

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting Held in St Giles Church on Thursday 24th November 2022

Attendees	Cllr. James Nettleton (JN) (Chairman) Cllr. Mike Black (MB) Cllr. Duncan Howlett (DH) Cllr. David Turner (DT) (SODC) Cllr. Robin Bennett (RB) (OCC) (Joined at 20:00) Eva Goble (EG) (Clerk) Nikki Howlett (resident)
Apologies	Cllr. Peter Ablett (PA) Cllr. Graham Howlett (GH)

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
57/22	Introduction	The Chairman (JN) opened the meeting at 19.30 and welcomed all present.	
58/22	Apologies	As above.	
59/22	Minutes of the Last Meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 10 th October 2022 were agreed by the Councillors who had been present, approved and signed by the Chairman.	
60/22	Declarations of interest regarding items on agenda	No declarations.	
61/22	Matters Arising Not on agenda	Precept. JN proposed to reduce the precept for the next financial year by £250 as the accounts show a healthy balance of £8000. Agreed by those present.	JN
62/22	Open Forum & Village Matters	No items to discuss.	
63/22	District Councillor Report (DT)	DT reviews and summarises his November report (Appendix 1) attached. DT reminded that council grant monies were still available with an application deadline of late Dec/early Jan.	
64/22	County Councillor Report (RB)	RB reviews and summarises his report (Appendix 2) attached.	
	Councillor & Parish Reports		
65a/22 DH/GH	Community Liaison/ Notice Board	No further updates.	
65b/22 DH/GH	Planning Applications	None received.	
65c/22 MB/JN	Event Co-ordination	JN planning an event for a week in February 2023.	

65d/22 MB/EG	Website Management	No updates.	
65e/22 9A/MB	Neighbourhood Plan	No updates.	
65f/22 MB/GH/ PA	New Highways/ Potholes	None reported within the parish.	
65g/22 JN	Responsible Financial Officer Invoices for payment	Cashbook discussed. All happy with present position. DH proposed and MB seconded that invoices for Clerk's pay of £294.56 and £320 for stakes, compost, mulch and the tractor seat being associated costs of the tree planting should be paid.	
65h/22 DH	Footpaths	Nothing new reported.	
66/22	AOB	<p>a) Proposed reservoir at Steventon. It was agreed to defer until the next meeting as two members were not present.</p> <p>b) Fix My Street. MB has undertaken the required training to become a 'Superuser' with authority to raise work orders for minor roads and pavements.</p> <p>c) Church window. JN thanked DT for the grant given to the PC that will be used towards the repair of the church window.</p> <p>d) Allotment rents increase. Deferred for discussion at the next AGM.</p> <p>e) Draft letter to Thames Water. All happy with the drafted letter that JN will send to the CEO of Thames Water.</p> <p>f) Tree planting around the Millennium Stone. JN conveyed big thanks to all those involved and those who donated money. All agreed with the wording to be engraved on the plaque. The planting event was well attended and a short report with a photograph is featured on the parish website.</p> <p>g) DH advised that fencing around the allotments needs to be repaired or replaced as several corner posts are broken. DH will make an application to DT for a council grant to assist with costs.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 20:45</p>	<p>JN</p> <p>DH</p>
67/22	Dates of Meetings in 2023	It was agreed that meetings in 2023 would be held on the following dates: 9 th February 13 th April (Easter week) 25 th May (AGM) 27 th July 28 th September 30 th November	

Signed: Chairman

Date:

Appendix 1 – Cllr David Turner’s November 2022 Report

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

Oxfordshire Electoral Review. The Boundary Commission is carrying out a review of the electoral arrangements for Oxfordshire County Council, including the number of councillors and division boundaries. The aim of the review is to ensure a fairer electoral representation for residents throughout the county. The review will not alter district ward or parish ward boundaries. However, it could make changes to parish warding arrangements if a parish is to be divided between different county divisions. For more information, please see the Boundary Commission’s Electoral Review of Oxfordshire Guide.

South Oxfordshire calls Government’s investment zone initiative “disaster in making.”

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Simon Clarke has written to councils providing details on the investment zones announced in the Chancellor’s mini-budget, Councillors in South Oxfordshire have made it clear they wouldn’t be happy to see the government’s investment zones in their district and have welcomed the county council’s decision not to bid for any in Oxfordshire. As part of the recent mini-budget, the government announced the plans for the investment zones that would seek to relax planning rules around development and “remove burdensome EU requirements” to encourage local growth and investment.

Changes to your waste collections over the Christmas and New Year period.

Monday 26 December 2022 Wednesday 28 December 2022

Tuesday 27 December 2022 Thursday 29 December 2022

Wednesday 28 December 2022 Friday 30 December 2022

Thursday 29 December 2022 Saturday 31 December 2022

Friday 30 December 2022 Tuesday 3 January 2023

Monday 2 January 2023 Wednesday 4 January 2023

Tuesday 3 January 2023 Thursday 5 January 2023

Wednesday 4 January 2023 Friday 6 January 2023

Thursday 5 January 2023 Saturday 7 January 2023

Friday 6 January 2023 Monday 9 January 2023

Monday 9 January 2023 Tuesday 10 January 2023

Tuesday 10 January 2023 Wednesday 11 January 2023

Wednesday 11 January 2023 Thursday 12 January 2023

Thursday 12 January 2023 Friday 13 January 2023

Friday 13 January 2023 Saturday 14 January 2023

Christmas and New Year 2022/23

Normal collection day Revised collection day

Please remember that we suspend garden waste collections over the holiday period to concentrate on Christmas waste collections. Collections resume in January 2023. For more information, please see our garden waste page on our website. Find out more about recycling tips and waste collections over Christmas and New Year on our website www.morerecycling.co.uk. We will post information about any disruption to waste collection services on our websites and social media sites.

Our call centre is open for queries from 9am – 3.30pm on 23 December, 9am - 5pm on 28, 29 and 30 December on 03000 610610.

Oxford City Local Plan 2040 – Preferred Options Consultation. Oxford City Council started its Local Plan ‘preferred options’ consultation on 3 October and it will end on 14 November. You can view and comment on the document being consulted on by clicking the link:

www.oxford.gov.uk

If you have any comments that you’d like to be considered for inclusion in the SODC Councils’ responses, please email planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk before Friday 4th November.

The Park and Electric Charge scheme has won an award. The Park and Charge scheme that put 124 electric vehicle chargers in 10 of the council-run car parks across both SODC & the Vale districts - has won an excellence award.

Didcot Eco Fair. Come along to a free family friendly event showcasing the district’s fantastic sustainable businesses, with arts and crafts activities, food stalls and advice on how to reduce both our environmental impact and our heating bills. The Didcot Eco Fair is on Saturday 5 November (11am- 3pm) at Cornerstone and everyone is invited. Online marketplace, ShopAppy, will launch their platform for Didcot businesses, which allows people to shop local from the comfort of their own home. The day will also include a Christmas jumper swap, so bring unwanted, clean jumpers and you could come away with something new to you for Christmas for free.

South Oxfordshire report highlights district council’s work to address climate change.

South Oxfordshire District Council’s work on tackling climate change has been highlighted in a new quarterly report. The report shows the progress of the district’s Climate Action Plan, which sets out the steps it will take to become a carbon neutral council. The Plan also details how the council will support local communities to take their own climate action as well as how it will work to improve biodiversity and protect our natural world. The first Climate Action Plan report covers April to June 2022. During this period, to help encourage low carbon travel and reduce vehicle emissions, the council supported work to install electric vehicle charging points in its larger public car parks and trialled the use of electric waste vehicles. The council carried out a public consultation on the Joint Local Plan 2041, alongside Vale of White Horse District Council, which asked people for their views on how the plan could be used to address issues such as climate change. The two councils also agreed a Joint Design Guide, which includes guidance for anyone undertaking a development on how to ensure building is low or zero carbon. South Oxfordshire District Council also launched a new partnership with environmental charity Thames 21 aimed at improving the water quality of the River Thames in Wallingford and took part in a ‘No Mow May’ trial to see how wildflowers would bloom if grass was left to grow on some council-owned public land. Further details on the SODC website

Affordable, zero carbon homes to be part-funded by council. A dozen zero carbon affordable homes will be built with help from South Oxfordshire District Council.

The homes will be built on the brownfield site at Cullum House in Wheatley. South Oxfordshire District Council will use some of the money it gets from developers, known as Section 106 commuted sums, to help fund the affordable homes. It’s part of a £5 million fund agreed by the council in its budget, from Section 106 money, to be spent on increasing the number of fit for purpose affordable homes in the district. Councillor Robin Bennett, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration, said: “Providing homes that people can afford is a key goal for our administration, so I’m pleased we’ve been able to use developer contributions to help deliver this ambition.

Second round of the Councillor Community Grant launched. Round two of our Councillor Community Grant Scheme has now opened. In my case I still have available £4250 for the four parishes which I represent. I would like applications to be made before late December/early January so that I can decide on

their allocation amounts. Details of what qualifies are on the SODC website along with other types of grants which are available.

A successful summer season at Riverside. This year the Riverside Park outdoor pool and campsite in Wallingford had a bumper summer season with nearly 21,000 visitors. On its busiest week, the pool had nearly 4,500 visitors, the highest number in over 20 years for a single week. The pool and campsite opened for the season this year from late May through to early September and this season South Oxfordshire District Council in partnership with GLL, who manage the site and Better UK facilities for the council, introduced some new activities and initiatives for those using the pool and campsite. These included aqua aerobics classes, Swim Dr swimming lessons, the ability to book the campsite via the Better UK app and dogs were also allowed on to the campsite resulting in an increase in bookings.

Application could drive water quality improvements in Wallingford. A joint application to help tackle pollution will lead to a safer swim for swimmers, river users and wildlife in Wallingford. South Oxfordshire District Council and Wallingford Town Council, supported by environmental charity Thames21, have submitted an application to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for bathing water status for a stretch of the River Thames at Wallingford. If bathing water status is awarded, Thames Water would be legally required to treat waste outflows to a much higher standard. This would ensure that bacteria harmful to the health of people and wildlife would be removed before the water can be released into the river.

Ukraine. We have about 300 Ukrainian households currently in the district and we would like to thank the hosts and local communities who are providing support and welcome. Many of these are now coming towards the end of the initial six-month period and our community hub and housing teams are working hard to ensure that these households can either stay with their existing host or move on to alternative accommodation where this is available.

Water Resources South East consultation. A new public consultation has just been launched on water management plans that include proposals for the new reservoir near Abingdon. The Water Resources South East (WRSE) draft plans on the region's future water supplies have been published for comment.

Local Crime Survey. Residents across the Thames Valley are being asked to complete a survey about how safe they feel in their local area, their experience of both crime and the police, as well as questions on the future funding of policing. The information provided will help inform the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) on any gaps or improvements that could be made in the future. To find out more, visit the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commission website.

David Turner
SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)
31st October 2022 (Updated 22nd November 2022)

Appendix 2 – Cllr Robin Bennett’s November 2022 Report

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

Household Support Fund update

OCC have used the government funded Household Support Fund to support locally based emergency welfare schemes, delivered in partnership with our district and city council partners.

Over the next two to three weeks, OCC are sending a one-off payment of £85 to 11,000 households to support energy costs this winter. This will go to households which include a pensioner in receipt of council tax reduction. Eligible residents will receive an Oxfordshire-branded letter from the Post Office with a bar code, redeemable for cash at all Post Office branches. Residents can ask a relative or friend to redeem the voucher on their behalf. We have chosen this low-administrative cost approach over alternative online options, with the intention being that residents who have not been able to access other schemes will be able to use this approach.

More info about other types of support can be found at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/help-rising-living-costs

Ahead of the recent half term, we funded schools and colleges to provide children and young people entitled to free school meals with a £15 voucher to support with the costs of food. Equivalent support for early years children will be provided later in the term. Funding for this scheme is provided through a time-limited government grant, which is scheduled to come to an end in March 2023.

Energy support scheme

We are currently making arrangements to announce a community building energy support scheme. The fund is designed to provide grants to community and voluntary organisations to help with the cost of their rising energy bills, so they do not pass on additional costs to users of those venues. The scheme will be delivered through Oxfordshire Community Foundation.

Updated parking standards for new developments approved

Earlier this month our cabinet approved an updated guide for parking standards for new developments. It means developers will need to work collaboratively with us to help achieve the targets set in the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP), which was adopted earlier this year. The LTCP aims to create a net zero transport system in Oxfordshire by 2040, improving health and wellbeing, tackling the climate emergency, reducing private vehicle use, and prioritising walking, cycling and public transport.

Hyperlocal care options continue to grow thanks to Oxfordshire business support

People in Oxfordshire who receive adult social care support at home are now able to choose from a wider range of services thanks to the success of a free scheme that helps people to set up their own care micro-enterprise. Social enterprise group Community Catalysts is being funded by us and offers mentoring advice alongside practical business support, helping people to work for themselves by offering care and support in their local area.

Homes for Ukraine update

As a direct response to feedback from hosts, we have committed to increasing the total amount they receive each month from £350 to £550. We will be funding this using the government’s £10,500 support payment it is providing us with per guest.

This payment increase will be from November 2022 until March 2023 and will be payable in arrears from the 1 December 2022. It will be paid into bank accounts as a separate payment and will only apply when people host for more than half a full month. The increase will not be subject to tax and will not affect entitlement to any benefits.

This acknowledges and goes some way to address the increase in costs that existing hosts are facing. This increase will also apply to new hosts joining the scheme. For those who have indicated that they want to stop hosting after the six-month mark, we are also getting back in touch with them to let them know about the payment increase in case that helps retain more hosts on the scheme.

Please do spread the word locally. Existing hosts or potential new hosts can get in touch as detailed below:

- **Website:** www.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