

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting & Annual General Meeting & Ordinary Parish Meeting *held on Thursday 21st May 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) Cllr. Lorraine Lindsey-Gale (LLG) (OCC) Parishioner Suzie Pilkington (SP) Bianca Rush (BR) (Clerk)
Apologies	None.

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
	AGM & APM	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & ANNUAL PARISH MEETING	
22/20	Introduction	The Chair (JN) opened the meeting and welcomed all present.	
23/20	Apologies	None.	
24/20	2019 to 2020 Annual Reports	<p><u>Report from Chair</u> – James Nettleton (Appendix A) All received with thanks to JN. No comments.</p> <p><u>Financial Report from RFO</u> – James Nettleton (Appendix B) All received with thanks to JN. No comments.</p> <p><u>Report from OCC</u> – Lorraine Lindsay-Gale (Appendix C) Raised issue of gravel extraction, there is some debate around the selection of the Nuneham Courtenay site – to be discussed further under item 25/20.</p> <p>At least 90% of primary school applicants got offered their first-choice school in the county. County council appointed new education secretary. Rubbish tips are now open. Less traffic means more roadworks have been completed.</p> <p><u>Report from SODC</u> – David Turner (Appendix D) DT summarised annual report. Lots of councillors redeployed in varied roles meaning some tasks delayed, however limited planning activity is underway</p> <p>WC 14th July, 21st July, 28th July, 18th August – SODC Local plan consultations taking place online. Raised some concerns that this is taking place online given unreliability of rural broadband.</p>	
25/20	Open Forum	<p><u>Drainage in Holcombe Lane / Thame Rd.</u> SP raises issue of the broken storm drain on Thame Rd. which has been a problem for 7/8 years. It has recently flooded the road, footpath, and the bottom of garden (Highways issue).</p>	

		<p>Storm drain is known to be broken; SP has photographic evidence of broken pipe. SP has corresponded with Thames Water and Highways on multiple occasions however issue has yet to be fixed.</p> <p>Two separate issues raised – flood at top of Holcombe Lane, and the storm drain on Thame Rd which is a hazard at all times and especially in the winter when it freezes. JN agrees that this is a serious matter, and that NPC will redouble efforts to rectify this.</p> <p>LLG agrees that we need action. LLG is happy to support the escalation and requests that information is sent to her so that she can contact the relevant people.</p> <p>Action: SP and MB to forward all relevant information, correspondence and drawings to BR.</p> <p>Action: BR to forward all information received to LLG to escalate the matter.</p> <p>Gravel Extraction Whilst the Nuneham Courtenay site was selected as the preferred site last year, it has since been discovered that the volume of gravel on site was overestimated, and therefore the Newington site may now be reconsidered. Ed Hayter has established a mini-PAGE group, which JN is a member of.</p> <p>JN proposes a £400 donation to PAGE group. Seconded by DH. No objections. Established a need to mobilise community fundraising effort. The proposed gravel extraction site is huge and would likely adversely affect the village, therefore we need to take this seriously and be ready to mobilise against this.</p> <p>Action: All consider fundraising as priority moving forwards.</p>	<p>SP / MB</p> <p>BR / All</p> <p>All</p>
26/20	Election of Officers	PA proposed JN as Chair and RFO – MB seconded. JN reappointed as Chair and RFO.	
27/20	Close	The AGM & APM meeting was closed.	
	OPM	ORDINARY PARISH MEETING	
28/20	Declaration & Register	Declaration of acceptance of office & Register of members' Interest all completed for the five councillors.	
29/20	Minutes of the Last Meeting	Minutes of last meeting approved.	
30/20	Matters Arising	None.	
31a/20 MB	SAD Speed Awareness Device	<p>All agreed that SAD is the preferred measure to combat speeding through Newington. MB states that Highways have offered to give us some money towards the SAD.</p> <p>PA summarises Newington speed study: Radar device found 79% of people were speeding; of these around 20% were doing 41MPH or more (level at which people could be disqualified). It is very dangerous.</p> <p>All in agreement that CIL from local development should cover cost of the SAD. Expenditure proposed by JN, seconded by DH.</p>	

		<p>MB to discuss positioning with Brian Tuckwell, and move forwards with Highways. Thanks to MB for his hard work in pushing the SAD forwards.</p> <p>Action: MB to continue progressing this with Highways.</p>	MB
31b/20 DH/GH	CommLiaison/ Notice Board	No updates.	
31c/20 DH/GH	Planning Applications	<p>DH & GH note conflict of interest in Newington Nurseries planning application as neighbours & withdraw from discussion.</p> <p>PA notes issue of road flooding outside the development site; needs to be addressed with the increase in traffic.</p> <p>Action: PA to send DT the planning application number for further investigation.</p> <p>Action: DT to follow up with SODC about the road flooding.</p>	PA / DT DT
31d/20 PA/MB	Church Revival	<p>PA summarised progress from recent Church Revival Meeting, and has made calculations around the required space for expansion & 100-year burial capacity. Thanks to PA.</p> <p>Thanks to DH for arranging car park quote, totalling around £55k. Working party agree that this is expensive and may not be possible to fund. Other options are to be explored. MB has arranged a second quote for next week.</p>	
31e/20 MB/JN	Event Co- ordination	Had been arranging tennis tournament and fun run, however all events currently on hold due to coronavirus.	
31f/20 BR	Website Management	All up to date, lots of updates have been added recently.	
31g/20 PA/MB	Neighbourhood Plan	No plans to produce one at this stage.	
31h/20 MB/GH/ PA	New Highways/ Potholes	<p>Holcombe Lane pothole – could this be filled in whilst traffic is reduced due to Coronavirus?</p> <p>Action: BR to email LLG and ask to escalate this issue with a view to getting this fixed. GH to assist as required.</p>	BR / GH
31i/20 JN	Responsible Financial Officer	None.	
31j/20 DH	Footpaths	None.	
31k/20 BR	Upcoming Training Events	None.	
32/20	AOB	None.	
33/20	Date of Next Meetings	<p>Thursday 16th July 2020</p> <p>Thursday 15th October 2020</p> <p>Thursday 17th December 2020</p>	

Signed: Chairman

Date:

Appendix 1 – Report from Chair

Chairman's Report for 2019/20 Year

James Nettleton

We have had another busy year full of ups and downs and has sadly ended with the unprecedented COVID 19 threat.

I would like to welcome in our new Parish Clerk Bianca Rush who has already made a great impression on the council ensuring our compliance and statutory requirements are up to date at the same time as supporting us in our various projects and roles and always with a smile on her face!

Last year I perceived our greatest threat to be the gravel extraction proposal which came to a head during the year. We learnt that the site at Nuneham Courtney had been chosen as the site for gravel extraction, the news came with great celebration following a 10-year battle and many, many hours of hard work. Sadly, now though I have to report that this decision is being reviewed in light of some new evidence at the Nuneham Courtney site. At the moment the news is somewhat hearsay but I will keep you all updated on any further update.

We continue to fight the further development of land on the Stadhampton/ Newington boundary. We have built on our relationship with Stadhampton Parish Council and are now tackling the development together and united. There has been a further request to amend the plan which we are fighting hard, again I will update you on any developments as and when they are available.

We continue to explore ways of reducing the speed of drivers in the village, we are now on the verge of making an initial payment for a speed awareness devise.

I hope you now all regular visitors to our website where we post village updates and local information can be found, you will find all the relevant parish council information on the site as well as up and coming events and contact details for all the councillors.

<http://www.newington.org.uk/>

I am very proud of our village and the way we have reacted to the unprecedented pandemic we now face. This terrible virus has affected every single person in the world adversely. We as a village have help unite, look after those in need and kept to the lock down measures introduced by the government. All of your parish council members details are available on the website and if you need any assistance or know of anyone who does please do not hesitate to contact any of us so we can make a plan to help.

Newington Parish Council

Report by the Responsible Financial Officer for 2019/20

Revenue Budget

Newington Parish Council (NPC) kept the PC precept at the same level as the prior year as no increased expenditure was forecast outside of that which was covered by the grants received in the prior year. During 2019/20 NPC received income totalling £6,485.60 which includes the annual precept to cover day to day activities and responsibilities of the Council. NPC once again stayed within the budget with expenditure for the year, stripping out Grant income, Grant spending and SIL payments the figures show £1,206.63 underspend. The underspend is mainly due to the saving on a Clerk for a period within the year and withholding the usual donation to PAGE.

Community Support

During 2019/20 the Parish Council continued to support the local community with donations of £400 to the PCC who maintain the church which is used for the PC meetings. We did not make a PAGE donation as we thought the PAGE issue had been resolved, sadly though information has come to light which may re-open the threat.

End of Year Position

As at 1st April 2019 the Parish Council carried forward a balance of £6,524.10 of which £1,836.21 is marked for specific grant worthy projects leaving £4,687.89 which leaves the council in a healthy position and in line with best practise that recommends the Council should not hold reserves greater than double the annual precept when you exclude the one off SIL payment made of £1,029.60.

James Nettleton
Responsible Financial Officer
Newington Parish Council
May 2020

Newington Parish Council

Report by the Responsible Financial Officer for 2019/20

<u>Yr Ended March 2020 P&L</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Strip out Grants</u>
Income			
	Precept	4,000.00	4,000.00
	Allotments	35.00	35.00
	Interest	1.00	1.00
	SIL	1,029.60	
	Grants	1,420.00	
		6,485.60	4,036.00
Expenses			
	Clark	-2,059.36	-1,554.40
	HMRC		
	Insurance	-209.17	-209.17
	OALC	-379.39	-379.39
	Audit	-120.00	-120.00
	Donations	-400.00	-400.00
	Other	-323.91	-323.91
	Grant spending	-99.99	
	Website	157.50	157.50
		-3,434.32	-2,829.37
Net income and expenses		3,051.28	1,206.63

James Nettleton
 Responsible Financial Officer
 Newington Parish Council
 May 2020

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

My Portfolio

1. Cultural Services

Libraries

All 44 libraries across the County remain closed. Staff have been moved to other roles, including supporting the Customer Service Centre with our Shielding Operation and homeworking Registration staff by collecting paperwork to enable the production of death certificates to the public.

There's been a dramatic rise in the use of ebooks – up from 11, 784 last April to 20,611 this year – a 75% increase. Also 102% on eAudio. People are going digital.

Registration Service

Registration is limited to deaths only, and face to face appointments are suspended. All Registrars are working from home. We have a backlog of 1000 births waiting to be registered and 275 weddings have deferred to next year.

A Temporary Place of Rest has been established at Upper Heyford under heavy security. Some Inquests are being undertaken, only in circumstances where the family does not wish to attend. (Covid-19 is regarded as a natural death.)

Music Service

On line music teaching began last week. This has been a challenge due to safeguarding concerns and the need for staff training. Some music staff are helping in schools. The Service is applying to the Arts Council for an emergency support grant as it is experiencing a significant loss of income due to COVID-19.

2. Education Service

Brokering Service

Through our Emergency School Place Brokering Service all schools whether Academies or Maintained have worked together to make the best arrangements they can for our children. This will continue until the restriction on schools is lifted.

Early Years and settings

A number of childminders and nurseries are choosing to close because business is unviable and the opportunity to furlough staff is financially more advantageous for them. DfE is aware and considering this issue.

National Primary Offer Day

90.6% of out of 7,384 Oxfordshire children have been offered their preferred choice of primary school for September 2020. In this Division 99 children gained their 1st preference, and 3 their 2nd. Every family was notified on 16th April. The full data by Constituency, Division, District and School is available online.

Schools Building Programme

The majority of projects are stalled – mitigation measures are in place where necessary. There are 10 schools projects under construction across the County including Benson which continues to operate, the choice of the individual contractor and their workforce. II others are in the pre-construction phase, and may encounter staff shortages and delays to planning.

New Appointments

A New Director for Childrens Services was appointed last week – Kevin Gordon who has recently been working for Hammersmith. A New Assistant Director for Education will be arriving in early June – Hayley Good who joins us from Warwickshire County Council.

COVID-19

Clinical Lead urges people to use Emergency Departments

Staff at OUH are encouraging people whose health may be at risk to come to the Emergency Departments at the John Radcliffe and Horton General hospitals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attendances have been significantly lower since the pandemic started and the Trust is concerned that people are putting their health at risk by not accessing life-saving services. Staff will treat any serious conditions or ailments. There are systems in place to triage patients with suspected COVID-19, so everyone who comes to hospital will be treated in a safe way. More information is available on the OUH website.

Pregnant women encouraged to attend important appointments

Pregnant women in Oxfordshire are being reminded that medical help is still at hand during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like many providers of maternity services, the OUH has made a number of changes to how maternity care is provided during pregnancy, to keep both women and staff safe. This has included carrying out some appointments by telephone or video. However, maternity services are still open 24/7 for births, urgent care, and clinical advice for women who have concerns about their health or their unborn baby. Some face-to-face appointments with a midwife or doctor are essential, and it is important for women to attend. It is understandable that many people have anxieties around their health during this very unusual time - especially pregnant women.

Women are reminded care is still available and it is important that they stay in contact with their maternity team and attend their scheduled appointments. Appropriate measures will be taken to keep them safe from infection and wherever possible appointments will be done remotely.

Advice to help food banks and markets stay open

After learning some food banks and food markets had closed over concerns about maintaining social distancing, staff from Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council have devised practical infection control guidance for people and organisations supporting more vulnerable groups. A shared resource is now in place which helps communities, third-sector organisations and small businesses understand how to keep themselves and others safe. The guidance, which has received positive feedback, has helped several food banks and food markets to remain open, providing essential items to less privileged individuals and families.

OxLEP COVID-19 support

The Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) has launched additional business support programmes, which complement its existing support for the county's business community:

- Critical COVID-19 support programme – this is designed to provide support and guidance in areas including business resilience, cash flow, cost reductions, and business diversification.
- Regional redeployment service - this service will match those recently made redundant with new work in sectors experiencing a surge in employment demand.

**District Councillor's Annual Report
Newington Annual Parish Meeting
(April 2019 / March 2020)**

General Comments. A complete change of political control took place following the District Council elections in May 2019. The previous Council immediately prior to the election consisted of 32 Conservatives, 2 Liberal Democrats, 1 Labour and 1 Henley Resident. The current Council consists of 13 Liberal Democrats, 9 Conservatives, 6 Greens, 3 Labour, 3 Henley Residents and 2 Independents. The Liberal Democrats and the Greens who had fought the elections on a common platform formed the administration.

Housing & the Local Plan. The new administration was prepared to ditch the previous Local Plan and replace it with another one with fewer housing numbers and less use of Green Belt land together with removing Chalgrove Airfield from the Local Plan. However, on October 9th 2019 Robert Jenrick MP the Secretary of State responsible for Planning by decree stopped the newly elected administration from discussing the Local Plan in a full Council Meeting and replacing it with another one more in line with the election campaign which they had been elected on. Following a threat in March 2020 to take all Planning Powers from SODC and hand them to Oxfordshire County Council the administration agreed after discussions with the MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) to continue with the Local Plan through to the Examination in Public, but with a decision for SODC members who had registered to speak on the existing plan to contest the plan at the public enquiry.

Budget. The budget for which I was the Cabinet Member for Finance for 2020/21 was set with a £5.00 (4.5%) increase in Council Tax (the maximum allowed by Government) for a band D property. The budget was set against an inherited situation in which the Council was spending £3M more per year in revenue than it was taking in. The Council had been using its reserves for several years to bridge the gap. This which if not corrected would have resulted in the Council within 6 to 7 years having all its useable reserves exhausted. Clearly this had to be changed and the bullet was bitten to reduce expenditure by £2M, increase some fees and charges and create budgets to look at schemes to increase revenue by investing in various projects to be looked at. The situation had been exasperated by many years of freezing Council Tax and indeed lowering it.

Waste Management & Recycling. SODC is still a top recycling Local Authority in the UK, something we should all be proud of.

Grants. Each SODC Councillor had a total budget of £5000 for local projects in their Ward (Berrick Salome, Brightwell Baldwin, Chalgrove, & Newington) and in the case of Newington I allocated £1420 towards the Church restoration project.

Coronavirus . The current year 2020 has been dominated by the virus which has disrupted life all over the UK, Europe and the rest of the World. The District Council's offices in Milton Park went into almost total lockdown on March 20th with officers and members working from home in dealing with the mountain of issues which have been well commented on and explained in the media. We do not know as I write this annual report when life will return to normal and I expect and hope that a whole re-think about how we operate as a Nation will take place. This also presents in my opinion a new opportunity to look at environmental issues as we re-build our national economy and how we cooperate with other nations.

It was a privilege and I have enjoyed working as your District Councillor during the last year and in particular the positive and courteous relationship enjoyed in this role with local residents and the Parish Council. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

David Turner
South Oxfordshire District Councillor (Chalgrove Ward).

9th May 2020