

Long Wittenham Parish Council meeting held on 15th June 2023

Present: Chairman Steve Brown, Cllr Steve Bolton, Cllr David Corney, Cllr Sally Duff, Cllr Liz Yuille, RFO Clifford Bosley, District Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye, County Cllr Pete Sudbury.

In attendance: Martin Elliff (clerk) and 3 members of the public.

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2023/100 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Ron Carter, Cllr Peter Rose.

2023/101 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- Resident Richard May was present to inform the council that 4 heavy tankers per hour are using Northfield Lane causing damage to the road, and that a water leak has occurred near the Little Wittenham Road. It was agreed that the council should write to whoever is responsible the tankers and advise them that the road is being damaged. Cllr Bolton agreed to try to identify those responsible.
- Cllr Corney had been approached by a resident in Sinodun Close asking if it is possible to ban ball games on Saxons Heath Green as they are causing damage. As the PC has no jurisdiction, it was suggested that the residents report it to the police as antisocial behaviour.

2023/102 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None.

2023/103 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Parish Council resolved to sign the minutes of the Annual meeting and the monthly meeting held on 18th May 2023.

2023/104 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Annual Meeting

- Cllr Yuille had updated the Risk Register to add a section dealing with public confidence in the PC. The new version had been circulated. Approved.

May Meeting

- The chairman has completed the letters to the Unsung Heroes and they are ready to be distributed.
- Cllr Yuille reported that, as a result of the website post, two residents have come forward to be Zone Co-ordinators for the Emergency Plan. A follow up will be posted to ask for volunteers to cover the other zones.

Actions:	Clerk and Cllr Yuille to draft follow up website post for Emergency Plan Zone Co-ordinators.
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2023/105 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr Casey-Rerhaye's report sent by email is attached in Appendix A.

2023/106 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Long Wittenham to Clifton Hampden Cycle Path
Cllr Sudbury reported that he has written to Paul Fermer, OCC Director of Highways and Operations, asking him to write to the PC formally, explaining why the project has been dropped and cannot be reinstated. He suggested that the PC then sends Mr Fermer's letter to Martin Reeves the Chief Executive of OCC asking him to look at the project again.

- Cllr Bolton asked why there are so many uncoordinated and ill-managed roadworks in the county. Cllr Sudbury said that he will work with transport cabinet members to look into it.
- Various councillors complained that reports on FixMyStreet are not always followed up and are deleted before the problems are resolved.

2023/107 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

P17/V2490/LDO	Didcot Technology Park	No Comment
P23/S1580/HH	37 Wessex Way LW	NSV
P23/S1737/DIS	Land at Ladygrove Didcot	NRR
P23/S1807/HH	54 Saxons Heath LW	NSV
P23/S1854/DIS	Willingtons Barn High Street LW	NRR
P23/S1856/S73	Willingtons Barn High Street LW	NSV
P23/S1922/DIS	Nobel Park Didcot	NRR

2023/108 COMMUNITY HUB

The consultation on the planning application ended on 8th June. Cllr Rose had circulated a summary of the responses received – see Appendix B. Thomas Homes will be addressing the issues raised before the application goes to the planning committee.

2023/109 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

2023/110 ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- Cllr Bolton advised that the hedges at the front of Church Farm, The Old Vicarage and the primary school are overhanging the footway and making it difficult to pass. It was agreed that the council should write to the householders asking them to cut the hedges back to their property boundaries. The clerk advised that the SODC Deep Cleanse will take place in August when they can be asked to cut back the verges on the path.
- Cllr Bolton said that a number of trees in the village have been damaged by inappropriate pruning by OCC. It was suggested that the PC writes to OCC asking them to take more care in maintaining trees.
- Cllr Bolton advised that the newly planted hedge in front of The Crescent is full of bind weed. It was agreed that Logs Unlimited should be asked to weed the hedge.
- Cllr Bolton asked if the PC intends to plant more trees around the village in the Autumn. It was suggested that residents be asked to propose planting locations via a website post.
- Cllr Bolton suggested that although No Mow May is a good idea, certain areas around the village should be cut each May for safety and other areas could be sown with meadow flowers. It was agreed that a new cutting schedule be devised for Logs Unlimited to follow next year.
- Cllr Duff asked if there had been any progress regarding The Grange barn.
- Cllr Corney reported three footpath issues:
 - (1) He had been asked by a resident about the safety of the footpath next to the river past Wards Field where the bank is falling away. He has advised the OCC footpath team and awaits their response. In the meantime he will log it on CAMSweb and clear the area to make it more visible.
 - (2) He does not expect the permissive path from Sires Hill to Earth Trust to be implemented as Robert Weavers, the land owner, is not enthusiastic.

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- (3) Earth Trust will be closing the meadow next to Neptune Wood for four to six weeks from 19th June to allow it to be cut for hay.
- Cllr Corney raised the issue of the deteriorating picnic table at Acklings. It was agreed to ask Gary Carberry to replace the table top planks. In the meantime, the worst board will be replaced.
- Cllr Corney reported that the village Community Speedwatch team had now completed 15 sessions in which 2,500 vehicles had been checked, of which 81 were speeding and sent letters. It was suggested that the village be kept up to date with progress via a regular website post.
- Cllr Bolton said that he had had complaints about the cyclepath to Didcot being overgrown. Cllr Casey-Rerhaye said that OCC should be cutting it soon.

Actions: Clerk to write to the householders at Church Farm and The Old Vicarage and the chairman to the primary school regarding overhanging hedges.
Cllr Bolton to draft letter to OCC regarding tree pruning.
Cllr Corney to ask Logs Unlimited to weed The Crescent hedge.
Clerk to draft website post asking residents for tree planting suggestions.
Cllrs Bolton and Corney to devise new verge cutting schedule for Logs Unlimited for next year.
Clerk to ask SODC for an update on The Grange barn.
Cllr Corney to ask Gary Carberry to repair the Acklings picnic table.

2023/111 MATTERS ARISING FROM CHAIRMAN

- The chairman reported that some of the streetlights on Didcot Road are now working but not the zebra crossing beacons. He has escalated the problem to OCC and awaits a response.
- Catherine Harrison has organised a team to fill in the hole on the basketball court at Acklings. It was agreed to finance the materials needed.
- The chairman has compiled a list of CIL projects which he would like to see started as soon as possible. He will circulate the list to the PC for comments. In the meantime, he will seek quotes for some of the smaller projects. He is in the process of updating the full CIL Projects List.
- It was suggested that the PC advertises the availability of allotments on the website, so that, if there is interest, they can be cleared using CIL funds. This needs to be agreed with the village allotments co-ordinator Tanya Hamilton-Gill.
- The chairman reported that OCC now has funding for the Didcot Road traffic calming entry feature and has asked for a Teams call with councillors to discuss it in detail. Cllrs Bolton and Corney offered to attend the call.
- Nick Caw, the chair of the Village Hall Committee, has asked for a meeting to discuss the transition to the new village hall when completed.

Actions: Chairman to circulate the priority CIL project list for comment.
Clerk and Cllr Rose to speak to Tanya Hamilton-Gill about advertising allotments.
Chairman to confirm Teams call with OCC regarding the Didcot Road entry feature.
Cllrs Rose and Duff to meet with Nick Caw to discuss village hall transition.

2023/112 FINANCIAL REPORT

- The RFO advised that the Notice of Public Rights for the 2022-23 audit has been published on the village hall noticeboard and the website. The internal audit is ongoing.
- Income during May
04/05/2023 OCC Verge Cutting Grant

£857.21



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12/05/2023	SODC (CIL)	£2,260.00
22/05/2023	Hay (6 The Crescent)	£5.00
22/05/2023	Michellis (3 The Crescent)	£5.00
22/05/2023	Willington (4 The Crescent)	£5.00
24/05/2023	Talboys (2 The Crescent)	£5.00
30/05/2023	Brown (1 The Crescent)	£5.00
30/05/2023	Aldridge (5 The Crescent)	£5.00
	May Income Total	£3,147.21
●	Expenditure during May	
02/05/2023	Grant 016 Long Wittenham Athletics Club	£2,000.00
03/05/2023	Kasten Inv 010523 (The Pound Spring Tidy)	£90.00
03/05/2023	Duff Expenses (The Pound)	£150.00
10/05/2023	Clerk's Salary May 2023	£336.73
10/05/2023	Logs Unlimited Inv 230045	£1,843.05
10/05/2023	Printinco Inv 7467 (Community Hub Flyers)	£110.00
15/05/2023	Elliff Expenses (Website anti-spam software)	£9.00
15/05/2023	Brown Expenses (Community Hub Plans Printing)	£15.00
15/05/2023	CIL Expenditure (LWAC Reseeding)	£1,000.00
24/05/2023	Leanne Kelman Inv 0623 (LW Map Update)	£220.00
24/05/2023	Grant 017 The Friends of LW Primary School	£410.00
24/05/2023	A1Posters Inv 8151 (LW Map)	£45.36
	May Expenditure Total	£6,229.14

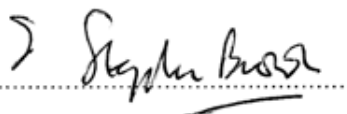
2023/113 ANY MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

Meeting Closed at 9:55pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 20th July 2023

Signed:



Date:

20/7/23

APPENDIX A

District Councillor Report June 2023 - Sam Casey-Rerhaye

New funding round now open

South Oxfordshire District Council is providing £50,000 in funding for community organisations and individuals to apply for, with a maximum grant of £1,000. Applicants will need to show that their projects will help communities to become more active or sustain activity.

More information about the grant scheme can be found on our website southoxon.gov.uk/grants or organisations can contact the council's Community Enablement team on 01235 422405 or grants@southoxon.gov.uk.



The closing date for applications is midday Friday 30 June 2023.

Let's talk rubbish – we want to know what residents think of our waste services

We've launched a new survey to find out what residents think about our waste and street cleaning services. We will use the feedback to find out what aspects of our waste service people are happy with as well as the areas where we could do better.

Residents can complete the waste survey online now:

<https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/WasteQuestionnaire2023/>

Comments are open until Monday 10 July 2023. Please do help spread the word with your local networks and share our social media message on your pages and local Facebook groups throughout the next month.

If anyone has questions or requires the survey in an alternative format (for example large print, Braille, audio, email, Easy Read and alternative languages) they should email waste.team@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422146

Rural England Prosperity Fund

More than £1.2m is being made available to help improve the rural economy across our district. We've secured funding from the government's Rural England Prosperity Fund, which can be used to provide a boost to projects such as creating rural business hubs, setting up community energy schemes and diversifying farm businesses beyond agriculture.

Any organisation with legal status will be able to apply for the funding when it opens in the Autumn this year. This will include public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies, voluntary organisations and registered charities

Before the application process begins our Economic Development team wants to understand which organisations might apply and for what type of project, and so is asking anyone interested to send an Expression of Interest in the run up to the funding scheme opening later this year.

There are more details on the scheme on the South REPF page:

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/south-oxfordshire-district-council/business-and-economy/advice-for-businesses/rural-england-prosperity-fund/>

Anyone with questions about the scheme please email business.support@southandvale.gov.uk.

Air Quality Survey

We've launched a survey on the council's new joint Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP). The AQAP sets out proposals for the next four years to improve air quality in the districts. This includes the good news that most places have seen a consistent reduction in one of the main measured pollutants: nitrogen dioxide

Wallingford, Watlington and Abingdon have seen the levels of the pollutant nitrogen dioxide fall below the national objective level over the past three to five years so it is proposed they will no longer be designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in the future. Air quality monitoring will continue at those places.

How to save energy costs in community buildings

The Climate and Biodiversity team is inviting local community organisations to an online forum on making cost savings through improving energy efficiency in community buildings such as local sports clubs, village halls and parish buildings.

The event will include speakers detailing their experience of making changes to their community buildings. There will also be information on the practical and financial support the councils can offer.

The event will take place ONLINE from 6pm - 7pm on Tuesday 11 July – groups should email climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk to register and they will be sent the meeting link.

Please pass on to any groups who run a community building.

Planning 'surgeries' for town and Parish councils

The planning team holds monthly surgeries for members of town and parish councils to discuss can

general planning queries. To book their 15-minute online meeting they should use this planning surgery link:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/>

TownandParishPlanningbookings@capitacouncilpartnership.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/.

If there are any questions, please contact Emily Hamerton emily.hamerton@southandvale.gov.uk

Comedy Takes Over Cornerstone Arts Centre

Cornerstone's Summer season is in full swing and jam-packed with comedy shows. There is something for everyone in this season's diverse line-up.

If you have a taste for impressions catch famous comedian Debra Stephenson on 8 June or if you want to introduce younger ones to the genre try Comedy Club 4 Kids on 2 June, laughs are guaranteed!

Head to the Cornerstone website to find out more:

<https://www.cornerstone-arts.org/>

sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk

01235 635566

APPENDIX B

Summary of responses to planning application P23/S1474/FUL

Unreserved support: 45

Support but with concerns about some aspects: 6

Object: 4

Issues raised by those supportive but having concerns:

- No affordable housing.
- Insufficient parking at both new village hall and new school (2 respondents).
- New village hall kitchen badly designed, too small and potentially unsafe (2 respondents) .
Suggestion to move plant room into storage space to enlarge kitchen.
- Remove cypress tree at existing school site rather than crown lift.
- The design to renovate the existing village hall will lead to loss of privacy to its neighbours (2 respondents).

Issues raised by those objecting:

- Too many houses.
- Ancient hedgerows along Didcot Road should not be removed.
- Traffic congestion in the High Street will just be relocated to Didcot Rd.
- Existing Village Hall should become a shop rather than a dwelling (2 respondents).
- Increased traffic flow in Didcot Road unacceptable.

