

AMPNEY CRUCIS PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY,
10th MARCH 2022**

Present: Cllrs Doug Crook, David Fowles, Nick Wright and Jan Mills

Presiding: Cllr Crook

Clerk: Roz Morton

In attendance: 2 x members of the public

No:	Item:
1.	<p>To note apologies for absence Cllr Lisa Spivey (CDC & GCC)</p>
2.	<p>To note declarations of interest & gifts or hospitality given or rec'd - None</p>
3.	<p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2022 Resolution 03/22. It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th January 2022 were a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Mills, seconded Cllr Fowles, all in favour.</p>
4.	<p>Matters arising from the meeting held on 17th January including: Vacancies on the Council -an election has been called to fill one vacancy. Calls for nominations opens on 15th March and closes at 4.00pm on 23rd March. The election will take place on 21st April.</p> <p>To note appointment of Clerk Roz Morton was appointed Clerk on 1st February 2022. The Council would like to thank Caroline Braidwood for her excellent work as interim Clerk.</p>
5.	<p>Reports from the County and District Councillor Lisa Spivey Cllr Spivey's emailed report was noted. The report covered the following topics, and will be filed with these minutes.</p> <p>CDC Local Plan Consultation The consultation is open until 20th March. Cllr Fowles commented on the difficulty of responding as a Council to the consultation. It was agreed that the link to the LP consultation should be disseminated to the village via Psst & WhatsApp. It was agreed that all Councillors should look at the consultation and send their comments back to the Clerk by Monday 14th March.</p> <p>ACTION: Cllr Crook to send out a Psst message. Cllr Wright to send out a WhatsApp ACTION: Clerk to send out word version of the LP consultation and all Cllrs to send comments back by 14th March.</p>

	<p>Budget setting The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) anticipates a budget shortfall of over £2million in the financial year 23/24. This year we have managed to find savings of over £800,000 to have a balanced budget. Council tax will rise by 2.99%, with that equating to a rise for a Band D property of £5. Cllr Fowles reiterated a question he asked CDC regarding staff retention and recruitment.</p> <p>Planning Backs Lane - Andrew Moody is still waiting for information to come back on drainage matters and will make assessments after that. Crown at Crucis - The conservation officer has concerns over the amount of signage. Enforcement looked at the lighting which has caused concern for some residents. Their opinion is that there is no planning breach to answer. Cllr Spivey has asked for Development management at County Council to investigate there is a potential highways safety impact.</p> <p>Crowdfund Cotswold – a recommendation that the Playground group use this system to raise funds.</p> <p>GCC Highways Allocated money to further work on Allotment Lane and pressing for further work on Waterton Lane. Commissioned work to be done on the footpaths bordering the A417 as previously discussed. Asked about getting a weight restriction in place on Waterton Lane and Tank Lane to try to stop the rat running along these lanes, especially by large vehicles. This would be best approached as a joint piece of work with Driffield and Harnhill PC. The first step is a traffic count to establish the extent of the issue. Cllr Spivey will set up a meeting for us to discuss further.</p> <p>Cllr Crook reported that he has been in correspondence with Andrew Moody regarding Backs Lane, and also with Richard Gray (Glos H'ways) regarding the junction at the Crown and reinstating road markings.</p> <p>Budget Council tax will rise. This year sees a 2.99% rise in council tax overall, with 1.99% being council tax itself and 1% being the Adult social care levy. This equates to an annual increase on a Band D property of £42.14.</p> <p>Grant Funding The post covid Build Back Better fund remains open for applications.</p> <p>Cllr Fowles commented that the Market Place in Cirencester is closing for refurbishment shortly, but the length of closure was not clear.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to ascertain the length of closure so that can be communicated to local residents.</p>
6.	To receive questions from the Public - None
7.	Planning matters
7.1	<p>To receive planning decisions - noted without comment. 21/04502/FUL Erection of a first floor extension & new detached garage with associated landscaping Glebe Farm Cottage Barnsley Road Ampney Crucis Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5DY – PERMIT</p>

	<p>21/04687/TCNR Walnut (front of house) - Crown Raise and Crown reduction - excessive shading and encroaching on neighbour's property. Leylandi (x2) (front of house). Fell - Impeding Growth of trees around, encroaching on highway. Beach (front of house) - Light Pruning. Cherry (rear of house) - Fell - Unsightly - ununiform growth - replanting with newer trees. Hawthorn (rear of house) - Fell - overcrowded amongst other trees and fighting for light The Old Farm Ampney Crucis Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5SF – No objection</p>
7.2	<p>To consider and agree, retrospectively, response to the following planning applications:</p> <p>21/04443/FUL Land South Of Back Lane Ampney Crucis Erection of 1 no. detached dwelling with basement and attached garage – OBJECTION</p> <p>21/04584/FUL Land South Of Back Lane Ampney Crucis Erection of 1 no. detached dwelling with attached carport – OBJECTION</p> <p>22/00105/FUL Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) re permission 20/04402/FUL - Single storey side and rear extensions, new porch, and associated ancillary development, and detached double garage Kernow Ampney Crucis Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5SA -no comment</p>
7.3	<p>To consider and agree response to the following new applications:</p> <p>22/00669/FUL Proposed laundry room to be formed within the unused area of the main house courtyard Crucis Park Barnsley Road Ampney Crucis Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5DX (deadline 24.03.22) – no comment</p>
7.4	<p>To consider and agree, retrospectively, response to tree work applications and note decisions.</p> <p>21/04687/TCNR Walnut (front of house) - Crown Raise and Crown reduction - excessive shading and encroaching on neighbour's property. Leylandi (x2) (front of house). Fell - Impeding Growth of trees around, encroaching on highway. Beach (front of house) - Light Pruning. Cherry (rear of house) - Fell - Unsightly - ununiform growth - replanting with newer trees. Hawthorn (rear of house) - Fell - overcrowded amongst other trees and fighting for light The Old Farm Ampney Crucis Cirencester Gloucestershire GL7 5SF – no comment</p>
7.5	<p>To consider and agree a response to the CDC Local plan consultation – deadline 20th March.</p> <p>It was agreed that the link to the LP consultation should be disseminated to the village via Psst & WhatsApp.</p> <p>It was agreed that all Councillors should look at the consultation and send their comments back to the Clerk by Monday 14th March.</p> <p>ACTION: Cllr Crook to send out a Psst message. Cllr Wright to send out a WhatsApp ACTION: Clerk to send out word version of the LP consultation and all Cllrs to send comments back by 14th March.</p>
8.	<p>Update regarding Highways issues</p> <p>Ongoing issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of Allotment Lane • Condition of Butchers Arm Lane- • A417 Crown at Crucis junction

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterton lane drainage - I have it on my list for root cutting the system where it goes into a culvert. • Potential Community offer locations 50/50- to be estimated in the new financial year <p>Verge erosion adjoining the cricket ground- setts and bollards Outside Number 26 – 4 to 5m double row setts and repairs to verge/footway Westridge to Cobblers Cottage- setts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drainage across A417 near the Crown.
	<p>ACTION: Cllr Crook to contact Richard Gray to request that the red tarmac is reinstated and suggest that rumble white lines could be introduced.</p> <p>ACTION: Cllr Crook to contact Ampney Park to ask if the speed indicator could be situated on the post by the entrance gate.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to contact the owners of Old Mortar Mill to request that their hedge is cut back to the inside face of the wall, and to note that three self-seeded ash trees may cause them a problem in the future if not removed from behind their holiday let, and perhaps as they have tree surgeons on site it would be timely to get the work done.</p>
9.	Financial matters
9.1	To consider and agree to approve statement of accounts and expenditure for the period up to 28 th February 2022. The statement was approved without comment
9.2	To consider and agree to approve payments in the normal course of business (see attached list). Resolution 04/22. It was resolved to approve the payments, proposed Cllr Crook, seconded Cllr Wright, all in favour.
9.3	To consider and agree to make a donation of £50 split between The Stroke Association and Cancer Research UK in memory of Mr P Brice in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the village. Resolution 05/22. It was resolved to make the donation as stated. proposed Cllr Crook, seconded Cllr Mills, all in favour.
	ACTION: Cllr Crook to make the donation.
9.4	To consider and agree to commit funds to purchase new play equipment with the Playground Committee as part of a joint funding application from GCC's Build Back Better grant. The Playground Committee submitted a detailed bid which was discussed. The Council commends the initiative and encourages the Committee to seek crowdfunding to support the project. Resolution 06/22 The Council resolved to contribute £5000 of CIL monies to the project with the proviso that the Committee can ask for more if their fundraising falls short. Proposed Cllr Mills, seconded Cllr Fowles, all in favour.
	ACTION: Clerk to write to the Playground Committee confirming the £5000 contribution and confirming that if the fundraising is successful, the Council will make the purchase on behalf of the Playground Committee in line with the memorandum of agreement.
9.5	To consider and agree to increase the grass cutting contract to include the verge along Allotment Lane between the gates to the playing field at a cost of £9.66 per month.

	<p>Resolution 07/22 The Council resolved increase the grass cutting contract as above with the addition of the verge on the opposite side of the road. Proposed Cllr Crook, seconded Cllr Mills, all in favour.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to contact Countrywide to amend the grass cutting contract as agreed.</p>
9.6	<p>To consider and agree to contribute towards the Boules Court Restoration Project (as allowed under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s19). Funds requested up to £1231.</p> <p>The Boules club submitted a detailed proposal which was discussed. Resolution 08/22 The Council resolved to offer a grant of £1000 (£468 CIL monies and the remainder from reserves) with a request that the ivy is cleared from around the area in order to prevent further damage to the bridge. Proposed Cllr Fowles, seconded Cllr Wright, all in favour.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to write to the Boules club to inform them of the grant offer.</p>
9.7	<p>To approve scope of audit and appoint internal auditor The scope of audit remains the same as 2020/21 and is filed with these minutes.</p> <p>Resolution 09/22 The Council resolved to use the same scope of audit and to appoint Mrs Bridget Lazenby to complete the Internal Audit for 2021 -22.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to write to Mrs Lazenby to arrange the details of the audit.</p>
9.8	<p>To consider and agree to trial EasyPC Accounting software for 12 months at a cost of £50.</p> <p>Resolution 10/22 The Council resolved to trial EasyPC Accounting software for 12 months at a cost of £50. Proposed Cllr Crook, seconded Cllr Mills, all in favour.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to engage EasyPC Accounting.</p>
10.	<p>Burial ground matters – To receive Update Cllr Crook reported that he will clear a lilac that is in need of attention on the school side of the burial ground. Cllr Crook also noted that the fence between the wall and the school is covered in brambles and requires clearing. AJ Arborists are due on site on 23rd March to remove dangerous branches and remove deadwood.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to write to the school to request that they remove the brambles along the fence.</p>
11.	Village Matters
11.1	<p>To receive update on Playground matters. The boundary hedge of the school playing field needs cutting back.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to write to the school to ascertain who cuts the grass in the playing field and request that the hedge is cut back.</p>
11.2	To receive update on footpaths - nothing specific to report. Cllrs Crook & Fowles agreed to walk the footpaths to see if any remedial action is required.
11.3	To receive update on bus shelter Cllr Wright updated the Council.

	<p>Awaiting a quote from SSE to install electricity to the site. This will also require the council to purchase a pillar for the feed to go to.</p> <p>GCC has agreed to increase the size of the base to suit the Council's choice of design of shelter at no cost to the Council.</p> <p>The ideal shelter will have two entrances to help prevent anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>GCC 50:50 offer is still available.</p> <p>The Council thanked Cllr Wright for his tenacity with the project.</p>
	<p>ACTION: Cllr Wright to obtain quote for the desired design of shelter that is large enough for a wheelchair to turn around in and to get the base size confirmed.</p>
11.4	<p>To consider and agree amendments to content on the Village website.</p> <p>Quotes for an alternative website provider are being sought.</p>
	<p>ACTION: Clerk to add to next Agenda for discussion</p>
11.5	<p>To receive update from CDC regarding Boundary Change in Relation to Harnhill Cottage along with several properties along both sides of the A417 between the Crown and the Ivy Church.</p> <p>A copy of the letter sent to all affected households was circulated to the council for information.</p> <p>The Council agreed to make the following comment on the consultation: Ampney Crucis Parish Council supports the boundary change and would like to request that the boundary along A417 is situated on the southern edge of the carriageway including the verge in order that the Parish council can take on responsibility for maintaining the verges in that area.</p>
	<p>ACTION: Clerk to submit the above comment in response to the consultation and to ascertain whether all households are receiving the letter or just those directly affected by the potential change.</p>
11.6	<p>To receive an update on the litter pick 5/6th March.</p> <p>Over 30 residents took part in the annual "Village Spring Clean". The Council would like to thank everyone who took part.</p>
12.	<p>To receive correspondence</p>
12.1	<p>Invitation to RIAT briefing (note change of date to 4th May 2022) – to agree representative to attend.</p> <p>Cllrs Fowles & Crook & Wright agreed to attend the meeting.</p>
	<p>ACTION: Clerk to RSVP accordingly.</p>
12.2	<p>Request from Green Lanes Environment Movement (GLEAM) to respond to the Government consultation on the Glover Landscapes Review (deadline 9th April) – emailed 10th Feb 2022.</p> <p>The Council agreed not to respond to the consultation.</p>
12.3	<p>Any Other Urgent Items Received Since Publication of the Agenda:</p> <p>The Council noted that flower pots at an address in the village are encroaching onto the highway and as a result are being broken by passing cars potentially causing a hazard</p>

	The Council agreed to write to the resident to request that the pots are moved off the highway.
	ACTION: Clerk to write to the resident concerned.
13.	<p>Any other business: to discuss minor matters, not included elsewhere on the agenda, or matters received after the publication of the agenda. Not an opportunity for debate and decision making.</p> <p>Cllr Fowles commented that the Jubilee should be commemorated in the village in perpetuity potentially by naming an asset in the village the “Jubilee “</p>
	ACTION: Clerk to add to May Agenda for discussion.
14.	Date and time of next meeting – Thursday May 12th 2022. This will include the Annual Meeting of the Parish and begin at 7.00pm, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.50 pm