

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting held on Thursday 27th February 2020

Attendees	Cllr. James Nettleton (JN) Cllr. Graham Howlett (GH) Cllr. Mike Black (MB) Cllr. Peter Ablett (PA) Cllr. Duncan Howlett (DH) Cllr. David Turner (DT) (SODC) Bianca Rush (BR) (Clerk) Sam Shelton (Parishioner)
Apologies	Cllr. Lorraine Lindsey-Gale (LLG) (OCC)

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
01/20	Introduction	The Chair (JN) opened the meeting and welcomed all present.	
02/20	Apologies	Cllr. Lorraine Lindsey-Gale (OCC)	
03/20	Minutes of the last meeting	The minutes of the Newington PC meeting held on Thursday 12 th December 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.	
04/20	Matters Arising (not on agenda)	OCC Community Emergency Planning Survey – response required by 31 st March 2020. PA to respond. NPC to receive CIL from local development. Agreed that funds should be put towards Speed Awareness Device. MB – Raised possibility of NPC holding a VE Day event for the 75 th Anniversary this year. All to circulate ideas.	PA ALL
05/20	Open Forum & Village Matters	None.	
06/20 DT	District Councillor Report	DT – SODC monthly report, which follows as Appendix A .	
07/20 LLG	County Councillor Report	JN - OCC monthly report, which follows as Appendix B .	
08a/20 JN	SAD Speed Awareness Device	MB to write letter to Highways enquiring if there is budget to support installation. Approximate costs of £4,500. CIL funding to support installation, and LLG may have grants budget to support. BR to email LLG and enquire about grant.	MB BR
08b/20 DH/GH	Community Liaison/Notice Board Control	Nothing to report.	
08c/20 DH/GH	Planning Applications	None.	
08d/20	Church Revival	Thanks to DT for kind grant of £1,420 to support the project.	

PA/MB		Thanks to local architect Sam for producing detailed drawings of the proposed car park. Drawings reviewed. Church working party met on 26 th February; PA updated council on latest developments. Agreed that working party should get quotes for development of car park and seek planning advice.	PA
08e/20 MB/JN	Event Co-ordination	Four Scots Snipers to hold open house / experience day at Newington House in June. Date TBC	JN
08f/20 BR	Website Management	Nothing to report.	
08g/20 PA/MB	Neighbourhood Plan	No plans to produce one at this stage.	
08h/20 MB/GH/ PA	New Highways/ Potholes	Leak in Holcombe Lane still yet to be fixed. MB to visit and assess severity.	MB
08i/20 JN	Responsible Financial Officer	JN submitted the up to date cash accounts. The state of finances is good. Three payments approved and cheques signed: OALC Subscription £140.42 SODC Uncontested Election Invoice £100 Martin Baldwin Clerk Final Invoice £182.72	
08j/20 DH	Footpaths	Nothing to report.	
08k/20 BR	Upcoming Training Events	None.	
09/20 JN	Update on Recruitment of Parish Clerk	New Clerk Appointed.	
10/20	AOB	None.	
11/20	Date of Next Meetings	Thursday 16th April 2020 @ 7.30pm. Other dates for 2020: 21 st May - AGM 16 th July 15 th October 17 th December	BR

Signed: Chairman

Date:

SODC Councillor's Monthly Report January 2020

Oxfordshire Councils awarded cold weather funding to help people experiencing homelessness. Five Oxfordshire councils have been awarded more than £92,000 in government funding to support homeless people this winter. The £92,708 award from the Cold Weather Fund will help the county's city and district councils provide services for people experiencing homelessness. These include up to 24 beds across Oxfordshire. The Cold Weather Fund award will support a number of projects:

Cherwell District Council is commissioning five winter beds in Banbury for people with complex needs and £25,000 will help meet running costs and to provide individual tenancy support to residents. This will help them to engage with health and support services and maintain their accommodation through budgeting and claiming all necessary benefits.

A further £25,000 goes towards personal accommodation plans for people in Oxford who are rough sleeping or at risk of doing so and whose needs are harder to meet in a hostel or winter shelter – an example would be using council temporary accommodation for someone leaving prison who wants to avoid contact with alcohol or drugs.

£18,750 will fund the employment of a hospital-based embedded housing worker with a countywide remit. The embedded housing worker will advise NHS staff on housing and homelessness prevention options, helping them provide better support to their own patients. An example of this would be preventing delayed transfer of care ("bed blocking") by helping someone find or return to accommodation.

Embedded housing workers in hospitals helped end or prevent homelessness for half (49 percent) of completed cases during the pilot Oxfordshire Trailblazer project that ended earlier this year.

£15,000 will help provide accommodation and extra staffing at the winterlong shelter that opened in Oxford at the beginning of November. The winter shelter provides up to 13 beds that are open to anyone experiencing homelessness – whether or not they have a local connection or recourse to public funds.

The winter shelter is currently operating on an interim basis at Simon House and will transfer to the new assessment centre and shelter in Floyds Row in January. Access to the winter shelter is through the assessment and outreach team, OxSPOT.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are providing six winter beds for people experiencing rough sleeping in their areas. £8,958 will allow the councils to employ two night time workers and safely increase capacity for these extra beds in an existing supported accommodation project.

Letter from Council Leader to Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, Cllr Sue Cooper, sent the following letter to the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State Housing, Communities and Local Government:

Dear Mr. Jenrick,

On Thursday 19 December, South Oxfordshire District Council passed the following motion:

“Recognising the financial position of the Council, and the need to ensure that residents are represented by a robust and sustainable council, officers are asked to bring forward proposals for South Oxfordshire District Council to consider whether or not a formal merger with the Vale of White Horse District Council, with the same total number of District Councillors, creating a single district council based on their combined geography with increased financial resilience would be beneficial. This work should also consider the options for the development of Area Committees within this model, to ensure that decision making is devolved to the lowest appropriate level. Should any formal merger proposal be developed in future, the Constitution Review Group will be asked to recommend appropriate constitutional models for consideration by Council.”

The South and Vale Business Support team at South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils is celebrating after winning an important national award. The team was presented with the Institute of Economic Development 2019 Greatest Economic Impact Award a national conference in recognition of the councils’ successful ‘Stronger Economy – Start-Up’ initiative, which stimulated the local economy by supporting 87 new businesses to start up in just 18 months. This was achieved by holding practical workshops in Didcot, Faringdon, Berinsfield and Shrivenham. The team was praised by Sir Howard Bernstein, IED Patron, and Bev Hurley, Chair of the Institute, for attending each business workshop to raise awareness of the councils’ support and to provide general reassurance to people thinking of starting their own enterprise. Residents attending said they felt encouraged knowing the councils’ team is available to support their business growth and help signpost them to new opportunities.

SODC Local Plan. We are still awaiting information from the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State Housing, Communities and Local Government what he is proposing to do about the Local Plan. You will recall that on October 9th 2019 he prevented SODC having any discussions about a way forward. We hope that with the General Election over he will be soon making the position clear.

David Turner
SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)
1st January 2020

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS – FEBRUARY 2020 BY LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

County Council budget offers Oxfordshire residents new investment in social services, schools and roads

Proposals for an “investment budget” to reduce neglect, ill-health and social isolation will be considered by councillors when Oxfordshire County Council sets its budget on Tuesday 11 February, following resident and business consultation.

The proposals include community support for vulnerable people so they can live independently for longer, and more help for struggling families to reduce the chances of children having to go into care.

Funding for children and adult social services would increase by **£30 million** next year, including an extra £8.1 million from the government. This money is needed to support an increase in adult social care needs for both older and disabled people, as well as the increasing number of child protection cases, which has grown in line with national trends.

The budget proposals also include investment in infrastructure across the county, such as an extra **£50 million** for new and existing schools over ten years. Most of the funding comes from housing developers to meet the need for more pupil places in Oxfordshire.

The county council proposes to spend **£30 million** in 2020/21 from its capital budget on repairs to roads, bridges, drainage and footways across Oxfordshire's towns and villages, with major schemes scheduled in Banbury, Abingdon and Witney.

New funding of **£3 million** per year is proposed to improve local road safety and accessibility, including new pedestrian crossings, improved junctions and better bus stop facilities. These measures are designed to encourage walking and cycling as part of the council's commitment to improving air quality and active lifestyles.

Responding to climate change features prominently across budget proposals, including support for sustainable travel such as improving park and ride services on the A40, and the replacement of over 50,000 streetlights with energy-efficient LEDs. However all budget proposals have to consider the climate change agenda and how the county council will meet its carbon neutral target by 2030.

Go ahead for full business case for project to reduce congestion into and around Oxford

Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council cabinets have approved plans to develop a detailed business case for a project to reduce congestion on routes into and around Oxford, improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions.

The aim of “Connecting Oxford” is to make a real improvement to journey times for commuters, other travellers and quality of life for residents and visitors, including improved air quality.

This will be done by reducing the number of cars travelling into and around the city and encouraging more people to travel by buses, walking and cycling. The business plan was informed by a survey run in autumn 2019 on an outline of possible proposals. Over 3000 responses were received from residents, employers and other major city organisations including the NHS and universities.

The plans include:

- Three new bus gates at Worcester Street, Thames Street and St Cross Road/South Parks Road to reduce the number of motor vehicle trips which pass through the city centre
- In the eastern arc of Oxford, an area that covers north, east and south-east Oxford inside the ring road
- A Workplace Parking Levy (WPL) is proposed across the eastern arc,
- Benefits to employers and staff include sustainable travel improvements and parking management; discounts on bus fares, park & ride buses and parking and discounts on bike purchases

Revenue from the WPL will also provide a locally controlled source of funding to be used for new and improved bus services as well as funding for additional Park & Ride capacity and better walking and cycling routes. There will also be a significant and rapid expansion of Controlled Parking Zones (CPZ) across Oxford, including nine new CPZ areas.

Plans to go ahead with the steps included in the study will be open to further input by the public, business, employers and other city organisations to address concerns and technical details. This includes the creation of a 'Connecting Oxford Partnership', involving several employers within the proposed WPL zone, to help shape the proposals.

Further public engagement work will be carried during the rest of 2020, with the next public consultation expected to take place in winter 2020/21.

New community library opens in Barton as part of the County Council's commitment to the service

A new community library has opened in the Barton area of Oxford as part of a community-led project between Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council and the Barton Community Association. The new community library is another sign of Oxfordshire County Council's commitment to its library service, with 44 libraries now serving communities across the county and a home library service supporting those unable to get out to their local branch. Botley Library will also move to a new home in the West Way development in February.

Despite the pressure to make saving across local government, with the support of residents and volunteers, Oxfordshire libraries remain open to serve all and at the heart of their communities.

New online waste information tool launched to help boost recycling rates

A new online tool has been launched by the council to help tackle the main issue inhibiting residents doing better at recycling; information. The new tool called Waste Wizard offers comprehensive information on what can and cannot be recycled, where to deposit it or if it can be repurposed or donated.

Waste Wizard uses postcodes and allows residents to identify what to do with a huge range of household objects and materials to avoid them being disposed of based on location. It works across all areas of the county, irrespective of district. It aims to inform residents of where and how to get some objects repaired or donated as well as recycled at local authority sites or from the kerbside. Oxfordshire has a commanding lead position in England for recycling with over 58 per cent of all waste is reused, composted or recycled in compared to the national rate of 45 per cent.

The online tool can be found at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard