

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 7th November 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: 4 Members of the public

Dan Levy (DL) County Councillor
Charlie Maynard (CM) District Councillor

MIN REF	ITEM
22/134	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Lysette Nicholls (LN) District Councillor
22/135	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST GS, KH and RA all reside on the B4449.
22/136	APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 3RD OCTOBER Minutes had been circulated for comment and were approved for publication. 22/121 – a letter to OCC regard to their Transport Strategy and B4449 had been drafted by GS and approved by all (subject to very minor changes) the Clerk is to submit the final copy. 22/129 – GS to represent the PC at the Remembrance Sunday event at the Church and the Guardroom. GS proposed that the PC supply the Guardroom free of charge for the event – all agreed.
22/137	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC No questions were raised.
22/138	REPORT FROM DC/CC COUNCILLORS County Council: see report in annex. District Council: CM attended and raised the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government had produced a leaflet containing information detailing the available support on the cost of living – CM would try to obtain a batch for the PC • Progress on the cycle path was still underway • There are now 'Pot Hole Super Users' in all neighbouring parishes • A further letter had been received from a Hayfield Green resident regarding the outstanding issue on the development – CM suggested that a Resident's Association should be formed to resolve the issues – TP confirmed that not many residents want to put themselves forward, it was also suggested that Hayfield Homes should hold a Public Meeting in the Guardroom to update the residents.
22/139	PLANNING No applications received. A draft 'Licence of Works' had been received for the Butts Piece Footpath – TG to circulate to all for comment. The PC and DC to continue to monitor for application on field opposite Flexney's Paddock

MIN REF	ITEM
22/140	<p>LITTER/DOG BINS</p> <p>MJ had met with Bill Oddy to discuss the agreed changes to the bins in the parish. It was confirmed by Bill that it is Publica's Policy for bins to be removed from bus stops – this concerns the PC.</p> <p>GS suggested a bin by the Guardroom Car Park as it is a footpath route. MJ requested that GS ensure that the proposed site is on an area which the PC is responsible for (i.e. on our deeds). Action GS to provide evidence of PC land ownership.</p>
22/141	<p>VILLAGE HALL</p> <p>Solar Panels – The back-up batteries are yet to be installed so the final payment cannot be made. It was reported that the trees were causing a shading problem on the solar panels. GS proposed the PC apply for planning for the trees to be trimmed, all agreed. MJ confirmed that a tree surgeon would need to be called in to do the work due to the height of the trees. VHC will manage this project including communication - GS</p> <p>Car Park – GS proposed the PC fund the initial scoping work for the development of the car park circa £4k – JD seconded; all were in favour. The Parish Council will appoint Glanville to undertake this work under the management control of the VHC. Deanfield will donate the use of an excavator and driver to excavate a trial hole. If the final scheme is in excess of the £20k donation GS proposed to submit a 106 application for the excess funding required. All agreed to this approach</p> <p>Village Hall Storage – GS proposed that the PC cover the cost (£8) to produce a questionnaire for the parish regarding storage at the village hall. KH seconded; all were in favour.</p> <p>GS confirmed that the hiring rates for the VH had been increased slightly – GS proposed the Guardroom rates for casual users be increased to mirror the Village Hall rates. All agreed – for all relevant booking from Jan 1st, 2023. GS will update the Hirer agreement</p>
22/142	<p>GUARDROOM</p> <p>GS proposed the PC purchase signage for the Guardroom and parking, possibly including a sign for Devils Quoits at approximately £250, MJ seconded, all in favour.</p> <p>Weeds around the Guardroom. GS Proposed that the PC maintenance team tidy the garden. Keith seconded this all agreed. MJ to arrange for weed killer to be put on gravel areas and the garden tidied ready for winter.</p> <p>Complaint received about 'non hall users' parking in this car park regularly – this restricts parking for Guardroom use. GS proposed we put up a small sign to advise that this car park is for the sole use of people using the Old Guardroom, all agreed.</p> <p>Defib has a flat battery TG to see if she can obtain a replacement battery for the Guardroom defib</p> <p>Outstanding Actions</p> <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 – Action: GS to obtain quotes. • Obtain an Internet provider – Action: JD to contact suppliers to progress. <p>Guardroom Finance</p> <p>Set up costs. £6K received. Circa £1,842 spent year to date</p> <p>On-going costs £1557 for rates, we have not received a water or electric bill yet</p> <p>Income £282 year to date</p>

MIN REF	ITEM
22/143	COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES KH – continuing to monitor and mark up potholes. MJ – proposed to purchase a 6’ living Christmas Tree, in addition to a 9’ cut tree, whilst the living tree is establishing. GS seconded, all in favour. TP – Speedwatch scheme is now officially registered, 2 volunteers have also registered. The equipment requires calibration, but the scheme would be operational very soon. GS – pleased with the Noticeboard installation. Confirmed that the NALC had agreed salary increase for Clerks. The increase is to be back-dated to April 2022.
22/144	VILLAGE VOICE An advert had been published in VV for a replacement Editor – no interest expressed as yet. RA to cover the role on a temporary basis after Christmas.
22/145	FINANCE A finance update was circulated to all. MJ asked for all 2023/4 budget costings to be submitted to clerk by 25 th November. The budget must be agreed at the next meeting. Payments Made: WODC Bin Empty £148.63 J Woodward Maintenance £400.07 J Woodward Grass Cutting £275.00 T Gasser Clerk £991.05 HMRC Clerk £493.67
22/146	BANKING ARRANGEMENTS A mandate was circulated for signature to move the PC bank to Unity Trust Bank, a separate account would be opened for Guardroom income.
22/147	CORRESPONDENCE A request for a grant for First and Last bus company received. MJ proposed GS seconded all agreed a grant £350 this year and to be put in budget for next years.
22/148	ANY OTHER BUSINESS 2023/4 Budget discussions to start in November with a view to agreeing budget in December – TG to circulate Finance report at November meeting. TG to see if we can arrange CPR and Defib training for the community Xmas Tree PC will purchase 6ft Circa £500 for planting and a Cut one 6-9ft for decorating. Eynsham food bank felt unable to support Stanton Harcourt residents from their charity. DL will follow up to see if they can be persuaded to support this village.
22/149	NEXT MEETING: Monday 5 th December 2022 – in The Guardroom

Signed

Date

COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

County Council Update – Dan Levy

County Councillor report.

November 2022 Stanton Harcourt

Cost of living

Cost of living support for low-income pensioners and families: OCC are sending a one-off payment of £85 to 11,000 lower income pensionable households to support with energy bills. Eligible residents will receive an Oxfordshire-branded letter from the 2 Post Office, redeemable for cash at Post Office branches. Schools and colleges will provide children entitled to free school meals with a £15 voucher.

£100K pot to help community organisations with energy bills: Applications for grants between £250 and £3000 can be made through the Oxfordshire Community Foundation. Expected to be popular - deadline is 21 November 2022.

Council Tax: WODC has agreed a new exceptional hardship scheme on top of the statutory council tax discount scheme that goes to WODC Cabinet next week. OCC has agreed to match the WODC discounts, which is important because the bulk of council tax receipts go to the County Council.

Council votes to request more energy support for off-grid residents: Many residents in rural areas live without access to mains energy and instead use heating oil, bottled gas, or other forms of fuel. That is certainly true in Stanton Harcourt. The leader of the council will write to government to request off-grid residents receive the same level of support (£400) as on-grid residents. Rather surprisingly Conservative councillors abstained on the motion on the basis that local authorities shouldn't "interfere" in central government decisions.

Care provision

OCC supports care business start-ups: OCC is supporting new 'micro enterprises' to become established care providers, helping local businesses to grow, and develop greater local choice for people looking for additional support. The Community Catalysts' programme takes people through the standards, so that new micro-enterprises have a thorough understanding of what it takes to deliver quality care. Over one hundred people have signed up and have the combined capacity to support one thousand people in the county.

Renewed call on government to fund Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND): OCC is appealing to the government to urgently address the national funding issues facing all local authorities providing SEND services for children and young people. The county council has also submitted to the Department of Education bids for two further special free schools.

Environment and transport

Tree services team successfully bids for funding: OCC tree services team has been successful in a bid to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Funding will be used to provide two new community tree and woodland planting officers who will work to increase tree cover across the county.

More sustainable streetlights policy: OCC has approved a new policy for streetlights to reduce impact on climate change and the environment. The policy considers the impact of light pollution on nature and dark skies in assessing where lighting should be added. When new lighting is necessary, dimming and reduction in operating hours will be used to preserve the night sky.

Parking standards for new developments: Developers will need to follow a revised set of guidelines when they consider parking provisions for new developments. New standards place much more emphasis on cycles, shared car clubs, and public transport than on multiple cars per household. A graduated approach is taken to allow for increased need for parking in rural settings.

Cheaper Park and Ride tickets up and running: Passengers can now buy a combined ticket covering both parking and return bus travel for £4 for a car with only 1 adult and £5 for a car and 2 adults. With both options, up to three children under 16 can travel for free. Drivers are encouraged to purchase a combined ticket through the RingGo parking app, or at one of the onsite ticket machines. You may have seen that work has started on the Eynsham Park and Ride.

Oxford traffic filters: Public consultation closed on 13 October 2022. The next step is for the cabinet to take a decision on 29th November 2022, where the cabinet will consider the outcomes of the public consultation and the closure of Botley Road for a year by Network Rail to accommodate improvements to the railway. Network Rail's decision is unwelcome, although the station improvements are needed and the bridge under the railway does need replacement. As a reminder, there will be nowhere in the city that cannot be reached by car. The filters just make the route different, to speed up buses.

Salt Cross Garden Village. The consultation on the planning inspector's amendments to the WODC Area Action Plan has now closed. The County Council, along with many residents and groups, and along with WODC itself, has strongly called for the obligation for new housing to be Net Zero to be put back into the plan.

Freight strategy. The cabinet member responsible has suggested that the new strategy is being prepared. I will continue to press for heavy traffic to be routed away from Sutton.

Policing. I met last week with the Police and Crime Commissioner and with the head of the Thames Valley roads policing team, and reminded them that speed management is an important part of their responsibilities. They are of course strapped for resources.

As ever, please contact me with comments, queries and suggestions.

Dan Levy
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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) <hr/> 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 <hr/> 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 TG to investigate a separate bank account for Guard Room Accounts.	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 <hr/> 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	