

Parish Council Report

Happy New Year!

It has been the strangest start to a year in living memory, no New Year parties, resolutions or celebrations. But with the vaccination programme up and running, and infection rates falling, 2021 is showing a little promise! Hopefully our third lockdown will be eased soon and we can begin to find some normality. In the meantime, our village support network remains in place to help those who need to isolate: shopping for essentials; collection of prescriptions; posting mail and parcels; walking the dog – or simply by being in touch. It's a bleak time of year to be isolated so even if you just need to chat please do get in touch, either directly with your street coordinator or email Bernadette Sachse: community@moulsford-pc.org.

The news late last month that the FotE planning application at the Old Vicarage had been refused by SODC Planning, was a huge relief. The Planning Dept refused for a number of reasons, many of them to do with the rural nature of Moulsford and our position in NWD AONB, as such the proposal was in contravention of a number of SODC planning policies. The efforts of the Moulsford Residents group to raise awareness of the application and ensure villagers were well-informed about the implications, resulted in a mass of wide-ranging objections from the village which were noted in the SODC's report. It's good to know that local views do matter in planning decisions; what a great community effort from Moulsford!

We have a couple of projects which have started in earnest this month. Firstly, the recreation ground project which has had the first meeting of the working group, chaired by Cllr Jo Baker. This is an exciting, wide-ranging project which will help us make the best use of our rec. Initially they are looking at the playground areas and equipment, Jo will keep us updated as things progress. Secondly, work has finally begun on the sewage treatment plant in Underhill. These works are scheduled to complete early Spring, in the meantime, please be aware there are road works and large vehicles working on Underhill at the moment.

A potential project for Moulsford is the rural gigabit voucher scheme. Andrew Harris, long-time resident of Moulsford, has agreed to coordinate the scheme for Moulsford and has provided information in this newsletter. With two grants currently available per qualifying premises it's possible to have the cost of the infrastructure upgrade covered by the vouchers if enough villagers sign up to the scheme. Please read through the details and contact Andrew if you need more information or are willing to express interest in the scheme.

Finally, in light of the severe impact of Covid on us all this last year MPC have advised SODC that no increase in the precept is required by the parish council for 2021/22.

Our next council meeting is on Weds 10th February at 7.30pm on Zoom, please apply to the Parish Clerk for an invitation if you'd like to join us.

Stay safe.

My dear friends,

In my last letter, which I wrote towards the end of November for the December edition of *Moulsford News*, I spoke about our current dark and difficult times. I am very aware that, after the brief respite of Christmas – and even that was not exactly the holiday we were hoping for, in many ways the time now is even darker and more difficult, with an even more infectious strain of the Covid-19 virus and daily deaths at an all-time high.

However, even in these gloomiest of days there are signs of hope and a glimpse of light at the end of the tunnel. The wonderful sight of snowdrops in flower, the first shoots of daffodils appearing above the ground, and evening dusk coming a little later each week remind us that Spring is coming. And this is a picture of the greater hope we have as the total of new daily Covid cases begins to fall, and the vaccination programme gets underway with great efficiency, thanks to our very dedicated local doctors and vaccination teams.

As a church we are currently in the season of *Epiphany* which runs from the festival celebrating the visit of the *Magi* (the Wise Men) on 6th January to *Candlemas* on 2nd February, when we remember Jesus being presented at the temple. On that occasion, a wonderfully faithful old believer, Simeon, met Jesus in the Temple and like the *Magi*, recognised that this 6 week old baby was the one he had been waiting for all his life and he was indeed the *light of the world*. And so the focus of this season is very much *Jesus – the light in the darkness*.

As I said at the beginning, we are in particularly dark times, but I firmly believe that as St John puts it: Jesus is *the light who shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it*

Whatever kind of darkness you are coping with at the moment, whether it is fatigue from the continuing rigors of lockdown (especially if you are having to supervise schooling at home), seasonal depression, anxiety about Covid-19, grief from losing a loved-one, or just thinking: *surely there must be more to life than this?*, I know from my own experience that Jesus can shine light into that darkness.

If you would like to explore that possibility, do join our forthcoming Alpha course. Details are below.

With warmest regards,



Andrew Petit, Vicar of Moulsford

andrewpetit@virginmedia.com

Telephone: 01491 651216



We shall be starting an online Alpha course by Zoom on Thursday 28th January at 8pm

Alpha is a series of informal sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation with plenty of opportunity to ask questions and for people to share their own point of view.

Please email Andrew for the Zoom link.

(If you only see this after 28th January, I shall be happy to give you a catch-up session.)

Church Services February 2021

Due to the current lockdown and at least until the end of February, there will be no services in the church. There will however be a joint Zoom service for Moultsford Parish Church and St Mary's Cholsey at 9.45am each Sunday morning.

Please email andrewpetit@virginmedia.com for a link to all Zoom services, both on Sundays and mid-week.

7 th February	2 nd Sunday before Lent	9.45am Family Feast	By Zoom-See above
14 th February	The Sunday before Lent	9.45am Morning Praise	By Zoom -See above
21 st February	1 st Sunday of Lent	9.45am Morning Praise	By Zoom-See above
28 th February	2 nd Sunday of Lent	9.45am Parish Communion	By Zoom-See above
7 th March	3 rd Sunday of Lent	<i>t.b.a</i>	<i>t.b.a</i>

From the 17th February, Ash Wednesday and every Wednesday in Lent there will be a short informal service with a Lent reflection, by Zoom at 8.30am

Monthly Coffee Shop

Gail Slinger



The next **Village Coffee** is on **10th February 2021 via Zoom**, so put on your kettles and have a great cup of coffee/tea with a well deserved treat and a good catch up chat.



Just send me your email address so I can reply with the Zoom link. (gailslinger2601@gmail.com)

January was a great start to 2021, more new faces and old faces joining in. It's lovely to see you all. A big thank you to the men for joining in, great topics of conversation.

A big thank you to Ted Morse for the Christmas live music at the December gathering, amazing as always and of course you never forget to wear your Christmas waistcoat. THANK YOU.

Maybe in 2021 we will get to meet again in the Pavilion, fingers crossed and three cheers for the vaccinations.

Oxford University Hospitals update

Janet Knowles

19th January 2021

Today the Oxford University Hospital NHS Trust has issued the following statements regarding their very significant pressures due to a huge increase in the number of patients admitted with Covid-19, and the changes they are making in order that they can safely care for all patients.

"To meet this challenge, we are focusing on **urgent and emergency care** for both COVID and non-COVID patients, as well as **urgent cancer care**.

- We are postponing all routine inpatient and day case elective surgery.
- We are still admitting patients in need of urgent surgery that cannot be delayed, including cancer patients.
- Where possible, outpatient clinics are continuing on our hospital sites in Oxford and Banbury and in the community, but our capacity is reduced, due to the issues outlined above, and so there will be unavoidable postponements of some outpatient appointments.
- We will continue to see urgent referrals and 2 Week Wait cancer referrals.
- Our diagnostic services are currently operating as normal.

"These measures are necessary so that our staff can prioritise the care of the sickest patients and maintain safe patient care during this unprecedented time for the NHS both locally and nationally."

"We appreciate how frustrating this will be for patients affected and we would like to apologise to them. We know that many people waiting for treatment will be disappointed or worried, and we are contacting everyone affected."

"We have not taken this decision lightly and would like to reassure our patients that we are taking all necessary steps to try to keep any disruption to an absolute minimum. We would like to thank our communities for your support and understanding at this hugely challenging time."

Patients affected will be contacted as soon as we are able to reschedule their planned surgery - patients will be rescheduled according to clinical need and length of wait.

Sam Foster, Chief Nursing Officer at OUH, adds: "Please help us to help you by following the lockdown rules in order to protect your local NHS, choosing the right healthcare service for your needs, and helping us to support your loved ones when they're ready for discharge from hospital."

Public Health Oxfordshire is urging us all to stay home as much as possible. Taking daily exercise but only making shopping trips when it is absolutely necessary. We are encouraged to shop locally wherever possible. Whilst infection rates are highest in the north of the county, significant numbers of people are being identified a Covid positive with no symptoms of the disease.

Stay safe, keep well and do use the community volunteer group if you need support.

BOSOM FRIENDS Oxfordshire Breast Cancer Support Group

This time last year, nobody had any idea what 2020 would have in store for us. The coronavirus pandemic has meant that the last few months have been challenging and difficult for just about everyone.

Hearing the news that you have cancer is devastating; receiving such a diagnosis during these uncertain covid times can be even more frightening. As well as the obvious physical effects, such a diagnosis is emotionally overwhelming and ultimately life-changing; it's common to feel alone, fearful and anxious.

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in the UK, with one in eight women being diagnosed in their lifetime. Men can also be diagnosed with breast cancer. Each year around 12,000 people will die from the disease. Although survival rates have improved dramatically – with more people now surviving breast cancer than ever before – there is still a long way to go.

Bosom Friends is a small, Oxfordshire support group run entirely by volunteers and offers a listening ear as well as practical, confidential support to those who have been affected by breast cancer. The group was formed several years ago by two women who wanted to ensure that others in Oxfordshire would not feel the same isolation that they had experienced following their diagnosis.

Members of Bosom Friends would usually meet once a month, often in the home of one of the members with a chat, cuppa and cake. Although currently unable to hold normal group meetings due to coronavirus Bosom Friends continue to hold monthly meetings online via Zoom.

Whether you have just been diagnosed, are currently undergoing treatment or completed your active treatment a while ago, the group offers emotional support and practical, up-to-date information. Above all, we can offer an understanding voice at the end of the phone should you ever need it.

If you or someone you care about has been affected by breast cancer, please do take a look at the Bosom Friends website - www.bosomfriends.org.uk; alternatively if you prefer, please call Jan in confidence on 01844 290362 for more information.

Planning Applications & Decisions

<p>Moulsford News and Planning deadlines invariably mean that the planning information above is out of date by the time of reading. For a current view of planning, please visit the online planning portal here: http://www.moulsford-pc.org.uk/community/moulsford-15214/planning-tracker/</p>		
P20/S4643/FUL Moulsford Preparatory School, Moulsford, OX10 9HR	Variation of conditions- 2 (Approved plans), 7 (New vehicular access), 8 (Vision splay details), 12 (Off-site highway works) & 9 (Turning Area & Car Parking) on application P20/S0173/FUL. Proposed erection of building for pre-preparatory school with associated outside teaching space, access, drop off and collection area, and landscaping	MPC No strong views SODC Considering.
P20/S4418/FUL Cranford House School Moulsford OX10 9HT	Temporary planning permission for 9 floodlights, until 30th April 2021 (As amended by revised layout and type of lighting accompanying email from agent received 4 December 2020)	MPC Object. SODC Considering.
P20/S2560/HH Tibetan Cottage, 3 Willow Court Lane, Moulsford, OX10 9HZ	Modernisation & extension of existing bungalow (As amended by new Proposed Site Plan, Tree Protection Plan and Arboricultural Method Statement received 20 October 2020).	MPC No strong views. SODC Approved.
P20/S3012/FUL Cranford House School, Moulsford, OX10 9HT	Variation of conditions 10&11 - pre-occupancy conditions on application ref. P16/S4099/FUL.	MPC No strong views. SODC Approved.
P20/S2071/FUL Cranford House School, Moulsford, OX10 9HT.	Lighting to the Astro Pitch (as amplified by revised Planning and Heritage statement and letter from Cranford House School dated 14 August 2020 and revised site plan containing tree information received 24 August 2020).	MPC Object. SODC Refused.
P20/S1220/FUL, FotE, The Old Vicarage, Moulsford, OX10 9JB.	Extra care development comprising 34 apartments.	MPC Object. SODC Refused.
P20/S4706/FUL Wallingford Road, between Goring and	Development and operation of a Transitional Hybrid Energy Project and associated infrastructure including access.	MPC Considering. SODC Considering.
Planning Enforcement Cases		
SE20/428 Land East of A329 and North of Cranford Lodge, Moulsford	Material change of use of land from agriculture to sports pitches contrary to terms set out in P18/S3748/FUL	
SE20/458 Barn Cottage, Willow Court Lane, Moulsford, OX10 9H	Erection of a fence exceeding 1m in height adjacent to the highway.	
SE20/427 Moulsford Manor, Willow Court Lane, Moulsford, OX10 9HU	Without planning permission the construction of a tree house.	

Full Fibre (FTTP) Broadband To Every Building in Moultsford?

Is it really possible?

YES!

Virtually all households and businesses in Moultsford qualify for additional funding towards installing gigabit-capable broadband to their premises under the government's Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme.

There are various options for enabling this to happen but recent research on behalf of the Parish Council indicates that:

- The more households and businesses in Moultsford that sign up for a service the better the chance we all have of getting support
- The significant fibre infrastructure build costs can be offset by the voucher scheme
- Households in Moultsford will need to commit to a 12 month contract with a supplier for download speeds that are double your current speed and at least 30 mbps through a gigabit capable connection. (Note these are the voucher terms, many suppliers ask for a two-year contract)

If you are interested in getting better broadband for your home and/or business in Moultsford please let me know. My name is Andrew Harris and I have volunteered to coordinate a village-wide approach with the hope that as many people that want it can get a broadband service that we all deserve and will increasingly need.

Further information in the form of a set of frequently asked questions is on the following pages. Please let me know if you have further queries.

My contact details:

Email: andrewharris56@icloud.com

Mobile: 07470449085

Gigabit Voucher Scheme for Rural Broadband (Moulsford) FAQ

What is it?

This is a scheme largely funded by central and local government with the goal of enabling better broadband services in rural locations. Rural areas suffer from a lack of digital infrastructure and companies are often reluctant to invest where populations are sparser as they perceive them as unviable.

Without getting too technical at this stage, the scheme supports residential and business premises to have Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) installed at relatively low cost.

How does this affect my household?

We understand that most households in Moulsford on average can get download speeds of approximately 20-30 mbps, Some may get higher speeds but we know there are parts of the village where the average struggles to hit even 20mbps. If you have a small household and use broadband for e mail/browsing and watching subscription channels like Netflix then you may be satisfied with the status quo but you should be aware that the speed you are getting now will not improve using the current technology and could well worsen.

The pandemic has shifted a significant chunk of the UK economy online faster than expected. More businesses are being run out of what was previously residential property and the pressure on communications because of the huge increase in the number of people working from home and the number of children learning from home is testing what was already a limited infrastructure.

How does the Gigabit Voucher Scheme work?

Essentially the strategy is that a group of residents/businesses group together so that they can apply for vouchers that cover the cost of building new FTTP infrastructure to their location up to the value of £7,000 for each premises. (It is important to remember that these are not cash grants but are monies given to whichever contractor agrees to undertake the installation).

It is true that an application does not have to be organised by any sort of official body like a Parish Council but the practical experience of others is that the more households that sign up to an application, the better chance there is of success.

How Much Does It Cost?

This is obviously a key question. The Parish Council's initiative is based on the idea that any build costs will be fully covered by the voucher scheme so there should be no capital costs payable by residents or businesses. However it does mean that monthly subscription costs may be higher and to be eligible for the installation you will have to sign up to the new service for a specific period.

Most service providers do not actually differentiate between broadband services delivered as FTTC (what we currently have – Fibre to the Cabinet) or FTTP. They differentiate by pricing speed thresholds differently. A condition of the voucher scheme is you are required to contract a broadband service using the new full fibre connection for at least twelve months. This must be at double of more the speed you currently get. In most cases by moving to say a 100Mb/s service from a 50Mb/s service, the increase in cost is marginal.

Although this may not be key to many, it must be said that good quality broadband is now a factor in how a house is valued.

Further Information

In Oxfordshire there is currently a voucher 'top-up' scheme which improves the potential funding from £1,500 (or £3,500 for a business), to £7,000 per premise. This top-up funding is depleting fast with over half of the £1m pot already committed in less than two months.

So far as we are concerned, the selected supplier will transact the voucher process on our behalf once we have individually agreed to pledge our respective vouchers (one per property). Further information can be found at;

<https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/>

<https://digitalinfrastructureoxfordshire.co.uk/>

There are 3 companies who have signed up to offer to complete the infrastructure work in Oxfordshire according to the Gigabit voucher scheme website above.

Openreach	Active in this area
Cerberus Networks	Active in this area
Airband Community	Active in this area

Without going in to too much detail now the Parish Council believes that a submission directly to Openreach stands the best chance of success as a village-wide option. We know that some residents and businesses at the North End of the Village are already in touch with Airband but it is not clear what the company's plans for a wider network are.

Whilst Cerberus Networks claim to be interested they are sending out some fairly blood curdling e mails about the cost of building new infrastructure without clarifying how these costs might be clawed back via the voucher scheme.

Practical Issues

It is likely installation will involve digging up roads and pavements so there could be some disruption. Premises which are listed will require consent for the works as it is Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) so into the house/business building.

The Way Forward

To take a village application forward, Andrew Harris, a long term resident of the village has agreed to act as coordinator and key contact entirely on a voluntary basis. We have already received help and support from the Digital Infrastructure campaign.

Led by Oxfordshire County Council the programme is partnering with local enterprises, city and district (and parish councils) to bring Full Fibre and 5G across the county.

In the near future, we are intent on submitting an application to Openreach for ten premises in Moulsoford. Once this is

accepted we will then start a campaign to get as many in the village that are interested to sign up, obviously the more the better.

For further information please feel free to contact Andrew at: E mail ; andrewharris56@icloud.com
Mobile : 07470 449085

Keep in touch!

If you're planning local events, doing something for charity, or simply have something to say, Moulsoford News wants to hear from you.

You can reach the editor, Paul Holmes by email:

moulsofordnews@moulsoford-pc.org.uk

For advertising contact Emma Reynolds at:
reynolds743@btinternet.com

**Deadline for March edition
Weds 17th February 2021**

Moulsoford Parish Council Meeting

Weds 10th February

7.30pm via Zoom video call

Please contact parishclerk@moulsoford-pc.org.uk for joining details should you wish to attend.

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The return service departs Tesco at **12 noon** returning to Moulsoford at approximately **12.45pm**.

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Service number	133	
GORING Railway Station	09:08	
Swan Hotel	09:11	
Streatley, Primary School	09:14	
Moulsoford Beetle & Wedge turn	09:18	
Moulsoford, Old Vicarage	09:19	
Cholsey, Papist Way jn. (A329)	09:22	
Wallingford Hospital	09:25	
WALLINGFORD Market Place	09:30	
Service number		133
WALLINGFORD Market Place		11:00
Wallingford Hospital		11:01
Cholsey, The Meadows		11:04
Moulsoford, Old Vicarage		R
Moulsoford Beetle & Wedge turn		11:07
Streatley, Primary School		R
Streatley, The Coombe		R
Swan Hotel		11:13
GORING Railway Station		11:23
WALLINGFORD Market Place		11:50

Service M1 is suspended until further notice

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Sorry, no service on Public Holidays

Please note: services are subject to change at short notice. Please check our website for the latest timings.

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The Pavilion is the ideal place to hire for your event and can accommodate a range of different activities. Standard hire rates as follows:

Hire Fees	Mon-Fri: Hourly fee up to 6pm	Mon-Fri: Hourly fee after 6pm	Weekend Hourly fee: Anytime
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Patrick Simpson

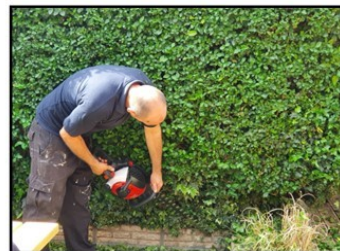
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Ben Partridge	22 Underhill	07828 902947	bpartridge@moulsford-pc.org.uk
Bernadette Sachse	4 Valley Close, Goring on Thames, RG8 0AN	07812 601975	bsachse@moulsford-pc.org.uk
Geoff Twibell (Parish Clerk)	Greenhill Cottage	01491 282979	parishclerk@moulsford-pc.org.uk

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Jane Murphy	Corner Cottage, High Street, South Moreton, Didcot. OX11 9AD	07970 932054	jane.murphy@southoxon.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Councillor

Mark Gray	5 Little Lane, Cholsey, OX10 9LX	01491 651333	limasheepdog@yahoo.com
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