**Present:** Martin Wise (MW) Peter Burden (PB) Michael Holland (MH) Hilary Dewey (HD) Peter Dragonetti (PD)

**In attendance:** Amanda Holland (AH) ( Clerk )

1. **Apologies for Absence**: Liz Collas
2. **Declarations of Interest.** M Holland
3. **Public Forum**. None
4. **To Approve the Minutes** of the last meeting of the Council on Tuesday December 13th 2022.
5. **Matters arising** from those minutes not on the agenda elsewhere. None.
6. **Correspondence for Information**. None.
7. **District Councillors and County Councillors Report.**
8. **Key areas requiring discussion**:

* **The Annual Budget and Precept 2023/4.** MH presented a budget paper which itemised all council

income and expenditure. Further discussion resulted in a thorough review. It was decided by

unanimous vote to maintain the precept at the current level of £24,000 for 2023/4.

1. **Governance matters.**

The Finance Report and Bank statement for December was circulated, reviewed and approved.

Clerks salary xxx Goring Press xxxx Wel Medical Defibrillator Battery xxxx

1. **Maintenance.**

* **Grass and Maintenance Contract.**

Proposals for the continuing maintenance of the hedge between the Recreation Ground and the Church/ graveyard are ongoing. Contractors have met on site with all interested parties, Ken Baker, Paul Whitcher, Sally Woolhouse and MW, PB. All parties agreed a specification that removed and cleared the Laurel and the Brambles, identified hidden graves and ground out stumps where possible. It was noted that maintenance after the works are finished will be important. A trip hazard at the top entrance from the recreation ground was identified and MW agreed to assess. A quotation has also been obtained for our tri-annual tree survey and associated maintenance work, it was noted that the trees surrounding Tine Pits pond should be included on the specification.

* **Footpaths and Rights of Way.** The footpath between Crays Pond and Shirvells Hill was discussed.

Emails have been sent to appropriate officers to highlight the length of time this is taking to resolve and the difficulties we are having to move this complaint further.

* **Playgrounds.** Arrow are drawing up an estimate for the required works to the Multi Play unit.
* **Crays Pond**. MW reported that works to desilt and clear the willow scrub were discussed on site on December 20th with chosen contractors. He noted that it is impractical to remove the sludge/silt from the site and that ideally we would like to spread it over an adjoining field to dry and hope it would support organisms to return to the pond and be fertile for new growth in due course. SODC Environmental Health have no issues with this, and the landowner happy to go ahead. MW advised that he will arrange for it to be analysed for contaminates before we proceed. Excavators will be needed with access facilitated from the road.

1. **The Newsletter /Website/Social Media**. AH has been approached by a local resident with a view to taking over the Editorship from Lucy Turner. It was hoped that the next edition in February would be an appropriate opportunity for a hand over.
2. **The Parish Hall**. PB reported on the installation of the new generator to the rear of the hall. A crane would be needed to lift the generator into place, and after obtaining measurements and crane details, it

was decided that it was not possible and that the project would be abandoned. PB was thanked for all his hard work on this project, and it was noted that although a generator would be a huge asset to the Parish it was simply not possible to install one on the Parish Hall site.

1. **Planning and Unauthorised Developments.**

**[P22/S4350/FUL](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P22/S4350/FUL)** The Old Bungalow Mount Pleasant Farm, Access Road To Mount Pleasant Farm Goring Heath RG8 7TB. Demolition of sub-standard dwelling together with associated outbuildings, erection of new sustainable dwelling. After discussion it was agreed to object to the planned development on the grounds of an adverse impact to the character of the area.

**[P22/S4346/FUL](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P22/S4346/FUL)** Timbers Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NU

Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement 5 bed dwelling with garage. After discussion it was decided to object to the planned development on a number of different grounds.

1. **Councillors Reports and Items for future agenda.** MW clarified the details for the working party in the

car park next to the Parish Hall on January 14th to clear and maintain the hedges and associated works.

All welcome.

The meeting ended at 9.50pm.

To confirm the date of the next meeting: Tuesday February 14th 2023 at 8pm.