

# NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting & Annual General Meeting & Ordinary Parish Meeting held in St Giles Church on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021

<b>Attendees</b>	Cllr. James Nettleton (JN) Cllr. Mike Black (MB) Cllr. Peter Ablett (PA) Cllr. Duncan Howlett (DH) - (Apology for late arrival) Cllr. David Turner (DT) (SODC) Eva Goble (EG) (Clerk)
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr. Graham Howlett (GH) Cllr. Robin Bennett (RB) (OCC)

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
85/21	<b>Introduction</b>	The Chair (JN) opened the meeting and welcomed all present. The Chair on behalf of the Parish Council asked that congratulations and a warm welcome be extended to new OCC Councillor Robin Bennett.	<b>EG</b>
86/21	<b>Apologies</b>	As above	
87/21	<b>2020 to 2021 Annual Reports</b>	<p><b>Report from Chair – James Nettleton</b> Received with thanks to JN with no comments.</p> <p><b>Financial Report from RFO – James Nettleton</b> RFO advised the precept should stay the same. Proposed by PA and seconded by MB. Year end accounts approved by all. JN to submit to auditor.</p> <p><b>Report from SODC – David Turner</b> DT summarised annual report. South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse have agreed to a joint Local Plan which will be developed over the next 2-3 years and would take us through to 2040/41 and replace the current Local Plan. Working together will save £1 million in admin costs. The development of Didcot would be split between the two authorities and the final decision making would still lie with the individual Councils to ensure accountability.</p> <p>Electric vehicle charge strategy. SODC and 5 other councils are to work together to deliver the infrastructure. There are a lot of issues to be sorted so will take some time to be delivered.</p> <p>SODC at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May elected a new Chair, Cllr. Jo Robb, a member of the Green Party. Cllr Robb is also River Thames Champion helping to tackle water quality concerns. DT was elected as Vice Chair. Sue Cooper remains the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>DT informed that his wife Kathy Turner does voluntary work for the Thame River Trust, testing water quality and reporting</p>	<b>JN</b>

		<p>findings to the Environment Agency. JN asked if Mrs Turner would test the water quality in Newington or he would be agreeable to being trained to do this.</p> <p>Riverside campsite and pool in Wallingford to re-open for the summer season. All leisure centres to open with pre-booking.</p> <p>SODC car park charges to change from 1<sup>st</sup> June. There will be uniformity in charges and investment in vehicle charging.</p> <p>Government are doing a consultation on remote council meetings due to travelling distances not being environmentally friendly and zoom meetings being more convenient. Those present all agreed that both face to face and zoom had their advantages and it would be of benefit to have the option to do either.</p> <p>A new site is being sought as a new headquarters for both SODC and Vale. The location is likely to be Didcot and the Crowmarsh site will be sold.</p> <p>DT informed that Homes England had withdrawn the planning application for Chalgrove Airfield. This is a temporary withdrawal and they are likely to submit a new application late this year or early next year. DT has emailed heads of planning posing questions and will keep us informed of outcome.</p> <p>Financial support available for residents in need in South Oxfordshire. Throughout the year SODC and Vale have been providing support via government funding to those who have been hit the hardest, and this support is still available.</p>	
88/21	<b>Open Forum &amp; Village Matters</b>	Since no parishioners attended the meeting it was suggested that the date of next year's AGM could be published in the 'Village Voice' publication. JN looking forward 10+ years is keen to get villagers involved more to keep the Parish Council going in the future and get more varied opinions.	<b>EG</b>
89/21	<b>Election of Officers</b>	JN asked if anyone would like to stand as Chair but all were happy for JN to continue. Proposed by PA, Seconded by MB. Likewise all were happy for JN to continue as RFO. Proposed by PA, Seconded by MB. Therefore JN once again elected as Chair and RFO.	
90/21	<b>Close</b>	The AGM & APM meeting was closed.	
<b>ORDINARY PARISH MEETING</b>			
91/21	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	None.	
92/21	<b>Minutes of the Last Meeting</b>	Minutes of the meeting approved and signed	
93/21	<b>Matters Arising (not on agenda)</b>	None.	
94/21	<b>Councillor &amp; Parish Reports</b>		

<b>94a/21</b>	<b>Community Liaison/Notice Board</b>	No updates at present but MB happy to update as necessary.	<b>MB</b>
<b>94b/21 DH/GH</b>	<b>Planning Applications</b>	Amended plan has been submitted for Newington Nurseries that includes a TPO order. DH declared an interest as a direct neighbour. Flood alleviation causing concern.  No other applications received.	
<b>94c/21 PA/MB</b>	<b>Church Revival</b>	On hold until remedial works have been carried out, delayed due to Covid. A grant of £1420 from DT (SODC) has been received and will be used to fund a structural engineer. Classic Builders cannot quote for the work until a structural engineer's report has been received.	
<b>94d/21 MB/JN</b>	<b>Event Co-ordination</b>	JN organising tennis tournament on 11 July 2021 to raise funds. There will be five courts in play with a barbeque included. DH to provide barbeque.	<b>JN/DH</b>
<b>94e/21 EG</b>	<b>Website Management</b>	No updates.	
<b>94f/21 9A/MB</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>	No updates as still on hold.	
<b>94g/21 MB/GH/ PA</b>	<b>New Highways/ Potholes</b>	Parish Councillors wish to extend their grateful thanks to Suzie Pilkington for 8 years perseverance for finally getting these problems addressed.  There is a large crater in Holcombe Lane that has been marked up but ignored and now a witty sign has been put in place by a resident. PA to put on 'Fix My Street' and MB to write to Jon Beale (Communities Traffic & Traffic schemes) to try to escalate.	<b>MB/PA</b>
<b>94hi/21 JN</b>	<b>Responsible Financial Officer</b>	£400 of grant for website design still remaining. Is there a time limit to use the grant or should monies be returned? JN to look into Transparency Fund Application.  JN raised the question of £400 donation to the Parochial Church Council for use of church for PC meetings. Proposed by MB and seconded by DH.	<b>JN</b>
<b>94i/21 DH</b>	<b>Footpaths</b>	Another footbridge is to be supplied by Highways and erected across the second ditch.	
<b>94j/21 EG</b>	<b>Upcoming Training Events</b>	Parish Clerk has registered with OALC to undertake two half day on line training sessions. Cost of £120 approved.	<b>EG</b>
<b>95/21</b>	<b>AOB</b>	PA suggested that a quote is obtained for libel and slander under the public liability insurance. Proposed by DH and seconded by PA. Current insurance policy is £209 so all agreed an additional maximum sum of £50. JN to obtain quote and circulate.  Parish Clerk pay. All agreed that payment will be made every 2 months.  JN proposed that DH be added as a 3 <sup>rd</sup> signatory for cheque signing. Agreed by PA and MB.  Parishes against Gravel Extraction (PAGE). Nothing major to update. They appear to be dragging their feet and using covid as	<b>JN</b>  <b>JN</b>  <b>DH</b>

		an excuse. Ed Hayter Chair of new PAGE 2021.	
<b>96/21</b>	<b>Date of Next Meetings</b>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021 Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	

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

**Date:** .....

## **Appendix 1 – Report from Chair**

### **Chairman's Report for 2020/21 Year:**

James Nettleton

We have lived through an unprecedented year with the worldwide pandemic caused by Covid 19. Many of our standard practises have had to change due to the crises but I am very glad to say that the members of the Parish Council have adapted, changed and been able to continue with their duties with all the usual gusto and enthusiasm.

I would like to welcome in our new Parish Clerk Eva Goble, who's ready smile and willingness have already made their impressions. I would also like to bid a fond farewell to our exciting clerk Bianca Rush who's dedication and hard work are unprecedented.

As predicted last year the Covid 19 pandemic has been our biggest cause for concern but I am very glad to say that the village has pulled together to help those in need and worked together in seeing the crises through. With over 60 millions people vaccinated in the United Kingdom I hope this year will see the back of the pandemic.

The pandemic has seen the slow down of the gravel extraction threat. Albeit the threat remains, revision deadlines have come and gone and we await with bated breath news of the councils next move. What is now referred to as PAGE 2020 remains in force with a strong team ready to counter any threat we may come to face.

We continue to fight the further development of land on the Stadhampton/ Newington boundary. Amendments to the planning appear to be a regularity which helps delay the build however I fear that our ability to see off the development may be a forlorn hope.

I am very happy to report the installation of our first Speed Awareness Devise on the Northern entrance to the village. A special mention to Mike Black who countless hours of work saw its erection. It comes with great relief that after an eight year battle the broken surface water gully has finally been repaired – well done Suzie Pilkington for your perseverance!

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 proud to be part of a village who has come together this year and helped those in need during the Covid 19 pandemic. I hope a positive can come out of the crises that relations are stronger and we are a stronger more united village going forward.

# **Newington Parish Council**

## **Report by the Responsible Financial Officer for 2020/21**

### **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 2020/21 NPC received income totalling £8,128.65 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, with an underspend of £656.05. SIL payments of £4,118.40 were received which materially covered the cost of a new speed awareness device. The underspend is mainly due to the saving on a Clerk for a period within the year.

### **Community Support**

During 2020/21 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 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 the Parish Council carried forward a balance of £6,675.19 of which £1,836.21 is marked for specific grant worthy projects leaving £4,838.98 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 payments.

James Nettleton  
Responsible Financial Officer  
Newington Parish Council  
May 2021

# Newington Parish Council

## Report by the Responsible Financial Officer for 2020/21

<u>Yr Ended March 2021 P&amp;L</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>2021/ 22 Budget</u>
Income			
	Precept	4,000.00	4,000.00
	Allotments	10.00	40.00
	Interest	0.25	0.25
	SIL	4,118.40	
	Grants	0.00	
		<b>8,128.65</b>	<b>4,040.25</b>
Expenses			
	Clark	-1,804.32	-2,350.00
	HMRC/ Audit	-451.96	-400.00
	Insurance	-209.17	-210.00
	OALC	-146.16	-150.00
	Audit		-120.00
	Donations	-400.00	-400.00
	Other	25.00	
	Grant spending	-99.99	-400.00
	Speed Aware Dev	-4,386.00	
		<b>-7,472.60</b>	<b>-4,030.00</b>
Net income and expenses		<b>656.05</b>	<b>10.25</b>

James Nettleton  
Responsible Financial Officer  
Newington Parish Council  
May 2021

## Appendix 3 – Report from SODC

### **SODC Councillor's Updated Monthly Report May 2021**

#### **Elections - what you need to know before polling day**

Following many weeks of preparation, the May 2021 elections are now just two days away. Polls will be open from 7am until 10pm on Thursday 6 May. All the details voters need can be found on our website: [southoxon.gov.uk/may2021elections](https://southoxon.gov.uk/may2021elections)

#### **Here's a quick run through of the key things you may want to know:**

**Polling Stations locations.** Voters who need to cast their ballot in a different building to previous elections will have received notification of this change via their poll card. We have also asked parish clerks and the old venues to display signage to direct people to the new building. In the days before the election, we will be reminding people via social media to check their poll card, or to use our postcode search facility, available on our election webpage, to ensure they go to the correct building.

- **At the Polling Station Please note.**
- Socially distanced queuing and queue marshals in some polling stations;
- Perspex screens between you and our staff;
- Staff will wear a face covering;
- Hand sanitisers available at the entrance.

To help keep yourself and others safe at the polling station, you must:

- Wear a face covering (unless you are exempt for medical reasons)
- Bring your own pen or pencil to use when casting your ballot
- Sanitise your hands when entering and leaving the polling station
- Keep a safe distance from other people.

If, due to unforeseen circumstances, someone is unable to make it to the polling station on election day for medical, work or Covid-related reasons that have arisen since the 27 April proxy deadline then they have until 5pm on polling day to apply for an emergency proxy vote. This includes anyone who is required to self-isolate due to Covid-19

**Election counts and results.** Due to social distancing requirements, attendance at the counts is strictly restricted to staff and representatives who have registered in advance with our Elections team. Covid-safe measures will be in place throughout the three counts and we have emailed specific arrangements to all registered attendees and staff. After polls close at 10pm, the ballot boxes are then taken to the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre ready for verification the following morning.

#### **Here's how and when the votes will be counted:**

**County council elections.** The votes in the County Council election are being counted and declared at four different venues across Oxfordshire on Sunday 9 May. We will



begin all County Council counts at 10am. The best way to keep up with these results is via Oxfordshire County Council's website: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

### **By-elections and Neighbourhood Plan Referendums**

We expect to begin counting these votes around 3pm on Friday 7 May. If the verification process takes longer than expected, we reserve the right to postpone some or all of these counts and hold them over until Sunday 9 May. Once they are available, we will post the results on our social media and website

**Police and Crime Commissioner election.** Monday 10 May.

**Grant funding now available for new affordable homes.** We've launched a new grant fund for Registered Providers and others to help deliver new affordable homes across our district – one of our main corporate priorities. Affordability, the environment and value for money will be key considerations when we assess the applications. The funding will be allocated in two rounds, with the first open now until 30 June. Round two is planned for the autumn. We've already contacted some Registered Providers directly to let them know about the scheme. All the information can be found on our **South** and **Vale** affordable housing pages. [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk)

**Census update.** It's just over a month since census day 2021 and the initial results look promising with a high national return well above the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) expectations. The ONS is continuing with its field operations into May by chasing those who have not responded in person or reminder letters. Census Support Centres are still open to offer help as well as the freephone telephone service.

### **Shared Lives Scheme**

Oxfordshire County Council has launched their 'Shared Lives Scheme' to highlight an opportunity for residents to become carers by sharing their homes with an individual, who needs additional support to help them develop the skills they need to live independently. Financial support is available, and all carers will go through the county's assessment process, and DBS and reference checks. For more information on the scheme, head to [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers).

**Joint Local Plan.** The two District Councils, South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse, have now agreed to develop a joint Local Plan, which would take the Councils through to about 2040/41 rather than producing new individual plans. There would be significant cost savings from taking this route, in the gathering of evidence, the development of common policies and the inspection process. There is also strong logic in working together on issues such as the development of Didcot, affordable housing and on environmental policies and practices. A joint committee would oversee the process, but the final decision-making would still lie with the individual Councils in order to ensure local accountability. The importance of Neighbourhood Plans is unaffected.

**A statement from South Oxfordshire District Council.** The Honourable Mrs Justice Lang has refused the oral plea from Bioabundance CIC for permission to proceed with an application for judicial review against the Council's decision to adopt the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035. Mrs Justice Lang also agreed a costs award up to the maximum capped limit of £10,000, which covers the Council's full costs of £8,266. The remainder was awarded to other interested parties. Today's

(29<sup>th</sup> April) judgment supports the previous decision on the papers by The Honourable Mr Justice Dove on 30<sup>th</sup> March that also found that the initial application by Bioabundance CIC for judicial review should not progress. Although Bioabundance may seek to take today's High Court judgement to the Court of Appeal, the Council remains confident it worked within the law to produce and adopt its Local Plan 2035. The adopted Local Plan 2035 continues to have full weight in any planning decision made and remains the adopted policy of the Council. The Council will not be commenting further.

**Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy.** SODC has joined the other 5 Councils in Oxfordshire in adopting a new strategy to provide consistent and extended infrastructure for the charging of electric vehicles, particularly for those who do not have this facility at home, or who are visiting the area as tourists or on business. This is an important step along the way towards decarbonisation of transport, and will hopefully make it easier for people to choose an electric car next time they are buying, knowing that they will be able to charge it when they are out and about. This is of course an immense project and it will take some time for it to be delivered.

**Consultation on communications infrastructure.** The government is consulting on proposed planning reforms that could help speed up work to lay telecommunications equipment whilst ensuring appropriate environmental protections and safeguards are in place. More details on the SODC website. The Planning Policy team is preparing a response on behalf of the councils and if you would like to add your comments on the proposals, please would you email the **South** team by 16 May. See SODC website.

David Turner  
SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)  
4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### **Update 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021**

At a full SODC Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May the Council elected a new Chair who is Cllr Jo Robb. Cllr Jo Robb is the ward councillor for Woodcote and Rotherfield, and also has the role of River Thames Champion, encouraging sustainability and improving access to the River. In this role Cllr Robb is helping to tackle water quality concerns and enhance the biodiversity and cleanliness of the river system in the district and beyond. Recently Cllr Robb invited neighbouring councils and user groups to work together to stop raw sewage from being dumped in the River Thames and its tributaries.

Cllr David Turner who is the Ward Member for Chalgrove was elected as the new Vice Chair of SODC. **Riverside outdoor pool and campsite to reopen for the summer season.** The Riverside outdoor heated pool and campsite in Wallingford will reopen for its full summer season from the May bank holiday weekend under Covid-19 safety guidelines. South Oxfordshire District Council and its leisure contractor Better UK have confirmed the news that the campsite and pool will open on their usual opening weekend, following weeks of hard work to ensure the site can be used safely. The measures put in place mean local residents and visitors will be able to make the most of the sunshine and enjoy the heated pool and campsite at the picturesque location on the edge of Wallingford Town Centre while keeping themselves and Riverside staff safe. The summer season will come to an end as usual in early September. This bank holiday will also be the first-time swimmers will have the opportunity to use a fully refurbished surface in the swimming pool area. Last year when Covid guidelines meant the outdoor pool was closed, the district council took the opportunity to carry out the refurbishment to improve the experience for swimmers. The pool's reopening is subject to there being no further changes to Covid guidelines, and there are some additional rules, including:

- sessions must be booked in advance via the Better UK App or on the Better UK website
- a reduced capacity for the number of swimmers
- a one-way route around the changing rooms

Changes at the campsite include:

- self-service entry
- socially distanced pitches
- reduced capacity in the changing block
- increased cleaning by Riverside staff.

**Changes confirmed for parking in South Oxfordshire from 1 June** Motorists in South Oxfordshire are advised that there will be a number of changes to parking arrangements across the district from next month. Following a public consultation, South Oxfordshire District Council has amended the district's parking policy, including changes to charging periods to ensure towns are treated equally, and measures designed to encourage the use of electric vehicles in order help tackle the climate emergency by reducing emissions.

**From 1 June, the following changes will apply in district council car parks in South Oxfordshire\*:**

- All car parks will have the same charging periods – from 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday, and 10am to 5pm on Sundays.
- Motorists will be able to park for free for up to an hour during the day in all town centre car parks.
- Half priced parking permits will now only be available for motorists using electric vehicles.
- There will be new waiting limits in Chinnor's High Street car park.
- Once electric charging bays are introduced, the council will carry out enforcement to ensure they are being used to charge vehicles and not for parking.

\*except for Goldsmith's Lane car park in Wallingford.

The changes are being introduced following a review of our parking policy, including a public consultation. They were approved by Cabinet in February and reviewed by Scrutiny in April.

**Litter Bug Trail.** From Saturday 29 May to Saturday 5 June South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils are running a new Litter Bug Detectives Trail for children in four parks across southern Oxfordshire. The trails will be available in Edmonds Park in Didcot, Southern Road Recreation Ground in Thame, Abbey Garden Meadows in Abingdon and Memorial Park in Wantage. The activities are aimed at primary school children and have been produced to promote **recycling and reuse** messages and explaining the damage litter does to our environment. The trails are between 0.6km and 1.5km long

**Government consultation on Remote Council meetings.** This consultation will advise the Government of the thoughts Local Councils on whether they should be permitted to use remote meetings (e.g., ZOOM & TEAM) in the future. Full details can be seen by following the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence>

David Turner

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021