

FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF FREELAND PARISH COUNCIL, HELD IN ST MARY'S CHURCH, FREELAND ON THE 13TH SEPTEMBER 2021, IN THE COUNTY OF OXFORDSHIRE AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT:	Chairman:	Roger Faulkner
	Vice-Chairman:	Mary Ann Canning
	Councillors:	Bill Phillips, Andrew Bird, Tony Tomkys, Andy Bain (till 9.06pm)
	District Councillors:	Alaa Al-Yousuf (till 9.54pm)
	County Councillor:	Not present
	Clerk:	Lisa Smith

At the time of this meeting taking place, the UK and rest of the world were still experiencing a Coronavirus (Covid -19) pandemic, and legislation and rules around this were constantly being updated. The current Government advice was for Council meetings to be back to face to face meetings, so a risk assessment was carried out and it was agreed to hold the meeting in St Mary's Church (rather than the Newell Room) to allow for social distancing and better ventilation.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

Ten members of the public were present for this session.

1.1 Inspired Villages proposed development – Fiona Lehane to speak to Council re development proposals

Fiona Lehane was a local resident and also a member of the "Freeland Friends" group that had produced a leaflet about the Inspired Villages development proposals that had been delivered to all properties in the village. She wished to speak to the Council about the planning application that had been submitted over the summer by Inspired Villages for a retirement village with up to 160 units, plus a café and gym.

Fiona read out an extremely creative poem about the planning proposals, details of which would be placed on the village website and on the Freeland social media page, and can be found at Appendix 1. The main thread throughout the poem was the fact that the site was not in the Local Plan and that the site was unsuitable for development and unsustainable should therefore be refused.

Council congratulated Fiona on a very innovative way of presenting her case and thanked her for her efforts in keeping the village informed with the leaflet. Her work was greatly appreciated.

1.2 Yellow Rattle trial sites & Wild Oxfordshire Hedgerow Grant – Russell Fisher & Amanda Watson to speak to Councillors re above

Unfortunately, Russell and Amanda were unable to attend the meeting to present their proposals to the Council. However, Russell had emailed some information in advance of the meeting which had been circulated to the Councillors for their consideration regarding various proposed trial sites around the village. The proposal was to plant Yellow Rattle at these trial sites, as part of a wider project to improve biodiversity on the village verges. Yellow Rattle is an annual flower that parasitises nearby grass taking water and nutrients from it, so it weakens the grass cover by up to 60%, and its flowers are also really good for large bees such as bumblebees. The four sites being proposed were The Green (2 areas), Broadmarsh Lane Amenity Area, the grass verge at the end of Parklands and the two grass verges at either side of the entrance to Oakland Close. The plan would involve sowing the seeds in Autumn this year, surveying the areas in the Spring and Summer, further seed collection and a late summer cut, then further sowing of wildflowers later in 2022 and possibly Spring 2023.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Amy Jackson, Peter Foster - both away, and Merilyn Davies.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT:

3.1 TO RECEIVE ANY AMENDMENTS TO THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no amendments to the Register of Members' Interests.

3.2 TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM COUNCILLORS FOR MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE MEETING

Mary Ann Canning (personal) as a member of Freeland Charitable Foundation.

Roger Faulkner (personal) as Vice Chair of Freeland Community Benefit Society.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 19th July 2021

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19th July 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record of those proceedings.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to report.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 Mobile coverage in Freeland – to receive an update on progress to improve mobile signal.

As Peter was not present there was nothing further to report.

6.2 Bench on The Green – to discuss any quotes to replace the bench on The Green and to discuss how to fund this

As discussed last month the bench on The Green was in desperate need of replacing. It was reported that an offer had been received from the Teddy Girls to fundraise for a replacement bench for which the Council was extremely grateful. It was agreed to obtain some quotes for a replacement bench, the Clerk would obtain these and report back next month.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for replacement bench as above.

7. **PLANNING** - Applications received & WODC Decisions plus:

7.1 Applications Received:

21/02671/HHD

BROADVIEW, BROADMARSH LANE, FREELAND.

Proposed conversion of first floor of an existing garage to create an annex for Mr & Mrs Hopkins.

After reviewing the above application, Council agreed there were no objections they wished to make regarding the proposed changes to the property. The only slight concern was whether the exterior staircase overlooked the house opposite, but there was a line of trees that would possibly block this. The Clerk would raise this WODC for them to check.

21/02627/OUT

LAND OFF THE WEST SIDE OF WROSLYN ROAD, FREELAND.

Outline planning application for the erection of a retirement community of up to 160 extra care units (C2 use class) with associated communal facilities and open space, with access from Wrosllyn Road, (all matters reserved except access) and retention of veterinary practice in the coach house for Inspired Villages.

The above planning application had been submitted over the summer break and an extension to the deadline had been granted for the Parish Council to respond by 17th September. A draft response to object to the application had been produced for consideration following initial discussions with the Planning Group where comments from Councillors were invited, and some objections already submitted from residents were also taken into account. The draft response concentrated on 3 main areas for objection, namely:

Inappropriate development for the site and village: The scale, location and type of development are inappropriate and entirely out of keeping with the existing scale and character of the village.

Poor access to amenities and public transport: The site has very few amenities and no public transport within reasonable walking distance.

Transport planning: The plans proposed to improve the site's accessibility are unrealistic and so will not make the scheme any more sustainable.

After further discussion, Council **resolved** to approve the draft objection response to be submitted as the official Parish Council response to the application. The Clerk would arrange to submit the objection letter to the WODC Planners.

It had also been suggested inviting Inspired Villages to an open public meeting, so that they were given adequate opportunity to state their case to the village. It was noted that Inspired Villages had already held virtual consultations with residents although it was apparent only a handful of residents attended these. Following a brief discussion, it was decided that whilst this was important, this could be done at a later stage further down the line.

It was also reported that Hanborough Parish Council were meeting the following evening and were planning to submit an objection to the application as a neighbouring parish and would be stressing the importance of upholding the integrity of the Local Plan and the negative impact on local amenities and transport. This was duly noted.

Action: Clerk to submit comments/objection letter as above.

7.2 Applications Approved:

21/01735/HHD 137 BROADMARSH LANE, FREELAND.
Side extension for Mrs Emma Stoppani.

21/02355/HHD 11 BLENHEIM LANE, FREELAND.
Erection of a two storey rear extension for Miss Maddy Bull.

7.3 Applications Refused: None.

7.4 Applications Withdrawn:

21/02306/HHD 1 CHURCH VIEW, FREELAND.
Proposed annex, erection of rear and side extensions and porch for Ms Maria Admans.

7.5 Applications Awaiting Decision:

20/01734/OUT LAND NORTH OF A40, A40 SECTION FROM BARNARD GATE TO EYNHAM ROUNDABOUT, EYNHAM (NEIGHBOURING PARISH)
Outline application with means of access for a mixed-use Garden Village, comprising residential, retail, food and drink, health and community facilities, hotel, class B1, B2 and B8 employment uses, education provision, burial ground, public open space with sports pitches together with ancillary facilities, landscaping and associated infrastructure and works for Grosvenor Developments Ltd.

21/00961/FUL LAND SOUTH OF SHASTON, THE GREEN, FREELAND.
New Build Chalet Bungalow with detached double Garage for Mr & Mrs Neil and Catherine Tregear.

21/02359/HHD 8 PARKLANDS, FREELAND.
Single and two storey rear extensions, extension over garage for Mr E Tweedie And Mrs A Tweedie-Wood.

7.6 Salt Cross Garden Village – to note Inspector’s Post Hearing Notes – details emailed around

Details of the above had been emailed around to Councillors for their information. The Post Hearing Notes basically focussed on the fact that further work was required as there was a lack of consistent evidence to show the relationship between the timing of infrastructure and the level of development that could be supported. Further work on phasing was therefore required to be carried out by WODC and extra time to produce a phasing plan had been granted by the Planning Inspector. In the meantime the examination of the Plan had been paused. This was duly noted.

7.7 Inspired Villages planning application - to discuss and agree a PC response to planning application for retirement village in Freeland;

This had already been discussed at item 7.1.

7.8 Oxfordshire 2050 Consultation - to discuss and agree a response to this consultation – details emailed around

OCC had launched a new consultation called Oxfordshire 2050. The Oxfordshire 2050 Plan would set out the long-term spatial planning framework for Oxfordshire for the period up to 2050, and would be used in the formulation of more detailed Local Plans and Neighbourhood Development Plans. Where appropriate, its policies would carry weight in the determination of planning applications and appeals for development. The Oxfordshire Plan set out 3 different growth options:

- Standard Method – 102,000 houses (1 new house for every 3 we have now)
- Business as usual Method – 123,000 houses (far above existing growth rates)
- Transformational Method – 153,000 houses (1 new house for every 2 we have now).

Over 78,000 houses were already included in Local Plans across Oxfordshire and the Office of National Statistics' projection had identified a need for 53,000 houses between now and 2050.

Council agreed that it was important to respond to this consultation for which the deadline was Friday 8th October.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Planning Team would meet and draft a response that would be circulated to Councillors for comment before being submitted.

Action: Planning Team to draft and circulate response to consultation as above.

7.9 OxCam Arc Spatial Framework Vision consultation – to discuss and agree a response to this consultation– details emailed around

The Government had also launched a consultation, 'Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc', on the OxCam Arc Spatial Framework Vision. The Spatial Framework would plan for growth in a sustainable and strategic way to 2050 and beyond and focussed on making the Arc a better place to live, implementing strategic planning under four 'pillars': The environment, the economy, connectivity and infrastructure, and place-making. Strong alternative views on the need and evidential basis for the Arc had been logged by a local campaigning group.

The deadline for this consultation was Tuesday 12th October.

Again, Council felt it was important to respond to this consultation, and it was agreed that the Planning Team would also draft a similar response to this consultation and circulate it for comment before submission.

It was also agreed that from now on, the Planning Team would only look at and consider the large-scale development applications, and that all future individual property applications would be emailed out to the full Council and then a decision could be made at the following Parish Council meeting.

Action: Planning Team to draft and circulate response to consultation as above.

7.10 Neighbourhood Plan – to discuss and agree whether the PC wishes to take forward the proposal of producing a Neighbourhood Plan in conjunction with residents' assistance

Amy had produced a comprehensive document with notes from the meeting held with Eynsham Parish Council representatives about producing a Neighbourhood Plan. Within it she had noted the key points, some of the challenging areas and the importance of engaging with residents, communicating clearly and managing their expectations. Whilst the Parish Council may not lead on this completely and devolve responsibility to others in the community, it was felt particularly important to have Parish Council involvement, especially to sign off documents before submission to WODC for inspection. The key thing was that the village was much more vulnerable and open to speculative development without a Neighbourhood Plan in place.

After some discussion, Council **resolved** to begin the process to produce a Neighbourhood Plan, which would need a few councillors involved, and support from residents. It was agreed to place a note in the Grapevine requesting residents get involved with this project. It was suggested then reviewing the skill set of the group and identifying any gaps and who on the Parish Council could best fill those gaps. It was also suggested that lots of information was available from Community First Oxfordshire and OALC to assist with the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Action: Clerk to place note in Grapevine to request volunteers to help with Neighbourhood Plan as above.

The Chairman decided to bring forward the following three items that the residents present may possibly be interested in:

10.2.4 Yellow Rattle Trial Sites – to approve the trial sites for Yellow Rattle planting

Further to the information provided in item 1.2, it was noted that Robert Crocker was also willing to assist with the project although it was advised there was a slight difference of opinion between Robert and Russell about which plots on the Green to plant.

Councillors wished to support this project and it was agreed to approve the 4 sites to be planted, as long as Robert and Russell could reach an agreement on which areas on The Green to plant, otherwise it was to be brought to the Chairman and Mary Ann for them to make a decision. With regards to the Parklands and Oakland Close sites, as these were both owned by Highways, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to inform Highways of the intention to plant wildflowers in these verges and to request that they were not mown for the foreseeable future.

However, it was then reported that Robert and Russell had discussed this and reached an agreement on the areas to be planted on The Green and Council were happy to proceed.

10.2.6 Hedgerow & Wildflower Grants – to discuss whether the Council is eligible and wishes to apply for the Wild Oxfordshire Hedgerow Grant and the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands Grant – details emailed around

Details of the above two grants had been emailed around to Councillors for information. After a brief discussion, Council were happy to apply for the grants if the Council was eligible and to see if Russell was able to apply if possible. It was also suggested having a seed exchange/seed bank which received positive responses from the Council.

Action: Clerk to see if Russell is able to apply for grant.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

(e) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – to discuss a tree planting initiative to “Plant Trees for the Jubilee” and to decide whether the parish council wishes to take part

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee would be in 2022 to celebrate the first time any British monarch had ever reigned for 70 years. There would be a range of commemorations and one of the main national projects would be a large-scale tree planting campaign all across the UK, to be known as The Queen’s Green Canopy. People, voluntary groups, schools and local authorities across the UK were being encouraged to “Plant a Tree for the Jubilee” through the QGC initiative. The actual planting programme would be in two phases; autumn/winter 2021-22 and then October-December 2022.

Councillors were very positive about this initiative and wished to take part in some tree planting in the village. It was suggested asking Russell for options of suitable locations and types of trees and this item would then be carried forward to next month for further consideration. The Clerk had also booked the village hall for Sunday 5th June 2022 for a Big Lunch style event.

Action: Clerk to contact Russell re options for trees and locations, and to carry item forward to next month.

The rest of the agenda then followed its usual order.

8. REPORT OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS

No reports were received from Marilyn or Liam. Alaa gave a brief update on the attempt to get the white gates at the Freeland entrance on the A4095 cleared of vegetation and repainted. Highways had responded and cleared the vegetation but advised that it was a parish issue to get the gates repainted.

It was also noted that a litter bin replacement scheme was being rolled out by WODC, with some bins being replaced with dual purpose bins (for litter and dog waste). However, there had been some communication issues, and it was suggested asking where bins had been removed whether there would be a reduction in the price for the litter bin emptying. The Clerk would check.

Action: Clerk to double check above re bins.

Alaa was thanked for his report and remained in the meeting until 9.53pm.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

9.1 Presentation of the monthly financial report

The monthly financial reports for July and August were presented to the Council showing details of the bank balance at 31st July and 31st August 2021 and the receipts and payments received or paid out in the last two months. The bank statements were checked as agreeing with the figures on the finance sheets and were both signed by Bill.

9.2 Parish Council Insurance Renewal - approval of the insurance renewal premium - to include review of level of Fidelity Guarantee cover

The insurance premium was due for renewal on 1st October 2021 and the Council's long-term agreement with Came and Company was also due for renewal on 30th September 2021. Renewal documents had been received from Came & Company (the current insurers) for insurance cover for the coming year and these had been emailed around to Councillors. The renewal quotation was based on the sums insured (index linked by 3%) and cover detailed in the Council's current schedule of insurance.

The renewal premium quoted for 12 month's cover was **£2,234.43** (decreased from £2,267.18 last year), including 12% insurance premium tax. If the council entered into a new 3-year long-term agreement, then this would reduce the premium to **£2,125.21** – this was the recommended option from Came & Company. The Policy excess remained at £250 for each and every claim.

The External Auditors required the Council to review their level of Fidelity Guarantee cover every year. This cover was currently insured at a level of **£250,000**.

After a brief discussion, Council **resolved** to approve the insurance renewal premium of £2,125.21 which would mean taking advantage of a new 3-year long-term agreement. Council also agreed to keep the Fidelity Guarantee level of cover at £250,000 which was felt to be adequate.

Action: Clerk to arrange insurance renewal as above.

9.3 Annual audit – To receive an update on progress

The Clerk gave a brief update on the audit which was progressing well. All information had been submitted to the external audit provider and the outcome was awaited.

9.4 Approval of invoices for payment (to include approval of purchase of poppy wreath for Remembrance Day)

The Council approved invoices for payment as listed on the invoices for payment sheet distributed with the meeting. These invoices would all be paid by BACS online. Council therefore **resolved** to approve all of the following invoices for payment:

The following invoices are requested to be approved for payment:			
BACS Ref Number	To whom paid	Details	Amount (£)
BACS 069	Summit Trees	Willow tree pollarding x 2 at the pond	240.00
BACS 070	Lisa Smith	Clerk's salary - September*	950.42
BACS 071	HMRC	National insurance contributions Q2	176.40
BACS 072	Lisa Smith	Refund expenses (Zoom x 4 & stationery)	99.62
BACS 073	Arthur Treherne	Barbed wire removal at play park	24.00
BACS 074	Sawscapes Play Ltd	Repairs to zip wire seat etc	708.00
BACS 075	Nigel Green	Mowing June/July/Aug 2021	870.00
		Total:	3,068.44
Plus:			
	NEST pension payment of £33.09 (employee & employer contributions). The amount of £18.91 has been deducted from Clerk's salary for September salary payment.		
	*Pay award pending for Clerk's salary - negotiations still taking place so previous salary continued.		
	NI rate has slightly decreased so £23.50 has been deducted this month (rather than £24.10).		

It was also suggested giving a donation to St Mary's Church for the use of the church for the parish council meeting. This was agreed and a payment of £25.00 would also be added onto the list of invoices to be paid.

9.5 Any other financial business – to receive an update on change of bank signatories

The Chairman, Peter and Mary Ann were all now set up as signatories, and the process had been started to add Tony to the account as well.

Action: Clerk to complete process to add Tony to bank account.

Clerk's laptop – The Clerk advised that the disk storage space on her laptop was running low and she had experienced a few problems with the running of the laptop recently. It was noted that the laptop was now over 5 years old and would need replacing sometime in the near future. After a brief discussion it was agreed for the Clerk to obtain some quotes for suitable replacement laptops and bring along to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to obtain quotes for new laptop as above and bring to next meeting.

10. PARISH COUNCIL STANDING ITEMS

10.1 Play areas/Playing Field – to receive any reports:

10.1.1 Play area reports – damaged zip wire chain sleeve; damaged trampoline tile; barbed wire in hedge behind play area; loose fittings on climbing wall; nuisance travellers – to receive an update

Pink book– Amy had the pink book and would pass it to Bill. As Amy had been away Andy had covered her rota. The only problem to report was some slippery matting in the toddler play area but this would be rectified when the toddler area was revamped. It was also noted that the annual play inspection was due imminently.

Zip wire/trampoline tile/Barbed wire/Loose fittings on climbing wall – The zip wire chain sleeve and trampoline tile had both been replaced and the barbed wire had been removed. The loose fittings on the climbing wall had been tightened. An update had been received from Robert Crocker to advise that the area beside the zip wire and basketball court was now finished, grass seed planted and patches of wildflower mix sown along the Heath Farm boundary. The Parish Council wished to pass on their thanks to Robert for carrying out this work.

Nuisance travellers – Over the summer the Clerk had received reports of nuisance travellers in the area and it was queried whether the playing field needed securing or additional measures to stop unwanted visitors. However, following discussion, it was agreed not to take any action at the current time.

10.1.2 Water for cricket square – to update on progress with adding a water supply to the new storage shed.

An update had been received from Robert Crocker to advise that Thames Water would be out to inspect the pipe work on 14th September, but due to licensing issues it could take a further 3 months for connection. This was duly noted, and Robert would keep the Clerk updated when it had been approved and connected.

Action: Robert to arrange connection to pipework.

10.1.3 Play equipment replacement for wooden climber and toddler area development – to receive an update from working group and to discuss first design proposals and layout, together with quotation for works.

Mary Ann and Andrew had produced a report detailing the various options and quotes received for the toddler area development. Following consultation with a parent group, the main three items of new equipment that they would like to see were a tractor style climbing feature, a sand pit and a sunken trampoline separate from the one by the large wooden climber where the older children played. Some additional safety surfacing would also be required. Four quotes had been obtained for the new items of equipment and the feedback from the parent group was to go with the Sawscapes option. Following a brief discussion, Council **resolved** to approve the revised Sawscapes quote totalling £29,746 (inc. VAT), minus the optional log weaver.

A few queries were raised regarding the proposed equipment, these were: adding a steering wheel to the tractor, checking the stability of the sand shack roof in case children climbed on it and checking the trampoline was suitable for our requirements. These would all be double checked with Sawscapes.

Council passed on their thanks to Mary Ann and Andrew for all their work on the project so far.

Action: Clerk to place order for new equipment and Mary Ann to double check queried items.

Andy then left the meeting at 9.06pm.

10.1.4 Playground Inspection Training - to note report following Playground Inspection Training and to consider points for discussion including surrounding areas and "Operational" Inspections

A report produced by Andrew following the Playground Inspection Training that he recently attended had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The report contained brief details of the legal

framework and duty of care that operators of playgrounds needed to adhere to. The report also gave details of three different types of playground inspection that were recommended to be carried out. The first was a routine visual inspection, to be carried out either daily or weekly. This was currently being carried out by the Councillors. The second was an operational inspection to be carried out every 1-3 months, and the third was an annual main inspection that should be carried out by a competent person who can check compliance with EN 1176 as well as presence of rotting, corrosion or any effects of weather. This was currently being carried out by a play inspection company once a year.

It was also noted that the training stressed the importance of not only checking the play equipment itself and the safety surfacing, but also the surrounding area, including the approach paths, surrounding vegetation, gates, any litter or other fouling, signs of anti-social behaviour etc and also the ancillary items such as signs, bins and seats.

The importance of recording the inspection was also stressed and inspection information had to be stored for 21 years to comply with the current litigation timescales.

It was noted that the Parish Council was currently carrying out both the routine visual inspection each week and the annual main inspection by an external provider, and after a discussion Council felt that the operational inspection was not necessary. However, it was agreed to update the list in the pink book to reflect the importance of checking the surrounding areas as well as the play equipment and Andrew agreed to draft something to update the list.

Action: Andrew to update list in pink book to reflect points raised at training course.

10.1.5 Football Club Groundhop event on 18th September – to note request to use playing field for car parking for this event

The Football Club had contacted the Parish Council to advise that they were holding a Groundhop event on 18th September and were expecting a large number of visitors to attend. They intended to use one end of the playing field for additional car parking. It was noted that cars would be parked at their own risk and there was no liability on the Parish Council for the cars parked on the field that day, and to ensure visitors were also made aware of unaccompanied children that may be within the car park area that drivers needed to be mindful about. The Council were happy with the arrangements and also were willing to offer the Garden of Remembrance car park as extra parking should it be required. The Clerk would feed this back to the Football Club.

Action: Clerk to advise Football Club of the above.

10.2 Village Highway Matters – to receive any reports: Concerns raised from resident re grass verges.

A resident had raised concerns re the state of the grass verges and the Clerk would respond.

10.2.1 Traffic calming measures – to receive an update from Traffic Calming Working Group, to update on the traffic survey

The Traffic Calming Group had not yet met and a meeting was due to be arranged. It was agreed at the meeting that Tony would take over the chairing of this group as Mary Ann was already involved with a number of other large projects that were taking up a lot of her time (Mary Ann had already been consulted about this and was in agreement). The speed surveys were due to be carried out during week commencing 27th September and would run for 7 days.

Amy had queried whether the Parish Council could consider bringing forward some elements of the traffic calming proposal compiled by Mary Ann, namely the modifications at each end of the village. After a brief discussion, Council agreed this should be taken to the next Traffic Calming Group for discussion and it could be brought to the next Council meeting for approval.

Andy had also sent a report to advise that he had been in contact with Kirtlington Parish Council who were in the process of implementing their own traffic calming measures and he would be attending their next meeting to hear their presentation of proposed measures. If any other members of the group wished to attend, they could contact Andy who would forward the details.

It was also reported that the village Speedwatch group has resumed their checks and they now had 9 volunteers. Some new signs to advise that Freeland was a Neighbourhood Speedwatch area were suggested that could be placed at each end of the village and would cost approx. £250. This would be put on the next agenda for approval.

Action: Tony to arrange meeting of group and Clerk to place signs on next agenda.

10.2.2 Dead oak tree by 149B Wroslyn Road – to note and consider any responses from residents re possible action for dead oak tree on grass verge.

Following the Chairman's letter to the residents over the summer, it was reported that no responses had been received.

The quote received for the work from a local contractor was £250 + VAT, which was to trim the tree rather than remove it, and after a brief discussion it was agreed to get the work done and the PC would foot the bill.

The Clerk also reported that she had now arranged with the local contractor for the laurel hedge to be cut in Broadmarsh Lane, which had previously been agreed to be done late summer/early autumn time.

Action: Clerk to arrange tree work as above.

10.2.3 Winter salt - to consider if Council wish to take up OCC's offer of salt bins and winter salt this year

OCC were once again offering parishes free salt bags, winter salt, salt bin refills and new bins. After a brief discussion, Council felt the village had sufficient salt stocks for the time being so no order was required.

10.2.4 Yellow Rattle Trial Sites – to approve the trial sites for Yellow Rattle planting

This item had already been covered and brought forward on the agenda.

10.2.5 Cuckoo Lane road closure – to note road closure information – details emailed around

Details of a road closure on a section of Cuckoo Lane had been received that would mean the road would be closed from 8th – 17th November inclusive for water hydrant installation works to be carried out. This would be a 24 hour per day closure. Details of this would be placed on the village website and on the social media page and in the Grapevine.

Action: Clerk to circulate info as above.

10.2.6 Hedgerow & Wildflower Grants – to discuss whether the Council is eligible and wishes to apply for the Wild Oxfordshire Hedgerow Grant and the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands Grant – details emailed around

This item had already been covered and brought forward on the agenda.

10.2.7 First and Last Mile – to consider and approve a request for S106 funds to be used via the PC to fund a community bus service

The Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting with OCC and First and Last Mile (the latter being a Community Interest Company).

First and Last Mile were currently setting up a new community weekday bus service to serve Freeland, Eynsham and Hanborough. The service would provide a weekly timetable Mon – Friday on 16-seater minibuses, run by volunteer drivers. Fares charged would be similar to Stagecoach fares, and eligible bus passes could be used on the buses. They hoped to have the service up and running by the end of the year, hopefully around November time.

OCC were providing the initial funding for this service from £79K of S106 funds that had been obtained from two local developments. Because First and Last Mile were not a registered bus company, OCC were not allowed to transfer the S106 funds directly to them, so they were seeking Parish Council approval to use them as a way of transferring the money to the bus company. This had been done in the past with other Parish Councils in Henley and Great Bourton with no issues. A legal agreement would be drawn up between OCC and the Parish Council to formalise the arrangement and then the funds would be transferred across to the Parish Council to hold in their bank account and release funds to First and Last Mile on an annual basis spread across a number of years.

An initial start-up lump sum of around £30-£40K would be needed to purchase the buses, and then it could be around £10K transferred each year for the remaining 4 years, exact amount to be agreed.

After further discussion, Council **resolved** to approve entering into a legal agreement with OCC to help First and Last Mile fund their new community bus service as above, which would prove beneficial to the village.

Action: Clerk to liaise with OCC re getting legal agreement in place.

10.3 Footpath & Bridleway matters/Footpath Book – to receive any reports: Footpath signage on BR1 needs attention

Mary Ann had the book and there were some signage issues reported on BR1 that the Clerk had reported to OCC Public Rights of Way Team. A response was awaited. There were no other problems to report. The book would be passed to the Chairman.

Action: Clerk to chase up response re BR1 if needed.

10.4 Garden of Remembrance – to receive any reports:

No reports had been received. The Garden was being mowed and kept tidy by Nigel Green and Tim Webster who had both carried out a great deal of work there, including the clearance of the wildflowers.

10.5 Freeland Hall Management Committee – to receive any reports

There was nothing to report at the current time.

11. CORRESPONDENCE – To discuss and agree any actions arising from:

(a) OALC July & August updates – details had been emailed around.

(b) Muntjac Deer – to note concerns raised by resident re damage to garden by Muntjac Deer and to consider if any action is to be taken. A local resident had contacted the Council regarding some concerns about a possible increase in Muntjac Deer in the village, possibly due to the culling cycle carried out by the Eynsham Park Estate. After a brief discussion, Councillors felt this was not a parish council issue and no action was to be taken.

(c) OCC Project Gigabit – details had been emailed around and were duly noted.

(d) WASP (Windrush Against Sewage Pollution) – to note contents of letter to local MP and to discuss whether the parish council wished to take any action – details had been emailed around. It was agreed this needed further discussion as the amount of sewage being dumped in local rivers was particularly high and so this would be carried forward to the next agenda.

Action: Clerk to carry forward to next agenda.

(e) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – to discuss a tree planting initiative to “Plant Trees for the Jubilee” and to decide whether the parish council wishes to take part.

This item had already been covered and brought forward on the agenda.

(f) Dog waste bags – to consider suggestion from resident to place plastic bottles with dog waste bags in by playing field and entrance to woods to improve dog waste being picked up. A resident had contacted the Clerk about whether it would be possible to have some plastic bottles filled with dog waste bags set up at maybe a couple of entrances to the playing field and to the Broadmarsh Woods to try and encourage people to pick up after their dogs. Dog’s mess around the village seemed to be increasing again, and the resident thought it may help to encourage people to pick up after their dogs. Whilst it was noted this was a good thing to do, Council felt that it was likely not to make much difference and would look quite unsightly, plus it would need maintaining and refilling. However, Council was happy if the resident wished to do this, but this would not be done by the Council. The Clerk would feed this back to the resident.

Action: Clerk to provide feedback as above.

Plus additional items since agenda sent out:

(g) Gunshots in Broadmarsh Woods – to note concerns raised by resident re gunshots heard in Broadmarsh Woods this weekend. A resident had reported hearing what they thought to be gunshots in Broadmarsh Woods at the weekend. However following discussion, it was felt to be noise from fireworks that were being set off in a nearby property.

12. CIRCULATION

It was agreed that now the Council was back to meeting in person that the papers could now be circulated.

13. TO RECEIVE A MONTHLY UPDATE REGARDING FREELAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

There was nothing to report this month.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS – FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ONLY

Covid Risk Assessment – The Clerk had produced a Covid risk assessment for the return to face-to-face meetings and had circulated it to Councillors prior to the meeting. Council approved the risk assessment document.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Council would be held on **Monday 18th October 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.24pm.

Appendix 1 – Poem by Fiona Lehané re Inspired Villages Planning Application

“It’s Not in the Local Plan” by Fiona Lehané

“Inspired” by the Objections on the WODC site! September 2021

Oh Legal & General, what have you done?
Our entire village is over-come –
From Witney Road right through to The Green
We find your proposal insulting, obscene.
It’s not in the Local Plan.

We want our village to survive, no – thrive!
We want our Parish Council to help decide
Our needs, our wants, our vision, our future
Legal & General, we don’t need ya!
It’s not in the Local Plan.

This talk of “consulting”, “engaging” and more
What, oh what, oh what is that for?
Loopholes, speculation, short-term gain.
Let’s have a Public Meeting, put some faces to names.
It’s not in the Local Plan.

The noise, the traffic, the disruption, the stress
And that’s just the build-phase, an almighty mess.
The pressure on doctors, on water, on waste
The scale of this thing leaves a very bad taste.
It’s not in the Local Plan.

And what about the elderly IV residents?
A “village” within our village – that’s without precedent.
It’s not social, it’s dense and dis-connected
Not like their adverts, this won’t be what *they* expected.
It’s not in the Local Plan.

The Police suggest adding surveillance, bright lights
To reduce fear of crime on our dark dark nights.
What about star-lit skies with no light pollution?
A plastic “village” is not the solution.
It’s not in the Local Plan.

What we have is ancient parkland, a natterer’s bat
Guinness the horse, owls, and muntjac.
Green space and birdsong during the pandemic -
Why would anyone agree to condemn it?
It’s not in the Local Plan.

What we have is people who care
Who love this village and will not despair
At least 200 have objected!
Far more than Freeland Friends hoped and expected.
It’s not in the Local Plan.

In fact, we should thank dear L&G
They have helped our village to see
What we have is precious, unique
We will fight for our future, no need for others to tweak.
It’s not in the Local Plan.

In closing, I assert that this is “lose-lose”
Unsustainable, grasping and bulldozed through
So, to make it clear, there are no fans:
It is not, it is not, it is definitely *not* In the Local Plan.