

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting Held in St Giles Church on Wednesday 23rd March 2022

Attendees	Cllr. James Nettleton (JN) (Chairman) Cllr. Mike Black (MB) Cllr. Peter Ablett (PA) Cllr. Duncan Howlett (DH) Cllr. Graham Howlett (GH) Cllr. Robin Bennett (RB) (OCC) Cllr. David Turner (DT) (SODC) Colin Andrews (Resident) Nikki Howlett (Resident) Eva Goble (EG) (Clerk)
Apologies	None

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
	Introduction	The Chairman (JN) opened the meeting at 19.30 and welcomed all present.	
12/22	Apologies	As above.	
13/22	Minutes of the Last Meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2022 were agreed by the Councillors who had been present, approved and signed by the Chairman	
14/22	Declarations of interest regarding items on agenda	DH and GH both declared an interest in P21/S2545/FUL – Fairview Farm, agenda item 19b/22.	
15//22	Matters Arising Not on agenda	None.	
16/22	Open Forum & Village Matters	Mr Andrews raised the subject of tree planting and asked if the councils had a budget for tree planting. DT responded that he will advise parishes when the budget is made public. Tree planting is further discussed as item AOB 10) 1. on the agenda.	DT
17/22	District Councillor Report (DT)	DT reviews and summarises his report (Appendix 1 attached). Key issues highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Oxfordshire District Council could become a carbon neutral organisation on 3rd March when Cabinet members are asked to approve the council's Climate Action Plan. • A second car park in Wallingford is to have EV chargers installed. • A district-wide tree planting drive to help tackle climate change is set to begin in Wallingford. • South and Vale Councils will be entering a bid for Didcot to be the home of the new Great British Railways headquarters. • Consultations launched on how council raises money from development. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SODC 2022/23 budget. This year it will increase its levy by £5.00 for an average Band D property. The council will benefit from £2 million “New Homes Bonus” in 2022/23 as part of the government’s funding for the year. • Homes for Ukraine. Individuals and organisations can register their interest to provide accommodation for Ukrainian refugees. • The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme has now closed. Residents who were told by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate and who are eligible for the £500 payment have until 6 April to apply for it. • To help local businesses recover from the effects of the pandemic, a company called ShopAppy are providing a local virtual high street allowing residents to easily purchase goods online from local traders. • Platinum Jubilee celebrations. South & Vale councils have a webpage dedicated to the event. For more information, visit: southoxon.gov.uk/platinumjubilee • As part of SODCs commitment to reducing carbon emissions, Biffa are to trial an EV to see if they are feasible in our districts. • Network Rail will be carrying out improvement works in and around Oxford and the North Cotswolds during April. More information on GWR.com/Upgrade. 	
18/22	County Councillor Report (RB)	<p>RB reviews and summarises his report (Appendix 2 attached). Key issues highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large majority of parents and children across Oxfordshire have been offered their first choice secondary school place for 2022/23. • Oxfordshire County Council receives bronze award for commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion employer. • Local Transport and Connectivity Plan consultation runs until 16 March 2022, and outlines the long-term vision for transport in the county and the policies required to deliver this. • Councils are working together to re-home Ukrainian refugees. 	
19/22	Councillor & Parish Reports		
19a/22 DH/GH	Community Liaison/ Notice Board	No updates.	
19b/22 DH/GH	Planning Applications	P21/S2545/FUL Fairview Farm, As the application has already been passed this refers to a signing off condition for rainwater drainage. No further comments.	
19c/22 PA/MB	Church Revival	PA has stepped down from Chairing the Church Revival Group. GH to make donation to PCC for a heater to be used in a cleared area of the church for meetings.	
19d/22 MB/JN	Event Co-ordination	JN will organise a tennis tournament later this year to raise funds for the church.	JN
19e/22 EG	Website Management	MB informed that there is still more to do regarding the website revamp and update. GH raised objections for security reasons, to maps being considered for inclusion, namely those of family properties that show a track that has been mistaken by walkers	MB

		as a right of way. JN suggested that an aerial view map of the village could be used without tracks, footpaths or property names marked. MB will check with Ordnance Survey to establish if alterations to OS maps is permitted. MB to send a questionnaire on parish communications to all households with a covering letter from JN. PA suggested highlighting forthcoming parish meetings and trees for the green canopy in the questionnaire.	MB/JN
19f/22 PA/MB	Neighbourhood Plan	No updates.	
19g/22 MB/GH/ PA	New Highways/ Potholes	Holcombe Lane pothole/duck pond has now been repaired. GA thanked RB for his input. There is a missing chevron at the top of Primrose Hill on the A329. Clerk to write to Highways.	Clerk
19h/22 JN	Responsible Financial Officer. Invoices for payment	Cashbook discussed. All happy with present position. It was agreed by all that the invoices from CSDGO £146.25 for website work, OALC £150 for continued membership and SODC £27 for flagpole permission, be approved for payment.	
19i/22 DH	Footpaths	No updates.	
19j/22 EG	Upcoming Training Events	No updates.	
20/22 AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Tree Planting for Queen's Jubilee – It was agreed to arrange a site meeting at the Millennium Stone to discuss siting and approximate number of trees. As part of the Queen's Green Canopy PA proposed that a budget of £500 be spent on the purchase of trees, seconded by DH. This figure together with the County Council's match funding of £750 would give a total spend of £1250. All were in favour of Mr Andrews' proposal of a crescent of trees around the Millennium Stone, depending on size and type and to approach the community for contributions. DH/PA to research type and size of trees. b) Email to Chair of Ramblers – It was agreed that due to the length of time having passed a reply was unnecessary. c) Flagpole installation – MB informed that an 6 metre, theft secure, fibreglass flagpole would cost in the region of £775. As all were in favour it was agreed that a flagpole would be purchased. d) Councillor responsibilities – Clarified and agreed by all. e) Holcombe Lane maintenance – nothing further to report. <p>The meeting closed at 21.17</p>	<p>PA</p> <p>DH/PA</p> <p>MB</p>	
21/22	Date of next meeting	Thursday 19 th May 2022 (AGM) (Apologies for non attendance of this meeting received from DT and RB)	

Signed: Chairman

Date:

Appendix 1 – Cllr David Turner’s March 2022 Report

Climate Action Plan a major step to reducing council emissions. South Oxfordshire District Council could take a major step to becoming a carbon neutral organisation on Thursday 3rd March when Cabinet members are asked to approve the council’s Climate Action Plan. The Plan outlines how the council will achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 – this means the carbon produced from the council’s buildings and services will be balanced by the amount removed from the atmosphere. If adopted, the Plan would signal some important changes for how the council delivers its services, where it makes investments, the policies it adopts and projects it supports. Staff and councillors would receive training to ensure they are aware of the impacts of carbon emissions and the council would adopt a digital by default approach for council meetings to help cut down on vehicle emissions. The Plan also outlines how the council will support local efforts to tackle the climate emergency. Cabinet members will consider the council’s Climate Action Plan on Thursday 3 February. The Plan follows significant work from officers and councillors, and feedback from parish councils, local climate action groups and from the council’s Climate and Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee which met earlier this month. To ensure the council is open about its progress towards the targets, officers will carry out quarterly reviews of the action plan and report to the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and Cabinet.

Second car park to have EV chargers installed. Work is due to start in March at a second car park in Wallingford as part of the “Park and Charge Electric Vehicle” charging scheme. The project proposes a total of up to 62 new charging points in car parks across the South Oxfordshire district. Engineers are scheduled to begin installing electric chargers at Goldsmith’s Lane car park in Wallingford next week. This will involve several bays being fenced off temporarily and some short-term disruption to the car park. This follows the work at the Cattle Market car park previously announced. We will announce the work at the other car parks shortly. All work is due to be completed by the end of March. This project is part of a county-wide scheme to install hundreds of EV charging points in council-owned car parks.

South Oxfordshire tree planting drive to start in Wallingford. A district-wide tree planting drive to help tackle climate change is set to begin next month in Wallingford. South Oxfordshire District Council has just granted an application from Friends of Wallingford and Cholsey Green Spaces to plant trees at Radnor Road and Wilding Road. The applications are the first to be approved following the launch of the council’s new tree planting policy, which outlines how it will support local tree planting initiatives as well as how it will protect, plant and manage trees on council land. The Friends will plant approximately 45 trees at Radnor Road, including a community orchard and walnut, sweet chestnut, oak, rowan and hawthorn trees, while a new community orchard on Wilding Road will feature ten apple and plum trees; a hornbeam, oak, field and horse chestnut; and a new hedgerow. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere so this work will play an important role in helping to reduce local emissions. District councillors are now urging more groups to come forward with proposals for planting trees on council land across the district – for more information visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/trees

Great British Railways Headquarters could be built in Didcot. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils will be entering a bid for Didcot to be the home of the new Great British Railways headquarters. The government competition is asking for local authorities outside of London to enter for the opportunity to have the new Great British Railways headquarters built in their town or city. The chance has been dubbed a ‘once in a generation’ prospect that will transform the way in which the rail sector works, with its main aim to create a better railway for communities across the whole of the UK. The new organisation will serve as a single, accountable public body responsible for running Britain’s railways. Since the erection of a covered station in 1844 as part of Isambard Kingdom Brunel’s Great Western Railway, Didcot has served as a vital junction for trade and tourists between Oxford, London and the west country. From a small village, the town has grown and prospered immeasurably over the past two hundred years, thanks to its important railway links.

Consultations launched on how council raises money from development. Two consultations have been launched on how funds are raised for facilities and infrastructure in South Oxfordshire to support housing growth in the district. The money raised from developers can be used to fund a wide range of strategic and local infrastructure such as transport schemes, schools, community or health facilities, parks, green spaces and leisure facilities. The first consultation relates to what’s known as the Community Infrastructure Levy or CIL – a local charge that the council can choose to apply to new development in our

district. South Oxfordshire District Council is undertaking a review of its CIL Charging Schedule, which is a document setting out the rates it charges for different types of development in different parts of the district. The second consultation relates to the review of our Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (or SPD), which sets out how the council will ensure new development on strategic sites and larger developments will contribute to the provision of affordable housing and supporting infrastructure (either on the site or through a contribution to the Council), through what are known as Section 106 Agreements. The two consultations run for the next five weeks until 11.59pm on Tuesday 22 March 2022. You can view an electronic copy of all the consultation documents on our website at:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/cilchargingsschedule>

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/developercontributionsspd>

The SODC 2022/23 budget. South Oxfordshire is a proven low-cost operator but has one of the lowest council tax rates in the country for a District Council. This legacy severely restricts the council's ability to raise additional funds needed to cover costs. For years this has caused an annual deficit – which the council is striving to reduce. This year the council will increase its levy by £5.00 for an average Band D property, so for 2022/23, residents will pay a Band D rate of £136.24 per household for services provided by the District Council. Unlike many other councils, South Oxfordshire does not benefit significantly from the business rates retention scheme, which allows councils to keep a proportion of the rates paid by businesses their area to help pay for local services. The council will benefit from £2 million “New Homes Bonus” in 2022/23 as part of the government's funding for the year but beyond the current financial year there is no clarity from the government on future funding levels. If funding levels fall then action may be needed to protect vital services. Each Parish and Town Council will be sent information on how this affects their residents when added to the County Council and Police charges. Each household will also get this information.

Support for Ukraine Update.

Here is the link to the government's local sponsorship scheme Homes for Ukraine where individuals and organisations can register their interest to provide accommodation for Ukrainian refugees and find out more about the scheme. We stand by the people of Ukraine in the face of the invasion by Russia and our thoughts are with everyone affected by this action. We will help in any way we can, working too with our local partners, including resettling refugees locally.

Government support schemes.

Guidance on government support available to Ukrainian nationals and their family members. This includes the Ukraine Family Scheme, which allows family members of British nationals to come to or stay in the UK; and the Local Sponsorship Scheme for Ukraine, which enables people and organisations such as charities, businesses and community groups to sponsor Ukrainians who do not have established families in the country, so they are able to come to the UK.

Making a donation.

Many people in the county want to do whatever they can to help, and one way is to make a donation. The best current route to donate and support is via the Disasters Emergencies Committee. The UK Government has said it will match fund up to £20m. DEC works with 15 charities including Oxfam, Christian Aid and Save the Children. There are a number of other international charities you can support:

The British Red Cross has launched a Ukraine Crisis Appeal to support the work of the Ukrainian Red Cross to fund food, water, first aid, medicines, warm clothes and shelter.

The UNHCR refugee agency is collecting monetary donations for humanitarian assistance, emergency shelter and relief items like blankets. It will also fund psychological support for refugees. The UN's children's charity, UNICEF, is accepting donations to help ensure child health and protection services are sustained and families have clean water and food.

Giving safely If you're looking to donate to causes working in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, you should make a few simple checks before giving: Check the charity's name and registration number at www.gov.uk/checkcharity Make sure the charity is genuine before giving any financial information

Be careful when responding to emails or clicking on links within them

Contact or find out more online about the charity that you're seeking to donate to or work with to understand how they are spending their funds Look out for the Fundraising Badge on charity fundraising materials, this

is the logo which shows that a charity has committed to fundraise in line with the Code of Fundraising Practice

Test and trace final support payments. The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme in England has now closed. However, residents who were previously told by NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate and who are eligible for the £500 payment have until 6 April to apply for it. Information is on our South and Vale websites. Residents continue to request financial support with household expenses as a result of Covid-19 and there is an increasing need from people struggling due to the cost of living increases. We're continuing to signpost residents to sources of help and we're sending out emergency food parcels when needed.

ShopAppy to help local businesses. We need lots of independent, local high street businesses to help us pilot an exciting new online "marketplace" – a locally-focused app where they can sell their products online and promote their shops. To help local businesses recover from the effects of the pandemic, we've partnered with a company called ShopAppy – they're providing us with a local virtual high street allowing our residents to easily purchase goods online from local traders. It's ideal for small and medium sized businesses without the resources or expertise to sell their goods online, and will help them be competitive in a market where customers increasingly buy online. Please help spread the word to retailers in your ward – it's free to join and there's no cost for the first 12 months of the scheme (excluding bank / card charges). For more information, head to the ShopAppy website - shopappy.com

Digital workshops for local businesses. As well as providing a handy digital platform for our local businesses, we're also arranging some digital workshops to help them learn how to sell online themselves, and how to increase their customer base using social media platforms. Please let local businesses know that they can join various professionally-run workshops taking place from 21 March to 14 April. The full details are available at svbs.co.uk/events.

Platinum Jubilee celebrations this summer. There are only a few months to go until the country celebrates the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. South & Vale councils now have a webpage dedicated to the event, as a 'one stop shop' for residents, businesses and our town and parish councils to find out what they need to do arrange an event, what events are happening locally, what's happening nationally and what we are going to be doing as a council to mark this special occasion – information about our plans will be announced very soon. These pages will be updated as we get more information, and we will share the details on our social media and regular newsletters. For more information, visit:
southoxon.gov.uk/platinumjubilee

A glittering future for bin collections? From next week, residents might be lucky to spot 'Glitterball' – the name of a brightly coloured electric bin truck – which will be collecting recycling from households as part of a four-week trial of electric vehicles (EVs) in our area. As part of our commitment to reducing our carbon emissions, we asked Biffa to trial an EV to see if they are feasible in our districts. The information gained from the trial will inform any future contracts that we award. The truck will be in South next week and week beginning 4 April and in the Vale weeks beginning 28 March and 11 April.

Planning enquiries. If you have an enquiry about a planning application, in the first instance please send your request to planning@southoxon.gov.uk or planning@whitehorsedc.gov.uk rather than individual officers or teams. This will help to avoid any duplication of work and ensure the Planning Service can answer your query as efficiently as possible, as well as ensuring we are able to record all enquires that are made on or about an application appropriately on the relevant case file.

'Passed with flying colours' Our colleagues in the councils' Legal team have once again achieved an excellent outcome in their assessment against the Lexcel standard - the Law Society's independent quality accreditation standard for all legal practices. To quote their Head of Service, Patrick Arran, the team has "passed with flying colours. The team faced a thorough two-day assessment, which included interviews for several members of the team – including senior management. The wide-ranging assessment considered issues such as client care, financial management, information management, people management and file and case management. The next full assessment is due 2025, although there is an annual inspection to ensure standards are consistently maintained.

Online courses are a hit with local businesses. Our Food and Safety Team has had great success after hundreds of staff from local businesses attended the team's online food and workplace safety training courses. The courses covering Food Safety, Health and Safety in the Workplace, Allergen Safety and Covid are primarily aimed at the many small local businesses which had to shut during the pandemic. Alongside the other Oxfordshire councils, we've offered the courses free of charge for a limited time. Thanks to the team's hard work, take up from businesses in South and Vale was particularly high compared with elsewhere in the county, with more than 450 people from our districts completing at least one session. The free courses run until the end of March, or until we've used all the funding provided by the government – for more information see the South or Vale website.

If you're planning any train journeys in April or over the Easter break. Please be aware that Network Rail will be carrying out improvement works in and around Oxford and the North Cotswolds. There is more information on [GWR.com/Upgrade](https://www.gwr.com/Upgrade) and see [GWR.com/NorthCotswolds](https://www.gwr.com/NorthCotswolds) for the work taking place over the Easter holidays.

David Turner, SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)
February 27th 2022 (Updated 22nd March 2022)

Appendix 2 – Cllr Robin Bennett’s March 2022 Report

Large majority offered first choice secondary school place for 2022/23

Parents and children across Oxfordshire have been offered their first choice of secondary school for 2022/23 in the vast majority of cases.

A total of **88.27 per cent** (6,606) of applications have been awarded their first choice (up from 80.9 per cent last year). A total of 96.42 per cent (7,216) have been offered one of the four choices they listed on their application. The county school admissions team has done an excellent job in ensuring that so many parents and children have been offered their first choice. Our aim as a council is to give every child a good start in life and our school admissions team certainly play its part in that year in, year out.

Oxfordshire County Council receives award for commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion

The Council has received a bronze award for its commitment and efforts to become an LGBTQ+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning and others) employer. The award comes as part of equality charity Stonewall’s ‘Bring Yourself to Work’ campaign, which highlights the importance of inclusive work environments. Oxfordshire County Council is proud to stand with everyone in our LGBTQ+ communities. According to Stonewall’s research, more than a third of LGBTQ+ staff (35 per cent) hide who they are at work, while one in five (18 per cent) have been the target of negative comments because they’re LGBTQ+.

Local Transport and Connectivity Plan consultation

Final call for this, which runs until 16 March 2022, and outlines the long-term vision for transport in the county and the policies required to deliver this.

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltcp>

Public Health advice: use caution and consideration as pandemic enters new phase

People in Oxfordshire are being urged to act with caution and consideration following the prime minister’s significant announcement about COVID-19 rule changes.

Despite recent welcome declines in the number of people contracting COVID-19 in the county, thousands of people are still doing so each week.

Ansaf Azhar, Oxfordshire County Council’s Director for Public Health, said:

“We’re now at a point where we can start to look forward, to live with COVID-19 and be confident about making plans. But my advice is to do this with caution and consideration for others. COVID-19 has not gone away. For some – the medically vulnerable and the elderly – it remains a threat. For those who have not had the vaccine, the virus still has the potential to cause serious illness.”

- Be considerate. If you feel ill, then you should still stay away from others and remain at home while you have symptoms. As with any other illness, no-one will thank you for sharing it.
- Be aware. There will be many in our communities who will be extremely nervous about the recent news. Be conscious of other people’s situations and what they are comfortable with and adjust your behaviour accordingly.
- Be cautious. Our rates are still high and will remain so for some time to come. Making sensible decisions, such as wearing a face covering in crowded places and letting fresh air into indoor spaces, does not mean restricting what you do.
- Be mindful of the fact that our health and social care system remains under huge pressure. So please only visit hospital emergency departments in genuine emergencies.