

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022

Present:

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

In Attendance:

4 Members of the public

Charlie Maynard (CM) District Councillor
Lysette Nicholls (LN) District Councillor

MIN REF	ITEM
22/100	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
	Dan Levy (DL) County Councillor Gill Sellars (GS) Councillor
22/101	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
	No interests were declared
22/102	APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 4TH JULY 2022
	Minutes had been circulated for comment and were approved for publication. Action: KH to chase OCC regarding the 20mph proposal. Matters Arising not covered on Agenda – See ‘Actions Annex’.
22/103	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
	Buffer Zone at Jubilee field – The PC were asked to consider the biodiversity of the strip and the purpose it serves to protect the residents from intimidation. The PC confirmed that a further 30 trees would be planted later this year, and that the planning conditions did not specify that the fence was required. One resident offered to look at the fence with a view to carrying out repairs if possible. Archive Documents – a box of historic PC documents had been discovered in the loft of the Village Hall – MJ to review. Field opposite Flexneys Paddock – rumours of activity in the field with measurements being taken – were the PC aware of any plans for the field? The PC had not been informed. New Footpath form Butts Piece Development – the path is underway and looks like it will be located on the road side of the hedge – the PC confirmed that an agreement is in place for the path to be located on the other side – the PC to monitor.
22/104	REPORT FROM DC/CC COUNCILLORS
	County Council: DL not present – a report is to follow. District Council: see annex for report.
22/105	WODC CODE OF CONDUCT
	The PC formally adopted the revised Code of Conduct – TG to publish on the PC Website.
22/106	PLANNING
	22/02296/HHD Address 6 The Close Stanton Harcourt Witney Oxfordshire OX29 5SW Proposal Single storey rear extension. Comment due to TG by the end of the week.

MIN REF	ITEM																					
22/107	GUARDROOM The handover is now complete. The 106 payment of £6k has now been received. Very little raised during August from bookings, this will improve in September with a weekly 2 hour slot booked for Pilates. A hopefully some booking after the Village Voice newsletter is circulated. The email address is now live. Outstanding issues are: Maintenance <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crittal patio door weather shields scheduled for September 12th• Replacement of blown double glazing panel – side of patio doors• Replacement of shattered glass panel – side of patio doors Outstanding Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solar energy project, (Panels and battery) – Action: JD to obtain quotes from the companies which quoted for the Village Hall project.• Obtaining an electrician to install dimmer for the overhead lights• Obtain an Internet provider – Action: JD to contact BT to progress.• Setting up CCTV																					
22/108	LITTER/DOG BINS A plan of current bin locations was supplied by JD. Concern was expressed to DC’s regarding the way that WDOC had managed their Bin Replacement Programme, with a total lack of communication with the PC. LN/CM to raise with Bill and Louise Oddy and obtain a map of bin locations for the PC to review.																					
22/109	VILLAGE HALL Solar panels installed (46 rather than 48) and actively delivering energy Batteries to be installed in Oct Final payment not due until after battery installation VHC Team now focused on Car Park refurb - this was carried forward to the next meeting.																					
22/110	JUBILEE FIELD This was covered in the public session.																					
22/111	VILLAGE VOICE An advert had been published in VV for a replacement Editor – no interest expressed as yet. RA offered to cover the role on a temporary basis after Christmas, with assistance from LN if required.																					
22/112	COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES KH – Now a ‘Pot Hole Super User’. Issues had been marked up around the parish and reported on Fixmystreet. TP – Speedwatch now officially launched, TP had passed the exam and was actively looking for volunteers. Training in use of the equipment to be arranged. MJ – Undertook a maintenance walk around, identifying trees which required attention.																					
22/113	FINANCE Payments Made: <table><tr><td>J Woodward</td><td>Maintenance</td><td>£260.91</td></tr><tr><td>J Woodward</td><td>Grass Cutting</td><td>£275.00</td></tr><tr><td>WODC</td><td>Bin Emptying</td><td>£148.63</td></tr><tr><td>WODC</td><td>Bin Emptying</td><td>£148.63</td></tr><tr><td>Savills</td><td>Rent (The Leys)</td><td>£152.00</td></tr><tr><td>T Gasser</td><td>Clerk</td><td>£796.55</td></tr><tr><td>HMRC</td><td>Clerk</td><td>£256.89</td></tr></table>	J Woodward	Maintenance	£260.91	J Woodward	Grass Cutting	£275.00	WODC	Bin Emptying	£148.63	WODC	Bin Emptying	£148.63	Savills	Rent (The Leys)	£152.00	T Gasser	Clerk	£796.55	HMRC	Clerk	£256.89
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22/114	CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence had been received regarding the fence at the buffer zone in the Jubilee Field – this was discussed in the public session of the meeting.																					

MIN REF	ITEM
22/115	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
	Nothing to report.
22/116	NEXT MEETING: Monday 3 rd October 2022

Signed

Date

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Council Update – Dan Levy

County Councillor Report.

Stanton Harcourt 18 September 2022.

I am writing on the eve of the State Funeral. Clearly the last week has been historic, and focus has been on Balmoral, Edinburgh and Westminster. Many of my county council colleagues had personal memories of the Queen and of the new King, and were at the forefront of the ceremonies in Oxford.

All public council activity ceased during the mourning period, including a scheduled County Council full meeting.

Consultations

There are a number of County Council consultations under way, which have had their final dates extended. These include the latest consultations on the A40 plans following further work on the environmental aspect of the schemes. Also under review are the County Council's plans for central Oxfordshire, which covers the city centre and neighbouring places, including Eynsham Division (and so SH). Central to these plans are the use of bus gates to prevent through traffic in the city centre. For the avoidance of doubt and to allay fears stoked up by some people, everywhere in the city will still be accessible by motor car. This means that Stanton Harcourt residents who opt to drive rather than using public transport or the P&Rs or active travel will need to go into the city via either the A40 or Botley Road or Abingdon Road, depending on where they are looking to arrive. I think these plans will go a long way towards easing congestion, improving bus times and making it safer and quicker to cycle. The County Council wants to hear from residents and businesses who may be affected.

Buses

Stagecoach have introduced new routes. The S2 and S1 from Eynsham to the city and to Witney are pretty much unchanged, but the routes beyond Witney have been altered. For instance, the S2 now goes on to Cheltenham replacing the 853. Unfortunately, English local authorities outside London don't have the powers to direct or subsidise bus services. I will continue to try to support the services outside the main routes, including the newish service from Stanton Harcourt to Eynsham, Standlake and Hanborough, as far as I can.

A40 cycle track

Those who cycle into Oxford will be aware that the junction for the new Oxford North development just before Wolvercote is appalling for cyclists. It is going to be reworked to make it usable after interventions from me and from the county councillor for that area. It ought not to have been designed as it has been, nor should it have been approved, and it certainly shouldn't have been built as it has been.

Speed

And finally, it is good to see the new 20 mph zone in Eynsham up and running, with the very smart new gates to the village. Can I urge people to stick to the new limits. These include new limits on the Eynsham ringroad. I hope it won't be long before Stanton Harcourt and Sutton also have revised limits.

As ever, you can contact me at dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

DISTRICT COUNCIL UPDATE

Charlie Maynard, District Councillor

Below is my district councillor update.

The cost of living is looming in everyone's minds. Here is a the key weblink from WODC's website - <https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/news-items/help-if-you-re-struggling-with-living-costs/> - which gives detail on every point listed below.

Many people aren't aware that they can claim various supports or benefits, so please do check what you might be eligible for and please also let others know that they may be eligible for help.

1. Check you're not one of up to 7 million people in the UK missing out on income-related state benefits
2. Support from Government
3. If you're over State Pension age, check if you're eligible for Pension Credit
4. Get help with childcare costs
5. Check if you can claim a discretionary housing payment
6. Check if you're eligible for Council Tax Support
7. Help if you're experiencing illness or disability
8. Check your eligibility for Carer's Allowance
9. Contact your energy supplier if you can't pay energy bills
10. Get help if you're struggling to afford enough food
11. See if you can get Healthy Start vouchers
12. Apply for free school meals
13. Seek advice about debt
14. Apply for a discount on water bills
15. Advice if you're renting
16. Government council tax rebate and recent Government support announcements
17. Looking after your mental health
18. Help accessing health services
19. Claim your [£150 Council Tax Rebate](#)

Lysette Nicholls, District Councillor

Additional Financial Support – For Those Outside Initial Support

Earlier in the year the Government provided £150 council tax rebates to households in certain bands of council tax. They also provided councils with a pot of money for the council to decide how to distribute to best support those who weren't eligible under the government criteria.

For the discretionary element of the funding residents do need to check they are eligible and apply to receive the funding. We promoted the funding across all our channels and it was targeted at those who we thought would most be in need of support but that slipped through the cracks of the Government criteria.

Following the first round we do still have some money left so we have expanded the criteria so more people are eligible. We are continuing to push the message out to communities but we would ask if you can use your local networks to help us get the message out that this support is available. Residents have until 25 September to apply

Full information and criteria is available on the council website here: www.westoxon.gov.uk/150rebate. We are also going to be issuing a media release on the subject this week and it will be posted on our social media should you wish to share with local groups and on your networks.

Reducing the Risk

The Council were given funding from the government as part of the Covid Outbreak and Management Fund (COMF) and local charity Reducing the Risk were granted some of this funding to enable them to go into communities and start conversations around domestic abuse.

The COMF money also enabled Reducing the Risk to set up an online community within their resource hub for West Oxfordshire residents. This dedicated resource hub has a range of information for community volunteers, domestic abuse champions and practitioners. Anyone can access the information for free which gives them the tools they need to help those at risk.

West Oxfordshire District Council are still actively working with Reducing the Risk and they have recently developed a new initiative called Reducing the Risk Friends, where people in the local area will be trained to listen and lend a hand to anyone experiencing domestic abuse. These 'Friends' will be able to make a difference to many residents' lives and support those who need it most.

To find out more about Reducing the Risk you can visit their website here -

<https://reducingtherisk.org.uk/about-us/>

If you or someone you know is affected by domestic abuse please contact the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service on 0800 731 0055 (Monday to Friday 10-7) or the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 200 0247 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

Sewage Treatment Works Open Day

Issues with Thames Water persist. Discharge into local rivers and streams continues.

This is an opportunity to have a tour and WASP will be there. Free but need to register.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/witney-sewage-works-open-day-friday-9th-september-2022-tickets-387020969137#:~:text=Witney%20Sewag>

Your Voice Counts

West Oxfordshire District Council has opened the 'Your Voice Counts' consultation today which asks residents from across the district to let the Council know what to focus on over the coming years. Whilst many residents are cynical in regards to consultations this is a chance for residents to voice their concerns and raise issues they would like to be dealt with.

The consultation is open from 24 August to 21 September and residents can give feedback by visiting the new consultation platform hosted on the digital engagement platform CommonPlace -

yourvoicecounts.commonplace.is

Residents unable to comment online will be able to access the questionnaire either in the Council offices in Welch Way, Witney or in a local library.

ACTIONS CARRIED FORWARD FROM EARLIER MEETINGS:

	ACTIONS CARRIED FORWARD	
Pre-June	GS – B4449 Reducing the noise and vibration BT OpenReach replaced the wrong manhole cover. The one by 10 Beaumont Green has been recorded as Urgent by both OCC Highways and BT OpenReach	Cfw
CFW from June mtg	21/064 TG to create and circulate a list of current policies (a PC Policy Register) ready for review.	Cfw
CFW from July mtg	21/092 All/PC to continue logging TW complaints with DL/OCC None received – Notice to be put on Village Voice (Hardcopy & Facebook) asking all issues to be sent to Parish Clerk with the Title 'Water Issues' PC will then progress with Thames Water. Action MJ TG to report on issue type statistics at future meetings (standard agenda point)	Cfw
	21/097 S106 MJ to obtain quotes for additional Play Equipment	Cfw
CFW from Nov mtg	JD to look at sensors for electric lights once transferred to the PC	Cfw
	21/122 Public Session Archive in the Guard Room? GS to see if we can install sufficient storage	Cfw
CFW From Feb Mtg	22/008 Guard Room Update GS to add the Capacity Guidelines to the Hirer Agreement TG to investigate a separate bank account for Guard Room Accounts. GS to write an article about the Guard Room for Village Voice	Cfw
	22/009 Village Hall GS to circulate the original Car Park refurbish plan to the VHC for review for completeness GS to return to Parish Council with quotations for Car Park refurb VHC to obtain three quotes for the Solar Energy Project and return to PC with proposal	Cfw
	22/010 RECREATION AREAS GS to identify whether the VHC would like the equipment moved from the Bury Mead play park to the Leys to provide additional options for the Village Hall long term strategy	Cfw
CFW from June Meeting	22/0269 Welcome Pack JD currently drafting a document	