

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting Held in St Giles Church on Thursday 13th April 2023

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

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
12/23	Introduction	The Chairman (JN) opened the meeting at 19.30 and welcomed all present.	
13/23	Apologies	As above.	
14/23	Minutes of the Last Meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 9 th February 2023 were agreed by the Councillors who had been present, approved and signed by the Chairman	
15/23	Declarations of interest regarding items on agenda	DH declared an interest in item 21/23 c) below.	
16/23	Matters Arising Not on agenda	None.	
17/23	Open Forum & Village Matters	NH voiced concerns regarding the remaining pot holes in Holcombe Lane that have still not been repaired since Highways last visit on 1st March by Mark Pearce . Also of concern is that the surface of Holcombe Lane is more bumpy and uneven and could potentially cause damage to residents' cars. Some of the new repairs have caused additional problems. MB will write to Highways once again.	MB
18/23	District Councillor Report (DT)	DT reviews and summarises his report (Appendix 1) attached.	
19/23	County Councillor Report (RB)	RB reviews and summarises his report (Appendix 2) attached. The subject of HGV weight and speed monitoring was raised. JN suggested speaking with residents to gauge interest in sitting in a car in the lay-by and noting number plates or taking photos of lorries. RB suggested signing up with the Police for community speed watch to obtain a monitoring device. JN to register.	ALL JN
Councillor & Parish Reports			
20a/23 MB/DH	Community Liaison/ Notice Board	Notice board updated as required regularly but needs some maintenance.	

20b/23 DH/GH	Planning Applications	None received.	
20c/23 MB/JN	Event Co-ordination	Nothing planned to date.	
20d/23 MB/EG	Website Management	Updated regularly.	
20e/23 9A/MB	Neighbourhood Plan	No updates.	
20f/23 MB/GH/ PA	New Highways/ Potholes	JN informed that it has been identified that there are several dangerous trees on the A329 up the hill from Newington and it will be necessary to close the road for half a day for remedial work to take place. JN to arrange a suitable date with contractor.	JN
20g/23 JN	Responsible Financial Officer Invoices for payment	Cashbook discussed. There is a healthy balance of £9,800 some of which to be moved to savings account. JN confirmed that this year's precept is £4000 but suggested dropping to £1500 or £2000 unless it could be spent to benefit the community. DT reminded that CIL monies need to be spent within five years. JN confirmed £1700 remains to be spent within two years. Cheques authorised for signature proposed by DH and seconded by MB: OALC annual membership renewal £156.00; Clerk's pay £489.36.	
20h/23 DH	Footpaths	No updates.	
21/23	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Defibrillator. RB and DT agreed to contribute a grant towards the full cost of a defibrillator and a solar panel/box, likely to be in the region of £3000. MB proposed that it could be installed near the notice board as a central point in the village since there is also power. DH to research among neighbouring villages. b) Clarify details for registration for current councillors continuing.,All current NP councillors to re-stand. c) Allotment fencing repair. DH tabled a quote received of £345.00. All agreed to accept this quote if lower than a further quote that DH will obtain. <p>The meeting closed at 21.05</p>	DH DH
22/23	Dates of Meetings in 2023	Wednesday 24 th May (AGM) Thursday 27 th July Thursday 28 th September Thursday 30 th November	

Signed: Chairman

Date:

South Oxfordshire District Councillor’s Monthly Report for April 2023 (Chalgrove Ward)

Chalgrove Airfield. At a recent briefing of SODC Councillors and Officers by Homes England they said that they are going to submit another planning application for 3000 homes on the site hopefully by the end of this year. I asked them that given that they withdrew their previous application following the airfield regulator saying that their plan was unsafe; have they a solution to the problem? The answer was not yet! I queried why they were going ahead with more expenditure of public money on planning the site when they haven’t solved the problem. They claim to be committed to not doing anything to interfere with Martin Baker’s operations.

New UK Emergency Alerts system. A UK-wide test of the new national Emergency Alerts system will take place in the early evening of Sunday 23 April. The system allows the government and emergency services to send an alert directly to mobile phones in a defined area when there is an immediate risk to people’s lives, such as the most serious severe weather-related incidents, including severe flooding in England. You can find more information on the government’s Emergency Alert’s Factsheet. Please note, if anyone has a secret mobile phone hidden from an abusive partner, remember to switch it off or to put it in airplane mode, or the phone will be activated with the loud alert on the evening of 23 April.

South and Vale still amongst top recycling districts. Defra has just published the confirmed national and local recycling rates for 2021-2022. South Oxfordshire remains second place nationally, with 62.7% of all household waste reused, recycled or composted, while the Vale is ranked 4th on 61.9%. The national average in England is 44.1%.

Consultation on increasing planning fees and performance. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is asking people for their views on proposals for increasing planning fees and to improve the performance of local planning authorities. To find out more about the proposals, visit the Increasing planning fees and performance: technical consultation page on the government’s website. If you have any questions or would like to feed any comments back, please contact our Planning Development Manager, Emily Hamerton by 24 April.

Celebrate with Cornerstone this Summer. Cornerstone’s Summer Season is now on sale! It shows range from family-friendly productions like The Hero Next Door to tribute shows such as Wannabe and Counterfeit Seventies which are guaranteed to have audiences dancing in their seats. The summer season will also feature a brilliant Pride celebration throughout June. Cornerstone is encouraging everyone to get involved with shows and workshops catered to everyone whether you want to dip your feet into some Queer Yoga or be entertained at a drag cabaret. For more information head to the Cornerstone website.

Councils challenge Oxford City's plan for high housing numbers. It's time Oxford City Council stopped trying to export housing development to its rural neighbours according to two other Oxfordshire councils who have said the city's plans for housing are unsustainable and hostile.

South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse District Councils have both responded firmly to Oxford City Council's consultation that appears to be attempting to exceed the city's remit and force more development across Oxfordshire's rural countryside.

Statement after Defra rejects Wallingford application to be designated as bathing water. We're extremely disappointed at the government's decision to not award Bathing Water Status for the River Thames at Wallingford at this stage. We received a letter from Defra yesterday (9/3/2023) which stated that our application "will not be taken forward for bathing water designation on this occasion". Thames 21 worked on a successful campaign to get Port Meadow designated as a bathing water site last year and submitted a similar application for Wallingford to Defra. So, it is hard to understand why this application for Bathing Water Status for Wallingford has been rejected. We are currently contacting Defra to get more clarification on the reasons for their decision. We are also considering the next steps available to us to take the process forward.

David Turner
SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)
4th April 2023

Appendix 2 – Cllr Robin Bennett’s 2023 Report

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

Flooding in our area

As we are in the spring flood season, a reminder that advice can be found both from the Environment Agency and the County Council, especially when the Environment Agency issues flood alerts or the more serious flood warnings. As we can all see, consistent rainfall throughout March has led to high river levels on many watercourses in Oxfordshire.

Latest flood alerts from the Environment Agency:

<https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk>

What to do in the event of a flood, from the County Council:

<https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com>

In an emergency, please contact Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service on **999**.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service’s main responsibility is saving lives, property and the environment.

During a flooding incident you should focus on the safety of yourself and others and stay out of floodwater, as it is often not clean and can lead to infections and illness.

Weight restrictions for HGVs

Oxfordshire County Council are currently conducting a study to investigate the feasibility of area based weight restrictions. OCC are inviting local people to share their views on where there are problems with inappropriate Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements to help inform the study. This is a particular issue in our area on some of the historic bridges and villages, so do take part if you can in the survey:

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/area-weight-restrictions>

Spare seats and school buses

I have engaged with a recent working group looking at school transport issues. This has resulted in recommendations to cabinet to improve the policy, and also to help parents who are currently at risk of losing their spare seats bus places. I have been talking to colleagues, parents and council staff to try to ensure that the challenges facing parents and children in our area are taken seriously and addressed. As well as spare seats, the review is looking at over-16 school travel, safe walking/cycling routes, and better support for community travel solutions. The decisions on the recommendations will come to a Cabinet meeting in the next few months.

Motion on Future Generations at OCC

To improve decision-making at the council, and following the success of similar policies in Wales and Scotland, I co-wrote a council motion at the March full council meeting of OCC - passed unanimously - which asked the council’s Cabinet to:

- Review how all decision-making and commissioning of services will consider the wellbeing of future generations
- implement a ‘Future Generations impact assessment’ section in all officer reports for elected decision-makers, and
- set up an Oxfordshire Youth and Future Generations Advisory Council