

## CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Cumnor Parish Council held in the United Reformed Church Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor on Monday 5 June 2017 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Gerald Frost, Chairman, Pam Fraser, Jeffrey Gee, Bryan Goudman, John Griffin, Trevor Halls, Lucy Mangua, Fiona Newton, Judy Roberts (late arrival), Paul Taylor, Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor (late arrival) and Tina Brock, Clerk.

**160/17 Apologies for Absence.** Steve Viner, Vice-chairman (prior commitment), Tom Christophers (work commitment), Dudley Hoddinott (family commitment), Alison Jenner (prior commitment) and Nick Surman (unwell). These apologies were received.

**161/17 Variance of Order of Business.** None.

**162/17 Declarations of Interest.** Prejudicial interest for:

Minute 183/17 ii Jeffrey Gee would be carrying out the work at Cumnor Village Pond.

Personal interest for:

Minute 173/17 Trevor Halls knows the solicitor.

**163/17 Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 22 May 2017.** Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chairman as a correct record

**164/17 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8 May 2017.** Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes which were signed by the Chairman as a correct record

**165/17 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 2 May 2017** were received.

**166/16 Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

i. **Monday 8 May 2017.** Minute 136/17 CPN adhoc writing group. The Chairman requested Councils permission to approach Helen Devenport, Editor of the Cumnor Parish News to discuss the financial issues the publication is having and to see if there was a way in which Council could assist. Council RESOLVED to approve these discussions. The outcome of the discussions would be brought back to Council at its next meeting.

ii. **Monday 22 May 2017.** None.

**167/17 Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum to the Agenda.** Received.

a) Payment of Accounts. Approved as per minute 168/17. Item 32 approved after minute 173/17 approved.

**168/17 Payments of Accounts.** It was resolved to authorise the payments specified in the Clerk's Newsletter and Addendum and reproduced below:

			Net cost	VAT	Sub total	Total
	<b>Payments now due:</b>					
29a,b LGA 1972 s112 Contract/Pensions Act 2014	Staff costs					2,272.20
30 LGA 1972 s134	Dean Court Community Association	Room hire - Council				12.25
31 LGA 1972 s140	Came & Company	Council insurance - LTA 3 yrs				3,040.00
32 LGA 1972 s111	Knights 1759	Registration of lease of land at Fogwell Road	850.00	168.00		1,018.00
33 LG (MiscProv) Act 1976 s19	Proludic Ltd	New outdoor fitness equipment at Mayfield Rd play park	15,000.00	3,000.01		18,000.01
34 LGA 1972 s143	CPRE	Annual membership				36.00
35a LG(Misc Prov)	Ady Podbury	Various grounds maintenance				

Act 1976 s19	Grounds Care		830.00	166.00	996.00	
35b LG(Misc Prov) Act 1976 s19 Highways Act 1980 LGA 1972	Ady Podbury Grounds Care	Various grounds maintenance	285.00	57.00	342.00	
35c LG(Misc Prov) Act 1976 s19	Ady Podbury Grounds Care	Various grounds maintenance	153.15	30.63	183.78	
35d LG(Misc Prov) Act 1976 s19 Highways Act 1980 LGA 1972 Open Spaces Act 1906	Ady Podbury Grounds Care	Various grounds maintenance	380.00	76.00	456.00	1,977.78
36 LG(Misc Prov) Act 1976 s19	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd	Repairs to net swing at The Glebe play park	65.30	13.06		78.36
37 LG(Misc Prov) Act 1976 s19	Sutcliffe Play South West	New play equipment and wet pour surfacing at Meadow Close play park	15,419.00	1,482.00		18,502.80
38 LG(Misc Prov) Act 1976 s19	B&S Chains (Midlands) Ltd	Repairs to aerial swing Pinnocks Way play park	51.40	10.28		61.68
39 LGA 1972 s111	Critchleys LLP	End of year procedures	170.00	34.00		204.00
40 LGA 1972 s111	Arrow Accounting	Internal audit fees YE 2016/2017				275.08
41 LG(Misc Prov) Act 1976 s19	MRH Services	Monthly visual inspection of play parks				87.00

Notes.

1. After all payments are made the Santander Community Account will be in credit at £136,359.33.
2. The Council has the following debtor for 2017/18: HMRC (Reclaimable VAT) £5,857.78.
3. Electronic payment for invoice 29a was approved between meetings.
4. 17 May 2017 the Corporate Notice Account held a credit balance of £71,892.66.

**169/17 Public Participation.** None.

## REPORTS

**170/17 Report from County Councillor(s).** CC Roberts sent an email report which the Chairman read out.

When the Clerk circulated the news from OCC that the installation of a puffin crossing at the top of Cumnor Hill would be abandoned due to insufficient budget, I independently contacted Geoff Barrell, Developer Schemes Co-ordinator, Highways and the consequence of this is that the Clerk, myself, Geoff Barrell and Mike Wasley, Senior Engineer from OCC are going to meet on the 15<sup>th</sup> June at 8: 30 am. We will try to identify any measures that we could put in place using the £46,600 that we do have.

I discovered that the Bike Safe path is a “preferred option” on the Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is part of the proposed West Oxfordshire Local Plan. This proposal is currently with the Planning Inspector at the moment and they hope to adopt it by the autumn. The delivery timescale proposed is between 2016 – 2021. I asked the question whether the County Council supported this path at the Delegated Decisions for Environment including Transport meeting and got the answer yes but as ever it is a question of funding. So my supplementary question was given, the large development at the A40 known as the Eynsham Garden Village will be providing s106 money will the delivery of this path be within the timescale? The answer was yes provided the Local plan was adopted and the development went ahead.

**171/17 Report from District Councillor(s).** DC Roberts sent an email report which the Chairman read out.

The son of one of our Cumnor residents was having problems receiving their proxy vote forms. Lesley Blue is the new election officer at the Vale and she replied and sorted the problem within one day. If anyone has any problems, please contact her on [Lesley.blue@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:Lesley.blue@southandvale.gov.uk)

I received two hours’ notice that Persimmon were meeting the residents of Kimmeridge Road (Cumnor Heights development) on Friday morning. I managed to attend this meeting and heard the many outstanding problems that residents still have with the site. There were four members from

Persimmon present and they seemed to want to get the problems fixed so they can leave the site to Chamonix Management Company who then intend to hand it over to a residents association. There are serious drainage problems with swales and a connection problem which have been fixed. The same contractor will come back in June to identify the solution to these problems and then they hope to progress the work to finish this year. Steve Read, Persimmon was there and I managed to make him check whether Persimmon still owned the green space to the rear of the development. I have put him in contact with Peter Beer from property at the Vale so that he can correctly ask if the Vale will adopt the land.

Four of the non-working street lights now function but two still need to be connected to a power supply. Steve Read seemed to think he wouldn't be able to progress this until next year and unfortunately that means that OCC won't adopt the roads until that is fixed. There were many complaints about parking at the entrance of Kimmeridge Road and people leaving their cars there all day and taking the bus into Oxford. There is nothing that can be done unless they obstruct an emergency vehicle until the roads are adopted.

**172/17 Report from Representative(s) on Outside Bodies.** None.

## **FINANCE**

**173/17 Draft Statement of Accounts 2016/17** was deferred due to the Internal Auditor finding an error in the accounting of a grant received.

**174/17 Audit. Annual Return for the Year Ending 31 March 2017.** Due to minute 172/17 being deferred sections 1 and 2 would be signed off at a meeting on Monday 19 June at 7.15pm in the URC Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor.

**175/17 Expenditure.** Council RESOLVED to approve the expenditure for Knights 1759 Solicitors to register the lease between Oxford University and Council for land at Fogwell Road (Play Park) of £850 + VAT. *(Clerk's Note: the lease should have been registered in 1984 and Council is obligated to register a lease that is over 7 years, the lease is for 99 years. For the lease to be registered an epitome of title for the property is required. Oxford University have said that they do not have the capacity to do the work in house and would need the work to be outsourced to a solicitor. A quote for this work is currently being source.)*

**176/17 Update on Other Current Matters.** None.

## **RECREATION AND PLAYING FIELDS**

**177/17 New Outdoor Fitness Equipment at Mayfield Road Play Park, Farmoor.** A 'Get Fit Outdoors' event was held on Saturday between 2pm and 3pm to show residents how to use the fitness equipment. Lisa Barnes, EREP fitness instructor kindly gave her time for free and ran a circuit training session showing people of all abilities how to use the equipment according to their fitness level. The event was attended by 30 plus parishioners and Fiona Newton reported that a number of teenagers were using the equipment later on in the afternoon. The Clerk would contact Proludic who supplied the equipment to request a lighter weight for the the Hydraulic Arm Press as the lightest weight is 10kg which was found to be too heavy for many users.

CC Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor joined the meeting at 7.45pm. With the Councils permission minute 170/17 was revisited.

## **REPORTS**

**178/17 Report from County Councillor(s).** CC Fitzgerald-O'Connor was elected as the ward member for Kingston and Cumnor Division in the recent County Council elections.

CC Fitzgerald-O'Connor introduced herself to Council and said that she is currently appointed to the Education Scrutiny and Planning and Regulation Committees. The Council discussed concerns over areas in the parish where grass verges belonging to OCC were overgrown. OCC would only be cutting the grass verges once and may cut areas where driver visibility is impaired when reported via the fixmystreet website.

CC Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor left the meeting at 7.55pm.

## RECREATION AND PLAYING FIELDS

**179/17 Fogwell Road Pavilion Management Committee (FRPMC) Insurance Contribution.** Council RESOLVED to approve the continuing contribution by FRPMC towards the Councils insurance of £200 per quarter to be reviewed annually.

**180/17 Update on Other Current Matters.** Closes Field Play Park. Bryan Goudman reported:

- i. Cumnor Minors Football Club Presentation day was held on Sunday 21 May and was well attended. Funds were raised to enable the football club to continue running 18 boys and 2 girls sides.
- ii. The movable goals belonging to Cumnor Minors Football Club had been secured. Thanks to Martin Law for carrying out the work free of charge.
- iii. The pavilion would be used for two events: 9 June a play and 21 July a fireworks display run by a professional company with insurance in place.
- iv. Some items of the wooden timber trail had been damaged due to rot and vandalism and quotes were being sourced. The Up and Over had been cordoned off as it is unsafe to use.

## HIGHWAYS

**181/17 Developer funding Cumnor Heights.** OCC have abandoned the installation of the Puffin Crossing at Cumnor Hill near to Hurst Lane due to insufficient resources. (*Clerk's Note: funds were part of a legal agreement from when the Timbmet site was developed.*) The expected basic cost to install had come to £136k and the S106 funding from Persimmon was £46,600. These funds need to be spent by January 2019 and any unspent funds would have to be returned to Persimmon.

Councillors discussed other measures which must comply with the agreement that the funds must be spent on 'sustainable infrastructure that will benefit the site'. The Clerk and Judy Robert would be attending a meeting with Geoff Barrell and Mike Wasley, OCC on Tuesday 15 June at 8.30am to discuss ideas raised of: bus stops, Real Time Information, reduction in speed to 30mph, a zebra crossing.

**182/17 Car Parking Issues at Farmoor.** Council noted that there would be a public meeting to discuss finding a solution to the problem on Friday 30 June at 11am in Farmoor Village Hall attended by Tom Christophers, John Griffin, Clerk, PC Carl Bryant, PCSO Harry Cornforth, PCSO Adi Wright, Laura Hutchins Payne, Area Steward, OCC, residents and local businesses.

**183/17 Update on Current Matters.**

- i. Botley Traffic Advisory minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 2016 were received.
- ii. Results of a seven day speed survey carried out on B4044 by Oakenholt Care Home during the period 26 April to 2 May 2017 showed westbound traffic mean speed 44mph, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile 50mph, mean daily volume 4,630 and eastbound traffic mean speed 46mph, 85<sup>th</sup> percentile 53mph, mean daily volume 4,488. Overall compliance with the 50mph speed limit was good. The Clerk would forward this information to Bike Safe.
- iii. The Clerk had received an enquiry asking for Council to consider cutting certain grass areas within the parish that belong to OCC. Council agreed that the Highways Committee should consider this request and bring a recommendation back to Council.

## BURIAL.

**184/17 Update on Current Matters.** The Chairman and Dudley Hoddinott would be meeting with St Michaels Vicar Jonathan Widdess on 12 July at 10am to discuss his thoughts on the continuation of re-using the graveyard.

## ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION

**185/17 Update on Current Matters.**

- i. Improvements had been carried out to Cumnor Village Pond. See Annex 1.
- ii. Council has been approached by OCC to consider agreeing to work being undertaken on

common land. Under Section 9 of the Commons Registration Act 1965 the Council has the power to act as an owner. A ditch running from the High Street, to the side of the Village Pond on Appleton Road, Cumnor needs digging out. The Clerk contacted Cumnor Conservation Group for comments and had been informed that they were aware that there was a blockage and were happy for the work to be carried out. The contractor wished to create a channel at the pond where the pipe from the ditch enters and this was thought to be acceptable as long as it was a small channel from the pipe. Council RESOLVED to approve the work and the Clerk would pass on Cumnor Conservation Groups comments to OCC.

## PLANNING

**186/17 Draft Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on Monday 22 May 2017** were received.

**187/17 Submitted Planning Applications.** The Council would submit the following observations:

i	P17/V0647/HH amended details	21 Arnold Way, Cumnor, Oxford <i>Proposed oak clad garage 2 bay with workshop and storage area.</i> <b>Refused.</b> The amended plans do not address Councils previous comments of: Council objects for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amenity reasons of over development of the site, overlooking of 21 Arnolds Way and out of character of the area</li> <li>• The proposal extends the building line</li> <li>• Lack of drainage plan</li> </ul>
ii	P17/V1320/HH	98 Hurst Rise Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9HH <i>Proposed refurbishment and extension to existing 3 bedroom bungalow to include new loft extension creating a total of 4 bedrooms and all associated site works, hard and soft landscaping and parking to the front garden.</i> <b>No Objections.</b>
iii	P17/V0584/FUL amended details	45A Cumnor Hill, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9EY <i>Proposed removal of existing dwelling and provision of replacement dwelling (Additional plan received 17 May 2017 clarifying level details.)</i> <b>Refused.</b> The amended plans do not address Councils previous comments of: This proposal to increase the footprint of the existing dwelling by 250% is overdevelopment of the site. Council is mindful of the problems of surface water run-off and underground water flows in this part of Cumnor Hill. The proposed replacement appears to lie on the spring line, and the potential impact of disruption to groundwater flows is unpredictable, and Council fears an increased risk of flooding further downhill. Council would draw your attention to the Planning Inspectorates reasons for dismissing an appeal by the applicant of planning application P16/V1703/FUL 20 Cumnor Hill ‘Cumnor Hill is predominately residential in use and is characterised by dwellings set in long linear plots which gives the surrounding area a spacious character. The long rear garden of no 20 makes an important contribution to this spacious character’. Council believes that the Inspectorates comments apply to this proposal and to maintain consistency the application should be refused. The Inspectorates findings are in line with the VWHDC Design Guide E 2.29 ‘Cumnor Hill had a distinctive low density, well landscaped character and includes a variety of substantial detached properties’

**188/17 Permitted Planning Applications.** Noted.

i	P17/V0465/HH	Charterholme, Henwood, Wootton, Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5JX <i>Demolition of existing single-storey garden room, proposed single-storey and first floor extension to Charterholme.</i>
ii	P17/V0669/HH	7 Oaklands, Oxford Road, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9NW

		<i>Conversion of garage to living accommodation for use in conjunction with the existing dwelling.</i>
iii	P17/V0266/FUL	76 Abingdon Road, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9QW <i>Demolition of 2 no. houses at 74 &amp; 76 Abingdon Road and proposed 4 no replacement dwellings (as amended by plans (change to red line), application form and ownership certificate received 13/4/2017.</i>
iv	P17/V0767/HH	1 Nobles Close, Dean Court, Oxford OX2 9DN <i>Remove existing garage and garden shed I rear garden and replace with annexe.</i>
v	P17/V0644/HH	49 Hurst Lane, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PR <i>Two-storey rear extension.</i>

**189/17 Certificate of Lawful Development Application(s). Noted.**

i	P17/V1205/LDP	13 Browns Close, Botley, Oxford OX2 9DB <i>Loft conversion and ground floor rear kitchen/dining extension.</i>
ii	P17/V1285/LDP	Hurst Cottage, Hurst Lane, Cumnor, Oxford OX2 9PR <i>Proposed extensions.</i>
iii	P17/V1426/LDP	2 Browns Close, Dean Court, Oxford OX2 9DB <i>Lawful development for the proposed conversion of existing garage to utility area and w/c.</i>
iv	P17/V0997/LDP	9 Third Acre Rise, Dean Court, Oxford OX2 9DA <i>Proposed pool enclosure.</i>
v	P17/V14990/LDP	1 Clover Close, Oxford OX2 9JH <i>Addition of side porch.</i>

**190/17 Number and Naming.** P15/V0698/FUL erection of 5 new residential dwellings to be named 1 - 5 Bradley View, Cumnor was noted.

**191/17 Update on Other Current Matters.** Judy Roberts arrived late at 8.30pm and reported that the West Way plans were on the VWHDC website and that Mace would be holding a public meeting on Tuesday 13 June between 2pm and 8pm in St Peter and St Paul Church Hall, West Way to give an update on consented plans to redevelop West Way shopping centre.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

**192/17 Update on Other Current Matters.** Work had commenced on the Cumnor Big Questionnaire which was hoped to be ready to send out to residents during September/October. The next meeting of the NDP Steering Group will take place on Monday 26 June 2017 at 7.30pm in the Upper Room, Old School, Cumnor.

**CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

**Exclusion of Press and Public**

**To move the following resolution, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting and they are requested to withdraw.**

**193/17 Personal Matters.** None.

**DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**194/17** The next meeting of the **Parish Council** will take place at **7.30pm** on **Monday 3 July 2017** in **The United Reformed Church Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor.**

Further meetings are due to be held in **2017** at **7.30pm** in **The United Reformed Church Hall, Leys Road, Cumnor** on **Mondays: 7 August, 4 September, 2 October, 6 November, 4 December** and in **2018: 8 January, 5 February, 5 March, 9 April.**

The next Annual Parish Meetings will take place on **Tuesday 1 May 2018** at **7.30pm** in **Farmoor Village Hall.**

The meeting closed at 8.37pm.

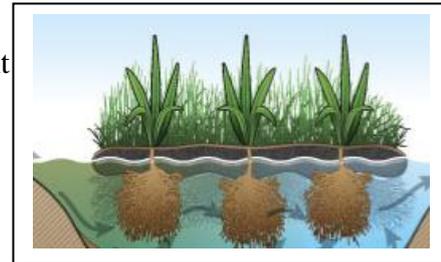
Signed..... Date.....2017

**Annex 1**

**Cumnor Pond**

By the time this article appears the first, and most important, improvements to the pond will have been completed. A small group of volunteers will have installed the new floating wetlands across the pond and attached the coir rolls to the path edging. It should not be too long before a flurry of new plants emerge- all of which are native species - and within 6 months these will be matured and established.

The floating wetlands were specifically chosen for their natural buoyancy to avoid any potential for nearby flooding which a more solid structure might cause. However, the main benefit of the wetland is the positive impact these should have on the biodiversity of the pond life: the increase in habitat will benefit mammals, birds, insects, amphibians and the fish. Plus, the resulting root structure will soak up nitrates and help improve the water quality.



The planted coir rolls will provide an immediate wildlife habit, improve biodiversity /ecology and encourage flora and fauna into the area -hopefully attracting butterflies and dragonflies.

**The Aim**

The Cumnor Conservation Group's overall aim is to maintain the current ecosystem of the pond and to improve the biodiversity it can support.



Did you know that water voles are the fastest declining mammal in the UK? -

and that habitat loss has been a major factor in its decline?

Last year, water voles were living in the reed bed and it's really that efforts to improve their habitat form a key part of the ecological improvement to the pond. The coir rolls are especially planted with vegetation that will mature and provide food and cover for the voles.

**What lurks beneath?....**Myself and Frances Watkins were lucky enough to be taken pond dipping in late April and we were astonished by the amount and diversity of animals which reside in the pond, even at that time of year. Below are a selection of bugs we found:

Mayflies - live on submerged plants.



Damselflies - A dragonfly relation. They lay eggs on grasses & fallen leaves



Freshwater shrimp - Can live in good & polluted water



Water slaters - A woodlouse relation. Live in rotten leaves at the bottom of ponds.



Water snails - there are c40 different species. Most are carried by birds or introduced plants.

Leech - (and other 'wiggles' like fly larvae & flatworms)



### **Future plans?**

Firstly, plans to hold a ceremony in July to mark the official 'opening' of the re-vamped pond are being finalised. It will be chance to formally say 'thank you' to our sponsors for providing the funds and to the many people who have contributed in the research and advice. Look out for details in a future CPN.

If we can also complete the original aim of creating a shallow margin at the south side of the pond this year then this will be the final structural change to be undertaken.

Apart from structural work, the display board at the pond edge will be updated to contain informative pictures and wording on what can be found at the pond at different months of the year and a further ecological report will be completed in 2018, after everything has been in situ for a year.

It might even be possible to hold further pond dipping events - giving everyone a chance to make their own 'mini-beast' discoveries.

The Group is always open to dialogue and if you have any questions or concerns then please do get in contact by emailing Frances Watkins at [frances.watkins@anthriscus.co.uk](mailto:frances.watkins@anthriscus.co.uk)

Lorraine Aspell