

NEWINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting Held in St Giles Church on Thursday 22nd July 2021

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

Ref	Item	Notes	Action
97/21	Introduction	The Chairman (JN) opened the meeting and welcomed all present, extending a warm welcome to John Polhill, Newington resident.	
98/21	Apologies	As above.	
99/21	Minutes of the Last Meeting	Minutes approved and signed by JN.	
100/21	Declarations of interest regarding items on agenda	None.	
101/21	Matters Arising Not on agenda	Mr Polhill had no specific questions or items to raise. Regarding a recent break-in in the village MB raised what procedures should be put in place and highlighted on the website, since security cameras are not good at identifying persons. A possible visit from community police to talk about security was explored. It was felt that this would only be feasible if at least 40 residents attended an event such as the Harvest Supper. MB will contact the police for further information and to ask if there is a handout that can be circulated to residents.	MB
102/21	Open Forum & Village Matters	A tree had fallen in the graveyard onto DH's land damaging his fence. DH will deal with removing it. JN extended grateful thanks to the Howletts.	GH/DH
103/21	District Councillor Report (DT)	DT reviews and summarises his report (Appendix 1). Key issues: 5 year land supply - The council continues to retain a five-year housing land supply of 5.33 years for the period 2021-2026, as published by the Council on Friday 25 June and that the local plan 2035 remains in place in respect of current and future application decisions. Women's cycling – Route announced. Waste collection – Disruption due to staff isolating.	

		<p>Chilterns AONB Extension – SODC in support of creating new protected areas.</p> <p>Ox-Cam Arc - People across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being urged to have their say on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, a government led project which will have an impact on both districts in the future. Consultation closes on 12th October.</p> <p>Grants – DT has a grant of £5000 to spend between his four parishes. The 1st round of bidding for funding closes on 1st October. JN suggested submitting a bid to finance clearing the river Thame of overgrown reeds potentially affecting future floods between Newington and Stadhampton. MB will acquire photos illustrating concerns to include in a letter to the Environment Agency.</p> <p>A contractor would be needed to pollard trees. JN to source a contractor.</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>JN</p>
104/21	County Councillor Report (RB)	Key issues highlighted. (Appendix 2).	
105a/21 DH/GH	CommLiaison/ Notice Board	No updates but it was pointed out that the lock had been fitted upside down.	
105b/21 DH/GH	Planning Applications	P19/S2644/FUL & P21/S2350/DIS Fairview Farm, Newington P21/S2545/FUL Fairview Farm – Permission granted on 21/7/21 P21/S1467/DIS Newington Nurseries	
105c/21 PA/MB	Church Revival	DT will check and confirm if the grant can be spent on an architects report for a technical survey on structural areas of the church. JN advised that the grant monies are waiting in the bank. Once planning application has been granted, donations can be sought.	<p>DT</p> <p>PA</p>
105d/21 MB/JN	Event Co-ordination	The tennis tournament has been delayed until September due to covid curbing the numbers that would be allowed to attend. No other events being planned at present.	
105e/21 EG	Website Management	Information on scam alerts updated and details of coronavirus support received from South & Vale Covid Community Hub has been uploaded.	
105f/21 9A/MB	Neighbourhood Plan	No updates.	
105g/21 MB/GH/ PA	New Highways/ Potholes	JN asked how Highways could be encouraged to do hedgerow and verge cutting to mitigate accidents occurring annually. RB mentioned Highways have limited resources. JN has a quote of £750 from a private contractor but it is felt that this is Highways responsibility. The road from the church to the top of the hill needs dealing with. JN to email Highways.	<p>JN</p>
		The problem of the deep crater-sized pothole in Holcombe Lane was raised, and what steps could be taken to resolve it, as emails remain unanswered. Children on bikes and scooters have regular accidents. EG to email photos and recent emails to RB.	<p>EG</p>
105h/21	Responsible	AGAR and Notice of accounts signed and approved by council.	EG

JN	Financial Officer	When approved by auditor it will be posted on website. £400 of the transparency code grant remains. JN suggested it could be used for the website and this was approved. The invoice for website hosting was therefore approved for payment.	
105i/21 DH	Footpaths	GH confirmed that the County Council had agreed to a footbridge being replaced between his farm and Nixeys farm in Chalgrove.	
105j/21 EG	Upcoming Training Events	Clerk attended two half day online training sessions run by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils.	
105k/21	To Approve Expenditure	a) Invoices approved and paid. b) Insurance extended for additional nominal sum to include libel/slander under public liability.	
106/21	AOB	Chilterns AONB expansion. The positives and negatives were discussed but no majority decision made. John Polhill expressed an interest in taking on the role of Responsible Financial Officer. He will consider and make a decision by the date of the next meeting.	
107/21	Date of Next Meetings	Thursday 9 th September 2021 Thursday 18 th November 2021	

Signed: Chairman

Date:

Appendix 1 – Cllr David Turner’s Report

SODC Councillor’s Monthly Report July 2021 (Updated for Newington Parish Council Meeting 22nd July 2021)

Covid-19 update. Covid rates (from figures reported 7 July) in South Oxfordshire are at 209.8 per 100,000 of the population, and in the Vale are 155 per 100,000.

As part of the Oxfordshire system, we’ve responded by increasing our communications on the importance of testing and getting jabbed and launched extra testing facilities. So, we very much need your help to drive the numbers back down, by reinforcing the following messages in your communities:

- keep a distance
- wear a mask
- wash your hands
- socialise outdoors where possible
- keep indoor spaces ventilated

Regular testing and completing the vaccination programme remain the nation’s long-term plan for living with Covid. We continue to share messages encouraging residents to take up the offer of a first vaccination if they haven’t already.

The latest weekly vaccination figures as of 8 July are:

- 7,515 under 25’s received first jab in South Oxfordshire, 6,486 in Vale
- 350k+ jabs in total in South and Vale: 188,665 first and second jabs in South Oxfordshire, 171,060 in Vale

Do continue to help us encourage everyone aged 18 and over to get vaccinated. This includes the importance of people having a second dose to maximise protection from the virus and to stop the spread.

Grants paid out to help businesses ‘get going again.’ We have now awarded £840,450 to businesses in South Oxfordshire through the Remobilisation Grant, and £1,750,434 to businesses in the Vale. Grants paid out to help businesses ‘get going again.’

Over the last three weeks, we’ve processed 1,449 applications for this latest round of COVID-19 government grant funding. This takes the total funding administered by our Business Support team alone to £9.8 million. For more details of available and soon to be available grants visit the SODC website

Award for support during Covid. We’re sure you’ll join in with the congratulations going to our Food and Safety, Licensing, and Environmental Protection teams and our Covid Marshals, who along with the other Oxfordshire authorities and Thames Valley Police won the Coronavirus category at a Regulatory Excellence Awards event earlier this month. It was for their collaborative work to support businesses and co-ordinate compliance during the Covid-19 pandemic.:

Five-year land supply. In late June in an appeal decision at Little Sparrows, Sonning Common, the planning inspector considered that on the basis of the information before him at the time of that decision, South Oxfordshire District Council could not adequately demonstrate a five-year housing land supply. Following subsequent external legal advice on this decision and our more recently published figures, we wanted to confirm the position that the council continues to retain a five-year housing land supply of 5.33 years for the period 2021-2026, as published by the Council on Friday 25 June and that the local plan

2035 remains in place in respect of current and future application decisions. The council continues to consider its options in response to this appeal decision.

Housing team remind people they can help. We're urging private tenants whose landlords are asking them to leave, or if they have started to get behind on their rent to contact our Housing Needs team on 01235 422 436. Please do help us spread the word.

New housing enforcement policy for tenants. The councils' Private Sector Housing Team is adopting a new enforcement policy to improve conditions for tenants in private rented housing. This is a sector which has grown considerably in recent years (15 per cent in South and 22 per cent in Vale). The councils' new policy will support a more proactive and robust approach to enforcing standards for tenants. Those landlords who break the rules could face fines of up to £30,000. The Private Sector Housing Team is responsible for licensing houses in multiple occupation (also known as HMOs). Any property occupied by five or more unrelated people sharing kitchens and bathrooms requires a licence from the council. If you receive complaints from residents that their properties are unlicensed; in a state of disrepair; are cold or don't have basic precautions such as working smoke detectors then please let the Private Sector Housing Team know via e-mail on psh@southandvale.gov.uk.

Also, if you think if you think there is an HMO in your area which is not licensed, please contact the team. There is a list of HMOs on the websites which you can check on the following pages.

Letter from Housing Minister. The Minister for Housing, the Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP, has written to South Oxfordshire District Council to congratulate the council on its successful bid for funding through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Garden Communities Programme. After a competitive process, the council has been awarded £125,000 at Didcot Garden Community and £150,000 at Berinsfield Garden community to bring forward housing.

Unlicensed and uninsured taxi driver fined and banned from driving, proprietor also fined. A taxi driver from Henley has been banned from driving and ordered to pay almost £1,000 after admitting driving a hackney carriage vehicle while not licensed and while uninsured. His taxi proprietor must also pay more than £1,200 following the offences, as it was their licensed vehicle he was driving.

Latest on the challenge to the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. The council has received notification that the Court of Appeal has refused permission for Bioabundance CIC to appeal the recent High Court decision related to the Local Plan 2035. The appeal had come after the Community Interest Company's failed application for a judicial review against the Council's decision to adopt the Local Plan 2035.

Cornerstone Arts Centre to open again to the public. South Oxfordshire District Council is delighted to announce that Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot began opening to the public again in June and is promising that a fantastic line-up will greet visitors when it's fully reopened in September – a line-up that the public can help to influence by completing the consultation on line. The centre's café bar Nourish was the first part of the centre to reopen on 21 June with a brand-new menu of locally sourced baked goods and great coffee in a light, open and welcoming space for all the family to enjoy. The council aims to reopen the centre fully on 7 September.

How to manage flooding in the Thames Valley. The Environment Agency has launched a consultation into how to manage the risk of flooding across the entire Thames Valley. The public consultation runs until 20 August 2021. This is an opportunity to get involved and help shape the future of managing flood risk across the Thames Valley. For more information go to the following website:

<https://ebtk.co.uk/click/U0JrbEZhcE1JZkp6WjJ1WFVTQWt6OVd6aFowcnNRT01uSXNBRjZZWDc0SDEyb1EyR2VtNFE3MENPUXlvaklXNDNzZURkYVYraThpUW5XRXFGRS91RXdncmZzMTU/UIJ3ckZ3PT0>

Note. We have been waiting for at least 10 years for the promised flood report and relief scheme for Chalgrove, Watlington, Cuxham & Stadhampton!

Chalgrove Airfield. You will have already heard that Homes England have withdrawn their planning application for 3000 homes on Chalgrove Airfield following a report from the Civil Aviation Authority that it would be unsafe and incompatible with the operation of the Martin Baker Aircraft Company. Homes England have said that they will submit a new application involving land which they have purchased to the North and North East of the site in late 2021 or early 2022.

Route revealed for prestigious Women's Tour cycling race (Oxfordshire stage). From the start line on Bicester's Sheep Street, the race will complete a short northern loop, passing secondary school students at The Cooper School, before heading south past Graven Hill to Islip and on to Oxford. The peloton will then sweep past the John Radcliffe Hospital and into south Oxfordshire via Blackbird Leys. The stage will reach its southernmost point passing the Culham Science Centre before heading north through Abingdon, Eynsham, and past Woodstock. The riders will pass through Bloxham before arriving in Banbury for the first time. They will then head back out to complete a short loop of Hook Norton and Sibford Ferris. Returning to Banbury they will pass the Cross and the Fine Lady statue, with a sprint to the line expected on South Bar Street.

Disruption to waste collection services – July 2021. We are very sorry if your bins were not emptied as expected in the past couple of weeks. Our waste collection services are still facing some disruptions. We have had a number of waste collection operatives having to self-isolate following being in contact with people who have had Covid.. Please see our waste collections page for the latest information. Thank you.

South Oxfordshire District Council to support the creation of new protected areas. At its meeting on 15 July, South Oxfordshire Council welcomed plans to extend the Chilterns AONB and agreed, in principle, to support the creation of new protected areas in the district to help give residents access to nature. However, I pointed out in the debate that only one third of the land in South Oxfordshire is outside the AONB and the Green Belt and this would put extra pressure on that one third of land if the Government insist on more housing in Oxfordshire.

People across South and Vale urged to have their say on the Ox-Cam Arc. People across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being urged to have their say on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, a government led project which will have an impact on both districts in the future. The Oxford-Cambridge Arc includes the area between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge and aims to make significant economic, social and environmental improvements across the region by 2050 and beyond. The Government is currently developing a vision for the Spatial Framework – a long-term strategic plan for growth across the area – which will help support planning for the future with the aim of helping to create jobs, drive investment, protect and enhance the environment, and provide infrastructure to make the Arc a better place in which to work and live. The government has announced a 12-week public consultation on the future of the Ox-Cam Arc and people are being encouraged to help to create the Spatial Framework’s vision for the area to 2050 under the following themes:

The Environment, The Economy, Connectivity and Infrastructure & Place-making.

Once agreed, the shared vision will help to determine which new policies are developed and ultimately will shape government plans for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc region. The consultation also seeks views on the work the Government has done to set the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal, and the Government has also announced a new expert panel to advise on sustainable economic and housing growth in the Arc.

How to have your say. This public consultation is the first of three that will guide a new Spatial Framework over the next two years. To find out more and to have your say visit placebuilder.io/futureofthearc The consultation is open until 12 October 2021.

Grant scheme launches to help community groups in South Oxfordshire. A new round of funding is now open to help local charities and organisations in South Oxfordshire. Earlier this year South Oxfordshire District Council awarded £165,000 worth of grants to 96 projects across the district. As a part of the Councillor Community Grant scheme every South Oxfordshire District Councillor has a budget of up to £5,000 to award to local projects that directly benefit residents in their ward. Organisations who are 'not-for-profit' can now apply for grants from £250 up to a maximum of £5,000 per councillor in their ward for projects that will bring positive outcomes for local residents. Before applying, applicants are encouraged to get in touch with their local councillor to discuss their project and go to our website southoxon.gov.uk/grants for further information and details on eligibility. Applications are made online and the first round of funding closes at noon on Friday 1 October. The last round of funding which closed earlier this year was able to help a range of projects from biodiversity and wildlife projects, but also those that improve mental health and wellbeing through bringing people together and family focused projects giving children access to free play and activities.

David Turner

SODC Councillor (Chalgrove Ward)

July report issued 28th June 2021 Updated 22nd July 2021

Appendix 2 – Cllr Robin Bennett’s Report

Cllr Robin Bennett – July report

Robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxfordshire libraries announce children’s Summer Reading Challenge

Children across the county are invited to join the Wild World Heroes, Summer Reading Challenge 2021, at Oxfordshire libraries from Saturday 10 July until Saturday 11th September.

The competition encourages children to borrow and read any six library books over the summer. The Summer Reading Challenge is a great way for children to keep up their reading skills and confidence over the summer holidays and prevent the common holiday reading dip.

The challenge is packed full of ideas children can use to care for their environment and inspire them to stand up for the planet. Once they complete the challenge, they will receive a Wild World Heroes certificate and medal. They will also be entered into a prize draw with a falconry experience at Millets Farm with VIP entry, national book tokens and more to be won.

All children need to do is sign up at the library, where they will be given a special collector’s folder to keep a record of their reading journey.

Pathways to a zero-carbon Oxfordshire

A key climate action report – [Pathways to a Zero-Carbon Oxfordshire](#) – by the University of Oxford’s Environmental Change Institute and Bioregional has been published and welcomed by Oxfordshire County Council.

The county council was one of many organisations involved in commissioning the report as part of its commitment to a zero carbon future, as outlined in the Carbon Action Framework published last October. The council particularly welcomes the importance of the report in providing an evidence base for the transition to zero carbon and the role of partnerships in achieving these goals.

The decade to 2030 is a critical period to accelerate the decarbonisation of our economy. Building on the momentum that has been growing over the last ten years is a huge challenge, as acknowledged in the report. We will review the findings and recommendations in detail with our internal programme board and with our partners around the county so that we continue to respond to this climate emergency with the innovation, determination and dedication that it requires.

EU settlement scheme update

The deadline for EU residents in the UK to apply to the EU settlement scheme (or risk losing their right to work and live in the UK) has now passed. The home office says the scheme remains “indefinitely” open - but only if the individual can show they had reasonable grounds for missing the deadline. Late applications may be accepted for an indefinite period where there are reasonable grounds for failing to meet the applicable deadline as laid out in the [EU settlement scheme guidance](#).

Caseworkers are instructed to “take a flexible and pragmatic approach to considering, in light of the circumstances of each case, whether there are reasonable grounds for the person’s failure to meet the deadline” and to give applicants ‘the benefit of the doubt’ in considering this. This could include cases where the applicant was unaware of the need to apply to the EU settlement scheme.

If a person is encountered by immigration enforcement after 30 June 2021, and it appears to the office the person would have been eligible for status under the EUSS had they applied by the applicable deadline, the person will be given a written notice giving them 28 days to make a valid application and during this period no enforcement action should be taken.

We would be very grateful for your help in raising awareness of this information with residents and please signpost them to [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families) for information on how to reply-
<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

Covid statistics

In the seven days up to 25 June, there were a total of 704 confirmed new COVID-19 cases in Oxfordshire. This is an increase from 422 new cases in the previous week and is equivalent to a weekly rate of 101.8 per 100,000 residents. Cases in the over 60s have decreased from 19 to 15, which is equivalent to a weekly rate of 9.1 per 100,000 residents. You can view the latest figures on our [COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Cases of COVID-19 by district

	Cases in 7 days up to 18/06/21	Rate per 100,000 population	Cases in 7 days up to 25/06/21	Rate per 100,000 population
Cherwell	73	48.5	140	93.0
Oxford	119	78.1	275	180.4
South Oxfordshire	99	69.7	145	102.1
Vale of White Horse	64	47.1	74	54.4
West Oxfordshire	67	60.6	70	63.3
Oxfordshire	422	61.0	704	101.8

Data correct as at 4pm on 29 June.

Vaccination programme – update

The vaccination of all adults over the age of 18 continues. Walk-in clinics in Oxford have delivered over 800 first dose COVID-19 vaccinations to people aged 18 or over as part of the ‘grab a jab’ weekend (26/27 June). To date, over 765,500 COVID-19 vaccinations have been delivered in Oxfordshire since the start of the programme.

People who attend a walk-in clinic for their first dose will have their vaccination record updated online and will then be able to book in their second dose appointment using the national booking system.

You can book a vaccination on the [national booking service](#) (you do not need to wait to be invited) if any of the following apply:

- you’re aged 18 or over
- you’re at high risk from COVID-19 ([clinically extremely vulnerable](#))
- you have a condition that puts you at higher risk ([clinically vulnerable](#))
- you have a learning disability
- you’re a frontline health or social care worker
- you’re a main carer for someone at high risk from COVID-19.