

# Cowley (& Birdlip) Parish Council

Clerk: Mrs. E. Lavington | 07941258052 | cowleypc@hotmail.co.uk

## MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 – Deer Park Guide HQ Cowley at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs. Julian Lavington, Eileen McKay, Peter Ritchie, Tim Knox and Jo Pearce

1. **Apologies**, Cllr Dawson, Cllr Collings and District Cllr Judd
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** Minutes of meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and extraordinary meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 were agreed and signed.
3. **Declarations of Interest** none
4. **Matters Arising not included as an agenda item.** None
5. **Bus Shelters & defibrillators:** To note that the 3 bus shelters, defibrillators & kiosks have been inspected since the last meeting. Noted.
6. **Planning**

**Ref. No:** 23/00294/FUL Change of use from microbrewery use only to Jays Timber Limited for use as a Timber and Fencing Yard (Use Class B2) The Old Haulage Yard Cirencester Road Birdlip Gloucester Gloucestershire GL4 8JL **OBJECTION**

The Parish Council believe that the change of use will significantly increase traffic involving light commercial vehicles, from trade to domestic and heavy articulated vehicles negotiating the narrow road through the village of Birdlip. As the site is situated on a no through, unclassified, residential road with National speed limit, there are strong concerns on the impact of safety with the increase of traffic passing through the village and the local school, especially as suggested trading hours are most likely to be at their peak and coincide with the busy school drop off and pick up times.

There is insufficient practical space on site to park and turn commercial vehicles safely. This will result in vehicles visiting the business parking and turning on the road causing disruption and disturbance to nearby residences. This is especially important with the limited space available for any articulated vehicles to turn.

The site is situated at the top of Parsons Pitch, one of the highest points of the Cotswolds at circa 1000 feet above sea level. This causes problems annually for both residents and businesses, being unable to negotiate the steep rise during winter months. During times of severe ice and snowfall the road becomes impassable. There is currently no procedure in place to grit or plough the road which leads to vehicles being abandoned at the bottom of Parsons Pitch and in and around the school.

The applicant mentions the adjacent site being a bus depot. The Parish Council wishes to state that the neighbouring site has never been used as a "bus depot". The site did, some years ago, house a small number of coaches which were primarily used for school runs around the county. The nature of their journeys allowed them to avoid busy school drop off and pick up times at Birdlip school. Please note the coach company no longer operates from this site vacating in circa 2016/17.

The Parish Council has concerns regarding the noise of fixed and/or portable power tools and forklift trucks impacting on domestic premises next door and within 100 metres of the site. It would be unrealistic to assume the power tool use would be constrained to indoor use effectively in hot summer months. The impact of any power tool noise could also have an adverse effect on animals grazing on adjacent farmland and nesting raptors including red kites, buzzards and owls in veteran woodland.

Finally, although the site has previously been used as a builders yard, the nature of this business was primarily as a storage facility with no retail trading being performed from the site and therefore having minimal impact on the surrounding residential properties.

**7. Accept Resignation of Clerk** – Clerk resignation was accepted. The Clerk would continue to work until the May elections.

**8. Clerk Vacancy Cowley Parish Council**

It was agreed to advertise the vacancy for a new Parish Clerk. The clerk would produce and distribute posters. All applications to Cllr Knox. Cllrs, Knox, Dawson and Pearce would sit on the interview panel and report back at March Meeting. The successful candidate to take up post on 26<sup>th</sup> April allowing a handover period.

**9. Agree Dates for Meetings - Cowley Parish Council**

The Cowley sub committee confirmed they would look to meet 4 times per year (to include the Annual meetings) new meeting dates:

19<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (Annual Meetings) at St Mary's Church Cowley

11<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Cowley Manor Hotel

14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Cowley Manor Hotel

13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Cowley Manor Hotel.

The Clerk expressed concerns regarding the suitability of holding Parish Council meetings at Cowley Manor. Under the current legislation, Parish Council meetings should not be held on a licensed premises for the selling and consumption of alcohol. She suggested the Guide HQ and the St Mary's Church are more suitable meeting places. Cllr Knox stated that they had been informed to the contrary and the guidance had been checked.

New Birdlip Parish Council would look to hold their first meeting on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May.

**10. Elections 2023**

The nomination period for Cotswold runs from Monday 20 March through to the deadline of 4pm on Tuesday 4 April.

Nominations must be hand delivered to CDC offices and a queueing process in place for candidates coming to the office. The Clerk offered to hand deliver nomination papers on behalf of those wishing to stand. It was agreed nomination papers be brought to the March Parish Council meeting or to the Clerk home address. The Clerk would deliver the papers on or before 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**11. Coronation – National Lottery Grant**

The Clerk confirmed she had now received the information from both Cowley and Birdlip and would submit the application tomorrow (Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February).

**12. New Cowley and Birdlip Parish Councils**

The Clerk has received confirmation that Cowley Parish Council will continue with the only changes being the boundary and number of Councillors and are still bound by the local election timetable and protocol, regardless of the split.

All Councillors and Chair persons remain in post until after the election process.

Thursday 4th May Elections take place.

Monday 8th May (Bank Holiday) all Councillors stand down from Cowley PC.

Tuesday 9th May Newly elected Councillors (non contested or elected) take up office for Cowley and new Birdlip Parish Council's.

Wednesday 10th May officially the earliest Parish Councils can hold their annual meeting.

The Last meeting of the current Parish Council would be on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at Deer Park Guide HQ Cowley.

**13. Finance**

To note the new Birdlip PC Bank account application has been submitted. Noted

**14. To take any questions from the public.** None.

15. Items for the next agenda End of year accounts

16. Date of meeting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – St Mary’s Church Birdlip

The meeting closed at 8.31pm

Signed.....

Date.....

DRAFT