

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Meeting held in St Giles Church on Thursday 27th July 2023

Attendees	Cllr James Nettleton (JN) Cllr Peter Ablett (PA) Cllr Mike Black (MB) Cllr Duncan Howlett (DH) Bianca Mays (BM) (Clerk) Nikki Howlett (NH) (Resident)
Apologies	Cllr Graham Howlett (GH) Cllr David Turner (SODC) Cllr Robin Bennett (OCC)

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
38/23	Introduction	The Chair (JN) opened the meeting at 6.00pm and welcomed all present.	
39/23	Apologies	As above.	
40/23	Minutes of the last meeting	All approved minutes of last meeting. Signed by JN.	
41/23	Declarations of interest	There were no declarations.	
42/23	Matters Arising (but not on the agenda)	Defibrillator update, church fundraising update, and parish laptop to be discussed in AOB.	
43/23	Open Forum & Village Matters	None.	
44/23	District Councillor Report (David Turner)	Report circulated following meeting. Report available to view in full version of these minutes at www.newington.org.uk .	
45/23	County Councillor Report (Robin Bennet)	Report circulated following meeting. Report available to view in full version of these minutes at www.newington.org.uk .	
46/23	Councillor & Parish Reports		
46a/23	Community Liason / Notice Board Control	BM reports noticeboard up to date with latest minutes and updated contact details.	MB/BM
46b/23	Planning Applications	None.	DH/GH
33/23	Event Co-ordina	JN hopes to arrange annual tennis tournament, plans TBC at later date.	MB/JN
35a/23 DH/GH	Website	BM reports website up to date with latest minutes and articles of interest.	BM/MB

35b/23 DH/GH	Neighbourhood Plan	No plans to develop neighbourhood plan at present.	PA/MB
35c/23 MB/JN	New Highways & Potholes	<p>MB reviewed plans received by Highways to undertake 'dragon' works along Holcombe Lane – Highways informed MB that there isn't enough budget to undertake full resurfacing so patch repair works will be undertaken for now.</p> <p>MB raises proposed 20mph speed consultation, confirming that a survey will be undertaken by highways to assess the possible speed reduction but no date is confirmed as yet. JN questions who pays for new head on speed control device in event of new 20mph speed limit. MB to contact highways to query who covers this cost.</p> <p>JN questions the possibility of campaigning for a speed reduction past The Lighthouse Nursery, all agree that reduction to either 40mph or 50mph past the nursery would be both sensible and desirable. MB to contact highways to raise question of reduction of speed limit past The Lighthouse. DH to speak to team at The Lighthouse regarding potential speed reductions.</p>	<p>MB/GH/ PA</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB DH</p>
35d/23 MB/EG	Responsible Financial Officer	All agreed that invoices should be approved for payment: £200 uncontested election fee (SODC), £48 audit fee (Moore), £7.15 Diocese of Oxford payment.	
35e/23 MB/GH/	Footpaths	DH highlights that some footpaths are liable to slight overgrowth given the time of year, however no issues have been reported.	
36/23 AOB	<p>Defibrillator – MB has been in contact with SOHA who own the treatment station behind the noticeboard, who have agreed to provide an electrical supply to a defibrillator case free of charge, should this become the agreed site for a defibrillator. PA raises the need to confirm ground work costs to connect the electrical supply. MB to confirm costs with SOHA, clarifying what they would pay for if this site is selected. PA to speak with DT/SODC regarding grant for the defibrillator and check when RB/OCC grant applications open. Thanks to both MB and parishioner Sophie for their hard work on this project to date.</p> <p>Church Fundraising – MB raises a previous action he was tasked with in the last meeting, outlining that this has been paused due to developments with the church fundraising plan.</p> <p>Parish Laptop – BM raises issue with poor parish laptop performance, requests a new laptop to perform parish duties. JN suggests BM use a personal laptop of his, BM to look into this and find out if this would be permitted within parish council regulations.</p> <p>JN Advanced Apologies – JN unable to attend next meeting.</p> <p>Condolences – All gave condolences on news of the sad loss of two longstanding Newtonton residents, Gordon Derrick and Peggy Waugh.</p>		<p>MB PA</p> <p>BM BM</p>
37/23	Date of Next Meeting	<p>Thursday 28th September 2023</p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.08pm</p>	

Signed: Chairman

Date:

Appendix A – Report from County Councillor

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

Shared Lives: Could you share your home with someone with additional needs?

Caring households in Oxfordshire that offer adults with additional needs a place to stay and grow their independence, have been celebrated during shared lives week.

The Oxfordshire shared lives scheme is a service where carers who have the skills, commitment and training have chosen to share their homes and lives with people who need support. If you think you could support an adult with additional needs, you can find out more about the programme at oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives or by calling **01865 897971**.

Summer reading challenge Ready, Set, Read! at Oxfordshire libraries

Over 1.5 million visits were made to Oxfordshire libraries in the past year, and with the summer holidays coming up, it's a great time for families to come and join in the fun at one of the county's 44 libraries.

The Summer Reading Challenge 2023, Ready, Set, Read! aims to keep minds and bodies active over the summer break, empowering young people to forge new connections with others and unleash the power of play, sport and physical activity through reading. It is produced by The Reading Agency in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust. The free challenge launches on 8 July and runs until 9 September 2023.

You can also sign up to our regular Library Service newsletter, here:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries/online-library-services/library-enewsletter>

Decarbonising our pension investments

We've taken proactive steps to re-shape Oxfordshire pension funds. The aim is to maximise investment returns and better contribute to our strategic objectives to create a greener, healthier and fairer county. At its meeting earlier in June, the Pension Fund Committee agreed to reduce its allocation to the UK market and in particular to the FTSE100 companies that have links to major oil, gas and mining companies. The committee also chose to end investments in emerging markets reflecting concerns about social and governance issues – specifically within China and Saudi Arabia.

The Oxfordshire part of the Local Government Pension Scheme is overseen by the Pension Fund Committee, which is hosted by us at the county council. It also represents the district and city councils and other public sector organisations, including Oxford Brookes University, academy schools, further education colleges and housing associations.

Broad Street, Oxford

The Broad Street project aims to transform Broad Street's historic highway into an accessible and welcoming space for everyone to enjoy, and is delivered under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order and will provisionally be in place until spring 2024. An online consultation for residents to share their views is now live until 31 July. <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/broad-street-consultation/>

In brief:

Councillor priority fund.

A reminder that this is now live, and the application details can be found here: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund

Council Future Governance

I am taking part in a committee which is looking at whether OCC should operate under the present cabinet system, or adopt a committee system which could involve a wider range of members in decision-making.

We'll also be looking at how participatory democracy (such as citizens' juries/assemblies) could be used to make the council more open to its residents and improve decision making.

County Council's City Centre properties

I'm also part of a group which is helping to advise on what the council should do with its various city centre properties, including New County Hall, which is in need of major refurbishment, with a view to making better use of space given the way workplaces have changed since the pandemic, while keeping the democratic process accessible to all.

Culham / Clifton Hampden & Burcot: HIF1 planning application:

The plans for the road(s) and bridge linking the A34 Milton interchange to Golden Balls roundabout finally came to the OCC planning and regulation committee on July 17th and 18th. After over 10 hours of discussion and speakers, the committee decided to reject the detailed application for a number of reasons, including the traffic impact on Nuneham Courtenay/Golden Balls, and compliance with the county council's own LTCP and climate policies. There has been a subsequent letter from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing saying he is minded to hold an inquiry into the application. We await dates for this and thus next steps and impacts are unclear at this time.

Dorchester/Shillingford:

Tragically, a cyclist was killed in a collision on Tuesday 4th July close to the junction with Henley Road towards Dorchester. Police are investigating. I have previously asked for this stretch of the A4074 to be made safer for all road users, and will continue to press for this.

Nuneham Courtenay:

20mph proposal out to consultation soon. This will swap the existing 30mph stretch to 20.

Berinsfield/Dorchester:

Some improvements will be made this summer to the informal crossing point of the A4074 which connects to the old Oxford Road path into Dorchester opposite Clovers. The area will be all scraped back of debris and have 6 bollards installed (along with 'cycles crossing warning signs on the vehicular approaches).

Appendix B – Report from District Councillor

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

Garden waste fly-tip is a costly mistake. A man has been ordered to pay more than £1,400 after garden waste was found dumped near Great Haseley in South Oxfordshire. Karl Horwood, 60, of Bletchington, Oxfordshire, appeared at Oxford Magistrates’ Court on Friday 16 June when he admitted failing in his duty of care for waste disposal. Mr Horwood had been arrested a week earlier on suspicion of breaching the Environment Act 1990 after he had failed to respond to requests from South Oxfordshire District Council Environmental Enforcement Officers for assistance with their enquiries about the incident. Magistrates heard how, in January 2022, Mr Horwood had carried out work at a property in Great Haseley and had been paid £150 to remove four bulk bags full of garden waste. However, he failed to ensure that the waste was disposed of properly and it was then found dumped on the side of the road along the A329.

Ukrainian housing officer Olha now helping others find their feet.

Supporting Refugee Week, Olha, who works as part of South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils’ Ukraine Support, shares her experience leaving Ukraine, arriving in the UK, finding work and accommodation, and settling in her family to life in the UK. Olha arrived in the UK in May 2022 and came to the country under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. As a Housing Support Officer, Olha is now helping others in the same situation find their feet and secure accommodation. “As with many other Ukrainian people at beginning of spring 2022, I had to make a very hard decision and leave behind our well-settled life and my job as a lawyer and flee from the war. In a desperate search of a safe place for my children, I got to know about the Homes for Ukraine programme announced by the British Government. I arrived in Oxfordshire with my two daughters in May 2022, as a guest under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. We have had the most wonderful hosts Jayne and John who have been very helpful and supportive in the most challenging times of our life. Our hosts introduced us to their wider family and friends, took us out, drove to see the sights and much more. After things got a bit settled, I started volunteering in local meetings for Ukrainians and then got a temporary job in a summer language school which was wonderful. As a mother of two children, I can only guess how all the stress has already influenced and still will impact my children, but I choose to stick to the words of another amazing couple Joanna and Neal who also provided us with incredible support. Once they said to me that all this is character-building for my children, and it is up to me in what colours to present the situation and what lessons to take out. So, I choose to show them that the human relationship is one of the main values in our life and how it is important to be sincere, open and ready to help others.”

Let’s talk rubbish! Tell us what you think of our waste services. What do you think of your local household waste and street cleaning services? That’s what South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils want to know as they launch their new waste services survey. The two councils are asking people to share their views and experiences of waste services across the districts, including household waste, recycling and food waste collections, bulky waste collections, street cleaning services, customer services and the councils’ waste and recycling information. The feedback from the survey will help to identify what aspects of these services people are happy with as well as the areas which could be improved. Your opinion really does matter to us – take the survey now by visiting – southandvale.gov.uk/WasteSurvey

Comments are open until 11.59pm on Monday 10 July 2023. SODC are the number two recycling Local authority in England and the Vale of White Horse are number three.

Latest images unveiled for proposed new council HQ.

A new building that will kickstart the revitalisation of Didcot Gateway is now one step closer, with updated images of the proposed new council headquarters having been released. A formal planning application is expected soon. The building will be the first step to bring new life into this historically neglected site, providing more confidence for future business investment and making Didcot an even more attractive place to live, work and learn. Inspired by green living principles of the Didcot Garden Town vision, the building is set to be both eye-catching and eco-friendly with striking living walls of climbing plants to welcome visitors

arriving from the train and bus station. Homes England will also be developing a larger section of the Gateway site for housing in due course. The designs show a four-storey building themed around the town's railway heritage, which also incorporates high standards for sustainability by building with environmentally friendly materials, using design principles to reduce energy use, and using renewable energy sources where possible. As well as offices for council staff, there will be flexible space for commercial rent and public areas such as a café and landscaped gardens. Both South Oxfordshire and neighbouring Vale of White Horse District Council plan to call the office home, as it will provide a flexible, sustainable workspace central to the two districts and help them become carbon neutral councils whilst earning SODC the much-needed revenue. SODC owns the site and if it goes ahead will be charging the Vale of White Horse a rent for its use of the building. A final decision on the old Crowmarsh SODC owned site is yet to be made.

Wallingford and Henley looking to secure bathing water status.

Organisations across South Oxfordshire are planning to apply for bathing water status on the River Thames at Wallingford and Henley, which, if awarded, should result in a safer, less polluted environment for swimmers, river users and wildlife. In Wallingford, South Oxfordshire District Council is aiming to work with Wallingford Town Council to make a joint application to the government department responsible for granting bathing water status – the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). It is also supporting a bid for bathing water status being made by Henley Town Council. Both applications will be supported by environmental charity Thames21. Thames21 will use data gathered from the 2023 bathing season in the applications. This will include the numbers of those using the river as well as water samples taken by Thames21 and local trained volunteers. Thames21 plan to publicise the water quality data on an online story map on their website during the bathing season. If bathing water status is awarded, Thames Water would be legally required to treat waste outflows to a much higher standard, meaning they could not release water into the river without ensuring the removal of bacteria which is harmful to the health of people and wildlife. It would also mean that during the bathing season, from May to September each year, the Environment Agency would be required to monitor the water quality and publicise the results.

David Turner
SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)
2nd July 2023

Update (25th July 2023)

The new updated splash facility has opened in Wallingford by the river and is expected to be popular in the summer months. You will recall that a couple of years the water park was in doubt about its future, but since last years upgrade attendance has been outstanding so well worth the extra recreational expenditure.