defibrillator.

5. District Councillor’s Report. CD reported that:

* WODC, in collaboration with Blenheim Palace, has received a national honour for its model to provide affordable housing.
* WODC has passed a motion to commit to making West Oxfordshire streets safer for women and girls. They are organising events across the district to raise awareness on domestic abuse and how the Council can help victims. CD noted that WODC does not have any sheltered housing to offer to victims of abuse who need to be moved from other areas for their own safety.
* a grant of £50,000 has been awarded to Witney Rugby Club to extend their facilities and make provision for a disabled team. It is hoped that work will start in April 2022 and the new facilities will be ready for the 2022 rugby season.

6. County Councillor’s Report. LW reported that:

* OCC has agreed that a 20mph speed limit can be applied to villages in the county, although the details of funding for the changes are unclear at this time. The decision about whether to move to the 20mph limit cannot be made without the sign off of the local County Councillor, and will be made on an individual village basis. LW has set up a consultation for residents living within the 8 villages in his division (Minster Lovell, Crawley, Leafield, Hailey, Ramsden, North Leigh, Freeland or Long Hanborough) to get their feedback. SD will send a message round the village asking residents to respond to the consultation. The parish council will recommend the new speed limit to Crawley residents.
* The OCC meeting at which a decision on the Burford HGV restriction will be made will be on 5th January 2022.

7. Green turbines. CD has identified a “green turbine”, developed by a Belgian company ‘Turbulent’, which he feels may be suitable to install on the river Windrush (where there is a mill race and a 4-5ft drop) to generate electricity. SD will send a link to the other councillors, and CD will investigate further.

8. Treasurer’s Report

* SB-M circulated the accounts for September and October to the PC before the meeting, showing a balance of £3,768.81. Expenditure in the last period was for flowers for the war memorial and WiVTAG printing costs.
* SB-M has set a budget for 2022-23. We have been steadily eating into our reserves for the last few years, so that it is now less than half the recommended 2 x precept. She proposed an increase of £200 (9.7%) or £300 (14%). The PC agreed on £300 to begin to rebuild our reserves. Although this is a high percentage, in absolute terms it is a small amount. LW offered to give £500 from the Councillor Priority Fund to help cover the costs of the defibrillator maintenance (approximately £100 pa).

9. Witney Flood Fair. SB-M attended this event, hosted by WODC in Witney on 4th November, with representatives on hand from OCC Emergency Planning and the Environment Agency. They suggested that the parish council should prepare a list of ‘What 3 Words’ for places where emergency vehicles can park, and encourage residents to sign up for flood alerts and prepare for flooding if at risk. We could have an emergency supply of sandbags, but these would have to be stored somewhere. SB-M said there is an alternative gel-filled bag which can be stored flat and swell in contact with water, but these are likely to be more expensive and are presumably for single use only. SB-M will investigate further.

10. Update on WiVTAG. MM reported that WODC has carried out a third round of traffic counts (13 repeat and 3 additional sites). The results show that HGVs through Burford have not been reduced by more than 50%. A reduction of at least 50% was one of the criteria required for success of the scheme. In addition, no town or village had an increase in HGVs of more than 50%, and because the total number of vehicles was reduced (compared with pre-scheme) because of Covid, the air pollution measures cannot be used. The scheme is not working, and WiVTAG have suggested using a zonal scheme, similar to that used in East Oxford, instead. OCC has a full council meeting, open to the public, on 14th December. LW suggested that MM applies for a slot to speak at this meeting.

11. Future dates. Meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of every other month, at 7.30pm.

* 26th January 2022
* 23rd March 2022
* 25th May 2022
* 27th July 2022

12. AOB

* GH reported that he has been out marking potholes in the village, and many have been repaired.
* SD said she was aware of regulations regarding website accessibility (e.g. for partially sighted people) and did not think that we fully comply, although Crawley may be exempt because of our size. She will investigate further and consult with James if necessary.
* SD has received a couple of complaints about cars parked dangerously close to the junction at the bottom of Farm Lane. The issue was noted, but no action taken.
* SD reported that the Oxfordshire Treescape Project had recently made available their maps showing the right spaces to establish treescapes for the right reasons. Farmers, landowners, community groups and parish councils will be able to request (for a small fee) a personalised report of treescape opportunities on their land, showing where tree planting will bring the most benefits. She will investigate whether there are any opportunities highlighted for Crawley parish.
* MM reported that he had not heard any more about progress on sewers.