

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting Held in St Giles Church on Thursday 28th July 2022

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| Attendees | Cllr. James Nettleton (JN) (Chairman) Cllr. Mike Black (MB) Cllr. Peter Ablett (PA) Cllr. Duncan Howlett (DH) Cllr. Graham Howlett (GH) Eva Goble (EG) (Clerk) Nikki Howlett (NH) (Resident) |
| Apologies | Cllr. David Turner (DT) (SODC) Cllr. Robin Bennett (RB) (OCC) |

| Ref | Item | Notes | Action |
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| 35/22 | Introduction | The Chairman (JN) opened the meeting at 19.30 and welcomed all present. | |
| 36/22 | Apologies | As above. | |
| 37/22 | Minutes of the Last Meeting | The minutes of the meeting held on 19 th May 2022 were agreed by the Councillors who had been present, approved and signed by the Chairman | |
| 38/22 | Declarations of interest regarding items on agenda | GH and DH declared an interest in item 43b/22. | |
| 39/22 | Matters Arising Not on agenda | None. | |
| 40/22 | Open Forum & Village Matters | No items to discuss. | |
| 41/22 | District Councillor Report (DT) | (Appendix 1) attached. | |
| 42/22 | County Councillor Report (RB) | (Appendix 2) attached. | |
| | Councillor & Parish Reports | | |
| 43a/22 DH/GH | Community Liaison/ Notice Board | Agenda, minutes and financial statement have all been or still are displayed on the notice board. | |
| 43b/22 DH/GH | Planning Applications | P22/S2353/HH – Fairview, Newington. GH and DG declared an interest. The remaining councillors wholly supported the application. | |
| 43c/22 PA/MB | Church Revival | No further action. | |

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| 43d/22 MB/JN | Event Co-ordination | JN to arrange a tennis tournament for September. | JN |
| 43e/22 MB/EG | Website Management | Updates still ongoing. | |
| 43f/22 MB | Neighbourhood Plan | No further progress. | |
| 43g/22 MB/GH/ PA | New Highways/ Potholes | <p>A rut has appeared by a gas pipe utility above-ground markers to indicate the location of buried pipelines and natural gas lines. The road subsidence is within Newington parish, on the Berrick to Chalgrove road. The Berrick Salome parish clerk has reported this on the Fix my Street app. Clerk to contact Berrick Salome parish clerk to offer any help or support.</p> <p>MB advised that an outstanding chevron sign was still on order with the Highways department.</p> <p>Concern was raised regarding the increase in the number of HGVs travelling at considerable speed through the village and causing distress to some residents who experience rumbling in their properties. Clerk to write to Highways to enquire if speed and weight checks are conducted.</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 43h/22 JN | Responsible Financial Officer Invoices for payment | <p>Cashbook discussed. All happy with present position. JN suggested a reduction in the precept to what it was before. There is a healthy balance in the accounts and it was suggested to use some money to benefit the community. All were asked to think about suggestions.</p> <p>DH proposed that Clerk's pay of £378.72 be paid and GH seconded.</p> | |
| 43i/22 DH | Footpaths | No updates. | |
| 44/22 | AOB | <p>a) New Code of Conduct. All confirmed that they had read and agree to adopt the new code. Therefore it was agreed that the new Code of Conduct is duly adopted.</p> <p>b) Settlement Assessment. A questionnaire has been received from SODC to gather information on the settlements in South Oxfordshire to draw an understanding of how well residents' everyday needs are met. PA volunteered to complete this.</p> <p>c) Speed limit reduction application. OCC have confirmed that Newington is in Phase 2 of the project which they are officially saying will be undertaken between April 2023 to April 2024.</p> <p>d) Jubilee trees. Ten crab apple trees have been ordered for delivery on 6/10/22 but all agreed that eight trees would be sufficient to create an arc around the Millennium Stone without obscuring the gated entrance into the field. The PC will need approval from OCC Highways and MB to contact Highways. PA has arranged for their Tree Officer to visit, date to be arranged. Written approval from adjoining landowners will also be required. PA is consulting with utilities companies as there is a gas pipe located either in the road or on the verge, trees will need to be pruned over</p> | <p>ALL</p> <p>PA</p> <p>MB</p> <p>PA</p> |

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| | | <p>power lines and there is also a BT manhole in close proximity to the planting area. DH proposed and MB seconded that the PC submit an application to SODC for a grant of £750. PA to make formal application through DT.</p> <p>e) Allotment administration. It was noted that the fences on the allotments were in need of repair but this was not an urgent matter at present. It was agreed that the allotment holders would in future be issued with receipts when rent is paid. Clerk to administer receipt process. At present there is one vacant allotment.</p> <p>f) Reservoir at Steventon. The PC would like to consider supporting, in principle, the proposed reservoir and will consult with residents. Clerk to email DT to establish details to be further discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.00</p> | <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| 45/22 | Dates of Meetings in 2022 | <p>Thursday 15th September 2022</p> <p>Thursday 24th November 2022</p> | |

Signed: Chairman

Date:.....

Appendix 1 – Cllr David Turner's July 2022 Report

SODC Councillor's Monthly Report July

Have your say on our Joint Local Plan. We've already received hundreds of individual comments on our Joint Local Plan consultation, but don't forget – we need yours too! You should use our full survey to take part, so we can identify that your responses come from a Town or Parish Council.

To help us get more responses from a wider range of residents, we've also launched an easy-to-use interactive website that allows residents to view the different issues facing both districts (South & Vale) and how we might tackle them. Please help spread the word and encourage your communities to visit the site and answer the questions. There's more on our South Oxfordshire Joint Local Plan pages

Getting families active. We've just launched You Move – a new initiative providing low-cost or free activities for children and families who receive benefits-related free school meals in Oxfordshire. Activities available so far include cricket, swimming and badminton. More on our website at www.southoxon.gov.uk/youmove

Better Leisure support for refugees. On the subject of activities – our leisure provider, GLL, is offering refugees a free three-month Better Health Centre membership, or a subscription to a course or lesson. More on their website.

Didcot Broadway update. A fantastic new photography art project for local youngsters aged between 11 and 16 will be the centrepiece of some new hoardings on the Broadway in Didcot. We're putting the hoarding up to secure the properties we own there while we're formulating plans for the future of the site. Some of the run-down buildings could be demolished to make way for new high-quality affordable and sustainable and energy efficient homes on brownfield land in the town, but in the meantime its important the buildings are secure, while the photography project helps make the site more visually appealing, while also encouraging young local talent. The images were taken by young people involved with Didcot TRAIN and Damascus Youth Project after they worked with Etain O'Carroll, a photographer from Oxford. We'll share the pictures as soon as they're available.

Household Support Fund extension opens soon. More help is on the way for households who are struggling to afford energy, food and other related expenses. We're opening the extended Household Support Fund next week in South Oxfordshire. Please signpost people who may need this support to our website next week and if possible, share our social media messages. Initially the fund will only be open to applications from residents who haven't received support in earlier rounds. To help speed up the application process, residents will be able to complete a form on the website and email it to Citizens Advice. Our Community Hub team can help people complete the forms if needed. Details on the voucher scheme will be on our website next week.

New cleaning project for South Oxfordshire. South Oxfordshire District Council is putting money into an extra deep cleaning project, which is set to tackle areas in the district which need a spruce up. The council has set aside £88,000 of its Climate Action Fund to pay for extra work at nominated sites over the next nine months. The waste team is consulting town and parish councils to select the areas needing extra cleaning.

Requests for new litter or dog bins. Requests for new litter and dog waste bins have been a hot topic recently, so here's a quick update on how it works. Dog waste can now be mixed with general litter and so it makes sense to install litter bins rather than ones for dog waste only. When parishes ask us to install new bins, we must consider what need there is for a new bin alongside the ongoing costs of emptying it as well as the initial installation costs. We will assess the site for evidence of a litter or dog fouling problem and consider if:

- there are existing bins nearby
- there's a high footfall
- it's on an adopted highway or council owned land, or a risk to users or residents living nearby
- it's close to the public highway to allow crews to empty it safely

If you'd like more information on new litter bins, please contact the Waste team via waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk

Litter mapping. While we're on the subject, the Waste team is carrying out an ongoing review of litter bins in our District. We have also launched a litter mapping project where litter pickers record where and what type of rubbish is picked up so we can target resources accordingly. You can find out more information on our litter mapping project on our websites: southoxon.gov.uk/littermapping

Zero tolerance to knife crime. Thames Valley Police has launched a new campaign against knife crime called Operation Deter. The aim is to make better use of charging and remanding offenders to court to ensure that the right message is sent to those found in possession of a knife. Initially the early focus will be around Milton Keynes, but it is intended that the approach will be spread across the Thames Valley region

Unauthorised encampments - changes to the law. On Tuesday 28 June the law around, unauthorised encampments changed. It's now a criminal offence to reside with a vehicle on land without permission. The new offence will be committed when someone aged 18 or over causes significant damage, disruption or distress and are requested to leave or remove their property by the landowner or police.

New partnership targets improved water quality for the River Thames at Wallingford. South Oxfordshire District Council has launched a new partnership aimed at improving the health and quality of the River Thames at Wallingford. The council is working with environmental charity Thames21 and volunteers from the local community to collect water samples and complete user surveys, to provide much-needed information on the overall health of the river. The project aims to improve everybody's understanding of the causes of river pollution locally and ensure that all users of this stretch of the river – including swimmers, rowers and anglers – can make informed decisions about how they use the Thames. The water samples taken at Wallingford, as well as from several points along the river in South Oxfordshire, will be analysed by Thames Water who are supporting the project. The laboratory analysis will show levels of bacteria, including E.coli and Intestinal Enterococci, that are found in sewage and can make river users very ill. This data, together with surveys of river users over the summer, will be used to get a better understanding of how popular the site is and the extent of any issues with the water quality that poses a risk to humans and the overall health of the river.

Later this year, South Oxfordshire District Council will use the information collected during the project to inform an application to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for bathing water status for a mile stretch of the Thames with Wallingford at the centre. If bathing water status is awarded, the Environment Agency would develop a bathing water profile for the site and put plans in place to monitor and protect the water during the bathing season in subsequent years. Achieving this award would not solve all pollution problems, but it would help to drive investment needed to ensure the river is suitable for people and wildlife. So far, 20 local volunteers have signed up to take part in the project and received training from Thames21 in how to take accurate samples from the river.

More help for people to pay food and energy bills. More help is on the way for people who are struggling to pay their food, energy and other related bills. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils have opened a voucher scheme to support households who can't afford to pay for life's essentials. The scheme is part of the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) which was extended by the chancellor in the recent budget. A portion of funds allocated to Oxfordshire County Council have been allocated to South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils as part of a wider support package across the county, which includes help for children eligible for free school meals through the

holidays. Funding is limited and the scheme is open initially to people who have not had support from it before. However, the councils will open it to second applications if funds remain.

David Turner SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)

28th June 2022

Updated 13th July 2022

Appendix 2 – Cllr Robin Bennett's July 2022 Report

July 2022 County Councillor Report – Cllr Robin Bennett
Robin.bennett@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Help with cost of living webpage

We've assembled a webpage on help available as living costs and inflation continue to rise- A wide range of support is available from both county and district councils, as well as other local organisations.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/help-rising-living-costs>

Campaign: Annual savings of up to £2,318.23 for commuters who switch car for bus A new campaign is designed to highlight the financial advantage of taking a bus over a private vehicle. With the cost of fuel at record levels, commuters and leisure travellers can achieve significant savings by swapping using private vehicles for buses, where practical. Oxfordshire County Council is delivering the campaign in partnership with Oxford Bus Company, Thames Travel and Stagecoach. Petrol and diesel prices reached record highs this month, with the cost of filling up a 55-litre tank family car now more than £100 on average. Fresh data collated by bus operators has revealed savings which can be made, even before factoring in paying to park:

- A return journey between Witney and Oxford via Stagecoach S1 five days a week achieves an annual saving of up to £2,230.30 compared to using a private vehicle.
- A return journey between Abingdon and John Radcliffe Hospital via Oxford Bus Company's X3 service saves up to £2,318.23 per year compared to using a private vehicle.

Bus passenger levels are currently running at between 75 and 80 per cent of pre-COVID levels; Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet recently approved its draft enhanced partnership (EP) document – a plan to help bring passenger levels back to pre-pandemic levels - for submission to the government. After public consultation, the final version will be submitted to the government later this year aiming to secure Bus Service Improvement Plan funding of £12.7m.

HIF1 Didcot and Culham infrastructure project

Although I and others raised serious concerns at the meeting, Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet has decided to continue to the next stage of the HIF1 Didcot and surrounding areas major infrastructure project with a revised funding deal with Government.

Up to £30m funded from council borrowing will be combined with further funds from Homes England and the Oxfordshire LEP to aim to deliver the project by mid-2026. Homes England have also agreed that the Council can make improvements to the sustainability of the scheme during the next phase of design. Cabinet agreed to provide a maximum of £30m in additional funding, and to write to Homes England to make clear there could be no further contribution from Oxfordshire County Council.

The county council has secured assurances from Homes England that it would work in partnership to identify additional funding sources or re-scope the project during the funding period, should that be required in exceptional circumstances.

OXFORDSHIRE County Council adopts 'Vision Zero'

Recent tragic incidents on our roads have focused everyone's minds on the vital importance of making our roads safer for all users, especially the most vulnerable.

The adoption of Vision Zero for Oxfordshire signals a clear ambition and commits the council to taking a new approach.

The council wants to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries in road crashes in the county. It has launched Vision Zero, an initiative designed to reach the target by 2050 with interim targets of a 25 per cent cut in casualties by 2026 and a 50 per cent reduction by 2030. The average number of deaths on Oxfordshire roads each year over the past 10 years is 25 and the total of serious injuries is 210. For more info on Vision Zero- <https://visionzeronetwork.org/about/what-is-vision-zero/>



Update on Homes for Ukraine – rematching (where initial arrangements aren't working)

The county council are planning to create a new team to lead on the rematching of households where sponsorship arrangements cannot continue. Funding for the team will come from the government's existing commitment to provide local authorities with £10,500 per guest. The rematching team will sit outside of any existing homelessness teams and will have access to an emergency accommodation fund (£30,000), which will help families avoid becoming homeless.

As per government guidance, rematching will only be used where it is unviable or unsafe for the sponsorship relationship to continue (or when a DBS/accommodation check has failed). It will only apply for guests who received a visa through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. OCC will be working to keep rematches to a minimum, to maintain capacity for re-housing those most in housing need. If a guest family already has children enrolled in schools, the council will prioritise rematching as close to the education setting as possible.

For general Ukraine queries, go to:

- **Website:** www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine
- **Oxfordshire Ukraine helpline:** +44 1865 966444 / 01865 966 444 (opening hours for Monday 30 May - Wednesday 1 June, 8.45am - 5pm, bank holiday Thursday 2 June - Saturday 4 June, helpline closed but email is being monitored 10am - 3pm, closed Sunday 5 June).
- **Email:** ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk