

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting Held in St Giles Church on Thursday 9th February 2023

Attendees	Cllr. James Nettleton (JN) (Chairman) Cllr. Mike Black (MB) Cllr. Peter Ablett (PA) Cllr. Duncan Howlett (DH) Cllr. David Turner (DT) (SODC) (part) Eva Goble (EG) (Clerk) Sophie Carmichael (SC) (resident) (part)
Apologies	Cllr. Graham Howlett (GH) Cllr. Robin Bennett (RB) (OCC)

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
1/23	Introduction	The Chairman (JN) opened the meeting at 19.30 and welcomed all present.	
2/23	Apologies	As above.	
3/23	Minutes of the Last Meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 24 th November 2022 were agreed by the Councillors who had been present, approved and signed by the Chairman	
4/23	Declarations of interest regarding items on agenda	DH declared an interest in item 9b/23.	
5/23	Matters Arising Not on agenda	Clerk presented an opportunity to purchase speed awareness wheelie bin stickers for the community. All in favour so it was agreed to purchase a set at a cost of £119.	Clerk
6/23	Open Forum & Village Matters	No items to discuss.	
7/23	District Councillor Report (DT)	DT reviewed and summarised his report (Appendix 1) attached.	
8/23	County Councillor Report (RB)	(Appendix 2) attached.	

Councillor & Parish Reports

9a/23 MB/DH	Community Liaison/ Notice Board	MB informed that the notice board is now in need of some repair.	MB/DH
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9b/23 DH/GH	Planning Applications	No planning applications received. Erection of one new residential dwelling now named and known as Highclere House, Newington.	
9c/23 MB/JN	Event Co-ordination	MB suggested an event could be planned among residents to mark the Coronation in May. No decision was made.	
9d/23 MB/EG	Website Management	Some new content has been uploaded. JN suggested sharing some content to WhatsApp with a link from the article to the website to encourage more hits.	
9e/23 PA/MB	Neighbourhood Plan	No updates as the parish council does not have the required resources.	
9f/23 MB/GH /PA	New Highways/ Potholes	MB has written to Highways three times regarding the subsidence in Holcombe Lane but this matter is still outstanding.	
9g/23 JN	Responsible Financial Officer	Cashbook discussed. JN informed that CIL monies had all been spent on flagpole and jubilee trees. All happy with present position.	
	Invoices for payment	MB proposed and DH seconded that payment is made to PA to reimburse his payments for Drewett signs for £316.80 for the plaque for Queen's Green Canopy. PA proposed and DH seconded payment to Clerk of £468.32.	
9h/23 DH	Footpaths	No updates.	
10/23	AOB	<p>a) Neighbourhood plan: See 9e/23 above.</p> <p>a) Steventon reservoir: All in favour to do nothing at the present time regarding supporting or opposing the proposal.</p> <p>b) Defibrillator: SC who is a trained First Responder and resident put forward the proposal to purchase a defibrillator for the community at a cost of between £900 and £1,500 plus a heated cabinet. MB offered to help SC with any research into the best systems, costs etc. All in favour of this proposal. JN suggested that it could be mounted on the inside of the gate to the church where there is an electric cable and advice should be sought from the church on the possibility of installing it there. It was agreed that PA would contact the County Councillor to seek a grant towards the purchase cost and SC and DH would make enquiries regarding the electric cable and whether its use would be feasible.</p>	<p>SC/MB</p> <p>PA</p> <p>SC/DH</p>

		<p>c) Thames Water mains replacement: PA has drafted a letter to Thames Water in response to their letter informing that there are currently no plans for mains replacement in Holcombe Lane. All in favour of the letter and agreed that it should be sent from the Chairman of the parish council.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21.00</p>	PA/JN
11/23	Dates of Meetings in 2023	Thursday 13 th April Thursday 25 th May (AGM) Thursday 27 th July Thursday 28 th September Thursday 30 th November	

Signed: Chairman

Date:

Appendix 1 – Cllr David Turner's February 2023 Report

South Oxfordshire District Councillor's Monthly Report for February 2023 (Chalgrove Ward)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Consultation

The Government is asking people for their views on their proposed approach to updating the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF sets out the government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The policies set out in the NPPF apply to the preparation of Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans and to decisions on planning applications. The NPPF covers a wide range of topics including: housing, business, economic development, transport and the natural environment. To find out more, visit the Government's consultation webpage. The consultation closes on 2 March 2023.

Business rates revaluation 2023

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has updated the rateable values of all business and other non-domestic properties in England and Wales from 1 April 2023. This process is known as Revaluation. Revaluations are carried out to reflect changes in the property market, which means that Business Rates bills are based on more up-to-date information.

Leisure needs survey

We have appointed Stuart Todd Associates to undertake two studies to support the work on our local plan, the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and the Leisure Facilities Assessment and Strategy (LFAS). The two studies will help provide updated guidance and evidence of leisure needs in both South and Vale. As part of the work Stuart Todd Associates and the National Governing Bodies are writing to sports clubs, parish councils and local organisations to find out more about the leisure provision in the districts. If you hear from anyone who has been contacted about the work, please can you encourage them to respond to the survey. If you have any questions about these studies, please email planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk

Family entertainment at Cornerstone

Half term is fast approaching, and Cornerstone Arts Centre has plenty to keep the family entertained. For those with children interested in getting crafty, Decorate Your Own Bird House on Wednesday 15 Feb at 11am will have children designing an exciting new home for local wildlife just in time for

spring to arrive. This one-off workshop is aimed at children in key stage 1 (5-6 year olds) and is just £10 with all materials provided to get creative.

Or book tickets to see the crowd pleaser Quentin Blake's Mister Magnolia on Sun 19 Feb at 2pm. This show is full of colourful characters, live music, puppetry, and audience interaction inspired by the incredible work of the illustrator Quentin Blake. This is family-friendly theatre at its best.

Head to our Cornerstone website to find out more.

Becoming an active bystander

Becoming an active bystander is when someone takes action to prevent an individual from behaving inappropriately. This Active Bystander guide gives a quick overview on what you could do if you come across an uncomfortable situation. For more information, please visit the Suzi Lamplugh Trust website

Council secures funding to install renewable energy at its arts centre

South Oxfordshire District Council has been successful in its bid for government funding of more than £370,000 towards the installation of solar panels and air source heat pumps at Cornerstone, the council's arts centre in Didcot.

Help is at hand for people finding it hard to pay for food and energy bills

The Household Support Fund scheme has opened again for people finding it hard to cope with the rising cost of food and energy bills. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have reopened the scheme to help households meet the costs of life's essentials. The fund is initially open for applications to help for more information www.southoxon.gov.uk/costofliving

David Turner

SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)

2rd February 2023

Appendix 2 – Cllr Robin Bennett’s February 2023 Report

February 2023 County Councillor Report – Cllr Robin Bennett
Robin.bennett@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Updated budget proposals for 2023/24 at Oxfordshire County Council include more funding than when proposals were first announced in late 2022, but also significant further pressures on services that stem from high inflation and growing service demands. The newly updated position and revised proposals were agreed by the county council’s cabinet on 24 January. The annual budget setting meeting of all 63 county councillors will confirm the council’s budget for 2023/24 on 14 February.

Since the autumn when OCC set out the proposed budget for consultation, we have seen rapid changes in a very volatile political and economic environment – both nationally and internationally. We learned in December that some government grants would continue into 2023/24, enabling spending to be increased in some key areas.

Responding to the feedback received during public engagement, a total of £4.9m is to be assigned to **improving roads, promoting access to public transport and encouraging cycling and walking for young people, including:**

- community transport initiatives in both rural and urban areas (£1.2m)
- extension of the current discounted ticket offer at park and rides (£500,000)
- expanding the supported transport team to work with young people and their families to develop active travel options for getting to their place of education (£300,000)
- expanding the School Streets pilot to make it safer and easier for children and parents to walk and cycle to school (£500,000)
- £500,000 investment into transport hubs including e-bike hire, car club promotion etc. There would also be improvements to travel information (£100,000)
- building flood resilience across Oxfordshire (£600,000), including practical projects with parish councils and proactive ditch clearance in areas prone to flooding
- £1m for local priority improvements to highways, cycle paths and pavements.

Support to children and families:

- £500,000 is proposed to be invested in additional capacity for SEND educational and health care plan (ECHP) reviews and assessments
- £500,000 to speed up the development of community hubs to support children and families.
- £2.3m will be allocated to Council Tax Support Scheme and cost of living measures to help those most in need in Oxfordshire – ensuring that they do not have pay the full increase in council tax this year

Deal signed to bring 159 electric buses to Oxfordshire

The first vehicles in a fleet of 159 new battery electric buses are set to arrive in Oxfordshire in September, after an £82.5 million deal was finalised. Last March, Oxfordshire County Council was awarded £32.8 million from the government’s Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA) scheme.

Along with £6m from the council itself and £43.7m from bus companies Stagecoach and the Go-Ahead Group, which includes the Oxford Bus Company, Thames Travel, and City Sightseeing Oxford, the scheme will deliver the electric buses and charging systems.

The scheme is expected to support a reduction in nitrogen dioxide (NOx) levels, reduce noise pollution, and will help make Oxfordshire a net zero carbon county ahead of 2050. Oxfordshire was one of only 12 local authorities to successfully apply for ZEBRA funding, and this is one of the biggest schemes in the country, and will mean that most services across the Oxford Smartzone will be operated by battery electric buses. All the new buses are being manufactured in the UK and are expected to arrive by March 2024.

IN BRIEF:

Cabinet approves continued stadium discussions with Oxford United and commits to seek views before final decision

Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet has agreed to start negotiations with Oxford United FC on outline legal and commercial terms relating to the club's proposal to lease land for a new football stadium, while ensuring that residents are properly consulted as proposals are developed. The land in question is east of Frieze Way/south of Kidlington roundabout, known as "the triangle", close to the previously discussed land at Stratfield Brake and Oxford Parkway Station.

A by-election will take place in Rose Hill and Littlemore

The county councillor for Rose Hill and Littlemore, Dr Michele Paule (Labour), has decided to step down. As a result of this a by-election is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 2 March. Details on candidates for the vacant seat will be confirmed in due course.