

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting held via Zoom on Thursday 16th April 2020

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

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
12/20	Introduction	The Chair (JN) opened the meeting and welcomed all present.	
13/20	Apologies	Cllr. Graham Howlett (GH)	
14/20	Minutes of the last meeting	The minutes of the Newington PC meeting held on Thursday 27 th February 2020 were approved and signed by the Chair.	
15/20	Matters Arising (not on agenda)	Covid-19 – JN Updates all on steps NPC has taken: regular updates to parish website, useful links shared through Friends of Newington Facebook group, Village WhatsApp group, and thanked MB for his work compiling and distributing a flyer to all households in the parish containing useful local contact details, and BR for help with communications. Thanks to MB and BR. PA asks LLG if an emergency plan is a statutory requirement. LLG to investigate and report back.	LLG
16/20	Open Forum & Village Matters	None.	
17/20 DT	District Councillor Report	DT reviews SODC monthly report, which follows as Appendix A . DT has £2k budget for CV-19 support – please contact DT if anyone knows of any local groups in need of funds	
18/20 LLG	County Councillor Report	LLG reviews OCC monthly report, which follows as Appendix B . Updates RE: CV-19, all schools still open, every child has a place, LLG has a £15k grants scheme – BR to complete online application in support of Newington Church Revival LLG draws attention to the upcoming gravel extraction consultation RE Nuneham Courtenay Site	BR
19a/20 MB	SAD Speed Awareness Device	LLG to follow up with Highways – MB sending LLG correspondence to date. Continuing with progression, MB to chase Highways.	MB/LLG
19b/20 DH/GH	Community Liaison/Notice Board Control	Nothing to report.	

19c/20 DH/GH	Planning Applications	None.	
19d/20 PA/MB	Church Revival	<p>Last meeting at end of Feb. New head of Diocese Committee is in support. PA and Caroline had planned to get together to devise statement of need, however lockdown has delayed this.</p> <p>PA questions status of churchyard; If categorised as 'closed' NPC may become responsible for maintenance. To be discussed at upcoming meeting. PA to ask CK if the churchyard is closed. DAC recommend 100 year supply of burial plots to help our cause with the revival project.</p> <p>Next meeting Wednesday 22nd April.</p>	PA/CK
19e/20 MB/JN	Event Co-ordination	All delayed due to CV-19. No dates set yet considering uncertainty around when lockdown measures will end.	
19f/20 BR	Website Management	All up to date – have been regularly adding most recent CV-19 guidance.	
19g/20 PA/MB	Neighbourhood Plan	No plans to produce one at this stage.	
19h/20 MB/GH/ PA	New Highways/ Potholes	Signs still in place warning of potholes – no further progress. Blocked drain off main road, and water leak at end of the lane – both reported to Thames Water. DH to contact Thames Water to follow up.	DH
19i/20 JN	Responsible Financial Officer	JN emailed out cashbook to all councillors ahead of meeting. JN proposes to keep precept the same as last year. Precept agreed to be kept at £4,000 – seconded by DH. Cash position is healthy. CIL payments and grant money enable various projects to be funded, for example SAD.	
19j/20 DH	Footpaths	Nothing to report.	
19k/20 BR	Upcoming Training Events	None.	
20/20	AOB	MB raised issue of unrecognised vans travelling through the village. If suspicious vehicles spotted NPC recommends taking a photo of the van - <i>only if safe</i> to do so.	
21/20	Date of Next Meetings	<p>AGM - Thursday 21st May 2020 @ 7.30pm. Likely to take place via Zoom – contact newingtonparishclerk@gmail.com for joining instructions. All welcome.</p> <p>Other dates for 2020: 16th July 15th October 17th December</p>	

Signed: Chairman

Date:

SODC Councillor's Monthly Report April 2020

Coronavirus Crisis.

Waste service update (Tuesday 31st March). Most collections are running as normal. However:

- We have had to suspend our kerbside small electricals and textiles recycling service because the centres that would normally accept these items are currently unable to take them for processing. We ask people to keep these items until the service has resumed. Do **not** put them in the general rubbish or recycling bins because of the fire risk to bin trucks.
- We must remind people that gatherings like community litter picks should no longer be taking place until the government guidelines allow, and until our waste contractor is able to cope with the extra waste collection.

The waste team's well-tested service disruption plan is now in place.

Our waste contractor, Biffa, has suffered some staff shortages due to illness and self-isolation but is managing this by redeploying staff and using agency drivers.

However, with new crew members unfamiliar with the routes and in some cases fewer staff, it's likely that on occasions, crews might not be able to complete all of their daily rounds and so some bins might not be emptied on their usual collection day. We empty 200,000 bins every week and so even a moderate level of disruption to our usual staffing can cause delays.

- The advice for residents is as follows: if the bins in your street are not emptied, please leave them out for up to three days (including weekends) and we'll try to catch up. If still not emptied, bring them back in and we will empty them on the next planned collection day.
- We are working with Biffa to prioritise critical waste services. To help us with this plan we have suspended some non-essential services, including new bulky waste bookings, new garden waste subscriptions and investigating abandoned vehicles.
- We urge people to sort their waste carefully - food in food waste bins (you can put extra food waste in liners on top of your food waste bin) rubbish in black bins and clean, dry, loose recycling in their green recycling bins.
- We're also recommending residents wash their hands before and after taking the bins out to practice good hygiene for themselves and our bin crews.

We will prioritise food, rubbish and clinical waste collections and some elements of street cleansing, including emptying litter bins. We may have to suspend garden waste services so we can focus on essential waste collections, as other councils have, if this is the case, we will let everyone know through our social media sites and council websites.

Shielding our most vulnerable. Our most vulnerable residents across Oxfordshire will have recently received correspondence from the NHS, identifying them as high risk and advising them to strictly self-isolate for 12 weeks.

We know this long-term restriction may cause additional concerns for those without any nearby support and we want to make sure any shielded resident, who doesn't know where to turn, are not handling these additional worries alone.

Local authorities across Oxfordshire have worked with the local Voluntary and Community Sector, to develop a simple point of contact for those who have been told by government that they have been identified as extremely vulnerable, and who have no support network and would otherwise be completely isolated.

From tomorrow this new, dedicated line will provide our extremely vulnerable residents access to a central team who will be able to offer advice on a range of issues and will be operational from 8:30am to 8:00pm Monday to Friday, and 9:00am - 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday.

If you or someone you know has been identified as extremely vulnerable by the NHS and have no support network, please contact the dedicated team on 01865 89 78 20 or email shield@oxfordshire.gov.uk. If you live in Oxford City, you can also phone 01865 24 98 11 between 8:00am and 5:00pm or visit www.oxford.gov.uk/CommunityAssistance

For those residents who are not in a high-risk category but still in need of support, there are a number of initiatives taking place across the county. You can visit [Oxfordshire All In](#) or [Oxford Together](#) for more information on community support near you.

In South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse, anyone that is not considered high risk and does not have a support network around them to help, will be able to call their dedicated support line from 27 March at 9:00am on 01235 422600 or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

The County, City and District Councils in Oxfordshire are all working hard to maintain frontline council services, so for any queries related to everyday council service please check out the County, City or relevant District website. For more advice and information on Covid-19, please visit [Public Health England](#).

SODC Councillor's emergency £2000 budget for volunteers. I emailed you yesterday details of my budget for your comments and thoughts. Please respond to me as appropriate to your communities' needs.

SODC Local Plan. Following the direction from Robert Jenrick MP at the Cabinet meeting and subsequent Full Council meeting on 5th March we were left with no choice but to let the existing plan go to the Planning Inspectorate for examination at the EIP (Examination in Public) where we will argue the case for the changes to the Local Plan that want to see namely a reduction in the number of homes, less use of Green Belt and very importantly to us locally the removal of Chalgrove Airfield from the Local Plan. The target set us is to approve the Local Plan following the Planning Inspectorate decision by the end of 2020. Given the current Coronavirus situation it is now not clear if this is possible given the public participation which should take place during an Examination in Public.

David Turner
SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)
31st March 2020

COVID-19

These are unprecedented times, we all need to take care and follow the latest Government advice. Staff at the County Council are working flat out as we cannot simply close down or ask everybody to work from home, we are there to support and protect Oxfordshire's residents particularly the vulnerable. We are prioritising our work and where possible staff are working from home. There are some areas that will see an increase in demand at a time when some of our staff will become ill with the virus. There will be some changes as we have to prioritise our work to key areas.

The main area of work in Social Care for both adults and children has to continue on a 24/7 basis protecting around 7,000 residents. We expect the number of people requiring care to increase as informal carers become ill and are unable to continue care. This work is vital as it's important we keep as many people as possible out of hospital.

We are working closely with the NHS to provide care and facilities for those patients that do not require acute care to be cared for away from hospitals or at home freeing up beds for those that most need them. This includes the group that we need to shield from the virus who are thought to be most at risk across the county.

The Government are shielding the extremely vulnerable - approx. 1.5 million across the country full details can be found on the website: Extremely vulnerable. Currently those people identified by the NHS as extremely vulnerable will be contacted by the NHS by letter, email, text or all 3 to say that they need to isolate themselves at home for the next 12 weeks. They will be asked if they have any help to collect prescriptions and food, this may be supplied by one of the brilliant local groups that have been set up. If they don't have any help then they will be told to contact the council who will arrange a contact which again may come from one of the local groups. If somebody thinks they should be on the list and haven't been contacted by Sunday 29th March, then they should contact their GP or hospital clinician.

To assist in the logistics across the country there are Local Resilience Forums, we are in the Thames Valley are based around the Police authority area. These are where the blue light services (Police, Ambulance, Fire) link in with the NHS and local authorities to consider the high-level strategy. These then delegate down to the County to work with SODC and other Districts to coordinate the local hubs. The Government have seconded military planners to assist in the hubs which is where all the local community groups liaise in to the local networks. This is about all working together to ensure that we do not duplicate provision or even worse miss a vulnerable resident

The organic growth of the community networks or hubs that we are seeing being set up is fantastic. These groups are providing some excellent services to local residents who are self-isolating or do not have relatives locally. It's important that they are community led but we need to avoid duplication, so the County Council and Districts are working with Oxfordshire Volunteers to list them all and provide support where needed. I have already sent out details to you of how groups can register and a form for them to use. Thank you to those who have already submitted information about their parishes. Are there others out there that we need to know about?

If you are approached by people wishing to volunteer, they can register at:

<https://oxonvolunteers.org/vk/volunteers/index.htm>

SCAMS

Unfortunately, there are some cases of people taking advantage of vulnerable residents to cheat them into parting with money for various different bogus schemes. OCC Trading Standards are working with the Police monitoring the situation and will take action should there be a need. Should you be aware of anything please do not hesitate to contact me and I will pass the information on.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S PRIORITY FUND

The next issue of funds - £15,000 for each Councillor – becomes available on April 1st. If you are aware of any groups who would benefit from some financial support over this crisis period they can apply to me on line. They should apply in the usual way, making clear their urgent need and marking their application COVID-19.

The County Council will prioritise any such applications to get funds to where they are most needed as quickly as possible.

MY PORTFOLIO

I am the Cabinet Member responsible for the Education Service and our Cultural Services. I am extremely proud of the schools and their staff who have shown enormous flexibility and compassion in the face of this pandemic, and our own staff who have worked night and day to ensure that families that need child care through the schools find a suitable place, together with transport and a hot meal.

Our Registration Service has had to stop all but death registrations, even new parents will have to delay the registration of their babies since it is a legal requirement that this is done face to face. All the offices across the county are closed except the Head Office at Tidmarsh Lane in Oxford. A huge temporary mortuary facility has been sourced as this county braces itself for what is to come.

Our 44 Libraries, the Woodstock County Museum, the History Service, the Resource Centre at Stanlake, the County Music Service are all closed.

All waste recycling centres are closed. All our offices are closed including County Hall, for all but very essential staff.

This is a very fast-moving situation so please use the [OCC](#), [NHS](#) and [Government](#) websites for the latest information.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the residents who continue to work to help us get through this difficult time.

Above all please take care, stay safe and follow the advice.

Lorraine