

FOREST HILL WITH SHOTOVER PARISH COUNCIL
UNAUTHORISED MINUTES of the Parish Council meeting
held on Thursday 10 November 2022 at 7.00pm in Forest Hill Village Hall

Present: Cllrs A Waite Brown, C Massey, J Hobbins M Leeding, W Blyth, D Waters

Acting Clerk and RFO Claire Waite Brown

Members of the public: 1

No. Item

70. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – G Blomley

71. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Leeding declared an interest in the Village Hall, OFOG, and Gardening club

72. PUBLIC FORUM

a) Rec tidy – It was reported that the left-over ball stop fencing that was taken down behind the goalpost on the rec was causing an obstruction. The council will build the removal of this into a plan for a general rec clean-up

b) Football nets – It was reported that the 5-aside football nets need refreshing. The council agreed to carry out necessary updates.

73. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 28 September 2022. All agreed and duly signed.

74. UPDATE ON PROGRESS FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

a) Rectory Farm water request – Cllr Waite Brown reported on a telephone conversation initiated by Rectory Farm. Cllr Waite Brown advised Mr Stanley that the decision not to supply water had been taken by the Village Hall Committee based on their concerns around supplying water that has been supplied to them at a charitable rate.

Mr Stanley felt that this was a spurious argument and reminded Cllr Waite Brown that the current water pipe supplying the allotments was at the kind permission of the land owner and him.

The Parish Council were disappointed to hear of the tone of the conversation and the perceived threat that water supply to the allotments would be removed by Mr Stanley if water is not supplied by the Village Hall for the Rectory Farm horses. Cllr Waite Brown asked the Village Hall trustees to investigate further the VAT implications of supplying water to Rectory Farm.

Cllr Leeding expressed concern over the status of the Village Hall committee in relation to the Parish Council and best practice with regards to governance. Resolved to add this topic to the next agenda for more detailed discussion.

b) Remembrance wreath – Cllr Waite Brown reported that he had instructed a local florist to make a sustainable wreath for the war memorial, with reusable knitted poppies. The clerk has paid £40 for the wreath and added that to her invoice.

75. OCC and SODC MATTERS

a) 20 MPH speed limit in Forest Hill – Highways and OCC will make the decision and if it is passed the change will be made at the end of December.

A councillor raised concerns over people pulling into Stanton Road from driveways. The position of the Parish Council remains in accordance with the advice of Highways that mirrors should not be put up.

Discussions were had regarding the speed limiter sign at the entrance to the village. This can be updated to 20MPH.

The battery life on the speed limiter sign means it often is not working.

Clerk to investigate with the supplier of the sign the costs of changing it to a solar speed limiter.

76. PLANNING

a) Far Outlook Old Road Shotover Hill (S3458/HH) – No objections

b) Mulberry House The Ridings Shotover (S2488/FUL) – No objections

c) Permissions have been granted for Rock Villa in Forest Hill and for outbuildings at Shotover House – No objections.

d) Shotover House (P22/S1431/LB) received late so not on Agenda. No objections

77. FINANCE

a) Balances at bank – as at 19 October 2022 (latest bank statements not received at time of writing agenda)

Business Reserve Account	£29,257.13
Current Account	£28,912.17
	£58,169.30

Less: Unpresented cheques	£3,850.99
	£54,318.31

Less: CIL balance	£20,465.44
Less: Earmarked reserves	£10,000.00
Total available funds	£24,051.78

Receipt included in above figure

Business account interest	£2.64
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b) Payment requests

Clean Slate donation	£150.00
TFM dog bins	£51.55
Administration to the council	£692.20
Green Scythe mowing verges and rec	£1,131.60
Insurance renewal	£1,486.28

c) CIL – It was suggested that CIL money could be used to make a pinch point at the entrance to Forest Hill from Stanton St John direction.
Clerk to investigate logistic and cost implications with Highways.

d) Precept – The council has received notification of the payment from SODC of the 2nd half precept of £9,250 that is not yet showing on accounts since we have not received bank statements.
Clerk to investigate with the bank and update contact details.

78. CLERK / RFO

a) AGAR 2021/22 – Clerk to chase auditor report.

79. SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE – nothing to report

80. BUS SERVICE and TRANSPORT

a) Parish Transport Representatives Group – Cllr Leeding reported that the City Council is discussing the introduction of transport hubs. Cllr Leeding will circulate the minutes.

b) Comet Service – Cllr Leeding reported that the service should be able to continue until March. The Council should expect to receive a request for a grant in the future.

81. VILLAGE and PARISH MATTERS

a) Water Supply difficulties – The Parish Council would like to thank local residents who pulled together at this time.
The Council thanks resilience officer Cllr Massey for her efforts in getting water to those who needed it and couldn't get out themselves.
The Council would like to remind residents that they can register vulnerability with water, gas and electric services to ensure they are given priority in these circumstances in the future.

b) Old Cemetery hedge and wall (since Dec 2021 min.2021/120) - council sourcing quotes for repairing the wall, ongoing.

c) New Parish Clerk/RFO recruitment – The new Clerk, Sue Cox, starts on November 14th. The Council thanked Claire Waite Brown for acting in the role over the past few months.

d) Forest Hill planters – The Council agreed to pay a maximum of £150 per year for the maintenance and filling of the planters. The Council requires VAT receipts for all claims since they can claim the VAT back.

It was suggested that the planters should be moved so as not to cover the white gates put up to slow drivers entering the village. Consideration also needs to be made to possible insertion of pinch points (Minute 75a).

82. VILLAGE HALL – To receive a report and updates

a) Managing Trustees report – 1 November 2022

Current account balance	£4,544.94
Deposit account balance	£2,889.48
	£7,434.42

b) Report from the trustees

The 2yr energy contract with SSE ended in September. After chaotic negotiations with SSE we have a new 6 month deal and with the government energy cap for businesses the unit cost should be affordable.

The wall heaters are on a pay meter for users and will bring in some income.'

83. RECREATION GROUND – To receive a report, updates and matters for consideration.

a) Purchase of new picnic benches – originally deferred until Spring, however the Council now think they may be needed sooner. Disposal of old benches to tie in with general rec tidy (Minute 72a).

b) Changing facilities – Cllr Hobbins reported that Stanton St John Parish Council welcomed the idea of moving the changing facilities to Stanton Cricket Ground, and that this was probably a project for 2024. Research into cost and logistics is ongoing.

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council would want to keep the electric and water connections for possible future use.

The Parish Council will consider what to do to replace the changing facilities for the good of the village.

c) Request regarding skate equipment on the rec from FH resident – The Parish Council appreciates the request and will investigate further. To maximize usage the council would look for integrated options.

Cllr Hobbins to investigate possible equipment and costs.

84. CEMETERY – Nothing to be considered.

85. ALLOTMENTS

a) Fencing – Mr Davies has reported that the cost of materials for fencing around the allotments has gone up, and that the contractor will need to submit a new quote. Council awaits the new quote.

86. **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESILIENCE PLAN –**
a) GDPR consent forms for Emergency Planning Unit –All forms have been signed. Clerk to send them to James Crozier.
87. **OALC / NALC** – Nothing to discuss
88. **LAND NORTH OF BAYSWATER BROOK** – Ongoing. Traffic is a concern but there is currently nothing to update one.
89. **INFORMATION and CORRESPONDENCE**
a) Oxford Local Plan 2040 Consultation – Green Belt implications as circulated by email from CPRE. No response required.

b) Oxford Preservation Trust and land adjoining Sandhills School – Cllr Leeding reported OPT are selling land adjoining Sandhills School.
90. **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING** – Thursday 15th December at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Signed as a true and accurate record

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Date..... min.....