**Crawley Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on 26th January 2022 at The Lamb**

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

1. Apologies: Gill Hill, Liam Walker.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2021 were approved.

3. Declarations of interest: CD declared a conflict of interest for item 10 (planning application).

4. Matters arising:

* CD has requested more information from the Belgian manufacturers of the green turbines, and has been in contact with Nigel Tipple, Chief Executive of OxLEP to investigate whether funding could be provided. He has also become Director of Geothermal Oxfordshire Development Ltd.
* SB-M investigated the cost of gel-filled sandbags, but decided they were too expensive for parish council use, and disposal after use may be a problem. Individual households may feel that they are a good choice.
* SD has checked that our website satisfies current accessibility regulations. Anyone uploading documents should use up-to-date versions of Word or pdfs. PowerPoint files are generally not compatible.
* SD has looked again at the Oxfordshire Treescape Project but does not think there are any realistic opportunities for Crawley Parish.
* MM has been in touch with Thames Water for an update on repairs to the sewers. We are still on the priority list. Thames Water are now using a new contractor who can do relining of sewers at lower pressure, which they hope will work in Crawley and would avoid major reconstruction works on Foxburrow Lane. They hope the repair can be carried out this year.
* CD is waiting for a quote from a new contractor to clean/restore the war memorial. The original contractor did not get back to him.
* SB-M reported that the cost for replacing the two glass doors (which are cracked) on the village noticeboard is £156. She will investigate the possibility of replacing them with two opening doors.

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

* the Council is trying to get together with the Chairman of Thames Water and a government minister to sort out the problems of excess water and sewage around the county. There are widespread problems due to both capacity and breakage. It has been suggested that new building should be suspended until the infrastructure can support the development.
* he is watching carefully for indications of new development at the top of Dry Lane.
* OCC and Cherwell District Council, who have been in a partnership agreement since September 2008, have decided to split.

6. County Councillor’s Report. There was no report. CD noted that LW’s questionnaire about 20mph speed limits is about to close. He thinks it is likely that Crawley will be offered the lower speed limit.

7. Treasurer’s Report

* SB-M circulated the accounts for the final quarter of 2021 to the PC before the meeting, showing a balance of £2,564.14. The main expenses were for grass cutting and defibrillator parts.
* The HSBC safeguarding review has been completed successfully.
* The budget for the 2022-23 precept has been submitted successfully.
* £500 has been received from the Councillor Priority Fund to help with ongoing costs of maintaining the defibrillator. The PC expressed its thanks to Liam.
* SB-M reported that risk assessments have not been updated for about 9 years and probably need updating. She is looking at doing a relevant course which will cost about £50. This was approved.

8. Update on WiVTAG. MM reported that at OCC’s Cabinet Member Decision meeting on 5th January, Cllr Enright decided to (a) support a county-wide strategy for HGVs and (b) revoke the Burford ETRO. The Burford ETRO decision was immediately challenged by Cllr Field-Johnson and has been “called in” to scrutiny committee, which will meet on Wednesday 2nd February. MM and another member of WiVTAG will speak at the meeting. The scrutiny committee can either affirm Cllr Enright’s decision or refer it to Cabinet or Full Council. The PC thanked MM for his continued work on this.

9. OCC’s Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. This is a long-term county-wide transport strategy with supporting strategies for freight, active travel, and innovation. OCC is moving away from point weight restrictions to area restrictions. They are currently consulting on these strategies. MM has read the reports and attended a webinar but did not find it helpful. While the proposals sound good, it was difficult to find anything specific, with a lack of clear signposting on the website. He will complete the survey. SD said that it seemed very urban-centric.

10. Planning Application 21/03561/FUL: Conversion of barn to a dwelling, works to include the addition of a pitched roof to provide first floor living space. The farm building lies southeast of Crawley Hill Farm, Foxburrow Lane, Crawley, Witney, Oxfordshire. CD explained that the family have been associated with the village for generations, and Pat Grealis wants to convert the barn to enable him to return to living here. The land originally belonged to Ivy House, and although Pat Grealis does not own the access track the Deeds state that he has unlimited access. Policy H2 (hamlets) says there should be no new building on open countryside unless there is a specific need. After discussion, the PC agreed to send the following letter to WODC Planning Department.

**Application 21/03561/FUL**

**Farm Buildings southeast of Crawley Hill Farm, Foxburrow Lane, Crawley**

This application was discussed at the Crawley Parish Council meeting on 27th January 2022. Opinion was divided within the PC on whether to support or object to the application. The issues that were considered were:

* Compliance with WODC Planning Policies H2, H6 and E3
* Right of access to the applicant’s property

**Compliance with WODC Planning Policies**

Those in favour of the application felt that a case could be made to treat the application as a special case as permitted within Policy E3 - where re-use would address a specific local need which cannot be met in an alternative way. The specific local need in this case is that this development provides a means for the next generation of a well established Crawley family to be housed within the village. The supporting reasons are set out in the submitted Design and Access statement.

Those in opposition to the application felt that a special case could not be justified, and that the application did not meet the requirements of current planning policies.

On balance there was general agreement that the application, if approved as a special case, would make better use of the current site and building, would not cause any visual intrusion and should be commended for “being self-reliant and sustainable in its use of natural, ecological, utilities and infrastructure”.

**Right of access**

It is understood that, although the applicant does not own the access track, the Deeds state that he has unlimited access. An arrangement for right of access has been in use for many years and there seems no reason why this should not continue. The application may have to be revised to clarify this point, but Crawley PC felt that Right of Access should not be allowed to become the reason for rejecting the application.

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

* 23rd March 2022
* 25th May 2022
* 27th July 2022
* 28th September 2022
* 23rd November 2022

12. AOB.

* SD has received documents and attended a webinar on protocols following the death of the monarch or other significant person. It was agreed that since Crawley is so small it is unlikely that we would do anything specific.