CHAIRMANS STATEMENT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

FOR THE PERIOD 2021/22

To note our sorry on the recent passing of Her Majesty the Queen and to acknowledge the appointment of King Charles III

Another extremely busy year has gone past; a new parish council has been formed after elections in May and new members have found their way through the complications of our Parish. More recently we have been pleased to welcome Peter Grant onto our committee which means we are now fully staffed. Ken Brooks has taken on the role of temporary clerk until such time as we can find a permanent recruit.

Our website has been revamped and our thanks go to Gary Nichols for the onward going running of the website.

In an effort to be more inclusive we have formally changed our name from South Leigh Parish Council to South Leigh and High Cogges Parish Council. A New noticeboard has been installed by the pub and a further one will soon arrive to be positioned in High Cogges. At a later date we hope to also install one near the village hall.

Our annual account show that we are acting within our budget. Our consolidated accounts (which include all of the sub committees) show that our turnover has increased to the extent that our accounts have needed to be more closely reviewed by outside auditors for the first time. On submission there were general queries from the auditor. The accounts have still not been fully signed off but have passed the first level of inspection and are with senior members of the auditors to be finally signed off. We don’t expect any further delays. We are expecting to have to go through this more in depth process over the next few years as our income is likely to rise.

Electronic banking and new bank account

We have had long and in depth conversations with Thames Water with particular regard to the sewage works in Limbrook Close and were delighted when they agreed to pay an amount of £25,000 as community benefit. Each household in Limbrook Close has been given £1,000 adding up to £21000 the remaining £4,000 will be spent either on some improvements to Limbrook Close or the Limbrook itself. As soon as the Brook re fills we will recompense testing the water and will report back.

The planning applications for both the A40 and Shores Green have taken a lot of councillors time, long discussion have been had with OCC. These have not been fully resolved as yet but we do feel we are making progress – full details can be found in the minutes of our various meetings but include:

Protection of the village from rat running traffic

Protection against noise/air and light pollution in line with our Neighbourhood Plan

Footpath links from the parish to both Cogges and Witney

Repositioning of bus stops

Alongside this we have had negotiations with the applicant for the proposed Solar Farm at Tar Farm. These were lengthy and detailed. The parish council feel that we have pushed them as far as possible although we are aware that not all residents feel the same. The application hasn’t come before planning committee yet but will probably be heard before the end of the year.

There were large scale two applications for Church End Farm for both a storage facility and a glamping wagon site. Although these have both been through the WODC planning committee system, there have been appeals (of different types) lodged against both.

There have been several smaller scale applications that we have commented on

Queens Jubilee

Mourning the death of the Queen

Emergency plan and generator

Footpath officer and liaison with Eynsham Estate

Conservation area

New contractor for grass cutting

Commenting on Voices for Witney – WODC and for OCCs views collection

Speed Watch need for more volunteers

Shores Green

Sound Barriers plus planting

Signage – no mention on South Leigh on main exit signs/ no entry accept for access/weight limit

Lighting – specific fields of light and shielding to stop light spread toward high cogges and village

Run quiet road surface on the on slip towards Burford

50mph speed limit on whole of the new works

Bus stops relocation

Footpaths/cycle way

Dual Carriageway and Barnards Gate – no rht off roundabout/no entry except for access

Possible closure of BG with removal bollards

Dicks e mail for wording

General

20mph speed limit throughout 30mph area – 1st tranch

Traffic calming measures on these roads – to be discussed with the whole village as to schmes suitability – whilst remembering that we may hgave to balance our dislike of traffic calming with our hate of speeding.