**Crawley Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held at 7.30pm on 28th September 2022 at The Lamb**

Present: Cllrs Colin Dingwall (Chair, DC), Graham Howkins, Mark McCappin, Tony Connell; Liam Walker (CC), Gill Hill (DC), Sheena Derry (Secretary); Sue Bremner-Milne, Lewis Ross, Heather Northam (parishioners).

1. Apologies: None.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2022 were approved.

3. Declarations of interest: None.

4. Co-option of councillor: Following the resignation of Sue Bremner-Milne only one parishioner, Heather Northam, responded to the vacancy. There was unanimous agreement to co-opt Heather, and CD welcomed her to the council.

5. Matters Arising:

* The refurbishment of the war memorial has been completed, and everyone is pleased with the result.
* Liam was able to confirm that Crawley’s application for a 20mph speed limit is in, but there is a long queue ahead of us so it will take a long time.
* SB-M has obtained three quotes from tree surgeons to cut back the yew trees in the graveyard to give better hight clearance on the lane - Cotswold Tree Surgeons, Boward Tree Surgeons, Town and County Trees. The latter two provided written quotes and full details of their insurance. The PC unanimously chose Boward, at £240, based on cost, level of professionalism, and personal recommendation by TC. SB-M will organise the work. There is a need to liaise with WODC because the trees have a preservation order.
* The litter pick originally planned for 2nd October was postponed as Rob Helyar was away and we had not clarified arrangements for picking up the equipment. It was agreed the new date would be 16th October. SD will liaise with Rob.

6. District Councillor’s Report: Colin Dingwall.

* WODC no longer have a 5-year land supply, which means that the local plan is no longer valid. This leaves us open to speculative development, and CD thought it likely that there would be an application for development at the top of Dry Lane. The new WODC administration want to scrap the old local plan and produce a completely new one, which adds to the pressure. If any plans do come up, CD suggests we hold extra meetings to agree a strategy.
* Crawley Inn redevelopment. There is an agreement to sell the site, but the owners are waiting for probate to be completed so that the sale can go through. In the meantime the site has been vacated and the entrance has been blocked with an earth bund.

7. County Councillor’s Report: Liam Walker.

* Works have started on the Eynsham Park and Ride, and the Shores Green junction improvements are due to go to Council soon.
* LW has noted the report on Fix My Street that the railings along the causeway need repair and would not withstand any significant impact. He has been told by OCC that this is a big project, unlikely to be carried out in the short term. LW hopes to get it into next year’s budget.

8. Treasurer’s Report: Sue Bremner-Milne.

* We are now reclaiming VAT, so VAT invoices must be obtained on any purchases. We are likely to be able to reclaim about £100 p.a.
* SB-M wanted to move the grant money from Liam toward upkeep of the defibrillator into one of the lesser-used accounts to ring fence it. It was agreed that she should do this, minus the £250 spent last year on new pads and battery.
* We will need new volunteers to do firework and first aid training before next year’s bonfire night. The PC will pay for this. SD to liaise with John Hill and Paul Reid, who currently oversee this.

9. Update from Mark McCappin.

* A centre stone on the central arch of the bridge has dropped and stones around it have cracked. MM has reported this to Alex Robson (Milestone, senior bridge engineer) who says they will come and do a structural inspection.
* Thames Water now have an agreement to go ahead with the sewer repair on Foxburrow Lane. The pipes will be relined, this time using hot water to cure the resin, instead of heated compressed air. They hope to do this before the end of the year, but it will involve a traffic order to close the road, so time is tight.
* Fix My Street.
The willow beside the war memorial has finally been pruned, but there has been no action on repairing the headwall and railing on either side of the road at the bottom of Witney Hill (due for completion by early September). As noted above (item 6) the repair to the handrail on the causeway will be a major project. MM has briefed Alex Robson who is likely to be responsible for producing a design.
CD also noted that the potholes he reported on Foxburrow Lane have been repaired, but the drain on Foxburrow Lane is completely blocked again.

10. Parking on Farm Lane. TC has investigated getting a “polite notice” to be fixed to his wall asking people not to park right up to the junction at the bottom of Farm Lane. Pete Franklin at Crawley Mill could do an aluminium sign for us for £25. This was approved.

11. Salt bins. Requests for refills of salt bins need to be in before the winter. Little salt was used last winter, and what is there is all crusted over. SD and MM have broken up the salt in the bin half way up Farm Lane so it is now spreadable. HN will check the other bins to see if any need replenishing and SD will put in a request on return from holiday.

12. Future dates.

* 28th September 2022
* 23th November 2022
* 25th January 2023
* 22nd March 2023
* 17th May 2023 (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)

Our parish ordinary elections are scheduled for 4th May 2024, meaning that the annual meeting of the council must be held between 8th and 23rd May. For this reason, the meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of May (17th), rather than the usual fourth Wednesday of the month.

13. AOB.

* TC has had a complaint from a parishioner about an extension being built without planning permission and close to their boundary. WODC have been informed.
* In June 2019 MM reported to WODC that cars for sale were being parked in a field opposite Crawley Mill and the activity was stopped. Cars (25-30) are now back in the field, although there do not appear to be any “for sale” signs. MM has formally reported this to WODC. CD suggested a letter to WODC Planning Enforcement to reinforce MM’s complaint. SD to write to WODC.