**Present:** Chris Jessop, (CJ) Peter Dragonetti, (PD) Tarek Moghul, (TM) Hilary Dewey, (HD) Liz Collas, (LC) Martin Wise, (MW) Nick Elsome. (NE)

In attendance, Lucy Turner, Amanda Holland. Also Linda and Kevin Day.

1. **Apologies for Absence**: Nick Henry
2. **Public Forum**: The meeting was held virtually with 2 requests from the public to attend.

The Planning Application[**P21/S0585/FUL**](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P21/S0585/FUL) : Land south of Whitchurch Hill Whitchurch Hill. Demolition of existing stables and redevelopment of site to comprise a detached residential dwelling house and associated outbuildings, relocated access and landscaping was brought forward for discussion. Mr and Mrs Day objected to this application on a number of counts, but specifically the fact that there has been over 30 years of flooding and drainage issues along this stretch of Goring Heath Road that would be affected by the new plans. They live in a low lying part of the road with a frontage very close to where the problem very evident after excessive rainfall, and which over the last few months they have felt has been getting progressively worse. They were concerned that their views would not be taken into account should the application be granted. TM noted that the planning notices had not been put up in this case, and that residents had felt so strongly about this that a poster and leaflets had been distributed. A discussion followed where the following points were made. This application was inside an AONB, it was not inside the permitted development zone, it could not be accurately seen as infill, and that the same application had been made and declined 25 years ago and since then there has been no change in circumstances. Goring Heath Road is particularly unsuited and unsafe for the proposed entrance and exit. It was pointed out that the building was huge, out of keeping with the rural area, it would spoil rural aspect of the village and be seen as a precedent to enlarging and changing a small rural community. LC added that it had been proposed under a relatively new section of planning law that encouraged and “exceptional building with modern and innovative architecture” which was agreed to be entirely inappropriate in this setting. It was noted that this should not be a means to obtaining a scaled down application in the future. Mr and Mrs Day left the meeting.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting Thursday February 11th 2020.** Were signed as correct.
2. **Matters Arising :** The issue of traffic speed alongside the play area at Garton End was carried over to the next meeting. NE to consider and advise.
3. **Correspondence:** R Coleman from Crays Pond has asked us to look into the possibility of improving wheelchair access to Woodcote and its amenities via footpaths. MW noted that access could be improved by asking residents to cut back their hedges, NE offered to progress. AH to inform of progress. Mr JG of Whitchurch Hill emailed to draw our attention to speeding on Goring Heath Road, see item 13c below.
4. **District and County Councillors report**: Cllr P Dragonetticirculated a report which was approved. It was noted that he has been appointed as Tree Champion and we support him to promote the value of trees and woodland.
5. **Key areas requiring discussion.** Bus Shelter Renovation Programme. MW is sourcing materials and quotes and will report to the next meeting. NH was thanked for clearing the shelter at Deadman’s Lane.
6. **Governance Matters.**

**Finance and Bank Reconciliation:** A year end bank reconciliation and statement will be circulated.

**Housekeeping:** An appointment has been made for the Internal Audit; the parish map has been printed and is available for collection; and after discussion it was decided that the AGM would be held on April 15th 2021 via Zoom. AH to progress.

1. **Maintenance.**

**Crays Pond:** Rod D’Ayala has been in touch pending maintenance schedule as promised. MW to progress. Helen Hurst has expressed an interest in bringing together volunteers to help maintain the pond and environs.

.**Footpaths and Rights of Way:** Application to divert part of Goring Heath Footpath No.27 at Keepers Cottage under s119 Highways Act 1980. A long and detailed discussion referred to the principle that whilst this diversion may be acceptable to some, for others it is not, and that diverting a footpath that has been in situ for over a century at least should not be approved unless it is of direct benefit to the community. The councillors were unable to support the application. CJ to draft a response. LC reported that [**P21/S0126/FUL**](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P21/S0126/FUL) Bucklebury Wood Goring Heath Proposed construction of 3m x 30m compacted hardcore access track (retrospective) (Birchen Copse ) has been withdrawn.

**Playground Maintenance checks:** NE and AH confirmed all in good order. AH to order matting for the TT Table.

1. **The Newsletter/ Website /Social Media.** Articles and photographs were submitted for this month’s issue. It was proposed that a colour spread would be of benefit this month. LT /PD to progress.
2. **The Parish Hall :** PD reported on a new key box and a virtual tour that will help to progress bookings.
3. **Planning and Unauthorised Developments.**

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|  | **Parish Council** | **Notes** |
| [**P21/S0585/FUL**](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P21/S0585/FUL)  Land south of Whitchurch Hill Whitchurch Hill  Demolition of existing stables and redevelopment of site to comprise a  detached residential dwelling house and associated outbuildings,  relocated access and landscaping. And a swimming pool. | Objection | AH |
| [**P20/S4845/LB**](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P20/S4845/LB)  Holly Copse Hardwick Estate Collins End RG8 7RN  Replacement of existing single storey extension with two storey extension. | No strong views | LC to submit comments |
| [**P21/S0472/HH**](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P21/S0472/HH)  Pilgrim Cottage Path Hill Goring Heath RG8 7RE  Proposed garden room to be used as home office/gym. | No strong views | HD |
| [**P21/S0703/FUL**](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P21/S0703/FUL)  Butlers Farm Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PN  New dwelling to replace existing barn and kennel building | Application to be reviewed | HD to review and advise |
| [**P21/S0635/HH**](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P21/S0635/HH)  Bottom Farmhouse Blackbirds Bottom Goring Heath RG8 7SX  Demolition of existing outbuilding and construction of new storage building within the same footprint.  [**P21/S0626/HH**](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P21/S0626/HH)  Chimney Pot Cottage Crays Pond RG8 7QG  Erection of replacement outbuilding | Objection  Objection | LC to submit comments  NE to submit comments |

**13. Status on Speed / Traffic Planning Initiatives:**

a) **Crays Pond 30MPH**. Works approved by OCC. Jon Beale from SODC Highways has confirmed that a bid for CIL money is waiting to be released to fund the works required.

b) **Whitchurch Hill B471 30MPH**. CJ to continue to liaise with WOT PC to progress with OCC. The road markings are being renewed on the hill in the near future. MW proposed that all councillors should look at the Speed Watch scheme online and that we should consider setting up a group for the village. Further to correspondence from SM on this matter it was suggested we ask her to help with a speed watch group.

c) **Goring Heath Road.** Further to correspondence from JG on this matter it was suggested we ask him to help with a speed watch group. PD suggested that in line with a motions passed by OCC a 20mph limit should be imposed in all residential areas. AH to write to Councillor Liam Walker, SM and JG to progress.

14. **The White Lion:** PD reported that the Crays Pond Action Group have been given notice that the owner has decided to sell the property. There are certain conditions to be met for the ACV ( Asset of Community Value) but it is thought that a bid to buy it would be possible. The details are not clear as yet, for further information at this stage please refer to the Assets of Community Value web page at [**www.southoxon.gov.uk**](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/)

15. **Any Other Business:** MW raised the issue of works being undertaken to Butlers Pond. He raised concerns about possible planning permissions to be required. NE to progress with the owners. NE confirmed that there would be no fete again this year due to Covid restrictions. It was recognised that traffic issues at the Long Toll Junction were not discussed and would be taken forward to the next meeting

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The meeting ended at 10pm. **Date of the next meeting** : **Thursday April 8th 2021 at 8pm.**