

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting Held in St Giles Church on Monday 10th October 2022

(Postponed from Thursday 15th September 2022)

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

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
46/22	Introduction	The Chairman (JN) opened the meeting at 19.30 and welcomed all present.	
47/22	Apologies	As above.	
48/22	Minutes of the Last Meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 21 st July 2022 were agreed by the Councillors who had been present, approved and signed by the Chairman	
49/22	Declarations of interest regarding items on agenda	No declarations.	
50/22	Matters Arising Not on agenda	None.	
51/22	Open Forum & Village Matters	No items to discuss.	
52/22	District Councillor Report (DT)	DT reviews and summarises his September and October reports (Appendix 1) attached. JN informed that there had been six water leaks locally from burst pipes within a few years. There were concerns that on two occasions mains chlorinated water from burst pipes was flowing into the river causing pollution and killing fish. DT advised that District Cllr. Jo Robb is the River Thames Champion at South Oxfordshire District Council. DT to put JN in contact with her. PA will draft letter to Thames Water asking for pipework in Holcombe Lane to be replaced. It was felt that this would be more cost effective than constantly repairing leaks and filling holes.	DT PA
53/22	County Councillor Report (RB)	September and October reports (Appendix 2) attached.	

	Councillor & Parish Reports		
54a/22 DH/GH	Community Liaison/ Notice Board	No updates. Notice board is regularly maintained and out of date information removed.	
54b/22 DH/GH	Planning Applications	None.	
54c/22 PA/MB	Church Revival	No updates.	
54d/22 MB/JN	Event Co-ordination	JN advised that the tennis tournament had raised £700.	
54e/22 MB/EG	Website Management	No updates. It had been noticed that the web pages were slow to load. MB to inform website developer at next opportunity.	MB
54f/22 PA/MB	Neighbourhood Plan	No further updates.	
54g/22 MB/GH/	New Highways/ Potholes	It has been noticed that a sewage manhole cover in Holcombe Lane appears to have subsided and could potentially cause damage to cars driving over it. MB will alert Highways to the problem.	MB
54h/22 JN	Responsible Financial Officer Invoices for payment	Cashbook discussed. All happy with present position. MB proposed and DH seconded that invoices for Barcham Tree Specialists £907.20 and Clerk's pay £470.63 should be paid.	
54i/22 DH	Footpaths	Nothing reported.	
55/22	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Proposed reservoir at Steventon. The County Council is opposing the plan and it was agreed that the Parish Council would neither support nor oppose the proposal but if asked, the PC would consult with the community. To be reviewed at next meeting as GH not present. b) Fix My Street superuser. MB has volunteered to act as Superuser as part of the Oxfordshire County Council Environment & Place Volunteer Coordination team subject to taking part in an on-line training session. Once trained MB will be able to raise works orders on Class C roads only, for potholes on minor roads and pavements, saving Highways Officer time. c) Weight restriction enforcement for HGVs. A form to report a weight restriction breach was circulated to those present. It was agreed that Councillors would remain alert to HGVs passing through village and report a breach if and when seen. d) Church window update. JN to speak to Church Warden Alex to establish current position on repair and report back to next meeting. e) Allotments. A poster advertising availability has been posted on the website and Facebook. Clerk agreed to handle payment sent through the post and issue receipts. NH suggested that tenants' rents could be paid on line. JN to ask Church Warden if rents can be increased as allotment site is church land. 	<p>MB</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>JN</p> <p>JN</p>

		<p>f) Trees. The quantity has been changed from 10 to 8 Crab Apple with delivery on 19th October. The OCC Tree Officer has visited. A community planting event is to be arranged and DT was asked to attend as Chair of SODC. It was suggested that PR to promote the event could be sought.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 20.31</p>	
56/22	Date of next Meeting	Thursday 24 th November 2022	

Signed: Chairman

Date:

Appendix 1a – Cllr David Turner’s September 2022 Report

South Oxfordshire District Councillor’s Monthly Report (Chalgrove Ward)

Fly-tipper caught thanks to litter-pickers’ social media appeal. A man has been ordered to pay more than £1,300 after admitting responsibility for garden renovation waste which was fly-tipped near Thame. He was caught after local litter pickers posted an appeal for information about the incident on social media. Henry Quilter-Wood, 31, of Main Road, Lacey Green, Princes Risborough, appeared at Oxford Magistrates’ Court.

District councils to be temporarily based in Abingdon. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils will soon be moving on from the office building that has been our home for the past seven years. At the end of September, to significantly reduce unnecessary costs, we will be moving to some temporary office space in the Vale’s Abbey House building in the centre of Abingdon where we plan to stay for a couple of years while South Oxfordshire District Council completes the development of a new office building at Didcot Gateway.

Help with energy bills – new support for those on low income in South Oxfordshire. Households on low income in South Oxfordshire will soon receive a one-off payment to help with the rising cost of energy bills. Those living in properties which are in council tax bands E to H and who are in receipt of council tax support will receive a single one-off payment of up to £178. Households in council tax bands A to D in receipt of council tax support, who should have already received the £150 mandatory Council Tax Energy Rebate – either paid directly into their bank account or deducted from their council tax bill, will receive a single ‘top up’ payment of up to £28. To be eligible for this payment, households must have been resident in the property on 1 April 2022. Cllr Leigh Rawlins, Cabinet Member for Finance at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: “I very pleased that we can now provide this much needed support to those who are on low income, many of whom the government excluded from the first rebate scheme.

Everyone’s different so tell us how council services can be easier to access. We come in all shapes and sizes, we look and sound different, and we all see things differently. South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils value and embrace these differences – as these are the things that make each of us unique. It doesn’t matter who they are, everyone will eventually need something from their councils. That’s why the district councils in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse are asking people to share their views on how they can make it easier for people with different needs to access their services, support and information. From 8 August, residents can help to create a new Diversity and Inclusion Strategy. Its purpose is to lay out how the councils will go further than just their legal requirements, which they already achieve, to help people access their services in the best way possible for their needs. The councils want everyone to say what would help them most when they interact with them. Residents contact the councils about a wide variety of services, such as finding out about bin collections, council tax queries, housing or financial support and guidance on submitting a planning application.

Man fined £13,000 for failing to remove illegal development. A man who failed to comply with the requirements of two enforcement notices for an illegal development by the banks of the River Thames at Long Wittenham has been fined £13,000. Simon Courtney-Worthy, 63 of Oscar’s Gardens, Ward’s Field, Long Wittenham, was also ordered to pay more than £5,000 in costs towards South Oxfordshire District

Call for Thames Water to act on sewage concerns. Serious concerns about sewage and the potential impact on people and wildlife in South Oxfordshire have prompted district councillors to call on Thames Water to come clean about treatment capacity and pollution across the district.

In 2021, Thames Water dumped raw sewage into the River Thames and its tributaries 5,028 times and discharges are happening with increasing frequency into local rivers and tributaries.

Cllr Jo Robb, River Thames Champion at South Oxfordshire District Council, said: “People across South Oxfordshire are deeply concerned about sewage discharges into the River Thames and its tributaries and the impact that this is having on water quality and on the health of people and wildlife. “The data we have been

able to get hold of so far suggests that there are potentially serious sewage treatment capacity issues, and things will only get worse with the requirement to build more homes across the district. We urgently need Thames Water to do much more, including providing ongoing detailed information so we can understand the real scale of the problem.”

*Data obtained from Thames Water and compiled by the Oxford Rivers Improvement Campaign (ORIC) showing the sewage treatment works in South Oxfordshire reveals that the % of capacity required is only in the following areas:

Didcot – 61%

Oxford Sewage Treatment Works (Sandford) – 62%

Chinnor – 69%

Wheatley – 86%

Chalgrove – 71%

David Turner

SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)

31st August 2022

Appendix 1b – Cllr David Turner’s October 2022 Report

South Oxfordshire District Councillor’s Monthly Report for October (Chalgrove Ward)

South Oxfordshire District Council to be temporarily based in Abingdon. From 3rd October, Abbey House in Abingdon will officially become the new workplace for the majority of our staff, although most will continue with hybrid working spending the majority of their week working from home or any other suitable location. The address is:

South Oxfordshire District Council
Abbey House
Abbey Close
Abingdon
OX14 3JE

Please note that from October until the councils move to the new headquarters on the Didcot Gateway site all full council meetings will take place at Didcot Civic Hall.

The Queen’s Canopy. Following the wishes of the King, the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative will be extended to the end of March 2023 to give people the opportunity to plant trees to honour Her Majesty. We’re creating a record of all the trees planted across the districts for The Queen’s Green Canopy and are asking residents (and Parish and Town councils) to send pictures of their planted trees to us at communications@southandvale.gov.uk. For details of the scheme go to www.southoxon/greencanopy

Homes urged to respond to voter registration reminder. Households across South Oxfordshire are being urged to respond as soon as possible if they receive a reminder to update their voter registration details. Over the summer, South Oxfordshire District Council sent a ‘Canvass Communication Form’ to all homes asking the occupants to check their voter registration details. Households whose occupants over the age of 16 are believed to have changed since the last election should have received a yellow letter requiring them to confirm or update their details online.

Grants to help improve the quality of life for people and communities. Voluntary and community organisations in South Oxfordshire can now apply for up to £75,000 of Capital funding for projects that help improve people’s quality of life. The funding comes from the latest round of the South Oxfordshire District Council Capital Grant Scheme. The Council has a total budget of £320,000. Projects can receive a minimum of £1,000 and up to 50 per cent of their total costs. The grant gives organisations a financial boost towards capital expenditure such as making improvements to buildings or play areas. Applicants must show how their projects will support the council’s Corporate Plan priorities including ‘protect and restore our natural world’, ‘action on the climate emergency’ and ‘improved economic and community well-being’. Organisations eligible to apply are:

Town and Parish Councils
Non-profit businesses and Community Interest Companies
Community based organisations

Financial boost to keep residents active. The Everyone Active grant scheme has launched in South Oxfordshire to support local initiatives that improve the health and wellbeing of residents in the district. South Oxfordshire District Council is providing £50,000 in funding for community organisations and individuals to apply for, with a maximum grant of £1,000. Applicants will need to show that their projects will help communities to become more active or sustain activity. **Scheme rules include:**

- Projects should provide benefit to more than one person becoming active or support ongoing activity
- The maximum grant you can apply for is £1,000
- You can apply for revenue costs or capital items
- You can request 100 per cent of your project costs
- The project must complete within 12 months of the award decision
- We will accept one application only from each individual or organisation

The grant is open for a wide range of groups and organisations in the district. Not-for-profit groups (including sports clubs), town and parish councils and parish meetings, not-for-profit preschools, Parent Teacher Association's and other local authority run schools or academies for non-statutory elements of the education programme. An individual can also apply who is supporting their community to become active or sustain activity.

The funding can be used in a variety of ways including:

- Buying new leisure or playground equipment
- Projects to introduce or improve physical activity
- Running training courses for volunteers or staff to help improve physical and mental wellbeing
- Setting up a community garden to share the physical and health benefits of growing fruit and vegetables

Contact grants@southandvale.gov.uk for more information

David Turner
SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)
2nd October 2022

Appendix 2a – Cllr Robin Bennett’s September 2022 Report

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

Consultation(s) on central Oxfordshire Transport Plan and trial traffic filters 2022

The purpose of the **Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan** survey is to gather your views and feedback on the broader aims of the draft travel plan for Central Oxfordshire. This can be found at <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/central-oxfordshire-travel-plan>

This sets out the council’s vision to develop a world-leading, innovative, inclusive and carbon neutral transport system with a focus on how people move quickly and safely around the area.

The council are proposing a set of 22 actions to help achieve a sustainable and reliable transport system across the Central Oxfordshire area, including **three major transport proposals for Oxford City:** traffic filters, a workplace parking levy and zero emission zone.

The three key projects will be subject to detailed and separate consultations, starting with this one on the **6 proposed traffic filters**:

The county council are proposing six trial traffic filters, via an experimental traffic regulation order (ETRO), from summer 2023 on key routes across Oxford to improve bus services and journey times, reduce walking and cycling accidents and improve air quality across the city.

The council are hosting two events to explain the proposals in more detail and answer questions. The events are open to all, but registration is necessary via <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

Tuesday, 6 September, 5pm to 6.30pm: Wesley Memorial Hall, Oxford
Thursday, 8 September, 6-7.30pm: Online event

Traffic filters are designed to reduce traffic levels across the city, making bus journeys quicker and more reliable and walking and cycling safer and more attractive. When they are operating, private cars will not be allowed through without a permit. All other vehicles including buses, coaches, taxis, vans, mopeds, motorbikes and HGVs will be allowed at all times. Residents within Oxford will be able to apply for a permit allowing them to drive through the traffic filters on up to 100 days per year. The traffic filters will be monitored by automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras.

You can have your say on the proposed trial by filling in the consultation survey, which will be open from 5 September (12 noon) to 3 October 2022 (midnight). Please do take part if you can, because it’s important for the council to know how these filters may affect residents across the county.

Trialling these filters is essential to enable OCC to receive the **£12.7 million of government funding for buses in Oxfordshire** as part of the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), by improving bus reliability within Oxford (which has knock on effects for the whole county).

Come and join one of our Oxfordshire Conversations with OCC’s leaders

These public events will bring together residents and the councillors who lead the county council to talk about the big issues that matter to you and your communities. There are seven events taking place – two online and five in locations across Oxfordshire.

Do come along to ask our decision makers your burning questions and share your priorities to help us shape our budget during these tough times, as we all face significant financial pressures as a result of the present cost of living crisis. The events are open to all, but you need to [register](https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-conversations).
<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-conversations>

- Monday 12 September, 11am - 12.30pm, online (Microsoft Teams)
- Monday 12 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, Abingdon, Guildhall
- Wednesday 14 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, Witney, High Street Methodist Church
- Thursday 15 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, Oxford, Old Fire Station
- Monday 19 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, Banbury, The Mill Arts Centre

- Wednesday 21 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, online (Microsoft Teams)
- Thursday 22 September, 7pm - 8.30pm, Didcot, Cornerstone Arts Centre

If you aren't ready with your question at the time of booking, you can:

- email it to consultations@oxfordshire.gov.uk (External link)
- hand it to a member of the council's support team when you arrive at the event
- type it in the chat box, if you are attending online
- when invited, ask a question during the event itself.

No question but keen to listen? All welcome but please make sure you book your place.

Homes for Ukraine update: Three-month free bus passes

OCC have been working closely with Oxford Bus Company, Stagecoach, Thames Travel and Arriva to offer three-month free bus passes to any Ukrainian on the Homes for Ukraine scheme. The passes will enable guests to travel extensively in their local area, as well as access Oxford city. There will be a number of passes available and suitability will depend on where the guests are living, working or what journeys they are more likely to need to take. Guests can apply for one bus pass and the county council will pay for and administer the process. The government's support funding – £10,500 funding per Ukrainian – for the Homes for Ukraine scheme will be used to purchase the passes from the bus companies at a 20 per cent discount. The county council will therefore be providing Ukrainian refugees with a grant in the form of a subsidised bus pass.

We are aware that some areas of Oxfordshire will be served by smaller bus companies that are not included in these passes. We are continuing to work in partnership with these companies to explore expanding our transport offer. For those who live in areas not served by any bus companies, particularly those in rural villages, we are also working with Community First to build an offer of community transport. Information about the scheme will be published on our shared partnership [Homes for Ukraine webpages](#). We will communicate directly with guests and hosts as soon as the webpages are live and explain how the scheme works, what free passes are available, and what they need to do to obtain one.

Helping guests take their next step

We are actively working on arrangements to support our Ukrainian guests and hosts who are approaching six months of their sponsorship arrangements. We want to ensure that hosts and guests receive all the help they need so that arrangements that are currently in place can continue, wherever possible. Some guests may have agreed with their host to extend their sponsorship arrangement, others may have plans to independently move on, while others may require a new host. Our aim is to work with our guests to help support them with their living arrangements and assist them with taking their next step when they are ready – whether that is settling in Oxfordshire, moving elsewhere in the UK, or ultimately going back home to Ukraine.

We are writing to hosts who are approaching the four-month mark to thank them for all their support to date and ask if they would continue their hosting arrangement beyond their original six-month commitment. In the email, we are underlining the importance of continuing relationships wherever possible as they provide stability and security for guests and avoid further disruption. We are also contacting guests to encourage them to have open discussions with their hosts so they can plan next steps together – whether this is extending current sponsorship arrangements or moving into private rented accommodation. We are also doing all we can to support the rematching process. The city and district councils are managing any rematching cases that are identified and are contacting people who have expressed an interest in becoming a host so we can find new sponsors. A new three-strong team is being established, hosted by the city council, to lead on the rematching of households where sponsorship arrangements cannot continue. General queries on Homes for Ukraine:

- **Website:** oxfordshire.gov.uk/ukraine
- **Oxfordshire Ukraine helpline:** +44 1865 966444 / 01865 966444 (opening hours: 8.45am - 5pm, Monday to Friday. Closed weekends and bank holidays).
- **Email:** ukraineresponse@oxfordshire.gov.uk

For housing and community support in South Oxfordshire

- southoxon.gov.uk/ukraine
- **South and Vale helpline:** +44 1235 422600 / 01235 422600 (press option one). Opening hours: 8.30am-5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-4.30pm Fridays, Closed weekends and bank holidays.
- **Email:** communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Appendix 2b – Cllr Robin Bennett’s October 2022 Report

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

Warm places, welfare schemes and Council Tax support this winter

The winter ahead looks incredibly difficult for people of all ages, backgrounds and incomes and for businesses and organisations too. Prices for many essentials are rising steeply and the cost of energy is a particular concern. In local government, we have much more limited powers than national government, but we try to use all of the influence at our disposal to make a difference to people’s lives. The council’s cabinet has agreed a list of proposals to assist local people – particularly the vulnerable – as they face the combination of inflation and the rising cost of energy over coming months. The measures include:

- The permanent provision of an emergency welfare scheme administered through the county council’s customer services team, to enable improved administration of the provision of food support to children in early years settings and the targeting of grants for those who are not benefiting from national energy support schemes.
- Libraries will be offered as **welcoming and warm places** for people to help with isolation, loneliness and mental wellbeing as well as warmth. A grants scheme for community venues to contribute to their energy costs is also proposed. This will support existing activities (stay and play schemes, lunch clubs etc) as well as encouraging new initiatives. There will be a £100,000 fund available for organisations to bid to.
- A new grant scheme to support voluntary and community sector organisations to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. It will launch in October with an initial £100,000 of Oxfordshire Community Foundation (OCF) funding and the county council will match this with £100,000 of its own. The grants will fund a range of organisations supporting community food services, money and debt advice, networks for older people and vulnerable adults and those working with families in need.
- The county council will support the district councils in the Council Tax reduction scheme that aims to reduce the amount people with low incomes have to pay, as well as Council Tax hardship funds. Such funds give councils additional discretionary powers to reduce the amount of Council Tax payable by those facing difficult circumstances.
- Expanding the Better Homes Better Health programme allowing the scheme to reach fuel poor households with advice on reducing energy costs. There is also a £210,000 grant to Citizens Advice in place to maintain debt and benefits advice capacity to June 2023.
- A total of £322,000 of COVID funding has been assigned to the Care Workers Charity to provide crises grants for the most in need workers and access to the “Blue Light Card” staff benefit and discount scheme for all those working in the sector.

Speeding and noise disturbance on the A4074 and A4130

I have written alongside local councillor colleagues to both the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable, to express our frustration at the failure of Thames Valley Police to enforce speed limits on the A4074 and the A4130 in South Oxfordshire, or to respond to the concerns and evidence several parishes have presented to them. We don’t think it’s acceptable that Thames Valley Police appears to be ignoring its responsibility for enforcing safe speed limits in our area, with a minority of drivers routinely breaking the speed limit on our local roads.

School transport

I’m in regular (almost daily) contact with the Schools Transport team, as some residents face continuing issues on this front. The Berinsfield-Abingdon AB04 service is now being re-tendered, as we seek a more reliable service provision. A temporary solution in place for the next few weeks with a separate minibus for Europa School pupils. It’s been frustrating, but I know the team are really committed to making this work.

Consultation(s) on central Oxfordshire Transport Plan and trial traffic filters 2022

These surveys have been extended and are now remaining open until **13 October 2022 (midnight)**. The Cabinet decision on how to proceed will be taken on 29th November.

Broad Street public space improvements

A new project for Oxford's Broad Street aims to create a more welcoming public space. The project, expected to be ready later in October, will include sitting areas with planters for visitors to meet with friends to socialise or just take a break from working, sightseeing or shopping. Local businesses and residents have been involved to ensure that the street furniture is made responsibly and locally, including robust wooden benches and seats made using reclaimed wood produced by RAW workshop, an award-winning social enterprise based in Blackbird Leys.

'Decide and Provide' transport planning policy adopted.

The council's cabinet recently approved new requirements for transport planning for new developments based on the principle of 'decide and provide', rather than the previous method of 'predict and provide'. This is intended to help the county move towards its goal of a net zero transport system by 2040. The 'decide and provide' approach decides on a preferred transport vision and then provides the means to work towards it, instead of relying on past trends in car use and dependency.