

## Letcombe Regis Parish Council

Parish Clerk Mrs Elizabeth Jenkins  
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4 The Old Stables  
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Letcombe Regis  
OX12 9LD

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 at 7.55pm**  
**Due to Covid-19 PC meetings are currently being held as virtual meetings using the Zoom Platform.**  
**The first 5 minutes were for meeting preparation**

**Present:** Jeanne Lapsley (JL) Chairman. Loretta Light (LL) Vice Chair,  
Councillors David Barber (DB), Paul Batchelor (PB),  
Doug Frewer (DF) and Elizabeth Jenkins (EJ) Parish Clerk

District Councillor Paul Barrow (DC-PB)  
Joyce Ward (JW)  
Ian Robertson (IR) Manager, Richmond Village

Item	Item	Action
	<p>Cllr Lapsley welcomed everyone to the meeting. Congratulating Joyce Ward on being awarded her MBE in the New Years Honours. Councillors also expressed their contratulations.</p>	
1.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence:</b> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Constance who was on leave and Cllr Benton, whose Mother was in hospital.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest:</b> There were no declarations of interest</p>	
3.	<p><b>Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and Actions Arising from this and previous meetings.</b> Councillors approved the minutes.</p> <p><b>From earlier meetings</b> <b>Item 4i) Options for powering the Village Hall in an Emergency.</b> Cllr Light with Mike Light as a Village Hall Trustee had met with Mr Thomasz Komorowski (TK) at the Village Hall, Richard Taylor had also been present for part of the meeting. TK explained that adding a generator and batteries to the current village hall system could lower the overall cost of powering the hall. Batteries would be fed by the solar system in the and a cheap night time tariff which would save money in the long term. In a power cut and a 25% drop in power by the batteries the generator would kick in and power the KT needs information on current electric usage to calculate the approximate costing.</p>	

Cllr Lapsley had discussed this with the Trustees. They had been unable to obtain the usage figures due to a change of Trustee. So the generator model is being pursued and Cllr Lapsley will report back to Councillors.  
**Ongoing**

JL

**Item 14i) Meeting to discuss the village maintenance contract**

Cllrs Light and Lapsley have put together a new monthly job checklist for the maintenance contract and this would be checked with Richard Taylor, the Chairman of the Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust to see if there were any extra items they would like included. Cllr Lapsley had been given names of two contractors from Lambourn Parish Council and the PC will write inviting them to visit the village and submit quotes. Cllr Batchelor said that it should include Warborough Road once OCC had sorted out who was responsible for what concerning the drainage issues and this could be added in if necessary depending on the timing. Cllr Lapsley agreed that we should keep this in mind. The Draft version had been sent to Richard for his comments 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022, and the Clerk would request an answer before the planned meeting between Cllr Lapsley and Cllr Light to finalise the contract. Once completed contractors will be asked to quote. Report received and incorporated in the contract by Cllr Lapsley and Cllr Light. **Completed**

**Item 14 ii) Update on Platinum Jubilee Celebrations - See Item 10 ii) on page 9 of the minutes for the January 17<sup>th</sup> 2022 Meeting.** For discussion later in the meeting.

**From the Minutes for January 17<sup>th</sup> 2022**

**Item 7 ii) Broadband Rollout**

Cllr Barrow and Cllr Batchelor had requested a meeting with the Richmond Manager Ian Robertson. Cllr Frewer would remind him. Cllr Batchelor had sent a report and he understood that Phase 1, the Warborough Road link up had now been achieved. Phase 2 Cllrs Batchelor and District Cllr Barrow had met with Paul Welch at Richmond village the discussion is internal to Richmond. Airband will connect them up and the procedure will be decided by Richmond Village.

Airband have offered to give a presentation to the village. The hall is included in the next connections for public services. It is hoped that they will then make their offer to those who want to connect with them. Cllr Lapsley said it had been a hectic time with Airband. But hopefully we are now in a strong position with Airband. The Council has been assured that once everything is in place villagers will have freedom of choice to choose their own supplier. **Ongoing**

**Item 10 Chalk Streams**

Cllr Batchelor had drafted a letter to our MP on his voting with the Government. The Clerk confirmed that the letter had been sent but we

EJ

	<p>had not received an answer to date. Subsequently received on 29<sup>th</sup> March and circulated to Parish Councillors. <b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>Item 11 Clean Slate</b> The Clerk had asked them to submit a brief resume of their work to go in the Letcombe Register. No reply received to date Clerk has contacted them and they have sent an A4 sheet passed to Cllrs Lapsley &amp; Light for comment. <b>Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>Parish Council Matters:</b> <b>Item 6 i) Register – Update from Cllr Light</b> Cllr Light would contact the Editor to obtain quotes for a printed version. <b>See item 6 vii) Completed</b></p> <p><b>Item 6 ii) Website – Update from Cllr Batchelor</b> Cllr Batchelor will update at the March Meeting. Cllr Batchelor had sent round a report on the usage of the website and said that we need a discussion on how much the website needed developing. The numbers using the website were small and he felt the most important thing is about the register. This gives an indication of the number of downloads up to date. See item 6 vii). <b>Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>Item 6 iii) Facebook</b> Cllr Batchelor to speak to Pete Bellis re the feasibility of the PC joining the Letcombe Brook Facebook page. <b>Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>Item 6 iv) Adoption of the Bullying and Harassment Statement</b> Information from OALC. Councillors decided to wait until OALC published the updated version of the Councillors Code of Conduct. The Clerk understood that it is being updated by the OALC and as we we should wait until it is issued. <b>Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>Item 6 v) Delegations</b> Clerk to forward advice from OALC. <b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>Item 6 vi) Death of a Senior Royal Protocols</b> Clerk to forward updated information. Cllr Light had met with Mary Harwood and Debbie Webb who were arranging the Church Service and the Parish Council is aware of the necessary steps needed. Cllr Barrow confirmed he was waiting for a reply from the Vale in respect of their local plans. <b>Completed</b></p> <p><b>Item 6 vii) OALC Model letter</b> To be sent to local MP and the Minister for levelling up opportunities. The Clerk confirmed this had been sent but no reply to date. Subsequently received 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and copied to Councillors <b>Completed</b></p>	<p><b>EJ</b> <b>JL/LL</b></p> <p><b>PB</b></p>
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**Item 8 iv) Grant Requests**

The Clerk had sent a cheque for £100 to South and Vale Citizens Advice Oxfordshire. **Completed**

**Item 8 v) Updated Review of Internal Controls and Risk Assessment 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Clerk to update Safeguarding Policy and to check with anyone requesting a grant that they have a Safeguarding Policy in place **Completed**

**Item 10 Village Items:**

**Item 10 ii) Platinum Celebrations**

Cllr Light confirmed that the church does not have a flagpole on the tower. **Completed**

Cllr Lapsley had confirmed the Ukelele group had been booked for two sessions on the Thursday afternoon at the Tea and Cream cakes in the Village Hall. **Completed**

Cllr Light would check if the church bells are being rung. Cllr Light that confirmed she was waiting to hear. **Ongoing**

**LL**

**Item 10 iii) Millennium Green**

Clerk to chase for the fruit trees to be pruned and the waste arisings from the wild flower cutting to be removed. This has since been done and the arisings cleared away. **Completed**

It was believed that residents from Castle Homes had cut back the hedge along the fence and left the cuttings in the MG. The Clerk was asked to request that they remove the cuttings and in future leave maintenance of the MG to be done by the appointed person. **Ongoing**

**4. County Council Matters:**

In her absence Cllr Constance had forwarded a briefing note.

**i) 20mph Costs**

The PC were still waiting for the final costings but could register an interest without committing themselves, making a formal decision once costings were confirmed. Cllr Light suggested the PC should do so and Councillors agreed. Cllr Hitchcock thought the PC should look into purchasing speedwatch signs and it was agreed that this should be done in tandem with the 20mph. **Ongoing**

**ii) Levelling up**

Levelling up the United Kingdom had been discussed previously and there was no more discussion.

<p>5.</p>	<p><b>District Council Matters</b></p> <p>i) <b>Reservoir</b> (The following details included to help understand the different stages of the procedure. - Taken from the power point presentation)</p> <p><b>Gate 1: Initial concept design and decision making</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- took place July 2021 to Jan 2022</li> <li>- as far as we could see, no decision making or challenge from the Regulators</li> </ul> <p><b>Gate 2: Detailed feasibility, concept design and multi-solution decision making</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- due June/July 2022</li> </ul> <p><b>Gate 3: Developed design, finalised feasibility, pre-planning investigations and planning application</b></p> <p><b>Gate 4: Planning applications, procurement and land purchase - probably use of Development Consent Orders</b></p> <p><b>Selected projects, as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects could probably not be challenged by normal Public Inquiry</b></p> <p>Cllr Lapsley thanked Cllr Barrow for his updates. She said that the Reservoir is causing some angst among residents and it has also been discussed in Parliament a couple of times. Cllr Barrow said that it is a 4 Stage process and we were reaching the end of Stage 2, The Consultation. The understanding is that when they reach Stage 4 there is no public consultation necessary in respect of the infrastructure plans. Aside from local issues such as flooding, size etc. He said that the more local people wrote expressing their concerns the better. Stage 2 is due to complete in June this year. Cllr Light had attended the Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD) meeting and had written a briefing about the reservoir for the March Register. She had also sent her concerns using the GARD crib sheet. Responses had to be in by the 14<sup>th</sup> March Cllr Barrow suggested writing to the local MP to express concerns. Cllr Lapsley and Cllr Light would compost a letter.</p> <p>Cllr Barrow had sent in a further two reports and was happy to answer questions. Particularly about the Health issues and the North Wessex Downs AONB. He reminded Councillors that the Vale has a £50K grant for Environmental change action with individual grants for individuals or groups of up to £5K. Deadline 25<sup>th</sup> April. He also reported he had received individual emails from Letcombe Bassett about the Ukranian situation and they wondered if Letcombe Regis residents were doing the same. Or if a joint action should be put together. He would let the PC know who was taking the lead. There were also links in his report.</p>	<p>JL/LL</p>
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Cllr Light said that the Greyhound were looking for waiters and cleaning staff but this did not include accomodation.

**6. Parish Council Matters:**

**1) Local Transport and Connectivity Plan**

Webinar Report – Update from Cllr Hitchcock

Cllr Hitchcock attended the Webinar which was a draft strategy plan for Oxfordshire. As such it did not include the rural areas although it did have some ideas for local transport. It was well presented but the plan was total utopia.

The aim was to implement new ways of transport essential to climate emergency. Including the following

- Topic paper engagement
- Development of vision documents and consultation
- Development of LTCP informed by a widerangevidence based, ie businesses etc
- A steering group of transport arrangers and transport users, including local enterprises and development for improvement of freight, transport and travel.

The vision is a zero transport carbon system for the whole of Oxfordshire reducing the need to travel by car by 2030. To reduce one in every four private cars on the road by 2025 and one in in three by 2030. They are discouraging individual private car use and encourage walking, cycling, shared public transport and access to greenways. There was no strategy or clear implementation and it was mainly about Oxford City. Including some discussion about the M4, the A420 and the A34 and a hub around Swindon. They would be planning mobility hubs, parking, park and ride and cycle sheds at bus stops.

Councillors reaction was dismay and they asked why they had been excluded from the study and said that they should have started bottom up not top down. With no consultation at local level. Councillors made it clear that implementation of local services was needed suggesting smaller buses for local areas and it was made very clear that local rural bus services were essential for rural communities. Nothing was really conclusive they would do some consultation at local level, no information on funding.

The Wantage and Grove Campaign Group have responded to this and their report is excellent and well worth reading. Cllr Lapsley reported that she had attended the OALC discussion on this but no mention was made of disabled or vulnerable people was mentioned. Cllr Hitchcock confirmed that there had been no mention in the meeting. They did say that in some communities with elderley populations had trouble getting to shops etc so a bus service could prove popular.

	<p>Cllr Lapsley asked Joyce Ward if there was anything covering this in the Sovereign plan. Joyce confirmed that Sovereign were working closely with builders to apply their “homes and place standard” and that all these things were covered. Cllr Lapsley understood that there was no money available for this scheme and we would have to wait and see how it could be implemented.</p> <p>ii) <b>NALC/SLCC Civility and Respect Project</b> – email circulated 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022 linking in with bullying and harrasment, Cllr Lapsley said we should wait until we hear from OALC and then discuss. <b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>vi) <b>Village Streets</b></p> <p>a) Solar Streets – email circulated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Cllr Lapsley said that this is really down to individuals to decide and Cllr Light said there was not enough information about costing etc. The Clerk was asked to enquire if they had any more information.</p> <p>b) Steet Lighting - email from Bridget Benn circulated 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022 Bridget had asked if it would be possible to provide lighting on the corner past the Greyhound going out of the village. The PC had asked residents about lighting the village several times in the past and the village did not want street lights. Lighting could also prove a distraction to anyone driving round the bend and it could prove annoying to local residents. Councillors felt that it was also a problem in the daytime. Cllr Frewer suggested a mirror but Cllr Batchelor said that there had been a study of what had taken place in other communities when used and they found that people just drove faster. Joyce Ward suggested a sign on either end of the bend to indicate the problem. Cllr Lapsley said OCC should be contacted requesting that they repaint the white lines and also ask about installing signs.</p> <p>iv) <b>Glover Landscapes Review</b> - Government consultation – an opportunity to stop ‘off-roading’ in the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) – email circulated 17<sup>th</sup> February Comments needed by the 9<sup>th</sup> April. District Cllr Barrow agreed to co-ordinate a response from the PC looking at the roll of the AONB and the possible future revision of powers and Cllr Lapsley asked Cllrs to respond to Cllr Barrow.</p> <p>v) <b>The Platinum Jubilee</b> Cllr Lapsley confirmed celebrations would start on the afternoon of the 2nd June with a Village Tea Party held in the Village Hall. Some residents and the WI were providing scones, cakes etc. There would be musical entertainment and depending on the weather it was hoped that youngsters would be able to join in games in the recreation ground.</p>	<p>EJ</p> <p>EJ</p> <p>DC/PB</p> <p>ALL</p>
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	<p>Sallie and Tessa Good have kindly agreed to have the Beacon on the farm land at the top of Warborough Road later that evening at 9.15pm.</p> <p>The Sports and Social Club are thinking of arranging a barbecue on the Friday afternoon and this could be followed by a firework display in the evening. Cllr Lapsley asked what Richmond had planned. Ian Robertson had been waiting for BUPA to respond but BUPA are leaving it up to the villages to arrange. He had got the team together that morning and suggested that the Village and Richmond should link up on arrangements. Cllr Lapsley believed there was a Cricket match on the Saturday and it would be nice to have several different things going on during the weekend. Cllr Lapsley asked if Richmond could donate a Jubilee Cake and Ian Robertson agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Hitchcock asked if transport could be laid on from Richmond to the village hall for the Village tea party and Ian Robertson confirmed that this would be the case. Cllr Frewer reminded Councillors that it had been suggested donations for the Tea Party could go towards the Ukranian fund.</p> <p>vi) <b>Burial Ground</b>  Cllr Lapsley confirmed that the Clerk had ordered the hedging which was due for delivery in the next few weeks and would then be planted. She also said that there was a plethora of plastic memorials and the area is looking somewhat sad and the PC should review what can be displayed. Plastic is also being mixed in with the green waste. It is probably time to review charges as well. The rules say that decorations should be removed a month after internment. Councillors agreed that plastic flowers should not be allowed. Cllr Light agreed that the charges should go up. Cllrs Lapsley and Light would carry out a review and Councillors agreed.</p> <p>vii) <b>Zoom Meetings and Virtual Meetings</b> - email circulated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022  Returning to Face to Face meetings was discussed and Councillors decided on joint face to face and virtual (Zoom) meetings. Cllr Lapsley advised wearing masks, Cllr Barber suggested doing lateral flow tests, Cllr Hitchcock felt that the Warborough Room was rather small and could the Choir change their night so the PC could meet in the main hall. The Clerk would enquire. The Clerk advised that there would be two meetings in May, the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) at 7.30pm followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM).</p> <p>7. viii) <b>Parish Council Communications</b>  Update on the Register, Website, etc.  Cllr Light had made enquiries as to the cost of producing printed copies of the Register with Francesca producing the copies during 2019-21 at £377.71 and over the past three years it has averaged at 18.5p per issue. Cllr Light obtained quotes from two printers which varied between £450</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>JL/LL</p>
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	<p>and £672.84 a month. Councillors unanimously agreed that it would be too costly and the Parish Council would continue with the electronic version and print copies only for those who had no access to an electronic copy. It was suggested that copies could be placed in pub, shop or hall. Ian Robertson said he could print off several copies to be placed in key areas at Richmond, and asked that his email be added to the distribution list as he had not been receiving copies.</p> <p>ix) <b>Website</b> Cllr Lapsley thanked Paul for his earlier report but pointed out that the Website needed to be up to date in its content to prove its usefulness.</p> <p><b>8. Councillor Updates:</b></p> <p>i) <b>Rural Health &amp; Care</b> Cllr Light thanked Cllr Barrow for his report earlier in the meeting and said she had nothing further to add.</p> <p>ii) <b>Members Allowances</b> Cllr Light said this had been mentioned in the monthly OALC update. Councillors discussed and it was decided that it did not normally apply unless Councillors needed to claim mileage on some projects.</p> <p>iii) <b>Email correspondence from Councillors</b> Cllr Lapsley emphasised the need to be careful when writing emails ensuring they were written in a business like manner. The “Freedom of Information Act” means that Parish Councils need to provide any correspondence upon request.</p> <p>iv) <b>Recreation Ground</b> This had been covered earlier in the meeting.</p> <p><b>9. Financial Matters:</b></p> <p>i) Clerks report: <b>Budget and Precept for April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b> The precept request was sent off to the Vale directly after approval at the last PC meeting and has been acknowledged.</p> <p><b>Grant Requests.</b> Cheques for £100 have been sent off to both Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice and Clean Slate. Both were been approved by Councillors.</p> <p><b>PC Bank account</b> The Clerk confirmed she had written to HSBC to ask them to close the three unused accounts. Now that we have come out of lockdown the Clerk reported that she would proceed with the actions to register the two new signatories, obtain a card to use for internet purchases and enable the account to be used for paying invoices as agreed prior to the Covid pandemic.</p>	<p><b>IR</b></p> <p><b>PB</b></p>
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## Account Balances as of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Current Account - £6,547.66**

**Deposit Account - £47,121.03** This includes the following ring fenced amounts

£9k index linked for the Children's Playground,

£200 bequest left by a Richmond Resident for planting in the village

£300 towards a bench\*

£1,357 - Village Hall Project\*\*

£12,472 - BIG Lottery Account\*\*

\*Given to the PC towards another bench by Martin Russell who had asked if a plaque in memory of his father Trevor Russell - 1931-2020 Could be installed on the PC bench on the Letcombe Regis to Wantage footpath. This has now been done I am just waiting for the wording for a similar plaque explaining that the bench was installed by the PC. This has subsequently been provided.

\*\*These two amounts have been transferred to the Deposit account and ring fenced. In order that any registered signatories could sign cheques for payment as currently only the Clerk and Chairman can sign for the BIG lottery account.

### Audit

The Clerk had not yet heard from the Auditors and Councillors were happy to approve that Julian Horsey to carry out the internal Audit again this year. His charges for the past two years were £100 each year, and if so what two financial items do they wish him to examine in detail? Julian Horsey has since confirmed that he will carry out the internal Audit at the same charge.

- 2020 covered VAT procedures and Community requests
- 2021 covered Cost of the Village Warden Information and PC Subscriptions

Councillors confirmed their acceptance. The finances for examination by the internal auditor would be those items purchased for the PC by the Clerk and Management and Maintenance of the Millennium Green

### Benches for the Burial Ground

The benches on the Millennium Green were purchased from British Recycled Plastic. The Harwood Bench is now £356.43 excl VAT. They were originally buy 4 and get one free. There are no offers on their site at the moment. It was decided to wait and see if there were any future offers.

### Community Emergency Plan

This is due for review June 6<sup>th</sup> 2022

- ii) Ratification of invoices (see last page of Agenda)

JL/LL

EJ

**Current Account**

Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale £100.00;  
Cleanslate £100.00; Clerk Salary for December 2021 & January 2022  
£841.35; HMRC PAYE £164.60; Village Warden time sheets for  
November & December 2021 £405.00; Clerk PC purchases £298.57;  
OALC Subscription £150.00; BBOWT Subscription £46.00; Clerk  
purchase of Burial Ground Hedging £723.36; Clerk February salary  
£355.19; PAYE February £76.40; Clerk for purchase of Electrode pads  
for defibrillators £95.88; Village Warden February timesheet £210.00;  
Community first Oxfordshire £55.00;

**Direct Debits**

Mobile contract February 2022 £10.00; Mobile contract March 2022  
£10.00.

Councillors ratified the payments

- iii) Summary of costs to date against budget  
Councillors had no queries
- iv) Grant requests - All future applicants will be asked to confirm if  
they have a Safeguarding Policy.
- v) Pay award - OALC email circulated 6<sup>th</sup> March

**10. Village Items****Drainage update**

Cllr Batchelor pointed out that Warborough Road was one of the  
problems, identifying who was responsible for which element, including  
drainage, grips and drainage arrangements. They have worked with  
Airband, landowners and Cllr Barber who has been extremely  
helpful, together with District and County Councils (OCC) about various  
options required to solve the problems, and to treat the road as a whole.

District Councillor Cllr Barrow agreed that the Road should be treated as  
a whole not just the section from the cottages down. The ditch has been  
cleared and the County Council have said they will clear the drains at the  
bottom of the road. Cllrs Barrow and Batchelor have been asked to  
identify where grips can be cut between the Cottages and Warborough  
Farm and also where ditches could also be identified as sumps. This has  
been done and the results will be passed on to OCC. However it is  
largely a landowners issue and OCC have not said that they will cut the  
grips. There may also be the possibility of sumps and grips at the top of  
the hill. They have also discussed with Lee Travers and Gordon Kelman  
whether speed bumps could be constructed in a couple of places to divert  
the water towards the ditches.

Cllr Constance had previously said that the grips which used to be cut  
annually were then changed to every four years. Gordon Kelman

<p>11.</p>	<p>confirmed this had never been achieved. There are no grips on Court Hill Road and some should be cut. Cllr Barrow emailed Gordon Kelman to let him know. Cllr Barber reported he had received an email to say that the drains running into the ditch would be jetted the following Thursday.</p> <p>Cllr Batchelor said that it was apparent that there had been no detailed mapping of the drainage system. This may partly be due to the transfer from Berkshire to Oxfordshire and possible loss of information He intended to write to Berkshire CC to ask if they had any relevant information. Silt is another problem and one of the reasons for having sumps is to deflect water away before reaching the drains. He and Cllr Barrow as well as Mark Bradfield have spoken to the owner of Highwell who is concerned about silt going into the lake. There is a pipe going into his land, but if the problem is tackled further up a lot of the silt should be diverted which will make life a lot easier. And probably more acceptable to the owner.</p> <p>Cllr Lapsley thanked Cllrs Barrow and Batchelor and also Cllr Barber for all their work commenting that we are obviously some way towards fixing the problem.</p> <p><b>Planning</b></p> <p><b>i) Antwicks Stud</b> Cllr Lapsley confirmed that as Councillors were aware she had previously had a meeting with the planners. There is nothing to report at the moment but there will be a new application from Antwicks Stud at some stage.</p> <p><b>ii) Cresscombe House:</b> The Clerk had informed Planning of the 'lean to' built on the side of Cresscombe House which had been passed to the Enforcement team. There is no further information to date.</p> <p><b>iii) Bassett Road/Bridge to Nature Walk</b> Tom Griffin (TG) had emailed re the footpath between Bassett Road and the bridge over the brook leading to the Nature Walk. He was asking if the PC would help pay towards improving the footpath which gets extremely muddy in the winter and during heavy rain. The Clerk is checking with OCC if it is a public or permissive footpath. The officer is away until 4<sup>th</sup> April and the PC will discuss when he replies. The Clerk has since updated Tom Griffin.</p> <p><b>iv) Planning Webinar</b> Cllr Light had attended the Planning Webinar but did not think that the slides were very informative and would explain fully.</p> <p>It was quite a comprehensive report on the planning</p>	<p>PB</p>
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enforcement service. They currently had a backlog of over 350 cases of alleged breaches of planning in the VOWH. Of these 40% are not deemed to be breaches, 43% are resolved voluntarily which they regard as the most successful outcome, 13% are not expedient to pursue, and they take action on less than 4%. This is not a new process, initially they process a harm assessment form to establish impact and level of harm to determine their next step. So breaches such as demolishing a listed building or damage to a protected tree will be reacted to promptly with the form being marked as really harmful. It is rare for them to serve a notice but they do promise to continue to investigate all alleged breaches. There is no evidence that harm assessments will encourage people to flout planning regulations. Allegations lead to investigations but there is no report published due to GDPR.

The actions of the District Council are entirely discretionary. For historic breaches the time limits are four years for buildings and ten years for change of uses of land. They said that Parish Councils are the most useful for them and we can help neighbours to communicate, signpost people to the enforcement statement and the planning portal before reporting, provide as much information as possible but be very careful about where and who you photograph. Basically they are asking Parish Councils to be their eyes and ears. So the correct procedure for forwarding issues is to use the form on the VOWH website. They do not accept anonymous referrals. The Council can take action where a referral arises at the action of a third party such as a developer. If a section 106 is not stuck to by a developer this is a legal matter for their legal department. Each case is assessed on its own merit and planning decisions cannot be challenged. If a condition attached to a planning application is not observed the developer has to be given the opportunity to remedy the situation. And only then it may be considered as a breach. There will be a public report giving feedback eventually but it cannot be seen on the website. Those were the main points raised.

- v) **Planning Applications**  
**LRE/4783/6-X, Antwicks Stud, Main Street, Letcombe Regis.**  
Outline application for the erection of an additional thirty stables with associated store and tack room. New indoor riding school and manège. Conversion of the existing bungalow on the site into two residential units. **Ongoing**

**12. Parish Council meetings:**

Councillors to discuss whether to return to Face-to-face or continue with Zoom meetings. This was discussed earlier.

Cllr Lapsley asked Councillors to start thinking about their reports to the Annual Parish Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Cllr Frewer reported that the repair to the footpath was expected to be completed by the end of the week. Subsequently the PC received confirmation that it had been completed.

**Dates already approved:**

**2022 16<sup>th</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> November,**

**2023 16<sup>th</sup> January, 20<sup>th</sup> March.**

The meeting closed at 09.55

Elizabeth Jenkins  
Parish Clerk  
7<sup>th</sup> April 2022

APPROVED