

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting *held via Zoom on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021*

<b>Attendees</b>	Cllr. James Nettleton (JN) Cllr. Mike Black (MB) Cllr. Peter Ablett (PA) Cllr. Duncan Howlett (DH) Cllr. Lorraine Lindsey-Gale (LLG) (OCC) Cllr. David Turner (DT) (SODC) Eva Goble (EG) Bianca Rush (BR) (Clerk)
<b>Apologies</b>	None

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
75/21	<b>Introduction</b>	The Chair (JN) opened the meeting and welcomed all present.	
76/21	<b>Apologies</b>	None.	
77/21	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting</b>	Reviewed actions from minutes of last meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BR checked with grants team if we can carry forward the DT church grant, waiting to hear back. <b>DT to speak to SODC grants team about carrying forwards.</b></li> <li>- MB: Pipe on Thame Rd. to be replaced 19<sup>th</sup> April, roadworks to close 1 lane for 10 days while this work is undertaken. Thanks to MB and parishioner Suzie Pilkington for their work chasing Thames Water.</li> <li>- DH: branch overhanging the Lydes path rectified by DT.</li> <li>- DT sent transport meeting links to all, but sadly nobody was able to attend.</li> <li>- PA has drafted letter to Thames Water about river pollution, not yet sent. <b>PA to send letter.</b></li> <li>- DH/BR River Thame Conservation Trust: BR sent letter. Response in Appendix 4.</li> </ul> Minutes approved and signed by JN.	<p>DT</p> <p>PA</p>
78/21	<b>Matters Arising</b>	None.	
79/21	<b>Open Forum &amp; Village Matters</b>	None.	
80/21	<b>District Councillor Report (DT)</b>	DT reviews and summarises his report (Appendix 1). Key issues highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leisure facilities had to finance fair amounts to keep services going.</li> <li>- Looking at the possibilities of moving overhead cables in new developments underground, and looking at light pollution issues.</li> <li>- Vale and SODC developed joint local plans.</li> <li>- SODC charitable lottery celebrated 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary.</li> <li>- Report provides updates on forthcoming elections in May.</li> <li>- DT reports more contact with James Martin of Martin Baker, and he maintains their total resolve to oppose any development on the airfield. Chalgrove is very appreciative from the support from all the surrounding</li> </ul>	

		<p>parishes, Watlington, Britwell Salome, Cuxham, Stadhampton, Newington, and more. – Ian Goldsmith galvanised 21 Parish Councils in support of the opposition of the development – DT gives thanks to Ian and for all surrounding parishes. PA thanks DT for his support and time.</p>	
81/21	<p><b>County Councillor Report (LLG)</b></p>	<p>LLG reviews and summarises her report (Appendix 2). Key issues highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upcoming elections; LLG aware of Robin standing against her, and there is also a Labour candidate.</li> <li>- LLG met with Cllr Steve Harrod (Watlington) and she did commit her support to them in opposition of the Chalgrove development.</li> <li>- Respects to the Duke of Edinburgh. Conservative party halted all activity on the news, however LLG expresses disappointment that other parties did not do the same.</li> <li>- LLG report highlights latest move on Covid, including free lateral testing available to everyone, to conduct twice per week. PA says ordering process is quick and easy.</li> <li>- As of 12<sup>th</sup> April, our libraries are open</li> <li>- New mental health wellbeing initiative for young people.</li> <li>- LLG highlights some of the projects her personal grant pot has been spent on, including £2k to local primary school for laptops for underprivileged children.</li> <li>- Local council has set up a hub for supplying laptops for underprivileged children as needed.</li> <li>- Oxford to Cambridge expressway has been cancelled, and LLG says this is wonderful news; LLG voiced opinions to Prime Minister that this shouldn't go ahead.</li> </ul> <p>PA asks how much of the OCC's £60m expenditure on Covid was refunded by the Government; LLG doesn't have an exact figure but it is a large proportion.</p> <p>PA asks about the roadworks £31m budget highlighted in LLG's report, questioning what is happening with roads and potholes. LLG confirms budget will be spent in the coming years, highlighting underfunding of road networks maintenance budgets. A4074 will have significant resurfacing. PA asks what level of funding would bring county roads up to standard - LLG estimates £150m. LLG says HGV's through villages are an issue, and she and colleagues are keen to see if there is a way to keep HGV's off village roads, instead keeping them on the main roads.</p> <p>PA asks for updates on gravel extraction sites. LLG is attending a Cabinet Advisory Group meeting next week, alongside all the Councillors who have gravel in their areas, where they will discuss potential gravel extraction sites; LLG would think that we will know by the end of the month what their next decision is. JN is committed to fully fighting this gravel extraction site.</p> <p>MB asks about Didcot&gt;Golden Balls bypass, as MB says this could lead to extra traffic through Stadhampton. LLG confirms £1m has been put aside by OCC to conduct consultation about this. A road around Chalgrove could be an option to reduce traffic through Stadhampton, though nothing is confirmed.</p>	

82b/21 DH/GH	CommLiaison/ Notice Board	No updates.	
82c/21 DH/GH	Planning Applications	Amended plan has been submitted for Newington Nurseries. Plan is still for 21 houses, now with rearranged layout. While the site is not in our parish, the entrance is in Newington, meaning any CIL will go to Stadhampton PC. <b>DT would like to hear our opinions on this development, if we can email them to him.</b>  All highlight concerns around Stadhampton's sewage capacity, considering the number of new developments. DT confirms that consideration of sewage facilities is part of the planning process, and that the developers should pay cost of increasing capacity as needed. MB highlights that we have a copy of a report from Thames Water at the time of the initial application saying that they didn't have enough capacity in Stadhampton. <b>PA to find Bovis Homes application which highlighted sewerage capacity as a potential issue.</b> PA asks JN and DH/GH if they ever notice sewerage in the water by their land, GH says that you can sometimes smell detergent in the right weather conditions when there has been a discharge.	All          PA
82d/21 PA/MB	Church Revival	PCC is looking at the structural issues with the church itself, which is what we are hoping the SODC grant officers will allow us to use the grant for.	
82e/21 MB/JN	Event Co- ordination	JN hopes to arrange tennis tournament again now that we're out of Covid again. PA says they could raise money for the survey. MB says nothing to report.	
82f/21 BR	Website Management	No updates.	
82g/21 PA/MB	Neighbourhood Plan	No updates.	
82h/21 MB/GH/ PA	New Highways/ Potholes	All give thanks to MB and parishioner Suzie Pilkington for their great work in getting the storm drain pipes under Thame Road replaced. Big thanks to MB for all his work on getting the speed sign installed. DH and GH agree that the sign works, and says that people seem to reduce their speed when they see the sign.	
82i/21 JN	Responsible Financial Officer	JN not aware of any other transactions from last time. Good healthy position. <b>JN to send report around to all.</b>	JN
82j/21 DH	Footpaths	No updates.	
82k/21 BR	Upcoming Training Events	<b>BR to forward any training emails to the new clerk Eva if received in this handover period.</b>	BR
83/21	AOB	<b>Clerk Role:</b> All give thanks to EG for joining the meeting, and for expressing interest in becoming NPC's new Clerk.  <b>CIL:</b> Discussed use of CIL funds - potential transport fund considered, however all agreed that actual demand likely not high enough. <b>All to consider what the CIL money could be spent on, and bring some ideas to the May meeting. List of acceptable CIL expenditure is included in Appendix 3.</b>  <b>Approved:</b> Clerk Pay: £134.66 / Tax £33.66	ALL

		<p><b>Approved:</b> Laptop Repair: £50</p> <p><b>Google Groups:</b> A parishioner suggested that NPC set up a google group email list, however all discussed and mentioned the WhatsApp and Facebook groups, and said that we probably should not set up another group as there will end up being too many. <b>JN to speak to parishioner to help them to join Whatsapp group, as this is a good way to keep in touch.</b></p> <p>MB highlights the burglaries that took place on Holcombe Lane last week. MB sent details to the police, the farm and one parishioner had CCTV which was sent to the police. Some items recovered from an abandoned car left on the lane. PA asks if there is any police community officer that could potentially attend the next meeting? <b>MB will contact the police officer to ask if they can attend the May meeting.</b></p> <p>JN asks if 20<sup>th</sup> May <b>AGM meeting can be moved to Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May – All agreed that this date works. BR to amend the date on all communications.</b></p> <p>DH Newington Relief in Need Charity which DH is involved with, with Brian Tuckwell. Brian wishes to stand down, and he wants someone to take his place. There is one meeting per year with the vicar, and they decide how to disperse a pool of money amongst anyone in need within the parish, or within Warborough. DH is looking for a suitable volunteer to join the charity. <b>JN expresses interest, and agrees to discuss the role with DH offline.</b></p> <p><b>All agreed that EG is to be officially offered the role of Clerk, BR to forward Eva's contact number to JN. All thanked BR for time as Clerk.</b></p>	<p><b>JN</b></p> <p><b>MB</b></p> <p><b>BR</b></p> <p><b>JN / DH</b></p> <p><b>BR</b></p>
<b>84/21</b>	<b>Date of Next Meetings</b>	<p>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021 (DATE AMENDED)</p> <p>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021</p> <p>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021</p> <p>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021</p>	

Signed: ..... Chairman

Date: .....

## **Appendix 1 – Cllr David Turner’s April 2021 Report**

### **SODC Councillor’s Monthly Report February 2021**

**Leisure facilities.** The Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire District Councils have agreed to offer a financial support package to GLL, the leisure contractor that manages leisure facilities across both districts, subject to formal agreements being entered into. The leisure industry has been hit really hard by the pandemic having spent much of the last year closed or running to a limited capacity as they followed the Covid-19 guidelines to ensure the safety of customers and staff. This financial support package demonstrates the value that the councils place on residents’ wellbeing. With the extra challenges’ residents have faced throughout the pandemic from having to shield, home school and self-isolate it’s taken a toll on people’s physical and mental health. The government’s roadmap brings light at the end of what has been a dark tunnel for many so despite the financial challenges the councils face like every local authority, they are determined to make sure its leisure facilities open their doors once again to residents as soon as it’s practically possible.

Cllr Helen Pighills, Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities at Vale of White Horse District Council said: “Ensuring residents have access to facilities and opportunities to stay healthy and active is a priority for the council. This sector has been hard hit financially because of the Covid pandemic and I am pleased the council has been able agree a package to keep our leisure facilities operating. “We will continue to push government for additional financial support for the leisure industry to ensure long term sustainable operation for leisure facilities across the Vale.

Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Cabinet Member for Community Services at South Oxfordshire District Council said: “It’s so important that we all look after not only our physical but mental wellbeing, especially right now. We have just marked a year since the first lockdown and that time has taken its toll on not only individuals but also those that run our leisure facilities. We need to do all we can to make sure that our residents can stay active and as healthy as possible.”

**High voltage power lines to be moved underground and light pollution to be minimised in South Oxfordshire.** In light of its priority to protect and restore the natural world, South Oxfordshire District Council has agreed to take action to try and minimise light pollution in the district, and to work with partners to see if some high voltage power lines could be hidden from view and moved underground.

**Councils agree to develop a joint South and Vale Local Plan.** The two District councils in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse have agreed to develop a joint Local Plan for the area to reduce costs and help the councils meet their ambitious targets for making the two districts carbon neutral. Local Plans are used to help determine planning applications and set out how and where new housing developments should take place, along with identifying the infrastructure needed to support them. They also set out policies on what kind of housing is appropriate and acceptable; what the local requirements for affordable housing are; and can even set requirements on the energy-efficiency levels of new developments.

**£70,000 raised for local causes by the S O Charitable Lottery as it celebrates its third anniversary.** Over £70,000 has been raised for local causes – and £14,875 in prize money has been won by local residents – in South Oxfordshire District Council’s SO Charitable Lottery, which celebrates its third anniversary on 27 March. Details are available on the SODC website

**Elections 2021.** All that you need to know about voting on 6 May. On Thursday 6 May 2021, people across South Oxfordshire will be able to cast their ballot in the Thames Valley area Police and Crime Commissioner election and the Oxfordshire County Council election. Residents in some areas will also be able to vote in local by-elections and neighbourhood plan referendums. To find out about the different elections open the following hyperlinks or go on the SODC website and please click on the same following links:

## **Thames Valley area Police and Crime Commission election**

## **Oxfordshire County Council elections**

## **District council and parish council by-elections**

## **Neighbourhood Plan referendums**

### **To vote at these elections, you must be:**

- aged 18 or over on election day, and
- be a British, Irish, European Union citizen, or Commonwealth citizen with permission to enter or stay in the UK, or who does not need permission, and
- be registered to vote by 19 April.

### **Ensuring you can cast your ballot:**

- **Register to vote** – by 19 April
- **Apply for a postal vote** – by 5pm on 20 April
- **Apply for a proxy vote** – by 5pm on 27 April
- **Find out about voting at the polling station** – including about the measures we will be taking keep venues Covid-safe

### **Key information:**

Details about who you can vote for in each election will be confirmed by 4pm on Friday 9 April.

Polls will be open from 7am to 10pm on Thursday 6 May.

If due, to an emergency or unforeseen circumstance, you are unable to get to the polling station on election day, including if you have tested positive for Covid-19, you will be able to apply for an emergency proxy until 5pm on polling day.

The counts for each election are expected to take place on:

- Friday 7 May (TBC) – local by-elections and neighbourhood plan referendums
- Sunday 9 May – Oxfordshire County Council elections
- Monday 10 May – Police and Crime Commissioner election.

David Turner  
SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)  
30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## **Appendix 2 – Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale’s April 2021 Report**

### **COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT TO PARISH COUNCILS APRIL 2021 BY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE**

#### **His Royal Highness Duke of Edinburgh**

It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of Prince Phillip on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

Many of us will want to remember and recognise the service he gave to our country and to the Queen.

During the pandemic we cannot host and open physical books of condolence as it is not safe to do so. The County Council is encouraging those who would like to share a message to sign Buckingham Palace’s online book at royal.uk This will close at 5pm on the day after the funeral – 18<sup>th</sup> April.

Outside of COVID-19 we would, at this time, be looking for suitable locations around the county for the laying of flowers. Unfortunately, we need to discourage this and suggest, as Buckingham Palace has already done, that people make a donation to one of the many charities or organisations that the Duke of Edinburgh supported.

A period of national mourning is being observed until after the funeral on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

All campaigning for the up-coming Local Elections is suspended until Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup>, and then on the day of the funeral at Windsor Castle.

#### **Key dates for the 2021 elections are on the horizon**

People in Oxfordshire are being reminded that a number of key dates relating to the May 6, 2021 local elections are getting ever closer.

The deadlines for registering to vote and for a postal vote are now less than a fortnight away with the county council holding elections for all 63 seats and 61 divisions and one-third of Cherwell District Council seats also up for election. There is also a Police and Crime Commissioner election for the Thames Valley and elections at Oxford City Council and West Oxfordshire District Council.

#### **What are the key dates?**

- Monday, 19 April (at 11:59 pm) is the deadline for people to [register to vote](#)
- Tuesday, April 20 (no later than 5pm) is the deadline for receiving new postal vote applications for all these elections. You can apply for a postal vote here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote> .
- Anyone who wants to vote by proxy must apply by 5pm on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April

At the end of Friday, April 9 the list of candidates for the county council and district council elections was available. The verification for all elections will take place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May and the counts for County, Districts and Parishes will take place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May. The venue for South and Vale divisions will be the Abingdon White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre.

People are also being reminded that there are vacancies across Oxfordshire in paid roles such as poll clerks and presiding officers on election day. More detail can be found here for people who are interested in applying. <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/be-at-the-heart-of-local-democracy/>

#### **COVID-19 Testing**

The number of new cases in Oxfordshire has now dropped to 33.1 per 100,000 of the population. From 9<sup>th</sup> April everyone in England can now access free, rapid lateral flow tests to use twice a week. Getting into the habit of twice-weekly testing will help us all to pave the way for businesses and society reopening.

If you don’t have symptoms you can book free LFD tests at the Kings Centre in Oxford, or access tests through your workplace or school, or collect home test kits from any local testing site across the county or order them online for home delivery.

A new pharmacy collect service has also just been launched.

The Government confirmed that restrictions will ease on 12<sup>th</sup> April in line with the next phase of its Road Map out of lockdown. Shops can reopen, alongside outdoor attractions, libraries and personal care premises.

### **Vaccination programme**

The NHS in Oxfordshire has now vaccinated more than 320,000 people, over 40,000 have had their second dose. Full details can be found in the attached Oxfordshire Update.

### **Libraries**

31 of our libraries will open on 12<sup>th</sup>, taking every precaution to keep staff and visitors safe. This will include Abingdon, Berinsfield, Thame, Wallingford, Watlington and Wheatley. A further 9 will open on 19<sup>th</sup> April including Benson. The remaining four libraries cannot open just yet due to alterations and building works.

No library customers will be penalised as a result of having to self-isolate or being unable to travel to return library loans. Click and collect will continue to operate at the larger libraries.

### **Mental wellbeing hub for young people launched in Oxfordshire**

Young people suffering psychological challenges, made worse by COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, will have access to an information hub giving contact details of local professional support services and resources, thanks to a new scheme from Oxfordshire County Council.

Teenagers face daunting choices, such as deciding between continuing in education or entering the workplace. Disruption caused by the pandemic has increased fears that some might fall between the cracks when it comes to assistance and support.

Three major challenges faced by our young people have been identified; isolation, next steps and anxiety. Many are struggling with loneliness, maintaining friendships and social circles, while often wrestling with themselves.

The county council believes that in many cases, parents and carers are also lacking the support they need to help young people manage stress and anxiety. Resources to help with this will be promoted to them in the coming weeks. The hub aims to help young people navigate a myriad of local and national services by conveniently signposting them to practical advice, resources and help tools. Social media and websites will be central to the initiative, designed to offer a one stop shop where advice is just a couple of clicks away. Further information is available from the county council's young people website: [www.oxme.info/wellbeing](http://www.oxme.info/wellbeing)

### **Councillor's Priority Fund**

During the last year I have supported the following organisations through my Priority Fund:

Baldons & Nuneham Community Action Group - COVID	£1,000
Sandford Talking Shop – COVID	£1,000
Orchestra of St John's – music for autism on line	£2,000
Oxfordshire Victoria County History	£1,500
Baldons Parish Council, renovation of school parking	£2,000
Baldons Cricket Club	£700
Berin Centre, Childrens' Centre – COVID measures	£1,955
Life Education programme	£275
Warborough Parish Council, monument repair	£1,000
Dorchester Primary School, playground repairs	£1,000
Abbey Woods Primary School, eight laptops	£2,000

I have represented this Division for the past 12 years. I am standing for re-election, and if I'm successful, I look forward to working with you in the future.

Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale.  
Cabinet Member for Education & Cultural Services.  
Oxfordshire County Council.  
Berinsfield & Garsington Division.



### **Appendix 3 – Community Infrastructure Levy**

#### **Gov.co.uk Guidance on CIL:**

*<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-infrastructure-levy#spending-the-levy>*

The levy can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure, including transport, flood defences, schools, hospitals, and other health and social care facilities (for further details, see section 216(2) of the Planning Act 2008, and regulation 59, as amended by the 2012 and 2013 Regulations).

This definition allows the levy to be used to fund a very broad range of facilities such as play areas, open spaces, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, healthcare facilities, academies and free schools, district heating schemes and police stations and other community safety facilities.

This flexibility gives local areas the opportunity to choose what infrastructure they need to deliver their relevant plan (the Development Plan and the London Plan in London). Charging authorities may not use the levy to fund affordable housing.

Local authorities must spend the levy on infrastructure needed to support the development of their area, and they will decide what infrastructure is needed.

The levy can be used to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing existing infrastructure if that is necessary to support development.

## **Appendix 4 – River Thame Conservation Trust Email Response – Weds 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Dear Bianca,

I apologise for the delay in responding to your original letter. Unfortunately Nigel is currently on leave, but I will bring this to his attention on his return next week.

Your concerns about the increase in number and severity of flood events in recent years are echoed by many others, and are the result of many inter-linked factors, including climate change and development in the catchment. Weather patterns are likely to continue making heavy rain and flooding a problem into the future.

In the past an answer has been to dredge the rivers in an attempt to increase capacity, and even put them in concrete channels to try to control them. However what we have now found is that, not only is this very bad for the ecology, and it tends to hasten the excess water downstream to cause severe floods in towns and huge areas of lowland farmland. As you may be aware, research has persuaded the Environment Agency (EA) to tend to restore rivers and their catchments to a more natural state with vegetation and wetlands that can slow down the release of excess water, thus preventing severe flooding lower in the catchment. This is why they no longer dredge the Thame and don't hurry to remove fallen trees and other debris.

In an ideal world, the Thame would not have so much silt in its bed, but that is, in part, also a phenomenon that is worsened by our modern World as much of it comes from run-off from arable fields and roads. We are working with the EA, landowners and local authorities to raise awareness of these issues and help guide them towards more sustainable land management practices, and lobby Thames Water to reduce sewage levels in our rivers. Unfortunately, being at the 'bottom' of the catchment, Newington receives water from a large area of the Thame catchment, and many of the issues mentioned need to be tackled upstream of your area.

However, there are some resources on our website which I hope you'll find useful:

- The catchment plan on this page has a section (3) on 'Problems and Solutions' which covers habitat, water quality, invasive non-native species, climate and development.
- We have a page of advice for householders where you can find information and resources to help tackle: blockages, microplastics, misconnections, water efficiency and private sewage systems.

And finally, perhaps it would be useful to look at what other parishes have done to help with local flooding, for example Tring Flood Working Party.

I wish I could give you an answer that would be more helpful in solving your problem with flooding, and appreciate your desire to take action. If, after looking at the resources mentioned above, you would like to discuss the issues you raise in more detail do please get back in touch with me or Nigel directly as you now have our email contacts.

Best wishes

Hilary

Hilary Phillips  
Project Officer  
River Thame Conservation Trust  
E: Hilary@riverthame.org  
W: www.riverthame.org  
T: @RiverThameCT

Sign up for quarterly newsletters <https://riverthame.org/news/newsletter/>

If you see what you think is a pollution event please call the Environment Agency on 0800 80 70 60 and Thames Water on 0800 316 9800 to report it.