NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting Held in St Giles Church on Thursday 17th February 2022

Attendees	Cllr. James Nettleton (JN) (Chairman) Cllr. Mike Black (MB) Cllr. Peter Ablett (PA) Cllr. Duncan Howlett (DH) Cllr. Graham Howlett (GH) John Polhill (JP) (Responsible Financial Officer) Colin Andrews (CA) (Resident) Nikki Howlett (NH) (Resident) Eva Goble (EG) (Clerk)
Apologies	Cllr. David Turner (DT) (SODC) Cllr. Robin Bennett (RB) (OCC)

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
1/22	Introduction	The Chairman (JN) opened the meeting and welcomed all present.	
2/22	Apologies	As above.	
3/22	Minutes of the Last Meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2021 were agreed by the Councillors who had been present, approved and signed by the Chairman.	
4/22	Declarations of interest regarding items on agenda	No declarations.	
5/22	Matters Arising Not on agenda	Consultation on draft design guide for new properties (as highlighted below in 7/22). PA will be commenting that all new houses should have solar panels on the roof and an electric car charging point installed.	PA
6/22	Open Forum & Village Matters	Tree planting for Queen's Centenary. CA suggested smallish trees such as Crab Apple could either be planted in a woodland area or planted around the Millennium Stone.	
7/22	District Councillor Report (DT)	(Appendix 1). Key issues highlighted: New flood channel provides relief for Chalgrove residents. A new 520m flood relief channel has been installed at Langley Field Farm to help protect homes along Mill Lane. When levels are high, or there is heavy rainfall, water will now flow away from the residential area and re-join the existing watercourse downstream. The £155,000 project was led by SODC, with collaboration from the local landowner and significant financial contributions from OCC and the Government's six-year flood and coastal erosion risk management investment programme, managed by the Environment Agency. Over £2.5 million available for businesses in SODC and Vale. Businesses based in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors are being urged to apply for support from the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant fund. The government has given £1,482,084	

to South Oxfordshire and £1,104,075 to the Vale of White Horse to help support local businesses that have been struggling financially. To apply, eligible businesses must have been open and trading from a property where they are responsible for paying business rates on 30 December. Successful applicants could receive between £2,667 and £6,000 depending on the rateable value of the property.

Consultation opens on guide for high-quality sustainable new development. A consultation has been launched on a draft Joint Design Guide that will provide guidance on how new development can be designed and constructed to the highest quality and sustainability. The consultation runs until 11.59pm on Tuesday 1 March 2022.

Number of rough sleepers recorded as zero on 31 December 2021 in both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts. This is the first time since 2013 that no rough sleepers were recorded in both councils' areas.

Smaller communities could have a greater say on housing developments in South and Vale. After the two district councils put together a successful joint bid for government grant funding of up to £45,000, the government has announced the districts will be part of a national pilot of a new approach to Neighbourhood Planning which is a process where a community – usually led by the town or parish council – can develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and influence development in their local area. Major toilet revamp to include a new Space to Change for

Henley. Major upgrade of the public toilets in Greys Road car park making it accessible for the whole community with a Space to Change – a specially designed area featuring a wheelchair accessible toilet and a height adjustable adult-sized changing bench and hoist. The refurbishment will also include three new separate toilets. The £145,000 work is being paid for and carried out by SODC.

SO Charitable Lottery raises an additional £15,000 for good causes through money raised in its community fund. Since its launch in 2018 over £63,000 has been distributed to good causes in the district that have signed up to the DODC scheme. Government's cut in council funding could put public services at risk. The government is consulting on proposals for a one-year financial settlement for local authorities, which amounts to a cut in funding for SODC at a time of high inflation and when council finances across the country are already under strain made worse in the past two years as a result of the Covid pandemic.

South Oxfordshire promises to become a local leader in tackling the climate emergency. District councillors have voted in favour of taking actions in line with the Glasgow Climate Pact. The Chair of the council's Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee said that the council is now committed to providing leadership in the form of clear and regular guidance and information about the changes required of us all to reach net zero carbon emissions. The council also agreed to publish a Climate Action Plan to help speed up work locally.

8/22 County Councillor Report (RB) (Appendix 2). Key issues highlighted:

Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council to end formal partnership. The arrangement between the two councils has taken the form of joint services under a single chief executive. Ending of the partnership would mean that joint chief

executive Yvonne Rees will return to her post as CEO for Cherwell District Council. Recruitment will take place for the post of chief executive for Oxfordshire County Council.

Public engagement on proposal to move Oxford United FC to Stratfield Brake. Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet has asked for a public engagement exercise on the proposal from Oxford United Football Club to develop a new 18,000 capacity football stadium with linked leisure and commercial facilities at Stratfield Brake in Kidlington (on land owned by the County Council). Cabinet will consider whether to proceed with negotiations at its meeting on15th March.

Oxfordshire County Council Budget 2022-2023. This is the first budget of Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, a new administration for Oxfordshire which has been forged around a shared commitment to nine priorities. The three political parties of the Alliance (Lib Dems, Labour and Greens) are working together to see a greener, fairer, healthier Oxfordshire. In April, taxpayers will see national insurance contribution (NIC) increase with the new 1.25% Health and Adult Social Care Levy AND increases in their council tax bill to the adult social care precept: 2% that was planned by the previous administration and a further 1% added by the Chancellor in the budget. In light of the public consultation process, and after further discussion by the Cabinet, we are proposing some additional investments compared to the proposed budget:

- 1. £500,000 to support the review into home-to-school transport.
- 2. We are offering tenants of the Council in community assets a one-year rent holiday to take account of financial pressures many community and voluntary organisations have faced during the pandemic.
- 3. We will undertake a strategic rail feasibility study to establish what it would take to advance the proposals for new rail links to Cowley, Grove/ Wantage, North Cotswolds and West Oxfordshire.
- 4. We are investing in additional resource to accelerate our work on active travel in the county.
- 5. We are replenishing the budget priorities reserve to allow for further investment in 2022-23 to (a) support projects that will generate future savings for the Council budget; (b) make early interventions to improve the lives of children and young people; (c) accelerate our climate response.

Local Transport and Connectivity Plan consultation. The Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) document and supporting strategies for freight, active travel and innovation were approved by Cabinet on 19 October for public consultation. The consultation will start on 5 January 2022 and run until 16 March 2022. View the approved documents here-

https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=24140#mgD ocuments

County Councillor Priority Fund. To be eligible for funding, applying organisations must have a committee and a constitution or appropriate rules setting out aims and objectives and how the group will operate. Projects must benefit Oxfordshire communities, be inclusive and provide good value for money. More info here –

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/thriving-communities/councillor-priority-fund

9/22	Councillor and Parish Reports		
9a/22 DH/GH	Community Liaison/ Notice Board	No updates.	
9b/22 DH/GH	Planning Applications	None.	
9c/22 PA/MB	Church Revival	The church warden has received confirmation from SODC and DT that it has approved grant monies of £202 that can be put towards the repair of the stained glass window. PA proposed and JN seconded that repairs go ahead.	PA
9d/22 MB/JN	Event Co- ordination	JN confirmed that Sniper Week was a huge success and conveyed his thanks to Graham and Duncan Howlett and the Derrick family.	
9e/22 MB/EG	Website Management	MB working with the website designer to upload further content such as maps of Newington and the history of certain properties of interest. Consent will need to be sought from owners of historical properties for inclusion on the website.	МВ
9f/22 9A/MB	Neighbourhood Plan	No updates until resources become available in the future.	
9g/22 MB/GH/ PA	New Highways/ Potholes	Cllr Bennett reported that following on from chasing the contractor on this matter, they have confirmed that repair works to remove the defect will be taking place on Wednesday 23 rd February. There will be no road closure but restricted access will be in place. DH thanked JN & family for hedge trimming on Primrose Hill.	
9h/22 JP	Responsible Financial Officer	Cashbook reviewed. All satisfied with current position.	
9i/22 DH	Footpaths	Two rickety styles have been repaired.	
9j/22 EG	Upcoming Training Events	The RFO attended an on-line training session with OALC on Internal Financial Controls covering fraud on 16th February.	
9k/22	Invoices for payment	JN proposed and DH seconded that payment was approved for Clerk's pay and payment of £54 to SODC for flagpole permitted permission.	
10/22	AOB: a)Tree Safety Management	It was agreed that a quote from the arboricultural consultant for a tree survey and inspection would not be necessary as the parish does not own any trees.	
	b)Email re Styles and Gates	It was agreed that DH would draft a reply to the Chair of the local Ramblers' Group informing that the proposal was discussed at the parish meeting and, although the council is sympathetic, it has to balance the views of residents, walkers and landowners so is unable to support the application to the OCC for funding.	DH
	c)Draft Budget	JP circulated the draft budget which was discussed and approved.	

	d)Queens Jubilee	MB proposed and JN seconded a suggestion that a flagpole should be purchased for Newington and located in the church grounds. DH agreed to take responsibility for the flagpole and be the flag officer. It was agreed that an application for siting permission would be sought from SODC. It was agreed that the parish council would be involved in lighting a beacon on 2 nd June at 9.45pm. However this can only be possible if the hay has already been cut. JP produced a proposal for tree planting with a grant of at least £750 from OCC. Tree packs can be purchased from the Woodland Trust. As the parish do not own any land for planting a large number of trees JN will speak to the tenant farmer on the other side of the river. Alternatively,it was suggested that a tree could be donated to all 43 households from the parish council. DH to research tree suppliers and costs and draft a letter to householders. PA suggested obtaining a plaque at a cost of £120 and siting it by the Millennium Stone.	JN DH
	e)Residents questionnaire	MB to communicate with all residents by questionnaire to find out what they would like to see on the website and if they are interested in being involved in any village events or projects. JN agreed to draft covering letter.	MB JN
	f)Councillor Responsibilities g)Community Governance Review	Clerk to email all councillors to gain clarification on their responsibilities. It was agreed this should be discussed at a future meeting as the date for submitting proposed changes to the Community Governance Review has now passed.	EG
	h) Holcombe Lane Maintenance i)Planning AGM	Post pothole repair GH will draft a letter to Highways asking if they will take responsibility for future maintenance. It was agreed that councillors would talk to their neighbours to encourage their interest and involvement in parish matters.	GH
11/22	Dates of Meetings in 2022	Wednesday 23 rd March 2022 Thursday 19 th May 2022 (AGM) Thursday 21 st July 2022 Thursday 22 nd September 2022 Thursday 24 th November 2022	

Signed: Chairman	Date:
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Appendix 1 - Cllr David Turner's February 2022 Report

Press Release New flood channel provides relief for Chalgrove residents. People in an area of Chalgrove can rest a little easier now that their homes are better protected from potential flooding. A new 520m long flood relief channel has been installed at Langley Field Farm to help protect homes and infrastructure along Mill Lane. The area has suffered from flooding on a number of occasions, most recently in 2014. When levels are high, or there's heavy rainfall, water will now flow away from the residential area and re-join the existing watercourse downstream, well away from local properties. The £155,000 project was led by South Oxfordshire District Council, with collaboration from the local landowner and significant financial contributions from Oxfordshire County Council and the Government's six-year flood and coastal erosion risk management investment programme, which is managed by the Environment Agency.

Cllr Sue Cooper, Cabinet Member for Environment, Climate Change and Nature Recovery, at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "I'm very pleased that this long-awaited work is now complete, and I hope that it gives peace of mind to people living in the Mill Lane area that their homes will be much better protected from now on. "This project has been a real demonstration of how councils can work together to improve people's lives as we look to meet the challenge of our changing climate and more extreme weather."

Cllr Pete Sudbury, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment, said: "We are seeing the real impact of climate change here in Oxfordshire, and it is vital that we provide resilience to mitigate against it. This flood channel will help provide security for these residents, who have lived in fear of flooding for many years, at a time when instances of extreme weather are becoming more frequent."

Cllr David Turner, District Council Ward member for Chalgrove, who has campaigned for improved flood protection in the area, said: "I'm very pleased that the new flood relief channel is now in place. I'm sure residents in the Mill Lane will feel a little more at ease now that their homes are now much better protected if local water levels rise."

Over £2.5 million available for businesses in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. Businesses based in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors are being urged to apply for support from the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant fund. The government, who devised the scheme, has given £1,482,084 to South Oxfordshire and £1,104,075 to the Vale of White Horse to help support local businesses that have been struggling financially due to the recent Covid-19 Omicron variant. To apply, eligible businesses must have been open and trading from a property where they are responsible for paying business rates on 30 December. The criteria of the grant is set by the government and rules of how the money is distributed cannot be changed by the council. Successful applicants could receive between £2,667 and £6,000 depending on the rateable value of the property. Business owners can find out the full criteria and complete an online application form via the district councils' South and Vale Business Support website – svbs.co.uk up until midday on 18 February. Businesses can also stay up to date with all government grants given to the district councils by signing up to the South and Vale Business Support newsletter via their website.

Consultation opens on guide for high-quality sustainable new development. A consultation has been launched on a draft Joint Design Guide that will provide guidance on how new development can be designed and constructed to the highest quality and sustainability. The guide, produced by South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils, provides a series of steps and design principles that will be considered when deciding on all future planning applications – whether it's a resident looking to build an extension or a developer building a large housing site. It will help applicants understand what makes high-quality and sustainable design and inspire them to reach these standards. The councils are asking for the public's input on how the draft Joint Design Guide sets out what makes a high-quality development and how we ensure there are clear steps for developers and others to follow. To help make the draft Joint Design

Guide easier to understand an interactive website has been created. It gives details of what the Joint Design Guide is and how it will be used, as well as outlining the key design elements: place and setting; natural environment; movement and connectivity; space and layout; built form; climate and sustainability. The consultation is now open and runs until 11.59pm on Tuesday 1 March 2022.

Number of rough sleepers recorded as zero on 31 December 2021. The number of rough sleepers recorded in both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts on 31 December 2021 was zero. This is the first time since 2013 that no rough sleepers were recorded in both councils' areas. The councils are committed to ending rough sleeping in the districts. Their housing needs team work to this premise through targeted prevention and early intervention measures to help people at risk avoid homelessness. The team has an impressive 85 per cent success rate. Each year this translates into preventing hundreds of households from becoming homeless or rough sleeping. They are working closely with partners, health and care agencies, housing and support providers and voluntary agencies to develop a new housing-led approach in Oxfordshire. This approach offers rapid access to long term accommodation and intensive support for vulnerable homeless households.

Smaller communities could have a greater say on housing developments in South and Vale. Small communities in the Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire will now have an opportunity for greater influence on how and where houses and other developments should be built in their area. After the two district councils put together a successful joint bid for government grant funding of up to £45,000, the government has announced the districts will be part of a national pilot of a new, simpler approach to Neighbourhood Planning.

Neighbourhood Planning is a process where a community – usually led by the town or parish council – can develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and influence development in their local area. **My Comment.** Whilst I welcome an attempt to simplify the system it does not stop our central Government running roughshod over local views as happened in the current South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

Major toilet revamp to include a new Space to Change for Henley. Work has started this week on a major upgrade of the public toilets in Grey's Road car park, Henley, making it accessible for the whole community. The toilets will feature a Space to Change – a specially designed area featuring a wheelchair accessible toilet and a height adjustable adult-sized changing bench and hoist. The refurbishment will also include three new separate toilets and there will also be a new welfare room for car park inspectors and a storage area. The £145,000 work is being paid for and carried out by South Oxfordshire District Council. £45,000 of this figure will come from Community Infrastructure Levy contributions the council secured from housing developers to help fund community facilities in the area.

SO Charitable Lottery raises an additional £15,000 for good causes. The SO Charitable Lottery will be giving an additional £15,000 to good causes in South Oxfordshire this year through money raised in its community fund. There are currently 75 organisations and charities across the district that have joined the lottery, which provides them with vital income to support our communities, this has proved especially important for them during the pandemic. Since its launch in 2018 over £63,000 has been distributed to good causes in the district that have signed up to the South Oxfordshire District Council scheme.

Government's cut in council funding could put public services at risk. Councillors in South Oxfordshire have expressed their disappointment in government proposals that would mean a cut in funding for the district council and a lack of any certainty over its future finances. The government is consulting on proposals for a one-year financial settlement for local authorities, which amounts to a cut in funding for South Oxfordshire District Council at a time of high inflation and at a time when council finances across the country are already under significant strain. That financial strain has been made worse in the past two years as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cllr David Rouane, Leader of South Oxfordshire District Council, said: "Despite the government's claims of an overall increase in spending, this amounts to a real terms cut in our finances. Councils like ours around

the country are working hard to balance their books - a job that is made significantly more difficult by government cuts, and by the lack of any long- term clarity

South Oxfordshire promises to become a local leader in tackling the climate emergency. District councillors have agreed a series of steps to help ensure that South Oxfordshire becomes a real local leader when it comes to tackling the climate emergency. At their meeting on 9 December councillors voted in favour of taking actions which are in line with the Glasgow Climate Pact and its associated declarations agreed by nations attending COP26 in November. The Chair of the council's Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee said that the council is now committed to providing leadership in the form of clear and regular guidance and information which is open and honest about the changes required of us all if we are to reach net zero carbon emissions. The council also agreed to publish a Climate Action Plan to help speed up work locally.

David Turner, SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward) January 30th 2022

Appendix 2 - Cllr Robin Bennett's February 2022 Report

Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council to end formal partnership

Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council are in discussions to bring their formal partnership arrangements to an end. The arrangement between the two councils, which has taken the form of joint services under a single chief executive, has been in place since September 2018. The ending of the partnership would mean that joint chief executive Yvonne Rees will return to her substantive post as CEO for Cherwell District Council from the date of both full council decisions. Recruitment will take place for the post of chief executive for Oxfordshire County Council.

Public engagement on proposal to move Oxford United FC to Stratfield Brake (Kidlington)

Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet has asked officers to conduct a public engagement exercise on the proposal from Oxford United Football Club to develop a new 18,000 capacity football stadium with linked leisure and commercial facilities at Stratfield Brake in Kidlington (on land owned by the County Council). In addition to the stadium, the club's proposal includes facilities such as a hotel, retail, conferencing and training and community grounds.

We've asked that before any decision there should first be a period of engagement with the public and local organisations. This will run from January 25th to February 21st, and Cabinet will consider whether to proceed with negotiations at its meeting on 15th March.

Oxfordshire County Council Budget 2022-2023

OCC will shortly be agreeing its budget. This is the first budget of the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, a new administration for Oxfordshire which has been forged around a shared commitment to nine priorities. The three political parties of the Alliance (Lib Dems, Labour and Greens) are working together because we want to see a greener, fairer, healthier Oxfordshire. We want to build on our strengths while confronting the challenges we face: addressing climate change, tackling inequality, strengthening the resilience of individuals and communities, fostering more social cohesion and common purpose.

Our initial budget proposal in December had more than double the number of responses received last year. We are grateful to all those who gave us their views and have sought to reflect these in the proposals we are presenting.

The Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance called on national government to respond to the challenges facing local government in a meaningful way through the autumn spending review . Unfortunately, they did not. Instead, in adult social care for example, they directed that local authorities should use council tax to meet rising costs. This represents a double-whammy for households at a time of real pressure on living costs. In April, taxpayers will see national insurance contribution (NIC) increase with the new 1.25% Health and Adult Social Care Levy AND increases in their council tax bill to the adult social care precept: 2% that was planned by the previous administration and a further 1% added by the Chancellor in the budget.

In some areas, we have found that the sums provisioned for capital projects by the previous administration were inadequate. This is true of Kennington Bridge, where the £50million estimate that accompanied the outline business case in July 2020 accepted by the previous administration is now projected to be £87million. We have no choice but to use this budget to provide £27million of the additional funding to allow this critical project to proceed.

The largest examples are the two Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) schemes. When the previous administration committed to government that it would deliver these schemes, it accepted the full financial liability for any additional costs arising. We now face disruptions to the supply chain, very significant inflation and labour shortages in the construction sector, through a combination of COVID and the policies related to the UK leaving the EU, which will inevitably affect the cost of these projects.

We have asked officers to redouble their scrutiny of future capital projects to make sure that the optimism bias displayed in the past is removed and we take a more sober and realistic assessment of the costs and risks associated with major programmes.

In light of the public consultation process, and after further discussion by the Cabinet, we are proposing some additional investments compared to the proposed budget:

- 1. £500,000 to support the review into home-to-school transport to assist in transitioning to any new arrangements, with a particular focus on supporting more active travel and more sustainable transport opportunities.
- 2. We are offering tenants of the Council in community assets a one-year rent holiday to take account of financial pressures many community and voluntary organisations have faced during the pandemic; we also commit to reviewing the management of these properties and put their arrangements on a more stable, predictable footing from 2023-4.
- 3. We will undertake a strategic rail feasibility study to establish what it would take to advance the proposals for new rail links to Cowley, Grove/ Wantage, North Cotswolds and West Oxfordshire.
- 4. We are investing in additional resource to accelerate our work on active travel in the county: planning for new schemes and advising on opportunities to integrate active travel more fully in future proposals.
- 5. We are replenishing the budget priorities reserve to allow for further investment in 2022-23 to (a) support projects that will generate future savings for the Council budget; (b) make early interventions to improve the lives of children and young people; (c) accelerate our climate response.

Local Transport and Connectivity Plan consultation

A reminder that the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) document and supporting strategies for freight, active travel and innovation were approved by Cabinet on 19 October for public consultation. The consultation will start on 5 January 2022 and run until 16 March 2022. View the approved documents here-https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=24140#mgDocuments

The LTCP is Oxfordshire's statutory Local Transport Plan. It outlines the long-term vision for transport in the county and the policies required to deliver this. This includes how we look at things like park & rides, which could be replaced with more innovative transport hubs.

County Councillor Priority Fund

I still have some funds remaining in my fund, which is for the period 2021-23.

To be deemed eligible for funding, applying organisations must have a committee and a constitution or appropriate rules setting out aims and objectives and how the group will operate. Projects must benefit Oxfordshire communities, be inclusive and provide good value for money. More info here – https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/community-and-living/thriving-communities/councillor-priority-fund