**Crawley Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on 26th March 2025 at Hailey Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Heather Northam (Chair), Mark McCappin, Michelle Hill, Isabel Webb, Chris Babbage; Sheena Derry (Secretary); Paul Marsh (WODC); Lewis Ross, John Hill (parishioners).

1. Apologies: None.

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2025 were approved.

3. Declarations of interest: None.

4. Matters Arising

* Grass cutting. HN met with Ollie Hopkins to walk round the areas to be maintained and check his insurance cover. He will start in April.

5. Parishioners’ Matters

* HN and MM met with the parishioner who had received complaints about work on their land and walked round the site. They will either appeal the planning decision that was rejected or put in a new application, and the PC will write in support. HN also suggested they contact Liam Walker (WODC).
* The large trees at The Lamb have not been cut back and remain a hazard to parked cars, pedestrians, and a nearby property. MM has written to Chris Grain (OCC Highways) and asked OCC to resend notice to the new owners regarding their responsibility for the trees. The PC will also speak to them. HN will also speak to them about using the pub for PC meetings.

6. West Oxfordshire District Council Reports

Paul Marsh:

* Phase 2 is underway to move staff from employment by Publica back to WODC.
* WODC is setting up a scheme (Lendology) which will provide loans to property owners to help them do work on their properties to get them onto the market, either for sale or to rent.
* WODC is not in a position to reject the plans for Botley West Solar Farm, but they have submitted a long list of objections to the National Planning Inspectorate.
* A new road scheme for the A40 has been approved, which will provide access to the Park and Ride at Eynsham.

7. Oxfordshire County Council Report – no report

8. Treasurer’s Report – we are still without a Treasurer, so HN has been covering the post.

* The main expenses to report are for repair of the notice board, hire of Hailey Village Hall for the talk on Biodiversity, and litter pick refreshments. The expenses are within budget.
* Current account £994.44; Deposit account £1563.89 (including the recent £1000 grant from LW); Defibrillator account £332.87.
* VAT returns will be done by the end of April.

9. Biodiversity

* Jack Wheeler of OCC and Rachel Crookes of Wild Oxfordshire gave talks on the biodiversity of Crawley’s Road Verge Nature Reserves and the wider area immediately before the parish council meeting. They suggested what we might do to improve what we have, and where to get help.
* MH will set up a group of parishioners who could help Rob Helyar (who currently maintains the Road Verge Nature Reserves) and plan other biodiversity initiatives around the village.
* There is still no date for the Wychwood Flora Group to survey the graveyard (scheduled for late April or May), but SD has asked to be informed when it will happen so that she (and others who are interested) can attend.

10. Parish Online, Website, email addresses. CB reported that the new website and emails are almost ready to go live. Councillors were asked to send a photo (headshot) to Chris and also to look at the website in the next week and send any feedback to CB. The new emails will use the format: sheena.derry@crawleyvillage-pc.gov.uk.

11. Update on footpath and railings. MH’s ‘super user’ reports are being bounced between the bridge and highway maintenance teams at OCC. She has asked for a walk round meeting and a risk assessment as she feels that it is unsafe for pedestrians.

11. Update on WING.

* A meeting, hosted by WING and held on 14th March, was attended by WODC, OCC, Environment Agency (EA), and a representative for Charlie Maynard (MP).
* The EA say it will take 2 years to complete a hydraulic model. Since the developers for the North Witney housing did not put anything in their planning application about a river crossing, they are not able to comment on one.
* OCC have talked to the developers. The system OCC use to analyse traffic has changed, so the developer needs to reassess the effects of their plans. The need for the West End Link may have to be reconsidered and the northern distributor road may need to change. OCC are doing a new transport feasibility study for the Witney area.
* Air quality within the Bridge Street management area has been improving, perhaps in part through increased use of electric vehicles. This will need to be reassessed.
* Phil Shaw (WODC planning) has met with the developers, who have had no official response to their plans. They will resubmit in May – it is unclear whether this will be another outline plan or their final plan. WODC will have 13 weeks to respond to that plan, or the developer can escalate it to judicial review or the Planning Inspectorate.
* Another meeting with key stakeholders will be convened by WING before WODC issue their formal response to the developer’s proposals.

12. Future dates:

28th May 2025 – PC Meeting

4th June 2025 – Pub Quiz and meal

23rd July 2025 – PC Meeting

10th August 2025 – Summer BBQ

24th September 2025 - PC Meeting

8th October 2025 – Pub Quiz and meal

5th November – Bonfire and Fireworks

26th November 2025 - PC Meeting

17th December 2025 – Carol singing

13. AOB - None