

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 4th July 2022

Present:

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

In Attendance:

1 Member of the public

Charlie Maynard (CM) District Councillor

MIN REF	ITEM
22/084	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Dan Levy (DL) County Councillor Lysette Nicholls (LN) District Councillor</p>
22/085	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>GS member of Village Hall Committee, during the meeting Beaumont Green was discussed at which point GS declared interest.</p>
22/087	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 6TH JUNE 2022</p> <p>Minutes had been circulated for comment and were approved for publication.</p> <p>KH confirm that he has submitted the 20mph proposal to OCC</p> <p>Posts have been obtained for the VH noticeboard. Waterproof backboard needed for Guardroom and Sutton noticeboards, posts needed for Sutton noticeboard.</p> <p>Matters Arising not covered on Agenda – See ‘Actions Annex’.</p>
22/088	<p>QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC</p> <p>Following last month’s report of issues with public areas of the Airfield Development it was asked whether any progress had been made by the PC. The PC responded that the issues raised were not the responsibility of the PC and should be raised with the developers - Hayfield Homes Ltd and then the Planning Department once all the conditions have been discharged to their satisfaction.</p>
22/089	<p>REPORT FROM DC/CC COUNCILLORS</p> <p>District: DL and LN unable to attend meeting – see annex for report (to follow).</p> <p>CM asked for a copy of the Stanton Harcourt 2007 flood report – Action GS to circulate to PC members and CM</p> <p>CM suggested that the PC review the ditches within their parish.</p> <p>CM asked how much S106 community funding was available – Action GS to provide an update</p> <p>KH confirm he would action as the ‘pothole superuser’ Action CM to provide access to training and the white paint spray etc.</p>
22/090	<p>PLANNING</p> <p>No applications to report.</p>
22/091	<p>GUARDROOM</p>

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	<p>The handover is nearing completion. The 106 payment associated with the Guardroom was an indexed payment, Hayfield Homes offered £6k which the PC accepted, which is slightly more than the payment was calculated to be. A budget was circulated for information.</p> <p>GS asked that the two remaining benches in the Guardroom garden be secured ASAP</p> <p>Rachel confirmed she will now obtain the two ring induction hob - Action Rachel GS confirmed that a pre-app for solar panels had been completed. If this is successful it is hoped to initiate a further S106 funding proposal.</p> <p>MJ requested all issued keys are registered.</p> <p>It was agreed that a separate bank account would be set up for The Guardroom</p>																														
22/092	VILLAGE HALL																														
	<p>The Solar Energy project – the project is progressing, with installation on schedule to commence in August 8th. The playground at the Village Hall will need to be closed for the duration of the installation. The 60% deposit has been paid.</p> <p>The Car Park Refurbishment – this was carried forward to the next meeting.</p>																														
22/093	MAINTENANCE CONTRACT																														
	<p>GS had circulated a draft contract, consisting of a standard contract with three separate schedules, one for grass cutting fixed rate per cut of £275, a second for grass and play area maintenance and a third for tree and hedge maintenance, these maintenance contracts based on an hourly rate of £14. All confirmed that they were happy with these contracts to be distributed – Action MJ.</p>																														
22/094	EMPLOYEE CONTRACTS																														
	<p>GS to circulate the proposed Clerk contract to all for comment.</p>																														
22/095	COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES																														
	<p>The PC approved the Responsibilities List published in the June Minutes.</p>																														
22/096	FINANCE																														
	<p>Both the PC Q1 finance actual against budget and the Guardroom start up budget were reviewed.</p> <p>It was suggested that the new Notice Boards were associated with the Burden donation and a note of this shown on each new notice board – Action TG & MJ</p> <p>It was noted that the maintenance figure appeared high for the 1st Q – all other figures on target</p> <p>Payments Made:</p> <table> <tbody> <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>J Deane</td> <td>Village Voice Print</td> <td>£80.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Various</td> <td>Village Voice Del</td> <td>£99.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dragon IT</td> <td>Subs</td> <td>£520.07</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G Sellars</td> <td>Guardroom</td> <td>£135.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Arnold</td> <td>Guardroom</td> <td>£213.60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R Smith</td> <td>Maintenance</td> <td>£174.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Woodward</td> <td>Maintenance</td> <td>£294.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J Woodward</td> <td>Grass Cutting</td> <td>£275.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	WODC	Bin Emptying	£148.63	WODC	Bin Emptying	£148.63	J Deane	Village Voice Print	£80.00	Various	Village Voice Del	£99.20	Dragon IT	Subs	£520.07	G Sellars	Guardroom	£135.00	R Arnold	Guardroom	£213.60	R Smith	Maintenance	£174.00	J Woodward	Maintenance	£294.00	J Woodward	Grass Cutting	£275.00
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22/097	CORRESPONDENCE																														
	<p>Bins – it was reported on social media than a further bin had been removed from the village. TG confirmed that Bill Oddy of WODC had been contacted – Billy is currently on</p>																														

MIN REF	ITEM
	<p>leave, but his reply would be circulated once received. Action TG to forward a map of bins to JD for updating.</p> <p>Hedge at rear of Beaumont Green – a complaint had been received regarding the hedge which backs onto the footpath being overgrown. MJ to draft a letter to the residents requesting the hedge to be trimmed.</p>
22/098	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>Village Voice Editor – The PC were sad to report that Sarah Watts would be stepping down from the post and will be publishing an advert in the September edition. The PC asked that this advert points to the PC Village Voice Policy which is on the Stanton Harcourt web site</p>
22/099	<p>NEXT MEETING: Monday 5th September 2022</p>

Signed

Date

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Council Update – Dan Levy

We are in, as you will have noticed, challenging times.

Covid advice

I had hoped not to have to mention Covid again, but numbers are rising rapidly. Can I pass on the advice from Ansaf Azhar, Oxfordshire County Council's Director for Public Health:

"It's been great for everyone to relax after the difficult last couple of years we've had with rules of varying kinds meaning restrictions on our lives.

"Currently there are no restrictions but there is still good, solid guidance that people are advised to observe to protect themselves and their families, particularly vulnerable and elderly people.

"The main bit of advice is to stay at home if you feel unwell – but it's also worth reminding people of all those things that we learned during the height of the pandemic to reduce the risk of COVID spreading.

"This includes ventilating indoor spaces and washing your hands. During periods of good weather being outdoors rather than indoors also helps reduce risks.

"We expect to see fluctuations in cases and it remains the case we need to learn to live with COVID, but we need to strike a sensible balance and I would ask people to take precautions while cases are on the rise. Let's enjoy the summer and our regained freedoms but keep in mind that COVID-19 hasn't gone away and we all need to play our part to live safely."

Cost of Living Crisis

We are in a period of rapidly rising prices. This affects everyone, but has a higher impact on people in many rural locations, if they have a reliance on motor vehicles and are not connected to the gas network. Although gas and electricity prices are rising quickly, there is at least a cap, unlike with bottled gas or tanked oil. The County Council is lobbying government to enable us to offer some support and we are bringing a motion to the Council meeting on 12 July to add force to this effort, I hope with cross-party support.

Vision Zero

Following the tragic deaths of cyclists in Oxfordshire, the county has adopted 'Vision Zero', a vision to eliminate road deaths and serious injuries in the county. The decision adds weight to efforts to improve cycle and walking infrastructure and reduce speeds. I was pleased to speak on behalf of this motion as County Active Travel Champion. Of course, it is easier to have a vision than to put it into practice - we must promote safe walking and cycling infrastructure especially at road junctions, and we have to apply our vision in the countryside as well as the city.

Some good news is that Oxfordshire has been granted extra powers to enforce traffic violations using ANPR cameras. This permission is for specific places, but we can apply for additional locations in the future. Up to now, only Cardiff and London councils have had these powers.

Speed limits

I am pleased that Stanton Harcourt's excellent proposal for 20 mph has been made to the County Council, and I will certainly support it, and try to get it approved as soon as possible.

Bus Improvements

The cabinet approved a plan to improve bus services and use the £12.7 million Oxfordshire secured from national government. The plan includes cheaper fares for under-19s, 2 new rural services (around Didcot and Bicester), and bus priority improvements and traffic filters (in Oxford). Improvements to bus stops, real time

information, and the quality of buses are also planned. The plan will be consulted on with the bus companies and needs government sign off.

I appreciate that such improvements might feel a bit remote for people off the main bus routes – but we are constrained by government policy and the availability of grants from central government. I and others will keep banging the drum for rural services.

HIF1 and HIF2

The cabinet of OCC have agreed to proceed with Housing Infrastructure Fund 1 ('HIF1'), consisting of 4 road / bridge projects around Didcot. While it is an inherited Conservative project, the Lib-Dem led administration worked to improve provision for active travel and public transport, as well as better mitigate cost risks to the council

HIF2 is the A40 project. The cabinet approved merging the project with the P&R project to give more flexibility in the finances and more control over timescales. There are still lots of areas that need improvement in the A40 plans, particularly to make crossing between Eynsham and Salt Cross safe and convenient.

In addition, the Shores Green project, to deliver westbound access to and eastbound access from the A40 at Cogges looks like coming for approval in the next few months. It may change traffic patterns to the south of the A40, and I would expect some new A40 avoidance routes.

As ever, I can be contacted by email or phone at any time.

Regards

Dan

District Council Update – Charlie Maynard
Charlie Maynard, District Councillor update, 4th July 2022

Flooding – various efforts are afoot to bring more clarity and action to flood preparation. I chaired a meeting of the Climate & Environment Scrutiny Committee on Jun 23rd and two key points from that meeting are as follows:

1. While the County Council is officially designated as the “Lead Local Flood Authority” it has historically delegated unspecified powers to the district council, which has been a bit of a fudge. This situation is now going to stop with the county and district agreeing and making public who has what responsibilities.
2. A permit is required from the Environment Agency before any landowner can carry out any work to “Main Rivers”. In practice, there are tens of miles of ditches in the ward that are designated as Main Rivers and the application for being granted a permit is confusing and convoluted. This has resulted in very little maintenance work being done to ditches and drainage channels, which is clearly bad news. This system isn’t going to be fixed overnight, but is something we are working on.

As part of this process, the parish council has kindly agreed to review the [Stanton Harcourt parish Flood Report](#) which was conducted on the back of the 2007 floods, with the goal of taking a view on what work hasn’t been carried out that needs to be carried out.

Potholes – the county council is developing a volunteer network of FixMyStreet “SuperUsers”. A SuperUser is a volunteer, typically one in each ward, who after a couple of hours training, has extra access to the Highways’ database so that he or she can upload pothole locations and receive some spraycans of paint to mark potholes for repair. Once a pothole is marked and entered into the system, the contractor’s commitment is to get it dealt with in 28 days. I found about this network through a fantastic SuperUser in Aston, Trevor. My near term goal is to find a SuperUser in each parish in our ward; a medium term goal is to work with colleagues to encourage take up in all of the wards in the district. The stellar Keith Hickson has volunteered to be the SuperUser for the Stanton Harcourt parish.

Bridleway/bike path linking Sutton to Eynsham – I’m exploring options for developing a viable bike path linking these communities, including talking to the various landowners, the regulatory rights of way aspects and quantifying the scale of work and related costs. I’m also looking into what would be the optimal surface which would work for the various user types, would be environmentally sensitive and be in keeping with the nature of the place. (Any expertise appreciated on any of these aspects).

ACTIONS CARRIED FORWARD FROM EARLIER MEETINGS:

21/117	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	22/006 20mph project KH to circulate Eynsham proposal for 20mph areas	Actioned
	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	