

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023

**Present:**

Matthew Judson	(MJ)	Chair
Gill Sellars	(GS)	Councillor
Joe Deane	(JD)	Councillor
Trudi Gasser	(TG)	Parish Clerk

**In Attendance:**

2 Members of the public  
Charlie Maynard (CM) District Councillor

MIN REF	ITEM
23/064	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>
	Rachel Arnold (RA) Vice Chair
	Keith Hickson (KH) Councillor
	Dan Levy (DL) County Councillor
	Lysette Nicholls (LN) District Councillor
23/065	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
	Gil Sellars is a trustee member of the Village Hall Committee with regards to item 23/073 covering the Village Hall Car Park.
23/066	<b>PC VACANCY</b>
	Following the resignation of Tony Pentland, the official notice had been posted on the PC Noticeboard, the PC website and in Village Voice. Two people had expressed an interest, unfortunately one applicant did not meet the criteria due to the length of time they had resided in the parish, the second applicant had not replied.
	The PC will continue to seek a replacement.
23/067	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2023</b>
	Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting had been circulated for comment and were approved for publication.
23/068	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>
	23/061 – following a report that the stocks are in need of repair, MJ had inspected the stocks and confirmed that they are definitely leaning. MJ/JD to resolve the issue.
23/069	<b>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</b>
	No questions were raised.
23/070	<b>REPORT FROM DC/CC COUNCILLORS</b>
	<b>County Council:</b> DL provided a report - see annex.
	<b>District Council:</b> CM provided a report – see annex.
23/071	<b>VILLAGE VOICE</b>
	The next issue had been approved by the PC with very minor changes. More deliverers are required, an appeal to be published in the Village Voice.
23/072	<b>PLANNING</b>
	Two applications had been received for comment:
	APPLICATION NO: 23/01373/HHD
	PROPOSAL: Demolition of existing garage/workshop, carport and storage buildings. Construction of detached building comprising garages/workshop and carport with first floor office above. Town and Country Planning Act
	LOCATION: 2 Linch Hill Cottages Linch Hill Stanton Harcourt
	APPLICATION NO: 23/01419/HHD

MIN REF	ITEM
	<p>PROPOSAL: Erection of single storey porch extension, two storey side and rear extensions and first floor extension with proposed dormers Town and Country Planning Act</p> <p>LOCATION: Timboroze Sutton Lane Sutton</p> <p>The Parish Council have reviewed the applications and have no objections</p> <p>ACTION: TG to check the Planning Application Tracker and report any decision notices issued at future meetings.</p>
<b>23/073</b>	<p><b>VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK</b></p> <p>GS circulated a proposal for the Village Hall Car Park project:</p> <p>Option 1 PC continue to support the current Car Park plan. But the project must be within the available budget of £53K, plus the £20K donation the PC has received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Potential cost savings find home for the redundant hardcore.</li> <li>- Do more work ourselves.</li> </ul> <p>Option 2 Utilise some of the £20k donation to fill potholes and leave it at that. Leaving S106 for other projects</p> <p>Option 3 Along with the Village Hall Committee come up with a new plan to address the Village Hall Car Park issues.</p> <p>Option 4 Village Hall Committee provide a donation to the rectification of the Car Park that is solely for the use of the Village Hall Facility</p> <p>Option 5 PC raise additional money – increase precept etc.</p> <p>Option 6 Submit a ‘justified request’ for the Deansfield Play and Recreation fund of £32,720 bringing the total of circa £100k – but risk not being able to obtain funds for other high priority projects (Guardroom etc) £32,720</p> <p>Due to the number of Councillors present at the meeting, a vote could not be held, but it was decided that the PC should ask Glanville to provide a specification (as agreed at the November 2022 meeting).</p> <p>CM to progress the 106 Application with WODC which had been refused on the grounds that the funding was not for <i>the enhancement and maintenance of existing play and recreation facilities within Stanton Harcourt and surrounding areas.</i></p>
<b>23/074</b>	<p><b>GUARDROOM</b></p> <p>Guardroom Solar Heating Project is ongoing.</p> <p>The PC are awaiting a quote to replace the external.</p> <p>A rota is required for covering the bookings at the Guardroom. MJ to cover July bookings.</p> <p>ACTION: TG to circulate the crib sheet for preparation of the Guardroom and put together a rota.</p>
<b>23/075</b>	<p><b>COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES</b></p> <p><b>MJ</b></p> <p>There had been no success with obtaining a Green Bin at the cemetery, CM suggested that</p>

<b>MIN REF</b>	<b>ITEM</b>
	<p>the best person to contact is Bill Oddie Action: TG to contact Bill Oddie.</p> <p>Two bins had been installed, one at the Guardroom and another at the gate through the the landfill, Both bins are Dog waste and Litter.</p> <p>The Play Inspection Reports had been passed to the maintenance team for action.</p>
<b>23/076</b>	<p><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p>A Finance update was circulated.</p>
<b>23/077</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE</b></p> <p><b>Noise at the Industrial Estate</b> – The PC had received a complaint regarding noise form the Industrial Estate during unsociable hours – the complaint had been forwarded to WODC.</p>
<b>23/078</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>Northmoor have issued a very good survey within their Parish. It was suggested the PC think about carry out a similar- GS to draft questions for approval at the next meeting.</p>
<b>23/079</b>	<p><b>NEXT MEETING:</b></p> <p>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September in the Old Guardroom.</p>

Signed .....

Date .....

## COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

### County Council Update – Dan Levy

*July 3rd 2023*

#### **Carterton to Oxford Railway**

The County Council commissioned a report on the feasibility of a railway from Carterton to Oxford via Witney and Eynsham. A line would greatly help those of us living to the west of Oxford and make the A40 more bearable. The report has said that the line would be technically and financially feasible, albeit with a probable cost of £700m to £900m. There is clearly a huge amount of work ahead to turn this aspiration into reality.

There is an interesting article in the Oxford Mail on the topic, featuring WODC councillor (and South Leigh resident) Charlie Maynard, who is the Chair of the Witney-Oxford Transport Group. [Witney campaigner says rail link 'urgent' as 1000s of homes planned | Oxford Mail](#)

I very much share the aspirations for the railway and like many people here, including my predecessor as County Councillor, believe that tinkering with the A40 won't solve our transport issues, but a railway could.

#### **Roads and Transport update.**

Botley Road remains closed at the Railway bridge. Can I remind everyone that trains continue to run into Oxford from Hanborough, and that many buses are terminating at Osney, with a pedestrian underpass into the city. Other buses, including the rerouted S1, are going down Woodstock Road. Predicted chaos hasn't happened! And the E1 journey is delightfully quick! However do note that there will be a closure of the railway at Oxford from 29th July for a couple of weeks.

Nuneham Viaduct has been repaired ahead of schedule and the line from Oxford to Didcot has been reopened.

Pulhams have been acquired by the Go-Ahead Group's Oxford Bus Company. It probably doesn't affect Stanton Harcourt residents, but OBC will be extending the £2 fare to the acquired routes from July 1.

First and Last Mile, which runs the service from Northmoor to Standlake, Stanton Harcourt, Eynsham and Hanborough. is still looking for volunteer drivers.

We are expecting the latest iteration of the A40 plans to be drafted this month, and go to Cabinet in July and again in September. More news when I get it.

The Shores Green junction improvements were approved by the County Council planning committee. This will make the easterly A40 Witney junction four way. South Leigh PC have ensured a set of interventions to try to discourage the use of South Leigh as a rat run. It will be interesting to see what effect the new junction has both to the south of the A40 and to Witney town centre. Traffic patterns will get monitored and if necessary there could be further intervention. The Park and Ride is taking shape. There was a find of an Iron Age settlement, which is apparently very interesting.

#### **Town and Parish charter.**

OCC is looking at developing a 'Town and Parish Council Charter'. Recognizing the importance of town and parish councils (incl. parish meetings) in local government, the charter would aim to strengthen how OCC works town and parish councils. The charter will be co-created through a

process of engagement, kicking off in July.

### **Hayfield Green**

I attended a meeting called by residents with the developer of the old airfield, to try to iron out issues with the landscaping. It was very constructive and should lead to an effective action plan.

Please do get in touch with comments, issues and concerns.

[Dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**1. Rail**

Rail consultants commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council have now completed their rail feasibility study and are close to completing their funding study. Key highlights include that the rail line is feasible and would be operationally profitable, it will likely be built in phases and would reduce journey times by up to 70%. Shockingly, AECOM, the lead road contractor for the current A40 works, is predicting that Witney-Oxford road travel times will be 30 minutes slower by 2031 even with the work they are currently carrying out to add a bus lane between Eynsham and the Wolvercote roundabout. Goals from here include to safeguard a route so it is not accidentally blocked by further building and to quantify how much funding is possible from private sources rather than the taxpayer.

**2. Sewage / Thames Water**

The news is dire. Thames Water was privatised with no debt in 1989 and now has a completely unsustainable £13bn of net debt. Ofwat has been asleep at the regulatory wheel, completely failing to ensure that these companies are run prudently. In order to get these companies on a sensible footing, the equity of the water companies will likely be wiped out by their losses, with debt write-offs and then much of the remaining debt will need to be swapped into new equity. What should not happen is the public taking the hit for the extended and gross financial mismanagement over the last three decades. Going forward the water companies will need to be run as sensible, boring public benefit companies which remain in private hands with reasonable but low rates of return and proper financial and environmental regulation. Locally, we are very concerned that Thames Water will now seek to reduce their commitments to expanding the capacity of their sewage treatment works.

**3. Hayfield development**

Steve Cosier and Steve Scott organised a very useful residents' meeting with a representative from Hayfield, Mark Gay. Approximately 30 residents met in the guardroom last Thursday to talk through their key concerns. Hayfield now has two weeks to revert to residents with a revised landscaping plan to which residents can give input. Once finalised that will be submitted to the district council's enforcement team. I'm in close touch with that enforcement team. If a solution cannot be agreed the next step is for WODC to enforce a breach of condition.

**4. Industrial site**

I've received reports of banging and crashing from the industrial site at anti-social hours. I'm talking to residents and will be following up with David Bury's representative on this. If it is not settled quickly, then it will be another for WODC Enforcement.

**5. The Moors, Ducklington**

We met with Environment Agency a few weeks ago who appeared to recognise that there are indeed severe problems with plans to put 120 homes onto a field with severe flood problems. We are exploring how the flood zones can be reassessed.

## ACTIONS CARRIED FORWARD FROM EARLIER MEETINGS:

	<b>ACTIONS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	
Pre-June	<b>GS</b> – 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	<b>21/064 TG</b> to create and circulate a list of current policies (a PC Policy Register) ready for review.	Cfw
CFW from July mtg	<b>21/092 All/PC</b> 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 <b>TG</b> to report on issue type statistics at future meetings (standard agenda point)	Cfw
	<b>21/097 S106 MJ</b> to obtain quotes for additional Play Equipment	Cfw
CFW from Nov mtg	<b>JD</b> to look at sensors for electric lights once transferred to the PC	Cfw
	<b>21/122 Public Session</b> Archive in the Guard Room? <b>GS</b> to see if we can install sufficient storage	Cfw
	<b>22/009 Village Hall</b> <b>GS</b> to circulate the original Car Park refurbish plan to the VHC for review for completeness <b>GS</b> to return to Parish Council with quotations for Car Park refurb	Cfw
	<b>22/010 RECREATION AREAS</b> <b>GS</b> 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	<b>22/0269 Welcome Pack</b> JD currently drafting a document	
CFW from April Meeting	<b>23/040 Guardroom</b> <b>MJ</b> to obtain a quote for a replacement door. <b>MJ</b> to ensure the guttering at the front of the building fixed. <b>JD</b> to produce a draft S106 submission for Guardroom Solar Heater for the next meeting. <b>GS</b> to continue to try to resolve the lighting issue, to enable the lights to be dimmable.	
	<b>23/041 Councillor Responsibilities</b> <b>KH</b> to arrange a training session with Dragon IT on Google workspace to enable all members of the PC to view bookings, etc <b>KH</b> to arrange for Dragon It to install the defined file store	