

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 6th November 2023

Present:

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| Matthew Judson | (MJ) | Chair |
| Rachel Arnold | (RA) | Vice Chair |
| Joe Deane | (JD) | Councillor |
| Keith Hickson | (KH) | Councillor |
| Trudi Gasser (TG) Parish Clerk | | |

In Attendance:

4 Members of the public
 Dan Levy (DL) County Councillor
 Lysette Nicholls (LN) District Councillor
 Charlie Maynard (CM) District Councillor

| MIN REF | ITEM |
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| 23/112 | 01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Gill Sellars (GS) Councillor |
| 23/114 | PC VACANCY An application received from Andy Hayden to join the PC. MJ proposed that Andy be co-opted, KH seconded, all in favour. ACTION: TG to notify WODC and complete the necessary paperwork and set up PC email account once all confirmed. |
| 23/115 | 02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST No declarations. |
| 23/116 | 03 APPROVAL of MINUTES Minutes Parish Council Meeting of the 2 nd October were approved for publication subject to amendment of date. |
| 23/117 | 04 MATTERS ARISING CFW Pre-June GS – B4449 Reducing the noise and vibration BT Openreach, despite letters being sent no action has been taken by BT Openreach. ACTION: GS, DL ask that he is copied in on an email to them so he may assist. CFW from June mtg. 21/064 TG to create and circulate a list of current policies (a PC Policy Register) ready for review. ACTION: TG Policy list CFW from June Meeting 22/0269 Welcome Pack ACTION: JD currently drafting a document CFW 23/061 – Village Stocks, the thatched shelter is leaning. ACTION: MJ propped up roof which is rotten from the base. The structure will need to be replaced and a new roof fitted. CWF 23/078 Village Survey Action: GS to draft questions for review at the next meeting. |
| 23/118 | 05 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT and COUNTY COUNCIL County Council: Full report attached District Council: Full report attached In summary: The Local Plan consultation is now closed. Many villages were not in favour of |

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| | <p>the plan.</p> <p>The planning Application for 19 dwellings in the field opposite Flexneys Paddock will be heard on 4th December at WODC's Woodgreen offices.</p> <p>CM currently working on improvements to footpaths/cycle paths. Some ideas are a bridge at Bablockhythe and an upgrade to public access to the Thames.</p> <p>Hayfield Green developers have been served with a Planning Contravention Notice.</p> |
| 23/119 | <p>06 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</p> <p>A good turnout at the Village Market was reported.</p> <p>The Village Voice newsletter was praised for being very good and informative.</p> |
| 23/120 | <p>07 PLANNING</p> <p>Planning Application received for comment: APPLICATION NO: 23/02824/CLP PROPOSAL: Certificate of Lawfulness (formation of habitable rooms in roofspace with front and rear velux rooflights) Town and Country Planning Act LOCATION: Elmwood Blackditch Stanton Harcourt</p> <p>Other planning: 23/02352/FUL - Erection of nineteen dwellings with associated parking spaces, new access road, public open space on the Land East of Main Road Stanton Harcourt. The PC objected to the application. The application is to be heard at WODC on 4th December.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plans were discussed, they do hold weight, but there is currently no support mechanism in place for Parish Councils to develop them. MJ suggested the PC think about putting one together.</p> |
| 23/121 | <p>08. VILLAGE VOICE NEWSLETTER</p> <p>The hearing date for the planning application to be published in VV.</p> <p>It was suggested that the PC publish info, including agendas, on Facebook – this is possible to do with commenting turned off, as the correct communication channel with the PC is via email to the clerk.</p> |
| 23/122 | <p>09. VILLAGE HALL</p> <p>Car Park Glanville had submitted their report to the PC. MJ proposed the PC ask Jenny Beilby to use the report to obtain quotes. KH seconded, all in favour.</p> <p>ACTION: GS to confirm whether planning permission is required once a Tec Spec is available</p> <p>ACTION: GS to ask the VHC to obtain quotes based on the Tech Spec supplied by Glanville ACTION: TG to discuss with Insurance brokers the option of merging the Village Hall, Guardroom and PC Insurance policies – TG to contact Lucy for cover details of the VH to progress prior to renewal</p> |

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| 23/123 | <p>10. OLD GUARDROOM</p> <p>The Valuation Office had completed their valuation and reduced the rates for the Guardroom.</p> <p>Actions carried forward from last meeting: ACTION: MJ to progress the replacement door ACTION: RA to purchases dishes when next in IKEA ACTION: TG to progress rate relief for a ‘not for profit’ community building ACTION: JD To continue progressing the Guardroom Solar Heating project.</p> |
| 23/124 | <p>11. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY</p> <p>GS had organised a PC wreath – KH volunteered to lay the wreath on behalf of the PC.</p> <p>MJ proposed the PC make a donation of £60 to the Royal British Legion. JD seconded, all in favour. ACTION: MJ to obtain bank details for RBL to enable TG to progress the payment.</p> |
| 23/125 | <p>13 COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES</p> <p>Playground MJ is obtaining quotes for additional Play Equipment at the Leys Park to replace equipment current at Village Hall play park equipment. Update to be provided at future meeting. ACTION: MJ to report at future meeting</p> <p>Pothole Management KH had walked around the village and identified and marked a couple of potholes. ACTION KH to continue village pothole review.</p> <p>Green Management Xmas tree on the Green had been treated with Epsom Salts. ACTION MJ to continue to review Xmas tree.</p> <p>Jubilee field trees to review ACTION MJ to review trees on Jubilee field.</p> <p>Maintenance The contracts for the maintenance operative are possibly due review ACTION GS to review the contracts</p> |
| 23/126 | <p>FINANCE UPDATE</p> <p>An update was provided.</p> |
| 23/127 | <p>BUDGET PLANNING</p> <p>ACTION: Any budget items to be submitted to TG by 24th November. ACTION: TG to circulate a draft budget for 2024/5 for approval at December meeting</p> |
| 23/128 | <p>CORRESPONDENCE</p> <p>Litterpick: MJ reported that a request to carry out a litter pick for DofE had been received. ACTION MJ to respond.</p> |

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| | Willowbrook Brook: The PC had received a request to ask David Bury to clear the brook – TG had forwarded the request and awaits a reply. |
| 23/129 | ANY OTHER BUSINESS MJ proposed the PC purchase a gift for Jose Eaton to the value of £50 for recognition of Jose's service to the PC in managing the Cemetery. JD seconded, all in favour. ACTION: TG to purchase a suitable gift. |
| 23/130 | NEXT MEETING Monday 4 th December 2023 at 19:30 in The Holland Room, Village Hall |

Signed

Date

Stanton Harcourt Parish Council County Councillor Report November 6 2023

Please find a report on areas covered by the County Council which may be of interest.

Much of my time is taken up with preparing and developing the budget that will be discussed (and I hope approved) at the County Council meeting in February. There are intense pressures on the finances of all local authorities. Funding from central government has been cut in real terms each year for the past decade, and permitted rises in council tax are lower than inflation. There are additional pressures from demographic changes, with many more older people, and with increase in demands on children's service particularly in areas like support for young people with special educational needs. The rise in the national living wage is welcome, but has an added impact for our services.

There will be an iterative process in which proposals will be scrutinised, the public will be consulted, and we will discover in the autumn statement later this month and the annual "settlement" announced in late December what money will be available.

Roads

The Aston to Ducklington road has been repaired, with the edges replaced and strengthened. This was achieved in the timescale advertised in advance. Thank you for your patience while the work was done. I wish we could repair more roads in such a thorough way, but as the cost was around £900,000, you may be able to see why this isn't possible.

Can I give advance notice that there is a planned closure of the road between Standlake and Stanton Harcourt/Northmoor between 6th and 8th December between 9-30 and 3-30 each day. This is for bridge work.

You will also see that the junction near there, Cow Corner, has been partially redesigned to try to prevent the frequent collisions that have been happening.

Reducing disruption caused by utilities & developers:

The County's new plan for charging an increased daily fee of £2500 (instead of the £300 fixed fee) to utility companies that dig up major roads is being consulted on. By law it is restricted to 5% of Oxfordshire's roads and so will focus on busy, critical parts of the network. Surplus funds will be reinvested. The DfT is encouraging all councils to adopt schemes like this. Many of the roadworks in the county are instigated by utilities companies, and we want them to be completed quickly.

Climate change

Oxfordshire tops table for county councils tackling climate change: Oxfordshire was rated the best performing county council in the UK on climate change by the Climate Emergency UK climate action scorecard. That is absolutely not a reason for complacency.

Schools

Although we are only just after half term in the autumn of 23, applications are now open for new primary school pupils for September 24. Applications should be done online. www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions If anyone moves to the area during the year, there are In-year placements – one for the things that gave most joy recently was helping the parents of a young person who had just moved to the UK to get their child into their local school within a few weeks of arrival.

And finally:

People have been shocked by events in Israel and Palestine, and haven't forgotten that there are conflicts continuing in other parts of the world too, including Sudan and Ukraine. There are many people in Oxfordshire who are directly connected to these places and are worried about their friends and family. There is no place for intolerance in our county.

As ever, please contact me with queries, comments or requests. dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dan

- 1. Five year housing land supply** – sounds boring, but isn't. This is the key metric that national government uses to enforce housebuilding rates at local authorities. It's a horribly flawed process with the housebuilders (yes, truly) acting as the umpires who get to decide whether the local authorities are building houses fast enough. If the local authorities are deemed not be doing so, it's open season, with developers able to bring forward new developments with a high chance of getting them approved on appeal by nationally appointed inspectors.

West Oxfordshire District Council signed up for a ludicrously high housebuilding target in its 2018 Local Plan, with a 22% increase in housing between 2022-2031, while UK population will grow at just 3% over the same period. We've just passed the five year anniversary of the Local Plan which gives the us, as the new administration, the ability to change the Local Plan and the housing targets. Numbers will be out later this month. I'm hopeful that we will see both a big drop in the housing target and that we will be back inside the required threshold, making us safe from speculative developers. We certainly need housing but with the A40 set to be 30 minutes slower by 2031 and our sewage, health centres and schools unable to cope, we need to deal with our infrastructure first.

This move may have a significant impact on the proposal to build 19 houses at "Land East of Main Road, Stanton Harcourt" – 23/02352/FUL.

2. Local Plan consultation

The deadline has now passed and WODC's Planning team is due to publish their collated findings next month. There were lots of comments made through the website which triggered some interesting discussions. Perhaps most relevantly to Stanton Harcourt parish and perhaps unsurprisingly, the "Dispersed Growth" and "Village Clusters" scenarios which would have supported more building in villages were clearly the least popular proposals. There was also a request for ideas. I offered three:

- a) Improving the bridleway linking Eynsham, Sutton and Stanton Harcourt
- b) Building a bridge at Bablock Hythe for bike and pedestrian traffic
- c) Upgrading public access to the Thames for unpowered craft, from Radcot to Eynsham

3. Hayfield Green

WODC's enforcement team has served a Planning Contravention Notice against the developer. Failure to respond is a criminal offence. This will very likely force the developer to engage with the enforcement team which they have not been doing so. More news is expected in the next couple of weeks.

4. The sign on the B4449 opposite the haul road

Is finally, finally fixed!