

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting held on Thursday 17th October 2019

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|------------------|--|
| <b>Attendees</b> | Cllr. James Nettleton (JN)<br>Cllr. Graham Howlett (GH)<br>Cllr. Mike Black (MB)<br>Cllr. Peter Ablett (PA)<br>Cllr. Duncan Howlett (DH)<br>Cllr. David Turner (DT) (SODC)<br>Martin Baldwin (MEB) (Clerk) |
| <b>Apologies</b> | Cllr. Lorraine Lindsey-Gale (LLG) (OCC)  |

| Ref   | Item   | Notes   | Action   |
|-------|--|---|--|
| 55/19 | <b>Introduction</b>  | The Chair (JN) opened the meeting and welcomed all present.   |  |
| 56/19 | <b>Apologies</b>   | Cllr. Lorraine Lindsey-Gale (OCC)   |  |
| 57/19 | <b>Minutes of the last meeting</b>                         | The minutes of the Newington PC meeting held on Thursday 1st August 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.   |  |
| 58/19 | <b>Matters Arising (not on agenda)</b>                     | None.   |  |
| 59/19 | <b>Holcombe Lane Update: Speed Issue &amp; Road Damage</b> | <p>It took 12 weeks to try and sort everything with Thames Water, but now the repair is repaired and completed. Special thanks to Mike Black for all the work in processing this.</p> <p>Dangerous pothole was put on FixMyStreet in May 2018 and again on 19/7/19, but has not been acted upon by OCC. The road is adopted and should be maintained by OCC. PA will keep chasing until it is fixed.</p> <p>MEB will liaise with PA and write to LLG at OCC and ask her to get on the case.</p> <p>To proceed with a 20mph speed change, it would need a survey costing about £250 plus approximately £3120 to cover legal and administrative costs. OCC has no money for this and nor do NPC. Agreed not to proceed at present, but leave it as a future possibility. MEB to report back to LLG.</p> <p>Agreed to put a sign saying “<b>Please drive carefully</b>”.</p> <p>PA to order with an agreed budget allocated of up to £75.<br/>MB will determine its positioning.</p> | <p>PA</p> <p>MEB</p> <p>MEB</p> <p>PA<br/>MB</p> |
| 60/19 | <b>Open Forum &amp; Village Matters</b>                    | None.   |  |
| 61/19 | <b>District Councillor Report</b>                          | DT - SODC monthly report, which follows as <b>Appendix A</b> .<br>PA to make a grant application to SODC for Church Revival.  | PA   |

|                        |  |   |              |
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| 62/19                  | County Councillor Report               | LLG - OCC monthly report, which follows as <b>Appendix B</b> .  |              |
| 63a/19<br>JN           | SAD Speed Awareness Device             | Approximate cost of £4000 depending on the model. Agreed to proceed with asking Highways to source, supply and install the SAD and ascertain how much they will pay towards it, together with funds from NPC. DT agreed the Community Infrastructure Levy CIL can be used for the SAD.<br><br>DH speak to Charles Pearce.<br><br>The Dragon's Teeth and White Gates will be followed up at a later stage. | MB<br><br>DH |
| 63b/19<br>DH/GH        | Community Liaison/Notice Board Control | None.   |              |
| 63c/19<br>DH/GH        | Planning Applications                  | None.   |              |
| 63d/19<br>PA/MB        | Church Revival                         | PA has obtained 2 cost estimates which are being considered and is continuing to develop the project.<br>The Fundraising working party met recently and Bianca has drafted a fundraising plan looking at numerous funding possibilities.<br>MB presented progress on Car Parking facility, which is essential for the Church revival plan.  | PA<br><br>MB |
| 63e/19<br>MB/JN        | Event Co-ordination                    | The Great Fun Run was postponed until Spring 2020.<br>Tennis Tournament date to be determined.  | JN<br>JN     |
| 63f/19<br>MEB          | Website Management                     | Received a refund of £157.50 from VisionICT.  |              |
| 63g/19<br>PA/MB        | Neighbourhood Plan                     | No plans to produce one at this stage.  |              |
| 63h/19<br>JN           | PAGE (Gravel Extraction)               | Very good news for Newington. We have not been chosen as the current site. Nuneham Courtney site has been chosen. However, in 12 years time they may need another site so PAGE have decided to keep the Mini Page group going. JN remains on Mini PAGE.<br>An email newsletter and website update will be published. JN will issue this.<br><br>Thank you given to everyone on PAGE for this result.      | JN<br><br>JN |
| 63i/19<br>MB/GH/<br>PA | New Highways/<br>Potholes              | None.   |              |
| 63j/19<br>JN           | Responsible Financial Officer          | In a good healthy financial position, with Precept & CIL income.<br>One cheque approved and signed for Clerks salary & expenses.<br><br>Once we know what the SAD will cost we will inform Parishioners with hope that there will be contributions. Also apply to LLG OCC for next years budget.<br><br>Close Church Feasibility fund.  | JN<br>JN/MB  |

|                       |                                     |   |  |
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| <b>63k/19<br/>DH</b>  | <b>Footpaths</b>                    | None.   |  |
| <b>63l/19<br/>MEB</b> | <b>Upcoming<br/>Training Events</b> | None.   |  |
| <b>64/19</b>          | <b>AOB</b>                          | None.   |  |
| <b>65/19</b>          | <b>Date of Next<br/>Meetings</b>    | Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 @ 7.30pm. |  |

**Signed:** ..... Chairman

**Date:** .....

## APPENDIX A

### SODC Councillor's Monthly Report October 2019 From Councillor David Turner

**Local Plan 2011/2034.** You will have seen or heard on the local media that Robert Jenrick MP (The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) issued a notice on SODC 24 hours before our Full Council Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October preventing SODC from doing any more work on its Local Plan until he had time to review the situation. SODC asked for more clarity before the meeting as our QC maintained that the wrong legislation to halt us debating the SODC Cabinet's recommendation at Full Council had been quoted. This clarity did not come in time for the meeting and so 36 public speakers were denied the chance to address the Council Meeting. Many people have seen this action as an attack on Local Democracy. We await more statements from the Secretary of State. I will keep you informed of developments.

**Reminder Councillor grant scheme is open.** The SODC Councillor Grant scheme is now open for applications. I have a budget of £5,000 in total to award to projects or services that will benefit communities. Full details are to be found on the SODC website [www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/grants). The closing date for applications is January 10<sup>th</sup>. However, to ensure the budget is not all gone and to enable me to prioritise my finite budget please submit your bids by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019. The Grants team has sent your clerk some guidance notes, but if you have any questions or queries in the meantime, please email the Community Enablement team via the SODC website or phone 01235 422405.

**Other SODC Grant Schemes.** Please see the website for the rest of the grants available and the procedures to follow.

**New Councillor guide on Modern Slavery.** From time to time Councillors may be asked about how SODC deals with Modern Slavery issues. Our Community Safety Team work very closely with partner agencies to tackle cases of Modern Slavery in our district and would like to share with you two publications that might be useful to you by opening the hyperlink:

**Councillor Guide to Tackling Modern Slavery**

**Tackling Modern Slavery: Council Case Studies**

For further information you can contact the Community Safety team by email or by calling 01235 422590

**Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.** The new Climate Emergency Advisory Committee met on 19 September and unanimously recommended that the council should aim to become carbon neutral by 2025 and the whole district by 2030. Among the other topics discussed by the committee included the council's response to the climate emergency through its policies and projects, and how it runs its day-to-day operations. These recommendations went to and were passed at Full Council on October 10<sup>th</sup>. For more details see the minutes of the Council meeting on the SODC Website.

**Car free day.** Sunday 22 September is World Car Free Day. To mark this occasion, we've launched a competition to promote the benefits. If drivers in South or Vale pledge not to use their cars on World Car Free Day on 22nd September and then tell us how they got around instead, via our website, they will be entered for a draw for travel vouchers worth £50.

**Voter registration updates.** We've just sent reminder letters to around 43,000 homes who are yet to respond to our yellow 'Household Enquiry' form. Last month, we sent a letter to all homes across South and Vale requiring people to confirm the details of everyone over the age of 16 who currently lives in their property. We need this information to make sure everyone who is eligible to vote is able to do so in any forthcoming elections. So far more than 80,000 properties have responded. A household who failed to respond by 5 October will receive a visit from one of our officers to confirm the details.

**David Turner, SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)**  
**14th October 2019**

### **SODC Councillor's Monthly Report Update**

**Homelessness consultation.** We are asking people for their views on a new strategy to address homelessness and rough sleeping. By law, we are required to publish a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy every five years - our current strategy ends in 2020 and we've now launched a six-week consultation on a new strategy which would last until 2025. Anyone who would like to view the draft strategy and submit their comments should visit <https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/Homelessness2019/> before 5pm on Monday 25 November 2019. Last year, thanks to our strong focus on prevention, early intervention and access to sustainable accommodation, we helped more than 1,000 households avoid homelessness.

**Election jobs.** We are looking for additional people to sign up to our list of temporary staff to help run any forthcoming elections. If you know anyone (18+) who might be suitable to work in a polling station or help out at an election count then please encourage them to visit our South or Vale election jobs pages on the SODC website to find out more and apply.

**Brexit pages updated.** We have updated our South and Vale advice pages on Brexit. They now include more information for EU nationals who wish to continue to live and work in Oxfordshire after Brexit by claiming EU Settled Status.

**David Turner, SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)**  
**17th October 2019**

## **APPENDIX B**

### **REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS OCTOBER 2019** **FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE**

#### **Councils commit to cutting traffic congestion and improving public transport into Oxford**

Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council announced bold plans to tackle congestion on all major routes into Oxford and improve public transport connections into and across some parts of the city, particularly the city's eastern arc.

The key points of the 'Connecting Oxford' proposal are:

- Restricting car traffic by introducing additional 'bus gates' (similar to the restriction on Oxford's High Street) across the city to improve journey times for people travelling into and around the city, and so road space can be reallocated to improve walking and cycling routes
- New high frequency fast bus routes connecting neighbouring towns and the Park & Rides to Oxford's eastern arc, which is seeing the greatest growth in employment but is currently less well served by public transport, particularly around the ring road
- New and improved cycle and walking routes, including utilising space created by removing vehicles from the road to provide safe and attractive alternatives to driving into and around the city
- A charge for workplace parking provided by larger employers in the eastern arc, which would help fund the proposed transport improvements and create a disincentive to drive to work. Discounts for the new bus services would be available for staff of employers paying the workplace parking levy
- Improved journey times for commuters driving into and around the city as a result of less congestion

The combination of traffic restrictions and the introduction of a workplace parking levy create positive incentives for commuters and residents to use other modes of transport, and for employers to reduce the incentive to provide free or subsidised parking for staff. Nottingham introduced a workplace parking levy in 2012 that continues to fund improvements to its local bus and tram network.

The two councils are now asking for comments and ideas from residents, commuters, businesses, transport operators and other organisations to feed into the detailed development of the proposals. The feedback will be used to develop a detailed project proposal, including a full business case that sets out the costs and benefits of the scheme.

#### **People with hidden disabilities to benefit from Blue Badges**

People with hidden disabilities, including autism and mental health conditions now have access to Blue Badges, removing the barriers they experience when they travel. This is a national change to the service being introduced by the Department for Transport as part of the governments Inclusive Transport Strategy. The County Council administer this service locally on behalf of the Department for Transport. Under the new guidance, Blue Badges will be extended to those with hidden disabilities, including:

- People who cannot travel without risk of serious harm to their health and safety or someone else's
- People who cannot travel without "very considerable psychological distress"
- People who have very considerable difficulty when walking, meaning "both the physical act and experience of walking"

**To be eligible for a Blue badge an applicant must meet one of the two eligibility criteria set out in the legislation which governs the scheme.**

- **'Eligible without further assessment' (Previously known as 'automatic')**
- **'Eligible subject to further assessment' (previously known as 'discretionary').**

**Full details of the Blue Badge service in Oxfordshire, including eligibility and how to apply can be found [here](#).**

**Contact: Mark Peet, Service Manager – Customer Service Centre, [Mark.Peet@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.Peet@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)**

### **Roadwork permits will reduce delays for road users**

New powers have been approved that will give Oxfordshire County Council more control over roadworks. From December the council will introduce a new system that means companies wanting to work on roads around Oxfordshire will have to apply and pay for a permit in order to work on the highway.

These will clearly set out how the work will be done, the duration, times of work and how traffic will be managed. When there are clashes between different sets of work the council will also require companies to collaborate more closely to minimise disruption. Companies that need to work on the roads will benefit from the fact that securing a permit means that they have effectively booked the road space that they need. The permit scheme operates to conditions that are the same across the UK, meaning it will be easier to work consistently across council borders.

While the council will have the power to refuse permission for planned work to take place if it believes the proposed timings or planned approach will cause unnecessary disruption, emergency unplanned work needed for things such as pipe bursts will be unaffected.

The council's highways team hope to achieve a reduction in roadwork duration - removing around 8,900 days of work from Oxfordshire's roads annually – around a 10% reduction.

### **Oxfordshire County Council works on action plan to go carbon neutral**

Following last week's climate strikes, Oxfordshire County Council has confirmed its commitment to reducing its own 'carbon footprint' to zero by 2030.

The council started a long-term programme five years ago to cut carbon emissions but accepts that young people have challenged organisations such as the county council to move faster.

Since the county council motion in April 2019 acknowledging the climate emergency, the council has been working on a new action plan to accelerate the climate action programme to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The council has already delivered an average 6% per year reduction in carbon emissions since 2011 – double its target - but is determined to do more. Oxfordshire County Council is delivering a series of 'green' initiatives, including helping install more solar panels on schools.

Project LEO – local energy Oxfordshire – is another example of partnership working, with the county council joining a consortium led by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, together with the universities and Oxford city council to develop a localised approach to sustainable energy generation and use.

As part of its 'big switch', the council is committed to replacing street lights with low energy lighting over the next four years. This will reduce Oxfordshire's greenhouse emissions from streetlighting by 70%. The investment will also include a communications system between streetlights, allowing dimming of groups of lights when they're not needed.

The council supports a 65-strong network of Community Action Groups (CAG) at the forefront of community-led climate change action. They organise events and projects on issues including waste, transport, food, energy, biodiversity and social justice.

Groups are working to establish community fridges to reduce food waste and share surplus. They run workshops, teaching residents how to repair items, keeping products in use for longer. Working with local businesses, they help them reduce their impact on the environment and set up refill stations for water and detergents to reduce waste from single use plastics.